**Ode to Muhammad Ali by Benjamin  Zephaniah**

The planet has been visited by a force

as sharp as lightning,

From Louisville, Kentucky he lit up the universe,

He said if you're not courageous

you will accomplish nothing,

and you will remain oppressed,

downtrodden, slaves or even worse,

The planet has been visited by

an awesome, mighty power

Yes he floated like a butterfly

and he stung like a bee

He had a hook that would explode

and ruthlessly devour

Yet he was full of life

and full of wicked poetry.

The planet has been visited by

an honest, fearless fighter,

Whose shuffle round the boxing ring

would delight and enthrall,

His knowledge would increase,

and his wisdom would get higher

Because he knew the better man

should rise after a fall,

Three times the heavyweight champion

And many times the system

tried to hold this proud man down,

But he would not be trampled on,

No, not in the slightest,

This man of heart and principle

would always stand his ground.

He would not fight another's war,

He sought peace and inner stillness,

A sportsman he was, a gentleman,

he was cool under the sun,

No, we would not fight another's war,

War was not his business,

This sporting, spiritual warrior knew

no peace came from a gun.

His imagination took him high,

and he went to the mountain top,

And he declared to all mankind

that he had seen the light,

This revolutionary said that warmongers

who kill must stop

And we the people should rise up

yes, black and white unite.

The planet has been visited by a

force that has no equal,

From Louisville, Kentucky

he lit up the universe

He was the king of boxing

and he inspired people

An intellectual man mountain

whose talents were diverse.

The planet has being visited by

a wise and righteous spirit,

Who boxed, and fought, and opened eyes

with righteous poetry.

So people of this planet live as one,

and hail the greatest,

So his message and his compassion

shall reign eternally.