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Title: Africa Orrenda

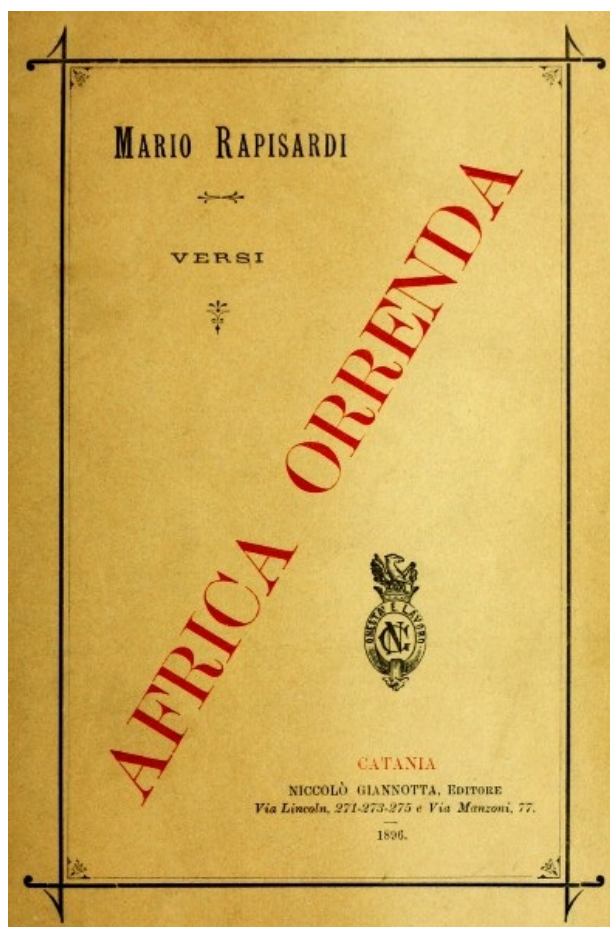
Author: Mario Rapisardi

Release date: November 26, 2008 [eBook #27334]

Language: Italian

Credits: Produced by Carlo Traverso, Emanuela Piasentini and the Online Distributed Proofreading Team at <http://www.pgdp.net>  
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# AFRICA ORRENDA

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# AFRICA ORRENDA

[3]

VERSI  
DI  
MARIO RAPISARDI



CATANIA  
NICCOLÒ GIANNOTTA, EDITORE  
*Via Lincoln, 271-273-275 e Via Manzoni, 77.*

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1896.

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PROPRIETÀ LETTERARIA

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[4]

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CATANIA—Tip. Lorenzo Rizzo, piazza Spirito Santo, 19-20-21-22.

[5]

**PER L'ECCIDIO DI DÒGALI**



[7]

Giù dai ghermiti scanni,  
Razza maligna, inetta,  
Che fra venali inganni  
Pompeggiandoti abietta,  
Raccogli infami frutti  
Dal disonor di tutti!

Ah! non bastò di questa  
Patria incestare il seno?  
La veneranda testa  
Premer di giogo osceno?  
Offrir nudo il materno  
Fianco al barbaro scherno?

[8]

Ond'ella, a regnar nata,  
Con tremulo ginocchio  
Segue, putta spregiata,  
Il tenebroso cocchio,

Su cui breve fortuna  
Due manigoldi aduna.

Misera, e invan tu speri  
Con civettar codardo  
Da regj masnadieri  
Impetrar tozzo o sguardo:  
Ahi! con viltà e misfatti  
Onta e miseria accatti,

E stragi. Oh desolati  
Campi! Oh cori d'eroi  
Nell'alta ombra gittati  
Non da voi, non da voi,  
Avide di rapine  
Ferrigne orde abissine,

Anzi da te, nefando  
Vecchio, che sol per cieca  
Libidin di comando  
L'italo onor con bieca  
Mente fidando ai ladri.  
Le fiche a Italia squadri.

[9]

Qual dall'immane insulto  
Pregio o vendetta? Arcigna  
Guata Albione; occulto  
L'ire fomenta e ghigna  
Il dèmone sinistro,  
Che la Sprea move e l'Istro.

Dal vigilato covo  
L'orgoglio ibrido freme,  
E al cor d'Italia novo  
Tesoro e sangue spremere:  
D'orbe fidanze gravi  
Salpan ferrate navi.

Brillan su la guernita  
Tolda gl'itali figli,  
Cui tarda espor la vita  
Ai perfidi perigli,  
Che coi predoni a gara  
La terra e il ciel prepara.

Volate, o generosi  
Figli, all'infausto lido;  
Turbate i sanguinosi  
Ozj allo stuolo infido,  
Che su la strage inulta  
Ebbro di sangue esulta.

[10]

Vincete. Oh scarsa, incerta  
Vittoria! Ecco, dal grembo  
Della sabbia deserta  
Strano improvviso nembo  
Sorge, e in ferina guerra  
Il vessil nostro atterra.

Voi là nel baluardo  
Ultimo accolti, invano  
Con ansioso sguardo  
Tentate il mar lontano,  
Se a voi pochi e mal vivi  
Patrio soccorso arrivi.

Ma per l'immensa arsura  
Delle voraci arene  
Solo la Febbre, oscura  
Liberatrice, viene;  
E in voi dall'ignea bocca  
Funesti aliti scocca.

Ahi, nè certezza o speme  
D'onore o d'util nostro  
Lenirà l'ore estreme

Del sacrificio vostro,  
Non le cure affannose  
Delle imprecanti spose.

[11]

Ben presso al limitare  
Della fredda quiete,  
Sorgere fra cielo e mare  
Un'alta Ombra vedrete,  
Squallida il seno, indoma  
Ancor che oppressa, Roma:

E non per questo, o amati  
Petti, pietosa grida,  
Reggendo a infaticati  
Studj con alma fida,  
Il braccio armaste e il core  
Di ferro e di valore!

Ardea nelle capaci  
Menti un'altera idea:  
Piombar serrati, audaci  
Su la grifagna rea,  
Che l'ultima latina  
Terra aduggiando inquina.

Oh per le Giulie vette  
Pugne! Oh piani fumanti  
Delle nostre vendette!  
Oh entusiasmi santi  
Di dar la vita a patto  
Del fraterno riscatto!

[12]

Popol, cui spada e mente  
Da servitù redime,  
Non peregrina gente  
Mercanteggiando opprime;  
Ma libertà, per cui  
Vive, fa vita altrui.

Cada chi primo in petto  
L'obliqua smania accolse,  
Onde al natio ricetto  
I vostri animi tolse,  
E li scagliò in lontane  
Piagge a conquiste vane!

Lui non amor di fama,  
Non furor d'alte imprese,  
Ma insidiosa brama  
Di rei traffichi accese;  
Nè l'empia sete or langue  
Per mareggiar di sangue.

Ma se ancor nei gentili  
Petti la patria spira,  
Se da computi vili  
Non è sedotta l'ira,  
Che in un'ora d'ebbrezza  
Catene e scettri spezza;

[13]

Se non per gioco ho cinta  
La mia terza corona,  
Se la mia gloria estinta  
Non è tutta, nè suona  
Obbrobrio il nome mio;  
Se Roma ancor son io,

Troppo alle tue volpine  
Arti, o fatal, durai;  
Sopra le mie rovine  
Assai ghignasti, assai  
Fu il danno e la vergogna:  
Carnefice, alla gogna!



[15]

## ESPIAZIONE



[17]

### I.

Chi è, disser, costui, che solitario, altero  
Sul nostro capo il verso empio saetta,  
E su la gloriosa luce del nostro impero  
L'ombra sua getta?

Chi è costui, che i tetri sogni sferrando a volo,  
Come falchi addestrati in noi li avventa;  
E di amor, di giustizia all'affamato stuolo  
Parlar si attenda?

Torbido evocatore di pazze ombre, l'abisso  
O non vede o non cura a cui cammina:  
Con l'occhio, acre di febbre, all'orizzonte fisso,  
Ecco, ei ruina!

[18]

E noi frattanto in aurea rete impigliamo il biondo  
Amore e l'affoghiamo entro al bicchiere;  
Noi ci tiriamo dietro inguinzagliato il mondo  
Come un levriere.

Che importa, se al nostro uscio Lazzaro derelitto  
Frignando invidj a' nostri cani il pranzo?  
Avrà, quand'ei non sia ad alcun Fascio ascritto,  
Pur qualche avanzo.

Che ci fa, se a quest'ora al suon della mitraglia  
Nel ribelle Tigrè riddi la morte?  
Terran le nostre schiere, in qual che sia battaglia,  
Fronte alla sorte!

Pugnite, eroici petti, cadete; ad una voce  
Noi gridiam «Viva!» e alziam colmo il bicchiere;  
Le vostre salme avranno la medaglia e la croce  
Di cavaliere.

L'onor della bandiera val bene una tal guerra;  
Chiedono vendetta i nostri morti; e poi  
L'ufficio glorioso d'incivilir la terra  
L'abbiamo noi!

[19]

Gli Abissini, si sa, son predoni, selvaggi,  
E con loro bisogna esser maneschi;  
Trucidar donne, vecchi, fanciulli; arder villaggi...  
Viva Radetzki!

In ogni caso, giova a noi, spiriti fini,  
Mandar la calda giovanaglia a spasso:  
La guerra a chi la plètora ha d'odj cittadini  
È un buon salasso.

Urla, profeta nero, i tuoi strambotti audaci  
All'egre ciurme ch'aízzando vai:



## II.

Non ei però si arresta. La pensierosa faccia  
Torce da lor, qual da bruttura, altrove,  
Mormorando con voce ch'è fede, e par minaccia:  
Eppur si muove!

[20]

Diritto, nella tragica sera che preme il mondo,  
Strali e sogni vibrando all'età rea,  
Passa incontaminato tra 'l bulicame immondo,  
Non uomo, Idea.

Volano a lui dintorno dagli spazj stellati  
Corruscanti fantasmi, ignee chimere,  
Fronti di lauro cinte, petti di palma ornati,  
Falangi austere.

Ah! non hai tu, regina, cui Dante un trono eresse  
Sovra i popoli tutti, a Dio vicino,  
Tu, nel cui core eterno di tutto il mondo lesse  
Vico il destino;

Tu, santa, cui Mazzini invocava in ginocchio  
Nel freddo esilio; tu ch'a' più begli anni  
Schiacciavi, del Nizzardo sotto al fulmineo cocchio,  
Sette tiranni;

Non hai tu, donna, or ora a turpi sgherri in braccio  
Inebbriati di poter maligno,  
A chi diceati: «Pensa!» gittato in volto il ghiaccio  
Del tuo sogghigno?

[21]

Non hai tu, che d'oltraggio le pure anime cibi,  
Negato il pane al Giusto, il culto al Vero,  
Per onorar l'Inganno, per ingrassar gli Scribi  
Del vitupero?

Difeso col tuo nome, del tuo pallio coverto  
Chi fa dell'are tue bisca e bordello?  
Chi, più che penna o spada, è a maneggiare esperto  
Il grimaldello?

Profuso oro a' bertoni d'Astrea fatta baldracca?  
Procacciato a Bonturo onor divino?  
Scolpito in marmi e in bronzi (oh Giusti!) la guarnacca  
Di Truffaldino?

Non hai tu, barcheggiando su le calde fiumane  
Del pianto, druda delle altrui vendette,  
Scagliato ai derelitti, che ti chiedeano pane,  
Piombo e manette?

Non hai, madre, sofferto ch'a' tuoi sacri captivi  
Fosse un raggio di sole anco vietato?  
Non hai tu su la fossa dei tuoi martiri vivi  
Cancaneggiato?

[22]

Ed ecco, or nell'eclissi del tuo giudizio, alata  
Furia al tuo capo la Giustizia romba;  
E l'Espiazione, vermiglia aquila irata,  
Sopra a te piomba!

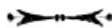
Oh fragor d'improvvisi sdegni e d'immani lutti,  
Dal ciel, dal mar, dalle cruente arene!  
Oh suon misterioso di palpitanti flutti:  
Ecco, ella viene!

Sostano a' campi avari, alle officine, intorno,  
L'opere in minacciosa alta quiete;  
L'austero Etna nevoso, che si arrubina al giorno,  
Viene, ripete.

Dalle reggie pollute, dai trafficati altari  
Sorgono al casto cielo ululi immensi;  
Mandano le severe Alpi a' bollenti mari  
Fraterni assensi.

O monti, asceti assorti nello splendor del Nume,  
O flutto uman cui la speranza investe,  
O dei cieli e dei cuori interminabil lume,  
Voi mentireste?

(Genn. '96).



[23]

## DOPO LA SCONFITTA



[25]

### I.

Finchè briaca alla caterva sozza,  
Che nell'obbrobrio e nel dolor l'atterra,  
Porge Italia le groppe, ella che mozza  
Agli apostoli il grido e i polsi inferra;

Finchè il turpe delirio in lei non langue  
Di rei conquisti e di vendette oscene,  
E tributo alle nostre esauste vene  
Osa chiedere ancor d'oro e di sangue;

Finchè la Frode, ire affilando e spade,  
Di mercate lusinghe il vulgo impregna,  
E all'Abissin, cui la capanna invade,  
L'infamia nostra e il nostro eccidio insegna;

[26]

Finchè, tra un bacchanal d'anime guerce,  
La Sconfitta e la Resa in Campidoglio;  
L'Onore in ceppi, il Vituperio in soglio,  
Ludibrio il Dritto, la Giustizia merce;

Lungi da questo sciagurato suolo,  
Lungi dall'età rea sorga il poeta:  
Liriche strofe, liberate il volo  
A ciel più puro, a región più lieta.

A che turbar dei bellicosi ladri  
L'animo pio con misurati pianti?  
O cari petti giovanili infranti,  
È troppo che su voi piangan le madri!



### II.

Ove andrem noi? Sangue e miseria intorno  
E fango. Oh ferrea notte  
D'Europa! Oh immani lotte  
Di truffatori! E ancor lontano è il giorno.

[27]

Gitta la vaticana Idra la squama  
Fra' mal guardati avelli,  
E gl'incauti ribelli  
Affascinando, il nostro esizio trama.

La jena di Stambùl, di terror folle,  
Nel sanguinoso mare  
Galleggia, ove affogare  
Invan l'inglese mercator la volle.

Ecco, il deforme orso del Volga accampa  
Sul provocato lido,  
E con geloso strido  
Porge alla rea l'insanguinata zampa.

Ma la francesca Libertà bastarda,  
Che, le adipose cuoja  
Date in custodia al boja,  
Tutto vende ghignando e tutto infarda,

Indarno al Papa ed allo Czar gl'immondi  
Quarti lambisce abjetta:  
Giù nell'ampia belletta,  
Ond'ora ingrassa, è forza pur che affondi.

[28]

Squassa il Leone castiglian la giuba,  
E ruggendo si scaglia  
Ove in armi travaglia  
La invan contesa Libertà di Cuba.

All'auree vene del Trasvallo intanto  
Calano in tetri giri  
Gli europei vampiri,  
Che di civile sapienza han vanto.

O Civiltà, se messe altra non dàì  
Che di sì tristi allori;  
Se agli aspettanti cori  
Fuor che stragi e miseria offrir non sai;

O che le armene piagge, o che la vetta  
Dell'Amba orrida innostri,  
Co' tuoi bugiardi mostri,  
Perfida Civiltà, sii maledetta!



### III.

[29]

Oh agreste pace, candido  
Regno dei buoni! Come fiamma viva  
Agitata dal turbine,  
Su l'età sfatta il gran Giudizio arriva.

E tu prima il benefico  
Passo n'udrai, tu dal giaciglio fondo  
Sorgerai prima, o triplice  
Roma, cuore d'Italia, amor del mondo.

Ecco, ove un tempo il bufalo  
Torvo sguazzava, e tra paduli morti  
Serpean le Febbri, il florido  
Lavoro avviva di Feronia gli orti.

Quanto vigor di giovani  
Cori, asserviti all'Ignoranza e al Fasto,



La burbanzosa Ignavia  
Gittava all'Ozio e alla Lussuria in pasto;

[30]

Quanto tesoro di valide  
Braccia, in miserie apriche, in odj bui,  
Tingea con folli audacie  
D'innocuo sangue il vituperio altrui;

Quanti all'altar cadeano  
D'un bronzeo nume in sanguinose gare,  
O di miseria indocili  
Fuggian maledicendo il patrio mare,

Oggi a' nuraghi inospiti.  
All'ardue Sile, alle insalubri chiane  
Un salutar diffondono  
Fiume di redentrici opere umane;

Che, propagate in fervidi  
Commerci, ignari di gelosi insulti,  
Fan che redento a' secoli  
L'immenso core della Terra esulti.

Stendi l'oblio su l'umile  
Mia fossa, o generosa itala prole;  
Ma sul tuo capo indomito  
L'alta speranza mia splenda col sole!

(Marzo '96).



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