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REQUIEM FOR RODNEY

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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!