I am the River Niger - hear my waters! 
I wiggle and stream and run. 
I am totally flexible. 
I am the River Niger - hear my waters! 
My waters are the first sperm of the world. 
When the earth was but a faceless whistling embryo 
Life burst from my liquid kernels like popcorn. 
Hear my waters - rushing and popping in muffled finger drum staccato. 
It is life you hear, stretching its limbs in my waters - 
I am the River Niger! Hear my waters! 
When the Earth Mother cracked into continents 
I was vomited from the cold belly of the Atlantic 
To slip slyly into Africa 
From the underside of her brow 
I see no - 
Hear no - 
Speak no evil, 
But I know, 
I gossip with the crocodile 
And rub elbows with the river horse 
I have swapped morbid jokes with the Hyena 
And heard his dry cackle at twilight. 
I see no - 
Hear no - 
Speak no evil, 
But I know. 
I am the River Niger - hear my waters! 
I ran way to the Henry Hudson 
I came to the cloudy Mississippi 
Over kneels of incomprehensible woe. 
I ran to the Henry Hudson 
Under the sails of ragged hope. 
I am the River Niger, 
Transplanted to Harlem 
From the Harlem River Drive 
Hear me my children - hear my waters! 
I sleep in your veins. 
I seen no - 
Hear no - 
Speak no evil. 
But I know, and I know that you know. 
I flow to the ends of your spirit. 
Hold hands, my children, and I will flow to the ends of the earth. 
And the whole world will hear my waters. 
I am the River Niger! Don't deny me! 
Do you hear me? Don't deny me! 
I am the River Niger - hear my waters! 
I am totally flexible. 
My waters are the first sperm of the world. 
In Chicago the show broke all previous house records. 
Originally, The River Niger played more than 100 performances at the St. Marks Playhouse in New York; an overwhelming demand for tickets prompted a move to the Brooks Atkinson on Broadway. 
This penetrating drama covers one hectic week in the life of a Harlem family. The Characters include Johnny Williams, an alcoholic house painter and poet; his wife Mattie, who loves him passionately; his mother-in-law, and 83 year old frank woman who speaks her mind; his son, 25 year old Jeff, who is the favorite of the family and they all want to direct his life. 
I am the River Niger - hear my waters! 
I am the River Niger, 
I am the River Niger.

The River Niger
The River Niger, winner of the 1974 Tony Award for Best Play, flowed into the ECSU Moore Hall Auditorium on March 14, 1975 from a tremendously successful run on Broadway and on National tour. Written and directed by Joseph Walker, the drama is a passionate and intense story of intimate life among blacks. Hugging themselves with their problems and keeping their breast warm with love and affection. 
Across the country screaming headlines have welcomed it and heralded it as one of the most engrossing productions yet written, presented or produced by blacks. It left Philadelphia with throngs of people pressing their way to the box office to buy tickets. In Chicago the show broke all previous house records. 
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I am the River Niger - hear my waters! 
I am the River Niger, 
I am the River Niger. 

As-Salaam-
Alai Kum
May Peace Be Unto You

I take great pleasure in expressing the pure intensity that manifested the love and support of audiences and sisters of Elizabeth City State University and myself on March 14, 1975, during the lyceum feature "The River Niger." At the end of the play, my soul overflowed with love and pride for the ECSU Black Family. 

All of my life I've desired to see the Black Family United! In my fight here, many times my love for you was stomped upon. But that night, that night I could feel your love in return; I could feel a solid unit: Black Solidarity. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the base of Black Solidarity is the love of the Blackman for his Black Brother. Jesus said "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." But if you don't love yourself, you cannot be trusted to love your neighbor. That night, March 14, 1975, I felt the love that flowed among us. Whether you wanted to share that love or not, your true nature was manifested. And whether you became baptized in the love of your Blackness and in the love of yourself, and in the love of your Brother and Sister, what will you do to hurt what you love? I thank Almighty God, Allah for blessing me to witness these moments. You my beloved Brothers and Sisters have added strength to my willingness to live for Black and die for Black. My beautiful Black Brothers and Sisters I love you. My Brothers and Sisters from Puerto Rico, Trinidad, China, Asia, Japan, India, the Philippines, Korea, the Bahamas, South America, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, the West Indies, I love you all. We are a NATION of people. We are ONE. Let US not be divided. 

AS-SALAAM-ALAIKUM
Brother Anthony X