

## Letter to Dennis Lu

**Shola Balogun** 

A poet, playwright, and filmmaker based in Lagos, Nigeria

Brother,  
I live among my people,  
Here, in this part of Africa,  
Where I hope to die.  
There are other interpretations to the meanings  
Of grief and happiness here.  
Even affections.

I grew up when speaking with stones  
And hearing trees sing to trees  
Was the Scripture.

Mourning was not solitary.  
Loneliness was not the way Winnicott defined it.

The Real, the Traumatic  
Were not through Lacan.

Among my people there was honour  
When God was a verb, not yet a noun.