



-- Sandy

APOLITICAL INTELLECTUALS

One day
 the apolitical
 intellectuals
 of my country
 will be interrogated
 by the simplest
 of our people.

They will be asked
 what they did
 when their nation died out
 slowly
 like a sweet fire
 small and alone.

No one will ask them
 about their dress,
 their long siestas
 after lunch
 no one will want to know
 about their sterile combats
 with "the idea
 of the nothing."
 No one will care about
 their higher financial learning.
 They won't be questioned
 on Greek mythology
 or regarding their self-disgust

when someone within them
 begins to die
 the coward's death.

They'll be asked nothing
 about their absurd
 justifications
 born in the shadow
 of the total lie.

On that day
 the simple folk will come,
 those who had no place
 in the books and poems
 of the apolitical intellectuals,
 but daily delivered
 their bread and milk,
 their tortillas and eggs,
 those who mended their clothes,
 those who drove their cars,
 who cared for their dogs and gardens
 and worked for them

And they'll ask:
 "What did you do when the poor
 suffered, when tenderness
 and life
 burned out in them?"

--from Otto Rene Castillo