

KARYES

ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

Lakonia



The Karyatides Monument

Number 19

Karyates Worldwide News bulletin

Winter 2018-19

THE CONCLUTION OF TWO GREAT PROJECTS

THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CARYATIDS MONUMENT

The members of the Board of Directors of Karyates are happy to announce that the conservation and restoration of the Monument has been successfully completed.

After waterproofing and repairing both the roof and the base of the Monument in 2015, the Association appealed to all our compatriots in the hope to raise money for the preservation and restoration of the monument and the statues. Our compatriots responded so generously that the amount of € 7,680 was collected. The members of the Board of Directors made the decision to cover the difference of € 1,390 from the Association's funds.





The project was carried out under the supervision of the conservator – restorer Mr. Athanasios Tzamalis and his two-member team and its completion was followed by the preservation and restoration of the statues on the main road of Karyes. As it is clearly shown in the pictures below, the restoration has been completed with impressive results. Moreover, Mr. Tzamalis, with his experience and his research work based on the data he collected while working on the project and the archives of the City of Athens, solved the mystery of what the female statues represent. He concluded, based on evidence, that the statues represent ancient Greek goddesses and not the Muses (detailed report on page 2).

The members of the Board of Directors would also like to thank the President of the Association of the Karyates, Mr. Michael Repoulis, who remained in the village for the whole time until the completion of the project, overlooking the course of the works, during the months of September and October 2018.

The completion of this project, combined with the construction of the path that is promoted with the consistent efforts of the Association, is expected to surprise the visitors with a beautiful scenery of the picturesque village of Karyes, and will be the pride of all Karyates, everywhere in the world. At the same time, it is a tribute to our compatriots who envisioned and implemented it.



PLACEMENT OF **INFORMATION SIGNS**

Since August, those who have visited Karyes have seen the signs, which have been placed at the side of the roads to welcome the visitors and provide them with important information and clear instructions on how to access the monuments, churches, main squares, springs and the sights of Karyes. The necessity of the project had been an item of discussion by our Association many times in the past; thus, we designed and provided the funds for their creation and placement. The project was implemented with the financial contribution of the other institutions of our village, the Cultural Association of Karyes, the Sports Club "O KARYATIS", the Church Council of Karyes and has made a striking difference in our village.







Recent donations for the Monument: 09.05.2018 Harakas Theodore € 20

- 09.05.2018 Demetropoulos Konstantinos € 20
- 10.01.2018 Ardames Stefanos € 50
- 10.08.2018 Kakaris Ioan. Arostoteles € 85
- 10.08.2018 Kolovou Efi € 20

SPECIAL FEATURES PRESS RELEASE

It is almost five years since the first publication of the newsletter of the Association of the Karyates. We believe that our efforts have been successful in accomplishing our aim to serve as a bridge between the Karvates all over the world. Therefore, the editorial team considers it appropriate to begin a series of tributes to the history of the place.

another that Now generation is slowly retiring and being replaced by the young, who do not have any memories of the life in the village, since our grandparents had the chance to live the true village life only in their childhood, we think it is important to recall and unfold the past of the beautiful village of Karyes, based on the historical publications such as books and newspapers that are available.

So, let us begin today, the first day of the new school year, featuring the history of education in Karyes (pages 4 - 5). Our aim was to give a short analysis of the efforts of the modern generations of Greeks, including the Karyates, over the time, to educate their children and provide them with the tools for a better future.

11.13.2018 Goude Kate € 50

ACKNOWLDEGMENTS

The Association of the Karyates, once again, would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our compatriots who consistently offer their monetary contributions towards the project for preservation and restoration of the Monument. As minor works are still pending, including the repair of the entrance door and the maintenance of the memorial plaque, the account is still active for any last minute contributions.

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SINDESMOS TON APANTAHOU KARYATON SWIFT (BIC) ETHNGRAA ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ



THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR: THE SCHOOL BELL RANG IN KARYES AGAIN THIS YEAR

Overcoming the odds, the Kindergarten and Primary School of Karyes, the only one still in operation in the northern Lakonian Parnon, opened its gates again this year to welcome its 12 young students. The consecration ceremony presided by Father Efstratios, took place in the school courtyard with the participation of students, parents, teaching staff, and the school Principal, George Diamandouros, thus continuing the tradition of education in Karyes for approximately two centuries now.

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WISHES

The members of the Karyates Association Board of Directors and the editorial team of our Bulletin wish to all our compatriots

A happy new year

At the WEB SITE WWW.KARYES.GR NEWSPAPER DIGITAL ARCHIVES Ψηφιακό Αρχείο Εφημερίδας

Καρυές

1986-2010

Do you deal with the arts (art, painting, music-song, dance, theater, photography, video, floriculture, crafts)?

The Association of Karyates invites you to contact us to present your work to our compatriots and to our village visitors in the summer either through an exhibition of your creations or through a cultural action.

Now contact us at info@karyes.gr or at 6944-784563, 6974-720909.

All the previous news bulletin are at your disposal in digital form at **WWW.KARYES.GR**



SOCIAL NEWS

THEY PASSED AWAY



On September 9th at Melbourne Victoria Australia **Maria Tourogianni** died at the age of 104

On September 5th at Karyes Lakonia **Panaghiotis Kalantzis** died at the age of 65 His funeral took place at Saint Andrew church in Karyes



On October 13th at Melbourne Victoria Australia **Nikolaos Andrianakis** died at the age of **82**

He was one of the most active and well-known patriots in Melbourne at the Greek local community. He has been for many years president at the local Karyates Brotherhood.

WEDDING





On Saturday July 21^{st,} the marriage of **Estathios Melehes** and Christina took place at Aghios Petros village. We wish to the new elected vice-president of the Karyes' Cultural Club all hapiness.

THE STORY OF THE STATUES SITUATED AT THE KARYES MAIN ROAD

The works for the preservation of the monument that lies on the main road of Karyes solved the mystery of what the female figures represent. Owing to the conservator – restorer **Mr**. **Athanasios Tzamalis's** research work through archives and publications, we finally have evidence that the female figures represent the ancient Greek goddesses **Dimitra** and **Hestia**. An excerpt from his letter is cited below. We would like to thank him very much for his interest and hard work.

The beginning of an adventure

On August 4, **1931**, in the conference room of the Athens Town Hall, the Mayor of Athens, **Spyridon Merkouris** (1856-1939), grandfather of the late Melina Merkouri, announced to the members of the Municipal Council and the journalists who were present, that as part of the remodeling plan of the main squares of Athens, the poles situated in any of them would be demolished while the kiosks and other scattered components would be replaced by columns of *Greek architecture order*. The columns would cover the openings of the ventilation vents in the underground railway station that was inaugurated in 1930, as well as the wires and the light poles, in a certain manner. On December 22, 1931, the Municipality of Athens commissioned the Association of Greek Sculptors to create preforms of the columns. The project, the budgeted expenses, and the terms of the bidding announcement for the construction of the light poles and fourteen statues – twelve made of white cement and two of marble – in Omonoia Square, were approved. The light poles would cost 750,000 drachmas. The concrete statues would cost 40,000 drachmas each, while the marble ones would each cost 90,000 drachmas; the total cost of the project would be 660,000 drachmas.

The mythological Muses, the Graces, and Goddesses Hestia and Dimitra

cost 86,000 drachmas in total. The statues of **Hestia** and **Dimitra** were made of marble by **Konstantinos N. Perakis (1895-1948), Petros Mavromaras (1878-1942), and Dante Thomopoulos (1903-1933), and they cost 38,750 drachmas.** Reasons of symmetry dictated the placement of eight *Muses,* instead of nine, hollow in the inside, to cover the openings of the ventilation vents in the underground railway station. The Athenians, well known for their jocose disposition, made sarcastic remarks about the missing ninth *Muse,* Kalliopi and its awkward storage in the underground station, insinuating that *she was placed there to take care of the toilets.* Since that time, the term "Kalliopi" has been used to refer to the public toilets, ironically.

The uproar and the humiliation of the Muses

The new look of the remodeled Square after the addition of the *Muses*, caused great uproar. The editor and director of the newspaper "Kathimerini", Georgios A. Vlachos (1886-1951), was the leader of a campaign against the Muses. On September 28, 1936, he published an article in the paper with his proposals to Konstinos G. Kotzias (1892-1951), Mayor of Athens and Minister for the Capital District, for the Europeanization of the Square. He wrote: "Omomoia Square is an example of inelegance and uncleanliness. Eight, instead of nine, concrete *Muses*, placed on top of an equal number of tobacconists, are besieging it. There are a few small and plain florists in the center, while scattered all around it, there is a mix of old, short and tall buildings where second class hotels are housed on their first floors, while cafes and taverns can be found on their ground floors. The awnings of these cafes and taverns are old tattered and their support poles are pipes of poor quality. Their signs are mostly wooden, unaesthetic, and old. Not even the poorest town square in any city in Europe has ever been that bad. Nevertheless, Omomoia Square is the Center of Athens, it is one of the two biggest squares of the Capital city, and it could potentially be, after Syntagma Square, which must also be remodeled, a beautiful square." In his reply that was published in the same newspaper two days later, September 30, 1936, Kotzias supported the notion to demolish the columns "towers" of Omomoia Square and remove the "unfortunate" Muses to give it the profile of a "Greek square". The intellectual fashion of Greekness, which was very strong throughout the period of Metaxas dictatorship, was employed here as well. The statues "were ceremoniously removed" from Omonoia Square in December 1937, under Mayor Amvrosios Plytas (1886-1964), in a humiliating manner, which was long to be remembered by the Athenians! After their removal, the center of the Square was remodeled, and small lawn patches and flower stands were added.

Nevertheless, in **1932** the contract was broken and the Municipality of Athens assumed the execution of the project. The plan, which was signed by the architecture engineer Vassilios G. Tsagris (1882-1941), General Director of the Technical Services of the Municipality, provided the placement of the statues of the **nine mythological Muses**, the three Graces , and goddesses Hestia and Dimitra on Ionic order columns. The contract between the Municipality of Athens and the Association of Greek Sculptors was signed in December 1931. A number of 24 sculptors received an advance of 3,000 drachmas each, on April 22, 1932, and started to work on the project. They were paid off in February 1937.

Contractual problems

In July 1932, a protocol for receiving the six clay preforms of Muses **Igemoni, Thaleia, Efterpis, Urania, Erato, and Melpomen**i, and their transfer to plaster was signed by the Association of Greek Sculptors and the Commission. On July 21, 1932, a private agreement was signed between the Association of Greek Sculptors and Mr. Rossetos D. Nomikos, a specialist on cement constructions, where the following were agreed: the construction of plaster preforms of the twelve statues; the casting of each statue in white English cement with gravel marble; and the placement of the statues on the light poles. The cost of the project was 160,000 drachmas.

The sculptors

The sculptors' work for the twelve concrete statues (dimensions 184-179×90-80×100-90 cm)

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The fate of the statues

Several years later, a new adventure for the *Muses* begins. According to different sources, during the 1950s and 1960s, the sculptures were lying in the storage place of the Municipality of Athens at the Electric Transportation Company in Kolokynthou. During the same period of time, the City of Athens granted two of the *Muses* to the city of Thebes, four to the city of Karditsa, and one to Katapola in Amorgos, while Hestia and Dimitra ended up in Karyes, Lakonia.

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS AT CHAPELS IN KARYES

Religious celebrations are admittedly the most important factor of social life in a Greek village. Likewise, in Karyes, with the numerous churches, every celebration, especially those held in chapels, is an opportunity for all compatriots, residents as well as visitors, to come together and strengthen bonds.

Moreover, owing to the Volunteer Support Group of the Church Council of Karyes, the church service is always followed by coffee and homemade treats served to the congregation by the ladies of the Church Council. Lotteries with expensive prizes that have been offered to the Church Council by the worshippers, are also organized.

Agios Ioannis at the Clock tower

On **August 29th**, the village organized a feast to celebrate the memory of the **decapitation of John the Baptist**, at the Holy Church on the hill next to the clock tower. Many people attended the service, as it was still summer time and the vacationers had not left from the village yet.





The birthday of Virgin Mary at "Foteinou" in Karyes

On **September 8**th, our church celebrates the Birth of Virgin Mary. Not too many people know that there is a church dedicated to Virgin Mary's birth at **Foteinou** settlement, in Karyes. One can have access to it from the National Road of Tripolis – Sparta, as we enter Lakonia, about 150 meters on the right, across from "Ardamis" restaurant. In the past, there were about 28 families in the settlement, who lived in houses scattered all over the area, the majority of them being two-story buildings. Surprisingly enough, a school used to operate there up until the war started; it was a branch of the Primary School of Karyes.

In the center of the settlement, under two beautiful oak trees, lies the **Holy Church of the Nativity of Virgin Mary**, which was built in **1928** by **Georgios Ardamis**, but was destroyed by the Nazis in *1944*. On the ruins, in **1988**, the Ardamis brothers rebuilt the chapel in its present shape; there is also a cemetery nearby. This charming chapel is located in a beautiful place bursting with oak trees that makes it ideal for excursions.



On this year's commemoration, which happened to be on a Saturday with a very good weather, many Karyates attended the service. Several of them were visiting the chapel for the first time. They were astounded with the beauty of the place and the chapel.

The liturgy was followed by the drawing of the lottery prizes. Evangelos Ardamis and his wife, Alkistis, invited the people to their restaurant where they offered them coffee and lunch.





The liturgy was followed by coffee and treats served at the **Kolovos brothers** house, near the church.

The work continues at an intense pace

The Volunteer Support Group of the Karyes' Church Council

As we have explicitly explained in the previous issue, besides the Holy Churches, we have started the reconstruction of the iconostasis. Pictures of two of the new iconostasis are being published below. On the left, you can see the Assumption (Panagia) and on the right, you can see Aghios Konstantinos and Aghia Eleni, at Sakali's spring. The pictures show the altarpieces before and after the reconstruction.





Aghios Dimitrios Celebration





On **Friday, October 26th**, we celebrated the commemoration of Aghios Dimitrios in the Holy Church that is dedicated to the saint, in **Vergatsoula** in Karyes. There was an overwhelming number of visitors as the schools were closed in honor of the National Holiday on October 28th. The church, which is located in the area above the children's park, though it has no special features on the exterior, it can boast a magnificent temple (see picture). After the liturgy, treats were offered to the congregation by the members of the Volunteer Support Group of the Church Council. A fundraising lottery with expensive prizes followed, in order to collect money for the maintenance of the village churches.

REQUEST

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Special Feature: The History of Education in Karyes

child completed the learning all lessons, he/she had actually completed his school studies.

19th Century (1830-1900): The first efforts begin

Teaching takes place in the countryside and the church

The school of Vigla

According to the publication "Karyatika" (1950), during the Ottoman domination and in the first years of liberation, teaching took place either in the countryside or in the church of Aghios Andreas in inclement weather. Teachers taught their students using boards with the letters of the alphabet, the numbers, and other important elements of elementary school education. The students had **boxes with sand** in front of them. After the teacher explained the lesson and the symbols on the board, the children had to form the symbols in the sand. When a

The first school (School of Vigla)

During the years **1840** – **1845**, a **community building** was built in Aghios Andreas Square in Vigla, which served as the headquarters of the Community, the Court of Justice, and it also housed the first school in the area. At that time, the area of the main square of Karyes was called *Vigla*, hence the name of the school; *School of Vigla*.

According to Aristotelis Matalas, the property had been donated by his grandfather, Andreas Charakas. In **1893**, the school became *ditaxion*, which means that the students were split in two classes, and in **1901**, it became *tritaxion*, that is three teachers teaching in four classes. Back then, the Primary School consisted of four grades.

1900-1950: The Karyates make plans for their children's education



At the St; Paraskevi's fest. Opposite at the left the Matalio building



The Mataleio Institution in Aghia Paraskevi

Meanwhile, at **Athanasios Matalas**, the great benefactor, expense, a new school was built in Agia Paraskevi, which was named after him. It started to operate in **1895** for students in First Grade of the Greek School that is today's 5th grade. However, with the reforms in the educational system in **1901**, and the increase of the grades in the Elementary School from four to six, it became a **six-grade Primary School**. The school was located, as we can see in the photo on the left, where the school courtyard is presently situated. The school served the village's educational needs for approximately 40 years.



Examinations at the Matalion yard



As mentioned above, in **1927**, the single-sex education system was abolished in the Greek public education system and therefore

At the same time, according to several sources, a branch of the school of Karyes operated in the small settlement of **Foteinou** until the 1940's to accommodate the children's needs for education; it

Unfortunately, despite Karyes being a big village, there was never a *Sholarhio* (High School) built there. Therefore, those children who wanted to continue their studies were obliged to attend school

mainly in Vamvakou, or Aghios Petros, Vresthena, Tripolis or

all students continued their studies at Mataleio.

was too far away for them to walk to Karyes.

Sparta.

Female education: The Heliopoulio Institution

Prior to the establishment of the co-educational system, throughout the 19th century, girls were educated informally within the household.

In **1898**, the house of the **Heliopoulos** family was renovated and subsequently donated it to operate as a school for females. This school operated until 1927, at which time the co-educational system was established and the girls continued their studies at Mataleio.

On the left and right, you can see pictures of the students of lliopouleio.

The Co-educational School, the School in Foteinou and the Abolition of Scholarhio (High School)



Students (boys and girls) of the Matalion ay the decade of the 1930's

Following is an excerpt from "Karyatika" (1950), in reference to the children who attended High School in Vamvakou: "Every Saturday afternoon we went to Arachova where we attended church service, changed clothes, and got our bread supply for the week, some cheese, hilopites and trahana to cook for ourselves. We walked back to Vamvakou on Monday. There were several times that we were snowed in and there was one time that we almost drowned in the overflowing river. There was another time, when, while we were sleeping by the fireplace during the night, the fireplace collapsed under the weight of snow, fortunately, without hurting anyone. It had covered all our clothes but we were so frightened that we did not dare turn the lights on. We waited anxiously for the light of the dawn to see what had happened. We were children between 10 – 11 years old ..."





The construction

The New Adelphotis' School

The Karyates/Arachovites who had emigrated from their village in the hope of a better life, always lived with the sorrow in their hearts, the love for their village, and always wanted to support their hometown in any way possible. Thus, when the Community was founded in the 1920s, it immediately began to collect money for the construction of a **new school** with the capacity to cover the needs of Karyes.

In fact, within a few years, the required amount was collected and, with the personal work of the village residents, the **new Primary School of Karyes** was erected next to Mataleio. The school opened its gates to the students for the first time in **1933-34**.

The march of the Nazis could certainly not leave this beautiful village untouched, so in **1944**, there was an arson attack where the whole Northwest side of the village exploded and the Mataleio was burned down.

The school in ruins

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1950-2010: Education in Karyes from the Second World War to the Modern Era



The works of the Matalion ruins demolition



After the liberation from the German occupation, the village, completely damaged, tried to slowly stand to its feet again. So, by 1947, the school building was repaired, while the destroyed Mataleio was demolished, giving the site its modern shape.

Since then, the school of the community has continued to operate as a Primary School consistently for more than 70 consecutive years. Throughout these years, the school has served the educational needs of Karyes in the best possible way, and it is considered to be a real gem.

The 1950s (left photo), 1960s (right photo) and 1970s consist the **golden era** as there is still a great number of people in the villages, the active population and families with children are many, hence the school is full of children's voices. Namely in the 1940s there are 280 students, a number that is gradually decreasing: 1950-54: 217 students, 1955-1965: 184 students, 1965-68: 158 students, and 1969-1972: 102 students.

The building complex is completed with the construction of the toilets in the 1950s and the library in 1970. More specifically, the library building was constructed according to **Panagiotis Chr. Pitsios's** last will and testament, on the initiative **of Konstantinos Th. Dantzikis**, and operated for many years.



The library building

At the same time, another library was organized and operated in the Community building with a donation of **Andreas S. Papastavridis** and his wife, **Alexandra**.

Nevertheless, since the 1980s, all the books have been moved to the Community Office, where a lending library is still in operation today.



The building today





Young ladies of Karyes at the HEN programme during the 1950s

Young Women's Christian Association of Karyes (HEN)

In 1955, a branch of the Young Women's Christian Association of Greece (XEN) was founded under the name "XEN KARYON", with the financial support of the association "AI KARYAI" of Gastonia, North Carolina, USA, and undivided attention the of Sophia Mavrokordatou, President of XEN in Greece. Its offices were located in the house donated by the Leventis brothers' family, in the neighborhood of Koutsomahalas. It aimed to the spiritual and physical growth and development mainly of the young girls.

In particular, XEN offered educational programs on household economy, cooking, weaving, handicraft, confectionery, decoration, party organization, and the use of knitting and sewing machines. Moreover, hygiene and civics courses were offered while theatrical performances, dances and educational excursions were organized.

Many generations of Karyates were trained through XEN's innovative, for the Greek reality at the time,

Summer Programs for Kindergarten and Primary School Students offered by the Karyates Association





It was a very important initiative because not only

During the period of 1995-2009, a summer educational program for kindergarten and elementary school children was run with funds offered by the Karyates Worldwide Association.



programs and people still remember them with nostalgia. Amongst them, the 40-year-olds, who were fortunate to participate in the summer school program for kindergarten and elementary school students, during the last period of XEN's operation in the 1980s.

did it bring the resident children of Karyes with the visiting children together, but it also served as a means to create memories from the school in the village.

Unfortunately, in the recent years, due to the fact that children sleep late due becuase they stay up late with their parents, the program was discontinued.

All the above information has been obtained by the newspaper "Karyes, Arachova of Lakonia and the villages of the Municipality of Oinounta" (1986 – 2010), by Annita Gkleka-Prekeze, as well as the books about Karyes that have been published over the years:

- "VIVLOS", The Community of Arachovites "AI KARYAI" (1929), edited by Paraskeva Ioannis Meintanis;
- "KARYAI" by author Konstantinos Michail Pitsios in 1948;

• "KARYATIKA" by Paraskeva Ioannis Meintanis and his son Ioannis Paraskevas Meintanis, doctor in Washington. This work consists of two volumes (1950 and 1972), was published by the Community of Arachovites "AI KARYAI" of Gastonia, North Carolina, USA, and has been awarded by the Academy of Athens;

• "THE MODERN KARYES OF LAKONIA" by Panagiotis Stylianos Mahairas, 1987.

It is obvious that this tribute is a concise description of the timeless educational efforts in the beautiful village of Karyes. As such, it would be impossible to contain detailed references to the individuals (educators, donors, etc.), who honored and supported these efforts. Detailed information can be found in the above listed books that contain extended references to these individuals.

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THE KARYATES' BROTHERHOODS NEWS

KARYATES BROTHERHOOD, TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA

Words are not enough to express the passion of our compatriots in Canada for their village. They keep their love for our village strong and those who cannot visit their homeland, they make the time to meet during community events and visit the park of the Community to keep the ties and bonds between our compatriots strong. This year, the annual two-day festival was organized on the weekend of July 28 – 29, and the Fall Gathering for the Feast of Corn took place on September 16th. Photos of the Community team on Facebook are posted below. Congratulations to all!



Memorial Commitment



A poem dedicated for the dead of the destructive fires in Athens Region at the summer of 2018

Following is a poem that was written by Christos Ziatas and recorded by composer Georgios Zoumboulakis. The poem is dedicated to the dead of the destructive fires in Mati, Rafina. It was first played at the annual summer gathering of the Community, and it was also sung at the Toronto Festival. As our compatriot Pat Kolovou-Varlokosta stated, it is a modern poem that was written several years ago. Yet, it is so relevant, especially after the deadly fires that cost the lives of so many people! At the request of friends on the internet, I publish it below with the poet's permission.

THOSE FLAMES

Those blind flames were human lives. Those corpses all along, which widows, which mothers are crying for? And which orphans in the holy days wonder if they had fathers or not.



SUMMER PANIGHYRI 2017 The volunteers





The church service





The dance







The Corn Festival





Those fork shaped fumes, were people alive. Companions of our lives were, that we love and loved us too. Who took their lives as if they were sparrows, and left to mourn so many homes? We, still alive, are living dead. What wounds the fires burn, and there's no healing yet. What affection tomorrow night will throw us in other channels. Oh! Winners and defeated, what is the fate of us all. All around, like a heavy whip, raucous is the laughter of the domineer. A new beginning like a riddle, under the conqueror's sword.

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