

## References

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## M Two Poems by Dennis Brutus

### *Buried in Camden*

for Walt Whitman

You old greybeard poet  
 who sang of a free world  
 where men loved men freely  
 and all enjoyed earth's bounty  
 still I salute you  
 and wish to send words of praise

but if words cannot make something happen  
 cannot ring out to crack  
 this obdurate and heartless firmament  
 let me be dumb  
 let my lips be silent  
 let my mouth be stopped  
 with grime and dust  
 here where I see decay  
 where blood runs in the streets  
 earth shudders in agony  
 and men gagged by blood clots, plead for pity  
 let me be courageous  
 to cry out for a just world  
 cry 'Justice', 'Justice', 'Justice'  
 or let me fall silent.

What will it take  
 to make the heartless humans of the world  
 listen to our cries?  
 I will go on my knees  
 and howl like a dog  
 a starved chained dog  
 howling at the moon  
 and cry 'Justice', 'Justice', 'Justice'  
 until my corpse falls  
 worn-out and rigid and silent.

### *Entering Table Bay*

Dance with a skeleton:  
 macabre jollification:  
 below saude beat of tam-tams  
 hear creak of bony joints  
 shuffle of splayed tarsals:  
 ambivalent embrace  
 of bedraggled amour  
 beauty bedizened for brothels frolics:  
 rank scent of withering petals  
 sprawled from dissembling heart  
 rotted crotch of a decaying rose  
 where still, absurdly, stamens gleam  
 with pledges of resilient life