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Raphael D'Abdon

Poems

purple has style

my city, usually
ugly, in spring
becomes the
prettiest place
on the planet

sunday,
6 am,
i walk through the
purple tunnels of
brooklyn, thswane

prince
on repeat
in my earphones

purple is music
purple is wind
purple is rain
purple is snow
purple is the rising sun
purple has a sound
purple has a name
purple has eyes
purple has wings
purple has ears
purple has a voice
purple has style
purple pops
purple yawns
purple sings
purple cries
purple glides
purple dances

purple rises
purple falls
purple lives
purple dies
purple on rooftops
purple on cars
purple on fences
purple on sidewalks
purple on road signs
purple on dustbins
purple on roads
purple on flowers
purple on my head
purple on my shoulders
purple on my shoes
purple in my mouth
purple in my lungs
purple in my thoughts
purple in my blues

and the old ladies walking their tiny dogs,
and the runners in their fluorescent clothes,
and the bougainvillea,
oh yeah, the bougainvillea,
make all this look
even prettier.

fucking colonizers,
i hate to say it, but:
when you brought purple to this land
you keep raping every day,

you nailed it.

when dawn arrives

she finds me between
open windows
behind a candle
drawing hearts and flowers
on the back of
my grandma's pictures

she would have turned
94 today

i hear the wind that
took her away

in the curtains' swishing
in the butterflies' flitting
in the trees' rustling

half-silences
where sound abounds

mirror names

mirror names with
no word for religion

time does not count
in the deep life

wherever we are
shadows follow us

doors open for visitors

a silver owl glides in
and speaks in a lost mother tongue

"the spirit does what
spirits do"
it says
and then glides on
into the future

and stories,
oh well,
stories must just end like this

sometimes

pretoria, 17 february 2017

medicine pathways

i am of the
insomniac race

traces of songs
stolen by winds
have arrived here
in a muted moon

medicine pathways
clear
as a note by coltrane

unveil

light
mirrors

Raphael d'Abdon is a lecturer at the English Studies Department of the University of South Africa and the author of two poetry collections, *sunnyside nightwalk* (Geko, 2013) and *salt water* (Poetree Publishing, 2016). He has also edited the volumes *I nostri semi – Peo tsa rona. Poeti sudafricani del post-apartheid* (Mangrovie, 2008), and *Marikana. A Moment in Time* (Geko, 2013).

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