

## “Guernika in the Laberynth”

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English translation of the Interview of Picasso with a journalist on the day he exhibited the Guernika in Paris.

*Interviewer: Good morning to all our listeners, today we find ourselves in Paris at the Universal Exhibition which is a show under the subject “Art and Modern Life Technics”. I am here in front of the Spanish Pavillion where an enormous painting is being exhibited by the Spanish artist from Málaga Pablo Ruiz Picasso. We have with us its author that is going to talk about this magnificent work of art. Good morning, Mr. Picasso.*

*Picasso: Good morning John.*

*Interviewer: The first thing that comes to our attention about your painting it's the size.*

*Picasso: Well, yes, the painting measures 3,5 m by 8 m. At the beginning, the government of the Spanish Republic told me to do a mural for our pavilion, but finally I decided to paint this picture.*

*Interviewer: Did it take a lot of effort to paint?*

*Picasso: The truth is that I painted it in just a month and it did not cost much effort because I needed to express all the sadness and the horror that the war means to me. All of that made the brush strokes sprout from my hands almost with no effort.*

*Interviewer: What it's represented in the painting?*

*Picasso: As you well know, on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1973, the Basque village of Guernica was bombarded by German aeroplanes at Franco's service. It was a bloodbath and my intention was to express on canvas my profound indignation. With this painting I'm expressing the horror that the military caste causes me that is sinking Spain in an ocean of misery and death.*

*Interviewer: Could you please explain us a little about the painting?*

*Picasso: Of course! If you want we will start at the right side. These two women we see here, one burning and the other trying to escape, represent the people of the village, defenseless, dying from exploding bombs and trying to hide. This other woman at the window represents humanity feeling helpless of what she sees and only able to shout. The light represents the need to inform everybody about what is happening.*

*Interviewer: What can you tell me about the horse, Mr Picasso?*

*Picasso: The fatally wounded horse represents the innocent victims of all wars. At its side, the bull, watching and threatening represents fascism which has caused so many deaths already in Europe.*

*Interviewer: What is there about the rest of the figures, Mr Picasso?*

*Picasso: Here we can see a mother with her dead son in her arms which reminds us not only physical but also psychological pain seeing our loved ones suffering.*

*Interviewer: In the painting there's only one male figure. Why?*

*Picasso: This man is a fighter compared with the child, he doesn't die passively but fighting. Even though he's beheaded it represents the fight for an ideal.*

*Interviewer: Together with the sword there is a flower. Is it the only positive symbol in the painting?*

*Picasso: This flower represents hope, and is not the only element which expresses positive things. Here, in the centre of the painting, we find a pigeon, the symbol of peace. Although it's in a very reduce space were it can't hardly fly, it has a fallen wing and it looks like it's shouting for help. All of this exemplifies suppressed freedom and peace.*

*Interviewer: When are we going to see the painting in Spain?*

*Picasso: Neither the painting nor I are going to step on Spanish soil until the dictator falls. The day that the Guernica is in Spanish heart, we will be happy.*

*Interviewer: Thank you very much. It has been a luxury for us to count with your presence and your explanations. We end the interview here. Good bye and we'll see you again in the next programme.*