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## Elders Talkin'

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Elders Talkin'

What them drums say?  
What them drums mean?  
I could hear them talkin'—  
I think they talkin' to me.  
A whisper in the crowd  
even though the beat was loud  
piercing through my body  
Sound surroundin' me in a smoky cloud.

They sayin' somethin' bout me movin'  
but I swore my feet were still.  
Then I felt my body start swayin'  
and my head throw back,  
my face shot up toward the sky  
I felt my body shakin'  
my hands lifted high  
I felt weightless  
I was air  
with every hit of the cow skin, the snare  
wondrous, wild, without care  
I said:

*I want to see my people*  
Drums said, "they here with you."  
*I want to free my people*  
They said, "first, free you"  
*I want to speak their languages*  
They said, "it's speakin' through the drums"  
*why can't I stop dancin'?*  
They said, "it's called talkin' in tongues"  
*what happens when the music stops?*  
They said, "there is no such thing—  
These drums, they always beating,  
and they beating from within."