

The Unjust Observed

Mama Nyenkan has an ugly, dying soul.
Her practices abusing the children are not
for naming; money for food she drinks to stupor.
The holy man says she has betrayed the gods

and her fellow man. So say my students
in Africa, in papers of her or those
like her that my American freshmen read.
We also read Plato, *Gorgias*, of those

who want to accept no laws for their appetites,
no legitimization for powers in
the precincts. "Where are we now, Professor —
in fifth century, B.C., Athens,

Sierra Leone of 1984,
or Michigan today?" Next are the just.

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