

**Seven Hearts present**

**SEVENTEEN  
SONNETS ON THE  
PHILOSOPHY  
OF THE HEART**

Artists:

Bergþór Pálsson baritone

Gardar Cortes tenor

Selma Gudmundsdóttir piano

Júlía Mogensen cello

Jón Elvar Hafsteinsson guitar

Pétur Grétarsson percussion

Sigurdur Flosason saxophone

by Kristján Hreinsson

Music: Thorvaldur Gylfason

Arrangements: Thórir Baldursson

Artwork: Vignir Jóhannsson

Culture Night at Harpa

24 August 2013

Concert at Kaldalón

Premiere



# LEIBNIZ SONNET

- ◉ Among valiant masters, the brightest star was Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, a philosopher, so divinely wise, and good, and clever, like God's fountain of wisdom incarnated.
- ◉ He explained the creation of a mighty God. In a clear view, nothing goes amiss. With the perfection of reality's workings, he put his trust in particles and monads.
- ◉ Each particle could host the greatest power, and the universe itself must be diverse; as Leibniz held Nature's author in his hand, managing to move all such forces as he gave the world his heart and mind, as he held that world close to his heart.



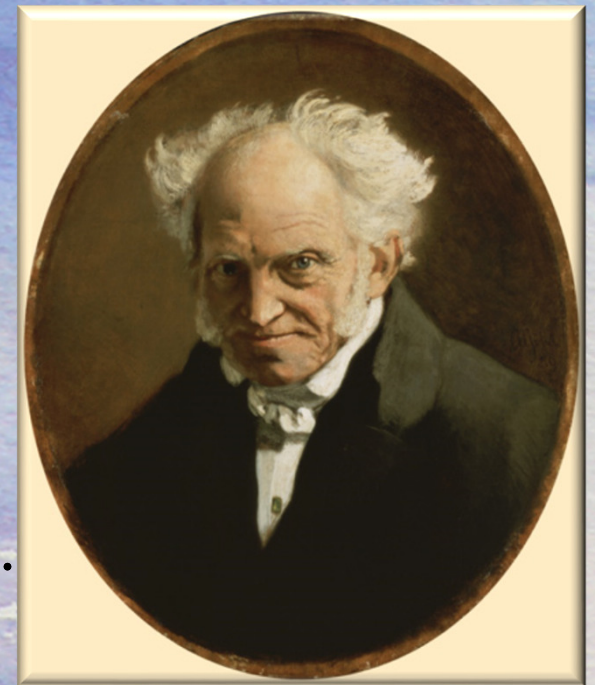
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz  
(1646-1716)



# SCHOPENHAUER SONNET

- ◉ Schopenhauer felt bitter distress as he reviewed the ruins of his goodness, incessantly, his solitude absorbed him, so all he had were choices few and dim.
- ◉ He faced hatred, wrath, doom, and catastrophe, fatherless, without a mother's love; within his mind he could well wear his pain as his nation was ravaged by war.
- ◉ He believed essentially in a will power, as well as in music. His life was a nightmare, or even a coma brought on by a deep-seated desire.
- ◉ He had a dream of the world's aesthetics, and was finally granted tranquility and peace.

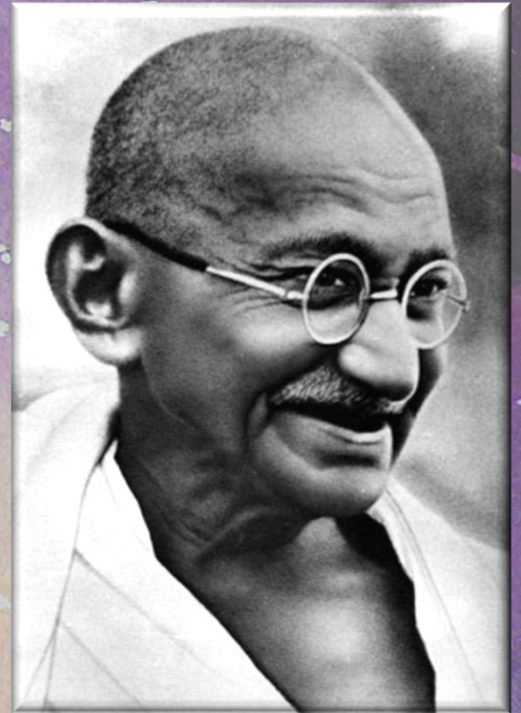
Arthur Schopenhauer  
(1788-1860)





# GANDHI SONNET

- ◉ When the little lion bared its teeth and the scheming British were assured profit, having soaked India in blood, Gandhi wielded the weapon of disobedience.
- ◉ Yes, true, revenge does blind the world and the lust for power brings on disaster. The great soul wanted to save mankind and protect the kindness of the purest mind.
- ◉ He wanted to wage war with a fair peace and, for this, he was much revered; and then was murdered by an evil man, yet his memory will never ever die.
- ◉ Gandhi took the first step toward peace; he gave to mankind all he could give.

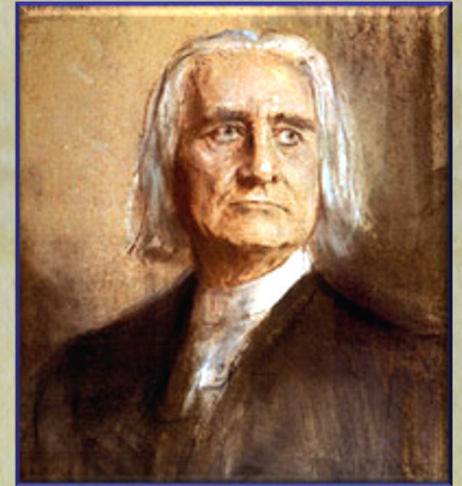


Mohandas Gandhi  
(1869-1948)



# LIEBESTRAUM SONNET

- ◉ Each beautiful soul bears a loving dream that the subconscious mind delivers cheerfully when the strongest nerves fail and broken hearts become all sore and tender.
- ◉ And love protects hope and desire; it grants people strength during life's trials. To each of us is given vim and virtue if we keep heeding our dreams.
- ◉ When the hand senses softness and warmth, the heart senses its best sentiments, when the mind armors itself against evil, waiting for warm love to be awakened,
- ◉ The purest love will nourish every soul that sees and understands that secret dream.



Franz Liszt (1811-1886)



Johann Ludvig Heiberg  
(1791-1860)



# CONFUCIUS SONNET

- Lao-Tse was keen on philosophy, he made trees grow with words of beauty, and he saw that faith was the duty levied on reason in antiquity.
- In our world, moral principles show that some humans will find the right way; worth its weight in gold, I dare say, is the sense of the Book of Tao.
- Injustice is a plight to humanity, because many desire to guard their profit, but only those who give all to the blessed that receive will gain from what the world has to give.
- By the way, both Adam Smith and Mao knew all about the magic world of Tao.

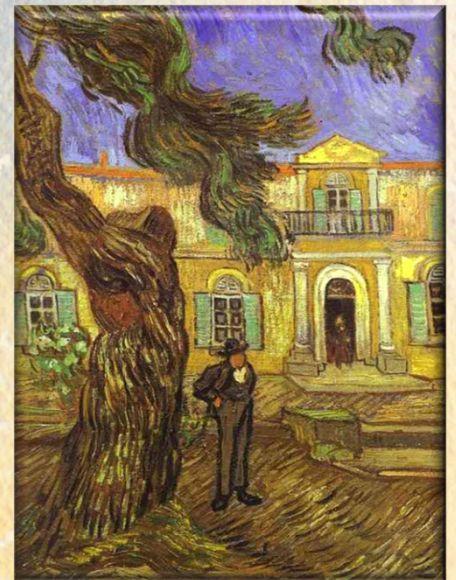


Confucius (604-531 BC)



# LUXURIANT SOUL SONNET

- My memory works like the roots of trees, constantly in searching my mind's soil, and below the grassy pastures of my soul wisdom stores its precious jewelry.
- It is there my soul's seeds are hidden, yes, dug deep inside a buzzing knowledge, and covered by experience; deep in that dark earth lies my past, long lost and forgotten.
- And there you find dream and mystery and the examples I was told to learn, all fallen leaves that restore my strength, no doubt you might find a long lost debt.
- I often suspect myself of mischief if I forget what I don't like recalling.





# DECARTES SONNET

- Our thoughts, no doubt, enable reality, with science built on geometry. Yet if man must ensure the existence of God, we must consider the human race in a poor state.
- Body and soul are said to differ although this might prove hard to ascertain and perhaps none will ever be accountable if no one ever harbors the least suspicion.
- On French soil, empowered by wisdom, he conquered pyrrhonic skepticism as he strove to explain Earth's creation, and wrote the Principles of Philosophy. Yes, Descartes – your dictum is still valid: *Cogito ergo sum.*

René Descartes  
(1596-1650)





# GARDEN BLISS SONNET

- A warm hand caresses Nature,  
protecting each particle of existence;  
while earthworms go about their work  
a hopeful lily breaks free from frosty bonds.
- A herd of snails crawls on the ground  
and flies are heard humming under the roof,  
yes, the insects seem to prefer activity  
as if they know that now the sun will rise.
- In each mound a world will wake up  
and the scallions sense the purpose of life.  
Sheltered by the trees, the ice does thaw  
and the birch branch is laughing out loud.
- In this garden, such a blissful flame of love  
is resurrected by the sun's gentle kiss.





# CONSTITUTION SONNET



- For the nation to make rapid progress a strong constitution is needed to protect the people throughout their lives, enabling them to play by the rules.
- And fairness to all shall be ensured by principles enshrined in the constitution and thus protected. The people will have their questions answered, yes, most of those who live in our country.
- Human rights will be a priority, to safeguard personal integrity and privacy, and so will be other rights and duties as well as resources that can cause contention.
- The people thus will stand on a solid ground, as the constitution solves all our dilemmas.





# LOTUS FLOWER SONNET

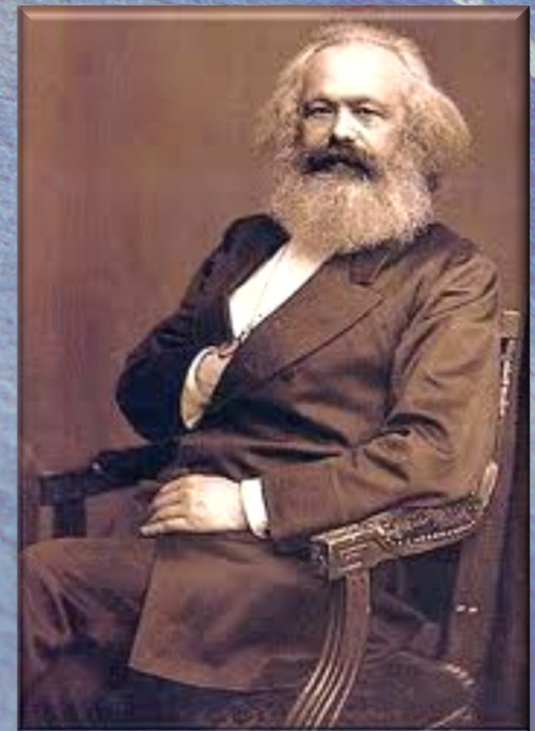
- Tranquil beauty rocks the pink flower,  
blessed by all the gods,  
in a clear pond with merry waves at play  
and a breeze that briefly toys with pollen.
- I lie with you within that tender flower  
as evening darkness touches our skin  
and the sweet plant teases the source of bliss  
where love drifts across a magic world.
- As the flower of love sends warmth and scent,  
and delight seeks shelter in soul and heart,  
then tears of joy adorn that pinkish flower,  
and a gentle breeze lightly kisses the cheek.
- Sweet honey caressing the moist lips,  
awakening that everlasting bliss.





# MARX SONNET

- About Karl Marx, they tell this wondrous tale, that when he was a child, his kindest mind by socialism found itself refreshed, a fact that pleased him throughout his life.
- A young man, he stood firm, a radical, and yet the path to justice seemed quite steep, so he sought to shatter the whole system in battle, rejoicing all the while.
- He upheld the people's clearest duties, and the idols of history's materialism he drew to shore, like a ship to harbor, fighting for true socialist values.
- He wanted, once and for all, to rid the world of capitalism's praise and concealed ills.



Karl Marx (1818-1883)



# BOOK-OF-LIFE SONNET

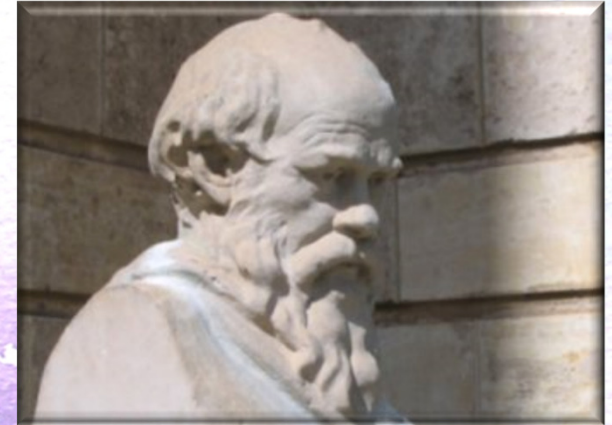
- It is our great good fortune that each of us contributes to the well-worn book of life and those who supported us along the way we want to thank before we depart.
- The book is initially full of gaps, yet on its pages we all record our lives and every one is aching and desires to travel along the best possible path.
- With every step, as our family grows, our contribution is in fact recorded. True, some may lose their sense of direction as their living days decrease in number, yet it seems clear that the power of human memory merely increases proportionally.





# SOCRATES SONNET

- ◉ He said he knew little about most things and found that logical thinking might start with criticism. He wanted to think and ask; thus he could add to his wisdom.
- ◉ He showed men virtue, good deeds, and kindness even if harsh judgments blew like a cold wind. Few would show Socrates any mercy when they said he perverted Greek youth.
- ◉ For his wisdom he was sentenced to death and made to empty a cup full of poison, yet he feared not the fatal potion as living dignity had been bestowed on him forever. Released by death from chains and calamity, his soul freely soars above peaks of philosophy.



Socrates (469-399 BC)



# MANDELA SONNET

- The Black Pearl shines like the most precious jewel and no shadow will ever dim that light, as the light of life lives on in the darkness fed and tended by unfailing endurance.
- Some managed to activate vile sentiments in a world where whites abused blacks while Nelson waited with a humble heart, and the mind created dreams of beauty.
- For three decades, shackled by the world hands tied, he was alone in his cell, and he managed to forgive his oppressors as time does not limit a mind's freedom.
- Now the Black Pearl does truly shine, filling all souls with happiness and mirth.



Nelson Mandela  
(1918-2013)



# KIERKEGAARD SONNET

- Søren Kierkegaard was a remarkable man, an amazing soul living from day to day – his philosophy had room for religion – and the magic of his poetry was strong.
- For decades, it was ever his wont to devote time and care to his great art, he worshipped God and spoke with Christ, all with mighty flights of fancy.
- Then he wrote a book about Fear and trembling, as well as about Repetition, he longed for hope and tender love though in his thoughts he was ever on the run.
- He viewed, in the grievous misery of tradition, each marriage as the burial place of love.

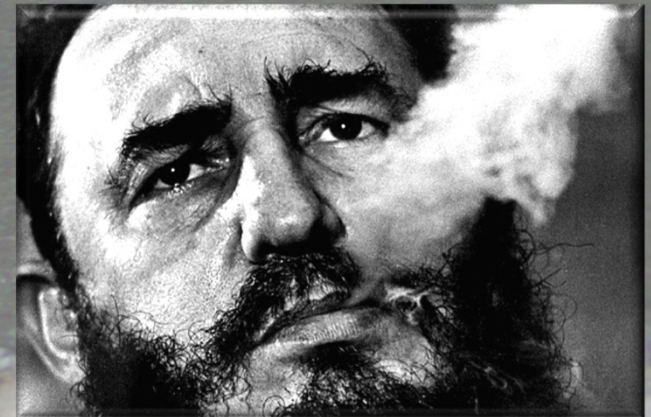


Søren Kierkegaard  
(1813-1855)



# CASTRO SONNET

- ◉ There was a time when Castro was a great warrior whom Kennedy, though, viewed as a great villain because the Americans denounced most of those who found an exit from the capitalist struggle.
- ◉ Yes, sure, Castro was a communist who would show the masters of capital that money breeds weaponry of evil, and bitterness does spring from capitalism.
- ◉ He had comrades in arms in the Warsaw Pact of olden days when his world was like a living lie with many long speeches to boot.
- ◉ Yes, Fidel blew away his worries; he lit a cigar, lay down, and smoked.



Fidel Castro (1926)



# NIETZSCHE SONNET

- Friedrich Nietzsche did away with God when moral decay burned in the eyes of slaves; he felt that every word was absolute nonsense as lost herds of sheep succumbed to heresy.
- Faith died, and so did its disaster. Yet Nietzsche sought to destroy false thought; he questioned every one of the old values, planting in their stead an earthly superman.
- As a disturbed mind flared up and the spirit succumbed to emptiness, Zarathustra told Earth's inhabitants that they should be positive in demeanor.
- For a while Nietzsche sat by his soul's end saying many things nobody understands.

Friedrich Nietzsche  
(1844-1900)

