“Nelson Ratau has a flair for language quite uncommon in a budding writer. His poetry
vivifies and jolts, compelling the reader to understand his world, to live and experience it in the myriad
emotions evoked through imagery.” – Naomi Nkwalala, author of And They Call Themselves Feminists
A Poetry Collection.

IT BEGINS HERE

Nelson Ratau
By infusing storytelling from his many village mothers with a touch of philosophy which he learned from elder village men and poetry (discovered through his own reading), Ratau creates fresh poems. His poems ring in the call for dreaming and making dreams the axis of national and global greatness. Dreaming and dreams are exalted as the universal currency that the world needs to secure a future rich with a kind of gritty glory born out of unity and seeing.

To dream or not to dream is equal to the famed 'to be or not to be', the poet observes through the collective vision and voice of his poetry.

Nelson Ratau was born in Bronkhorstspruit, Gauteng to a Pedi mother and Xhosa father. He grew up in two Sekhukhune villages, two places whose ways of life affected him greatly. As the lastborn of five children, Nelson enjoyed the delight of fireside storytelling by his mother, siblings, uncles and aunts, as well as the many other people in the two village communities. It is not a surprise, therefore, that Nelson writes poetry as a storyteller.

"True among us are able to link the heart (passion) to the head (imagination). In this work, Nelson Ratau demonstrates not only his creative prowess but also his ability to create an interlocking alliance between his thought, his feeling, the voice — a voice directed with spirit, blood and ordeal tone." — Mjoaji Sekola

"A new poetic voice, unique and original. This kaleidoscopic collection explores different dimensions of the human experience. Some poems celebrate the gifts that life may bring; while others depict the sorrow and suffering that is being. There are poems of love and loss of loneliness and loss; and poems justifying or examining present and past, simple delight and serious experience. This is Nelson Ratau's first collection of poetry, and he is sure to be received by the many of worth." — Fosho, author of The Extraordinary Khaka and Universities and the Occult Rituals of the Corporate World

"There are honest and insets [sic] compositions, displaying unquestionable artistry, technique and gift. Strongly inspired by his upbringing — grounded on fundamental wisdom and knowledge gained — Nelson writes about real-life situations and carefully observed real experience. I applaud Nelson for this well-executed task. This poetry book mirrors what I call a must read!" — Maghemane Aluminum Mabuza, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Southland.