

**Raphael d'Abdon**

**journeymates**

on the sidewalks of the wind  
i shared smiling glances with journeywomen  
memories crave for those  
restoring encounters  
tattooed in the dust of time  
healing rituals  
to secure future paths

**speaking waves**

oceans are running wild  
inside this candlelit bedroom  
waves gallop like wild stallions  
i and her  
ridin' -n-glidin'

a dream hunter calls me  
from the foam of swishing shorelines  
the silence that awaits us lies ahead  
future is manifested in the veins of broken shells  
i have no name for this fluid state of mind  
i have no images for  
this liquid state of being

**razor wire around an old magnolia**

razor wire around an old magnolia  
they don't want kids to climb on her,

don't want them  
to get hurt.

somebody should tell these safety gurus  
that those steel snakes sinking their teeth  
into the neck  
of the silent,  
ancient tree

have already caused our children much more damage  
than a thousand headlong falls.

(Queste poesie inedite sono tratte dalle selezione vincitrice del Premio Panicali  
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These poems were selected from the collection awarded the Panicali Prize 2010.)

**Raphael d'Abdon** is a writer, scholar, editor and translator. He holds a PhD in Linguistic and Literary Studies and his research focuses on South African literature and migrant literature in Italy. In 2007 he published *I Nostri Semi – Peo Tsa Rona*, an anthology of post-apartheid poetry that he collected and translated into Italian. As a poet he has performed in Italy, South Africa and Nigeria. He obtained Premio Panicali 2010 with a selection of his poems. His book *Africa My Beginning. Features of the post-apartheid spoken word movement* will be published in 2012 by Africa World Press and, together with Natalia Molebatsi and Myesha Jenkins, he is currently compiling and editing an anthology of South African erotic poetry, which

will be published by Cassava Republic in 2012. He lives in Pretoria, with his wife and his daughter.

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