Famine

by Sujot Kaur

beads of sweat drip down her face,
already got the forced
idea of her role, in society
-as her "saving grace".

the cool mud from the rained on grass,
sticks to her feet as she travels down the hills
to collect a bucket of water-
for the foreigners who wander.

they talk to her in broken Xhosa,
step carefully around her home,
as if it is a museum fixed in time,
and judge her life as her brother yells and whines.

the little money that the family collects is through
some dancing, some drumming, a few beaded bracelets,
the display of their living room,
as well as a twelve year old girl, cooking for 32.

by Colette-Yasi Naraghi

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