

Tales from Tauriq – 6 October 2017

The Book Lounge is a buzz as a new poet is born. At the downstairs reception area is a mixed mingle of poetry buffs, Chess supporters, friends and family of the incumbent, Adv Maxwell Solomon.



The venue is a book paradise of South Africa's best, adorned with luminaries of the sacrosanct landscape of South Africa's published few. The Book Lounge prides itself on South African work that matters. On two lounge seats to a decently sized audience, Maxwell and chess published poet Edwin November start the "conversation".



Its s delicate and sincere exchange between two old friends who decades before encountered each other at UWC in English class. I among others am intrigued to learn about Maxwell's hidden passion of poetry. The vulnerability in reading his work is a brave step away from the litany of law practice or his solid and tenacious chess playing style. What is revealed is a human being whose book, "Loose Sketchings" is a heart piece, a metaphysical almanac of experience stretching decades. Its a personal rendition of questions of love, hurt, freedom, life and death. Dedicated to his father, William Charles Solomon, his wife Beulah and daughter Jenna, "loose sketchings" is commemorative, inspired by relationships with the self, deep family ties, and observations. During the discussion, Solomon alludes to influences such as Blake, Shakespeare, Goethe and Yates. His appreciation of Rumi runs deep. Draped in a black blazer Maxwell advocates for poetry that "finds you" he reads what one may describe the reason d'etre underpinning the anthology

in this  
In that  
i know  
i am

not alone

An extract from the poem for Chess followers, "Chess masterpiece" goes,

...with forces cerebral:

Warriors of the Master's  
blueprint -

imprinting on  
the opponents mind  
A chess masterpiece.

As the conversation concludes, and looking around to see our chess community supporting each other through art is an attribute to the royal game.

After all "chess is art" says Duchamps.

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