

*Roberto Strongman*

## THE SNAKE TREE



I am the serpent  
Quetzalcoatl, Damballah, and St. Patrick  
I melt into the tree that I'm coiled around

Deceitful they thought me  
But I bring wisdom  
The prophet's staff slithers on the ground  
He lifts it to heal

World's axis  
Maypole  
Silk Cotton Tree Samauma  
Totem and Mapou

Once they spied me  
In plain metamorphosis  
They caught me naked between animal and plant  
Then they drank of my snake trunk  
And tasted for the first time the truth  
That the wood of the crisscross vine is meaty  
And bleeds deliciously

I am the serpent  
Double helix Juramidam  
Caduceus staff  
Immortal Hoasca