

African Speculative Realism

by *Soonest Nathaniel*

In the silence – *a gourd*

In the gourd – *a mask*

In the mask – *a prophecy for the unborn*

In the prophecy – *a storm of retributions*

In the storm – *a woman kneeling with a knife*

In the knife – *a proverb patiently waiting to be spoken*

In the proverb – *a python singing of swallowed empires*

In the song – *a mountain of bones hoping again to be revived*

In the mountain – *a burning city, streets paved with unburied histories*

In the city – *a cracked throne, all its treasures and heritages carted away*

In the throne – *a stone with a heart of flesh, blood boiling in its veins*

In the stone – *a mother's eye weeping, watching from exile*

In the eye – *a bush fire refusing to be extinguished by water*

In the fire – *a flight of birds migrating, wings caught in electric wires*

In the bird – *a secret written in Nsibidi, Ifa codes for the watchmen*

In the secret – *a road forgotten, deliberately left out by cartographers*

In the road – *a river brimming with the corpses of dead narratives*

In the river – *a shrine of mirrors built for the forgotten gods*

In the mirror – *an oath unbroken by new language*

In the oath – *a riddle for the architects of movement*

In the riddle – *a craft made of iron and clay*

In the craft – *a dream of new un-fallen worlds*

In the dream – *a child planting trees on the moon.*