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Author: Raimundo António de Bulhão Pato

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A JOSÉ ESTEVÃO

Versos de Bulhão Pato

Lisboa
Typographia Universal
Rua dos Calafates, 110

1866

VERSOS DE BULHÃO PATO

A JOSÉ ESTEVÃO

Versos de Bulhão Pato

1866

ADVERTENCIA

Escrevi estes versos para serem recitados em Aveiro, onde o grande orador abriu os olhos, e onde hoje repousa no mesmo chão em que descança o pae, aquelle honrado varão de Plutharco, que se chamava Luis Cypriano.

José Estevão está alli bem, ao pé dos que tanto amou, que ainda vivem, e ao lado de seu pae, que partilha, como elle, do profundo somno da morte.

A pomba que vem esvoaçar por entre os cyprestes, que dão sombra á sepultura, é a filha do admiravel improvisador, aquella Joanninha, anjo que no berço se assustou com as tristezas da terra, e bateu azas fugindo para o seio de Deus!

Publicando estes versos, tributo humilde, mas sincero e de muita saudade, á memoria do notavel genio, aproveito a occasião para agradecer ao primeiro poeta que hoje temos haver espontaneamente publicado, na sua sentidissima carta em resposta ao meu amigo Freitas d'Oliveira, os alexandrinos que apparecem n'esta breve composição, assim como as palavras de benevolencia que me dirigiu.

Lisboa, 16 de fevereiro de 1866.

Bulhão Pato

A JOSÉ ESTEVÃO

A JOSÉ ESTEVÃO

Eu fui.....

Manzoni, *Il cinque Maggio*

I

Eil-o junto de nós dormindo o somno eterno.
Na terra emfim descança ao pé do chão paterno.
Ao pae que tanto amor em vida lhe votou
Tambem na sepultura agora se abraçou.
Quando ao romper do sol alegre o céu rebrilha,
Como anjo tutelar desce do Empyreo a filha;
Bate as azas gentis por entre o cyprestal,
E solta hymno inspirado ao somno paternal.
Quem constante lidou, desde a mais tenra idade,
Em prol do amor da patria, em bem da humanidade,
Quando é chegada a hora e deixa a terra emfim,
À entrada do outro mundo encontra um seraphim.

II

E quem pois o amor da patria
Com vehemencia igual sentiu,
Qual o peito onde surgiu
Mais ardente hoje esse amor?
Quem, como elle, n'um só gesto,
Quando a turba se atropela,
Quebra as ondas da procella
Resistindo ao seu furor?

E se a mão da prepotencia
Procurava erguer-se altiva,
Quem mais prompta e quem mais viva
Tinha sempre a inspiração?
Era ouvil-o ouvir a patria,
Quando exclama na anciedade:
«Liberdade, oh! liberdade!»
Com a voz do coração.

Ah! no exilio, quantas vezes,
Afogada entre gemidos,
Mormurára a seus ouvidos
A voz do paiz natal!
E ouvindo-a sua alma, em impetos
Do mais sincero heroismo,
Sonhava em transpôr o abysmo
E libertar Portugal!

Então a graciosa aldêa,
O val coberto de olmeiros,
Os ingenuos companheiros
De seus jogos infantis,
Tudo aos olhos lhe sorria,
Matisado de mil côres,
Montes, valles, prados, flores,
Céo e luz do seu paiz!

Rompe um dia aurora esplendida,
O tambor toca a rebate,
No mais fero do combate
Entra, luta, conquistou!
Conquista dos proprios lares!...
Mas do campo afasta a vista,
Por que emfim n'essa conquista
Sangue de irmãos se espalhou!

Era assim: tinha lutando
No olhar o fogo supremo,
Na voz o poder extremo
Que arrebatava a multidão;
Desafiando o inimigo,
Entre as nuvens da metralha,
Era um tigre na batalha,
Na victoria—era um irmão!

III

Termina a luta fervida,
Cae na bainha a espada,
Retorna aos lares placidos
Da terra sua amada,
D'esta que berço e tumulo
Do grande genio foi!
Se nos assaltos bellicos
Distincto era o soldado,
Acções inda mais validas

Lhe destinara o fado:
Desprende a voz, e a patria
Sauda um novo heroe!

Quando se abatem animos,
Medindo a luta immensa,
Quando n'alguns espiritos
Já desfallece a crença,
Surge imponente e mostra-lhes
Raia nova manhã!
É porque o genio esplendido,
Que a liberdade inspira,
É como a voz prophetica,
Que outr'ora dirigira
Do Egypto um povo misero
Á fertil Canaan!

Quando com olhos avidos,
Em torno a nós medimos
A industria, o bem, a gloria,
Em tudo, emfim, sentimos
Que dera impulso maximo
Seu sopro animador!
Não raro correm lagrimas
De uma saudade infinda!...
Quanto não fez!... quantissimo
Tivera feito ainda,
Se o não roubasse subito
A morte ao nosso amor!

IV

Dorme junto de nós, dorme teu somno eterno
Na terra a que votaste o santo amor fraterno.
Ao declinar da tarde, ao rebrilhar do sol,
Na hora em que descante occulto rouxinol,
Virá tambem do empyreo, alegre philomela,
A tua ingenua filha, a pomba alva e singela,
Esvoaçar gentil por entre o cyprestal,
Soltando hymno inspirado ao somno paternal;
Por que, emfim, quem lidou desde a mais tenra idade,
Em prol do amor da patria, em bem da humanidade,
Quando é chegada a hora, e deixa a terra emfim,
Á entrada do outro mundo encontra um seraphim.

Fevereiro, 5—1866

Bulhão Pato.

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