

Langston Hughes's "Afro-American Fragment" (1959)

So long,
So far away
Is Africa.
Not even memories alive
Save those that history books create, 5
Save those that songs
Beat back into the blood–
Beat out of blood with words sad-sung
In strange un-Negro tongue–
So long, 10
So far away
Is Africa.

Subdued and time-lost
Are the drums–and yet
Through some vast mist of race 15
There comes this song
I do not understand,
This song of atavistic land,
Of bitter yearnings lost
Without a place– 20
So long,
So far away
Is Africa's
Dark face.