

Alle Menschen werden Brüder

'Alle Menschen werden Brüder'
'People all become as brothers'
Was the hope proclaimed by Schiller,
Hope that Beethoven asserted,
Hope the Ode to Joy embraces,
Hope that filled my boyhood longing:
Through the fearful years of warfare,
Years of bloody, mad destruction,
Years when death was ever present;
Through the postwar years that followed -
Shortages of raw materials,
Shortages of food continuing,
Wartime rationing still needed.
'Twas the hope that Churchill cherished
In the speech he made in Zurich
One year after War had ended:
There, he said, our aim must constant
Be to build th' United Nations
Organization and strengthen
It; then under and within that
World concept we must create a
European structure called, let's
Say, th' United States of Europe.
At the European Congress
In the Hague just two years later
Churchill, speaking from the platform,
Said that if we pull together,
Pool our luck and act as comrades,
We must firmly grasp the larger
Hopes humanity now yearns for
When all children growing up now
Find themselves not victors, no, nor
Vanquished in the fleeting triumph
Bloody, lawless and destructive
Wars may bring about; but rather
Heirs to all our former treasures,
Heirs to masters of all sciences,
Heirs of glories and abundance
That await us in the future.
'Alle Menschen werden Brüder'
Was the hope that Churchill cherished.
Then when better days did follow,
'Twas the hope of teenage longing
Both for me and for my fellow
Schoolmates filled with idealistic
Hope and aspirations for a
Better and a fairer future.
Hope rekindled when MacMillan

Moved that Britain then should join the
European Common Market;
Hope frustrated by persistent
Veto Charles de Gaulle was giving.
Edward Heath however pulled off
Britain's Common Market entry.
Hope was high for two came with us:
Ireland joined and Denmark also.
Hope grew higher, hope grew stronger
When the Berlin Wall was toppled,
When the Iron Curtain crumbled,
When the central European
Nations, free at last from thralldom,
Sought to join the Common Market,
Join the European fam'ly.
'Alle Menschen werden Brüder'
Was the hope that drove us onward,
Led us forward, as the Market
Was transformed into a Union,
Granting that it citizens could
Freely travel, freely study,
Freely work or set up business,
Freely love, and freely marry,
Freely live and freely settle
Anywhere within this Union,
Anywhere within the twenty
Eight free nations of the Union.
Happy was I that my eldest
Grandson was allowed to go to
Strasbourg as a student, there to
Study at its Uni, meet with
International students, broaden
Knowledge, attitudes and outlook.
Happy then I was and hopeful.
Sad am I now that my other
Grandchildren are now precluded
From enjoying such a freedom;
Yes, and angry that the freedoms
Once their parents took for granted,
Took maybe too much for granted,
Were so cruelly, cruelly taken
From the younger generation.
Narrow, xenophobic Brexit
Has betrayed their aspirations,
Has betrayed my lifelong vision,
Has betrayed the hopes of Churchill.
Shall the younger generations
Have no say about their futures?

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Shall our hopes be doomed forever?
No, oh no, for young folk, harken,
Listen what the Ode is saying:
*'Froh, wie seine Sonnen fliegen
Durch des Himmels prächt'gen Plan
Laufet, Brüder, eure Bahn,
Freudig, wie ein Held zum Siegen.'*
Gladly, as God's constellations
Fly upon their cosmic courses,
Hasten, brethren, on your journey,
Joyful to heroic vict'ry.
While we've young folk full of passion,
Like young Femi Oluwole
Like the writer Madeleina
Kay and other young campaigners,
Then I'll not my hope abandon.
Come, you younger generations,
Come, regain those erstwhile freedoms:
Free to travel, free to study,
Free to work or set up business,
Free to love, and free to marry,
Free to live and free to settle
Anywhere within those nations
Joined in amity and friendship,
Joined in unity together.
Come, you younger generations,
Join in comradeship together,
Strive to build a better future,
Strive to save our stricken planet;
Strive 'gainst bigotry and bias,
Strive 'gainst greed and exploitation;
Strive to build a better order,
Fairer and more open minded;
Strive to banish war and hatred,
Banish poverty and hunger.
Grasp, as Churchill urged, the larger
Hopes humanity still yearns for
When all children growing up now
Find themselves not victors, no, nor
Vanquished in the fleeting triumph
Bloody, lawless and destructive
Wars may bring about; but rather
Heirs to all our former treasures,
Heirs to masters of all sciences,
Heirs of glories and abundance
That await us in the future.
May my hope be more than shadows;
May the European Nations

Work in harmony together,
Work in harmony with others,
Work to save our stricken planet,
That the world be carbon neutral,
That creation be respected.
*'Seid umschlungen, Millionen!
Diesen Kuß der ganzen Welt!'*
Come, earth's millions, come together!
Everyone embrace each other!
Fill the whole world with your kisses!
So let bigotry be banished!
So let poverty and hunger
Vanish from our world for ever!
'Alle Menschen werden Brüder'
Oh, please God, let it be so!

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