

There is no literary creator more unjustly ostracised and silenced by our (Portuguese) literary system than Silva Carvalho (born in 1948 and who publishes regularly since 1977). He is not to be confused with Armando Silva Carvalho. The former is a greater poet, although it is the latter who is soothed and praised by the literary world. Which clearly reveals his complexes, his narrowness and affection. Or, according to Silva Carvalho: "Nobody, it is the price of silence to which I have forever been pledged, as an incessant unknown. In this way I'll never have Portuguese readers". Silva Carvalho is only apparently a difficult author. The deconstruction, the everyday life and the revolution are permanently enveloped in his poetry, whose main character is he himself. There is a mockery of fiction in favour of the real. And Jorge de Sena is perhaps his strongest influence. Even in his poetic relationship with music, with the real and with the Human. It also intervenes in the Romance with the highly autobiography anti-Romance "Palingenesia". Silva Carvalho is also a creator of concepts such as "catachresis", "porism", etc., which he seeds throughout his books, especially the poetry books (here lies the vital part of his literary production). One of his most brilliant and disconcerting moments was achieved in his book of essays "A Linguagem Porética" (1996, Brasilia editora), where he unceremoniously mortifies himself on the so-called exceptional quality of our poets in the second half of the XX century. He particularly attacks the immaculate trinity, Eugénio de Andrade, Herberto Helder and António Ramos Rosa, as well as everything they represent of orphic rapture, unflatteringly classifying them as ultramodernist. Finally someone has knocked them off their podium. But, in this land of jackasses and slavies, even this polemist or provocative talent of his was reduced to zero, annulled, in a kind of conspiracy of silence (not premeditated, which made it worse). They pretend it doesn't exist. Which becomes highly distressing when we are before one of the most powerful and restless literary creators of the last 30 years in Portugal. "The task, as I have so often, and so humbly said, is enormous. Not only to change the world, which transforms itself daily, but to change change" ("O Romance Contemporâneo", Tertúlia editora).

In short: a great poet.

# Silva Carvalho

por \_by J. J. Urbano



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