

Senegal

Sweaty, sunny, sweet and savory
Bursts of color against dirt and dust
Chanting prayers permeate the air
Busy, noisy, chattering marketplace
On every corner yesterday's trash
Ponies and goats roam in tight spaces
Bustling buses overflowing with stickers
Dancing and singing wake-up the night
Joggers on the beach by the hundreds
Vendors selling themselves
Communities are transparent
Life thrives behind blocks of cinder and mud

Eyes meet and a smile greets
Mouths speak and language differs
Signs and signals attempted
Hands may touch
Kisses held on each cheek
Tower of Babel begins to connect
Food and drink bond newcomers
Baobab, besopp, ginger, honey
Goat, Donkey, Camel, Pig
Mangoes, Cashews, Oysters, Peanuts
Rice, Carrots, Potatoes, Onions
Sharing what little they have
In Friendship
You never forget the warmth you feel.

Kathy Gause
2012

Baobab

Memory of Senegalese
Keep on giving love
Drought, poverty, corruption
Keep on giving wealth
Barren land, salt, sand, brush
Keep on giving hope
Protection, Shade, Shelter
Keep on giving faith
Pulp, fruit, bark, leaves, oil
Keep on giving nourishment
Paper, rope, compost, birds
Keep on giving vitality
Climbing, Games, Legend
Keep on giving play.
Birds, bats, monkeys
Keep on giving life
Upside down 6,000 years
Keep on giving

Kathy Gause
2012