

**Byron Dowman**  
**Growing up with Racism**

“I used to have a little trouble because you know, “Blackie, Blackie”. As they look on me, “hey, hey chombo!” Chombo, and some times you in wrong mood and dying to ring they bell ding dong, ding dong, ding dong, but then I, about a year after, I presume *[inaudible]* doesn’t make, that, that doesn’t hurt you, them call you chombo bwoy you call dem *panya* bwoy. That was saying, what my mother and father used to say. They used to give us *[inaudible]* Dem call you *panya*, whenever them call you chombo, you tell them seh dem is a *panya [inaudible]*.....All dem kind of foolin. Them days was stupid but dem days, from then you would fight, fight, fight, fight. From I burst his mout him don’t fight. Tomorrow is another day and you continue and so forth. But nobody pick up a weapon or knife or some days, you don’t see that.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

**Byron Dowman**  
**Mr. Dowman Sings – The Mighty Sparrow**

[Sings]

*“Da da da da da, da di di din do di do []*

*Whoa, whoa, whoa, lan da da di din da di di doo, long leg an’ []*

*I fell in love in January, got married in February*

*From the middle of March up on me, I left mi wife and went away,*

*Coming back home to spend mi honeymoon, I receive a letter in June, it was,*

*Dear Sparrow, Darling I hate to write,*

*Do my dear oh darling do, not fear, for the child is yours, christening is soon,*

*When the time come I’m going to invite Uncle Joe []”*

That was the ah competition ’cause the woman was, the man own neighbour then and then the Sparrow used to go, but he say “but how you mean, this no favour me, she doan favour nuttin’ like me.” Them is the song that people used to love. I don’t even remember number of them.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

[] = INAUDIBLE

**Byron Dowman**  
**Mr. Dowman Sings**

“*[Sings] Pitch it up and bat it up, pat it up and rub it up. De de bee dee. Pitch it up and bat it up, pat it up and rub it up [] In the morning you wake it up, and in the evening you rake it up, if yu worm down and bathe her up, night time bwoy yu juck it up [], and those were, that’s one, that’s one [] But I tell you, we used to have nice days. Nice. Guitar, I have a lickle guitar there, it have, it have more licks than anything else [makes guitar noises] Them was days, them very nice pleasant days. Them days gone forever. They, the other calypso does say [sings] “Dem days gone forever”*

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

[] = INAUDIBLE

**Byron Dowman**  
**Mr. Dowman's Mother**

“I, I, I was wrongly blamed, [] say anybody that smoke, that ah sing calypso does smoke ganja. No, no, no, no, no. No, no, no. One day my mother, I don’t know who did talk to her but she, when she came inside she siddung for a while in the chair, in her rocking chair. She come from work. She send and call me because I always down the road playing ball. [] so, the street I go [] My mother say “Come here to me, siddung, young man. Sit down there!!” *Esto no me va bien*. From the time I hear “Come here to me young man, sit down there” nuttin good coming. She goin’ whip you every day. Only say you remember dis and you remember de other, thing *malenke* [] Sometime [] Jamaican like her, them grow together in Jamaica.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

[] = INAUDIBLE

**Byron Dowman**  
**Mr. Dowman's Musical Career**

“And the I learned the mmm calypso. I had a, they loaned me a, a ukulele and I just *brag a dee brack dam brag a ding* sometime I don't even know what beat I'm [] [*laughs*] but I learn, I learn how to do it, the ukulele [] I didn't go too far with it because it used to blisten my fingers heavy [] but the ukulele, oh, oh! [] They used to ask, “Hey lickle Byron, send for that. Come 'ere. W'appen? What that kind of song you was singing about? That time [] [*sings in broken language*] and this one go “*Lawd, mi seh...*” But I never makin' this song or create it. It wasn't that I create, song with that broken language. I just didn't like, not because I might have been different or so forth [] got along with English, Spanish, French, Patois. Anybody from around [] always.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

[] = INAUDIBLE

**Byron Dowman**  
**Musical Instruments**

“Sparrow, Sparrow, have a new record, Byron run it five minutes after. I had a ukulele with three strings, no more, three strings for that one. But I could never get some more money to buy a next. But anyway I used to [] then a man gave me a guitar. I didn’t know how to play the guitar because I got too much string for me.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

[] = INAUDIBLE

**Byron Dowman**  
**The Hotel Plaza in Colón**

“Hotel Plaza, I think it’s still there right? [] was one of the most important hotel in Colón [] in front of Wilcott building, that area near [] Wilcott building, that big stone, concrete building, if you cut down by the church go back to [] you still have a big, big, big, big building area that [] by the church, the Catholic church in the street, and then far away is where the, the church ends [] and then the big building I’m telling you about take up the rest and cut into, ah, nine street []”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

[] = INAUDIBLE

Byron Dowman  
The Mighty Sparrow

*“Yo ere cantador y estuve con el Sr. Sparrow. “El Mighty Sparrow”. Ok, a mí me gustaba todas las fiestas y el estilo de, de las piezas y todo eso, y yo cantaba todo lo que esa, es la sien”*

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*



Byron Dowman  
The Term "Chombo" I

“Well it never usually was no problem to me, like, some, same like, same way like when they call us ‘chombo’. Them days them were [*inaudible*] but now, they don’t call me chombo. (*Laughs*) That time they call me chombo and this and that. That, that bout 70,000 years it, it working now. Because dem days gone forever. Forever.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

Byron Dowman  
The Term "Chombo" II

**Dowman:** "...*una sola nación, un solo nódulo*" When last you hear the word *chombo*? You hear, when you hear, um, a woman call her boy, them no call me *chombo*, you don't hear *chombo el carao*, even sometimes when dem violent dem, dem know, dem had known dem words dem days, violent, them *chombo el carao*, you don't hear *chombo*, you hear *negro, negro el carao [inaudible]*. But dem put di *negro*. Is a deadlock.

**Interviewer:** Hmm.

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

Byron Dowman  
West Indian Cooking

“The cooking never die. The system of cooking today is not like when they ah, the Jamaican was here. It’s not the same because they don’t have any Jamaican now to do it. Jamaicans or Barbadians. They learn it and today everything is modern. They modernize it, in, even the food and the taste and everything, they change her up. Everything.”

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE\*\*\*\*\*

**Byron Dowman**  
**West Indian Heritage**

“Well, we come from, we are West Indians and then we bring our system (our style and cooking and everything you know) to the Latin.”

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