

## **Cockburn Bruce**

### **"Maybe The Poet 453"**

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maybe the poet is gay  
but he'll be heard anyway

maybe the poet is drugged  
but he won't stay under the rug

maybe the voice of the spirit  
in which case you'd better hear it

maybe he's a woman  
who can touch you where you're human

male female slave or free  
peaceful or disorderly  
maybe you and he will not agree  
but you need him to show you new ways to see

don't let the system fool you  
all it wants to do is rule you  
pay attention to the poet  
you need him and you know it

put him up against the wall  
shoot him up with pentothal

shoot him up with lead  
you won't call back what's been said  
put him in the ground  
but one day you'll look around

there'll be a face you don't know  
voicing thoughts you've heard before

male female slave or free  
peaceful or disorderly  
maybe you and he will not agree  
but you need him to show you new ways to see

don't let the system fool you  
all it wants to do is rule you  
pay attention to the poet

you need him and you know it

(TORONTO JANUARY 1982

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