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The Literary Corner: Introduction to African English Drama with Brooks Robinson (side b)

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: The literary Literary Corner Black Writers of the World; a series of analysis and interpretations of Black World Literature.

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Today an introduction to African poetry. I'm Brooks Robinson and we'll explore the various phases in the development of African poetry, attempting to touch as much of the vast continent as we possibly can as we go along.

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As in all other genres in African-English literature and I'm going to stress the African-English part of it. A substantial body of accomplished African-English poetry did not appear until the 1950s.

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This is not to say that African poetry did not exist until this time. Quite the contrary is actually the case.

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African poetry before the 1950s existed, however, but only in oral forms. And after the 1800s or 19th century African poetry existed in languages besides English.

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Now African oral poetry is as old as African civilizations and cultures themselves.

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And certainly one cannot consider African-English, African-French, or any other form of African poetry without considering the African oral poetry.

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Now, as far as African poetry in its oral forms is concerned; one sees basically three major themes.

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First, you have the themes of Africans and their guides: Ogun, Orisala, Orunmila, Ala, all of the chis and how man was related to the gods, a source of life.

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This was, and it still is to a very great extent a real concern



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