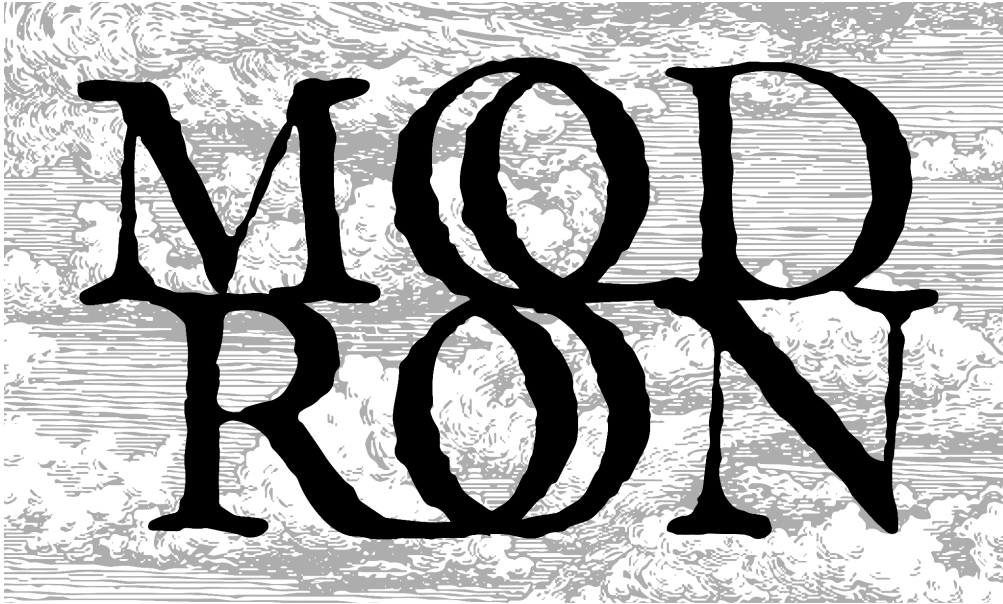




Adedayo Agarau is a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, a 2022 Robert Hayden Scholarship fellow and a recipient of the 2022 Stanley Awards for International Research at the University of Iowa. He obtained his MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop '23. His poems have been featured in *Poetry Magazine*, Poetry Society of America, *World Literature Today*, *Iowa Review*, and *Boulevard*. He is the author of the chapbooks, *Origin of Names* (African Poetry Book Fund), and *The Arrival of Rain* (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press). Adedayo is the Editor-in-Chief at *Agbowó: An African magazine of literature and art*.

starvation

the bus rattles through the highway line.
a lorry passes by us and takes the corner
onto the interstate. everyone who is not
asleep is speaking to someone. we pass
through the country homes where, outside,
a man & a man are kissing. a person waves
at the bus & their mother knocks them.
it's april & wet & on the radio, they
say the storm is coming again tonight.
how rainy it is in cardiff, yet its thunder
understands decorum. how wet you've been
years before i knelt to eat you.