

# Homegrown

ANTHOLOGY OF NEW WRITINGS FROM NAGALAND



EDITED BY  
SENTINARO | VIZOVONO ELIZABETH

# Homegrown

ANTHOLOGY OF NEW WRITINGS FROM NAGALAND

*Book cover design*

tored in  
out the  
her.

EDITED BY  
SENTINARO | VIZOVONO ELIZABETH



ask to your story

# Contents



<i>Introduction</i>	13
Youth Culture	
<i>Neikehienuo Mepshu-o</i>	19
A Lifetime of Nostalgia Of Chance and Faith	24
<i>Kemya Yanlem</i>	26
Motherhood	28
Warmth	29
11.3.20	31
<i>Jungshi Imti</i>	
Thoughts on the Past, Present and Future: A Modern Naga's Contemplation	32
<i>Dzüvinguno Dorothy Chasie</i>	
Shadowboxing	41
<i>Tialila Kikon</i>	
The Strange Exchange	43
<i>Agnes Tapa</i>	
Insect lovers	51
The red tractor driver	52
Passion weak	53
<i>Kezhakielie Whiso</i>	

Sacred Langtem (Translated into English by Lanusenla Jamir) <i>T. Senka Ao</i>	54
One Rupee Coin	66
A Solidarity Poem	68
Confused Nagas <i>Longang Luklem</i>	70
This Too shall Pass <i>Konaei Shongdok</i>	73
By the Millions	82
Whenever Lightning Strikes	84
Zivi <i>Adenuo Shirat Luikham</i>	86
Making Sense of Who I Am - 1: The Beginnings <i>Vizovono Elizabeth</i>	87
Not my Soulmate	98
Am I?	99
An Uncertified Writer <i>Limatoshi Longkumer</i>	100
Pungdi, the Great <i>Theyievino Whiso</i>	101
In Time	105
Etherised	106
October <i>Sentinaro</i>	107

Meaning in an Indifferent Expanding Cosmos <i>Nzan Kikon</i>	108
Nineveh	115
Triggers	117
Abandoned <i>Imlikokla Jamir</i>	118
Making Sense of Who I Am - II: The Journey <i>Vizovono Elizabeth</i>	120
One nation, under drugs, under drones	131
Supermarket Stories <i>Kemya Yanlem</i>	133
Longkhum <i>Avinuo Kire</i>	134
Should I Curse the Shadows?	150
Fleeing for a Nation	151
The Village Empire <i>Mmhonlümo Kikon</i>	152
The Piano Lesson <i>Adenuo Shirat Luikham</i>	154
My Father and I: A Final Lesson on Human Dignity <i>Kelhukiesie Savino</i>	160
Wanderlust Soul	167
On Oting Tragedy <i>Chenonlo Aaron Woch</i>	170

We were a Village <i>Vishü Rita Krocha</i>	174
Emilo and the Death of the Dog	186
A Folklorist out of Tune <i>Elika Assumi</i>	188
Silent Screams <i>Sentilong Ozukum</i>	190
Breaking a Soliloquy	206
Portraiture	207
Happy Birthday <i>Beni Sumer Yanthan</i>	208
Nagas and the Anatomy of Deeply Divided Societies <i>Kethoser Aniu Kevichusa</i>	210
sometimes	216
different times	217
old words <i>Emisenla Jamir</i>	218
Children's Folk Songs: A Repository of Cultural Heritage <i>Sentinaro</i>	219
The Lament of Inadequate Existences	228
A Heart is meant for Breaking/A Heart Bleeds purpose	230
The Lament of the Land <i>Dzüvinguno Dorothy Chasie</i>	231

*g i*

Silent Patches <i>Tialila Kikon</i>	232
The Thebvo Making Song <i>Sophy Lasuh Kiesiezie</i>	241
First Language Attrition <i>Neikehienuo Mepfhu-o</i>	246
Imperfect Beings	252
The Land of Paradox	254
Food for Thought <i>Richard Belho</i>	255
Abdul, My Hairdresser <i>Kezhakielie Whiso</i>	256
Haiku Poems <i>Chenonlo Aaron Woch</i>	262
On the Brink of a Pond (Translated into English by Lanusenla Jamir) <i>T. Senka Ao</i>	264
Aubade	276
Detour <i>T. Keditsu</i>	278
A Piece of Cake (A short story) <i>Beni Sumer Yanthan</i>	279

forgotten	284
unanswered	285
I forget to remember	286
<i>Elongshila Jamir</i>	
A death wish: The good death	288
<i>Akumtong Longkumer</i>	
Fallen Flowers	297
The "Critic" and the "Other"	299
<i>Kelbukiesie Savino</i>	
Sons & Fathers	301
<i>Lhütü Keyho</i>	
Leshele from Mishilimi Village	314
<i>Ngutoli Y. Swu</i>	
Tattered Flag	316
<i>Richard Belho</i>	
Of Hearts and Homelands and Stories in Songs	317
<i>Vizovono Elizabeth</i>	

*Elong JR*



## By the Millions

ADENUO SHIRAT LUIKHAM



I heard that this was once the abode of trees  
On the serpentine road that curves up  
And transforms into hillocks.

I heard that this was where the rain clouds  
Came to rest

And the green foliage soothed  
The weary traveler's eyes.

I hear that murder by the millions  
Of stately oaks and bamboos

Has metamorphosed the landscape  
Into a globalist's paradise.

All in the name of speeding up time  
So that we can reach our destinations in style.  
Tornadoes of dust arrest every mobile carriage

## Whenever Lightning Strikes



The summer heat sapped the plants dry  
On crusty soil, the perishing green began to cry  
For the sky to open up her arms  
And rescue the land from harm  
Soon the faint whispers of a deadly visitor grew  
Hearts entombed in the earth knew  
That the season of destruction  
Was yet upon them.

The clouds went to war  
To send rain or to send fire  
Was the matter of the fight.  
And in the clashing battle created Light  
Who flew down and ignited the parched land  
And up in flames the ground below wore a crown so  
grand  
In tangled hues of red and rust  
The disagreement in the heavens could not last  
As envious eyes burned with indignation,

## Zivi



*Zivi* is fleeting, my mother told me  
*Zivi* is deceiving, she reminded me  
Time furrows deep lines on smooth visages  
And bright eyes dim  
As the years run in circle around a life.  
But *zivi* of the heart  
My mother told me,  
It endures.  
It inspires beauty in souls.  
*Zivi* is fleeting, *zivi* is deceiving  
But my daughter  
The *zivi* of your heart  
Is all that they will remember.