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Bantu Poetry

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Bantu Poetry

1. Today, I got fined for a lamp left on.
When I blink, my eyes burn.
2. The students sit quiet, like resting dogs.
The silent rock of a lopsided table.
3. My paper will be docked; two days late.
Tomorrow, I won't eat breakfast.
4. The sound of rustling paper, like rain.
The erratic heartbeat of one love struck.
5. When will the frost come?
From the river I hear frogs.
6. The wilderness is only in our hearts.
Useless pets get shot in the head.

Awake

The scrape of my calf against cold cotton
Startles the warm darkness around and above my bed, and outside
Streetlights slant white rainbows across my window.
There are rivers and mountains in the folds of my blanket,
But I cannot taste them.
Running a damp tongue across the wrinkled padding
of chapped lips, the inside of my mouth is a desert.
My chest breathes in something like moist velvet,
There is the echoing tap of a clock.