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poem

Easy Listening

Dino Campana

I seek no peace, and cannot stand war
I dream my way around the world, quiet and alone
Brimming with muted songs. I long
For the fog and silence of a great port.

A great port crowded with light sails
Ready to leave towards the blue horizon
Wavering softly as the whispering wind rises
And sings its brief chords on its way.

And those chords are carried by the wind
Far away over the unknown sea
– I'm dreaming. Life is sad and I'm alone

When, when will my soul awaken in the sun
Shivering with freedom in a morning bright with fire
Awaken in the sun, the eternal sun.

This poem is from Dino Campana's (1885–1932) *Selected Works*, translated by Cristina Viti and published by Survivors' Poetry in 2006. Dino Campana was admitted to San Salvi, an asylum in Florence at the age of 32 years and transferred to Castel Pulci, a place designated for those regarded as incurable in April 1918 where he remained until his death.

Chosen by Femi Oyeboode.

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