

# O Melro

Abílio Manuel Guerra Junqueiro

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# **GUERRA JUNQUEIRO**

**O MELRO**

**(FRAGMENTO)**

DAVID CORAZZI, EDITOR EMPRESA HORAS  
ROMANTICAS 40, RUA DA ATALAYA, 52

**LISBOA—1879**

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Ao meu amigo

BERNARDO PINDELLA

# O MELRO

O melro, eu conheci-o:  
Era negro, vibrante, luzidio,  
    Madrugador, jovial;  
Logo de manhã cedo  
Começava a soltar d'entre o arvoredos  
Verdadeiras risadas de cristal.  
E assim que o padre cura abria a porta  
    Que dá para o passal,  
Repicando umas finas ironias,  
    O melro d'entre a horta  
    Dizia-lhe: «Bons dias!»  
    E o velho padre cura  
Não gostava d'aquellas cortezias.

O cura era um velhote conservado  
Malicioso, alegre, prasenteiro;  
Não tinha pombas brancas no telhado,  
    Nem rosas no canteiro:  
Andava ás lebres pelo monte, a pé,  
    Livre de reumatismos,

Graças a Deos, e graças a Nóe.  
O melro despresava os exorcismos  
Que o padre lhe dizia:  
Cantava, assobiava alegremente;  
Até que ultimamente  
O velho disse um dia:

«Nada, já não tem geito! este ladrão  
Dá cabo dos trigaes!  
Qual seria a rasão  
Porque Deos fez os melros e os pardaes?!»

E o melro no entretanto,  
Honesto como um santo,  
Mal vinha no oriente  
A madrugada clara  
Já elle andava jovial, inquieto,  
Comendo alegremente, honradamente,  
Todos os parasitas da seara  
Desde a formiga ao mais pequeno insecto.  
E apesar d'isto o rude proletario,  
O bom trabalhador,  
Nunca exigiu augmento de salario.

Que grande tolo o padre confessor!

Foi para a eira o trigo;  
E armando uns espantalhos  
Disse o abbade comsigo:  
«Acabaram-se as penas e os trabalhos.»

Mas logo de manhã, maldito espanto!  
O abbade, inda na cama,  
OuvIU do melro o costumado canto;  
Ficou ardendo em chamma;  
Pega na caçadeira  
Levanta-se d'um salto,  
E vê o melro a assobiar na eira  
Em cima do seu velho chapéu alto!  
Chegou a coisa a termo  
Que o bom do padre cura andava enfermo,  
Não fallava nem ria,  
Minado por tão intimo desgosto;  
E o vermelho oleoso do seu rosto  
Tornava-se amarello dia a dia.  
E foi tal a paixão, a desventura,  
(Muito embora o leitor não me acredite)  
Que o bom do padre cura  
Perdera... o appetite!

\* \* \* \* \*

Andando no quintal um certo dia  
Lendo em voz alta o *Velho Testamento*  
Enxergou por acaso (que alegria!  
Que ditoso momento!)  
Um ninho com seis melros escondido  
Entre uma carvalheira.  
E ao vel-os exclamou enfurecido:

«A mãe comeu o fructo prohibido;  
Esse fructo era a minha sementeira:

Era o pão, e era o milho;  
Transmittiu-se o peccado.  
E, se a mãe não pagou, que pague o filho.  
É doutrina da Egreja. Estou vingado!»

E engaiolando os pobres passaritos  
Soltava exclamações:  
«É uma praga. Maldictos!  
Dão-me cabo de tudo estes ladrões!  
Raios os partam! andae lá que emfim...»

E deixando a gaiola pendurada  
Continuou a ler o seu latim  
Fungando uma pitada.

\* \* \* \* \*

Vinha tombando a noite silenciosa;  
E caía por sobre a natureza  
Uma serena paz religiosa,  
Uma bella tristeza  
Harmonica, viril, indefinida.  
A luz crepuscular  
Infiltra-nos na alma dolorida  
Um mysticismo heroico e salutar.  
As arvores, de luz inda doiradas,  
Sobre os montes longiquos, solitarios,  
Tinham tomado as fórmis rendilhadas  
Das plantas dos herbarios.  
Recolhiam-se a casa os lavradores.  
Dormiam virginaes as coisas mansas:  
Os rebanhos e as flores,

As aves e as creanças.  
Ia subindo a escada o velho abbade;  
A sua negra, athletica figura  
Destacava na frouxa claridade,  
Como uma nodoa escura.  
E introduzindo a chave no portal  
Murmurou entre dentes:

«Tal e qual... tal e qual!...  
Guisados com arroz são excellentes.»

\* \* \* \* \*

Nasceu a lua. As folhas dos arbustos  
Tinham o brilho meigo, avelludado  
Do sorriso dos martyres, dos justos.  
Um effluvio dormente e perfumado  
Embebedava as seivas luxuriantes.  
Todas as forças vivas da materia  
Murmuravam dialogos gigantes  
Pela amplidão etherea.  
São precisos silencios virginaes,  
Disposições sympathicas, nervosas,  
Para ouvir estas fallas silenciosas  
Dos mudos vegetaes.  
As orvalhadas, frescas espessuras  
Presentiam-se quasi a germinar.  
Desmaiavam-se as candidas verduras  
Nos magnetismos brancos do luar.

.....

\* \* \* \* \*

E n'isto o melro foi direito ao ninho.  
Para o agasalhar andou buscando  
Umas pennugens doces como arminho,  
Um feltrosito assetinado e brando.

Chegou lá, e viu tudo.  
Partiu como uma frecha; e louco e mudo  
Correu por todo o matagal; em vão!  
Mas eis que solta de repente um grito  
Indo encontrar os filhos na prisão.

«Quem vos metteu aqui?!» O mais velhito  
Todo tremente, murmurou então:

«Foi aquelle homem negro.—Quando veio  
Chamei, chamei... Andavas tu na horta...  
Ai que susto, que susto! Elle é tão feio!...  
Tive-lhe tanto medo!... Abre esta porta,  
E esconde-nos debaixo da tua aza!  
Olha, já vão florindo as assucenas;  
Vamos a construir a nossa casa  
N'um bonito logar...  
Ai! quem me dera, minha mãe, ter pennas  
Para vôar, vôar!»

E o melro hallucinado  
Clamou:

«Senhor! Senhor!  
É por ventura crime ou é peccado  
Que eu tenha muito amor

A estes innocentes?!  
Ó natureza, ó Deos, como consentes  
Que me roubem assim os meus filhinhos,  
Os filhos que eu criei!  
Quanta dor, quanto amor, quantos carinhos,  
Quanta noite perdida  
Nem eu sei...  
E tudo, tudo em vão!  
Filhos da minha vida!  
Filhos do coração!!...  
Não bastaria a natureza inteira,  
Não bastaria o ceo para voardes,  
E prendem-vos assim d'esta maneira!...  
Covardes!  
A luz, a luz, o movimento insano  
Eis o agulhão, a fé que nos abraza...  
Encarcerar a aza  
É encarcerar o pensamento humano.  
A culpa tive-a eu! quasi á noitinha  
Parti, deixei-os sós...  
A culpa tive-a eu, a culpa é minha,  
De mais ninguém!... Que atroz!  
E eu devia sabel-o!  
Eu tinha obrigação de adivinhar...  
Remorso eterno! eterno pesadello!...

.....

Falta-me a luz e o ar!... Oh, quem me dera  
Ser abutre ou ser féra  
Para partir o carcere maldicto!...

E como a noite é limpida e formosa!  
Nem um ai, nem um grito...  
Que noite triste! oh noite silenciosa!...»

\* \* \* \* \*

E a natureza fresca, onnipotente,  
Sorria castamente  
Com o sorriso alegre dos heroes.  
Nas sebes orvalhadas,  
Entre folhas luzentas como espadas,  
Cantavam rouxinoes.

Os vegetaes felizes  
Mergulhavam as sofregas raizes  
A procurar na terra as seivas boas,  
Com a avidez e as raivas tenebrosas  
Das pequeninas feras vigorosas  
Sugando á noite os peitos das leoas.  
A lua triste, a lua merencorea,  
Desdemonia marmorea,  
Rolava pelo azul da immensidade,  
Immersa n'uma luz serena e fria,  
Branca como a harmonia,  
Pura como a verdade.  
E entre a luz do luar e os sons e as flores,  
Na atonia cruel das grandes dores,  
O melro solitario  
Jazia inerte, exanime, sereno,  
Bem como outr'ora a mãe do Nazareno  
Na noite do calvario!...

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