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TWO POEMS  
BY FEKADE AZEZE \*

ON THE VERGE

with words words, words . . .  
empty talk  
we chased and chased and chased  
Beauty and Greenery  
Love and Plenitude  
PEACE AND RELIEF

AND HAVING FAILED!

here we are carrying our ALMS-BAG  
Scintillating with SHAME  
Decked in NAKEDNESS  
Gracefully SWAYING with WAR  
RESPLENDENT WITH CORPSES

(May 1990)

TWIN LOTS

HE TIMES ARE YAWNING!!!  
hungry for love  
the heart stuffed full of hate.

hungry for peace  
stuffed full of war  
near-bursting with wrath.

With over-eating . . . With starvation  
In the dearth of fullness  
Under Twin Trials  
THE TIMES ARE YAWNING!!!!

(October 1981)

*These poems from Ethiopia, originally composed in Amharic, were translated by Sebhat Gebre Egziabher. (Author's note.)*