

## Apology to Africa

What kind of distance keeps us from our history's shore?  
Is it the vast waters?

No, I think, perhaps, it is the white folklore.

I think, perhaps, it is the white historian's tale -

the one that makes our heritage pale -

the one we were so carefully told

while, by the thousands, we were being sold

as fertilizer from which to grow

another fat land which others would know.

Have they so sharply told their tale

that we are satisfied to wear the veil

and never see or recognize

those eyes, across the waters that tell

of the same kind of hell

that we have known, and have almost grown

accustomed to?

What has made us look, almost, not quite,

like the Fat Cat, the Westerner, the White?

Perhaps our own kind of tragedy

will be when we, in false victory,

Assimilate out of our discontent

to that an integrated bomb

may fall on our brother's continent.

Dona Richards