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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

00:06:28.000 --> 00:06:52.000

{Speaker name= "Dennis Brutus" } [[music]] For the corpses of Soweto and swear an oath for Soweto Their deaths will not be forgotten Their lives will purchase our freedom

00:06:52.000 --> 00:06:53.000

{Speaker name= "Brooks B. Robinson"} Beautiful very beautiful.

00:06:53.000 --> 00:06:55.000

{Speaker name= "Dennis Brutus"} Thank you. Should I go on?

00:06:55.000 --> 00:07:20.000

{Speaker name= "Brooks B. Robinson"} Sure, go right ahead. {Speaker name= "Dennis Brutus"} Around about the same time I wrote one as a tribute for Steve Biko. In fact I have written a number dealing with him and around his life. And this is a short one which talks about Soweto after the 1976.

00:07:20.000 --> 00:07:31.000

In the dark lanes of Soweto Amid the slush the mud the squalor

00:07:31.000 --> 00:07:58.000

And among the rusting tin sheets of the shacks The lust for freedom stubbornly survives Like a smoldering defiant flame And the spirit of Steve Biko moves easily

00:07:58.000 --> 00:07:59.000

{Speaker name= "Dennis Brutus"} Another beautiful one.

00:07:59.000 --> 00:08:00.000

{Speaker name= "Brooks B. Robinson"} Thank you.

00:08:00.000 --> 00:08:09.000

{Speaker name= "Dennis Brutus"} Now, your form, your style, who influenced you, were there any influencers at all?

00:08:09.000 --> 00:08:29.097

{Speaker name= "Brooks B. Robinson"} Yea, that's a long story, I think. I come out of the fairly traditional English mainstream in terms of my experience to poetry as a student and as a university student, missionary college Fort Hare where we--



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