

# Two Religions

*by Roque Dalton*

When revolution is outlined on the horizon  
the old cauldron of religions gets stirred up.

In normal times  
religion meant going to Mass  
paying tithes for God's house  
baptizing children  
and confessing sins to keep one's account in order.

When revolution is outlined on the horizon  
churches remember the masses  
and come down from the clouds and mysteries  
and Sunday tranquility.

Fat pastors speak of the end of the world  
when what's approaching is the end of exploitation;  
hysteric prophets speak of deciding between Good and Evil  
when the people need to decide  
against oppression and hunger.

When social revolution begins to unfurl its flags  
the heirs of those who crucified Christ  
tell us Christ is the only hope  
precisely because he waits for us  
there in his kingdom, that is not of this world.

This is the religion pointed to by Marx  
as "the opium of the people"  
since in that form it's more a drug for confusing the heads of men  
and hindering them from finding their calling in the social struggle.

But Camilo Torres, among others,  
has told us there is a positive religion too  
that surges from the soul of revolution  
by way of poems and songs,  
and that one risks one's life in this world  
and not after death.  
In this religion men who serve are  
(like true communists)  
the salt of the earth.