

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Tydale Abigail: Three Poems

Tydale Abigail · Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

### Are There Blacks in Heaven?

The priest speaks of a place high above  
Where everyone shall live in love  
But one thing that keeps me just stark,  
Will there be rooms for every Black?

They suffered so much as slaves.  
I just wonder if it'll be said they were brave.  
So as I stand here and imagine that place,  
I wonder if in heaven they will be part of that race.

When you're traveling to see the Lord,  
Ask Him if in His Word  
There shall be a room for every Black,  
Maybe I shall never stay back.

\*

### How I Choose To Talk About Africa

Whenever I am asked, "what do you have to tell us?"

I often say:

There is a place I call my home.  
Somewhere not beyond my eyes;  
A little into the yards where the goats and sheep bleat.

A place my mother points to whenever she tells a story.  
My father also, makes mention of it every planting season.  
This same place, my grandmother cooked the meals of the evening,  
And my grandfather's huts almost outnumbered every giant oak, and dwarf trees.

With my brothers and half-brothers,  
We have roamed the high mountains and the low vale's.  
And my mother's daughters have bathed from the Niger through the Congo to the Nile.

Our sons will sing louder on the wide plains of this place.  
 And so will our daughters' daughters play in the local squares of this same continent.  
 This is just somewhere I can never live to forget  
 Because, it lives inside my blood.  
 This is my story of Africa.

\*

## Destination

I see a people  
 Of the vast province of the Southern soil  
 Opening from the Nile  
 And closing into the Atlantic.

A people of colours tinted with Black  
 Having heights of iroko and quava  
 Of embroidered skins with verticals and horizontals of the earth  
 And kinky strands of sacred origins.

I see a people of the open grasslands and zebras  
 Living in the luxurious structures of the bamboo  
 Sitting on door steps of the twinkling stars  
 And dancing to the language of the talking drum.

I see a people of sands and gravels  
 Mounting horses parading its boundaries of wars  
 Greeting camels relaxing from trade  
 And building centuries in the mud of their brains.

I see a people of stones and woods  
 Carving divinity with their hands  
 Reproducing fate in sequences of joy  
 And baking lives in parallels of achievements.

I see a people with a peace of mind  
 Surrounded by the fears of uncoloured aliens  
 Sealed by the unity of their veins  
 But scattered by the laws of these aliens.

I see a people whose chiefs have been demoted  
 Whose drunks are voices of authority  
 Exalted by the whims of the aliens  
 And honoured for the selfish heart of the White gold.

I see a people with a problem  
 Of how to restore their chiefs  
 And work in the steps of their spirits  
 Yet bedeviled by the sweetness of the aliens' food.

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I see a people of tomorrow  
Rebuilding the shrines of yesterday's glory  
And basking in the orals of past traditions  
A people with a destination.

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*This is part of Nigerian Voices Today, a 7-week series featuring young Nigerian poets, curated by Babatunde Babafemi. Check out [Week 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#).*

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