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RETURN OF THE LINGUIST (For Jack Mapanje)

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Abstract
Poem
The day’s news ceases amongst the satellites. And high enough to curve cut the earth Argos is falling across the Southern skies, dragging her keel across some coral harbour where, fitfully, the gracious guns of goodwill ride at anchor.

David Kerr

RETURN OF THE LINGUIST
(For Jack Mapanje)

‘Malawi’s only semanticist’ your letter self-scoffed. Jokes aside, this place, with lost seams of gossip and taboo-coated rhetoric lodged deep in fissures, needs your skills - wild pick-axing or delicate chiselling for fossilized signs.

It needs the deftest rinsing in gallons of sweat to sieve a single gem of meaning.