Titre et date / Title and date: Beggar – London (Waterloo station) 29/05/2001

Extrait de / Extract from: English texts (2001 - 2004)

I'll give you ten pounds for the story of your life,
I said to the guy in the woolen cap, begging loudly,
halfway down the stairs leading down and down
to the gents' lavatory out there at the train station.

I don't want to sell you my life he said,
and his face was gray, and his hands were trembling.

My life is all I have left he said,
reclining on the badly swept stairs, leading down and down
to the gents' lavatory back there at the train station.

My life is not worth a penny he said,
and his eyes were dull, and his odor was rank
and he pulled back his woolen cap down to his eyes,
and he said no more.

So I left the guy in his woolen cap,
begging silently and with trembling hands,
and I walked back up the stairs that were leading down and down
to the gents' lavatory out there at the train station.