

All That You Have Given Me Africa

By Anoma Kanie

All that you have given me, Africa
Lakes, forests, misted lagoons
All that you have given me
5 Music, dances, all night stories around a fire
All that you have etched in my skin
Pigments of my ancestors
Indelible in my blood
All that you have given me Africa
10 Makes me walk
With a step that is like no other

Hip broken under the weight of time
Feet large with journeys
15 All that you have left me
Even this lassitude¹ bound to my heels
I bear it with pride on my forehead
My health is no more to be lost
And I go forward
20 Praising my race which is no better
Or worse than any other

All that you have given me Africa
Savannahs gold in the noonday sun
25 Your beasts that men call wicked
Your mines, inexplicable treasures
Obsessions of a hostile world
Your suffering for lost paradises
All that, I protect with an unforgiving hand
30 As far as the clear horizons
So that your heaven-given task
May be safe forever.