

## **Hurricane**

*(the detonation of Britain's first nuclear bomb - 'Operation Hurricane': 1952)*

*Gareth Alun Roberts*

Lest your far-flung shores fade and dwindle to the night  
I have made you a sun  
to rise bright and piercing as a jewel for your crown.

Should your waves diminish and run to stale lagoons  
I will dive down  
with twisted runes of wind and steel to voice your storm

and mouth the precise vowels that renounce all argument.  
I will utter the form  
of your speech bent to a harsh dialect,

resounding in the dormitories of your crumbling hall.  
I am your prefect,  
the guardian of all that should still be yours by might:

so take this - my light; my gift; my debt;  
this, my sun, that shall not set.