

TRIALS OF HOPE

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by Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes

Winner of the 2024 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award, *Trials of Hope* tells the story of a shepherd boy turned human-rights academic set against the backdrop of the author's beloved Ethiopia, and the family and friends he has left behind.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In this profound and groundbreaking narrative, Ethiopian-born Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes weaves together stories of heritage and heartache. This unique memoir celebrates the beauty of Ethiopian culture while mourning its erosion – first under colonial forces, and later through internal conflict. Framing his work via the Ethiopian belief in the four elemental stages of human experience – water, fire, soil and wind – Yirga's story celebrates and honours the voices that fight to preserve his culture.

This is an essential exploration of the human condition, urging us to connect with a nation of people whose sagacity and spirit have endured through generations.

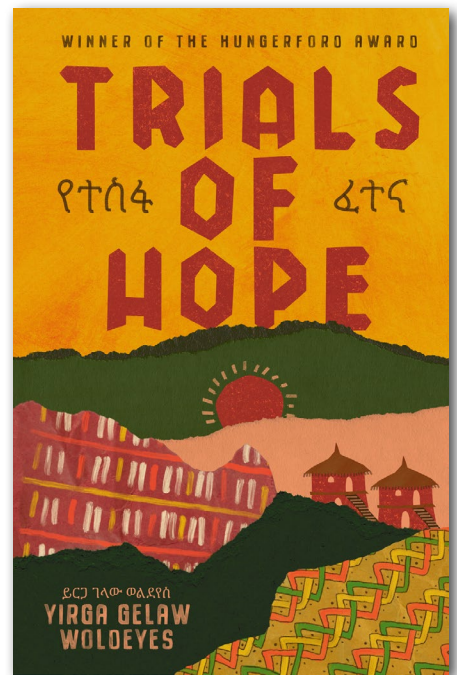
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes is a writer, poet and human-rights academic from Lalibela, Ethiopia. His academic and creative work revolves around African traditions, Ethiopian philosophy, epistemic justice, issues of looted manuscript repatriation, and the politics of language and belonging. Yirga was a 2023 Red Room Poetry Emerging Poet in Residence and one of thirty poets featured in Red Room's '30in30' National Australian Poetry Month celebrations. He won the 2024 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award for *Trials of Hope* (የተስፋ ፈተና).



NOTES

- This is a rare dual-language memoir in English and Amharic, drawing on the poetry traditions of the author's own culture.
- An audio recording is available online via a QR code.
- The author is ideally placed to make observations on the eroding effects of Westernisation; on what it is to grow up not knowing you were any colour at all; living and working in a country where you experience overt racism on a daily basis; the pain of separation from one's heartland.
- The author has a strong message about immigrant authors/new Australians being able to express not only the world around them, but the world they always carry inside.



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CONTACT: Claire Miller
HEAD OF SALES AND MARKETING

M +61 (0)419 837 841

T +61 (0)8 9430 6331

E cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au

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