Honoring Chinua Achebe
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Livicated to our most esteemed elder, author, historian, professor, Chinua Achebe
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An African lion lived among us
And most of us didn’t even know
Until things fell apart and we were
Able to find our stories and proverbs -- again
People now speak of this lion’s
Mighty roar the words that soared
From the weighty pen he wielded
Ferociously piercing our memory
Reminding us of who we were
Who we are, what we must do
How we must teach, how to best reach
The core of ourselves - - again

Courage, culture
Ibo, Africa
Strength,
Life, triumph
Challenge, change
Truth, preservation
Perseverance
Chinua Achebe

This lion of a man, literary giant
Grandfather of African literature
Felled stereotypes and idiotic misconceptions
Opened minds world wide
He shook his mane
Softened his growl
Prowled around to feed on
Poetry, beauty, ancestors
Love, ritual, custom, sorrow, injustice,
Tragedy, jealousy, every day
Comings and goings of Africans
That united us in his lion tales

Complex, caring
Professor
Survivor, exemplary
Award winning author
Fiction, poetry
Children’s stories
Sharing love for the people

He gifted us with nourishment
That tasted of freedom
Bitter and sweet
The fierceness of his honesty
Awakened the world
To a truth stripped bare and
Unblemished by colonial brainwash

As things fall apart
Nature’s cycle continues
Mighty griot joins the ancestors
Leaving us with great memories
Treasures and lessons
The greatest gifts
Knowledge of self
Creative food
For the next generations

Though asleep now,
The lion’s roar still reverberates
Throughout our hearts and minds
Blasting away the illusion of darkness
So that we might truly see the light

Esteemed elder
Accomplished scholar
Literary guru
We remember you
We honor you
Today and always
Chinua Achebe
Ashe.

African proverb that inspired Chinua Achebe to write: “Until the lions have their own historian, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”