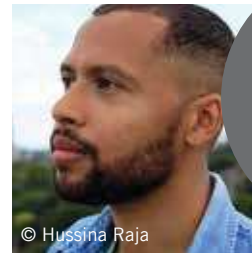


## I COME FROM

By Dean Atta



POEMS

I come from shepherd's pie and Sunday roast  
Jerk chicken and stuffed vine leaves  
I come from travelling through my taste buds but loving where I live

I come from a home that some would call broken  
I come from D.I.Y. that never got done  
I come from waiting by the phone for him to call

I come from waving the white flag to loneliness  
I come from the rainbow flag and the union jack  
I come from a British passport and an ever-ready suitcase

I come from jet fuel and fresh coconut water  
I come from crossing oceans to find myself  
I come from deep issues and shallow solutions

I come from a limited vocabulary but an unrestricted imagination  
I come from a decent education and a marvellous mother  
I come from being given permission to dream but choosing to wake up instead

I come from wherever I lay my head  
I come from unanswered questions and unread books  
Unnoticed effort and undelivered apologies and thanks

I come from who I trust and who I have left  
I come from last year and last year and I don't notice how I've changed  
I come from looking in the mirror and looking online to find myself

I come from stories, myths, legends and folk tales  
I come from lullabies and pop songs, Hip Hop and poetry  
I come from griots, grandmothers and her-story tellers

I come from published words and strangers' smiles  
I come from my own pen but I see people torn apart like paper  
Each a story or poem that never made it into a book.