

Freedom's Plow by Langston Hughes (1943)

When a man starts out with nothing,
When a man starts out with his hands
Empty, but clean,
When a man starts out to build a world,
He starts first with himself
And the faith that is in his heat –
The strength there,
The will to build.

First in the heart is the dream –
Then the mind starts seeking a way,
His eyes look out on the world,
On the great wooded world,
On the rich soil of the world,
On the rivers of the world.