

"Liberty" = right or agency to act, believe, and express oneself w/out external (or internal?) constraints, punishment, or situations of oppression. Must be balanced w/ the right & obligation to respect & uphold the liberty of others?!



Liberty Tree

what happens on trees?
Fruit hangs, leaves dry, they fall, trunks and roots hold, grow, mold, stay firm; they need sunlight; trees in forests communicate like a network. What "hangs" on trees?

Like Apollo riding a golden chariot across the sky to bring the sun
In a chariot of light from the regions of day,
The Goddess of Liberty came;

Ten thousand celestials directed the way
And hither conducted the dame
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
Where millions with millions agree,
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic struck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourished and bore;
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,
To seek out this peaceable shore.

Unmindful of names or distinction they came,
For freemen like brothers agree;
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,
Their bread in contentment they ate,
Unvexed with the troubles of silver and gold,
The cares of the grand and the great.

With timber and tar they Old England supplied,
And supported her power on the sea;
Her battles they fought, without getting a groat,
For the honor of Liberty Tree.

But hear, O ye swains, 'tis a tale most profane,
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting again
To cut down this guardian of ours;
From the east to the west blow the trumpet to arms
Through the land let the sound of it flee.
Let the far and the near, all unite with a cheer,
In defence of our Liberty Tree.

Thomas Paine

I think "sand" here might mean the "tyrannical" rule of the British forces, so sound fleeing would mean - "Yo, British, get out. We don't need/want your noise!"

In 1775,
"Profane" likely meant outside the Church, or even "ordinary".
"Swain" => a young man in love, or a suitor

Like Statue of Liberty, but this was written 110 years before the statue came to us shores

In this time period (late 18th century), 1776, "Lady Columbia" personified this idea. She was a patriotic symbol for the American colonies - pioneered by Phillis Wheatley - an African American poet, in an ode letter to George Washington.

I think this is an allusion to the "Manna"/"bread from Heaven" the Israelites are said to have eaten after the exodus from enslavement while wandering in the desert.

"Unvexed" = calm, serene, or unbothered.
Lesson/appeal: These people were grateful bread (the simple liberty of food - the right to have it) and did not need "Silver" or "gold"

perhaps how he thinks Revolution will be seen abroad...

This reminds me of Sky Woman, an Indigenous figure in creation story

regions = location, so how can a day (time) be a place, unless it means the borders as drawn at that time...
Prestigious woman

"AGREE" about WHAT? and who are the "millions and millions"?

"Sky Woman" is a revered figure in the creation story of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee). It is a story about reciprocity and generosity. I read about Sky Woman in a book - a memoir - and I'm remembering the story with the imagery in this line.

uniting people across divides of identity, creed, or origin

religious imagery

Shipping off hard-earned, grown or made colonies back to the UK British Empire = "Taxation without representation" (they had to support the crown's might, but felt used and abused in return)

is this a play on words?

a type of old coin

Like a TYRANT

rapidly joining forces

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