

WHAT CAN WITHSTAND THE TEST OF TIME?

Introduction - 2

“My heart is awake, wide awake!”

by Pierluigi Banna*

Nihilism chooses to deny and to flee from something that resists inside of us. As much as we try to convince ourselves that nothing withstands the test of time, we are never able to annul the desire to change, to turn around. As Lady Gaga sings in *Shallow*: “Are you happy in this modern world? Or do you need more? Is there somethin’ else you’re searchin’ for? [...] In all the good times I find myself longin’ for change, and in the bad times I fear myself. Tell me something, boy, aren’t you tired tryin’ to fill that void?”¹

There is something in us that, even if it’s sometimes uncomfortable, rebels against the hypothesis that all is nothing. “But if nothing stands the test of time,” a girl writes, “why am I so hurt? Why do I suffer every time at the thought of friendships ending? In spite of this pain, though, I can’t help but see that ‘something’ cries out in me continually.” This “something” is the heart: the need for happiness, for truth, for justice. In spite of all the disappointment, it reemerges, it never completely resigns itself, it withstands the test of time. This is how the poet Machado describes it: “Has my heart gone to sleep? / Have the beehives of my dreams / stopped working? [...] No, my heart is not asleep. / It is awake, wide awake.”²

Our heart has a nature that is infinitely greater than the nothingness in which we would like to escape. Therefore, at the bottom of every disappointment, we discover again the hope for change: that love would return, true love, that life would be reborn, that something would happen that corresponds to our heart.

* Introduction to the Easter Triduum of Gioventù Studentesca, Rimini, 18-20 April 2019. For the passages cited here, cf. *CHE COSA REGGE L'URTO DEL TEMPO?*, pp. 7-8 of the booklet for the GS Triduum, [downloadable as pdf from the CL website](#).

¹ L. Gaga-B. Cooper, “Shallow”, pp. 7-8.

² A. Machado, “Mi corazón se ha dormido [Has My Heart Gone to Sleep?]”, p. 7.