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A LETTER TO HARLEM

By

Mohamud Siad Togane

Dear black brothers and sisters in Harlem:
I am no savage.
I don't swing from trees like a monkey.
I am not afraid of Tarzan like whitey show you on TV.
I don't eat missionaries, nor chitlins.
I wear a bush 'cause I am a bushman.
I heard you used to burn Africa out of your hair
till Brother Malcolm X made you hip.

Whitey tells me I am superior to you
 'cause I am exotic
 'cause I am from Africa
 'cause I speak Swahili
 'cause I've a country
 'cause my name is SHOKOLOKUBANGASHAYA.

But I don't believe him. I believe you superior
 you stronger
 you have to be
 to live with him
 to survive him & his lies.

Your brother in Africa