

Bilum Bag (New Guinea) 410#

TAOLI-AMBIKA TALWAR

Good Life from Strong Basket

Oh Little One with glowing eyes!
If you wish to hang among stars
choose a basket of tensile cords
soaked in tears, dews, manna,
love's spit and rainbow water.

How wildly your knowing grasps
with tiny hands so mighty!
If you wish refuge in this cosmos
choose a web of intricate strings
intertwined diagonally across firmament

so the hanging basket be protection
from evil eyes. Let the silken skeins
be tied with virtue so time wear not away
the filaments or weaken mythic knots—

Little dear, your happy coos echo make time
you swing across this glittering cosmos
catch stars, play tumble to music:
'Such joy songs make your basket strong

Look! Stars crash; rustic basket swings;
I hear you as you wish to be known!

ERIKA WILK

my child
finds comfort in this bag
he sleeps
to the swaying of my hips
while I select cabbages

MIRA N. MATARIC

If I were young, I would carry
all my babies in it.
But now I am old
I want to carry
my memories into eternity.