**THE LEADER AND THE LED**

**Stanza one:** The Lion stakes his claim  
To the leadership of the pack

**Stanza two**: But the Antelopes remember  
The ferocious pounce of his paws

**Stanza three**; The hyena says the crown is made for him  
But the Impalas shudder at his lethal appetite

**Stanza four:** The Giraffe craves a place in the front  
But his eyes are too far from the ground

**Stanza five:** When the Zebra says it’s his right to lead  
The pack points to the duplicity of his stripes

**Stanza six;** The Elephant trudges into the power tussle  
But its colleagues dread his trampling feet

**Stanza seven:** The warthog is too ugly  
The rhino too riotous

**Stanza eight** : And the pack thrashes around  
Like a snake without a head

**Stanza nine:** “Our need calls for a hybrid of habits”,   
Proclaims the Forest Sage,

**Stanza ten:** “A little bit of a Lion  
A little bit of a Lamb

**Stanza eleven:** Tough like a tiger, compassionate like a doe  
Transparent like a river, mysterious like a lake

**Stanza twelve;** A leader who knows how to follow  
Followers mindful of their right to lead”

**STRUCTURE**:

The **Leader and the Led** by Niyi Osundare is a fable. The poem (The **Leader and the Led**) is a 12 stanza couplet void of planned end-rhymes and rhythms. The first part of the poem juxtaposed varying animals' choice to lead and those of followers against their **leadership**

Subject matter

It tells a story of an animal kingdom lacking **leadership** based on rivalry and imperfection