
Rouget de Lisle, The ‘Marseillaise’, 1792²⁹

Allons, enfants de la patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrivé!
Contre nous de la tyrannie
L'étendard sanglant est levé!

Come, o ye children of the fatherland,
The day of glory has arrived!
Against us the standard of tyrants,
Yes, the bloodstained standard is raised!
(the line is repeated)

Entendez-vous dans les campagnes
Mugir ces féroces soldats?
Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras
Egorger nos fils, nos compagnes.

Now listen, all over the land
To the roar of the enemy soldiers,
Rampaging into our midst,
To slaughter sons and wives.

CHORUS

Aux armes, citoyens,
Formez vos bataillons!
Marchons! Marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons!

To arms, citizens!
Form your battalions!
Let's march! Let's march!
Let impure blood
Water our furrows!

Que veut cette horde d'esclaves
De traîtres, de rois conjurés?
Pour qui ces ignobles entraves,
Ces fers dès longtemps préparés?

What means this slavish horde before us
Of traitors, and of conspiring kings?
For whom are these ignoble fetters,
Those chains so long since prepared?
(the line is repeated)

Français! Pour vous, ah! Quel outrage!
Quels transports il doit exciter!
C'est nous qu'on ose méditer
De rendre à l'antique esclavage!

An outrage for all men of France!
What feelings must it not provoke!
It is us they dare to contemplate
To make slaves as in the days of old!

CHORUS (AS BEFORE)

Source: text in *Grand Larousse Encyclopédique*, Paris, Larousse, volume 7, 1963, trans. A. Lentin.

²⁹ The ‘Marseillaise’, originally the ‘battle-hymn of the army of the Rhine’, was composed by Rouget de Lisle in April 1792 immediately after France declared war on Austria. It acquired its name when a battalion of volunteers from Marseilles reached Paris in July 1792. It became the anthem of the Revolution, and the national anthem by a decree of the Convention in 1795.