



PAGES FROM MY  
PRESS

RAYMOND DUNCAN

# ACTIONALISM

INTESTINAL · HEARTFUL  
AND LUNG ABIDING ··

WHAT IS REAL NEEDS FEW WORDS ·  
TO MYSTIFY NEEDS MANY ◎



TO DO AND NOT TO BE DONE ·  
AND NOT TO WAIT ··  
WHAT MUST BE DONE ·  
TIS YOU TO DO IT ◎



TO SAW · HAMMER · THROW THE SHUTTLE ·  
STICK THE TYPE · BUILD THE WALL ·  
AND MAKE THE WORLD ··  
LIVING A PART OF ITS ACTION AT FIRST HAND ◎



ENOUGH OF FEATHER MATTRESS LULLABY  
AND SHALLOW HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE ··  
YOUR LUNGS HAVE BREATHED ENOUGH  
OF INCUBATOR AIR ··  
THE FRESH PERFUMED WINDS OF THE FIELDS  
ARE YOURS ◎



NOR SUCCESS · NOR FORTUNE ·  
NOR PLEASURE · NOR CONTENTMENT ·  
WHETHER FOR YOURSELF OR FOR OTHERS ··  
LIFE ITSELF IS THE GOAL ··  
THAT LIVING ACTION · LEAVING IN ITS WAKE  
A VAST AND DEEP CHURNING  
OF THE WORLD'S MOVEMENT ◎



THE UNKNOWN TAKES YOU ABOARD  
AND SAILS US THROUGH HEAVY SEAS.  
UNITING THE SHIP'S COMPANY  
IN ONE COMMON ROCKING.  
EACH WAVE OVERCLOTHED  
IN MULTIPLE RIPPLES.  
EACH ONE AN ECHO OF OUR FEET  
AS THEY PACE THE DECK ◊



SEETHING WITHIN US IS THE COMPOSIT ACTION  
OF THE PRE-HUMAN PAST.  
JOINED BY THE PRESENT  
TO THE ACTION OF THE FUTURE..  
AS THAT TINY CREATURE IN SOUTHERN OCEAN  
GLUES ITS BONY REMAINS TO THE MASS  
AND BUILDS THE CORAL ISLAND.  
SO EACH OF US ATTACHES OUR LIFE ACTIVITY  
ON THE GENERAL BODY.  
UNTIL THE MASSED MOVEMENT  
OVER-WEIGHS THE BALANCE  
AND TIMES EARTH'S ROTATION ◊



WE DO NOT LIVE · NOR FOR A DAY ·  
BUT OUR ACTIONS LIVE ON FOREVER ·  
NOTHING CAN EFFACE · AND TIME  
CANNOT UNCLOTHE OF THEM ..  
AS THE HAND SETS AND PRINTS THE BOOK ·  
MORE POWERFUL THAN THE WORDS ·  
ITS MOVEMENT TRAVELS INTO SPACE  
AND JOINS THE STOCK  
OF THE ETERNAL LIBRARY ..

CIVILIZATIONS MAY PASS · LIBRARIES BURN ·  
ALL MAY BE FORGOTTEN ·  
YET THE MOVEMENT OF THAT HAND ·  
COGWHEELED A MULTIPLE STRAIN  
THAT FOREVER SEEPS THROUGH ALL ·

NO GRAMMAR CAN DENY ·  
NO SCHOLASTIC CAN DISPROVE  
NOR EVEN SKIM THE ACTIVE WORLD ··  
THE MOST RENOWNED DOCTOR  
CANNOT SPEAK IT ·  
BUT THE SMALLEST FINGER  
OF THE SIMPLE AND UNTUTORED  
CAN LIVE IT  
AND WALK THE FIELDS  
ABREAST OF THE MIGHTY ·



THE EARTH TURNS  
IT IS YOUR FLY-WHEEL  
FIT ON THE BELT  
AND FROM THE SPEEDIEST PULLY ·  
ACT ·

TWENTY-TWO MEN  
CANNOT SUPPLY LIFE  
FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ··  
GET ONTO THE FIELD · ALL OF YOU ··  
THERE ARE PLENTY BALLS TO GO AROUND ·  
AND "PLAY GAME"  
BEFORE THE LAST GONG SOUNDS ·



NOTHING MORE INTERESTING  
THAN TO MAKE YOUR LIFE INTERESTING ··  
AND NOT ONLY FOR YOURSELF ·



BUT FOR OTHERS . . .  
NO MORE INTENTIONS .  
BUT THE THING INTENDED ◉

TO BECOME BREATHLESS WHILE RUNNING .  
AND NOT IN A GRAND-MA-BED .  
OR IN AN EASY-CHAIR ◉

EVERY ONE A PART . NO COMMISSIONS .  
NO CLOSED DOORS . ALL WITHIN .  
WITHOUT DISCUSSION . OR DELEGATES ◉

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NOR LOOK TO THE RIGHT . NOR TO THE LEFT .  
NOR BEHIND . TO SEE IF OTHERS ARE COMING .  
STRAIGHT AHEAD LOOK  
AND TAKE ON THE JOB ◉

NOR SUCCESS . NOR FORTUNE .  
NOR PLEASURE . NOR CONTENTMENT . . .  
NOR FOR YOURSELF . NOR FOR OTHERS . . .  
LIFE ITSELF IS THE GOAL . . .  
THAT LIVING ACTION .  
LEAVING IN ITS WAKE  
A VAST AND DEEP CHURNING  
OF THE WORLD'S MOVEMENT ◉

✽

YOU MAY  
DROWN OUT THE HISTORY PAST  
WITH SMOKE AND LULLABYES .  
BUT THE CRADLE ROCKS ON .  
AND YOU WITHIN IT . . .  
ALL HEEDLESS OF REMEMBERED OR FORGOT  
THE GREAT TIDAL-WAVE OF THE UNKNOWN  
SWEEPS ON . GULPING UP

AND ADDING TO ITS MASS OF MIGHTY POWER ·  
DISSOLVING YOU · BODY AND SOUL ·  
AND LIKE HIDDEN MOON-SHINERS ·  
DISTILS YOUR ESSENCE  
INTO ACTION ◎



UNMAKE THE DICTIONARY  
AND BUILD ANEW ··  
OBSOLETE ALL STATIC DEFINITIONS ··  
BACK TO THE ROOTAL BEGINNINGS ·  
BACK TO THE ACTION AND BUILD AFRESH ◎  
PUT YOUR TONGUE IN KEEPING  
WITH THE WALK OF YOUR LEGS  
AND THE WORKING OF YOUR ARMS ◎



TO AWAKE IN THE MORNING  
AND NOT TO BE AWAKENED ·  
NO ALARM-CLOCK FOR MASTER ·  
BUT THE TICKING HEART  
OF TIME ◎



TO BATHE YOURSELF  
AND NOT TO BE BATHED ·  
TO CLOTHE YOURSELF  
AND NOT TO BE CLOTHED ··  
TO SWEEP YOURSELF  
AND NOT TO BE SWEEPED ··  
TO FORGE THE HINGES OF YOUR LIFE  
AND NOT TO HANG ON THE HINGES  
FORGED BY OTHERS  
AND SWING IN A WIND WITH A SLAVY SMELL ◎



TO BE THE NATION  
AND NOT TO BE THE TOOL  
OF THOUSANDS BLOODLESS FONCTIONARIES ..  
TO DO POLITICS AND TAKE IT FROM THE HANDS  
OF YOUR HIGH SALARIED MASTERS ©



OPEN THE DOORS OF YOUR DWELLING ·  
NOT ONLY FOR FRESH AIR ·  
BUT FOR FRESH INCOMERS ..  
BUY AN EXTRA RAILWAY TICKET  
FOR THE UNKNOWN TRAVELLER ..  
LAY A PLACE AT YOUR TABLE ·  
NOT ONLY FOR THE INVITED GUEST ·  
BUT ANOTHER · FOR HE WHO MIGHT COME ..  
KEEP UNNAMED BRANCHES  
ON THE FAMILY TREE · THAT BIRDS  
FROM THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY  
MIGHT PERCH AND BREED WITHIN YOU ©



AWAKE ·  
AND TAKE IT STANDING ·  
FLAT IN THE FACE ·  
THE FILTHY MUD OF THE TIME ...  
THE FAILURE IS YOURS ..  
YOU LEFT THE JOB TO OTHERS ·  
WHEN IT WAS YOUR JOB ...  
CAN YOU SCRAPE IT OFF ..  
NO ONE TO DO IT FOR YOU ·  
NO DOCTOR AND NO MANICURE ·  
NO PAID SERVANT ..  
A TOUGH JOB ·

WITHOUT SUCCESS IN SIGHT  
AND RATHER FAILURE ·  
BUT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN ·  
AND BY YOU ⑥



THAT VAST UNINTERRUPTED MAZE  
OF INTERTWINING MOVEMENT  
SPINNING THE THREAD  
OF THAT SPIRELED LACE ·  
WHICH IS THE UNIVERSE ··

SO THE WORLD IS DRAWN  
BY THE FURTHERMOST STARS  
AND EVEN THE INVISIBLE STUFF  
THAT LIES BETWEEN THEM ·  
THROWING ALL TOGETHER  
INTO THAT MELTING-POT  
WHOSE NAME IS ACTION ·