

**ZAMBIA'S CROWN
OF WORLD ESTEEM**



Rainbow at the Magnificent Victoria Falls, Zambia.

When, twice now, Your magnificent beauty
I beheld, O Victoria Falls,
You through whom Your Host, Zambia,
With world esteem, crowned, has been,
Gape open, my mouth actually did,
My head shaking, in wonderment!

And words of blessings upon
And praise
Of the Almighty God,
Your Creator and mine, too,
Like Your waters,
From my lips, cascading down, started, instantly!

Though known, the world over, as Victoria Falls,
The name given to You by Dr. David Livingstone,
A world renowned Scottish Missionary Explorer,
We, the locals, and reverentially so, call You,
“Mosi-O-Tunya”, translated, for the uninitiated, as
“The Smoke that thunders!” And thunder, You do!

The whole world, seen, never, has
And see, never, will,
A Natural Wonder so better crafted
Than You, the Mighty Victoria Falls,
The Water Falls that, in Her seasonal variations,
On the visitors, various impressions, creates.

From November to early December,

Your flow, O Victoria Falls,
Is great, cascading Your waters,
Across a 2km span,
In millions of cubic tons of water per second,
Down a wizenning depth of 103 meters, thus,
And like a magician, mesmerizing Your beholders!

But from September to October, Your waters,
O Victoria Falls, to a flow of 20,000 cubic litres
Per second, reduced, You are,
But still making Your beholders hold You
In no less higher esteem and matching awe
Than when in full floods, and all visitors, jostling
With other visitors, for a vantage view of You.

And a lone ranger in getting intoxicated
With Your esthetic beauty,
O Victoria Falls,
I am not;
No, I am not,
Not at all!

Dr. David Livingstone,
When, onto You,
He was irresistibly drawn,
Rather like a moth to light,
The poet in him woke up,
And he remarked:

“...scenes so lovely,
Must have been gazed upon
By angels in flight!”
The year was 1855, the month, November,
The day 16th, the place, now known as
Livingstone, the country, Zambia.

Which sentiments,
Echoed, were, by E. Holub,
Yet another appreciative visitor to You,
Victoria Falls,
Saying,
Breath, half-bated:

“Truly it is a scene in which man
May well become aware
Of his own insignificance!”
The year was 1881,
The place, once more, Livingstone,
The country, again, Zambia!



The Magnificent Victoria Falls, Zambia., with an inset Of Dr. David Livingstone.

And yet another overzealous visitor,
Named F.C. Selous,
Exclaim, many years later, was to, saying:
“..one of, if not the most transcendently,
Beautiful natural phenomena
On this side of the Paradise!”

Such are the various sentiments,
Sentiments that You, the Victoria Falls,
In Your beholders, do evoke;
Beholders coming from
Near, like me, a Zambian national,
And afar, like tourists, year in and year out.

The Zambezi River, the 4th longest river in Africa,
The River that the Zambezi River Basin, drains,
Delivering desperately needed water to Zambia’s
Neighbours¹, facilitated also, has, Your birth,
Victoria Falls, the 7th Natural Wonder
And World Heritage, thanks be
To a volcanic eruption, many a Century ago.

8 times now, so have You, the Victoria Falls,
Up the Zambezi River, moved,
Leaving behind, in the process,
A series of gorges,
Gorges formed every 5,000 years,
Finally making You settle in Your present place.

And determined to get a vantage view
Of You, the Victoria Falls, was I, that,
On May 27, 2006, my wedded wife, Rhodah,

¹ Angola, Botswana, malawi, Mozambique,
Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Onto the Knife Edge Bridge, I urged.
Only to have Your mighty mist force us back,
Baptizing us anew, though christened, we’re ,
Already!

So, O Mosi-O-Tunya,
The Smoke that thunders,
Bubble about Your picturesque beauty,
Always do, I shall, God willing;
Beauty so ravaging,
And so tantalizing, too, to behold!



The Mighty Zambezi River, co-host with Zambia, of the Mighty Victoria Falls.

And when next God considers shifting You
To a new position, may Your new posting ever be,
Vicky, O Mosi-O-Tunya, I mean to say,
Mother Zambia and upon the Zambezi River,
Thus handing to each successive
Zambian generation
The charm that God, by His Providential Designs,
Endowed You with, has. To that wish say I, Amen.



Canoe Safari, Lower Zambezi.

M. K. Chalata, Livingstone, Saturday, May 27, 2006