

WORKERS' STATE

OLIVEIRA

the state
is only a beast
in the wrong hands,
and in the right hands
a beast
to those who exploit us.

one day
she will dissolve
and become small,
but only after
we seize it;
only after
oppressed and oppressor
merge to one.

this will take patience,
understanding, and time.

generations of work
and diligence and time;

time in need of defending.

imagine what we could do
with power in the hands of the many:

build hospitals quickly as wuhan.
heal the sick. heal the schools.
let the hands of our brothers
and sisters go free.

**one by one, hand by hand,
laborer by laborer
to make that Great Ship
be the vessel of the Lord.**

