

## AFRICA by DAVID DIOP. [1927-1960]

⇒ Revolutionary black African poet born in France. His poems highlighted problems of Africa.

⇒ The poem starts by Diop reminiscing about Africa, a land he has not seen but only heard about from his G. mothers songs.

⇒ words like 'distant' means how far he is from his country. He lives in France throughout his childhood. Only visited Africa. You can feel how much he misses his motherland. So he starts to call it "My Africa" - feelings of patriotism.

⇒ He continues to say that he has never known Africa, but the beautiful black blood flows in his veins [Africa is a part of him] blood of his people is waste sweat of his people is waste. Why because it benefits the other people colonialist who exploited black people and used them as slaves

Africa, Tell me Africa

Is this your back that is unbent

This back that never breaks under  
the weight of humiliation

This back trembling with red scars

And saying no to the whip under the  
midday sun.

⇒ In these lines he urges the black people to raise with the pain & humiliation they are suffering in their own land.

\* This poem has a visual component that visualizes the lands of Africa with its natural beauty & ancient greatness.

\* Africa is a dialogue between a young poet & a mature or grave mind.

\* Patriotic poem that visualized the bitter taste of liberty.

\* He did most of his work in the 1950s when Africa was in the midst of its fight for independence.

\* He died in a plane crash.

- \* African poetry in its oral and written forms.
- \* Themes including religion, nature, negritude, personal relationships, anti-colonialism, neo-colonialism, Urbanism,
- \* black blood [African nature as there is no blood that is black in colour.

The poet says proudly that the African blood flows in his veins.

Poetic Device - Lines from the poem.

Metaphor - That grows again patiently obstinately

Oxymoron - Bitter taste of Liberty, splendid

Loneliness

Alliteration: your beautiful black blood

⇒ uses Symbolism - to describe post-colonial Africa. He points out a young & strong tree

"Splendidly alone amidst white & faded flowers".

Theme: effects of colonialism has had on Africa. Liberation, Nationalism, Tradition, Displacement & Rootlessness.

\* Who is the father of African Literature?  
Chinua Achebe - the Nigerian novelist

⇒ This poem is written by David Diop - A Black African who was born in France in 1927.

⇒ This poem is a dramatic monologue where the speaker seems to be in conversation with Africa.

⇒ The poem can be thematically into 3 parts: Pre Colonial Africa, Colonial Africa & Post Colonial Africa.

⇒ There are torment & Exploitation in the poem. Sweat of Africans was lost in vein.

⇒ Oppression & Humiliation were common practices in colonial time. They were used to force Africans work for colonisers without objection. This has left scars to Africa.

⇒ The poet however seems to be aware of his identity as black African.

⇒ The poet concludes this poem by showing the effects that colonialism had on African continent.

⇒ Optimistic View - Africa is growing up again just like a young tree [After colonialism].

Tone - nostalgic, the mood becomes optimistic.

There are several tone used in the poem

- ① Africa. First is PROUD. He called the name of his country several times. He described it as the Land of proud warriors of ancestral Savannahs.
- ② GRIEVING. He is feeling a poignant sorrow (grief) because people in Africa had been colonized, slaved, humiliated & tortured.
- ③ HOPEFUL. v. Soon Africa will bit by bit emancipate from the control of other people. they will get the (acquire) the bitter taste of Liberty.

\* The poem revealed all the injustices done to the Africans.

\* Speaker of the poem is the writer. His motive is to give a message of hope. He used the first person point of view to show his support & patriotism to his motherland.

Congolese dance music - traditional Af. Music

- ① what is the tone of the poem Africa?
- ② figure of speech appear in the poem - personification & apostrophe to address Africa.