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REQUIEM FOR RODNEY

by

Cleveland Hamilton

*The afternoon is frightened  
because the night is coming  
after the long day*

*The dawn is glad  
because the day is coming  
after the bad night*

*Drizzles are crying their hearts out  
into showers  
mourning the death  
of the young  
and floods  
are beating the fastnesses of tyranny*

*Men and women  
in the powerful places  
are afraid of the howling winds  
threatening  
the unsure citadels  
and the tired pedestals  
and the mini-kingdoms  
are shaking  
with the tremblings  
of the haunted Nebuchadnezzars*

*Doomsday is an unfolding horizon  
and the midwife  
of destiny  
is pulling the foetus of fulfilment  
out of the womb  
of promise*

*Freedom cannot be crushed  
like a nascent rose  
emerging out of the chrysalis  
of creation  
or the flesh and blood  
of man born of a woman  
or the contorted steel of a gadget*

*A river dried up  
will not diminish  
the volume of the ocean*

*A fallen star  
does not destroy  
the astronomy  
of the Heavens*

*Nor the pin-pricks of sawdust-Caesars  
spoil the blood count  
of the revolution*

*Only the thunder of Emancipation  
rocks the empires  
of the fiddling fools  
and the cemeteries  
of the patriots!*