NAZIM HIKMET

THAT WALL

ILLUSTRATIONS: MAUREEN SCOTT

LEAGUE OF SOCIALIST ARTISTS
ILLUSTRATORS NOTE

THAT WALL is a poem depicting the mass terror and widespread horror thrown up by capitalism-imperialism in the era of its senility. It is a poem showing one side of class struggle - the side which arouses the greatest feeling of revulsion and loathing, and which many well-intentioned people, particularly the type of liberal intellectual which forms the main prop of the revisionist parties, cannot accept. It does not lay emphasis on the strength, the creativity, the resource and unbounded resilience and reserves of the working masses who have the power to rise and destroy this ultimate product of man's class-divided pre-history, and in this respect may be considered a pessimistic poem. I have nevertheless felt that, in an age when renegade "socialists" seek to cover up the true face of capitalism, representing its ruling monopolist oligarchy as "striving for peace", "more reasonable", "interested in the preservation of mankind", etc. etc., the true face of brutality revealed to tens of millions of struggling peoples in all the continents of the world should find expression in images striving to portray the essence of capitalism-imperialism, and thereby helping to educate all those temporarily taken in by the illusion of relative class peace to a true stance of proletarian internationalism. For so long as exploitation, oppression and war should continue in any corner of the globe, it is necessary to strip away the false mask which the objective allies of imperialism give it, to make it stand exposed in all its diseased violence and inhumanity, so that working people the world over may unite the quicker in the titanic struggle to topple the "colossus with feet of clay", and to usher in the era of socialism and communism. This aim, in my view, Nazim Hikmet fulfils in a powerful and convincing way in this poem.

Maureen Scott
1973
NAZIM HIKMET

ILLUSTRATIONS - MAUREEN SCOTT
THAT WALL ... 
THAT WALL ..., 

THEY SHOOT OUR 
PEOPLE IN FRONT 
OF THAT 
WALL.
EVERY SINGLE FOOT OF THAT WALL HAS ITS EPIC

AS LONG AS THAT WALL.
That Wall: They pluck the male organs of those who die in front of that wall to make youth serums for the straw-like skeletons of syphilitic millionaires.
TO THE MILLIONAIRES,
BURIED IN THE FLESH
OF WHORES

ITS LIKE A RADIO CONCERT
TO LISTEN
TO THE DEATH
SENTENCES
EXECUTED
IN FRONT
OF THAT
WALL...
There is a mobilisation more widespread, more deadly, more accursed than in 1914... 1939. The Sixth Fleet;

Nuclear devices;
The C.I.A.
Imperialist Generals;
The Second International;
Diplomats with gun-
powder scented white gloves;
Philosophers who
Dig and fertilise the
soil of 'religion'
To pick up
Its poisonous flower

7
AND WRITE THEIR WORK ON BANKNOTES.

THE SCIENTISTS WHO SELL DEATH RAYS,
THEY ARE ALL MOBILISED: MOBILISED UNDER THE BANNER OF THAT WALL.

THE WALL OF IMPERIALISM.

NAZIM HIKMET