

AYITI 1-2-3

Haitian Creole to English – Poetic Translation

1. LESKLAVAJ – SLAVERY

Mwen soti Afrika, nan peyi papa mwen;
Nan batiman franse, espagnòl ak angle,
Tonbe Amerika, peyi mwen pa konnen:
Tou sa se Ayiti, tou sa se istwa mwen.

*I come from Africa, the land of my father;
From the French, Hispanic and English ships,
I landed in the Americas, the unfamiliar land.
This is Haiti, this is my story.*

Nou soti Afrika ak tout relijyon nou,
Ak vaksin, ak tanbou, ak tout sa ki nanm nou.
Nou ponkò debake, mechan desonnen nou,
Yo sèmanse twa fwa fò yo konvèti nou.

*We come from Africa with our strong religion,
With bamboos, with drums, with all our souls.
Right when we debarked, the villains muted us,
They swore a thousand times they would convert me.*

Yo fè sa yo kapab pou fè nou pèdi tèt nou,
Pou'n bliye zansèt yo ki chita nan Ginen,
Pou nou koupe fache ak pawòl Libète,
Pawòl Egalite ak pawòl Dignite.

*They did all they could to make us lose our mind,
To forget about our ancestors in Africa,
And impede our words of Liberty,
Words of Equality, Words of Dignity.*

Nou pase twa san zan anba chenn lesklavaj;
La jounen kon lannuit n'ape redi travay,
Nou pote chay sou tèt, nou pote sou zepòl,
Pou zòt ka banbile nan peyi metropòl.
Lesklavaj se degoutans!

*We spent three hundred years under the chains of slavery;
Night and day we struggled with work,
Carrying loads on our heads, loads on our shoulders,
For others to rejoice in the metropolitan lands.
Slavery is revulsion!*

2. DELIVRANS – LIBERTY

Men depi premye jou, nou toujou ap batay,
Pou nou kapab soti nan tout vie deblozay.
Nou batay, nou lite, tankou chen anraje,
Nou pote la viktwa yon jou premye janvyè.

*Thus from the first day, we have been fighting,
To free ourselves from all dreadful chaos.
We fought, we struggled like raging dogs,
We were victorious one fine January day.*

Delivrans se endepandans!

Liberty is freedom!

Devan gro koze sa, malveyan yo sezi;
Lesklavaj dechouke nan peyi d'Ayiti.
Paskè tout moun se moun anwo latè beni,
Nou pa dwe aksepte pou fè yon lòt soufri.

*The villains were stunned by this phenomenon;
Slavery was vanquished in the country of Haiti.
Because we are all citizens of this blessed earth,
We must not tolerate suffering unto others.*

Delivrans se endepandans!

Liberty is freedom!

Gran Mèt'la te kreye lèzòm egal ego;
Nan fonkè'm, nan nanm mwen, mwen li paròl sa yo.
Si yon mechan konprann pou fè'n pèdi la kat,
N'ap toujou angaje yon lòt "dizuisankat" (1804).

*The Almighty created all men equal;
Deep in my heart, in the depths of my soul, I read these words.
If a villain thinks he can take away our dignity,
We will always engage another "eighteen-o-four" (1804).*

Nan pwèn nesite pou gro vale piti,
"Sa'k pa bon pou manman, li pa bon pou bèlmè".
Si nou vle gen la pè, nou dwe viv tankou frè.
"Men anpil, chay pa lou", se deviz Ayiti.

*There is no need for the strong to abuse the weak,
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".
If we want peace, we must live like brothers.
"With many hands, the load is light", that is Haiti's slogan.*

Delivrans se endepandans!

Liberty is freedom!

3. PÈSEVERANS – PERSEVERANCE

**“Nou kouri pou lapli, nou tonbe larivyè”.
Nou batay di, Elas! “Lave men siy’atè”.
Lénmi yo fè konplo ak prop pitit lakay,
Pou fouré dignite’n nan mitan yon sak pay.**

**De san zan deroule depi l’Endepandans.
Malveyan yo kanpe, yo di tou sa se rans;
Nou vire ron pi mal pase yon vye toupri,
Kote’n prale pi lwen pase kote’n soti.**

**Timoun ape mouri, granmoun ape kriye;
Tout bagay tèt anba, nan pwen bouch pou pale.
N’ape rele “Anmwe!” N’ap rele “O sekou!”.
Peyi’a kilbite! Ayiti anba kou!**

**Jou va, jou vyen, zanmi; n’ap toujou kenbe fèm;
Lesklavaj an premye, Delivrans an dezyèm.
Jodia n’ap kenbe avèk Pèseverans,
Pou nou pote byen wo drapo l’Endepandans.
Jodia se Pèseverans!**

*“We ran to get out of the rain, and fell in the river”.
We fought hard, Alas! “Washing our hands and wiping them dry
in the dirt”.
The enemies made plans with some of our own children,
So they could shove away our dignity.*

*Two hundred years have gone by since our Freedom.
The villains declared that this is all nonsense.
We’ve turned in circle worse than an old spin top,
Where we are going is farther than where we come from.*

*Children are dying, adults are crying;
Everything is upside down, we are at a loss of words.
We are yelling “Help!” We are screaming “Save us!”
Our country has collapsed! Haiti is getting battered!*

*Days come and go, my friend; we will always hold tight.
Slavery came first, our Freedom came second.
Today we keep going with Perseverance,
And put up with pride the flag of our Freedom.
Today we Persevere!*

-Gabriel T. Guillaume