

## **Arma Christi Olofi**

What was revealed to one as I at Cofa  
when on the pilgrimage to Golgotha  
after we heard the babalawo chant  
the Oddún invoking Elegguá  
who opened the Ways to the Day

As night at noon  
as fields of flames  
backlit the sixteen-branched  
tree where open-armed Orúnmila  
rests as ruler of Orún  
and ruler of Aiyé...

Can anyone as I  
decipher this?  
What do these icons mean  
to me within the golden chain:

A white rooster chants  
upon a column dressed  
with vernicle and flails,  
a bag with thirty silver coins...

Why is He nailed, hanged  
above a boa, skull  
and lantern dull?

What is a ladder hung  
with ropes from its left limb  
a lance, a reed with bitter  
sponge, a gold carafe  
For vinegar?            water?

Where is your scarlet robe?  
Where is the cup of royal blood?  
How can I understand how You  
Sacrificed Orúnmila  
when Seven Potentates serve You?

Ride me, white and blue Virgin!  
Dance with me, Olofi Lady Lord!  
Never suffers above  
Never below  
your tiny talons

Grooving the salty sand.

