

Moment of Poetry

(Moliceiro ride)

I - *Black Woman's Tear* (Portugal)

The poem «Lágrima de preta», «A black woman's tear», was written by António Gedeão, whose real name was Rómulo de Carvalho.

The poetic subject analyzes a black woman's tear, scientifically tests it and concludes that this tear is the same as everyone else's, regardless of skin color.

I found a black woman

who was weeping,

I asked her for a tear

so that I could test it.

I picked up the tear

taking utmost care

in a test tube

well-sterilized.

**I watched it from one side
from the other, and in front:**

**it had an air of water drop
very transparent.**

**I ordered acids,
alkalines and salts,
all substances we use
in such cases.**

I tested it in cold,

I tested it in hot,

Every single time

the usual was what I got:

**Neither traces of black
nor signs of hate.**

**Water (almost everything)
and sodium chloride.**



II – Prince Henry (Norway)

Fernando Pessoa is a very unique case in the world, since, as a poet, he wrote under different personalities, in fact more than 100, according to the most recent research. Pessoa is the most universal portuguese poet.

In this poem, the poetic subject tell us that each situation in life depends on God's wills and in man's dream and that happened with Portuguese discoveries.

God wills, man dreams, the work is born.

God wanted the world one,

And the sea unite it, no longer torn.

He blessed you, and you went unveiling the spume,

And its white rim went from island to continent,

Led to the end of the world, came true,

And the land was seen, in a single moment,

To rise, round, from the unmeasurable blue.

He who blessed you made you Portuguese.

From the sea and us in you he sent the signal.

The sea came true, the empire bought to its knees.

Dear Lord, what hasn't come true is Portugal.



III – Portuguese Sea (La Reunion)

Fernando Pessoa is also the writer of this poem. In this poem, the poetic subject tell us about the glory but also the sacrifices that Portuguese had to conquered the world by sea.

Oh, salty main, this salt of yours,
How much of it is Portugal's tears!
By crossing you, how many mothers would wail,
How many children prayed to no avail!
How many brides would unmarried remain
For you to become ours, oh salty main!

Was it worth the trouble? Everything is worth the trouble
If the soul is not too small.
He who wants to go beyond Bojador
Has to get beyond the torture.
Danger and the abyss God gave to ocean.
But mirrored in it is heaven.



IV – *Hey they leave* (Austria)

Manuel Freire is a portuguese singer and composer that was born in Aveiro and one of the theme of his songs is migration. In this poem, he analyzes the life of whom went out and keep going of Portugal.

**They leave
young and old
seek luck
at other stops
in other winds
among other peoples
they leave
old and new**

**They leave
wet eyes
Sad heart
And the bag in the back
hope in the air
golden dreams
they leave
wet eyes**

**Will come one day
rich or not
Telling stories
from far away
where the sweat
made into bread
will come one day
Or not...**



V – Migrant's Trova/Poem (Spain)

Manuel Alegre is also a Portuguese writer, borned in Aveiro and this is a poem dedicated to all who leaves their country searching for a better life.

Leaves at night and doesn't look	If the fruit is never reached
The fields you will leave	Because your luck was tough
All inside shaking	Go to France
(...)	Don't think you're happy
Leaf by leaf defoliates	Take the green in your eyes
your heart leaving	From the fields where you get lost
No thirst for adventure	People who gave you everything
I didn't want the distant land	Leave but stay present
Life made you a traveler	In everything you didn't reap
If you are looking for land in France	(...)
Is that luck was hard for you	Women are left crying
And a man gets tired too	For those who are gone
(...)	Oh tears that cry
In life you live death	don't make any changes
If the work doesn't bear fruit	once owned the sea
Dies in every minute	Go to the lands of France.

