

It's beginning to look a lot like Lagos



It's beginning to look like Lagos
especially without snow
In the English town of Dover,
the people have come to see
how gridlock inevitably follows
when their roads are tuned into
giant serpent-shaped lorry parks.

A tiny virus sits
atop a metaphorical Trumpean wall
We don't see it
or hear its voice
In the chorus of laughter
flooding in from around the world

The Lagos tankers wait patiently
to load up with petrol.
Our politicians and business people
have ensured that the oil
we insist on sucking up from below
we can spill on the soil
but must ship thousands of miles away
to be refined before being sold back to us.



It makes no sense
until you remember
that a few grow stupendously rich
in the process.

You can count them all
on the fingers of a few hands:
in Lagos, London, New York, Paris,
and all those other great cities.

They all know each other,
and we know many of them.
In Lagos and Abuja, they don't care
that they are known,
for they are brazen and shameless,
and they have friends
in those other cities,
to help them hide our wealth

Those friends are different,
not just in skin colour,
but in the sense that
they at least have the decency – (excuse me)
- they at least make an effort
to be discreet,
to appear
honourable.

But now, even that is changing.

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They give contracts to their cronies,
and we are forced to buy health care
from those who only yesterday
were selling weapons
of mass destruction,
who care nothing for the
hundreds of thousands who die,
whether from the virus or the bullet.

They care not either
that we see them,
that we know who they are
that we know that they know
that we know.
They too are brazen
They too are shameless.

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But they are blind.
They are deaf, and they are also fools.
For as the virus lays waste to the lives of many
and more wealth flows into the coffers of a few
a tipping point, a bursting point
will surely arrive
and the boil will explode
again

Yes, it's beginning to look a lot like Lagos
even when there's snow.