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CHAPTER 43

And now you find yourself with your own friends dying...

We got to know each other at Sunday school as kids. Later we both joined Avanguardia Operaia. There was love, but there was also the idea of being able to win the world with love ... I mean... in Church they always talk of giving your life for mankind, sharing everything you have etc... and this is how it's turned out. He decided to go and work at FIAT. He was an engineering student then. We used to see each other at AO meetings. Then, the day he was supposed to go for his military service, he went into clandestinity: he set off, but he never arrived...

I've got his letters, his poems ... He was a person who always went the whole way on things, and this time, with this choice, he's gone the whole way. And what worries me now is the funeral. I'm sure that there's a lot of people who know him, but a lot of them will be too scared to go to his funeral. It's important that they go – not just 4 or 5 people... I heard the news, how they were killed, on the radio yesterday... I heard the word "FIAT" and I knew it was him... But to have gunned them down in cold blood like that... in their underwear, without a chance. I knew, given his choice, that as time went by it was less and less likely that he's get out alive.

I remember when I was 16, I had all sorts of fantasies – about the struggle, about the partisans, and all that. I used to think about the human thing that they lived, with their dead and their dead friends... And now you find yourself with your own friends dying, and all Italy applauding their execution: "Bravo, you've killed them!" But they forget that something lies behind it all... there's something behind these Red Brigades etc, these people who've had so much crap heaped on them. Phone the people in Turin, go to the Paint Shop at FIAT-Mirafiori – they know who he is, and they'll tell you...

[Translated from *Lotta Continua*, 2 April 1980]

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