**The Legend OF Kaieteur By A. J Seymour**

……………………

*(Conversational;*

*Praiseful; Admirational)* Now Makonaima, the Great Spirit dwelt

In the huge mountain rock that throbbed and felt

The swift black waters of Potaro's race

Pause on the lip, commit themselves to space

And dive the half mile to the rocks beneath.

……………………

*(Firm and descriptive)* Black were the rocks with sharp and angry teeth

And on… those rocks… the eager waters died,

Above the gorge that seethed and foamed and hissed

Rose, resurrected into lovely mist.

……………………..

*(A majestic narrative;* The rock He lived in towered a half mile high

*Nature lover)* So that it seemed a rival to the sky

And over it this living mist He drew

To curtain off Divinity from view.

He gave it too the privilege to choose

To take the glory of the rainbow's hues

To wear at morning, and for changed delight

The marvelous sunsets of the tropic night.

……………………..

*(Warmth; proclamation)* From day to day, behind this rainbow screen,

The Father, the inscrutable, unseen,

Would ponder on His domain of the earth

And all the nations He had given birth.

*…………………………..…..*

*(Soft and Nature loving)* And He caused flowers to weave upon the ground

Their rich embroideries and He set around

The village where each tribe worked all day long

A veritable tapestry of song…

*…………………………………….*

*(Adoration, nature loving, soft*

*(Conversational, sacrificial)* From birds that in the branches built their bowers

And spent within the shade quick musical hours,

So every wind blew peace and fortune down

From the sweet heavens, and everywhere was sung

A song of praise to the Great spirit above

That fathered them in kindliness and love

And every moon each tribe would come and float

Upon the stream a sacrificial boat

New-carved and painted, laden with fish and fruit

And watch it gain speed as it neared and shoot

Over the rock into the gorge below.

……………………….

*(Descriptive/ Narrative;*

*Attitude, Hostile)* And as the waters, so the centuries flow

Until the savage Caribishi came

And put the Patamona to the flame.

They came by night and took them in their sleep

Slaughtered the guards and drove away the sheep

Ravished the women, burnt their huts and shields,

A few, the merest remnant, took to flight

And under shelter of the friendly night

Escaped from the pursuing torches sent

To slay them in the caches where they went.

………………………

*(Worrisome)* These took the terrible tidings of the raid

To the far camp their restless kin had made

On the Potaro-that the feud was awake

And counsel what defenses they could make

………………………

*(Calm; conversational;*

*Contemplative)* Old Kaie was chief in counsel.   He was wise

Over a hundred seasons had those eyes

See in their passage.

Time had made the dim

But with its wisdom compensated him.

He knew the cures for all men's ills and fears

And he had words for women in their tears

To comfort them.

………………………

*(Descriptive/ Narrative)* He set all day and talked

Unto the tribe, for painfully he walked

On legs like rotten trunks wherein chigoes

Had nested and made caves of all his toes.

………………………

*(Firm; vital)* Just now he counseled, "Since our arms are small

I and another to the mountain wall

Will go to question Makonaima's will

What He requires that we must fulfill

In sacrificial offerings.

He is kind, His orders will chase fear out of our mind."

Then someone murmured "But can Kaie's feet stand

The troublesome journey through steep, rocky land?"

Flame sprang to Kaie's eyes, "Will you never learn,

From what the mind wills, body will not turn?"

………………………

*(Descriptive)*  So the next morning labored up the slope

Kaie and the one other with their ropes

Strapped round their backs, their bags of magic art

With all the stuff that in their spells had part.

……………………….

*(Descriptive; confirmatory)* Kaie's feet oft staggered and the westering sun

Was swallowed up by night, the day was done

Before they came upon the slab of stone

That ends the path to the Great Spirit's home Alone

They stood while the vast starry night was full

Of falling water.   Kaie felt his pull

His arm.   "Look there," "Yes, Makonaima's birds,

They are His messengers, they speak His words,

………………………..

*(Descriptive; confirmatory)* These small black cruiser birds, they fly in flocks

And feed on Lana seed among the rocks.

And now the birds made swooping round the pair

And chattering brushed Kaie's cheek and kissed his ear.

Twice, thrice, they did this. Then with sudden flight

They wheeled and veered off through the seeing Night.

Then in a voice that swelled and sank and broke

With the great wealth of joy he felt, Kaie spoke

…………………………

*(Descriptive; confirmatory;*

*Majestic)* "Oh, great is Makonaima and the words

That he has spoken by message of his birds.

I must go down the passage of the river.

That I may sit before His face for ever

In His great house, the everlasting rock.

And He has promised that no harm, no shock

Shall bruise our people, for His Watch and ward

Shall circle us and He shall be our guard.

………………………

*(Assertive)* I am accounted for a sacrifice

For all the tribe.

You with your younger eyes

Shall see the offering that you may tell

How boldly Kaie clasped such a death, how well

He lost his life to save his threatened race

And shadow them with the eternal peace."

………………………

*(Narrative)* So in the morning, while the dim mist wrestled

And the fall thundered and the deep gorge seethed

That other sat at vantage by the wall

And scanned the river to the waterfall.

He saw the sun o'er-peep the world and throw

Tide after tide of golden ray and glow

Against the fall, flood full on its attire,

Its misty veil, and catch that mist afire.

Amazed, he stared.

…………………………

*(Descriptive; conversational;*

*culminating)* The opalescent light deepened and sank and changed.

Then in his sight, below the point that Kaie had bid him mark

He saw Kaie in a sacrificial bark.

The frail boat bobbed and bucked within the grip

Of the live waters that hurried it to the lip

Over the abyss.

………………………..

*(Culminating; affirmative)* Kaie then raised his tall huge bulk in the boat and towered over the fall, a cruciform over the flaming mist.

Then with a force that nothing could resist

The boat rent all that misty veil in two,

Drawing a dark line down the rainbow hue.

But of Kaie's body never showed a trace,

He sat with Makonaima, before his face.

**END**