### *Poem type:*

### *Chōka (5-7-5-7…5-7-7)*

It is dangerous

to seek control over all;

to harness fully

the complete supremacy

over living things.

For that is what power is:

will made manifest.

So long has it been imposed

upon this Zeltron

that I seek only the strength

to protect the things

in life that I hold dearest.

A mercenary

that holds loyalty to more

than wealth and prestige,

for money can be

fouled by blood and lies and cause.

Keep your curse’d stores[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

of baubles ancient and worn;

artifacts of Force

call not to this soul of mine.

What is mine is mine.

There exists no more or less.

Power does not call

to this woman wanting peace;

only hearth and home

with my lover at my side,

that my blaster will protect.

1. \* *The apostrophe in curse’d indicates the word is separated into two syllables.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)