Time Is An Ocean

Paul Simon

I speak to you in Jesus' name
As Jesus speaks through me
The evil we do can't be blamed
Upon our destiny
I have walked through the
Valley of death-row to the shore
I have stumbled through silvery water
To my Savior, my Salvador
It took me four years to learn
I was in prison, not in church
And two more to begin
The book of my soul's search
Time is an ocean of endless tears
A wild boy from the streets of El Barrio
The orphan from the hills of Mayag ez
And when I wrote my story
The words flew from the page
And my soul in solitary
Escaped its iron cage
Time is an ocean of endless tears
Mama, I got your letter today
The next time that you write
I'll be transferred far away
I'm leaving Greenhaven's
Towers of stone
Where the Latin population
Will soon be minus one
Time is an ocean of endless tears
I know how hard it's been
For you these many years
You say the Aguinaldo
Makes you dream of home
Where once we strolled
The beach at El Malecon
Go back, don't you worry
I am your grown up son
The politics of prison
Are a mirror of the street
The poor endure oppression

The police control the state
Correctional of facility
That's what they call this place
But look around and you will see
The politics of race
A forest and a prison
Where the snow and guards are white
If you want to keep your sanity
You'll teach yourself to write
You were a child of sixteen
With a twelve year old mind
You came here numb and battered
By the streets I left behind
I'll take the evil in me
And turn it into good
Though all your institutions
Never thought I could
So, now I'll turn to say goodbye
I'll keep your image in my eye
I turn around to say goodbye
I'll keep your image with me till the day I die
Time is an ocean of endless tears

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