

# Kanaval

(Haitian Creole – English Poetic Translation)

**Leve, leve, leve li jou... jodia se kanaval!  
An'n rasanble, an'n selebre...  
Souke tchatcha, danse Rara...  
Leve, leve, leve li jou... jodia se kanaval!**

**Timoun yo degize, granmoun yo eksite,  
Madigra, chaloska ap defile,  
Ala yon bèl epòk,  
Moun anwo, moun anba fè yon sèl...  
Se kanaval! Kanaval la rive!**

**Avanse... pa frape! Pa pouze!  
Sote, ponpe jan ou vle,  
Kale dada'w, danse jan'w vle... Se kanaval!**

**Mezanmi pa gen manti nan sa, se fete n'ap fete,  
Mereng yo byen chofe, gade kijan'n kontan!  
Mezanmi pa gen manti nan sa, se fete n'ap fete,  
Tout moun ap banboche, gade kijan'n kontan!**

**Timoun yo degize, granmoun yo eksite,  
Madigra, chaloska ap defile... Se kanaval!**

**Mete de men anlè! (ou-we!)  
Mete drapo anlè!  
Mete mouchwa anlè!  
Kanaval la rive!**

**Chak ane s'on randevou,  
Twa jou lanmou, twa jou lajwa.  
Chak ane s'on bèl plezi,  
Se yon bèl fèt nan Peyi d'Ayiti.**

**Men nan men san prejije,  
Se konsa pou nou fete.  
Men nan men san prejije,  
Se konsa n'a va rive. (zimboyo!)**

**Yon ti bese, tout moun f'on ti bese!  
Yon ti monte, tout moun f'on ti monte!**

**Kanaval Ayiti... se la pou'w la!  
Ka-ka-ka-ka-Kanaval Ayiti... pa di betiz!**

**Kanaval... ou paka pa la! Se la pou'w la!**

*Wake up, wake up, the day has come... today is Carnival!  
Let us gather and celebrate...  
Shake that shaker, dance that Rara...  
Wake up, wake up, the day has come... today is Carnival!*

*The young ones are disguised, the grown ups are excited,  
Madigra\* and Chaloska\* are parading,  
What a beautiful season,  
People on top and people below are united...  
It's Carnival! Carnival time is here!*

*Move forward... no hitting! No pushing!  
Jump up and down as you want,  
Losen up, dance however you want... it's Carnival!*

*Yo, this is for real, this party is on,  
The songs are hot, look how happy we are!  
Yo, this is for real, this party is on,  
Everyone is ecstatic, look how happy we are!*

*The young ones are disguised, the grownups are excited,  
Madigra and Chaloska are parading... it's Carnival!*

*Put your hands in the air! (hooray!)  
Flags up in the air!  
Hankershiefs in the air!  
Carnaval time is here!*

*Every year it's a rendez-vous,  
Three days of love, three days of joy.  
Every year it's a blast,  
It's a beautiful party in the country of Haiti.*

*Hand in hand without prejudice,  
That is how we should celebrate.  
Hand in hand without discrimination,  
That is how we will make it. (zimboyo!)*

*Get down, get down... everybody get down!  
Get up, get up... everybody get up!*

*Carnaval of Haiti... Kinda have to be there!  
Ca-ca-ca-ca-Carnaval of Haiti... No bad words please!*

*Kanaval... You can't miss it! You gotta be there!*

*Text by: Sydney Guillaume & Martine Joseph*

*\*Chaloska - (Charles Oscar) a character parading in Haitian carnivals.  
\*Madigra - a person in costume at a carnival parade; masquerade.*