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CHILD AH DE BIG BANG FORWARD HOME

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—for Andre Tanker (2003)

De Friday before carnival
What ah time tuh fly away
Tuh look fuh another home
Andre, Boy, ah nevah get ah chance
Tuh tell yuh dat meh young brother
Did well like yuh song *Forward Home*
Ah wonder if he was singing
Dem words as he was floating face
Down in de foam @ Blanchiseuse
Ah went away
Ah leave an ah forward home
Ah forward to stay
Ah must see meh way

De Friday before carnival
Did de lady wid de head-wrap
Ring de bell up and down de street
Sing *sayamanda, sayamanda*
sayamanda an ring she bell
From pole to pole Toco to Sando
From lighthouse blues to crestle greens
Salt-fish buljol roast bake lavway
Ah soca chokha tuh carry
Yuh soul from Port-of-Spain
To Mesopotamia
Like a Wild Indian chant

De Friday before carnival
All de children getting ready
Fuh de Big Bang Jouvert Jab Jab
Ent see naked Ymoja chip
An ramachez tuh ah rapso
Wave song @ Manzanilla beach
How she call yuh in wind music
Like 3 Canal call yuh tuh practice
De Ben Lion kaiso riddum
How Ymoja rub yuh head wid oil
Whisper yuh is de fire earth
Water free now yuh'll see yuh way