

B E F O R E I D I E

i want to force my pen
to write
before the sun sets
for those who will prematurely fall
on the battle-ground before my eyes
for those whose devotion and courage
will meet six in the morning
in Pretoria central
before the black masses rise above the sky
i want to write now
for i may not be there
to write for the unknown
to scribble lines indelible
on the unbroken rock of time
for those to fall
before the grass is green
grilled and beaten
tortured to non-recognition
maimed and killed
the fallen the brave
the brave and the fallen
the burning torch of freedom
i will write now
before my pen fails me
stopped by a bullet
from a shivering stray shot
fired with fear of reprisal
for those whose monuments
will glorify the city centres
whose tombs
will for ever glower
above the golden beauty of my land
i will write now
to appease my dead limbs
covered by millions of sand particles
will not allow me to write
i will write now
before i die.

- DAVID KGABANG