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Ausgewählte Gedichte

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing

alphabetisch nach Titeln sortiert

Der ueber uns  
Ich  
Lob der Faulheit

Der ueber uns

Hans Steffen stieg bei Daemmerung (und kaum  
konnt er vor Naeschigkeit die Daemmerung erwarten)  
in seines Edelmannes Garten  
und pluenderte den besten Apfelbaum.

Johann und Hanne konnten kaum  
vor Liebesglut die Daemmerung erwarten  
und schlichen sich in ebendiesen Garten  
von ungefaehr an ebendiesen Apfelbaum.

Hans Steffen, der im Winkel oben sass  
und fleissig brach und ass,  
ward maeuschenstill vor Wartung boeser Dinge,  
dass seine Naescherei ihm diesmal schlecht gelinge.  
Doch bald vernahm er unten Dinge,  
worueber er der Furcht vergass  
und immer sachter weiterass.

Johann warf Hannen in das Gras.  
"O pfui!", rief Hanne, "welcher Spass!  
Nicht doch, Johann!--Ei was?  
O schaeme dich!--Ein andermal--o lass--

O schaeme dich! Hier ist es nass."  
Nass oder nicht; was schadet das?  
Es ist ja reines Gras.

Wie dies Gespraecher weiterlief,  
das weiss ich nicht. Wer braucht's zu wissen?  
Sie stunden wieder auf, und Hanne seufzte tief:  
"So, schoener Herr, heisst das bloss kuessen?  
Das Maennerherz! Kein einzger hat Gewissen.  
Sie koennten es uns so versuessen.  
Wie grausam aber muessen  
wir armen Maedchen oefters dafuer buessen!

Wenn nun auch mir ein Unglueck widerfaehrt!--  
Ein Kind--ich zittre.--Wer ernaeht  
mir denn das Kind? Kannst Du es mir ernaehren?"  
"Ich?", sprach Johann, "die Zeit mag's lehren.  
Doch wird's auch nicht von mir ernaeht:  
Der ueber uns wird schon ernaehren;  
dem ueber uns vertrau."

'Dem ueber uns.' Dies hoerte Steffen.  
'Was', dachte er, 'will das Pack mich aeffen?  
Der ueber Ihnen? Ei, wie schlaul!  
"Nein", schrie er, "lasst euch andere Hoffnung laben!  
Der ueber euch ist nicht so toll.  
Wenn ich ein Bankbein naehren soll,  
so will ich es auch selbst gedrechselt haben."

Wer hier erschrak und aus dem Garten rann,  
das waren Hanne und Johann.  
Doch gaben bei dem Edelmann  
sie auch den Apfeldieb wohl an?  
Ich glaube nicht, dass sie's getan.

Ich

Die Ehre hat mich nie gesucht;  
sie haette mich auch nie gefunden.  
Waehlt man, in zugezaehlten Stunden,  
ein praechtig Feierkleid zur Flucht?

Auch Schaetze hab ich nie begehrt.  
Was hilft es sie auf kurzen Wegen  
fuer Diebe mehr als sich zu hegen,  
wo man das wenigste verzehrt?

Wie lange waehrt's, so bin ich hin,  
und einer Nachwelt untern Fuessen?

Was braucht sie wen sie tritt zu wissen?  
Weiss ich nur, wer ich bin.

#### Lob der Faulheit

Faulheit, endlich muss ich dir  
Auch ein kleines Loblied bringen!  
O!... Wie... sauer... wird es mir  
Dich nach Wuerde zu besingen!  
Doch ich will mein Bestes tun:  
Nach der Arbeit ist gut ruhn.

Hoehchstes Gut, wer dich nur hat,  
Dessen ungestoertes Leben...  
Ach!... ich gaehn!... ich... werde matt.  
Nun, so magst du mir's vergeben,  
Dass ich dich nicht singen kann:  
Du verhinderst mich ja dran.

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