

Zeitschrift: Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle
Band: 20 (1952)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Alas! that time should war against distress [...]
Autor: Douglas, Alfred
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-567850>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 01.09.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

hours in town for complying with all sorts of formalities. Before midnight he came into my room. He did not put on the light, placed his mandolin on my table as his souvenir, then kissed me as if he wanted to take my soul along with him. We could not speak, we could only feel the hot tears that were trickling down our cheeks, and he left me. — On the following morning I could see him for a few last seconds before he left. We did not kiss then, he simply held my hands, kissed them, and gave me a long, deep look. Oh, how faithful his look was! And because of it I could bear up with all the ensuing hardships. Taro too could leave me because of the sacred word that would unite us: «faithfulness».

My Oriental friend, through the hidden treasure of his heart, had found his way into mine. He did not fear anything during the war in order to get in touch with me and he told me that our friendship alone had given him strength and courage for bearing war's awful hardships. He also added something that will interest all our readers: that only because of the large number of comrades with our feelings was it possible for the Army in the East to keep up its morale. An Oriental soldier is like any of us: he will endure anything during the day if he knows that, at night, he will be able to rest near a beloved friend...

Reno.

LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS

*Alas! that Time should war against Distress,
And numb the sweet ache of remembered loss,
And give for sorrow's gold the indifferent dross
Of calm regret or stark forgetfulness.*

*I should have worn eternal mourning dress
And nailed my soul to some perennial cross,
And made my thoughts like restless waves that toss
On the wild sea's intemperate wilderness.*

*But lo! came Life, and with its painted toys
Lured me to play again like any child,
O pardon me this weak inconstancy.*

*May my soul die if in all present joys,
Lapped in forgetfulness or sense-beguiled,
Yea, in my mirth if I prefer not thee.*