

L'Étudiant Noir

From home I watch achievements defy odds
Our success is more than just victory but regenerated joy and pain
From comedian to broadcaster
Slim and round, actor to chemist, young and Elba
What's theirs is ours as we relate to their hurdles
And burdens

Reaching further than the République
Where their own fraternity and liberty exist
An experience spans far from black to blue
but from negra to noire. We shouldn't just think brit and brotha across the pond
Rather our frères and sœurs
From Dakar to la Saône

The works of Fanon, Condé and Césaire are for all of us
Trailblazers moulded in atmospheres that diversity quotas can't capture
In Haiti's cries for liberty's flame
To Martinique's where poets shaped the name,
In Congo's rhythms and Seychelles' serenity

Their works and bravery succeeded in moving hearts,
creating movements
shaping the arts
and pushing the world forward
Despite voices silenced
contributions crushed

What we learn from black francophones

transcends tongues

Our black francophones

weavers of dreams,

commemorate the richness of minds aligned in their voices

where a future gleams

Let them be remembered for success as remarkable as black brit

Having to prove themselves in the pressure of Paris not only post-London Blitz

With more stars to look up to

I now watch knowing more, in awe of who we are

Être devenu finalement, L'Étudiant Noir.