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Author: José da Silva Mendes Leal

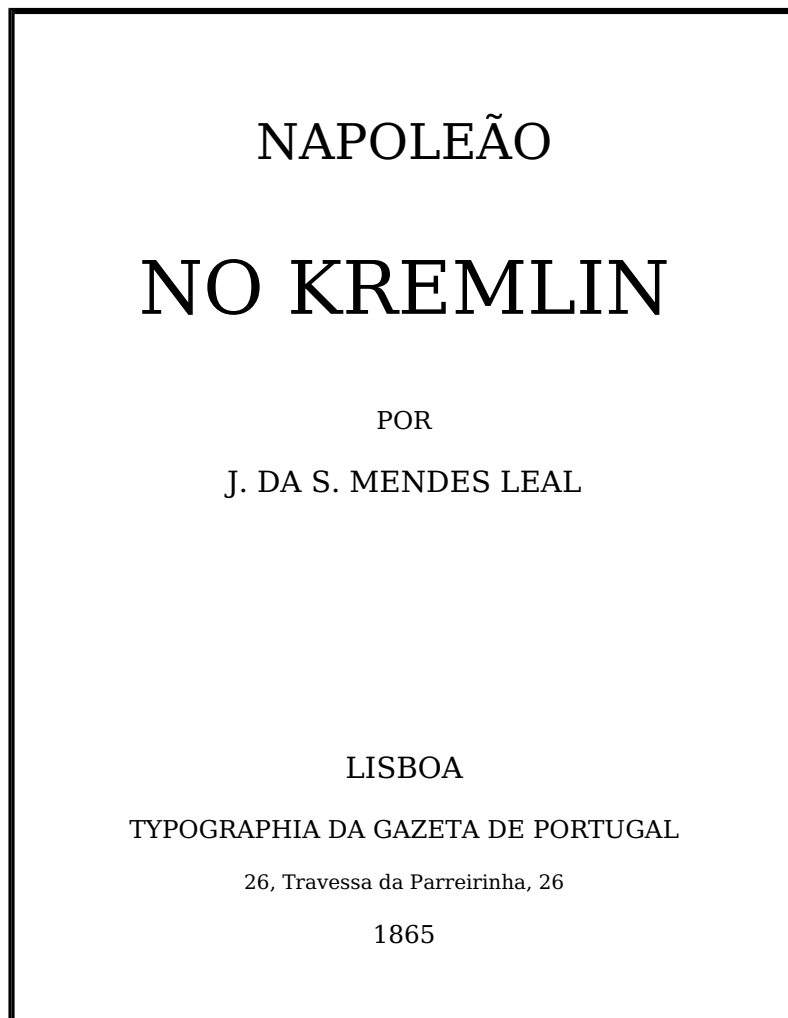
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ANTONIO FELICIANO DE CASTILHO

Philósopho, poeta, obreiro do futuro,
Qual és, benigno acceita o canto que murmuro,
Ante as urnas da historia, á minha solidão,
Da tua ethérea luz á sombra estende a mão!

Sic fata voluerunt.

I

Era a collina sancta, e em volta a gran-cidade!

Revolvera o cabeça uma audaz tempestade
De granito e de bronze, arremeçando aos ceus
Por ondas bastioens, por vagas coruchéus!
Era nova Babel, soberba e formidavel;
Tudo o que é oppressor; tudo o que é implacavel;
Das impostas pendendo os aneis dos grilhoens;
Sétteiras nos jardins; nos eirados canhoens;
Cem vigias de pedra em cada miradoiro;
Ao rez grades de ferro; em cima tectos d'oiro;
Uma pompa violenta, uma anciosa mansão,
Que dirieis romper da bocca d'um vulcão!

A espaços, coroando a tétrica cerviz
D'um torreão firmado em rudes alcantis,
Metalico zimborio esplende ao astro esquivo,
Como o élmó que aperta a fronte de um captivo.
Emmaranham-se á vista arcadas e quarteis,
E os grossos revelins, e os rendados maineis.
A um tempo Europa e Asia, opprobrio e maravilhas;
N'um reducto um bazar; as áras nas bastilhas;
Abrolhando o recinto um selvoso espessor
De agudos campanis—e no todo o terror!

Era a suspeita armada, eterna sentinella,
Por dentro Pantheon, por fóra cidadella!
Era, ao dubio alvarar que precede a manhan,
O poema d'Igôr em torno á cruz d'Ivan;
Revolta construcção d'um Encélado novo;
Garra adunca e brutal sobre o peito d'um povo;
Funesta allegoria, affronta da razão,
Que intenta dizer: gloria! e diz: escravidão!
Era a ameaça feroz na túrbida grandeza;
Templo, ergástulo, paço, erario, e fortaleza!
Era o alcaçar do Norte, o seu sanctuario, emfim
A acrópole augural do Scytha—era o Kremlin!

II

No mais alto mirante um vulto grave e mudo,
Todo nevoas o ceu, na terra immovel tudo,
Contempla vagamente as vagas solidoens.
De força e de grandeza inda não satisfeito,

Aspira o espaço e a noite—a dextra sobre o peito
Como para conter a furia das paixoens.

A metrópole immensa, adormecida ou morta,
O immenso pedestal, que rendido o supporta,
As planuras que ao longe ondulam como um mar,
As hostes, os tropheus, a conquista, os portentos,
Nada d'isto ja vê; taes são seus pensamentos,
Tam alta a mente foi, tam fundo é seu scismar.

Quem é elle? O que faz? D'onde vem? Com que fito?
Incansavel obreiro interroga o infinito;
Paz não tem; lei não quer; vai, vai; não conta os sóes;
E se instantes parou, quando a fortuna o prova,
É para meditar alguma audacia nova,
Na attitude que toca aos Numes e aos heróes!

D'onde vem? Attentae. Correi; segui-lhe o rasto.
Nunca sulco mais fundo em terreno mais vasto!
Manda: o Occidente afflue.—Que estrugir! Que avançar!
Que longo! Que voraz! Que enorme! Que terrivel!
Esta chamma? Hontem era um castello invencivel.
Esta cinza? Era ha pouco arrogante solar.

O facho precursor alonga um ermo aberto.
Investe a legião, defende-se o deserto.
D'Átilla a grande sombra, ao ver os capitaens
Violar da patria selva os não cursados trilhos,
Pensativa procura, afastando seus filhos,
Um tumulo que sirva aos filhos dos Titaens

Quem é? O homem-cratéra; emblema, sphinge, arcano;
Tanto como um propheta, e mais que um soberano.
Um dia o viu reinar mal outro o viu surgir.
Sam-lhe os povos degraus; o imperio foi-lhe ensaio;
Na larga fronte um Deus; nos olhos d'aguia um raio;
Pelas trevas se entranha, e elabora o porvir.

De Karl, o Invicto, o Magno, o Imperador espectro,
Tomou nas fortes mãos o gladio, o globo, o sceptro;
Co'a tunica viril das desprendidas greys
Tam amplo manto fez, que esconde, dilatado,
D'um lado os Pyrenéus, os Alpes d'outro lado,
E nas sobras talhou dez purpuras de reis.

Quem é? Seu grande nome o espanto e o ardor espalha,
Como o som d'um clarim n'um dia de batalha.
Ha muito o Austro o acclama. Hoje o Septemtrião
Atérrito o escutou no horror de Borodino...
A Historia escreverá: «chamava-se o Destino!»
Á voz dos seus canhoens troou: «Napoleão!»

No humilhado frontal das basilicas nuas
Levantam-se-lhe aos pés, velando, as aguias suas,
As aguias triumphaes, as aguias d'Austerlitz.
Volve acaso o semblante. Olhou. Mira a victoria
Nos amados pendoens, que inflamma tanta gloria,
E o coração trasheda, e rompe o verbo, e diz:

III

—«Eis-me. Cheguei. Mais fúlgido
Meu astro se alevanta:
No coração do Tártaro
Encosto o ferro e a planta.

Eis-me. O leão da Córsega
Emfim vos empolgou,
Ó capital das cúpulas,
Ó torres de Moskow!

Eu sou o Ajax authentico,
A authentica epopéa,
Aurora apoz crepusculo,
Espada feita idea.

Fadou-me Arcóle e Rívoli
Marengo, e Lodi, e as mais;
Rompi d'um canto homerico
Em dias immortaes.

O mesmo sou, que os seculos,
De tanto ousar pasmados,
No cimo das pyramides
Mostrei aos meus soldados.

Fiz n'essa terra, symbolo
De olympicos avós,
Estremecer nos tumulos
Os velhos Pharaós;

N'essa, ao potente estrépito
Do arrojo e das victorias,
Cubri co'as palmas ínclitas
As maximas memorias;

N'essa, mysterio pávido
Onde o passado rue,
N'essa, de assombros pródiga,
Maior assombro eu fui.

Era Alexandre o prólogo.
Tentou-me. Em cem combates
Arremessei, seu émulo,
O Nilo sobre o Euphrates.

No turbilhão phantástico
Dos rapidos corseis,
Ardentes vi cercárem-me
Os esquadroens dos Beys;

Vi mais—ceára horrifica
De alfanges e trabucos!—
Os marciaes Janizaros,
Os feros Mamelukos;

E a densa turba innúmera,
Ao breve aceno meu,
Sombra tornada, súbito
As sombras seolveu.

No pó de heroicas épochas
Ficaram meus vestigios;
A par das lendas bíblicas
Tracei novos prodigios.

Aos vãos chegou do Libano
Meu bellico trovão,
E do Thabor aos pincaros,
E ás margens do Jordão.

Sobre os dispersos idolos
Meus batalhoens marcharam;
De feito a feito alçândo-se,
Ovantes acamparam

De Thebas entre os pórticos,
Em Memphis sem rival...
Fêz-se ás gigânteas fabulas
A minha historia igual.

E o proseguir esplendido
Da triumphal carreira,
Quando a meus pés atónita
Prostrei a Europa inteira!

Quando, as cohortes férvidas
Dispondo a meu sabor,
Ao fim de um dia tragico
De universal terror,

Em vindo a erguer-se o Véspero,
Surgia da metralha
Nas mãos trazendo, incólume,
Um reino e uma batalha!

Meu curso meteórico
Não pára; a lucta é van:
Sucedem-se fatidicas
Iêna, Eylau, Wagram.

Sou vencedor, sou árbitro
Aos curvos hemispherios;
«Surgi» ordeno, e surgem-me,
Quaes os desejo, imperios.

Triumphos e catastrophes,
Estados, leis, naçoens,
Os fulgurantes prestitos,
As bastas legioens,

Confundem-se, ennovellam-se
Na cerração turbada
D'um cahos, ao relampago
Que vibra a minha espada.

Quiz Deus tornar-me o Génesis,
Que em breve ha de accender
Nos homens novo espirito,
Nas eras novo ser.

A evolução recôndita
Avança d'hora em hora:
Trabalho sobre a íncude
A humanidade agora.

O herdeiro dos Apostolos
Ungiu-me entre os christãos,
E eu mesmo a c'roa altissima
Cingi com estas mãos.

Deixei submisso, trémulo
Como exorando as Parcas,
Aos meus humbraes um séquito
De palidos monarchas.

Este diadema unico
D'estrellas constellei;
Em nova, summa Ilíada
Sou já de reis um rei.

E aqui!... aqui rodêam-me,
Activos serviçaes,
Os meus ministros-principes,
Meus duques-marechaes!

Fervem do Sena ao Vistula
Os arraiaes em peso,
Como nas veias tumidas
Um sangue em febre accêso!

Olhae! Conduzo unânimes,
Mais fortes cada vez,
Germanos, frankos, ítalos,
O proprio portuguez;

O portuguez, que intrépido
Sabe ir, honrando os lares,
Descortinar o incógnito
Vencendo terra e mares!

Quem ha-de pois com exito
Meus planos impedir?
Aos orbes posso o âmbito,
Com braços taes medir!...

Moscow, teu solo as máculas
D'escravo teve; apague-as:
Venci o repto altisono
Das aguias contra as aguias.

E tu, rival maritimo,
Aqui te enfreio a acção!...
Ó Russia, emfim pertences-me!
Emfim és meu, Bretão!»

IV

No ardor que o move, a mão comprime ao peito ingente,
Absorto fica, e de repente
O tolhe, e todo o enleva, um extasi sem par.
Encontrára no seio a leve miniatura,
Que o filho, o filho tenro, ao vivo lhe figura,
E n'elle o amor, a esposa, o lar.

Humanou-se o colosso. O tenue quadro encara;
Revê na mente a imagem cara;
Quer-lhe, apesar da sombra, o rosto distinguir;
Um rosto angelical, alvo, louro, rosado,
Candido lyrio em flor, de purpura orvalhado,
Que estrélla a noite, e a faz sorrir.

Foi prenda conjugal. Ao recebel-a o esposo,
Rompia o choque pavoroso
Da batalha que abriu as portas de Moskow!
Com saudades talvez, talvez tambem com prantos,
O grão conquistador aneia affectos santos...
É pae!—Depois continuou:

V

—«Ó filho, foi-te oráculo
O genio meu profundo:
Ó filho, achaste um mundo
No berço imperial.
Que resplendor, que auréola
De gloria, de thesouros,
De conquistados louros,
De pompa triumphal!

Cesar, que vens de Césares,
Deus pôz-te, alma adorada,
A tradicção, a espada
Nos braços infantis.
Nasceste rei. Teu titulo
Da mór grandesa assoma.
Nasceste rei de Roma,
E Roma o globo diz.

C'a herança conta. Alargo-t'a.
A immensa monarchia
Apuro noite e dia
No paternal crysol.
Legar-te quero o circulo
Que os povos encorpora,
Desd' onde surge a aurora,
Té onde baixa o sol.

Dissipação no vórtice
Os diques derradeiros
Meus bravos granadeiros,
Meus esquadrões sem fim.
Da cupula estellifera
Dominarás robusto,
Ó tu, futuro Augusto,
Que és hoje cherubim.

Meu mando, egregio e pródigo,
Cabal a terra invade.
Não mais que uma vontade,
Que um throno, e que um altar!
É tempo. Os fados cumprem-se.
Desvende-se o mysterio...
Universal imperio
Começo hoje a fundar!...»

VI

Nisto uma chamma, e outra, e cento, e centos
Brotam-lhe em torno, as trevas arraiando;
Abrazam-se os minados monumentos;
Cresce o mal, cresce o damno, desabando
No rubro chão os rotos pavimentos;
Negro e espesso vapor, de quando em quando,
O espaço tolda, golpha nas verédas.
É tudo em pouco um mar de labaredas!

Soprando sobre a ardente cataracta,
Rijo aquilão o estrago faz mais breve,
E o hynverno boreal, veloz, desata
Dos rócheos hombros o lençol de neve.
Triumph a morte; o horror o horror dilata;
O espirito a medil-o mal se atreve.
Que dôr! Que fim! Que circulo medonho!...
Tal foi o despertar qual fôra o sonho!

Inspira patrio amor delirio intenso.
Do rude Scythia a barbara energia
Faz do seu Capitolio um facho immenso,
(Funerea tocha em lugubre agonia!)
E brada ao vencedor tórvo e suspenso:
—«Hospede vens: meu braço te allumia!»
Pressagio triste ao grande temerario!
O incendio, occaso! Os gellos, um sudario!

D'esse lume ao revérbero inimigo
Vê-se, na encosta qu'inda o sangue innunda,
Descendo, só, quem só contou comsigo;
E no extremo fatal (licção profunda!)
Como o padrão do Prometheu antigo,
Um rochedo surgir, que o mar circumda—
O mar, espelho azul da immensidade,
Cantico eterno á eterna liberdade!

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