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## CROSSING THE ATLANTIC

by

Dennis Brutus

In London it is dark,  
night settles on the city  
and the West End throws  
its garish pyrotechnics  
into the ten-o'clock sky:

In Westminster, that place of shame,  
spawn of slavery's systems,  
hoarse-throated still with lust  
for Africa's rape,  
they plot fresh perfidy  
emerge, smiling  
dripping their etter of festering lies  
but we pursue the sun,  
head westwards over the Atlantic,  
cross a cloudsea grey and rimpled as tripe:

ahead, a saffron sun smoulders,  
the rim of sky, edge of cloudbank  
bleed an anaemic blood,  
but the will, body, spirit surge.