

drum intervention

what shad/what shadow
takes over the land so
what harm/what harm
attan shuttles so to the marrow
dust fooling the eyes
what madnesses stretch their wings overhead

i've known you so
with receding suns & invading sands
no calm but the ominous violin
of incessant flies
your history a knot of storms
reprobate seers & hip healers
the speak/speed of yr drums
now drowned to a croak
by the convenient noises
of popular music

i've known you so
seed left too long
in the sun
an eventual death
in the refugee camps
cos we sd no
to the scum of politricks
were the hills deaf
the bleat in the slit throat
of our oblation swallowed by the wind
was the sky blind
to the bruise on the knee
sweat in the palms
prayer on the lips

now the vultures zero in
so too

the concertina manoeuvre
of the worm slithering full

across the desert
mapfumo blurts from platforms;
only de poor suffer
only de poor suffer

SEITLHAMO MOTSAPI