

The Unconquerable Inscription

APRIL 22, 2020

STRUGGLESSESSIONS

The
Unconquerable
Inscription



Bertolt Brecht

During the First World War
In a cell of the Italian prison in San-Carlo
Chock-full of deserters, marauders, tramps,
A socialist soldier, with an indelible pencil, scratched on the wall:

“Long live Lenin!”
Written high up, near the very ceiling
of the half-dark cell,
those words could be hardly distinguished.
But the warders saw them
and sent a painter into the cell,
Armed with a brush and a bucket of whitewash
to blot out the dangerous phrase

But the painter just traced it over with whitewash
And again it appeared on the wall
this time not in pencil, but in chalk:

“Long Live Lenin!”

another painter came in and slapped whitewash all over the wall.

The inscription, it seemed, had vanished. But then, the next morning the moisture dried up, and again it stood out through the chalk:

“Long Live Lenin!”

Now the warders come in with a stonemason holding a scraper.

For a whole hour, he scraped off letter after letter, yet when he had finished, again it shone in the cell, cut in stone, the unconquerable inscription:

“Long Live Lenin!”

“Now, you can knock down the wall if you like,”
Said the soldier.

PREVIOUS POST

A Quick Reply to MCG

NEXT POST

Against “Postmodernism”

Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

Search ...

ARCHIVES

December 2021

November 2021

October 2021

September 2021

August 2021

July 2021

June 2021

May 2021

April 2021

March 2021

February 2021

January 2021

November 2020

October 2020

July 2020

June 2020

May 2020

April 2020

March 2020

February 2020

January 2020

December 2019

November 2019

October 2019

August 2019

July 2019

June 2019

May 2019

April 2019

February 2019

January 2019

December 2018

November 2018

October 2018

September 2018

August 2018

July 2018

June 2018

BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.