

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011*

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