

Poems — Poèmes

Calling

There,
Where,
The fields that grow
Our yams, or pasture our cows,
The forest that nests our shrines
From the sun that burns;
The drums that blend
the music that chimes
with the voices that rhyme
Inviting and inviting
for the Fon's Solemn call
To a sacrifice of palm-wine
Cam-wood, black fowls and a tethered goat;
We stitch'd and web'd
Every tiny smile to season
The smouldering incense
That invokes Mighty Tambom.

Herald! nag
Like a hunter's dog
But wave the Fon's distaff
And we'll come to share
In your new Hallelujah.

Andrew Henry Bongasuh Kishani
Rome 19th march 1969.

A Native Song.

With the cue
Below the crane
We took it up to resound
Holy Holy, Ho!, ...
But with a solemn whetted voice
They slashed it off
Drumming it evenly
And curbing it duly
In a known tongue,
As we gaped unto the end.
Then I felt a sacred chill
Slowly blowing in
And hovering over us
It enveloped us
Within those marble walls
Of our Roman shrine
In the silence that reigned.
And on our knees,
We scanned the sacred folds
Unfolding the mysterious fold:
A renewing plea to love
With drums and noisy symbols.

Andrew Henry Bongasuh Kishani
Rome 12th November 1969

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