

Diana Ferrus Tribute to Sara Baartman

Diana Ferrus used to be an executive member of the Afrikaanse Skrywersvereniging. She works in an administrative position at the University of the Western Cape. She continues to play a key role in the revalidation of Khoi culture in South Africa.

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I have come to take you home –
home!

Remember the veld –

the lush green grass beneath the big oak trees?
The air is cool there and the sun does not burn.
I have made your bed at the foot of the hill,
your blankets are covered in buchu and mint,
the proteas stand in yellow and white
and the water in the stream chuckles sing-songs
as it hobbles along over little stones.

I have come to wrench you away –
away from the poking eyes of the man-made monster
who lives in the dark with his racist clutches of imperialism,
who dissects your body bit by bit,
who likens your soul to that of satan
and declares himself the ultimate God!

I have come to soothe your heavy heart,
I offer my bosom to your weary soul.
I will cover your face with the palms of my hands,
I will run my lips over the lines in your neck,
I will feast my eyes on the beauty of you
and I will sing for you
for I have come to bring you peace.

I have come to take you home
where the ancient mountains shout your name.
I have made your bed at the foot of the hill.
Your blankets are covered in buchu and mint.
The proteas stand in yellow and white –
I have come to take you home
where I will sing for you,
for you have brought me peace.

Holland, June 1998