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*Gérard Bosio:* I was lucky enough to have met Léopold Senghor. Then I wanted there to be a dialogue of cultures and I thought, because of Chagall's expression and Léopold Senghor's expression, that there could be a joint creation. And I asked Chagall if he would like to illustrate the works of Léopold Senghor. When we were able to come out with the first book it was the first encounter that you had with the poetry of President Senghor.

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*Marc Chagall:* I did it because I admired Senghor, as a man and as a poet. And there were a lot of feelings for the art, and that encouraged me. I did what I could.

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*Host:* "I love your letter, gentler than a Saturday afternoon. And vacation, your words of a blue realm."

00:01:15

*Marc Chagall:* You know, I don't enjoy talking about myself. No, that... I don't like talking about myself.

00:01:22

*Gérard Bosio:* There is, in the poetry of Léopold Senghor who sings of Africa, a feeling of fraternity with suffering peoples. Suffering peoples, both in the Third World, in Africa, and in Israel. And there's a kind of fraternity that emanates from it at the same time...

00:01:38

*Marc Chagall:* Yes, but he's a great man. I can only say that he's a great man, and a poet who inspired me. I have a lot of respect for him.

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*Léopold Senghor:* At first glance, Chagall didn't submit to the influence of the School of Paris at all, more specifically the influence of Black Arts. And yet, I loved Chagall from the start. I felt affinities with him. In Chagall's illustrations, there is man and woman. There are doves. There are flowers. And then those spots of color which are important, like with Manessier. There is the symbolism of shapes, but it hasn't been noticed enough. At the same time, there's the symbolism of color. Maybe all of that brings my poems closer to the paintings of Chagall. At any rate, I think *Les Lettres d'hivernage* was wonderfully illustrated by Chagall. Once again, Chagall is Jewish. It's one of the three suffering peoples, the other two being the Arabs and the Blacks. The Jews have suffered for 2000 years, the Blacks and the Arabs for 400 years. And all of this brings us closer to the ability to be emotionally moved.

00:04:16

*Gérard Bosio:* John Kennedy told me, a few days before he died, "If you understand my country, you'll sense that today the most serious problem, the one that can lead to its downfall, is racism." Thanks to John Kennedy, I knew Martin Luther King. Moved by those who are suffering, by those who are fighting for their rights, after the death of this great black leader I met a poet whose skin was the

A stone on the sand: Marc Chagall and Léopold Senghor – 09/02/1978

same color, Léopold Senghor. I sang this death like the painter Alfred Manessier did. It was a new creation, with a mystical book this time.