

## The Conscience of Times

Soon, you will die,

They said

And become a prisoner of a simple grave

Lost in the wilderness

That no one will recognize

Worms shall eat your flesh slowly

And no one will be there to plead for you

So, what good can books do for you

Losing sleep worrying about the world

And writing countless articles and poems

That no one has the time to read

Be rational

Stop writing and wasting your time

Obey the orders of the nation's guardians

And be a role model for others to follow

Otherwise, your life will be difficult

Inhabited by fears and worries

Nightmares of dark prison cells

And the humiliation of homelessness

Science, my friend,  
Has never stopped death  
Staying late at night has never prolonged life  
Poetry has never farmed a field  
The arts have never caused flowers to bloom  
Philosophy has never brought rain  
Or provided food for people in need

I shall never, ever die  
He said  
I am the science and philosophy  
Poetry and the arts  
The conscience of civilization throughout the ages  
The hearts' beat of all peoples  
The magician that made living enjoyable

I shall live for as long as love lives  
Bees and ants pace the wilderness  
Stars glitter in the skies  
Workers sweat in factories  
Freemen suffer in prisons  
Children cry for love and attention  
Dreams are born in beautiful eyes  
And the sun rises and the moon shines

It's my spirit that transforms the world  
It uses the power of its light to remake everything

Touch the land and make it fertile

Bliss trees and make it fruitful

Kiss flowers and make it bloom

Embrace dreams and make it exciting

Seduce people to love and make love

Calm the fears of little children

And inspire imagination in their eyes

It brings hope for man and animal

Happiness for the young and old

Peace for foes and friends

And harmony for the world

It guides the ignorant and knowledgeable

Assists the dumb and smart

Empowers the weak and strong

And enriches the lives of the poor and rich

It uses its wisdom to correct mistakes

Renews the magic of dreams

Exposes myths and false beliefs

Encourages the young to revolt  
And destroys castles of ignorance  
Repressive regimes and oppressive systems  
Eradicates poverty and misery  
And removes obstacle slowing progress

It builds palaces for the arts  
Cottages for poetry  
Monasteries for love  
Minarets for freedom  
Institutes for science  
Universities for knowledge

I am the arts and poetry  
Science and philosophy  
The master of the world  
And the free spirit of humanity

The unbeatable power  
That can never be defeated  
Or imprisoned forever  
Enslaved by ruthless rulers  
Intimidated by mythical beliefs  
Or scared by ghosts

I may be forced to hide for sometime

Or exiled for a while

But my voice will stay strong

It will travel with the wind

Promote freedom

Establish justice

Fight ignorance

And provide for the needy

If my spirit were to be tortured

Or imprisoned for a long time

All pillars of progress will deteriorate

Culture will get too old and decay

Thinkers and scientists will die

Brains will stop thinking

Corruption will become endemic

Work ethics will be weakened

And a life worth living will disappear

And become a thing of the past

The powerful will become my prison mate

Prison keepers will become slaves

The rich will go hungry

And the love of life will be suspended

I am the science and philosophy

Poetry and the arts

The wise man of all ages

The prince of all nations

The master of all civilizations

The maker of all miracles

The ultimate light of humanity

Mohamed Rabie

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