



“ until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”
(2 Peter 1:19 KJV)

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The Da Vinci Code: Navigating Literary Texts from a Christian Perspective
And God looked at what He had created and said "This is good":
The Role of Art in Serving Mankind

Ideology and Kenyan Art: A Case for Understanding Christianity in Kenya's
Contemporary Society

Poetry: A Divine Art

Language: God's Linguistics Mosaic

Hip-hop Music: Artistic Creativity Gone Bad

Short Stories:

Singing Truth

The Puzzle

Discovering Rhoda

My Unsung Heroine

Nzese

Poetry:

Ashes My Signature

The Agility of The Moran

The Empty Chair

The Path I Took

Does He?

Of Comedy and Trickery: The Divine Trickster in the Narrative of Samson
Book Review: The CEO's Wife

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Editorial Policy: Perspectives is an interdisciplinary academic journal for Daystar University. Its purpose is to foster a better understanding of the various academic disciplines and professions. It is published twice a year by the Academic Division and comprises a research and academic overview section on various aspects of academic disciplines. It also provides for general contributions from various fields of academic disciplines.

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Editorial

This issue of *Perspectives: An Academic Journal of Daystar University* was birthed by a conviction that literature as a subject is being increasingly reduced to such ridiculous levels of abstraction that its relevance to practical day to day issues is minimally visible. And yet we feel that literature is an invitation for readers to observe human beings, very much like us, in action struggling with having to make decisions that are crucial to humanity. This feeling underpins Mike Kuria and Larry Ndivo's paper *The Da Vinci Code: Navigating Literary Texts from a Christian Perspective* which argues that Christians must not shy away from texts critical of their faith. Instead they must confront those texts with the truth of the gospel as they understand it. Regina Gachari, as the title of her paper suggests, examines *The Role of Art in Serving Mankind*. This paper interrogates the place of art amongst Christians. It seeks to provide answers to questions that have been raised in relation to literary criticism and the interpretation of literary texts. The paper examines the parameters and the tenets that are available for the reader in subjecting a work of art for judgement. It also seeks to rethink art as originally intended by God, as explained in Genesis, to serve mankind.

Similarly, Donald Maingi further examines the issues of art and religion in an illuminating discussion in his paper on *Ideology and Kenyan Art: A Case for Understanding Christianity in Kenya's Contemporary Society*. The paper eloquently traces the origin of art and lays down the historical foundations that should form the basis of our perception and appreciation of art. The writer gives insights into how art can help shape our ideologies and concludes that art is a discipline that needs to be carefully studied and objective research findings made available for the Christians to learn from.

Purity Kiambi and Rebecca Oladipo have chosen to write on *Poetry: A Divine Art*. In this paper, the authors interrogate the various definitions of poetry and surmise that it is not easy to find one definition for this genre of literature known to have a long history. Their argument is illuminating in the way it sheds light on the different perspectives that scholars can take in analysing poetry. Purity and Rebecca have also examined the nature of language in their second paper entitled *Language as a Divine Creation*. In

this paper the writers postulate that language is a unique gift from God for man to use in communicating with others and with God Himself. The paper investigates existing theories on the origin of language and submits that the issue of the origin of language cannot be exhaustively explained without taking into consideration the biblical perspective on the matter.

Lillian Kaviti's *Hip-hop Music: Artistic Creativity Gone Bad* is a critical evaluation of hip-hop music and its impact on the Kenyan youth. Kaviti's paper establishes that hip-hop is a genre of popular music that accords the youth an alternate means of communicating their issues. The paper not only links hip-hop to modern trends, but also reflects on the power of the genre in the way it influences and informs the behaviour and mores of the youth. In her argument, the writer underscores the need to question the images and stereotypes of women and other social issues as represented in hip-hop.

In this issue, we have included four short stories and a number of poems. It is an attempt aimed to bring together both the creative and critical minds. The journal therefore has five short stories: Mike Kuria's *Stinging Truth*; Miriam Maranga's *The Puzzle*; Macharia Mwangi's *Discovering Rhoda*; and Oladipo's *My Unsung Heroine*. Kuria's story presents the dilemma of a protagonist who is in search of discovering himself. The story is philosophically deep yet very revealing about mankind. It lays bare the search for meaning in life by exploring the possible means through which a searching human spirit substitutes one thing with another only to discover more emptiness and disillusionment. The story underscores the importance of finding the equilibrium in life for one to be at peace with oneself.

Miriam Maranga's *The Puzzle* is the story of two star-crossed lovers whose future life is fatally held together by a puzzling past that has to be unravelled. George is haunted by a dark past that has possessed him completely. Tracy is intrigued by George's weird comments that consistently intrude into their time together. When George eventually pours out his soul to Tracy, it is Tracy in whose hands their future lies because of the disturbing nature of the revelation. The reader unconsciously delves into the puzzle and as the clues fall into place so does the plot of the story take shape.

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Discovering Rhoda by Macharia Mwangi is a simple story of the trickery and treacherous way of urban life. A young girl sets out for the city and discovers that all the hope and trust that beckons one to the glitter soon disintegrates to disillusionment and mistrust. As the brother sets out to look for her, we as readers also discover that it is a journey of discovery for every one of us and not just Rhoda as an individual. Oladipo's *My Unsung Heroine* is the autobiographical reminiscence of her childhood aunt who practically had a solution to everything. In this story, which is a part of a longer series of stories about the aunt, the author vividly portrays her childhood years and the way in which the aunt helped mould her character. It is a simple story told from a child narrator and this perspective makes it innocent and interesting to read.

In addition to the short stories, the issue has also included an oral narrative by Florence Miya titled *Nzese*. It is a typical African narrative that is constructed around the theme of severe consequences from irresponsibility. The man abandons his family for a long time. The issue has also put together poems by Purity Kiambi and Gertrude Wangari. These poems reflect on general human emotions and feelings. They search deep into the core of mankind and at times not only raise philosophical issues but spiritual ones as well. The poems are thematically rich and the reader should find them literary enriching. They engage us on varied issues such as the appreciation of the beauty in nature, politics and religion amongst other issues.

Last but not least, there is an inclusion of *Of Comedy and Trickery: The Divine Trickster in the Narrative of Samson* by Bernard Boyo. This paper is an analysis of Samson and the literary device employed in the development of his story. We cap the journal with a book review by Mike Kuria of Pat Ngurukie's *The CEO's Wife*. The review seems to suggest that Pat Ngurukie is exploring humanity's fallen nature which remains corrupted even after redemption. We hope you will find the journal refreshing in its diversity and challenging in its content.