

Bread and roses

(James Oppenheim, 1912)

As we go marching, marching in the beauty
of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill
lofts gray,
Are touched with all the radiance that a
sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing: "Bread and
roses! Bread and roses!"

As we go marching, marching, we battle too
for men,
For they are women's children, and we mother
them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth
until life closes;
Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us
bread, but give us roses!

As we go marching, marching, unnumbered
women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient
cry for bread.
Small art and love and beauty their drudging
spirits knew.
Yes, it is bread we fight for -- but we fight
for roses, too!

As we go marching, marching, we bring the
greater days.
The rising of the women means the rising of
the race.
No more the drudge and idler -- ten that toil
where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and
roses! Bread and roses!

Una canzone sullo sciopero delle operaie tessili a Lawrence, Massachusetts, nel 1912. Fu musicata inizialmente da Martha Coleman o Caroline Kohlsaar, ma la versione più nota è quella musicata da Mimi Baez Fariña, sorella minore di Johan Baez nel 1974.