

# Linton Kwesi Johnson, Reggae Fi Dada

galang dada  
galang gwwaan yaw sah  
yu nevvah ad noh life fi live  
jus di wan life fi give  
yu did yu time pan ert  
yu nevvah get yu jus dizert  
galang goh smile inna di sun  
galang goh satta inna di palace af peace  
o di waatah  
it soh deep  
di waatah  
it soh daak  
an it full a hawbah shaak  
di lan is like a rack  
slowly shattahrin to san  
sinkin in a sesa af calamity  
where fear breed shadows  
dat lurks in di daak  
where people fraid fi waak  
fraid fi tink fraid fi taak  
where di present is haunted by di pass  
a deh soh mi bawn  
get fi know bout staam  
learn fi cling to di dawn  
an wen mi hear mi daddy sick  
mi quickly pack an tek a trip  
mi nevvah have noh time  
when mi reach  
fi si noh sunny beach  
wen mi reach  
    jus people a live in shack  
    people livin back-to-back  
    mongst cackroach an rat  
    mongst dirt an dizeez  
subjek to terrorist attack  
political intrigue  
kanstant grief  
an noh sign af relief  
o di grass  
turn brown  
soh many trees  
cut down  
an di lan is ovahgrown  
fram country to toun  
is jus tissel an tawn  
inna di woun a di poor  
is a miracle ow dem endure  
di pain nite an day  
di stench af decay  
di clarin sights  
di guarded affluence  
di arrogant vices  
cole eyes af kantemp  
di mackin symbals af independence  
a deh soh mi bawn  
get fi know bout staam  
learn fi cling to di dawn  
an wen di news reach mi  
seh mi wan daddy ded  
mi ketch a plane quick  
    an wen mi reach mi sunny isle  
    it woz di same ole style  
    di money well dry  
    di bullits dem a fly

plenty innocent a die  
many rivahs run dry  
ganja planes flyin high  
di poor man im a try  
yu tink a lickle try im try  
holdin awn bye an bye  
wen a dallah cyaan buy  
a lickle dinnah fi a fly  
galang dada  
galang gwaan yaw sah  
yu nevvah ad noh life fi live  
jus di wan life fi give  
yu did yu time pan ert  
yu nevvah get yu jus dizert  
galang goh smile inna di sun  
galang goh satta inna di palace af peace  
mi know yu couldn't tek it dada  
di anguish an di pain  
di suffahrin di prablems di strain  
di strugglin in vain  
fi mek two ens meet  
soh dat dem pickney coulda get  
a lickle someting fi eat  
fi put cloaz pan dem back  
fi put shoes pan dem feet  
wen a dallah cyaan buy  
a lickle dinnah fi a fly  
mi know yu try dada  
yu fite a good fite  
but di dice dem did loaded  
an di card pack fix  
yet still yu reach fifty-six  
before yu lose yu leg wicket  
' a noh yu bawn grung here'  
soh wi bury yu a Stranger's Burying Groun  
near to mhum an cousin Daris  
nat far fram di quarry  
doun a August Town