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## 1865 Bruk-Up

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thud thud thud  
the endless dirge  
to wind the land  
to use thud  
shovel against rock  
thud thud  
gravel too marl  
to bed seed  
too salt  
to strengthen roots  
thud thud

paul was minding them business  
his mouth twisting how to frame  
them demands  
when the earth spoke  
*pick up de bible in yu right hand  
and them plan in yu left*

he was the studying  
the soil and scriptures  
but the wind kept talking to him  
*listen paul the voice said*

he wasn't ready to hear  
*bogle is you same one  
i and i begging  
you ear for a moment*  
the trees began to whistle

never enough food  
from way yonder  
them marching walking single file  
marching in groups striding  
machetes perched on their shoulders  
tip pointed backwards  
and is now he asking for guidance  
is now he take up  
their woes like wasp nest  
his same baptist church  
they come lean up against

he preacher he leader  
mouth full of words

*i know why it name  
stony gut  
no family can feed  
from the mawga ribs  
of a hillside  
the land hard  
like dry coconut  
that's what i go tell them*

45 miles to spanish town  
he trekked  
bogle stand like  
tall bamboo  
his words  
like lacatan banana  
that melt in the mouth  
but dem tun deaf ears  
he come back  
with a swollen tongue  
still same way

he petitioned  
400 strong with him  
them faces yellow yam  
them march to morant bay court house  
400 strong on october 11  
crying food water  
school for our children  
not even phlegm  
the soil can cough up  
but soldiers chase and beat them  
so dem bun it down  
right to the ground

now bogle in the thick of things  
and the voice still say  
*go on man press on*  
he minding them business  
and his friend

g w gordon  
chatting up for them too  
so dem hang him

bogle put down the bible  
and pick up de struggle in both hands

he wake one october morning  
with dry throat  
he did know and he didn't know  
not even when the rope caressed  
his neck

430 others with him  
soldiers slaughtered  
their frustrated anger  
caught in flames  
1000 homes burnt  
before them sorrow mek news

oh morant bay  
lawd paul bogle  
wow morant bay

thud  
thud  
thud

rock-stone drink blood