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THE POWER TO DEFINE

by

Mabie

Who gave you the power to define
for money through the years
Define discover delineate for Power
To define
What measure used and what to serve
You sailed away from
Disease and want
A history of war and brutal serfdom
Feudal barbarity
You sailed to discover, to claim, to subdue
To define.
Bantu, Hottentot
Words unknown & strange to a lush continent
You would use just a little
Trade for meat to refresh the ships of the
Dutch East India Company
Trade with a people pastoral caring for their cattle
Over the miles of grazing land
Just trade for your ships
It's an often repeated story
Soon the refuse of your shores
Pirates & treasure seekers
Would come to discover more and more
And to define.
Before Dutch women could be persuaded
Hottentots were fair enough
Imports from Indonesia and Angola
the preferred.
And finally when stout white wives could be provided
You defined race purity priority.
The key here, as elsewhere
Was slavery & its inheritance.
First you defined heathens
And said they could be righteously enslaved
Then as your religion found African converts
Race, not heathenism became key.
Defined free men and women at home
To be lazy & stupid if they didn't readily
Work for you.
And where did your power
Your power to define come from?
I've heard you claim a higher source
But chains, whips and guns seems more your course.
So you define:

In Namibia you define eleven ethnic groups of
Africans, different languages & ways
Needing separation
While English German Afrikaners are compatible
And in South Africa you define
This portion is white man's land
The African has his tribal home, there he can excel to his
potential.
His potential you define to squalor, hunger, hopelessness
You define - the African excels in tuberculosis
Excels in infant mortality
Excels in drowning in chibuku in the hostel you provide for
his conscript labor
The Dutch Reformed define folks communities
To be white areas
& relocate forcibly the ones displaced
The Dutch Reformed build for 4
White colored asian African
All defined,
Jobs, education, medical care, futures
All defined to enhance and enrich
The Dutch Reformed
You run Africans to arid overcrowding
No jobs no farming
And when they come to settle a little closer to jobs
A little closer to do something to build a life with
You define squatters
And smash the pressed metal drum shacks
And families seek shelter from wind & rain
Under sheets of plastic.
And finally you define "terrorist"
Anyone who would challenge your power to define
Bantus should seek reform through
Legislative channels as you define them
But the rising sun of Africa
You cannot define
The rising children of this harsh history
Seeking, claiming, struggling for a new
Definition
You will not define
Your power your heritage
Your last outpost
Will be redefined.