

To Adonis, With Love

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Become the stone in the catapult
That felled Goliath!

“Palastheente Makkalkku Sasneham,” *SooryanteMaranam*, 2015

To Adonis, With Love

(O.N.V. Kurup states that his heart was touched by the speech the celebrated Syrian poet in exile, Adonis, made on the occasion of accepting Asan World Prize on May 5, 2015 at Kayikkara, the Kerala seaside village near Thiruvananthapuram where Kumaran Asan was born., beginning Adonis began his speech with the remark, ‘I am coming from the land of cannibals.’ ONV dedicates the following lines to Adonis who upholds the torch of poetry without letting it slip from his hand in spite of the unending conflicts among different groups that see human lives extinguished without any let up.)

Adonis! Poet in exile!
Your land is so far away.
Still, tell these horizons here,
They will take up the songs
Of your soul. And the far off lands
Will hearken to them.
After melting and setting
On a thousand alien tongues
They will sing in distant directions
As clouds. Its essence,
‘Change the customs,’*
Will spread like fragrance
Of attar distilled from
Snow-white jasmines!
The golden olive groves
Your forebears raised, and
The vineyards too, the wolves
Have taken over.
The dear sisters
And their tender children
Dash about helter-skelter
Without refuge. Some people
Smother to death this earth
Like a pig, and the sun blazes away
In fury, seeing the grief of
The all-suffering earth.

Unable to watch it all as
 A dumb witness, you too
 Storm about, roaming in agony.
 Come, sit on this seashore, where
 Our dear poet who gave us the mantra
 Of love, was born. Let's, for a moment
 Share the anxieties foregrounding
 Man and this earth.
 The sparrow that hum
 In this wild clump, also
 Pierces the darkness
 With the sharp end of its beak.
 Adonis! Poet in exile!
 Please sing once again, standing
 On this shore, to the far horizons.
 All lands are yours lands, your
 Brethren are everywhere you go;
 Here, we too are, remember!

*Famous lines by Kumaran Asan:
 'Change the customs,
 If not, they will change you.'

"Adonisinu Sasneham"

Courtesy: *The Mathrubhumi Weekly* for the poem, "To Adonis, with Love."

Translated from Malayalam by A.J. Thomas

