

New York  
By Danny Champagne  
*(based on Carl Sandburg's Chicago)*

Concrete Jungle of Chaos,  
Maker of Millionaires, Mother of Diversity,  
Producer of Champions, Sports Monster,  
Vast, Alive, Unbroken,  
The City of Aggressive Drivers:

They tell me you are unforgiving and I believe them,  
    for I have seen your blind men begging in the subway.  
And they tell me you are bizarre and I answer: Yes, it is true. I have seen your potheads  
    stumbling through the streets spewing nonsense.  
And they tell me you are dirty and my reply is: on the sides of old skyscrapers I have seen crude  
    graffiti.  
And having answered so I turn to those who sneer at this my city, and I give them back the sneer  
    and say to them:  
Come and show me another city with people so proud to call themselves a part of it.  
Standing tall against the winds of a hurricane, here is an untamable hero looking down on the  
    broken cities;  
Resilient as a once-defeated army back for revenge, as a fighter who refuses to back down,  
    Dreaming,  
    Racing,  
    Shouting,  
    Booming,  
    Expanding, shrinking, re-expanding,

In the hood, a cigar in his mouth, chain around his neck,  
Standing on display, flexing as a bodybuilder,  
Flexing like a sports player who has won the championship,  
Flexing and bragging that in him is the life of the party.

Flexing the vast, alive, unbroken muscle of victory, proud to be  
Concrete Jungle of Chaos, Millionaire Maker,  
Mother of Diversity, Champion Producer,  
Master of Sports, The City of Aggressive Drivers.