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The Literary Corner: Vernon February's Life and Works (side a)

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WEBVTT

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: and the way they even cut umm the meat into certain shapes like saltfish and thing.

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(stutters) identical this is seen particularly in Haiti where if you take photographs you won't be sure if you're in Africa or in the Caribbean.

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and then there's the language, the way the people speak.

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I had a remarkable experience in Barbados one night. When I was passing a Church one of our people's Churches.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Yeah

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: Not an established Church but an Afro-Caribbean Church. And it always- it had always been said that Barbados, my island, had no African culture.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Yeah

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: and I was- I stopped to listen to these... you know- these worshipers and although they were Barbadian, I suddenly realized that I couldn't understand what they were saying for one moment

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Yes

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: and then as I went on listening I realized that the pattern and the rhythm was really Igbo.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: mhm

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: now that gave me the first breakthrough into understanding my own culture in Barbados,

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which is, in fact, an Igbo culture, which accounts for the fact that Barbados does not seem, evidently, to have an African culture,

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because the Igbo culture being what we call acephalous,

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: uh huh

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: you know there's no symbolic head in the Igbo,

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: yeah

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: unlike the Yoruba, and tends to be very introverted, very submerged,

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: yeah

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: and therefore, the Barbadian, African survival tends to be very hidden

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{SPEAKER name= "Brooks B. Robinson"} uh huh

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: and it is at that moment that I recognized that the continuity of language played a very important part in an understanding of the connection between Africa and the new world.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: now in some of the.. uh later...writings of the development of creole society in Jamaica, uh, other exiles, black and blue matter of poems, etc. those works, are you developing a different kind of theme?

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<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: not a different theme but deepening the theme, which is really my real interest of what is the Caribbean.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: mhm

00:10:49.000 --> 00:10:50.980

<i>Daniel Kunene</i>: You see because um some- peop...



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