

## Sun Over The City

*This is a prayer facing each of the four directions of the city as the sun traces its arc across the sky. It is based on Manchester but could relate to most urban contexts, though you might want to change the compass directions around to better reflect the directions of your own town or city. The reference to B or the Bang is somewhat outdated as the huge sculpture which defined East Manchester has now been demolished due to health and safety issues – you may want to change this for a landmark building or piece of public art from your own locality. The reference to the “chips are down” refers to the scheme to build a super casino which fortunately has now been scrapped!*

We come from the South  
where the sun beats down its midday heat  
land of leafy suburbs and restaurants spilling onto streets  
of contrasting fortunes held hostage to accident of birth  
where status is acquired through car or gun.

We come from the West  
where the sun blazes the glory of the dying day  
land of ancient Roman ruins and glass skyscrapers  
industrial canal basins and contemporary shopping arcades  
where the confines of the office are emancipated in the Friday night binge.

We come from the North  
where the sun hides its face  
land of vibrant ethnic communities  
of exotic greengrocers and spicy take-aways  
of adherence to Torah and the call to prayer.

We come from the East  
where the sun cracks open the dawn  
land of derelict factories and crumbling terraces  
where the chips are down and we cross our fingers and hope  
ready to take off from the blocks on the B of the bang.

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