

Tout Moun

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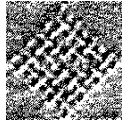
*I Dream to Change the World
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Emancipation to Independence



Opal Palmer Adisa

not right you should
take it for granted

take all we did
but i guess you don't know

but you should know
i want you to know
all of you skinning teeth
and complaining

getting from there to here
was more than sweat

night and day
day and night
our brains knitted tight
eyes refusing what's
before us
perspiration
blinding our sight
not even a piece of old rag
to mop our brows
not even water heated
all day under the sun
to rinse the dust trapped
at the back of our throats

we didn't know
what tomorrow's face
would look like
but we prayed friendly – kind

all our thoughts went into
fashioning a face that would smile
upon you our progeny

licks helped to bolster our resolve
and anansi gnawing at our skin
not greedily like he has become
but justly when she – anansi – was a woman
who never forget kneeling on the hard ground
and squeezing out life from between her legs

so now you're here

yuh deh yah now
wha yuh gwane do

even kind face
must wash every morning
and powder
rub into its cheeks