

THE SHORT-COMINGS OF THE WESTERN GAZE

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[HUMAN – DEHUMANISED]

This is the most destructive dichotomy;
The beginning of subjugation and slavery.
The moment the colonisers ‘discovered’ the land and did not see people of the land.
We were invisible to western eyes – not human.
It was the death of the corporeal, the death of black consciousness to imperial thought.

[POWER- DISEMPOWERED]

This is how the imperialists conquered the invisible human;
Power was the invisible means to disenfranchise the invisible people.
They used the unseen to disempower the masses,
Our power was invisible to western eyes – not human power.
It was the death of the spirit, the death of black imagination to imperial thought.

[FEAR- FEARED]

This is how the imperialists justified the subjugation of the African.
The fear of the unknown and the power of the unknown.
They knew the limitations of the western gaze because they could not see.
They could not see the humanity that is us.
Our existence was invisible to western eyes because they feared.
The invisible and the unknown is always feared when there is insecurity.
It was the death of their spirit, the death of white supremacist imagination to understand black existence.

[BLACK EXISTENCE – N/A]

This is how black existence has imagined itself.
It is a place where dichotomy does not exist.
There is no us and them, no othering, because there is no insecurity.
There is no fear because the invisible is the spirit; the invisible is the imagination.
We are not the other, othering nor the othered.
We are destabilising the gaze of the destabilized – the fearful.
We are not fearful of confronting the short-comings of the western gaze.