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## Anacaona

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... and my name will be dropped  
golden leaf  
flower  
voice of gold  
the gold  
of mountains beyond mountains  
I've crossed to behold my own  
face  
despite my body's death  
in double cross  
(by a Spanish gentleman's deal:  
the sword/the crucifix)  
despite divisions of time  
of tribes Taino  
Carib...  
the island's body itself  
its zones:  
Marien Magua  
Maguana Higuay  
Xaragua  
engulfed  
transfigured  
my own children scattered  
the *samba* lost  
their tongues

Calabash

scattered  
my name buried by music  
foreign to me  
the mountain-sides bursting  
in red  
my gestures marooned  
I have seen what will be  
the mirroring gaze through time  
the sun in eclipse  
reflection and  
reflection  
an imprint  
of my face  
the study of  
my aim  
and my name will sow maize  
my name will breed vision  
my girls will be black, bronzed,  
their eyes will be storms,  
and my name dropped  
golden leaf  
flower  
voice of gold  
the gold  
of mountains  
beyond mountains  
I've crossed  
to behold my own face.



NOTES :

*Anacaona* — poet and ruler of Xaragua, one of the five regions of Ayiti (now Hispaniola) at the time of Columbus's arrival in 1492. She sought to unite the regions against the colonizers but was ambushed and hanged in her attempt.

*sanba* — Haitian Kreyol/Creole — poet, storyteller, or singer.

