

Invictus by William Ernest Henley

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul*

Translation into Italian

Dal profondo della notte che mi avvolge,
Nera come un pozzo da un polo all'altro
Ringrazio qualunque dio ci sia
Per la mia anima invincibile.

Nella stretta morsa delle circostanze
Non mi sono tirato indietro né ho gridato.
Sotto i colpi avversi della sorte
Il mio capo sanguina ma non si china.

Oltre questo luogo di rabbia e lacrime
Incombe solo l'orrore della fine.
Eppure la minaccia degli anni
Mi trova, e mi troverà, senza paura.

Non importa quanto sia stretta la porta,
Quanto impietosa la vita,
Io sono il padrone del mio destino:
Io sono il capitano della mia anima.

Short analysis

- Message of perseverance in adversity
- Anyone can control his/her life through will and intellect
- The author suffered from tuberculosis: in fact, at the age of 25 he lost his leg.
- He wrote this poem while he was hospitalized
- Quotations from the Bible
- While incarcerated in Robben Island prison, Nelson Mandela recited this poem to other prisoners and was empowered by its message of self-mastery

Apartheid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2f2k6iDFCL4>

Apartheid, (Afrikaans: “apartness”) policy that governed relations between South Africa’s white minority and nonwhite majority and sanctioned racial segregation and political and economic discrimination against nonwhites. The implementation of apartheid, often called “separate development” since the 1960s, was made possible through the Population Registration Act of 1950, which classified all South Africans as either Bantu (all black Africans), Coloured (those of mixed race), or white. A fourth category—Asian (Indian and Pakistani)—was later added.

Shosholoza

"Shosholoza" is an Nguni song that was sung by the mixed tribes of miners mining gold in South Africa. It was sung by all-male African workers that were working in the South African mines **in a call and response style**. The song is so popular in South African culture that it is often referred to as **South Africa's second national anthem**.

The song was usually sung to express the hardship of working in the mines. It expresses heartache over the hard work performed in the mines. The word Shosholoza or "tshotsholoza!" means go forward or make way for the next man, in Ndebele.[5] It is used as a term of encouragement and hope for the workers as a sign of solidarity. The sound "sho sho" uses **onomatopoeia** and reminiscent of the sound made by the steam train.

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, in full Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, byname Madiba, (born July 18, 1918, Mvezo, South Africa—died December 5, 2013, Johannesburg), black nationalist and the first black president of South Africa (1994–99). His negotiations in the early 1990s with South African Pres. F.W. de Klerk helped end the country's apartheid system of racial segregation and ushered in a peaceful transition to majority rule. Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1993 for their efforts.

He studied law at the University of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand before working as a lawyer in Johannesburg. There he became involved in anti-colonial and African nationalist politics, joining the ANC in 1943 and co-founding its Youth League in 1944.

Mandela served 27 years in prison, split between Robben Island, Pollsmoor Prison, and Victor Verster Prison. Because of growing domestic and international pressure, and with fears of a racial civil war, President F. W. de Klerk released him in 1990.