
Head of an Ibis



Birds flying Up and Down from
Sleepy Emptiness to Shining Consciousness
And back again, in Suikerbosland

Like the magnificent Black-winged Kite
Hovering over the grasslands
Reborn daily in the morning light

The Red-billed Firefinch
Queeting and Chicking all around
Where seeds can be found

The African Masked Weaver
A real cool geezer dancing with fever
Swizzling before female red eyes

The Capped and Mountain Wheatear
Chattering, flycatching and
Eating delicious termites

The Blacksmith Lapwing, touching
Hammer Time around the pools of
The wetlands, forging and mating

The Cape White-eye, the Cape Robin-chat,
The Cape Bunting, the Cape Glossy Starling
All enjoying the Cape of Good Hope nectar

The Yellow Brimstone Canary
Whistling, warbling, chirping and
Trilling with a deep pitch

The Long-tailed Widowbird drooping
Their half a meter elongated tails,
Roosting in the reed beds

The Fiscal Flycatcher with their
Suit-and-tie taxman costume
As a form of Batesian mimicry

The Red-faced Mousebird
Feeding on berries and sweet fruits
Engaging in mutual preening

The African Sacred Ibis flying high,
Resembling the Arts of Magic
And the judgment of the Dead

Masters of the Universe
Messengers to Souls
Bringing Divine Inspiration

Expressed in all its Elegance
By their Songs and Headdresses
At Fynbos Suikerbosrand