

# GAGÒT

*Haitian Creole and French – English Poetic Translation*

**Depi maten m'leve m'ape monte desann,  
Mwen kouri toupatou tankou yon chyen ki fou.  
Mwen pale, mwen chante, mwen dòmi, mwen leve;  
Mwen priye, mwen rele, se gagòt sou gagòt.**

Since I rose this morning I've gone through ups and downs,  
Running around in circles like a crazy mad dog.  
I speak, I sing, I sleep, I rise;  
I pray, I scream, it's mess upon mess.

**Gagòt isit, gagòt lòtbò.  
Gagòt anwo, gagòt anba,  
Gagòt toupatou, se gagòt sou gagòt.**

It's a mess here, it's a mess there,  
A mess up, a mess down,  
Mess everywhere, it's mess upon mess.

**Gagòt nan lide mwen,  
Gagòt nan zak mwen yo,  
Gagòt nan paròl mwen,  
Gagòt nan vizyon mwen.**

Messy are my thoughts,  
Messy are my actions,  
Messy are my words,  
Messy is my vision.

**Tout bagay yo mele:  
Lapenn ak lajwa, ledout ak lafwa,  
Degoutans ak lespwa, lebyen avèk lemal.  
Tèt mwen vire, li vire,  
Tout bagay yo mele.  
Gad'on gagòt!**

Everything is entangled:  
Pain and joy, doubt and faith,  
Disgust and hope, good and evil.  
My head is spinning and spinning,  
Everything is entangled.  
What a mess!

**Maten apre maten, m'ap livre yon batay;  
Kontredans lavi-a rekòmanse chak jou.  
Mwen chante, mwen danse, Mwen rele: "Viv lavi!"  
Bridsokou sanzatan mwen tounen nan gagòt.**

Morning after morning, I fight a battle;  
The contredanse of life recommences daily.  
I sing, I dance, I yell: "Hooray!"  
Suddenly and swiftly I am back in a mess.

**Nan mitan gagòt sa mwen deside chèche,  
Chèche, chèche konnen, konnen sa k'ap pase.  
Mwen fouye, mwen mande, mwen fini pa trouve  
Jouk andedan kè mwen  
Solisyon gagòt sa:**

In the midst of this mess I decide to search,  
To search for an understanding to what is happening.  
I dig, I seek, and I finally find  
In the very depth of my heart  
The solution to this mess:

**La vie d'ici-bas est un combat de tout instant  
Que l'on ne peut gagner qu'un moment à la fois.**

Life before death is a battle of every instant  
That can not be won but one moment at a time.

**Apre lannuit se la jounen.  
Apre lapli solèy leve.  
Apre gagòt, apre gagòt... se kè poze.  
Se jefò nan soufrans ki pote delivrans.**

After the night comes the day.  
After the rain the sun rises.  
After messes, after messes... the heart settles.  
It's striving in suffering that brings redemption.

**Ah! Ainsi soit-il!**

Ah! So be it!

*-Gabriel T. Guillaume  
Oct. 2012*