

GR 12 GEDIG 10
By die robot in eerstelaan
Translation

At the robot in First Avenue

- 1 Two pairs of feet scrape over the tar
- 2 His arm and neck are so stiff and sore
- 3 His legs so lame from yesterday's standing
- 4 Arms linked he follows obediently where they go

- 5 car tyres grind to a halt
- 6 in the tin five cents and a rand clink
- 7 he smells the fish and chips shop in first avenue
- 8 here at the robot where he stands all day

- 9 his arm gets jerked and pulled and he gets a fright
- 10 when awkwardly his foot stumbles one side over a pipe
- 11 "we better get money, otherwise I'll leave you here,"
- 12 hisses the tsotsi and his breath smells like beer

- 13 his heart beats as fast as a scared child
- 14 how will he find the place where he lies from here?
- 15 the traffic light clicks and the engines growl together
- 16 his dull eyes turn upwards

- 17 tring, tring rings a bicycle bell
- 18 he bends down and pulls at his sock
- 19 the traffic light clicks and the tyres scrape over the tar
- 20 his arm and shoulder are so stiff and sore

- 21 a car window squeals open and far away a bus groans
- 22 if only death would come and take him
- 23 then he could rest forever and ever
- 24 the tsotsi clears his throat and spits out a stream

- 25 money jingles in the tin and then lies still
- 26 the doves coo and a child cries out with pleasure
- 27 "mommy he's blind" the little girl pipes softly
- 28 he turns his head away and waits

- 29 "here is another ten rand," the woman says
- 30 "buy something for yourself to eat"
- 31 the traffic light clicks and he continues waiting
- 32 the tsotsi tugs his sore arm and laughs.

