

FAMILY TRADITIONS

What traditions have you inherited?

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WHAT IS HERITAGE?

It is the way my traditional head cloth covers my head artistically.
Giving me a sense of a gracefully handmade Crown.

Passed on from generation to generation by
My ancestors from all corners of Africa.

It is the way I speak to my elders with respect.

Knees on the floor when taking or giving them something.

Sweep the compound when asked to.

Adherence of instructions turn to turn.

Heritage moves with me in one accord.

Anita Daniel, 1978-

FOLLOWER

My father worked with a horse-plough,
His shoulders globed like a full sail strung
Between the shafts and the furrow.

The horse strained at his clicking tongue.

I stumbled in his hob-nailed wake,
Fell sometimes on the polished sod;
Sometimes he rode me on his back
Dipping and rising to his plod.

I was a nuisance, tripping, falling,
Yapping always. But today

It is my father who keeps stumbling
Behind me, and will not go away.

Seamus Heaney, 1939-2013

The above ways of life are disappearing – is this a matter for regret?