



Quo Vadis?

Voz off –

Woman 1 –

Man 1 –

Mother –

Woman 2 –

Man 2 -

Music and Wardrobe -

Voz off - The precarious conditions and the war in the colonies made lots of Portuguese people to emigrate, many times, unofficially. Decades have passed, but they still feel the need to leave Portugal, although the conditions are better now, always looking for a better life. After all, the Portuguese history is also the story of those who left and of those who still leave... The intense migratory movement in the 50s and 60s were connected to the primitive reality of the rural world, where hard work didn't pay much and the industry didn't offer lots of work. In the train station...

Mother (*crying*) – My dear daughter, what life will you have on a so distant country?

Woman 1 – Mother, don't worry about it! Everything will be alright!

Man 1 – It will all be for the sake of the entire family. Here, in Portugal, we can't star any longer.

W1 – Or we will stop having food to put on our table for our children.

M1 – Farming doesn't pay much and the little I get payed at the fertilizer factory is barely enough to stop hunger.

Mother (*keep screaming*) – Oh my dear grandchildren will be apart from their parent god know for how long!

W1 – Mother, if God wants I, we will save money and, soon, the kids can go to France.

Mother – What if you are doing this sacrifice for nothing?

M1 – Only God knows!

W2 – I'm sorry to intrude, but I couldn't help overhear your conversation. Me, Maria Amélia, and my husband, João Alberto, are living the same situation. Where are you migrating to?

M1 – France, Paris. And you?

W2 – Germany, Hamburg. We already have family there and, so it seems, despite the big sacrifices they have to make, they have been saving money. Because of this, we will try our luck! At least, we will not live in a poor neighborhood.

W1 – I'm sorry for my husband! He didn't even introduce himself... I'm Mariana Maria and my husband, António Pedro. So, you already have jobs?

M2 – Yes, Maria Amélia is going to be a cleaner, in a big company and I'm going to work on the after war restauration work, as part of the 2 million of Portuguese migrates that went to other European countries.

M1 – We have to try. It is an uncertain life and we don't know what the future has for us, but we should try.

W2 – Yes, that is true.

Mother – But I'm going to miss you to death and my grandchildren as well. Oh this hell of a life!

W1 – Life is ungrateful, mother, but we have to recognize that things aren't well and we can't give up.

M1 - That poet said it: "Everything is worth the trouble, if the soul isn't too small"

Mother – Don't start coming with poems, in the middle of so much anguish!

W1 – Mother, don't be worried. Crying doesn't fix anything...

Mother – You aren't the one who is losing a daughter!

M1 – What are you saying... losing? She is only going to be far! And you think we aren't sad? You don't imagine the tear we shed. This is life.

W2 – This is what we have left: coming with a bag full of nothing and leave to a completely unknown world.

M2 – It won't make our life worse

W1 – We will be nobodies in a far away land and slaves of work.

M2 – Our country, planted by the sea, doesn't offer us good enough life conditions and we must go to a place with better ones.

W2 – I can already hear the train coming!

Mother – Oh my god, it's the hour of truth! (hugs her daughter) My sweet daughter, talk to us every time you can.

W1 – Of course, mother!

Mother – And you, son-in-law of my heart, take well care of you and of my daughter! I hope God will keep you safe!

W1 – Thank you, mother, and take care of our children with lots of love!

(The three hug each other)

Mother – (talking to the other couple) – And, for you, my friends, all the luck in the world!

W2 + M2 – Thank you!

Voz off – The train and its passengers, future migrants, enter, not knowing what their destiny looks like not what the futures has in store for them.

Dina Sarabando