If We Must Die

Claude McKay (1889-1948)

If we must die, let it
not be like hogs, hunted and penned in an infamious spot,
us noble die, so that our precious blood may not be shed,

while round us bark the mad and hungry dogs, mak-ing their mock at our ac-
in vain; then even the monsters we defy shall be con-strained to hon-or

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1. curs-ed lot, us though dead!

2. O kins-men!

we must meet the common foe! Though far out-num-bered, let us show brave, and for their thou-sand blows, one death-blow! What though be-
If We Must Die

fore us_ lies the open grave?

If we must die... __ Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,

pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back! If we must die, let it

not be like hogs... If we must die... nobly die!

circa 1' 55"