

Embarrassment.

An Opportunistic Infection by Mwaganu wa Kaggia

I am embarrassed to talk about SEX  
So I avoid talking to my children  
I giggle and laugh nervously  
Whenever the word SEX is mentioned  
I am too embarrassed to look up

In the age of HIV/AIDS  
My embarrassment continues  
About SEX, AIDS and CONDOMS  
I am even afraid to read about the disease  
I am so embarrassed

Now, I am at a loss  
My daughter, my son,  
my husband and I have AIDS  
We have never talked about SEX and AIDS  
Even when we knew better  
We were too embarrassed  
Too embarrassed to protect ourselves  
Too embarrassed to keep DEATH at bay

Now I am too embarrassed  
To let anyone know about us  
My FAMILY and AIDS  
Then one day  
My mother opened my eyes  
She said, " Your family is not dying of AIDS  
It is dying of embarrassment,  
A deadly OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTION"

Today, we are no longer sick with embarrassment  
We know better  
That noone ever died of embarrassment  
But DAILY, a loved one dies of AIDS.

*By Mwaganu wa Kaggia-8-26-94*