

Alone



I governed
my sorrow,



Alone I colonized



... the abandoned May

Alone



I swelled
frangrances





On fields in halcyon days,



Fed yellow to the flowers,

herded the hills,



Shot red into the wilderness!



I said: the stab wound
will not be



deeper than
the wounded cry



And I said:
Injustice will not be more
venerable than blood!





The hand of the earthquakes,
the hand of famines,
The hand of foes and kin

Raged, destroyed,
devastated, annihilated

Once and twice
and three times
over

Betrayed,
I remained
on the plain,
alone,



*Stormed, I was taken in the castle, alone,
The message I raised I endured alone!*



*Alone
I
discouraged
death*

I bit into Time with teeth of stone

Alone I set off
on the long journey
Like the trumpet's call
through the skies.

Nemesis,
steel and fraud
were in my power,
I could have marched
on
With a cloud of dust
and armaments.





I said:
I'll compete
with only the sword
of cold waters

And I said:
I'll strike out with
only the Stainless of
my mind!

In spite of earthquakes,
in spite of famines,
in spite of foes and kin,



I stood my
ground, I held
my own,
I grew
my spirit,
grew
in strength

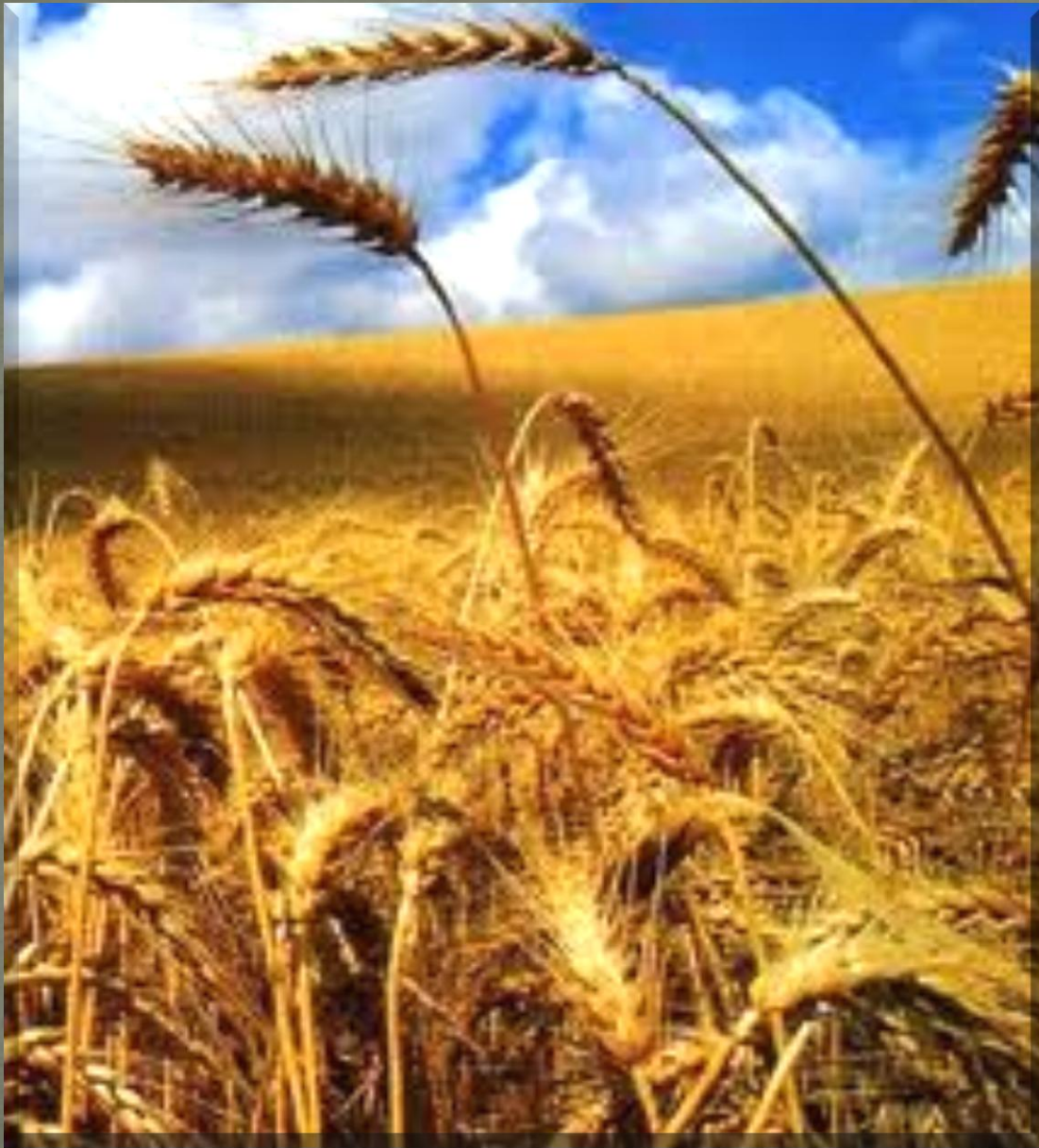
Once and twice and three times over

I built my houses on memory, alone





I took the halo
and
crowned myself,
alone,



The wheat
I heralded
I reaped it
alone!

ODYSSEUS ELYTIS

THE AXION ESTI

TRANSLATED BY EDMUND KEELEY & GEORGE SAVIDIS

MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

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TOPIC: An interpretation of AXION ESTI

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