# XARIFFA'S POEMS

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Xariffa's poems by Mary Ashley Townsend

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### MARY ASHLEY TOWNSEND

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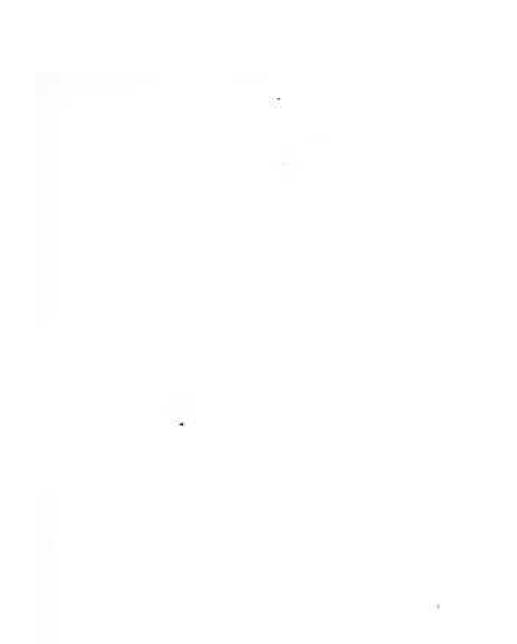
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#### TO MY MOTHER.

DEAR Mother! In the still and solemn hours
That come so often in my lifetime now,
Like rocks that rise to intercept the flow
Of tides that sweep too swiftly past their shores,
How tenderly my beart thy name adofes!
I see thee on thy pinnacle of years,
Thy feet just trembling on the Future's floors;
Thy locks of strength by Time's relentless shows
All shorn; toward the Yonder World thine eye
Uplifted yearningly. O Mother mine!
As the swift footsteps of the years go by
I cling to thee as to a thing divine,
And feet how dark a path my life would be,
Noblest of mothers, if bereft of thee.



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