“I Remember Back Home”

* Clifton Joseph

I remember back home

and the joyness of the sun

crickets crackling

orange sun’s east slant

when the day is done

I remember back home

and the laughter of young fun

marbles, grun/doves, elbows

running mango juice

donkey-trots of thoughts

fresh-baked spiced buns

I remember back home

back home back home back home

I remember

short-pants & cricket ball

rolling along

picnics and rum

I remember back home

back home

back home

I remember

steelband’s bright blue blasts of joy

the hearts tropical patter

like loud coloured columns

of West African drums

I remember bloomed bougainvilleas

Braggingly swaying in the sandy wind

I remember back home

back home

I remember back home

and sweeping the yard

carrying water on heads

on roads of marl

detentions, lines/writing

& teachers’ beatings real/hard

I remember back home

& it wasn’t all goof

four to a bed

& some nights without food

It wasn’t all bright smiles

sea/sand/sun & fun

back home had its share

of dreams burnt in the sun

dreams burnt in the sun

dreams burnt in the sun

I remember back home

& the promise of young fun

fish/fries, tea parties

& endless chatter

dominoes clatter & cutlass slammer

slow handclaps as boundaries shatter

cricketers running in the rain & thunder

crowd shout out syncopated laughter

politicians get rich

the people don’t matter

progress gets lost

in the trail of the dollar

tourism’s boom

turn into a busted bladder

oppression handed down

from mother to brother

back home back home

back home

gotta get better…