



Against Oppression

Johnny Virgil

What do you think I write poetry for?
Ah, don't be foolish!
All technological apparatus
is useless against
wet poems, corrosive lines.
I write in water and fire,
for all elements join me
in my crusade.
I am able to turn gold into lead,
and what makes you rich and powerful,
and what makes you a killer and an exploiter,
and what makes you immoral as well as immortal,
is like a flickering candle.
Only words are everlasting.
And even if you burn my books,
even if you stop my heart from beating,
you cannot silence me.
Poetry lives in a collective soul.