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# EPISTOLA

DE

MANOEL MENDES FOGAÇA.

DIRIGIDA DE LISBOA A HUM AMIGO DA SUA TERRA, EM QUE LHE REFERE COMO DE REPENTE SE FEZ POETA,  
E LHE CONTA AS PROEZAS DE HUM RAFEIRO.

## LISBOA:

Na Impressão de João Nunes Esteves

Anno. 1822.

## EPISTOLA.

Por certo, Amigo, que benzer te debes  
De me observares subito Poeta!  
Em proza de lá vim, e escrevo em verso!  
De perfeita saude hum corpo goza,  
E he do contagio subito assaltado.  
Se entre doentes de malignas vive.  
Nunca grassou na Imperial Lisboa

Maior contágio de infindos Vates:  
He tinha que se apegar, e se propaga,  
Como se estende no Levante a peste.  
Entro em hum Botequim, são Vates todos;  
Eu bebo também ponche, e fico Vate.  
Se vou para a Comedia, ouço Elogios,  
E quando volto pela rua grito:  
=Honra, Patria, Virtude, ó Tejo, ó Douro.  
Brilhai na escuridão; que azeite falta.=  
Vem n'hum Jornal o invento do Antimonio,  
E a maneira subtil de, cães, e burros  
Mortos, tornar em branco Espermacete;  
Lá vem versos também, taes e quejandos:  
"O homem he fungo, e germen de monturo."  
Eu li co'os olhos meus esta sentença;  
Deos pague ao seu auctor, quem quer que seja,  
O completo elogio á raça humana!

Onde todos são Vates sou Poeta:  
Tudo novo aqui he, tudo he prodigio:  
Eu já cansado de lidar co'os homens,  
De observar sem proveito os seus costumes,  
Por hum capricho, que esquecêra a Jacques,  
Ando observando a Cafila infinita  
De matilhas de cães, que peirão tudo,  
A quem Lagarde fez sangrenta guerra:  
Pragmatica Sancção de Canicidio  
Aqui duplicou, fogirão todos  
Do terrivel Caligula pelado,  
Depois que as Aguias rapinantes forão  
Ás mãos dos fortes Luzos derrabadas,  
E a Falange infernal de trapo e fome  
Fatiota entrouxou, que não trouxera.

Das ermas grutas dos alpestres montes  
Veio surdindo affouta a canzoada,  
Que fugira ligeira ao calvo Néro,  
Quasi toda esgalgada, e sem cabello,  
Consumida da putrida rabuje,  
Mas bem depressa em lamações nojentos  
E ás nunca, e nunca solitarias portas  
D'altas casas de pasto, e consciencia,  
A pansa se lhe encheu cresceu-lhe o pelo,  
E airada vida se levou nas ruas.  
Uivão, retoição, saltão, ladrão, mordem,  
E vão correndo atraz, dos que chotêão,  
E co' sentido talvez no arenque esguio,  
Que em picado lá vai mettido em massa  
Dos que hum sò molho tem, guizados muitos;  
Progenie illustre d'onde vem meu sangue,  
Donde eu sahira involuntaria empada,  
De boa criação, gordura, e polpa;  
Farto como hum villão, rapaz travesso,  
A quem nunca falhou pedrada, e sôcco.  
Não me pejo da raça, e se escolhera,  
Antes de feito no materno alvergue,  
Fôra meu Pai hum rico toucinheiro  
De tez purpurea, e dorso acanastrado,  
Material, mas honrado, e de palavra,  
A quem não regeitasse hum Senhorio  
Seguro Abonador d'agoas furtadas,  
E que á primeira voz de Patria, e Throno,  
Pagasse de contado o Quinto, ou Terço,  
Que a hum ladrão Francez não desse hum palmo  
De lingoiça, ou de chouriço moiro;  
E que prompto com a ripa, ou co' a espingarda

No terreiro ao Domingo apparecesse.  
Perdoa, amigo, a digressão de hum Vate,  
Que julga que a virtude he só nobreza,  
Como o bom Juvenal disse aos Romanos.  
De meus versos assumpto, aos Cães eu torno;  
Quasi todos conheço pela pinta,  
Filosofo Canino, eu ter quizera  
O bom Cão de Diogenes profundo.  
Mas entre a ímmensa Canicada toda  
Hum Rafeiro conheço alambasado,  
Ao qual vi succeder grande aventura.  
Não he dos Cães vadios, e ociosos,  
Nem podengo atrelado, ou perdigueiro,  
Que leva c'hum chicote, e fica enchuto,  
E aos pés do dono humilde se alaparda.  
Entre os Cães he demócrata soberbo;  
Vive longe da Corte em arrabalde;  
Nunca teve Senhor, trabalha, e vive.  
De focinho he sombrio, e lombos largos;  
Nunca o rabo metêo por entre as pernas  
Encolhido de medo, ou dependencia;  
Encha-lhe a pança embora hum burro morto,  
Não fáz festa co' rabo á mesa alhêa;  
Pede á terra o sustento, e nunca aos homens;  
Que he mais brando hu[m] calháo q[ue] hum peito humano  
No conceito do Cão, vive comsigo.  
Se o monte caça tem trabalha e come,  
E nunca quiz colleira no pescoço  
Por motrecos de pão, e ossos pellados.  
Não sei porque capricho ou fantasia  
Estes tempos atraz deixou seu pouso;  
Deu-lhe em correr as ruas de Lisboa,  
Por onde andára despejado e livre;  
Que até ladrou nas barbas de Lagarde,  
Afrontando sem medo os ribeirinhos,  
As pás, os negros, e a canalha toda,  
Executora do fatal Decreto,  
Que mandára dar morte aos cães honrados,  
Que não querião ter donos estranhos.  
Veio pois a Lisboa o grão Rafeiro,  
De lés a lés encheo co' o corpo as ruas;  
Sempre de orelha fita, e rabo alçado,  
Tão senhor do terreno, e tão soberbo,  
Como hum Sultão dos Cães, por entre os Gôzos.  
Não sei, amigo, se damnado vinha;  
Veio ao menos de estomago damnado;  
Por aqui, por além, fareja e marcha.  
De vêz em quando lhe alvejava o dente  
Agudo, lizo, penetrante, e duro;  
Que vir parece a morte ali sentada.  
Olhando de travez rondava tudo,  
E d'olho vivo os Gôzos espreitava.  
Qual habil General que, antes que invista  
A falange inimiga, a reconhece,  
Mede o terreno, e posições escolhe,  
E onde acha fraco intrepido accomette;  
D'esta arte o Grão Rafeiro espreita, e gira  
As ruas todas, e a matilha observa,  
Antes que ao grande assalto estenda as unhas,  
E os formidaveis dentes arreganhe.  
Eu andei atraz delle, que a contados  
Passos as ruas passeava ufano:  
O intento penetrei, que era dar cabo  
De Cães vadios, raça ladradôra.

Elle só na Campanha, elle era tudo,  
Era rezerva, exercito, e bagagem;  
Tanto fiáva o Cão nos proprios dentes!  
Eu lhe vi, e ainda tremo, à vez primeira  
Arrufar-se-lhe o rabo, arder-lhe os olhos,  
Arrefegar os prominentes beiços,  
E mostrar, que terror! toda a dentuça!  
Lançando estavão sobre a dura terra  
Hum pomposo Edificio alguns Pedreiros:  
Erão oras de almoço, e repousavão  
Tasquinhando pães quentes com manteiga;  
Empadas de Pedreiro assim chamadas;  
Em roda delles meneando o rabo  
Gôzos, talvez que seus, co' a frente immovel  
Estavão muitos na migalha attentos.  
Parou não sei porque bravo Rafeiro:  
Qual o Brigue Britano quando avista  
Hum Corsario Francez que infesta os máres,  
Sem dizer =agoa-vai=, ergue as vermelhas  
Portinholas fataes, dispara, e vence;  
Tal o Rafeiro se arremessa e morde,  
E o grão tropel dos Gozos esfarracha.  
Huns vão ganindo, sem levar orelhas,  
Huns espirão de todo, outros perneião,  
De balde a turba dos Pedreiros todos  
Vem correndo co' a trolha, e camartello,  
Hum co' a regua acodio, e outro co' oprumo,  
Vem c' hum coche de cal o Mestre impando.  
Hum Servente acodio c' huma alavanca;  
Sobre montões de gôzos desmembrados  
O Grão Rafeiro está, e espera as Hostes.  
Deo hum latido horrissono, e n'hum ponto  
Trolhas, Pedreiros, Prumos, Camartellos,  
Regoas, Compassos, co' os Diabos forão.  
Viva (em torno lhe grita o rapazio)  
Viva o grão Cão, flagello dos Pedreiros.  
Que peiores que os Cães damnados mordem,  
Mamão grandes jornaes, trabalhão nada;  
E fazem cazarões sem alicerces  
Onde enterrada fica a pobre gente,  
Viva o grão Cão triunfador dos Gozos,  
Que làdrão sempre, e as gentes inquietão;  
Foi este ensaio da primeira guerra.

Sem o passo apressar caminha altivo;  
Busca nova aventura, e logo a encontra;  
Não lhe louvei a acção, posto que justa.  
Deo c'o pobre de hum Cão já cocho, e cégo,  
Lazarento, mirrado, horrendo, e feio,  
Mas ladrador continuo, e se podia,  
Té pelo tacto os dentes empolgava:  
Poz-lhe em cima huma pata, e ficou morto,  
E á corja canical servio de exemplo.

Qual da triste figura o Paladino  
Que da Mancha sahio, e imitão muitos,  
Que hia abatendo altissimos Gigantes,  
Ou moinhos de vento, ou carneiradas:  
Tal o grão Cão marchava em busca d'elles.  
Encontra o Cão de hum Grego (que a par delle,  
Com o lencínho amarrado na cabeça  
Volvia n'alma furtos e mentiras,  
Costumado encampar gato por lébre,  
E extracto de alfarroba em vez de vinho,)  
Co' Grego Cão de fila investe ouzado:  
Começa a produzir compridos dentes

(Inutil producção) tortos e padres:  
Qual hum menino foi na mão das bruchas,  
De huma dentada só ficou deitado,  
Nem mais se levantou. Eis corre hum Galgo,  
Que o cachorro do Grego acompanhava,  
Esguio, magro, estitico, mirrado,  
Ponte-agudo o focinho, e longe-vibruo;  
Quinque-dentadas as gengives tinha:  
C'os olhos destendidos ao Rafeiro,  
O quiz accommetter; o grão Molosso  
Lhe submetteo a tromba, e adeos ó Galgo;  
Foi fazer companhia ao Cão de Pocris  
Que além de corno está da argentea Lua:  
Desgraçado Mastim, teu fado escuro  
Nas unhas te foi pôr do grão Rafeiro,  
E nunca mais de ti memoria houve!  
Debalde tinhas tão compridas pernas,  
Nunca mais te verei dar hum passeio!  
De nobre sangue de suor banhado,  
De ataque a passo entrou pelo Rocio,  
Onde grupos de Cães tem fixo assento.  
Vio no meio hum magote uivando sempre  
Com latidos agudos, que parecem  
Ou Poetas de outeiro, ou d'Elogio:  
Pois entre todos o toitiço erguião,  
Hum de côr amarella, outro sombria,  
E de focinho tanto esburacado,  
Que huma carga de chumbo, ou de metralha  
Parece que levou, cahido o beijo,  
E de rabo comprido, e rabo antigo,  
Tantas postas de lama o pello cobrem,  
Que só na tromba tem forma de Dogue,  
O mais he crusta de monturo e lodo,  
De noite attento à çuja caldeirada,  
Prestes corre onde cahe, fareja hum osso.  
Ambos tem presumpção de olfato agudo,  
Mas são entre outros Cães de instincto rombo.  
Apenas o Rafeiro avista a corja,  
Qual em ninhada dos implumes pintos  
Cahe carniceiro voador Milhafre,  
Que d'uma unhada a todos espatifa;  
Assim como dum damnado, o Cão tremendo  
Se foi lançar aos sordidos sabujos:  
Taes dentadas lhes dêo que os dois ficãrão  
Pernas ao ár por toda a sua vida.  
Hum delles quiz grunhir, levou nas ventas  
Tão profundo gilvaz, que alli n'hum charco  
Ficou, já sem alentos, patinhando.  
A grã turba dos Cães dezerta toda,  
Ficou limpo o Rocio, até ficãrão  
Limpos os Botequins de entulho eterno,  
A cuja porta os gozos almejando,  
Os restos da torrada esperão sempre.  
Não cança o Campião, pregou dois berros,  
E alguns Cães felpudinhos de Senhoras,  
Que atraz dellas vão sempre, ou ellas delles,  
E que dão dentadinha e mijão tudo,  
Tão cortados de medo ali ficãrão,  
Tão cozidos no chão que o grão Rafeiro  
Não quiz ser hum Leão com taes ovelhas.  
Passou de louros e tropheos cercado,  
E ao monte foi de Santa Catharina,  
Seis matilhas de Cães, magros, sarnentos,  
Já comidos da fome e da velhice,

Eternos ali vio n'um soalheiro:  
Huns sebentos papeis lambendo estavão,  
Enfeitiçados na fatal lambugem;  
Sustentão-se com ella e della vivem.  
Abrem de vez em quando enormes bôcas  
Para a boca da Barra, e sempre esperão  
Huma batata de encobertas Ilhas,  
Ou Cavallo marinho, em que se cevem.  
O que estes Cães aguardão, aguardarão  
Os Avós destes Cães, nada apparece;  
Mas apparece o intrepido Rafeiro.  
Ora agora o vereis! todos n'um feixe,  
De huma dentada, esborrachados ficão.  
Não me parece hum Cão, parece hum Demo,  
Todo sanha, e furor, vingança, e morte.  
Derreados de lombo alguns fugirão  
Com a perna no ar; e uivando atroão  
Toda a Cidade immensa, o Reino inteiro.  
De toda a parte sordidas matilhas  
Acudirão de Cães: ladrarão todas.  
Das portarias dos Conventos rompem  
Cães como toiros, gordos como nabos,  
Cães de vida folgada, e dente agudo;  
Com disformes latidos atroarão  
Desde as margens do Tejo às do Tamiza;  
Onde hum Feitiço, ou Talisman quizera  
Fazer ao grão Rafeiro o Cão trifauce.

Ver a guerra dos Cães contra hum Rafeiro!  
Elle só no terreiro, e a crespa grenha  
Sacode hum pouco, e o navalhado dente  
No cachaço enterrou de hum Cão roliço,  
Era o Cão de hum Pastor, trombudo e feio;  
Nem sequer lhe ganio, perneia, e morre.

Vem hum Cão furibundo, a quem chanfana  
Com seu dom gordurento, ali chamavão:  
Quatro assaltos lhe deo, quaes quatro Cartas  
Ou Carteis de duello, e o chama à morte:  
A falange dos dentes arreganha  
Com tanta furia o intrepido Rafeiro  
Que entre as pernas metêo o Gôzo o rabo;  
E lá se foi metter nas Sallas onde  
Elle só, mais ninguem, tem franca entrada.

Vai o disperso Exercito fogindo  
Sem voltar Caras á medonha tromba  
Do triunfante, ou vencedor Rafeiro:  
O cabelo levava em sangue envolto,  
Sangue alheio, não seu; que esfarrachados  
Ficarão para sempre os Cães, que esperão  
Os que análiseo, examinão, ladrão.

Dois podengos Filosofos ao longe  
Se lhe põem a latir com mar em meio;  
De lá veio huma pedra, e o Cão raivoso  
Tanta força mostrou no eburneo dente,  
Que a mesma pedra espedaçou de hum golpe;  
E por certo não sei se outro latido  
Delles se hade escutar = Eis que hum sabujo  
De lombo assalvajado, e catadura  
Medonha e má, de prominentes beiços,  
Cão de huma preta, que de fava rica,  
De dobrada, e tripas lhe enchia a pança,  
Diante do Rafeiro se atravessa;  
C'o vasto corpanzil enche huma rua,  
Ao duello tremendo acode a preta;  
Porém não foge ao desigual combate

O já damnado, intrepido Rafeiro.  
Acode o Cão do Jardineiro Alfeno,  
Da Maga Adella o fraldiqueiro acode,  
Preta, Cães, Ortelão, tudo hum lambisco  
Nas garras foi do Campeão famoso,  
E huma Cadella, Saragoça dita,  
Brava qual Palafox, de huma dentada  
Ganindo a deixa, e patinhando em lama;  
Pasma de ve-lo extatica Lisboa,  
Tintos de sangue os olhos, e de espumas  
Os cantos cheios, da rasgada bôca.  
Não cançado, mas de bravo encosta  
As ancas á parede, e espera affouto,  
Que inimigo maior se mostre em campo;  
E tão sanhudo está, tão furibundo,  
Que cuida a gente ao ve-lo, que do Inferno  
A ver a luz sahira o Cão trifauce.

Eis lhe surde de hum bêco enlameado;  
C'huma orelha rasgada o Cão do Grego  
Manquejando de hum pé, raivoso ainda;  
Como esquecido da passada coça  
O dente lhe arreganha, e alçando o rabo  
Fez signal de investir; e o grão Rafeiro  
Deu dois passos de ataque, e no cachaço  
Tão funda lhe enterrou toda a dentuça,  
Que o miserando Cão, de olhos, e rabo  
O sangue lhe esmichou; dêo dois arrancos,  
Na lama se estendeu; vinha com elle  
Pequeno e ruivo Cão, magro, e sarnento  
Qual d'Alciato o Cão que ladra á Lua,  
Assim ladrou de longe ao grão Rafeiro:  
Este os olhos lhe vira, e com desprezo  
Deixa ladrar o Gozo impertinente  
Cão de Cabras, e tarro, e coice, e nada.

O Mollosso trombudo hum pouco ainda  
N'huma esquina parou, de rixa velha.  
Hum Cão gaguejador buscando andava,  
Mui sabido, prudente, e reservado;  
De Cães era Doutor, ladrava a tudo:  
Foi ventura no Cão não vir á Rua,  
Não achava quartel; que unhas e dentes  
No coiro lhe empolgava o grão Rafeiro;  
Se à Cidade tornar, dà cabo delle;  
Que tanta raiva à Canzoada tinha,  
Que até Cães enterrados esfalaxa;  
Co'as patas vai cavar nas sepulturas;  
Inda là rôe nos descarnados ossos,  
E com todos os Cães tem guerra aberta.

Jà quasi fóra da Cidade, chega  
A hum tezo sobranceiro às ruas todas,  
E d'ali revirou sanguineos olhos;  
Tres latidos pregou, nenhum lhe surde,  
Que os Cães sabendo do fatal destroço,  
Entre as pernas mettendo os rabos todos,  
Nos immundos covis se alapardarão.  
Por tres horas ficou no campo d'honra,  
A poupa então virou, e alçando a perna,  
Mijou na Cansoada; e ao pouso antigo,  
De orelha fita, e alçando o rabo foi-se.

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