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National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Literary Corner: Introduction to African English Poetry with Brooks Robinson (side a)

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WEBVTT

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[[tribal music playing]]

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[[softer music playing]]

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: The Literary Corner: Black Writers of the World.

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A series of analyses and interpretations of Black World literature.

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Today you'll meet South African exiled poet, Dennis Brutus.

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Brutus is an expert in African poetry and on apartheid.

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He's author of 4 major works including Sirens, Knuckles, Boots; Letters to Martha; A Simple Lust; and Stubborn Hope.

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He's presently Professor in the English Department at Northwestern University.

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Now, an interview with Dennis Brutus.

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It begins with an explanation on how and when he started writing poetry

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and became a Black Writer of the World.

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[[soft music]]

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<i>Dennis Brutus</i>: I don't really remember what started me off

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except that my answer is the fact that my mother was a school teacher

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who liked poetry and recited it and encouraged me to do so

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may have been the beginnings for me.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Now, do you remember your first work?

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Um, many people write that first work and that's something that they really um, become proud of,

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or some push it into the background and say that it's no good at all.

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<i>Dennis Brutus</i>: I think I remember what was my first work.

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I certainly didn't preserve it.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Mm-hmm

<i>Dennis Brutus</i>: I think they were 4 lines written in the autumn fall, uh, at moonrise one evening.

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And I tried simply to capture the image of the rising moon without any comment at all.

00:02:07.000 --> 00:02:08.658

And um, I think that--



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