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## Poetry

### Old Heroes Prayer

by

Mazisi Kunene

I must go to sleep in the universe  
Perpetuating dreams and illusions  
Cut loose from the high walls of silent cities  
You mother whose breast is bleeding  
Feed me, the captain of a wrecked ship!  
Break loose the tarmac of the skies  
Let me kiss these crimson dawns;

And then when all is ended  
Give birth to a younger son  
He whose strong will traverses the earth with fire  
Carrying the marble heads of the beheaded gods  
Make him inherit their vast wooden thrones,  
Then turn them into gold!  
We who are the legends of the earth  
Must shape our dreams from his truths-  
And boast their ceremonial symbols,  
Then we shall overcome the night and fear  
To mould our dawn into the monuments of the morning!