

Poems and Prose About the May Pole.

Green is a relationship to the earth and what grows there from. Red is a relationship to other people and the blood spilt there among. Black is a relationship to power and is an expression of workers' misery, rage, and strength in solidarity. Green designates life with only necessary labor; Red designates death with surplus labor; Black designates self-realization in labor. Green is natural appropriation; Red is social expropriation; Black is political appropriation. Green is husbandry and nurturance; Red is proletarianization; Black is collective self-liberation. Green is rebirth, unity and creative desire; Red is class struggle; Black is an end to hierarchy and oppression. May Day is all of these.

Adapted from "The Incomplete, True, Authentic and Wonderful History of MAY DAY," by the Midnight Note Collective, 1986

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Weave, spin, dance your cares away,
A spirit fire's alive to your entrancing,
Weave, spin, dance into the May,
The earth and sky are wed as you are dancing,
Weave now.

- Ann O'Brien, Pagan Chant, 1995

...Let the winds lift your banners from far lands
With a message of strife and of hope:
Raise the Maypole aloft with its garlands
That gathers your cause in its scope....

...Stand fast, then, Oh Workers, your ground,
Together pull, strong and united:
Link your hands like a chain the world round,
If you will that your hopes be requited.

When the World's Workers, sisters and brothers,
Shall build, in the new coming years,
A lair house of life—not for others,
For the earth and its fulness is theirs.

Walter Crane, The Workers' Maypole, 1894