

## Africa Today

She is the blind bowl-bearing beggar  
Sitting on a roadside mound of gold  
Yawning all day, yawning all night

America arrives, cleaves a chunk of the gold,  
Drops a coin and some affronts, and passes;  
Asia arrives, cleaves a chunk of the gold,  
Drops a coin and some contempt, and passes;  
Australia arrives, cleaves a chunk of the gold,  
Drops a coin and some chuckle, and passes;  
Europe passes, cleaves a chunk of the gold,  
Drops a coin and some insult, and retires;

Then hail her own one-eyed leader:  
He clears the bowl of the dropped coins,  
Blames her plight on her slothfulness, and passes,  
Belching all the way as his beggar-land yawns.

JOSEPH USHIE