

"It is easier to die for the woman one loves than to live with her" **Lord Byron** THIS COLLECTION OF POEMS IS DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORTERS OF MY WORK AND, ESPECIALLY, TO MY TEACHERS, ABBOT GERASIMOS AND ZESES ECONOMOU, AS WELL AS TO NICK THE MULE, JOHNNY OF THE EAST, CHARDALOUMBAS OF ANAVRYTA, GIANNAKAS OF MISSES DINA, XENIA, OUR LITTLE XENIA (KSENAKI), WHO MAY HAVE FANCIED A CARRERA, BUT SHE WAS KILLED ON A BEETLE, TO POETESS MARGARITA, TO TAKIS DERVENIS AND TO CAPTAIN MICHAEL.

> We, the heroes of men, Will win our wildest battles when we are dead. From "HEPHAESTION"

IF YOU'VE FIXED YOUR HEART AS A COMPASS ON THE BRIDGE OF YOUR SHIP AFTER KEEPING AND NOT LOSING IT THROUGH THEFT, THEN, MY FRIEND YOU'D BETTER NEITHER EXPECT OLD, LAZY RIVERS NOR CELESTIAL HEAVENS.

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WEEP THEE NOT FOR THE LOST YEARS FOR THE DEPARTED LOVES FOR THE JOYS THAT COULD HAVE COME FOR COMRADESHIPS THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN FOR THE FLASHES OF CARELESSNESS SINCE THEY DIDN'T ASK BEFORE COMING BUT THINK OF AND CARE FOR WHAT'S STILL TO COME, WISHING THAT IT'LL BE GREAT.

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WHEN JUSTICE SURGES OUT LIKE LAVA FROM THE HEART OF YOUR HEARTS, THEN, GUIDE AND FIGHT WITH ALL YOUR BEING

SCORNFUL LAUGHTER AND THE QUASI PROPER DEAD.

NEVER COUNT THEM FOR THEY ARE POWERLESS BEFORE YOU

YOU CAME TO MY LIFE AND SO DID YOUR GREAT LOVE YOU SUDDENLY CAME TO REMIND ME THAT JOY AND SORROW FAIL TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR **BEFORE ENTERING YOU.** YOU CAME NOISELESSLY TO ME. YET, THE SECRET SPARKLES **OF OUR HEARTS' BIRDS** SHIMMERED IN YOUR EYES **DESPITE WANTING THAT NOTHING BE SEEN** DESPITE WANTING, BY SECRETLY LOVING, TO SUFFER LESS FROM THE BLOW OF LOSS. AS YOU THOUGHT AND I, HANGING FROM YOUR SWEET EYELIDS FOR COUNTLESS DAYS, WERE LEARNING ABOUT LOVE.

To Annie, my great love.

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WHEN PEOPLE YOU HAD GREATLY BENEFITED DENY YOU AT THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS OF YOUR LIFE AND YOU CLOSE YOU DOOR TO THEM LIKEWISE, THEN, LOOK AT TRUTH STRAIGHT IN THE EYES WITH A TIGHTENED HEART AND FIRMLY-CLOSED LIPS AND IF YOU SEE THAT YOUR MISTAKES **ARE COUNTED IN THEIR THOUSANDS AND YOURS IS** A HELPLESS COMPANION LIKE YOU YOURSELF, YOU SHOULD ADMIT THAT YOU'D WISH YOU LOVED SOME OTHER, PERHAPS, MORE HANDSOME, PERHAPS WITTIER BUT, ANYHOW. **UNTRUTHFUL PEOPLE** IF YOU WANT TO LOVE **IF YOU WANT TO SUFFER** IF YOU WANT TO LIVE AND, THEN, SEE THAT EVERYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES **IS IN THE WAITING WITHIN SOME OTHER PEOPLE** AND BEND AND PICK IT UP.

EH, WELL, YES! THE POPLAR TREE BENT TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER. IT WASN'T ONLY THE RELENTLESS UNDERMINING POWER OF THE TRANSPARENT WATER ON THE BANK; ALSO THE NORTHERLY WINDS DID CONTRIBUTE TO IT SOMEHOW.

BUT IT IS THE ROOTS THAT HOLD IT EVEN MORE STRONGLY NOW.

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WELL, IT'S NICE THAT HERE WE ARE THE TWO OF US TODAY, YOU AND I, WITHOUT A MIRROR. WE TWO ARE ONE LIKE TWO PIECES OF INCANDESCENT IRON, WELDED INTO ONE AFTER THOUSANDS OF STROKES. HOWEVER, NOT EVEN A SINGLE LINE WILL, ANY LONGER, SEPARATE US TODAY.

8

WHAT A COMMOTION, THE CHILD GOT INJURED!!! HE WAS SCRATCHEDON HIS KNEE. WHAT A GREAT UNHAPPINESS! ALSO THE DOG WOULD SNEEZE AND WE'VE RUN SHORT OF ASPIRINS FOR DOGS. I'M VERY SORRY! I DON'T BREATHE THE FRESHNESS OF THE FLOWER I WAS NEXT TO. I'M NOT SO SURE IF IT'S REAL OR ARTIFICIAL.

FOR ONLY ONE THING I'M SURE OF: THAT THIS AND THAT AND THE OTHER WITH SWINGING LEAVES FROM THE GOLDEN POPLARS REMIND OF AUTUMN. THE PILES ON THE RIVER BANKS ARE AS TALL AS HILLS THE SAME AS THEY WERE LAST YEAR AND ALSO QUITE THE SAME THEY'LL BE DURING THE COMING AUTUMN.

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I'M WRITING YOU SO THAT YOU'LL HAVE A TASTE OF OUR CHAINS. DON'T BE TAKEN ABACK THEN; I KNOW SOMEONE WHO HUNKERS FOR A FRIENDLY WORD.

WHILST A WOMAN OPPOSITE ENDLESSLY CURSES ME BECAUSE, SHE SAYS, I'M INDIFFERENT.

THOSE WHO VOWED FOR THEIR TRANSFORMATION **INTRUDED MY PRIVACY AGAIN** AND, HAVING ACCEPTED THE RIGHTS OF THE FLOCK ALONG WITH THE OBLIGATIONS OF COURSE. **INTRUDED** ANEW, ASKING FOR MERCY FROM ME, THE LOST SHEEP. HE STANDS UNFAMILIARLY **ON A HILL** STREWN WITH FLOWERS. THOUSANDS OF SUNS AND MOONS SHINE ON HIS FACE. **HIS GLANCE REFLECTS** THE STRENGTH OF ALL HISTORY'S **EAGLES TOGETHER.** HIS HANDS WILL PAINT THE SKIES WITH MUSIC SCORES AND. IF THEY SO WISH. THEY CAN SMASH GRANITE. THE BEAUTY OF THE DAWN **IS PICTURED ON** HIS FOREHEAD. **HIS SMILE REFLECTS ALL MOTHERS' LOVE** AND SHOULD HE TALK TO YOU, NOT THAT HE NEEDS IT VERY MUCH SINCE A VEHEMENT STREAM WILL SURGE OUT OF HIS EYES. **IT'S THEN WHEN YOU'LL FEEL** THE FIRST BREATH OF YOUR BIRTH.

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AND EVEN IF YOU'RE HURT BY THE HARDSHIPS OF LIFE AND EVEN IF WILD HURRICANES WILL CHILL UP YOUR SOUL, YOU ARE NEVER TO FORGET THAT YOU, AT ALWAYS THE RIGHT MOMENT, ARE A FOUNTAIN POURING ITS OWN WATER IN HISTORY'S WATERMILL.

To Angela Davis

WE SALUTE YOU OH, SUN AND RAISE OUR SONGS SO THAT THEY'LL JOIN THE UNIVERSAL **INFINITE CHOIR OF YOUR SONGS** AND OF THE MOON'S, OUR NEIGHBOUR'S, AND OF OUR COSMOS'S GALAXIES, WHERE COUNTLESS HUMAN VOICES SOUND FROM. WE ARE THE TORCH BEARERS **OF YOUR FIRE.** WE BURN ALL DARKNESS TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT, **SUBMERGING** THE ETERNALLY **RENEWED TIP OF BOLDNESS** INTO IGNORANCE.

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BEHOLD MY BODY TRAVELLING IN THE INFINITE SPACE OVER THE GRAIN CALLED EARTH. BEHOLD MY GLANCE, STOPPED ON FOUR WALLS. BEHOLD MY SPIRIT, IMPRISONED BY IGNORANCE AND VICE.

BEHOLD MY SPIRIT, A DIAMOND DROP OF THIS ENDLESS RIVER CALLED MAN. BEHOLD MY GLANCE, WATCHING WITH ASSURANCE THE ARMIES OF THE CHILDREN WHO WILL RULE THEMSELVES. BEHOLD MY SPIRIT, EMBRACING THE OUTER SPACE AND OUR COSMOS WITH LOVE. 7

AND AT THIS POINT OF OUR BODY WE CALL AS PLANET EARTH, I CREATE MY THOUGHT. BECAUSE I DESIRE ALSO HERE TO FREE MY BEAUTY CONSCIENTIOUSLY.... THEREFORE, GO AHEAD MY COMRADES NOW THAT WE FEEL OUR OMNIPOTENCE. NOW THAT WE FEEL, THROUGH OUR THOUGHT. OUR ENTIRE COSMOS BE TOUCHED

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BY THE SOUNDS OUR DEPARTED **COMRADE DESIRES AND** AT THE BEAT MY FRIEND WHO'S TO BE BORN DEMANDS, I'LL SING HYMNS **TO THE RESURRECTION OF MOTHER NATURE'S THOUGHT** WHO WAS COVERED BY A GRAVE STONE **OF PROPERTY IN OUR HOUSE** A FEW THOUSAND CENTURIES AGO. IT'S AN INSTANT, **BEAUTIFUL** GAME IN OUR INFINITE COURSE THROUGH TIME **OH, YOU GALAXIES, MY BROTHERS!**

WELL THE MOMENT HAS COME AND IT'S HERE WHERE I'LL DRAW MY THOUGHT WITH MY OWN HAND ON A SHEET OF PAPER, THAT I ENVISAGE YOUR BODY THROUGH THESE PRECIOUS EYES MIRRORING MY COURSE, I FEEL NOW THROUGH MY DEAR BABY

MOTHER NATURE, DISTINGUISH THIS VERY INFANT, WHO'S FEELING NOW WHAT **BEING DETACHED** FROM MY WOMB, GROANING WITH PAIN, KNOWING ONLY SOME OF ITS WAY, **GROPING IN THE HALF-DARKNESS** OF HIS MIND MEANS, FROM ALL MY CHILDREN. AND HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS WHEN IT SHINES IN ITS WEAKNESS, **ACCUSING ITS OWN SELF** -HOW MUCH OF A CHILD IT IS!-**BECAUSE IT IS AN INFANT.** MIXED IN IT, THERE IS AN OLD, DARK AND BRAND NEW THING THAT STILL HASN'T FOUND THE WORD TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF "MOTHER". AS SIMPLY AS IT SHOULD.

THEREFORE, IT'S YOU MY DEAR,

YES, IT'S YOU THAT I ENDOW WITH MY SPIRIT.

AND ALL THE OMNIPOTENT AND THE ALL-WISE SECRETS ARE YOURS MY BABY.

THE GREAT MYSTERY NATURE HIDES WAS ALL ULYSSESES' QUESTION

NAVIGATION ACROSS DARK, UNKNOWN OCEANS, THEY WOULD GIVE HER THE KISS OF DEATH BECAUSE THEY WOULD SEE THE PRICE OF THIS ANSWER IN ITS EYES.

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AND NATURE WOULD ALWAYS HONOUR THEM WITH TWO WORDS THAT WERE AS DEEP AS ITS SUBSTANCE, ENORMOUS AS ITS ENDLESS PRESENCE AND BEAUTIFUL AS IT PROGRESS FOR EVER AND FOR EVER: GO AHEAD!

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SO, MY FRIEND, FLYING OVER OUR NEGATIONS, WE'LL EMBRACE EACH OTHER, FEELING, DEEPLY IN OUR HEARTS, HOW MUCH ETERNAL WE ARE.

MY DEAR FRIEND. YOU, THE PRINCE AND HERMIT, HOW LOUDLY I HEAR YOU TALK TO ME AS IF MY HEART, INVULNERABLE FROM THE DECAY OF OLD AGE, DASHES TO HUG YOURS, CHANTING THE ETERNAL HYMN OF MOTHER NATURE: "GO AHEAD! "GO AHEAD!

"GO AHEAD! TO HUG YOUR BROTHERS, SO THAT I'LL HAVE YOU RESURRECTED "GO AHEAD! AS ONLY IN THIS WAY AM I ALSO RESURRECTED. **MOTHER NATURE** ASKED ME TODAY **ABOUT THE BIG LIE** SERPENTS HAD CONCOCTED AND I ANSWERED THAT, WHEN HER CHILDREN **DESTINED TO CARRY** HER SPIRIT FOR EVER AND EVER **CLAIMED PROPERTY RIGHTS** ON HER, SHE PASSED THEM THROUGH THE PURGATORY OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE AND SHE TOLD ME NOT TO BABBLE ABOUT WELL-KNOWN THINGS. AND L. WITH ALL THE METTLE GIFTED **TO HER CHILDREN WHO CAN ENVISAGE HER BODY** THROUGH THEIRS, SAID TO HER SIMPLY AS ONE DOES TO ONE'S EQUAL THAT I KNEW IT. AND THEN, WE SOLILOQUISED TOGETHER, **"THE BIG LIE** SERPENTS CONCOCTED **DURING** THEIR LATENT, COMPULSORY EXISTENCE WAS THAT THOSE WHO KNOW ABOUT AND LOVE THEIR SUBSTANCE WOULD NEVER LOVE LIFE WILDLY, AND, THEN, SHE TOLD ME TO GO ON. AS SHE LIKED HEARING OTHERS NARRATE HER BEAUTY IN DETAIL, AND I RETORTED THAT'D SPEAK IN THE NAME OF ALL MY COMRADES WE WORSHIPED HER THOUGHT

IN OUR BODY AND THAT WERE I TO WORSHIP WOMAN SINCE SHE HAD BORN IT SO THAT IT WOULD TOUCH IN THIS COMMANDMENT, I WAS SURE I WOULDN'T PUT HER TO SHAME.

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YOU WERE THE SALUTATION OF LIFE. WELL, LET'S THE TWO OF US MARCH ON. THE CRASHING ROCKS OPEN FOR US NOW AND I SPEAK FIRST TO THE SPHINX, WHO MADE THE GREAT QUESTION TO US, - 'WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR MATE?' - 'TO LOOK IN HER EYES AND SEE ENTIRE LIFE'. AND, PRESENTLY, THE SMILE **SCRUTINISING THE DECISION IS REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES** - 'AND WHAT'S THE EXCHANGE FOR THIS?' - 'THE HONOUR I OWE TO WOMAN **AND THE RESONANCE** OF THE CRASHING STONE. THEN, SHE GIVES THE ORDER, - 'GO AHEAD! AND AS **OUR HANDS ARE JOINED,** I FEEL THE SPHINX LIKE THE SEA **LIKE LOVE**

To Geada, who offered me dreamy Christmas in Munich.

IT IS REALLY ABSURD AND FUNNY THAT ANTHROPOID SHADOWS STRUGGLE TO SPLIT AND RE-SPLIT THE EARTH, WHO TOLERATES THEM MAGNANIMOUSLY AND WITH EXCESSIVE CARE. LIKEWISE AND EVEN MORE, THE HEART **CANNOT BE SPLIT TO DIVIDE HER CHILDREN INTO OURS AND** AND INTO ALIEN ONES. **THOSE ANNOYED BY OUR CHILDISH CAREFREE SMILE TELL US AGAIN AND AGAIN** THAT FAMILY **IS THE RACING TRACK BY WHICH WE'LL BE WREATHED** AS PARENTS. AND AS LOVERS. WE TELL THEM, IN TURN, THAT WHOEVER HASN'T SYMPATHISED WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, HE'LL HATE HIS ONE CHILD, THAT WHOEVER HAS DESPISED ALL PEOPLE OF DAILY TOIL, TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF HIS OWN MOTHER AND DOESN'T LOVE ALL THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD **RAPES HIS OWN WIFE.**

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POOR MISTER T HAD RETAINED IN HIS MIND WELL FROM HIS WEDDING CEREMONY THAT HIS WIFE WOULD LOVE ONLY HIM AND NOBODY ELSE AND HAD IMMEDIATELY A LITTLE BEE IN HIS BONNET. WHEN HIS OUASI CURT, **INDIFFERENT GLANCE** WOULD CATCH HER **IN THE PHASE OF** A TACIT, SECRET, INVISIBLE EROTIC MOOD, HE WAS ALWAYS WONDERING, THE POOR THING, WHETHER HIS CHILD HAD TAKEN AFTER HIM

BECAUSE HE NEVER OPENED HIS HEART TO STARE ATTHE WORLD AND SEE, AMONG MANY OTHER THINGS, HOW UNSCRUPULOUS NATURE CAN BE WITH YOU WHEN YOU ANNOY HER SHAMELESSLY IN HER INNER CHORES BY OFFENDING HER MAGNIFICENCE AND BY QUESTIONING ITS COURSE.

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I'LL DENY THE TOUCH WITH THE GREAT LIE **OF PERSONAL HAPPINESS.** I'LL DENY THE LIE THAT MY BLOOD **IS NOT EXCITED BY** THE PULSES OF MY FELLOW HUMAN BEING. I'LL DENY THE TOLERANCE **OF GUILLOTING MY BROTHER.** I'LL DENY THE CONNIVANCE **IN INFANTS'** MENTAL DEVELOPMENT. I'LL DENY THE COWARDICE **OF FOLLOWING LIFE IN ITS INCESSANT COURSE** TOWARDS MYSELF.

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LET'S SING OUR BEAUTY SOFTLY AND SWEETLY TONIGHT. BEAUTIFUL IS THE CIGARETTE SMOKE IN MY FRUGAL, FILLED-WITH-MY HEART BEDROOM. BEAUTIFUL IS THE CUP WITH THE HOT DRINK. BEAUTIFUL ARE THE MOVEMENTS OF MY HANDS AS THEY TOUCH AND TRANSPOSE MY TWO COMRADES OF TODAY. BEAUTIFUL IS MY ASCETIC CORNER OF TODAY AS IT IS CONTINUALLY REMINDING ME, CRYING WITHIN ITS SILENCE, 'CHANGE ME FASTER MUCH FASTER'

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SO, MY COMRADE, **DURING THE** YEARS MEN JOIN IN ORDER TO BECOME GODS, WE BLESS THE RESURRECTION, GROPING..... AND ALWAYS PRETENDING THAT WE AREN'T HURT, YET, NEVER EXPECTING **COMPLIMENTS AND REGRETS** EH, EH, **YOU RIDER OF THE FUTURE! OUR EYES ARE LIKE THE FLAME** THAT IS ABLAZE THIS DAY SO THAT OUR HEART, MAY BE HOT; THIS CRAZY HEART THAT WANTS TO BREATHE THE AIR OF TOMORROW EH, YES! **WEARING** THE **GOLD-GILD ATTIRE GIFTED** BY THE BLOOD OF MY HEART, I'LL SING AN ODE THAT ALL THOSE LIVING TODAY CAN HERALD "ON FIRE MY COMRADES, HASTEN, SET OUR ROTTEN

CENTURY ON FIRE; THE FIRST CENTURY FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE RESURRECTION. SET IT ON FIRE QUICKLY OUR TORCHES CAN'T REMAIN ON FIRE".

To Lord Byron with national pride.

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"WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES MAN?? SAID THE FIRST PRINCE. "THOUGHT!", REPLIED THE WIZARD. SO, WE START FROM IT", HE SAID TO HIS CANDIDATE MINISTRIES

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SATRAP T, OF YOUNG AGE, **ORDERED THAT FLOGGERS BE FLOGGED** BECAUSE, HE SAYS, THEY WOULD NOT DO THEIR JOB WITH ZEAL. **BUT WHEN HE SAW** THAT THE TRUSTWORTHY MEN WE'LLHAD RUN SHORT, HE WAS SEIZED WITH GREAT FEAR LEST THE MOB, **AS THEY WERE TRYING LIFE** FREE FROM PAIN, SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE. THE GREAT SLAUGHTERER, THE GREAT ARCHPRIEST, LAUGHED, SEEING HIM IN HIS WEAKNESS, **BECAUSE HE KNEW WELL** THE PASSIONS HE WAS STIRRING **IN HIS FLOCK** SO THAT IT'D BE FLOGGED **ON ITS OWN** WHEN ORDERS WOULDN'T AFFECT HIS BACK.

OLD ARCHPRIEST'S VOICE CAME DOWN, AS COLD AS MARBLE, WITH THE RULERS' CLANDESTINE COUNCIL IN THE ALTAR OF THE TEMPLE, SAYING "WE'LL ALLOW THEM NOTHING ELSE BUT THE RIGHT TO LAMENT THEIR DECADENCE"

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WHEN PHARAOH T HAD HIS PYRAMID FINISHED, HE WENT INTO DEEP CONTEMPLATION. NO, IT WASN'T THAT! HE WOULDN'T THINK OF THE DAY HE'D HAVE IT FILLED UP: HE WAS JUST THINKING OF HIS SLAVES, WHO, EXHAUSTED NOW, SWEAT STILL WETTING THEIR FOREHEADS, **WERE ADORNING** THE DESSERT WITH THEIR BODIES. HE WAS SEIZED BY GREAT FEAR **LEST THEY SHOULD GRASP** THAT HE WASN'T A GOD **UNTIL** A *"VERY SERIOUS HOSTILE SKIRMISH* **NEAR HIS SOUTHERN BORDERS** SOLVED THE PROBLEM". AND, AS HISTORIANS ASSUME, HE SHARED HIS RELIEF WITH ALSO THE SOUTHERN KING, HIS FRIEND, WHO DEALT WITH PYRAMIDS TOO AND WHOSE SLAVES HAD STARTED SEEING HIM IN THE SAME WAY.

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YOU'VE COME TO COMPLAIN THAT THEY WON'T UNDERSTAND YOU OR MAKE BELIEVE THEY DON'T. YET, YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE CHILDREN DYING BECAUSE THEY FAILED TO FIND A HANDFUL OF FOOD AND THE COMRADES KILLED BY THE PEOPLE THEY'D LOVED.

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MY NEW COMRADES WILL APPEAR WITH A HUGE PLACARD **ON THE SAME DAY WHEN ALL PEOPLES** WILL CELEBRATE THEIR FREEDOM. WE'LL SET OFF ON A COURSE **ROUND THE WORLD** WITH A HUGE PLACARD **TALKING ABOUT** THE SMILE OF THE CHILD THAT WOULDN'T FIND MILK **ON HIS MOTHER'S BREAST, TRUMPETING THE FINAL BATTLE AGAINST** THE LAST PARASITICAL MICE.

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WE NEVER DESIRE ANY "HURRAY" BECAUSE OUR GLANCE REACHES THE DAYS WHEN THE GREATEST SACRIFICE WILL BE MIRRORED OPTIMISTIC SMILE....

......... MAY OUR STRUGGLES BE A LIBATION TO THE DRUNKENNESS OF THE UNIVERSAL LOVE DAWNING ON US.

