

Missed Call



Mr Corrado Calabrò is the President of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Italy (AGCOM). In parallel with his activities in the field of Electronic Communications, he is also known for his endeavours in poetry. He has published 16 collections of poems and has received several awards and distinctions in Italy. His poems are inundated by his love for Greece, and particularly for the Ionian Sea, with which he is quite familiar thanks to his origin from Calabria.

The following is one of his poems, titled "Missed Call", included in the Greek publication "Poems" (Gavrielidis Editions, 2007-Translated in Greek by Vassilis Rouvalis).

*Missed call, OK?
For more information dial five.
Ten digits. It's her. No messages.*

*Missed call. Repeat call?
Of course I have a calling for her... although
whoever has once loved ill-timed
is like the colour blind in front of a traffic light:
Never sure when the right sign appears
must always pay attention to what others do.*

*To call, dial OK.
Yeah right, it's not simple when you're over thirty
to talk unprepared about your self
as young people do over the phone.
A secret code is needed.*

*Call failure. Redial?
Yes, no – there's no third choice.
Yes, yes – no, no – temptation triumphs over
the believer who adopts an unfamiliar vocabulary.*

*No answer – but my number
must have appeared – I think – on the screen.
Automatic redial, OK?
Automatic or depended?
(for anything prior to this, see Song number five).*

*OK, OK, just seven rings.
One, two, three, four, five, six:
No, there was no seventh...*

Neither I nor her said hello.

Corrado Calabrò



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