

WHY I LEFT by Jade

People ask me
Why I left the warm evergreen
Brown of my blessed land,
Uganda.

Where men get drunk
Snoring like elephants
And rage at the relentless sunshine
That burns their hearts.

Where at dawn they wake up
And grab their hoes for gardening
Alongside the singing
Of wives who wake up the household.

Where shoeless children prepare
For school with calloused feet
Cut by small stones and grass.

I am not going to lie,
Leaving my former country
Is a badge I wear
Like a shining medal on my chest
A scar on my heart.

I packed nothing
Except my empty brain
I had nothing else to pack.
When my country failed me

I failed it in return
And loved it even more.

When people ask me
Why I left the warm evergreen
Brown of my blessed land
Its tall trees
I will not lie.
I answer:
It let me and others down
It is the only truth I have

The only truth there is.