

O RED SOX FOREVER AND EVER

Text, Music and Annotated Notes by
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I.¹

O Red Sox forever and ever,
Forever and ever Red Sox,
sweet hearts of us all.
Nomar,² Nomar,
beloved of The Kid,³
The Kid beloved by all forever.⁴
And Pedro,⁵
our saviour,⁶ our sacrificial lamb;⁷
And Manny,⁸ and Jimmy.⁹
Red Sox forever and ever,
forever and ever Red Sox.

II.¹⁰

Ah! An error!¹¹
A slip in the great dance!¹²
Yet are we not all human,
and our nature given to the
ebbs and flows¹³ of excellence?
But lodged in each Red Sox heart
remains the archetype Error¹⁴
that each smaller one awakes,
when Billy Bucks,¹⁵
whose sweeping, lovely career¹⁶
has been nearly erased,
committed the murder of all hope.¹⁷
O Billy, Billy Bucks,
within our hearts toward you there can't but be
understanding, mingled with devastating¹⁸
sorrow.

III.¹⁹

Exquisite crumbling ruin,
Fenway Park,²⁰
home away from home,
where peace drops like a quiet cloak
around my shoulders.
I tread the upper walkway
from the frail²¹ right field stands
to the glorious²² left,
transistor²³ to my ear, Monster²⁴ at my side,
hearing the crystalline calls of sweet Joe Castiglione,²⁵
who loves the game with perhaps
the purest love of all.
Exquisite, crumbling ruin,
Fenway Park.

IV.

And what of that huge player

who willingly donned pinstripes?²⁶
Not the Babe,²⁷ the Blessed Babe,
the Babe who had no choice,²⁸
But Ruthless Roger.²⁹
May his heart ache,
may tears fall from his eyes,
may his arm be heavy, and sore weary,
may his Ks³⁰ all be walks³¹,
may he writhe and burn with shame
for this terrible, terrible crime.

V.
O Red Sox forever and ever,
forever and ever Red Sox,
beyond players, beyond top brass,
beyond errors,
beyond betrayals,
beyond sorrows,
beyond the exquisite, crumbling ruin:
forever and ever Red Sox,
world without end forever,
O Red Sox forever and ever, Amen.

This text is being translated into Latin for posterity by Edward J. Vodoklys, S.J. The translation of "Red Sox" is "Rosea Soleae," about which he writes, "*Rosea Soleae* literally means "Rosy Slippers," to mirror my hopes for a rosy future for the Sox's chances this year, as ever. *Rubentes Soleae* or, more idiomatic stylistically, *Soleae Rubentes* could also be used, and has the nice touch of alluding to the painter Reubens, who was a great devotee of St. Ignatius [founder of the Jesuit Order]. *Rubentes Soleae* is possibly more accurate, but either is correct."