

Ξέρεις γιατί τὰ χαίρουμαι καὶ τὰ θαμάζω  
τ' ἀστέρια, ποὺ στὸν οὐρανὸ στρεφογυρίζουν;  
Ὅχι γιατί ἀχτινοβολοῦν καθὼς κοιτάζω  
ἢ γιατί βάθια ἀπέραντα μυριοφωτίζουν,

ὄχι γιατί εἶναι ἀμέτρητα, γιατί εἶν' αἰώνια,  
γιατί εἶναι ὁ δρόμος τους Θεοῦ μεγάλου δρόμος,  
καὶ νὰ μετροῦνε σιωπηλὰ καιροὺς καὶ χρόνια  
τὰ ἔχει ὀρισμένα μυστικὸς γιὰ πάντα νόμος·

μόνο τὰ βλέπω κι ἀπορῶ ποὺ ἡ γῆς νὰ φρίξη  
ἀπὸ τὶς μύριες συφορὲς ποὺ τὴ ρημάζουν,  
αἶμα καὶ δάκρυα θάλασσα νὰ τήνε πνίξη,  
πάλι τ' ἀστέρια δὲ γρικοῦν καὶ δὲν τρομάζουν.

Μόνο μᾶς φέγγουν ἤρεμα, χαριτωμένα,  
σὰ νὰ γνωρίζουνε στερνὰ πιὸ βλογημένα.

I'll tell you why I enjoy and admire  
The stars, which turn around the sky;  
Not because they shine as I'm staring,  
Or because they glow to the deepest ends of the world,

Not because they are countless and everlasting,  
But because their track marks a great God's track,  
And they are destined by an always secret law  
To silently count the times and years,

I just look at them and wonder, as the Earth has gone wild,  
In all the suffering and pain all over it,  
Or even as rivers of blood and tears overwhelm the Earth,  
The stars still stand untroubled and fearless.

They just keep on shining on us calmly, beautifully,  
As if they foresee a blessed and happy ending.

*\*N.B. The English translation is no way in poetic form, but is rather a prosy rendition, meaning only to show the poem's general setting.*

*For a phonetic transcription of the poem click on the link below, then copy and paste the above Greek original on the left panel of the webpage, and you automatically get the phonetically transcribed text.*

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