

My Back Pages

Magokoro Brothers

Crimson flames tied through my ears
 Rollin' high and mighty traps
Pounced with fire on flaming roads
 Using ideas as my maps
"We'll meet on edges, soon," said I
 Proud 'neath heated brow.
Ah, but I was so much older then,
I'm younger than that now.Half-wracked prejudice leaped forth
 "Rip down all hate," I screamed
 Lies that life is black and white
Spoke from my skull. I dreamed
 Romantic facts of musketeers
 Foundationed deep, somehow.
Ah, but I was so much older then,
I'm younger than that now.Girls' faces formed the forward path
 From phony jealousy
 To memorizing politics
 Of ancient history
Flung down by corpse evangelists
 Unthought of, though, somehow.
Ah, but I was so much older then,
I'm younger than that now.A self-ordained professor's tongue
 Too serious to fool
 Spouted out that liberty
 Is just equality in school
 "Equality," I spoke the word
 As if a wedding vow.
Ah, but I was so much older then,
I'm younger than that now.In a soldier's stance, I aimed my hand
 At the mongrel dogs who teach
Fearing not that I'd become my enemy
 In the instant that I preach
My pathway led by confusion boats
 Mutiny from stern to bow.
Ah, but I was so much older then,
I'm younger than that now.Yes, my guard stood hard when abstract threats
 Too noble to neglect
 Deceived me into thinking
 I had something to protect

Good and bad, I define these terms
Quite clear, no doubt, somehow.
Ah, but I was so much older then,
I'm younger than that now.

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