



Love Poem for My Country

By Sandile Dikeni (a South African poet)

My country is for love
so say its valleys
where ancient rivers flow
the full circle of life
under the proud eye of birds
adorning the sky.

My country is for peace
so says the veld
where reptiles caress
its surface
with elegant motions
glittering in their pride

My country
is for joy
so talk the mountains
with baboons
hopping from boulder to boulder
in the majestic delight
of cliffs and peaks

My country
is for health and wealth
see the blue of the sea
and beneath
the jewels of fish
deep under the bowels of soil
hear
the golden voice
of a miner's praise
for my country

My country
is for unity
feel the millions
see their passion
their hands are joined together
there is hope in their eyes

we shall celebrate

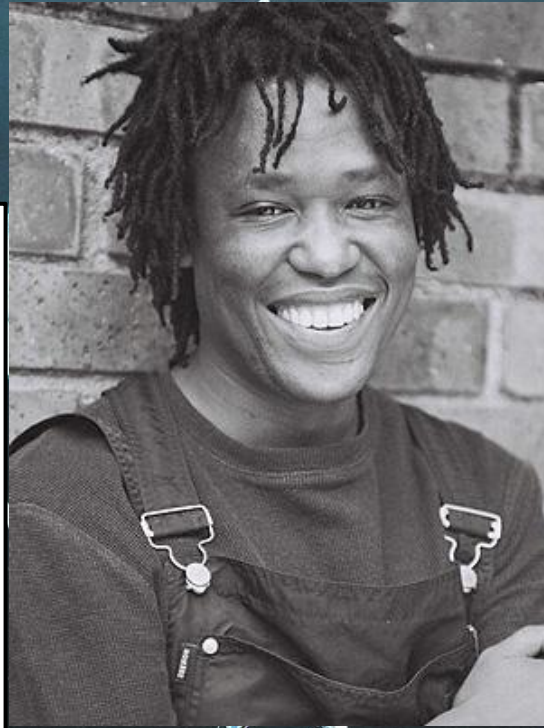


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Sandile Dikeni

About the poet

- Born in Victoria West in South Africa, in 1966
- Died in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2019
- He began writing poetry when he was detained by apartheid government
- After apartheid ended, he worked as a journalist, political commentator, editor and radio producer
- He has two published books of poetry: *Guava Juice* (1992) and *Telegraph to the sky* (2002)



About the poem

- How do you feel after reading it?
- Which lines or words resonated with you and why?
- What would you say the main theme of this poem is?