



Two Poems

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TWO POEMS¹

TIMALO²

1 From *Pawòl a lòm vo lòm*. Autoedition, 2007.

2 TiMalo is a Creole writer, musician, producer, and activist. He won the Best author SACEM (Society of authors, Composers, and Publishers of Music) Award in 2008 for his album *Pawòl Funk-Kè* and book *Pawòl a lòm vo lòm*. He is the author of the *Dyablès* series of novels written in Guadeloupean Creole. TiMalo has also produced *Tann & Konprann*, a podcast entirely in Guadeloupean Creole. <https://www.timalo.com>

Ivwaryen

Imajiné-w

Péyi-la an swasant mòso

Ou pé pa palé ba vwazen

Vwazen pa-a palé menm lang ki-w

Vwazen pa-a manjé menm manjé ki-w

Vwazen pa kay lanmès menm jou ki-w

É pouwtan

Vou é vwazen an awmoni

Dépi nanni

Nannan joustan

Prézidan-la vin chanjé

Imajiné-w

Gouvelman-la an dé mòso

Ou pa dako é vwazen

Vwazen pa-a palé menm lang ki-w

Vwazen pa kay lanmès menm jou ki-w

Vwazen pa ka priyé menm bondyé ki-w

É forséman

Vou é vwazen pran babyé

Goumé, koupé

Haché joustan

L'ONU vin séparé

Imajiné-w
Pèp-la an ti mòso
Ou ay chaché vwazen
Vwazen ka mò fen an menm tan ki-w
Vwazen ka soufè an menm tan ki-w
Vwazen ka pran fè an menm tan ki-w
É trankilman
Vou é vwazen manifèsté
Épi fanm, kouzen é nivé
Maché san gaoulé
Joustan
Lawmé fransé tiré

Imajiné-w
Vou menm ja pran on bèl so
Ou pa'a blanmé vwazen
Vwazen ka toufé menm jan ki-w
Vwazen asfiksyé menm jan ki-w
Vwazen entòksiké menm jan ki-w
Mè sèlman
Vou é vwazen pa té mandé
Tout salté Léwòp vwoyé
Pou poliyé
Abidjan
É sé Chirac ki dézolé !

Gwadeloup é Kòt-Divwa pa vwazen,
Mè fout mwen é on Iwaryen
Ka sanm !

Ivorian¹

Imagine

The country is in sixty pieces
Can't talk to neighbour
Neighbour doesn't speak the same way
Neighbour doesn't eat the same way
Neighbour doesn't pray the same day
But anyway
You and neighbour live in peace
Don't even know since
when, Until
President sent in a new bill

Imagine

Government is in two pieces
Can't agree with neighbour
Neighbour doesn't speak the same way
Neighbour doesn't pray the same day
It's not the same God anyway
As a matter of fact
You and neighbour started to fight
With axes, knives and hooks
Until the UN came and looked

¹ Translated by author

Imagine

People in tiny pieces

Looking at neighbour

Neighbour is hit, so are you

Neighbour is hurt, so are you

Neighbour is wounded, so are you

But with no hatred

You and neighbour demonstrated

With family and all related

Until

The French Army fired at will

Imagine

Hope, that's what's missing

Looking for neighbour

Neighbour is suffocated just like you

Neighbour is asphyxiated just like you

Neighbour is intoxicated just like you

However, sadly

You and neighbour never demanded

Chemistry waste Europe landed

Polluting Abidjan from end to end and

Cynically

Chirac claims he's sorry!

Gwadeloup and Ivory Coast share no borders

But damn, an Ivorian and I look like brothers!

Haine à foutre !

Haine à foutre !
Haine à foutre de Gerty Archimède !
Ou konprann ou gannyé éleksyon ?
Mè préfè-la siwo !
Kou – kou –
Kouyonné, Gerty Archimède !
Prèmyé nègrès Dépitè !
Dé – pi – tée !
Dé – gou – tée !
Ola i yé, Gerty, aprézan ?
I ka ba Bastè do ay, sizé si on ban
Ka atann bato la rivé, pou-y foutémalkan !

Haine à foutre !
Haine à foutre de Aimé Césaire !
Aimé Césaire, le nègre fondamental !
Il a fait des pieds et des mains
Pour qu'ici on installe,
L'assimilation départ – te – mentale ;
Si chère à Marine,
Du Front National !
Kou – kou –
Kouyonné, Aimé Césaire !
C'est pas moi qui le dit, c'est lui !
I té dwèt kouté Fanon
E fè on révolisyon, mè bon
« Le nègre n'est pas un homme » de toute façon !
Alo a pi fèt rézon
Mwen,
Ki sé on négriyon !

Haine à foutre !
Haine à foutre des ouvriers !
Mandé Pompidou,
I ké fè'w vin Esmikaw
A koud fizi !
Kou – kou –
Kouyonné, les ouvriers !
Les nègres savent transformer la canne en argent,
Mais pas le plomb en or !
An tou ka DéGòl té sav-sa,
Dèpi tan la !

Haine à foutre !
Haine à foutre de la Guadeloupe !
Péyi la malad !
Sé malad i malad !
Pep-la kay o mèdsen
Mè o 21e sièk mèdsen-la teknolojik
E mèdsen-la démokratik :
« Pour des antibiotiques, faites le 1
Pour des antalgiques, faites le 2
Pour les antihistaminiques, faites le 3
Si'w pa konnèt, faites étoile
Un parti politique va vous répondre ! »
Mais bien sûr ! On y croite !
Kou – kou –
Kouyonné, la Guadeloupe !
Haine à foutre la Guadeloupe !
Péyi tou – risk – tik !
Mè bon...

Haine à foutre des touristes !
Haine à foutre de l'environnement !
Haine à foutre de ki mewbalaou, ki tilapia !
Haine à foutre de ki manglous, ki ti-glous !
Tu glousses ?
Depuis t'a l'heure tu glousses !
Haine à foutre, hein ?
Mais bon...
Fais gaffe, quand même.
Fais gaffe au retour du vert-vert !
Car comme disait le député Julia :
« Il y a des crachats
Qui retomberont sur le visage
De ceux qui les ont lancés ! »

Et si je peux me permettre,
Un mollard n'arrive jamais seul !

They hate us!²

G8?

They hate us!

They hate us, G!

They hate Dr King.

Remember Dr King?

The good Dr King,

Non-violent and shit?

Well, the good Dr got hit!

Fu, fu, fubar:

Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition

And where is he now?

Dead, non-violent for sure.

G8?

They hate us!

They hate us, G!

They hate Aimé Césaire.

Ever heard about Césaire?

Great poet, great poetry

Best French poet they say

² Translated by author

But never won a prize by the way

Fu, fu, fubar:

Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition

The nigger should have listened to Fanon

And started a revolution

But hey, the nigger ain't a man, Fanon said.

Ain't a man for sure.

G8?

They hate us!

They hate us, G!

They hate construction workers!

In 1967, construction workers wanted a raise

A two percent raise

Well, you know what they said, G?

When the niggers get hungry,

They'll get back to work, guaranteed.

Fu, fu, fubar:

Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition

Niggers threw rocks

They threw bullets

A good nigger is a dead nigger, isn't it?

That's for sure.

G8?

They hate us!

They hate the whole country!

The whole country is fucked up!

So the people are looking for a corpsman

But this is the 21st century, G!

And now the corpsmen use democracy

And the corpsmen use technology

For antibiotic, dial 1

For analgesic, dial 2

For antihistamine, dial 3

And if you don't know, press 9

A political party will answer you

Yeah. Right. Sure.

The country is fubar!

Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition.

Beautiful country, though.

Friendly island?

Good for Tou-ris-m?

Hell no, Too-ris-ky.

Anyway

They hate the tourists!

They hate the countryside!

They hate the whales and the swordfishes

They hate all the other species

They hate the sea and the blue

They hate the water, and the bayou

They hate the sky, they hate you,

They hate you, G!

They hate us,

THEY HATE US

We're Fucked Up!

Beyond All Recognition!

But you know what?

Sooner or later it will be the other way around

And we will fuck them up,

Right in the hate ball!