

Egypt's Revolutionary Hopes

There has been a revolution in Egypt
which the pharoas might have admired
tho' the common people
have overthrown one of their descendants
and the western leaders, which is what they're called,
are almost lost for words but keep smiling
because they say it's for freedom and democracy,

which can have the same ambiguities
felt by Mahler when first so jilted
that he rushed to the woods
to mix innocent melodies
with the thunder of despair,
nature's balance with the tragedy
of men who think they know best,

yet in the final chords
came a triumph of hopefulness,
a solution to the composer's angst
and on those streets his symphony suggests
a crafting of peace
through hands so open
as to remind me of that poet

who knew the satisfaction of sufficiency,
whose discipline of prayers and poverty,
love of silence amid cowshed dung
showed, that if 'next to nothing'* was shared,
it could be the foundation
for a revolution
of all of the people all of the time

spreading lessons far away –
along that river,
beyond the pyramids
and like the composer's dreams
would feed hopes
to ensure the protesters' striving for justice
would last for ever.

Hyams Beach 13th February 2011

** Noel Rowe's 'Next to Nothing' Sydney, 2004, Vagabond Press*