

The Night Before Moncada

The night before
The night before
The night before Moncada

How did you
Who were there
Prepare?

Did not fear
Rise inside your stomach
Spread to your head
With all the strength it gains
When you know
Tomorrow you may be dead?

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Did not your eyes and mind
Perceive reality
With the immense intensity
Of the kind only freed
When human beings
Meet with historic destiny?

You were there
In Santiago secretly
In the restaurant
Eating with a few other comrades
Days of Carnival
Of masked costumed festivity
Days of Carnival
You were there
In Santiago secretly
Eating in the restaurant
At other tables
People sat and talked and laughed
The tree of liberty
Life moving on in Santiago
Good and evil
Hate and love
The sea below
The stars above
Santiago de Cuba
Life with a few who loan
Many who have to borrow
Life with all its joy
And sorrow
The other people
Eating in the restaurant
Did not know
What you would do tomorrow

How many
Maybe agents of Batista
Do you see
No it can't be
Fears about security
A cry a shout
Trying not to nervously
Look all about
The night before
The night before
What did you and your comrades
Talk about?

The night before
The night before
In a cheap hotel room
The next morning
Coming so soon
Sounds of Santiago night
Thin walls
Voices from the next room
Thin walls
Could not dilute
The argument between
A customer and prostitute
On that night
What a heavy impression it made
The argument about
How much she should be paid
Slavery and sorrow
The other people
Did not know
What you would do tomorrow

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Did not you wonder too
If it was
The wisest thing to do?

Doubts can't be
Blindly stamped out
Rather thought about
Analyzed and debated
Contingencies anticipated
Doubts can't be
Blindly stamped out
Rather thought about
Carefully struggled out

The people of our land
Live in misery
Degradation and corruption
Terror of tyranny
Listen to their cry
The people of this land
Shall surely rise

The revolutionary struggle
Is in the world
In Cuba and in Santiago
That is true
The revolutionary struggle
Also takes place
In you

It's not as though
You haven't thought it through
Before
It just gets more and more

You have agreed
To join freedom conspiracy
Because of so much
That you knew before
Your love for life and people
A comrade's grip
Your hatred of oppression
And this dictatorship

Perhaps a patriotic song
Or any unsung melody
Runs through your brain
What can be done
To prepare for pain
Perhaps some lines from
Revolutionaries of the past
The ones you love
The faces that you see
The tree of liberty
Your family
It's not as though
You haven't thought it through
Before
It just gets more and more
The future present and the past
At last
Another clear courageous inner light
Born of struggle
Resolves to do its best in freedom fight
It just gets more and more
Real people in real liberation war
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