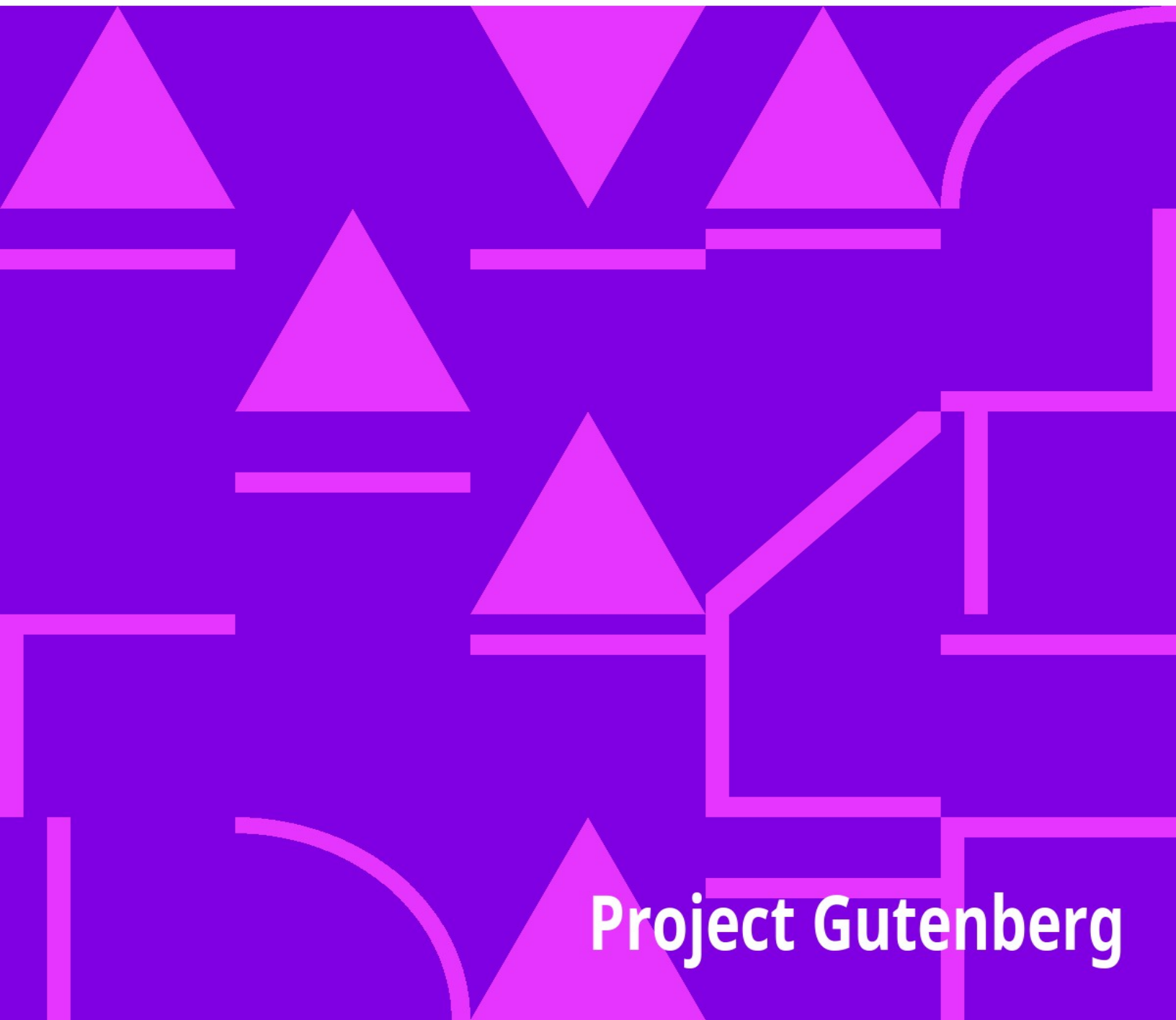


A Saudade: Canto elegiaco

Henrique Ernesto de Almeida Coutinho

The background of the lower half of the image is a solid black field. Overlaid on this are various geometric shapes in a vibrant magenta color. These include several triangles of different sizes and orientations, some horizontal lines, and some curved, semi-circular shapes. The shapes are scattered across the lower half, creating a modern, abstract design.

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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A SAUDADE:
CANTO ELEGIAICO ***

A SAUDADE,

**CANTO ELEGIAICO
NA MORTE
DO
VIRTUOSO E BENEMERITO JOVEN**

João Alvares d'Almeida Guimaraens.

POR

H. E. A. C.

Ilustração 1

PORTO

TIPOGRAPHIA COMMERCIAL.
Rua de Bello-Monte n. 57.
1847.

DUAS PALAVRAS DO AUCTOR

A morte do joven portuense João Alvares d'Almeida Guimarães foi perda mui real e consideravel não sómente para a sua familia e amigos, mas ainda para o ensino público e para a litteratura. Unia elle bom cabedal de talentos a bem fornecido peculio d'instrucção bebida em salutareis mananciaes; por quanto a mais leve mácula d'irreligião, a mais esvaída tinctura de cynismo, lhe eram sobejo motivo para abandonar começadas leituras, e romper toda a communicação com auctores eivados de similhante lepra, e que, na esperança talvez de mais avultados lucros ou de maior celebridade, inculcam theorias que a experiencia desmente, ou lisonjeam paixões que muito conviria refrear. Joven nos annos, ancião na prudencia, não pagava fôro á presumpçosa insania d'um seculo legitimador de todas as illegitimidades, atrozmente corrupto e corruptor. Todavia recatava este joven suas raras virtudes e preciosos talentos sob o véo da natural modestia; e por isso, para ser bem avaliado, havia mister conhecido e tractado de perto. Coube-me essa dita, e são para mim de saudosa recordação tantas noites que passamos embebidos em serio estudo, ou, por vezes, em colloquio amigavel. Quando em mim a fragil natureza ceder ás instigações da vaidade, exclamarei na fôrça do meu enthusiasmo: João Alvares d'Almeida Guimarães foi meu discipulo e amigo!

A SAUDADE.

A SAUDADE.

CANTO ELEGÍACO.

Celasti alti desir sotto umil verte;
Negasti albergo ai torti umani affetti:
Non so s'angel terreno, od uom celeste!

L. GUIDICIONI.

Teus arcanos, ó Deus, se ao mundo roubas
Assim tam cedo um exemplar prestante,
Nunca os penetrará sciencia humana,
Por mais lucubrações que accesa aguante.

Eira espaçosa despojar do trigo,
E ingrato joio estreme só deixar-lhe,
Ah! é mysterio que gemendo adoro,
E a ti compete a profundez palpar-lhe.

Quanto nos foge rapida ésta vida,
Esta folha autumnal que, exposta ao vento,
Entre o ser e o não ser definha inutil,
Se na seiva moral não tem sustento!

Altos decretos teus!... Mas ah! permite,
Permite um ai, Senhor, á natureza;
Que inda o vibrado golpe me resôa
No fundo d'alma, abysmo de tristeza.

Teu Filho associou lagrymas suas
Ás lagrymas de Martha e de Maria,
E acordou-lhes o irmão, que sob a lagem
Ferreo somno de morte já dormia.

E não chorarei eu?... A dor, o pranto,
São legado fatal que remanece
Imposto por Adão á prole infausta;
Só do stoico a vaidade o desconhece.

Pela etherea amplidão agora estende
Seu negro manto a noite taciturna,
E me vê, n'este aos mortos grato asylo,
Cingir d'affecto veneranda urna.

N'ella jaz (só extincto coube n'ella)
Um coração magnanimo, que todo
A sabor seu formaram as Virtudes,
Quasi sem liga de terreno lôdo!

Sim, Jonelio em seu peito reatava
Sublime coração, alma sublime,
Velados de modestia amplos thesouros
De que o valor em vozes mal se exprime.

Era lampada accesa reluzindo,
Sem nunca esmorecer, no templo sancto;
Era em ferrenha quadra eximio athleta
D'aureas doutrinas, que prezava tanto.

Ás suggestões do seculo enganosas
Oppunha alta prudencia inabalavel;
E amando os homens, pesaroso via
O imperio das paixões crescer duravel.

Ai! perdeu n'elle a patria exemplo e esforço
Que ao vicio a torpe audacia abateriam,
E o banido pudor aos lusos lares,
Em pompa triumphal, restituiriam.

Fida amizade em vínculo pujante
Ha muito os corações nos enlaçava;

Era qual fonte em aridos desertos
Jonelio para mim, quando o avistava.

Preceptor me escolheu para aplanar-lhe
As sendas da moral philosophia,
E não sei qual de nós lucrou mais luzes
No mutuo engôdo da tenaz porfia.

Doces momentos!... suspirado amigo!...
Não mais me alegrará vossa presença
N'este de mágoas lamentoso valle,
Onde sopra tufões discórdia infensa.

Inda um amplexo ás venerandas cinzas,
Em memoria d'instantes que voaram;
Aqueça nova lagryma fervente
Despojos que do justo aqui ficaram.

Oh! que entre os braços meus anciosos sinto
A urna estremecer!... surgir de dentro
Se me affigura luminoso joven!...
E ei-lo de rosea nuvem toma o centro!

A dos Eleitos bonançosa dita
Lhe resplende nos olhos, no semblante;
E mais alvas que a neve as soltas vestes
Lhe bafeja a da noite aura fragrante.

Sua augusta missão confortadora
Já no sorriso angelico assignala;
Ergue os olhos ao céu, desce-os á terra,
E em dulcissimas vozes assim falla:

"Do exilio os dias encurtar-me aprouve
"Ao Rei que, lá do solio permanente,
"Governa os orbes, e os abrange todos
"Co' a veladora dextra omnipotente.

"Louvor ao Rei dos reis! que auxilios grandes,
"No breve espaço em que habitei a terra,
"Me liberalisou;--domei com elles
"Paixões que em peito humano ateam guerra.

"Que é sem Deus o mortal?--misero verme
"Vaso de turbação, d'iniquidade,
"Infeliz n' ésta vida transitoria,
"Inda mais infeliz na eternidade.

"Se me has visto cumprir deveres d'homem
"Se inda a memoria minha ahi se exalta,
"Dou, amigo, ao meu Deus perennes graças
"Elle a planta amparou de vigor falta.

"O das misericordias brando orvalho,
"Sôbre imperfeições minhas gotejando,
"As lavou, as deliu. Respiro glória,
"Eternos bens a flux saboreando!

"Nao ha lingua nem voz que exprimir possam
"Pullulantes riquezas infinitas
"Que me arrebatam, que em redor me alongam
"Fulgente oceano d'ineffaveis ditas!

"O martyr da verdade, o que meus passos
"No caminho alentava da virtude,
"Me seguiu pressuroso, e me é consocio
"Agora na suprema beatitude.

"Vou prostrar-me ante o Eterno, supplicar-lhe
"Que solte do destêro e una commigo
"Minha familia, que enluctada geme;--
"Nem me esqueço de ti, saudoso amigo!

"D'essa escura mansão tumultuosa

"Às celestes mansões voei ligeiro,
"E colheu-me affagando idéas tuas
"O inopinado instante derradeiro.

Assim falla, e volátil s'esvaece
Como nevoa d'estio ao sol nascente.
la abraçá-lo,--e achei entre meus braços
Da urna o frio marmore sómente.

Mas todo não findára aqui o enlêvo:
Inda roseo clarão me circumdava,
E prazenteira a viração da noite
Em affago e perfume s'esmerava.

Canto arrebatador, delicias d'alma,
Taes sons em tórno resoar fazia:
"Vive o justo no céu, do justo as preces
"São ante o Eterno d'efficaz valia.

Ilustração 2

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CANTO ELEGIAICO ***

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