



## WOMEN OF AFRICA

By Wayne Visser

Women of Africa  
In the land of bow and spear  
Of chieftain and warrior  
Of hunter and hunted  
You are the silent gatherer  
The unsung provider  
The hidden basket  
We raise you up  
And speak your praise

In the shifting sands of power  
You are the pyramid of constancy  
Standing firm  
Against the fierce winds of time

On the endless plains of possibility  
You are the gentle matriarch  
Leading the way  
Through the fickle seasons of life

In the thirsty dust of desperation  
You are the baobab of sustenance  
Rooted deep  
In the quenching earth of faith

You gather the tears of the world  
And in the midst of mourning  
You find reason to smile

You gather the tribes of the world  
And in the chaos of squabbling  
You sow seeds of community

You gather the stories of the world  
And in the firelight of remembrance  
You keep the spirit burning





Women of Africa  
The music of every place  
Moves to your swaying hips  
And shakes to your stamping feet

Women of Africa  
The children of every time  
Suckle on your ample bosom  
And fall asleep to your lullaby

Women of Africa  
The victims of every tragedy  
Seek solace in your arms  
And find comfort in your voice

You gather the light of the world  
And in the darkest caves of evil  
You spread your luminescence

You gather the orphans of the world  
And in the villages of your heart  
You give them a place called home

You gather the elders of the world  
And in the sacred councils of trust  
You show us a better way

When our past dries to a trickle  
You are the river delta  
That reunites our memories  
With the sea of history

When our days are drought stricken  
You are the tireless pestle  
That grinds our hardship  
Into the flour of wisdom

When our future lies in shadow  
You are the wild prophetess





That divines our destiny  
In the pattern of bones

Women of Africa  
In a world of folly and fear  
Of division and diversion  
Of begetting and forgetting  
You are the mighty gatherer  
The harvester of wholeness  
The maker of peace  
We honour you this day  
And forever more

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