

meine geschriebenen und gemalten Gedanken, für den allein ich Farben habe, viel Farben vielleicht, viel bunte Zärtlichkeiten und fünfzig Gelbs und Brauns und Grüns und Roths: - aber Niemand erräth mir daraus, wie ihr in eurem Morgen aussahet, ihr plötzlichen Funken und Wunder meiner Einsamkeit, ihr meine alten geliebten - - schlimmen Gedanken!

Aus hohen Bergen.

Nachgesang.

Oh Lebens Mittag! Feierliche Zeit! Oh Sommergarten! Unruhig Glück im Stehn und Spähn und Warten: - Der Freunde harr' ich, Tag und Nacht bereit, Wo bleibt ihr Freunde? Kommt! 's ist Zeit! 's ist Zeit!

War's nicht für euch, dass sich des Gletschers Grau Heut schmückt mit Rosen? Euch sucht der Bach, sehnsüchtig drängen, stossen Sich Wind und Wolke höher heut in's Blau, Nach euch zu spähn aus fernster Vogel-Schau.

Im Höchsten ward für euch mein Tisch gedeckt - Wer wohnt den Sternen So nahe, wer des Abgrunds grausten Fernen? Mein Reich - welch Reich hat weiter sich gereckt? Und meinen Honig - wer hat ihn geschmeckt?....

- Da *seid* ihr, Freunde! - Weh, doch *ich* bin's nicht, Zu dem ihr wolltet? Ihr zögert, staunt - ach, dass ihr lieber grolltet! Ich - bin's nicht mehr? Vertauscht Hand, Schritt, Gesicht? Und was ich bin, euch Freunden - bin ich's nicht?

Ein Andrer ward ich? Und mir selber fremd? Mir selbst entsprungen? Ein Ringer, der zu oft sich selbst bezwungen? Zu oft sich gegen eigne Kraft gestemmt, Durch eignen Sieg verwundet und gehemmt?

Ich suchte, wo der Wind am schärfsten weht? Ich lernte wohnen, Wo Niemand wohnt, in öden Eisbär-Zonen, Verlernte Mensch und Gott, Fluch und Gebet? Ward zum Gespenst, das über Gletscher geht?

- Ihr alten Freunde! Seht! Nun blickt ihr bleich, Voll Lieb' und Grausen! Nein, geht! Zürnt nicht! Hier - könntet *ihr* nicht hausen: Hier zwischen fernstem Eis- und Felsenreich - Hier muss man Jäger sein und gemesgleich.

Ein *schlimmer* Jäger ward ich! - Seht, wie steil Gespannt mein Bogen! Der Stärkste war's, der solchen Zug gezogen--: Doch wehe nun! Gefährlich ist *der* Pfeil, Wie *kein* Pfeil, - fort von hier! Zu eurem Heil!.....

Ihr wendet euch? - Oh Herz, du trugst genug, Stark blieb dein Hoffen: Halt *neuen* Freunden deine Thüren offen! Die alten lass! Lass die Erinnerung! Warst einst du jung, jetzt - bist du besser jung!

Was je uns knüpfte, Einer Hoffnung Band, - Wer liest die Zeichen, Die Liebe einst hineinschrieb, noch, die bleichen? Dem Pergament vergleich ich's, das die Hand zu fassen *_scheut_*, - ihm gleich verbräunt, verbrannt.

Nicht Freunde mehr, das sind - wie nenn' ich's doch? - Nur Friends-Gespenster! Das klopft mir wohl noch Nachts an Herz und Fenster, Das sieht mich an und spricht: "wir *_waren's_* doch?"-- Oh welches Wort, das einst wie Rosen roch!

Oh Jugend-Sehnen, das sich missverstand! Die *ich* ersehnte, Die ich mir selbst verwandt-verwandelt währte, Dass *alt* sie wurden, hat sie weggebannt: Nur wer sich wandelt, bleibt mit mir verwandt.

Oh Lebens Mittag! Zweite Jugendzeit! Oh Sommergarten! Unruhig Glück im Stehn und Spähn und Warten! Der Freunde harr' ich, Tag und Nacht bereit, Der *neuen* Freunde! Kommt! 's ist Zeit! 's ist Zeit!

Dies Lied ist aus, - der Sehnsucht süsser Schrei Erstarb im Munde: Ein Zaubrer that's, der Freund zur rechten Stunde, Der Mittags-Freund - nein! fragt nicht, wer es sei - Um Mittag war's, da wurde Eins zu Zwei...

Nun feiern wir, vereinten Siegs gewiss, Das Fest der Feste: Freund *Zarathustra* kam, der Gast der Gäste! Nun lacht die Welt, der grause Vorhang riss, Die Hochzeit kam für Licht und Finsterniss...

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