

## Thoughts are Free

Written by unknown  
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Thoughts are free, who can guess them?  
They flee by like nocturnal shadows.  
No man can know them, no hunter can shoot them  
with powder and lead: Thoughts are free!

I think what I want, and what delights me,  
still always reticent, and as it is suitable.  
My wish and desire, no one can deny me  
and so it will always be: Thoughts are free!  
And if I am thrown into the darkest dungeon,  
all this would be futile work,  
because my thoughts tear all gates  
and walls apart: Thoughts are free!

So I will renounce my sorrows forever,  
and never again will torture myself with some fancy ideas.  
In one's heart, one can always laugh and joke  
and think at the same time: Thoughts are free!

I love wine, and my girl even more,  
Only I like her best of all.  
I'm not alone with my glass of wine,  
my girl is with me: Thoughts are free!

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[Hans Litten](#) read out this poem while incarcerated in a concentration camp in Nazi Germany

Original lyricist and the composer are unknown