

Homenaje al Reverendo (in his own words)

for Pedro Pietri

En la iglesia de La Madre de los Tomates
in El Barrio del Espiritu Republic
somewhere inside the nearest telephone booth
El Reverendo told us that blue was never really blue
and pink was never really pink
You say you know what time it is
but it does not matter what you think
The ship has left without you while you waited on the shore
The party already started while you stood outside the door
To get drunk you have to drink, nobody cares at all what you think
To see what is going on you have to close your eyes
To know the meaning of life you have to look into your hands
Blue was never really blue. Somebody was fooling you
riding uptown on the downtown train
pink was never really pink
Who will want you when you are old and gray?
Who will want you when your breath stinks?
To get drunk you have to drink
To know what is going on, it does not matter what you think

El viejo San Juan raised the price of pan
Now no one in Manhattan can eat
They promised you a dream but it was just a scheme
and those cheap shoes are seriously hurting your feet
You are depressed. You are depraved
You are ready to propose to the grave

when suicide is what you crave
but to get drunk you have to drink
You always knew that pink wasn't really all that pink
and no one was really fooling you
going down on the uptown train
on your way to see your equal opportunity employer
who wants you to report to work today
and every other day on time, never late, never sick
But you are feeling too good today to arrive
and go back up on the downtown train
If you are sick tomorrow
you will go down on the uptown train again
and show up early

El Reverendo knew what was hidden and what was fake
and didn't just happily eat whatever was served on the plate
He taught us how to see beyond the ridiculous and absurd
to laugh at our foolish ways no matter what we heard
He was a lover of life and the theater of words
And still talks to our hearts from inside another world
Blue was never really blue
Pink was never really pink
Somebody was definitely fooling you
Free your mind and the way you think.