

# Requiem for Sista Z

(Zambia Nkrumah White)

O sista, sista, sweet sista  
the pristine riddim of u  
delicate strength & gentle power

cosmic pulsar your  
enthusiastic syncopations  
echo thru chambers of the Divine Heart

magical dance ever after u are after  
& ever before –

continuity of woman

dance daughter  
dance sibling  
dance companion  
dance mother  
dance friend  
dance community servant, militant  
    one of radiant tenderness  
dance helios of smile  
    cornucopia of sensitivity  
dance teacher & tender of children  
dance protector of the weak  
    bulwark, constant one, she  
    who holds the center

sanctuary

dance gracious one  
    dance gorgeous one  
        dance compassionate lioness  
        steady stream of generosity

dance rescuer  
    defender,  
    maintainer of respect

O sista, sista, extra-ordinary sista  
faithful friend, comrade  
layer-on-of-strong-hands

dance Orisha-daughter  
dance conduit woman  
dance to bind with your love alone  
    all that capsized empires  
    even in death throes  
    aspire with conditioning to set  
    asunder

dance grandmother each  
footfall accompanied by thunderous  
arpeggios from drums of drummers  
    who play in ceaseless shifts  
    ancestor rhythms of continuation  
    from sacred stands high within  
protecting arms of Mother Mountain

dance world citizen,  
    planetary traveler  
dance Daughter of Nubia  
    dance wife & lover,  
    flower from the slave gardens  
burst through concrete jungle new  
    world chains

O sista, sista, my sista,  
    energy & passion  
    crystalline sincerity  
your earth life love dance  
    for us all  
    for us all  
thru which much for many  
    is made reachable,  
    claimable & redeemable  
continues in the abode of ancestors

& the riddim of your strong  
    long patient, unselfish way  
lives in each heart your years among us touched

a comforter of sorts,  
from *Da Riddim Originator* to sustain  
    & nurture us

while u rest awhile, beloved sista,  
    rest awhile,

until some day perhaps  
    your essence  
is summoned to this house once  
    again  
    to dance.

rAmu Aki