

ALTRUISM

DR. GOODLUCK E. JONATHAN

By Dr. Rali Ikiebe



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Poems in honour of former president
Dr. Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan
GCFR, GCON





Quote...

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

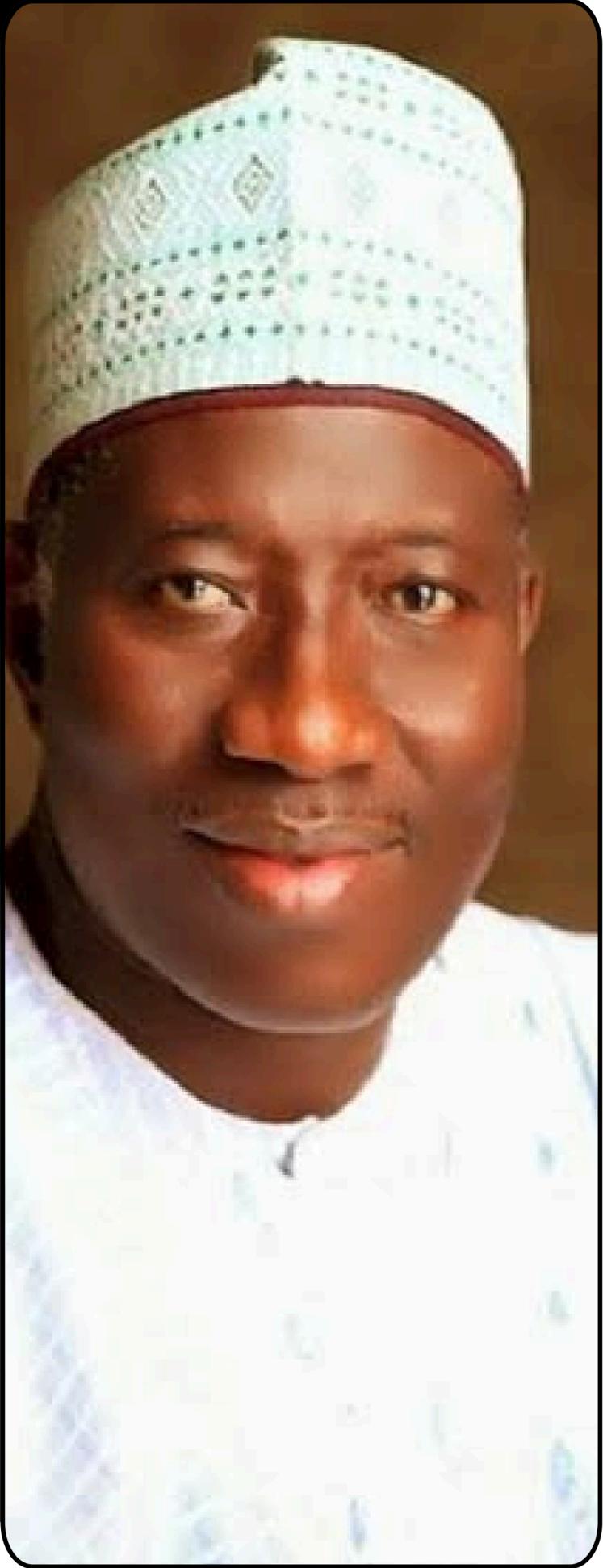
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr





Winner of Statesman Vote

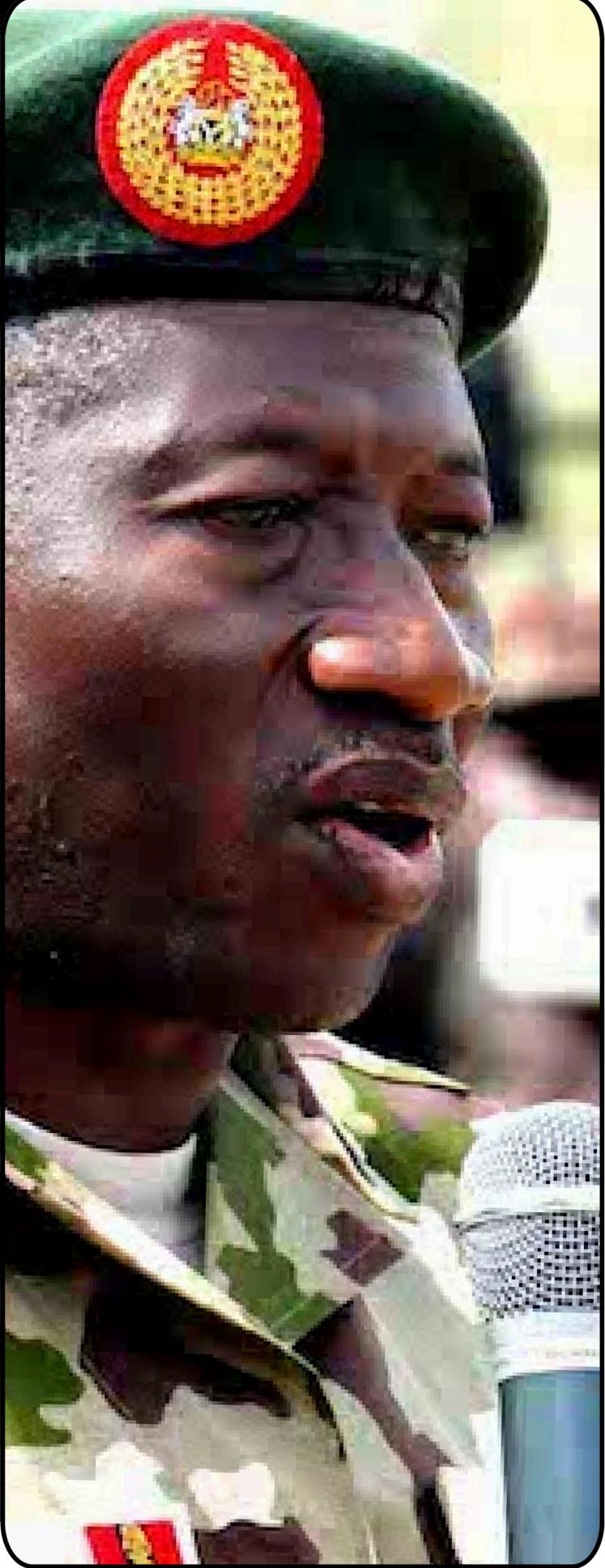
Who would have thought
That a former teacher
From south-south Nigeria
Minority of the minorities
Would become the leader to
So exemplify statesmanship
To
The African continent
To
Reverse the stigma of
Africa
A man-made stigma at that
Many tongues
Called you many names
A leader by default
Was a common one
In the end
No one could fault
Your heroic selflessness
A gem so scarce in
A continent so blessed



Altruistic leaders few
And far between
Africa affords itself
One per generation
Or even none
But charlatan leaders
Come half a penny a dozen
Buy one get eleven free
Touts the turncoats
Memories of myopic leaders
Who mutated their
Motherland
Franchising it to riotous
Insurgents
Energated egocentrics
Whose assuagement could
Only be the
Abyss of bloodbath
Rwanda, Sierra leone, Congo...
Memories yet fresh
In the global mind
Some refusing to abdicate
Having passed their original
'Use-by-dates'



Becoming self-determined
Semi-eternal rulers laying
Unbearable yokes on the
Shoulders of their adolescent
Democracy
One could be forgiven for
Thinking
That such jaw-dropping
Lesson
Could only be taught us by
Those who constitute
The majority or
The semi-majorities in our
Dear Motherland
But NO – that would be too
Much a feat
To expect of them
Like the proverbial harlot
They would rather the baby
Was cut in two
A nation scarred
A forever fragmented
Good for nothing nation
But you said NO



Choosing rather to tread
The trajectory we missed many
Decades ago
And one so nearly scurried into
On the account of June 12.
In a moment of breaking
History
Instead of breaking news
The unpopular one became the
Torchbearer of peace
The derided and scorned
Became the chosen tool
To teach us how to be
Gracious even in defeat
You opined that conceding
May be the paradox of triumph
That letting go when it counts
Far outweighs holding on
To the power already accorded
To another
Gracious words,
'No man's ambition is
Worth the blood of another
Man.'



New coinage
New capital in Nigerian
Politics?
No, in African politics!
We must engrave it on our
Monuments
Carve it on every scepter
Chisel it on our corridors of
Power
Henceforth
Let no man label us 'political
Imbeciles'
Or league us with the
Imbroliotic nations
You could have 'sat-put' till the
Country 'roasted'
In fire and brimstone
Turning friends into foes
Hands of the young against
The old
Gileadites against Ephraimites
But
You chose peace
You chose grace
You chose unity
You chose a Father's heart

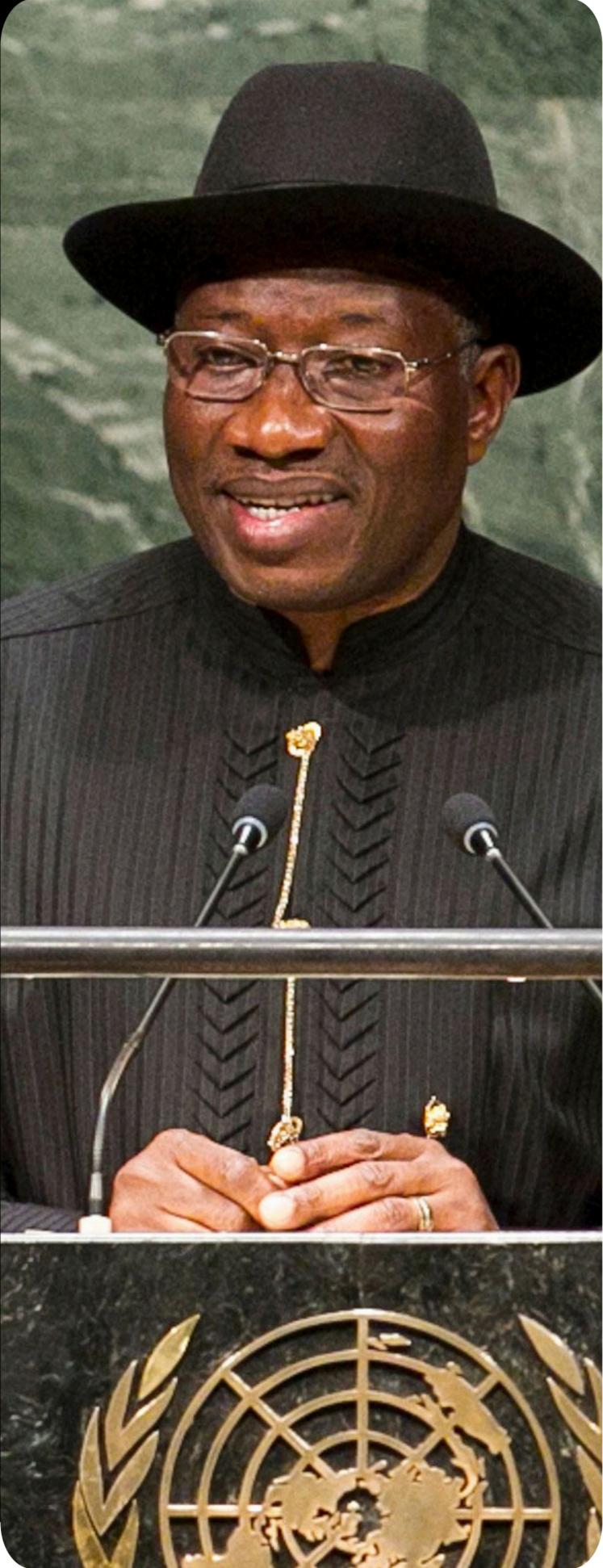


Like heroes before
You became
Our modern-day unsung hero
Commandeering altruism
Demonstrating true
Statesmanship
Every leader has their great
And low moments
Moments which make or
Mar them
Many shares of these you
Have had
Nevertheless,
In the counting moment
You chose the way forward
You dared to do the
Unthinkable
And ended up achieving the
Improbable
A teacher in deed
—You have taught us —
And won
The Statesman Vote.



THE DAWNING OF A NEW ERA

A day to be forever inscribed
In the history of
Nigeria
Etched in the minds of
Its populace
Young and old
And yet to be born
A day of singular giant stride
In the right direction
A man in the moon
We are yet to achieve
But a monumental stride
You took
In the right direction
A giant stride
Away from Mediocrity
Away from the precipice



Of an infernal crusade
A monumental stride into
A path never voluntarily
Taken before in our beautiful
Continent
Yet a stride much longed for
By melanin-endowed people

You sat
You considered and
You conceded with dignity

The repertoire of
Quasi-leaders
You un-considered
Plonkers and megalomaniacs
Of self-elevated statures
Blood purveyors who pay
Lip-service to democracy
The bamboozling tricks
Of the hoaxers you did not
Allow to torment your mind
As you remembered and
Considered
What the doomsdayers
predicted



'A land deluged with myriads Slain'
Quizzical observers home and
Abroad

Inclined to believe the prophecies
As throngs of citizens made a dash
For the exit borders seeking
A place to 'hide' till the calamity be
Over

Who can blame them since this
Has become

The quotidian propensity
In African presidential elections
But this election was not to be
A pushover

Instead a precursor
A forerunner of future norms
You thought of the flow of
Innocent blood

Of the die-hard supporters
The innocent ones caught in the
Melees

Their blood flowing on the streets
And alleys masking many roads
Up and down the country from
Sokoto to Lagos slushing our
Tributaries and engorging
The Atlantic Ocean



Thoughts too much
For your gentle soul to bear
'Nobody's ambition is worth the
blood of any Nigerian.'
Many thoughts jostled in your mind
Flashbacks of Jesus warning Peter
'Those who live by the sword shall
Indeed
Die by the sword.'
Plight of the Chibok Girls
Ghost villages in Borno, Adamawa ...
The ignoble deeds of the blood
Purveyors
Still scar the Giant of Africa
Why make us more of a laughing
Brand
Than we already are?
Why accentuate the doubters'
Boasts
In your mind you heard the heckles
Of the hecklers
The fears of the world audience
Confirmed by



BBC CNN AL-Jazeera all rambling
Away by the hour

You sat
You considered
And
You conceded with dignity

Why should we dance to the
Tune of the Enigma
Why play Russian-roulette
With our peoples' lives
Though we are a melange of
People
Yet a beautiful tapestry we
Constitute
In your mind's eye you saw the
Faces of young and old
Male and female aspirant
Nigerians
Undeterred by past
Predicaments
Hopeful for the future
Hausas Yorubas Igbos Fulanis
Abuas Taroks Ishans
Itsekiris Etsakos Efiks
Iyalas Ibibios ...



And the army of young
Foreign-born Nigerian
The TOKUNBO citizens
Waiting for their
Emancipation
To come back Home
At last the one place on
Planet earth that their souls
Have long yearned for and
Why should they be denied
Again you looked and 'saw'
Silhouetted images of
Dancing feet
And outstretched hands
Ushering in a new era
An era that welcomed
Myriads
Of corporate investors
Deeming Nigeria,
'The place to be'

You sat
You considered
That one ginormous tree
Does not
Make a lush forest
Irrespective of how beautiful
And valuable the tree



A thought arrowed into your
Mind
An arrow by political hacks
Why concede?
Think of that extra term...
What you could do for these
People
Or what your country could do for
You
The pain seared for a moment
Almost confounding you
Shrouding your mind
With a melancholic cloud
Why should I, Goodluck Jonathan,
Not be different?
Afterall, I am Mr. Goodluck
Why should I back-pedal on my
Promise to the nation
Given that a man is only
As good as his words
No going back to medievalism



Only a monumental step forward
Will do

You sat
You considered and
Crossed The Great Chasm
By conceding with dignity
No man's ambition is worth the
Blood of another man,
You concluded

These words boomeranged across
The land
Reverberating across the globe
Quietening the velocity of war
Drum-beats
You spoke - shunning the disdain of
Deceitful advisers
'My-belly-be-my-god' charlatans
Unhounded by emotional hackers
Who do not give
A toss about the people -
And became the unbridled apostle
Of peace
Not to follow the status quo
At peace with your conscience
At peace with your God
This sacrosanct of matters
Concluded for the peace of Nigeria



A down payment for politics in
Africa
You could have chosen self
Over nation
Selfishness over altruism
Yet you chose
To write a New History
Opening up a new chapter
For us all in the process
You chose to disconnect from your
Fears and doubts
Spurred on by the hopes and
Dreams you carried in your heart
For our emerging democracy
You chose to believe that
The positive synergy of the people
Far outweighs
The destructive force of discontent
That the lived-lives
Of men and women
Children and adolescents
More rewarding than the spoils of
War
You divested the xenophobics of
Their regimentals
Your self-effacing heroism
Became the only vote that
Counted



The vote for peace
Serenading our longings with
Words never before heard
In African politics

Yet you did not decide this alone
Through the whole struggle was
Our Madam First Lady -
Because every powerful man
Deserves a virtuous helpmeet and
Most loyal supporter -
Sharing the pros and cons
Of your contemplations
As you charted the course before you
So you may finish well
Accentuating our collective need to
'Fear God oo'
The ubiquitous silent listener and
Watcher over all matters
Reminding you that it is not how
You start that really matters
BUT how well you compete and
complete the race.
In the end You have doubtless
Proved yourself an illustrious son of
Africa - SoA-
a Trailblazer for aspirant leaders.
You have courageously opened the
Door of a New Era
May the peace you afforded us
Be accorded you by the God of
Peace
Who loves Nigeria and ALL its
Populace.



**MAY GOD GRANT OUR LEADERS' HEARTS THE
VIRTUE OF TRUE ALTRUISM**