

G on Jan Pou Ye – There’s a Way You Oughta Be

Haitian Creole (Kreyòl) – English Poetic Translation

G on jan pou ye.
Gen yon jan nou dwe ye.
Chak moun gen yon desten, chak moun gen yon chimen.
Chèche, chèche konnen ki bon chimen pou fè.

Nan koze lavi sa kote anpil bwè pwa,
Yon moun se veye zo w pou pa pri nan twa wa.
Ou te mèt anperè, ou te mèt lwijanboje,
Gen yon jan pou ye.
Gen yon jan nou dwe ye.

Lanati gen yon jan li regle tout bagay.
Si nou pa bliye sa, nou p ap tonbe nan tray.
Tout lapriyè gen amèn.
Tout boutèy gen bouchon.
Lalwa ak lajistis se remèd madichon.

Moun ki entelijan respekte règleman.
Moun ki pa vle danse pa dwe rantre nan won.
Bonte avèk sajès se de pi gwo richès.
Gen yon jan pou ye.
Gen yon jan nou dwe ye.

Menm jimo ki jimo pa genyen menm desten.
Chak moun gen yon desten, chak moun gen yon chimen.
Fò nou chèche konnen ki chimen nou dwe fè.
Genyen yon jan pou ye.
Gen yon jan nou dwe ye.

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There’s a way you oughta be.
There’s a way we must be.
We all have a destiny, we all have a path.
Seek and search for the right path to take.

In this thing called life where many are lost,
One must stay vigilant to avoid predicaments.
You may be a ruler, you may be arrogant,
There’s a way you oughta be.
There’s a way we must be.

Nature has a way of settling everything.
If we remember that, we won’t have turmoil.
All prayers have an amen.*
All bottles have a cap.*
Principles and justice are the remedies for trouble.

Those who are smart follow the rules.
Those who don’t want to dance don’t get in the circle.*
Kindness and wisdom are the best virtues.
There’s a way you oughta be.
There’s a way we must be.

Even identical twins don’t share the same fate.
We all have a destiny, we all have a path.
We must search for which path to take.
There’s a way you oughta be.
There’s a way we must be.

**Haitian proverbs*

The phrase “G on jan pou ye” has been a popular idiom in the Haitian community in recent years, similar to how “You do you” has become popular in the United States. Although the colloquial phrase is often used by someone who’s playfully boasting, or subtly “throwing shade”, the text offers a reflective take on that phrase, and the music keeps it witty.

As human beings, we are an essential part of nature where harmony and peace have made their home. We must maintain and improve this balance for the greater good of all. Regardless of our social position, each one of us is called to be our most authentic self – to be who we are at our deepest core. We must all seek to be true to ourselves and live our best life while allowing others to do the same.