

INVENTION

Njabulo S Ndebele

invention had dazzled them,
those who sold their lives with mirrors.

invention is dazzling them,
those who are selling their lives with 'the time being.'

invention will dazzle them
those who'll never say 'now!'

invention comes and comes
and always comes,
and we jump onto the moving train of history
never stopping it to say; where are you going?
never stopping to say: now!

and the Vaal flows like the innocence of moonlight.
they are such petals –
the faces of ancestors in the water –
such moonshine!
as if streams never carried blood.
what petals are the appearance of the dead
to the eyes of torment!