

ỌNYÌRÌỌNWÚ

By Amarachi Attamah

1
 Ọchìchìrì gbara
 Ebe niile dara juu, n'eweghì mkpọtụ ọbụla
 A nūrụ m oke ụda ogene
 Ọ kulitere akurungwa udu ntị m n'egwu

2
 Site n'ọchìchìrì ahụ, akara ebube pụtara
 Ihe amụma, o jiri ọkụ anyanwụ saa ahụ
 Ọnyìrìọnwụ, n'ụdị ọchìchìrì dị ebube
 Ahụ ya a na-amụke nke ukwu

3
 Ikike ọchìchì, na ìhụnanya buru otu
 Ụwa ahụ dara juu, kwuputara okwu n'oke olu
 Mmemme bidoro ... ụda egwu dī iche iche
 Na olu mbem ka e jiri nabata ebube gị

4
 Site n'isi isi mbido okike ụwa
 Site n'ọchìchìrì miri emi,
 E kere m gị n'ụdị m ka ì kwuputa ka ụkwụ ọjì
 Ya mere, i kwesighì ichefu onye ì bụ

5
 Ì bụ ojii... ojii bụ ebube
 Ì bụ akara ìhụnanya na akara udo
 Ì bukwa ọkụ na-agba ọzara ndị ọjọ
 Maka na ì na-amịkọ ìhè ọbụla sị gị n'akụkụ
 gafee

6
 E tere m gị ude mma na uhie ma kanya gị uli
 Akara obibi na mgbakọ ebighiebi
 I kuru ume ndụ na I kupu ume ndụ ọzọ
 Eee, e mere m gị ka ì buru ihe omimi

IMMORTALITY

By Amarachi Attamah

1
 There was no light, no sound, no movement
 Only a sea of darkness prevailed
 I heard a sound, like a gong go off
 Prolonging the dance of Anvil and Stirrup

2
 Out of the sea of darkness—a royal emerged
 Spectacular! Bathed in liquid Sun
 Immortal, like shinning darkness
 Body, glittering with Melanin

3
 Pre-matter mingled with love. And
 For the first time, Eternal Silence spoke out
 Announcing her presence in celebration
 In this spectacular Grand silhouette of creative
 orchestra

4
 Out of the eternal beginning
 Out of the bottomless womb of
 Blackness, you were made in my image
 And you must never forget who you are

5
 You are darkness and blackness is greatness
 You are love; you are peace
 But you are also chaos, icy cold and red-hot
 magma to evil
 No light passes you unabsorbed

6
 I have encoded in you this chrism, this
 Melanin
 It is sophisticated codes of eternal mathematics
 Mathematics that sparks wisdom, speaks
 mysterious
 The Inhalation and exhalation of divine breath

7

Tupu e kewaputa gi
Irihiri echiche m miri emi daputara ma kpukpo
Buru oke oshimiri, oshimiri ahụ a gho
ebilimmiri
Ebilimmiri ahụ malitere njem ma buru okwu

8

Okwu ahụ a puta ihe n'udi mmadu
Mmadu e jiri uli ebube choo mma
Ma hie ya uhie onyironwu
A kporo m ya ALKEBULAN

9

Alkebulan bu mbido ebighiebi
I bu okara mmadu, okara mmuo
Kpakpando niile chawaputara n'onu na
mmemme okike gi,
Oku niile gbagoro igwe, see egwurugwu

10

Mmuo gi bu anwu-anwu- onyinye m nyere gi
Nri akpukpo ahụ gi na-eri bu ihe anyanwu
I nwere ike ilo anyanwu ma o masi gi
O bu isi iyi mmanu ebube gi

11

Gaa n'awa niile- elu, ala na mmiri
Kwaputa n'ikike m nyere gi
Jide oji ichichi gi na ofo gi
Ma dube odum niile dika igwe aturu

12

A bu m Okike- mmuo ka mmuo, I bu odi
m n'obi
E ji m ike na mmuo anwu anwu gbaa gi ume
Mee gi ka i chawaputa ebe obula i no
Onyinye obibi ndu niile, a buru nke gi

7

Before your creation began,
First, a droplet fell into a sea of blackness from
My divine mind, the dot turned into ripples
And the ripples set in motion

8

Then Motion turned to matter
Matter took a form
Form became a hue-man
And the human I named ALKEBULAN

9

Alkebulan of eternal beginnings
You are mortal and immortal, you are god
I exploded a billion stars to celebrate your
creation
As firecrackers litter the sky with rainbow splash

10

Gifted with immortal soul
Your mortal skin eats solar fires
You may swallow the sun if you wish
It is your melanin delight

11

Go forth to the earth
Stand sanguinely
Poise like a divine royal
And lead the lions like lambs

12

I am the Great Spirit,
And you are special to me
I fashioned you strong and resilient
And bestowed upon you all gifts of life

13

Ntutu isi gị bụ ebube anyanwụ
Kwụputasịa na nji rọrọ arọ
Dịka ndị agha mgborogwụ ha kwụ jīm-jīm
Garuo ebighiebe-ebighiebi

14

Mana ị b́jara d́ŕ ka ohu a buru onu
Alaeze ǵ danyere n'aka ndi ojo
I chefuru onye ị b́,
Onyinye omimi ǵ niile e funari ǵ

15

Alkebulan, kedu mmuo ǵ?
Kedu omimi di na nji m nyere ǵ?
Kedu akara ebighiebi m?
A bu m oke mmuo mana obi a gbawala m.

16

Bilie! Bilie! – kpolite mmuo ǵ
A na m akpoku ebube ǵ ozo
A ga m akwusi uda onu niile, ma n'igwe
ma n'ụwa
Garuo mgbe akwa ariri a kwusiri n'mbilite ǵ

17

A ga m enye ǵ mkpara ikike ozo
A ga m ete ǵ mmanu ebube ozo
N'obija nke ozo a, o ga-abu egwu mkpoghachi
Mkpolite na mbilite agburu ǵ ozo

13

The hairs on your head are unique solar rays
Standing up straight and black
Like gravity-defying- soldiers
Plunged into the cosmic abode

14

Though you became like a despised slave
You fell to the invaders, your kingdom was
captured
You forgot who you are and
You lost your primordial gifts

15

Alkebulan, where is your soul?
Where is the black dot I gave you?
The precious pearl of my eternal presence
I am the Great Spirit but my heart sinks

16

Rise! Rise up! –I call forth thee
I shall redeem your royalty forever
I have ceased all intergalactic melodies
Until this mourn is over and you rise again

17

I will send forth a divine staff of authority again
To revive the luster of my great shining
darkness
In this second coming, it shall be songs of
awakening
There will be a pan-melanin resurrection



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She is a Chant Performer, Poet, Culture Consultant and a Mother-Tongue Advocate. Her core interests are indigenous language sustainability, culture curation, intangible heritage preservation, community engagement and art therapy for mental well-being.

She has performed in Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, the United Kingdom (where she recently completed a four-month performance fellowship with the British Royal National Theatre), and many performances USA, one of which is Gendering Africa Symposium, an annual Africa Women Conference at Columbia University. She was also selected as one of the participants for Performance Identities Across Cultures (PICS) 2022.