

Don Burness' tribute to Omar

We live we die
Hello good bye
Omar Eby
Mennonite writer teacher
Cultivator of words
Farmer of books
Omar Eby
Who lived in Somalia
Who lived in the land of Mwalimo
Who lived where the Zambezi roars
Omar deep and wise Omar
Knew the world
Too often
Knows
A long dry season

Many times I visited Harrisonburg
Where Omar and Emery Yoder
And Carroll Yoder
Taught that the world is vast
And offered light and magic
And memories
Excitement of mind and soul

The ancestors applaud you
The ancestors welcome you
(And they are not asking for money)
Noting that you walked
On this fragile world
With Schubert grace
Kwaheri 1
Mwalimu 2

1 good bye in kiswahili
2 Teacher

Don Burness
Emerald Isle North Carolina
January 9 2021