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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A FLOR DE PIEL: FRASES ***

A Flor De Piel

OBRAS DEL AUTOR

VERSO

La fuente matinal.—Lámpara votiva.—La barca sonora.—El jardín de Margarita.—Copos de sueño.—Motivos sentimentales.—Excelsior.—Glosas del camino.—Momentos líricos.—La copa amarga.—Cromos callejeros.—Cancionero de la Vida.—Música triste.—Recogimiento.—Flores de agua.—Tríptico heroico.—Oblación.—El remanso de las lágrimas.—Tono menor.

PROSA

El arte teatral en Cuba. Un poeta.—Crepuscular.—A flor de piel.

TEATRO

TOMO I. La verdad de la Vida.—La máscara de anoche.—La vida falsa.

TOMO II. El mundo de los muñecos.—La princesa buena.—El héroe.

TOMO III. El buen camino.—Compuesta y sin novio.—Conferencia contra el Hombre.

TOMO IV. La última corrida.—Carmen.—Dos de Mayo.

TOMO V. El último areito.—El filibustero.—Sangre mambisa.

TOMO VI. La sacrificada.—Lo que traen los Reyes.—Los hijos de Herakles.

GUSTAVO SÁNCHEZ GALARRAGA

A Flor De Piel

FRASES

LA HABANA

MCMXX

Así, por encima, sin rozar la carne, acariciándola sólo, van estas pobres frases, a flor de piel.

[7]

¿Para qué ahondar en las cosas? ¿Para qué meditar demasiado en ellas?

«No hay mayor pesadumbre que la vida consciente», dijo Darío, y hervo, exclama: «Suprímeme, Dios mío, el horror de pensar.»

Entra en el jardín. ¿Lo ves? Sonríe en la gracia encendida de la mañana. Sangran al sol las rosas [8] en los rosales, y las fuentes cantan su eterna canción de oro.

¿Estás maravillado por el encanto milagroso del espectáculo? ¡Pues no preguntes nada! ¡Sonríe con el jardín, sangra con la púrpura ardiente de las rosas, canta con la eterna canción de las fuentes! Y pasa...

Así, por encima, sin rozar la carne, acariciándola sólo, van estas pobres frases, a flor de piel...

Nuestra vida es un divino instante de sueño y amor. Despues, ¡quién sabe!...

[9]

En la Vida, como en la comedia, hay que bajar muchas veces el telón.

A veces, un vicio fomenta una virtud, como un veneno estimula la vida.

Cuando el hombre superior delinque, lo que la Humanidad castiga en él no es su culpa, sino su [10] superioridad.

La Envidia, para desfogarse, se pone a veces la máscara de la Justicia, y aunque inspirada por el numen del rencor, habla en nombre de la «moral ofendida».

Ni el santo ni el sabio condenan. El sabio, porque comprende, y el santo, porque perdona.

Toda moral que no se inspire en la naturaleza, es absurda.

El Mal no es un propósito: ¡es una fatalidad!

[11]

¡Cuán negra es una conciencia desnuda! ¡Qué santo es el aspecto de la Hipocresía!

No hay malvados, sino enfermos o desgraciados.

¡Médicos, no jueces! ¡Sacerdotes, no moralistas!

Si fuéramos justos, de cada cárcel haríamos un hospital.

La maldad humana se castiga, se perdoná, o se desprecia, simplemente; pero no se recuerda.

[12]

La naturaleza es una; las morales, muchas. Esto indica que, o falta naturaleza, o sobran morales.

Lo triste de la calumnia no es que los canallas la digan, sino que los hombres honrados la oigan.

La afrenta injusta no humilla; sólo mancha el deshonor que se merece.

Cuando escupo a la masa murmurar de sus grandes hombres, pienso en los lacayos cuando [13] murmuran de sus señores.

... ese orgullo de la mujer honrada, que es como el rancio perfume de su honestidad...

¿Pesimista? ¿Optimista? ¡Sincero!

El pecado del hombre es la brutalidad; el de la mujer, la frivolidad.

En amor, no se puede creer a las mujeres ni cuando dicen que no; porque algunas, hasta entonces, mienten.

El Amor es como los manantiales: clara pureza de cristal, arriba; limos cenagosos en el fondo. [14]

El Dolor es como el frío: por donde pasa junta a los hombres.

Las andaderas no enseñan a andar, sino el dolor de las caídas.

En el Arte, como en la Vida, siempre somos hijos de alguien.

Para abarcar las cosas grandes, hay que mirarlas desde lejos.

Contra lo sublime, inventó el diablo lo ridículo; contra lo ridículo, sólo tienen los hombres el [15] desprecio.

Diálogo de examen.

—¿Cómo se llama una casa de juego cuando es clandestina?

—Garito.

—¿Y el que la rige?

—Tahúr.

—¿Y cuando el gobierno la autoriza y la ampara la Ley?

—Entonces el tahúr se llama caballero, y el garito, club, círculo o casino.

El que nos combate nos honra, porque se ocupa de nosotros. Y más, si nos combate apasionadamente, porque la pasión es siempre enaltecedora.

Atacar a los que brillan es el procedimiento de los anónimos para alcanzar notoriedad. Por eso se [16] debe responder con el silencio más profundo a sus mañosas-acometidas.

Nuestro ridículo concepto del honor, no pudo hallar medio más adecuado de resolver sus ridículos conflictos que el duelo.

El Juicio de Dios—combate antiguo y absurdo—es el origen del duelo: ¡resabio caduco de que se gloría nuestra edad progresiva y razonadora!

Cuando un canalla nos ofende, estamos en el deber de retarle. ¿Y si el canalla es un espadachín y nos mata?

A un hombre que no supiese cantar, nadie le pediría que cantase, para arreglar un asunto de [17] honor. Sin embargo, se le exige que se bata, aunque no sepa ni una iota de Esgrima.

Cuando un hombre a una injuria contesta con el desprecio, se le tiene por cobarde. Si pega una bofetada, es un valiente. ¡He aquí cómo la Civilización aplaude a la Barbarie! ¡O cómo aún estamos cerca del origen que nos asignó Darwin!

El marido y el amante deben comprenderse: ¡hay una afinidad que les une!

El Arte, en la Vida, es como música de Beethoven en un comedor de hotel.

¿Un símbolo plástico de la Democracia? ¡El tranvía! [18]

La Filosofía puede no tener pasión; pero la pasión siempre tiene filosofía.

¿Quieres crearte un enemigo más? ¡Hazle favores a un hombre vil!

Los viajes son la única cultura de los que no pueden tener otra.

¿Qué es un buen mozo, cuando no es más que un buen mozo? Campoamor lo dijo: «Un emplasto vulgar para uso externo.»

Asusta pensar que hombres que no poseen una sola idea, dispongan de más de un idioma para [19] expresarse.

El iconoclasticismo de los jóvenes no suele ser en el fondo sino afán de derribar a los ídolos para erigirse ellos mismos en ídolos.

La Vida, como la escala de Jacob, empieza en la tierra, pero acaba en Dios.

¡Oh la virtud inviolada de los buenos burgueses y de la pobre gentecilla mediocre! Si no tienen eso, su estrecha fama, cuidadosamente limpia, ¿qué tendrán entonces? Son gentes nulas. Incapaces del Mal, es verdad: pero así mismo incapaces del Bien. Porque para pecar se necesita imaginación, sensibilidad, osadía. Mentir, por ejemplo, ¿no es un arte? ¿No arguye una indiscutible habilidad la mentira?... [20]

La bravuconería es al valor, lo que el ruido a la música; o sea, lo que un fracaso de platos de loza ordinaria, a un nocturno de Chopín o a una sonata de Mozart.

Dios ama tanto todo lo que vuela, que no consintió que la maldad la introdujese en el mundo un ave, sino un reptil.

Me voy convenciendo de que en todo revolucionario hay un dictador escondido. Napoleón, en este concepto, no me dejará mentir. ¡Es triste cerciorarse de que las revoluciones no son sino sacudidas del espíritu de tiranía! [21]

Si los que buscamos la Gloria siempre, no supiéramos despreciarla a veces, no seríamos dignos de ella.

La Vida es «la losa de los sueños»... Pero los sueños no mueren: ¡se sepultan vivos!...

La ilusión es como la vida: se va sin saber cómo, y una vez que se va, nadie tiene el poder de volverla...

La Ley es un conjunto de doctrinas admirables, que sólo sirven para estorbar. Afortunadamente es también la «casa con dos puertas» de que nos habló Calderón. [22]

Orgullo, tú que tanto te encumbras, dime: ¿qué sería de los grandes sin los pequeños?...

La única fuerza está en el pueblo; pero él lo ignora y la desaprovecha. Como el mar, gasta, inútilmente una energía formidable.

La desigualdad económica será eterna en la sociedad; pero ¡que los ricos tengan un poco menos, y los pobres, un poco más!...

Hay personajes incluídos en la historia de la humanidad, que merecían catalogarse en la Historia Natural. [23]

Casi todas las luchas de la Historia nacen de la ambición del poder. Cuba, en este sentido, no

constituye la excepción.

Toda la Historia de España se resume en tres símbolos: una cruz, una espada y un barco.

Americanismo, para nosotros, es evolución: evolución de lo hispano. No se marcha a saltos en la sociedad ni en la historia. En eso ocurre como en la naturaleza. Podrán injertarse al tronco [24] propios ramos exóticas; pero el tronco ha de ser propio.

Sabemos que el hombre se ofende al oír que desciende del mono. ¡Lo que habría que ver es lo que dice el mono hecho «editor responsable» de las infamias del hombre!

Cuba, para el extranjero, es un poco de azúcar, que se deslía, y un pedazo de tabaco, que se esfuma.

Los Estados Unidos dan su sangre a Europa, mientras le beben la suya a Santo Domingo. Son [25] humanitarios «al por mayor», pero no «al menudeo».

Los pueblos chicos no debían tener ideales grandes.

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