

## MY NTU BLUES AFFIRMATION

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For Padre Alexis Kagame, Author of  
*La Philosophie Bāntu-rwandaise de l'Être* (1966)  
(*Bantu-Rwandan Philosophy of Being*)

NTU

.....

MU KI HA KU

I am U-MUNTU affirming my NTU.  
I am a MUNTU affirming my NTU-NESS  
In the face of exile and genocide of Rwandans.  
I am U-MUNTU blues affirming NTU yanjye  
In the face of everything that wants ro  
Tear me asunder I say I am U-MUNTU.

In the beginning  
MUNTU, KINTU, HANTU, KUNTU  
Were  
And  
MUNTU, KINTU, HANTU, KUNTU  
Were with  
NTU  
And  
MUNTU, KINTU, HANTU, KUNTU  
Were  
NTU.  
These ones were in the beginning with

NTU—the cosmic force—  
All Beings came into essence  
Through  
NTU  
And  
Outside  
NTU  
Nothing  
Came  
Into  
Essence.

What has come into  
Essence  
By means of  
NTU  
Was  
Force and  
Force  
Flew from  
NTU,  
The true  
Force that unleashes  
Force to  
Every  
Being  
Came on  
Earth through  
NTU.

U-MUNTU—

Abazima n'

Abapfuye

The living and

the dead—is

Force;

I-KINTU—

Plants, animals, minerals—is

Force;

A-HANTU—

Time and

Space—is

Force;

U-KUNTU—

Modality, rhythm, creativity—is

Force.

Imana/God is not

NTU

NTU

Is not God.

I am U-MUNTU blues affirming my NTU

In the face of everything that wants ro

Tear me asunder I say I am U-MUNTU.