

How did you end up here? Where do you come from?

I remember a place
Where I am cradled by the
Mountains
Rocked by the sea...

Mi memba a plies
We di mountin dem kriegl mi
We di sii rak mi in aar skort
Op di goli, pan tap a di hil
mi kyan si faar faar
Plenti chrii, plenti griin, plenti sii

Memba a plies
We dem nuo mi niem
Dem nuo mi mada, nuo mi faada
Nuo mi fambili
Mi a smadi

Mi nuo se mi kom fram wie bak
A Timboktuu dem kaal it?
Mi piipl dem chravl a Hiiijip
Riich bak uom,
A di mountin an di sii

Iz ou mi hen op ier?

Mi nuo se som a wi
De pan buot
Pak op pak op, stingk op stingk op
Kyaan briid
Bot wi riich

A wan plies dem kaal Jamieka
Nier di mountin, bai di sii
We dem
mek wi wok

I remember a place
Where I am cradled by the
Mountains
Rocked by the sea...

I remember a place
Where the mountains cradle me
Where the sea rocks me in her skirt
Up the gully, on top of the hill
As far as the eye can see
So many trees, so much greenery,
So much sea

Remember a place
Where people know my name
Know my mother, know my father,
Know my family
I am someone special

I know I come from a long way back
Timbuctoo, that's what they call it?
My people travelled to Egypt
Returned home
Back to the mountain
Back to the sea

How did I end up here?

I know some of us
Were on a boat
So packed, such a stench
We couldn't breathe
But we arrived

At a place they called Jamaica
Near the mountain, by the sea
Where they
Made us work

Brok wi bak
Tek wi uman
Kil wi pikni
Fi notn

Bot iz ou yu en op ier?

Mi nuo se mi kom fram faar faar
Mosi wan plies we niem Fraans
We dem fait.
Nier di mountin, bai di sii
Fait so bad, dem kaal dem
Espeute, fi suod.
Dem kaal dem Juu
Mek dem ron

Chravel faar faar
Riich klier a San Domingue
We dem
mek dem wok
Bruk dem bak
Tek dem uman
Kil dem pikni
Fi notn

Mais d'ou viens tu?

Ron klier a Virginia
Weh dem
Mek dem wok
Bruk dem bak
Tek dem uman
Kil dem pikni
Fi notn

Bot iz ou yu en op ier?

Broke our backs
Took our women
Killed our children
All for nothing

But how did you end up here?

I know I come from far away
Must be a place called France
Where they fought
Near the mountain, by the sea
Great fighters, they named them
Espeute, meaning swordsmen
Called them Jews
Till they ran

Travelled far
Arrived at last in St Domingue
Where they
Made them work
Broke their backs
Took their women
Killed their children
All for nothing

But where do you come from?

Ran all the way to Virginia
Where they
Made them work
Broke their backs
Took their women
Killed their children
All for nothing

But how did you end up here?

Mosi chruu wan plies we niem India
Nier di mountin, bai di sii
Dem bring wi bak
Fi wok
Til wi bak brok
Lef wi uman
Lef wi pikni
Fi likl ar notn

¿Pero, como llegaste aquí?

Ron we, beli onggrí
Go klier a Panama
Nier di mountin, bai di sii
Luk fi wok
Til mi bak brok
Dem tek mi uman
Kil mi pikni
Fi notn

Bot, a we yuu kom fram?

Mosi fram wan plies dem kaal
Skatlan. Plenti hil,
An di sii skort uova aar fiit
Nier di mountin, bai di sii
Iz ou yu gaan klier a Skatlan?
Iz ou yu en op dier?

Onggri beli
Kech buot, kom a Hingglan
Riich a Soutamton bai di sii
Riich a Landan. Bes suut
Fi luk wok
Til mi bak brok
Sen fi mi uman
Dem kil mi pikni
Fi notn

It must be via a place called India
Near the mountain, by the sea
They brought us back
To work
Till our backs broke
We left our women
Left our children
For little or nothing

But how did you end up here?

Ran away, starving hungry
All the way to Panama
Near the mountain, by the sea
Looked for work
Till my back broke
They took my woman
Killed my child
For no reason

But where did *you* come from?

It must be from a place called
Scotland, with many hills,
And the sea skirts over her feet
Near the mountain, by the sea
How did you get all the way up to
Scotland
How did you end up there?

Hungry tummies
Caught the boat, came to England
Arrived at Southampton by the sea
Arrived in London. Suited, booted
To look for work
Till my back broke
Sent for my woman
They killed my child
For no reason

Mi no si no sii.
Mi no si no mountin.
Grie so til.
Gaan bak uom.
We dem nuo mi niem,
Nuo mi fambili
Mi a smadi
Tek mi uman
Lef mi pikni
Dem aal rait

How did *you* end up here?
O le wyt t'in dod?

Pikni riich a Naat Wales
I've come a long way baby
Back to the mountains,
back to the sea
Back home, to
Luxe, calme, et volupté

Homage to my parents
Alvin and Mary West

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Jamaican written in Jamaican Cassidy-JLU
(Jamaican Language Unit Writing System)
Translated to Standard English
By Audrey West

I saw no sea
I saw no mountains
Everything grey as can be
I returned home
Where they know my name
Know my family
I'm someone special
I took my woman
Left my children
They are all right

How did *you* end up here?
Where do you come from?

This child has arrived in North Wales
I've come a long way baby
Back to the mountains
Back to the sea
Back home, to
Luxe, calme et volupté