

Alegroparai

Ari Gautier, translation by Ananya Jahanara Kabir

Dandanakku Danakkudakku...

Who is beating my molam?

Dandanakku Danakkudakku

Who announces my arrival?

Move away, step away, go away!

He's here! The pariah, the untouchable, the outcaste

His shadow is a stain, and his soul, abject

The very air is polluted by his passage....

My bruised heart is bursting like too-tight skin

Once, I used to sing about heroes on the battlefield

I used to wake the gods up from their sleep

I used to celebrate love at weddings

I used to praise the newly born

Now, alas! They've condemned me to escort death, make corpses dance.

Paraiyan, accursed, beggar, excluded...

These terms are society's ashes that have charred my soul

Paraiyan I was born, but paraiyan I won't die.

My molam rises up through the archipelago of fragments

And makes Alegroparai reverberate on the Thinnai Kreyol.

Dandanakku Danakkudakku...

Dandanakku Danakkudakku...

