



Andr  Naffis-Sahely, "High Desert" (Bloodaxe Books, 2022)

## Descrizione

## **The Last Communist**

**There are, it is true, still a few Marxists around.**

*Washington Post, November 6, 2017*

**'We drank no milk for months, maybe a year,'  
my mother told me, 'they poured  
a famine's worth down the drains;  
all talk that summer  
was of nuclear clouds  
and acid rain.'**

**Then came the crumbling of the Wall,  
and my father's tears –  
my childish vision of him  
as the last communist,  
bathed in the blue  
glare of defeat,**

**the revolution having been televised  
and discarded  
as yesterday's news.**

**Three decades and two**

**recessions later,  
the old man**

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consuming whiteness  
with a convict's  
passion for parsimony.

I am tired of murder; each day brings a new Peterloo  
and all over the Earth, the fog  
of infallibility touches the  
ground and threatens  
to stay. IT IS BETTER  
TO LIVE ONE DAY AS A LION

THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AS A SHEEP. P  
but I'll always choose to side with the flock,  
for I know that one day  
the veldt will be empty  
and even the lion  
will go hungry and die.

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## **L'ultimo comunista**

**“È vero, c'è ancora qualche marxista in giro”.**

*Washington Post*, 6 novembre 2017

**“Per mesi, forse un anno intero, niente latte”,  
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**il vecchio**

**se n'è andato ed io rimango a setacciare  
i souvenir della sconfitta  
inferta alla causa: *Il Profeta*  
di Deutscher, tessere  
sindacali scadute, alcune  
foto ingiallite**

**e il suo ultimo passaporto iraniano, con il sigillo  
della Repubblica islamica stampato sopra  
al leone dello Scià, il modo in cui la Storia  
ci mostra che gli orrori  
producono soltanto  
altri orrori;**

**piango alla vista dei suoi diari di prigionia  
*memorie del mio viaggio all'inferno*,  
la sua grafia minuta  
consuma il bianco  
con la passione  
di un recluso per la parsimonia.**

**La morte mi ha stancato; ogni giorno un nuovo massa  
e su tutta la Terra la nebbia  
dell'infallibilità tocca  
il terreno e minaccia  
di restare. È MEGLIO  
VIVERE UN GIORNO DA LEONE**

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## **Folie à trois**

**After the three of you disappeared,  
I slowly adapted to life without you,  
but before that came the final act  
of our family's international production**

**of *Failure to Integrate*... Following  
your final bankruptcy, I met you in LA  
and ferried you south to San Antonio Del Mar,  
your last known location. Years later,**

**I still don't know where or whether to grieve,  
but in a way, I won't have to. You always did say  
that true migrants ought to be buried upright  
like the Kurdish warriors of old, ever ready for battle.**

***Baja California, Mexico***

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## **Folie à trois**

## Young Romantics

Everyone I knew was homeless, runaways for the most part. One was a grandson of Evelyn Waugh; his father lived off him, son in expectation of them. We slept in the bookshop above the archway read: 'Be not inhospitable to strangers, they may be angels in disguise.' After its doors shut at eleven we were up, drinking, reading, arguing... once I puked on a portrait of Ginsberg... We lied, stole, ate bruised fruit. One of us would go missing, only to return, days later, only Alexander was quiet, he was nineteen and already a man of sackcloths and sawdust: Norman monasteries and logging mills. He was the first to leave, off to a ranch where the nearest town was an hour's drive away: a ranch that raised alfalfa, cattle and poetry. Next I heard, he was in New York, but alive.

*Paris, France*

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**Andr  Naffis-Sahely**   autore di due raccolte di poesie: *The Promised Land: Poems from Itinerant Life* (Penguin UK, 2017) e *High Desert* (Bloodaxe Books, 2022). Per Pushkin Press, nel 2020, ha curato lâ antologia  *The Heart of a Stranger: An Anthology of Exile Literature*.   docente presso l'Universit  della California, Davis negli Stati Uniti e redattore di *Poetry London* nel Regno Unito.

**Piero Toto**   un poeta bilingue residente a Londra, dove lavora come traduttore dall'inglese e come *senior lecturer* in traduzione presso la London Metropolitan University. In Italia ha pubblicato la silloge *tempo 4/4* (Transeuropa Edizioni, 2021), segnalata al Premio Internazionale Mario Luzi 2021. Sue traduzioni dall'inglese e inediti in italiano sono rinvenibili su  «Interno Poesia »,  «Atelier »,  «Menab 2 online »,  «La Repubblica » e  «Queerographies ». Le sue poesie in lingua inglese sono apparse su riviste e blog letterari britannici e internazionali.

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   Fotografia di  Nina Subin

## Categoria

1. Poesia estera
2. Traduzioni

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carlo