L’espoir d’une vie meilleure
(Hope for a better life)

Seated between the thighs of daybreak
Bitten by the sharp teeth of the cool dawn
I was thinking on the misery of the world.

Then I heard a voice, sweet as a flute
Calling me melodiously from the shadows:

Oh! Child of Man
Gird yourself with patience!
Life can be tough -
Yet life is worth living
Have Patience!

The farmer patiently waits in his field
For the shoots to emerge over time, that
Will finally give him grains … and gains.
The worthy weaver creates his clothes
As he presses the pedals of his loom.
And you, oh! Solitary Wanderer,
Can you not see the light of hope
Rising slowly over the horizon?

Tomorrow’s plant cuttings
Will germinate slowly
Under the ardent Sahelian sun,
Bringing joy to the garden of hope
    That courageous workers daily
    Water with their own sweat.

    Oh! Son of the Soil!
    Hope is like a plant
    Whose sap is life
And whose roots are time:
    Hope germinates slowly
    Hope germinates patiently
    Hope germinates surely
For Hope is the product of us all.

By Yahiya Fofana

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