

### 43 — CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

Everything was ready for the confirmation. The women of the church were there, in their white dresses, each with the green cloth about her neck. Those men that were not away, and who belonged to this church, were there in their Sunday clothes, which means their working clothes, patched and cleaned and brushed. The children for the confirmation were there, the girls in their white dresses and caps, the boys in their school-going clothes, patched and cleaned and brushed. Women were busy in the house, helping the wife of the umfundisi, for after the confirmation there would be a simple meal, of tea boiled till the leaves had no more tea left in them, and of heavy homely cakes made of the meal of the maize. It was simple food, but it was to be eaten together.

And over the great valley the storm clouds were gathering again in the heavy oppressive heat, so that one did not know whether to be glad or sorry. The great dark shadows sailed over the red earth, and up the bare red hills to the tops. The people looked at the sky, and at the road by which the Bishop would come, and did not know whether to be glad or sorry, for it was certain that before this sun had set, the lightning would strike amongst the hills, and the thunder would echo amongst them.

Alan Paton

#### الألفاظ والعبارات :

The confirmation	سر التثبيت او الميرون ( عند المسيحيين ) الأسقف
The Bishop	
The lightning would strike amongst the hills	سيومض البرق بين التلال
And the thunder would echo a- mongst them	وتردد التلال أصداء الرعد