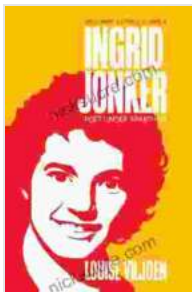


Poet Under Apartheid: Ohio Short Histories of Africa

Dennis Brutus (1924-2009) was a South African poet, writer, and anti-apartheid activist. He was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe), and grew up in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Brutus was a gifted student, and he earned a degree in English from the University of Fort Hare. After graduating, he worked as a teacher and journalist. In 1951, he was arrested for his involvement in the anti-apartheid movement. He was sentenced to nine months in prison.

After his release from prison, Brutus continued to write and speak out against apartheid. In 1960, he was banned by the South African government. This meant that he was not allowed to publish his work, attend meetings, or leave the country. Brutus defied the ban and continued to write and speak out against apartheid. In 1966, he was arrested again and sentenced to 18 months in prison.



Ingrid Jonker: Poet under Apartheid (Ohio Short Histories of Africa) by Louise Viljoen

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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File size : 844 KB
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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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In 1970, Brutus was forced into exile. He went to the United States, where he taught at Northwestern University. He continued to write and speak out against apartheid. In 1994, apartheid was finally abolished in South Africa. Brutus returned to South Africa in 1995. He continued to write and speak out against injustice until his death in 2009.

Poet of the Struggle

Brutus's poetry is known for its powerful and moving expression of the struggles faced by black South Africans under apartheid. His poems are often filled with anger, pain, and frustration. However, they also contain a strong sense of hope and resilience. Brutus believed that poetry could be a powerful force for change. He used his poetry to inspire others to fight against apartheid.

One of Brutus's most famous poems is "Sirens, Knuckles, Boots." The poem describes the brutality of the apartheid regime. The sirens in the poem represent the police, who are constantly harassing and arresting black people. The knuckles represent the violence that is used to suppress black resistance. The boots represent the power of the apartheid government.

Despite the brutality of the apartheid regime, Brutus never gave up hope. He believed that one day apartheid would be defeated. In the poem "A Litany for Survival," Brutus writes:

*I have no fear of further pain
Nor the loneliness of exile
Nor chains that bind me ever*

*I have my soul, my dignity
My manhood and my people's cause
And for this
I will survive*

Exile and Homecoming

In 1970, Brutus was forced into exile. He went to the United States, where he taught at Northwestern University. He continued to write and speak out against apartheid. In 1994, apartheid was finally abolished in South Africa. Brutus returned to South Africa in 1995.

After returning to South Africa, Brutus continued to write and speak out against injustice. He was a vocal critic of the post-apartheid government. He believed that the new government was not doing enough to address the needs of the poor and marginalized. Brutus also spoke out against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. He believed that the government was not doing enough to prevent the spread of the disease.

Brutus died in 2009 at the age of 85. He was a tireless fighter for justice and equality. His poetry continues to inspire people all over the world.

Legacy

Dennis Brutus was a major figure in the anti-apartheid movement. His poetry is a powerful and moving expression of the struggles faced by black South Africans under apartheid. Brutus's work continues to inspire people all over the world to fight for justice and equality.

Brutus's legacy is not only his poetry, but also his activism. He was a fearless fighter for justice. He never gave up hope, even when the odds were stacked against him. Brutus's courage and determination are an inspiration to us all.

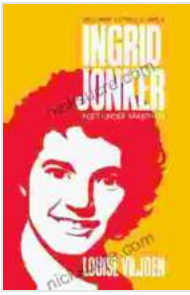
We can honor Brutus's legacy by continuing to fight for justice and equality. We can use our voices to speak out against injustice. We can support organizations that are working to make the world a better place. We can all make a difference.

Further Reading

* Brutus, Dennis. *Sirens, Knuckles, Boots*. Chicago: Third World Press, 1963. * Brutus, Dennis. *A Litany for Survival*. Chicago: Third World Press, 1968. * Brutus, Dennis. *Poems from Exile*. London: Heinemann, 1975. * Brutus, Dennis. *Stubborn Hope*. London: Heinemann, 1978. * Brutus, Dennis. *A Simple Lust*. London: Heinemann, 1986. * Brutus, Dennis. *Selected Poems*. London: Heinemann, 1987. * Brutus, Dennis. *A New Journey*. London: Heinemann, 1990. * Brutus, Dennis. *The Stubborn Structure of Things*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 1997. * Brutus, Dennis. *A Grain of Sand*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2009.

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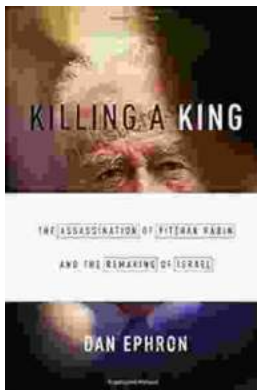
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