

“What melody can create
What lyrics can describe
The echo of footsteps of the one
approaching death fearlessly?
The echo of footsteps of the one
Who chos es mortality willingly?”

Antigone is the spirit of those among us who have not yet “sold themselves for money” or let their “ambition draw them to the lure of giddy desires.” She is the spirit of those who stand up for what is right, even at the cost of their lives; those who “see no shame in having honored those things to which honor belongs;” those who are born to “uphold justice” and to “share their love not their hate.”

A young girl defied the orders issued by the state, some 25 centuries ago, to do what was right. Today, she stands u for what matters in our lives: Democracy, the Environment and Human Rights. Is she to “go to the rock-hewn chamber of the endless durance, in such a strange cold tomb, alone to linger?” or will we be the “friends who pursue her cause?”

A group of thespians perform her story, time and again, here and there, over and over in every corner of the universe. They are here, today. Are they reenacting her story “to be a lesson to those who dare defy such laws.” Or are they here to teach us to “keep our necks under the yoke?”

We are the cross-roads in our time, in our history, in our world where
“Three paths appear
Each marked with a signpost
Describing what makes it
Different from the others

First: the path of pleasure,
Partying, and extravagance,
Winding through disgrace and fraud,
But leading to wealth.

Second: the path
That mixes shame and fame.
If you rebel, you’ll be broken,
If you submit, you’ll advance.

Third: the path of no return.”