

## Night Fishing

by quill via jane - Jungle Drum Newswire *Tuesday, Apr 3 2018, 2:27am*

international / poetry / post

every creature has an Achilles heel  
reptiles of the sea are fascinated  
by light at night  
powerful crocodiles draw involuntarily  
to a flashlight as do turtles  
and other protected species

it was a clear night at cape tribulation  
campers gathered around small fires  
enjoying the natural surroundings  
one local had brought a dinghy,  
armed only with a flashlight  
he launched it into the sea,  
few paid any attention

we could see the light as he shone it into  
the water just beyond the breakers  
after a while violent water agitation  
and banging on the aluminium hull  
of the small craft echoed along  
the water to the shore

the fisherman began to row  
to the shore and landed with  
a thrashing sea-turtle in his boat

most knew it was illegal to  
catch turtles, a privilege  
reserved only for the indigenous population  
which were few at the cape  
tho none were present among the white  
unwelcome intruders on this night

the fisherman landed the defenceless turtle  
and slaughtered it on the beach, its life-blood  
soaking into the sand

he butchered the animal and gave pieces of fresh  
white flesh to the others on the beach,  
involving them in his crime

the beer, always present, flowed as the white meat

sizzled in pans, barbecues and pots  
a drunken feast ensued

the morning dawn starkly revealed  
the slaughter the night before,  
the exquisite shell  
of a protected turtle that fell victim  
to a bright artificial light which it couldn't resist

returning to town troubled by our previous  
activities we passed by  
a huge television transmission tower

<http://jungledrum.hopto.org/news/story-3261.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-835.html>