

XXII

SUCH IS MY LIFE

My duties walk with my song.
I am I am not: this is who I am.
I am not if I don't try to ease the sorrows
of those who suffer: they are my sorrows.
I am not unless I am for all,
for all the silenced and exploited.
I come from the people and I sing for the people.
My poetry is a song and a scourge.
They say to me: you belong to the darkness.
Perhaps, perhaps so, but I'm walking toward the light.
I am a man of bread and fish
you won't find me among books,
but with women and men:
it is they who have taught me the infinite.