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 shining 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 kewapụta gi
Irighiri echiche m miri emi daputara ma kpukọọ
Bụrụ oke oshimiri, oshimiri ahụ a ghọọ
ebilimmiri
Ebilimmiri ahụ malitere njem ma burch okwu

8
Okwu ahụ a puta ihe n’ụdị mmadụ
Mmadụ e jiri uli ebube chọọ mma
Ma hie ya uhe onyịrịọnwụ
A kpọrọ m ya ALKEBULAN

9
Alkebulan bụ mbido ebighiebi
I bụ ọkara mmadụ, ọkara mmụọ
Kpakpando niile chawapụtara n’oňụ na
mmemme okike gi,
Okụ niile gbagoro igwe, see egwurugu

10
Mmụọ gi bụ anwu-anwu- onyinye m nyere gi
Nri akpuọpọ ahụ gi na-eri bụ ihe anyanwụ
I nwere ike ilo anyanwu ma ọ masị gi
Ọ bu isi iyi mmanụ ebube gi

11
Gaa n’ụwa niile- elu, ala na mmiri
Kwụpụta n’ikike m nyere gi
Jide oji ichichi gi na ofo gi
Ma dube ọdụm niile dika igwe atụrụ

12
A bụ m Okike- mmụọ ka mmụọ, I bụ ọdị
m n’obi
E jī m ike na mmụọ anwu anwu gbaa gi ụmē
Mee gi ka ị chawapụta ebe ọbụla Ę ọ
Onyinye obibi ndụ niile, a bu rụ 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
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
Amarachi Attamah is a Graduate student in the Department of Museum Studies and Cultural Heritage Preservation at Syracuse University, New York State.

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.