

**Lament and Hope: “There are things that can be seen only with eyes that have cried.”**

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Abstract

Lament is an area that I have reflected on for some years as a result of personal experience. Some reading that has begun to open this up for me very helpfully has been the work of a Roman Catholic Ugandan theologian, Emmanuel Katongole in one of his most recent books entitled *Born from Lament, The Theology and Politics of Hope in Africa*.<sup>1</sup> This is a book that looks squarely at the truly terrible, evil, cruel violence and tragic suffering in Congo and reflects on how and why this has happened.

So with his insights as well as ideas and responses from several people I have interviewed along with an example from Burundi, I would like to develop the themes of lament as complaint; lament as resistance, justice and innovation; and finally lament as newness and hope. The paper explores some of the psalms as a Biblical basis for lament as complaint. It then uses the story of Maggy Barankitse, a woman from Burundi who founded *Maison Shalom* to explore lament as resistance and innovation and concludes with further insights from Africa to consider how lament can turn to newness and hope. Vulnerability and woundedness emerge as key themes and a backdrop to lament.

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<sup>1</sup> E Katongole, *Born from Lament, The Theology and Politics of Hope in Africa*, (Grand Rapids:Eerdmans, 2017)