

ETUDES HELLENIQUES

HELLENIC STUDIES

LA CRISE GRECQUE THE GREEK CRISIS

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*Andreas Kalvos and Suzan Fortune Ridout
(1793-1857): New Evidence*

Poètes Chypriotes / Cypriot Poets

Livres Reçus/Books Received

Chronologies

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Epilogue

C. P. Cavafy

Walls

With no consideration, no pity, no shame,
they have built walls around me, thick and high.

And now I sit here feeling hopeless.
I can't think of anything else: this fate gnaws my mind

because I had so much to do outside.
When they were building the walls, how could I not have noticed!

But I never heard the builders, not a sound.
Imperceptibly they have closed me off from the outside world.

Translated by Edmund Keeley/Philip Sherrard

(C.P. Cavafy, *Collected Poems*. Translated by Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard. Edited by George Savidis. Revised Edition, Princeton University Press, 1992)

Original Greek Poem

Κ.Π. Καβάφης

Τα τείχη

Χωρίς περίσκεψιν, χωρίς λύπην, χωρίς αιδώ
μεγάλα κ' υψηλά τριγύρω μου έκτισαν τείχη.

Και κάθομαι και απελπίζομαι τώρα εδώ.
Άλλο δεν σκέπτομαι: τον νουν μου τρώγει αυτή η τύχη·

διότι πράγματα πολλά έξω να κάμω είχαν.
Ά όταν έκτιζαν τα τείχη πώς να μην προσέξω.

Αλλά δεν άκουσα ποτέ κρότον κτιστών ή ήχον.
Ανεπαισθήτως μ' έκλεισαν από τον κόσμο έξω.

(Από τα Πουήματα 1897-1933, Ίκαρος 1984)