



To "Friend"

From his Majesty Mansa Sino'otollo, the Shark-binder, Voice of the Navigators, High King of the Three Fleets, Ruler of the Four Seas, Lord of the Eight Islands, The Starblessed, Binder of Men, Cleaner of Latrines, First Sword of the Surf, Brine-bound and Iron Willed.

When love bloomed between Pri'taya, daughter of chiefs  
and honoured Antho'otollo, who shepherded our beliefs  
that is when I first took a beings free will  
For I am their son, a promise to fulfil  
To live is to take from the world its choices.  
Every breath an option gone, fate rejoices.

In truth, when I had seen but seven winters  
Is when I first rent another's mind to splinters.  
Every day I listen to the stars and their voices.  
For they say that to rule is my preserve.  
To live is to give to the word new choices.  
Direction and purpose, to live and to serve.

The stars have taught me to rule and to tame.  
But in return I must shoulder the blame.  
But what can you teach me, oh being of fame?  
I wonder if the R is silent in your name.

