



LIBRETTO

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CANTATA CARMELITA: LIBRETTO

PART ONE: THE PRELUDE

NIGHT OF THE DRAGON

*The battle against the Dragon fought by a man of youth and naivety, who sought like be like His Lord and to stand for Him. "The great **dragon** was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."¹ Despite so many years of preparation, the battle young man of was short lived. He was vanquished quickly as he saw the total lack of goodness within his own being emptied him of any strength of his own making. He lay waiting to be devoured and damned.*

PART TWO: THE PROLOGUE

COMMENT RELATED TO STANZA 1

Instead of death and damnation he hears the gentle voice which illuminates his soul and gives him the grace and the strength that was not his own to rise to a place that was beyond him. He lacked all that was needed and thus turned to His Lord for everything. Even the faith and love for the Mother of Our Lord had to be given to this person of youth.

STANZA: 1. OH GENTLE LORD

**Oh gentle Lord, oh voice that is so soft, oh jewel within my soul
Makes me come where I could not come and pass to where I could not go.
Upon my brow, Your hand my God, is a whisper in the wind.
As breath brings life, it soothes, it heals, what was shattered by the inn.**

¹ Revelations 12:9

STANZA: 2. FALL AWAY

COMMENT RELATED TO STANZA 2

"Detachment from all things of the earth is necessary for perfect union with God. The purification begins with the "night of the senses" which by putting the soul into obscurity and depriving it of all sensible consolation, frees it from attachment to creatures and to material goods. This night, however is completed only by the night of the spirit, which, annihilating the soul in its spiritual faculties, succeeds in destroying in it every imperfect habit. John of the Cross remarks that after the night of the sense, 'there still remain in the spirit the stains of the old man, which are very deep.'"(DN II, 2,1)² Thus, all the things of the earth must fall away for we are made for God alone and not the earth.

STANZA 2

Fall away, what earth has made and what the darkness holds.

It was not for thee that I was made but for the God who made my soul.

It is He Who calls me now. It is He Who takes my part.

He comes to claim what is His alone, the master of my heart.

fall away, fall away, fall away fall away fall away what earth has made

fall away fall away fall away fall away fall away what earth has made

**and what the darkness what the darkness, what the darkness what the
darkness holds**

It was not for the that I was born but for the God Who rests my soul.

It is He Who calls me now, It is He Who takes my part

He comes to claim what is His alone, the Master of my heart.

fall away, fall away, fall away fall away fall away what earth has made

fall away, fall away, fall away fall away fall away what earth has made

fall away, fall away, fall away fall away fall away

fall away

² Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D. "Divine Intimacy p. 1014.

STANZA: 3. PAIN THAT SPEAKS OF GOD

COMMENT RELATED TO STANZA 2

Before the Crucifixion Our Lord lived among us and healed the pain and brokenness in others by the means of faith. Throughout the three years with the Apostles, healing was dependent upon the faith of the individual. "Do you believe in the Son of Man? . . . "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." Throughout the New Testament pain was healed through the faith of the individual. Jesus could not in Nazareth because they had no faith. After the crucifixion, pain is now healed through suffering. The suffering of the Mystical Body of Christ completes the redemption from Our Lord.

STANZA: 3

**Oh, pain that speaks of God, that sweetness stirs within,
The foretaste of His worst I choose against the treasures of the inn.
There are pains that lead to death and those that lead to life.
It is His pain that will draw me past the watchman of the night.
Oh jewel of my Lord, that darkness does conceal.
Cannot be known but what I see or grasped by what I feel.
Oh pain that speaks of God, that sweetness stirs within,
The foretaste of His worst I choose, Oh pain that speaks of God,
Oh pain that speaks, Oh pain that speaks, Oh pain that speaks of God.**

STANZA: 4. WHO SLAYS THE DRAGON

COMMENT RELATED TO STANZA 4

"Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 All that I desire and all that I need is in the Name of Jesus.

**There is no wine to fill this cup, no hand to fill this glove.
What gives my soul its hope to dream that was not born in love?
There is but one Who comes to slay what feeds upon my soul.
He alone will take my part and He alone I know
There is but one who comes to slay what feeds upon my soul
He alone may strike me down and He alone and He alone I know.**

STANZA: 5 I KNOW HIM

COMMENT RELATED TO STANZA 5

Within the darkness of despair in the night, a moment seemed to be of a Divine peace beyond any moment known before.

**I know Him from the day I rose against the darkness of my fears
But evil that His hope will end is all that I could hear.
And when the floods came over me a moment did I know
My Father's arms that formed the sea and never let me go.**

STANZA: 6.WRETCHED LIE BELIEVED/ STANZA: 7.WHAT TURNS TO ART

The moment of peace that came in the darkness was met with a lie that this peace would be denied and damnation was to follow because of the despair, the lie that causes one to withdraw from God. Yet God did not strike the young man "damned into hell." Though the young ~~man~~ pulled away and walked away. He did not walk alone for His Lord was there holding him all that time until his trembling fears quieted in the arms of His Lord and God.

STANZA: 6 WRETCHED LIE BELIEVED/WHAT TURNS TO ART

**Oh evil fear that pulls away Oh fear that pulls away pulls away
Oh wretched lie believed
Oh Blessed God Who holds me fast,
Oh God Who holds me fast, holds me fast
My trembling He relieves.**

COMMENT RELATED TO STANZA 7

As the young man lay on the ground, there were no dragons now standing over him seeking to devour his soul. It was the Lord, Himself who stood there dispelling all dragon within simply His look upon them. He then reached to draw His child to His own breast until everything that His child needed had be given to him so that he might love as He Lord love and He could take that love and that hope into the very same abyss to bring hope and healing to those who suffer.

STANZA: 7 WHAT TURNS TO ART

Largo

**He came without the need of shield, of armor or of sword.
His countenance, not for dragons made but for children of the Lord.
And now His hand has reached me down into that same abyss
That I might touch who suffer there with the sweetness of His kiss.
So gentle is this humble one. So tender is His heart.
What evil can befall a man that does not turn to art?
So gentle is this humble one so tender is His heart.
No evil can befall His child that does not turn to art.**

PSALM 63

Oh God! You are my God. For You my soul is thirsting my body pines for You like a dry and weary land without water So I gaze on You in Your sanctuary to see You strength and Your glory For Your love is better than life my lips will speak Your praise so I will bless You all of my life in Your name I lift up my hands my soul will be filled as with a banquet my mouth shall praise You with joy. For You are my God Oh God You are my God for You my soul is thirsting and I remember You upon my bed and on You I muse through the night For You have been my help in the shadow of Your wings I rejoice My soul clings to You Your right hand holds me fast. Oh God You are my God For You my soul is thirsting my body pines for You only for You for You are My God.

CANTICLE OF ZACHARIAS

COMMENT RELATED TO ZACHARIAS

Zacharias, unlike Mary, doubted the word of the angel that his wife would bear him a child. Therefore, he was silenced by God and could not speak a word until the moment that his son was to receive his name. Then, he was able to speak and proclaimed the purpose of his son. The voice of Zacharias was given to a young man to represent the new heart that Zacharias received from God showed itself in the youthful voice.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel for He has come to His people and has set them free He has raised up for us a mighty one Born of the house of his servant His Servant David Through His Holy Prophets, He promised of old That He would save us, From our enemies He would save us from the hands of all who hate us He promised to show to our fathers mercy and to remember his holy, holy covenant This was the oath He swore to Father Abraham to set us free from the hands of All our enemies free to worship Him worship Him worship without fear Holy and righteous, righteous in His sight For all of the days of our life

Largo

You my child shall be called the prophet of the God most high
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way.

To give His people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins.

in the tender compassion of Our God the dawn on high
will break on us to shine on those who in darkness dwell
and through the shadow of death He will guide us
guide our feet into the way of peace.

Blesses be the Lord, the God of Israel

For He has come to set us free, so blessed be the Lord.

HAIL MARY

GABRIELLE

Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you He is with you. Blessed art thou amongst all women blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners both now and at our death.

ELIZABETH

**Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
The moment that your voice reached my ears, the child within my womb leaped for joy.**

ELIZABETH AND MARY

**Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

The moment that your voice reached my ears, the child within my womb leaped for joy.**

GABRIELLE AND ELIZABETH

Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you He is with you. Blessed art thou amongst all women blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners both now and at our death.

GABRIELLE, ELIZABETH AND MARY

Amen! Amen! A men!

COMMENT RELATED TO THE VISITATION

Our Blessed Mother was given Divine gifts and powers from the Trinity.³ God the Father, God the Holy Spirit and Jesus all gave her some Divine gift but told her not to use them. Jesus, for example gave her all of His wisdom. She could perform miracles but was told not to.

When the music for the Hail Mary was written these things were not known. However there was an inclination to put music to the phrase of Elizabeth. The phrase as it is written was greatly pleasing and seemed to contain a significant authority and force. This called for a repetition and the addition of Mary to join in the phrase. The very best female voice was used for Mary.

The final version was most pleasing with the harmony of Our Lady. When it became known of the powers given to Mary, it is then that it took on greater meaning. It is also written that the first miracle performed took place when Elisabeth heard the voice of Mary and John the Baptist was sanctified with her womb. This incredible thing only increased my love for the phrase.

³ Louis De Montfort, Total consecration to Mary

CANA

MARY

They have no wine. They have no wine. Lord, they have no wine. Lord they have no wine. They have no wine They have no wine They have no wine They have no wine. They have no wine. Lord, they have no wine. They have no wine. They have no wine. Lord they have no wine.

JESUS

What would you have me do Woman?

MARY AND CHORUS

They have no wine, Lord they have no wine. They no wine

JESUS

What would you have me do? My hour has not yet come Woman What would you have me, What would you have me, What would you have me do?

MARY AND CHORUS

They have no wine. They have no wine They have no wine. They have no wine. They have no wine. They have no wine. They have no wine. Oh Lord You know they have no wine. Oh Lord we beg You? Ah! They have no wine. They have no wine. They have no wine

JESUS

What would you have me do Woman? What would you have me do? My hour has not yet come Woman . What would you have me, What would you have me, What would you have me do

MARY AND CHORUS

They have no wine, Oh Lord You know they have no wine.

They have no wine. Lord, they have no wine.

Oh Lord we beg You!

Do what He tells you,

Do what He tells you,

Do what He tells you.

MARY

They have no wine.

OUR FATHER

JESUS

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed by thy name
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
On earth as it is in heaven
Give, give us this day, give, give us our daily bread
and forgive, forgive us for give our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation
lead us not into temptation
lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from all that is evil.
Our Father, Who art in heaven
hallowed be be Thy name and Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
for Thine is the kingdom and power and glory
for Thine is the kingdom and power and glory
for Thine is the kingdom and power and glory
Forever, Amen! Amen! Amen!

LAZARUS

TENOR

Lord the one you love is ill. Oh my Lord, the one you love is ill.

MARTHA

Oh my Lord, Oh Lord, if only you had been here my brother never, never would have died. But even now I'm sure that God will give to you what-ever you would ask of Him.

JESUS

Do you believe? Martha do you believe, Do you believe? Martha Do you believe? that your brother will rise again he will rise Oh Martha do you believe?

MARTHA

Lord, I know that my brother will rise again on the very the very last day. But even now, I'm sure that God will give to you what-ever you would ask of Him.

JESUS

Do you believe? Martha do you believe, Do you believe? Martha Do you believe? I am the resurrection and the life. Who believes in me though he should die will come to life. Martha Do you believe? And whoever is alive and believes in Me, will never die, Do you believe?

MARTHA

Lord, Oh Lord, if only you had been here my brother never never would have died.

JESUS

Tell me where tell me where you have laid him

MARTHA

Oh my Lord Oh Lord, come and see.

JESUS

Take 'way the stone. Martha take 'way the stone

MARTHA

but my Lord, he's been there now four days.

JESUS

Did I not assure you that if you would believe, I would reveal the glory of God? Father I give thee my thanks that thou hast heard me. Yet, I know that You always hear me. But this I've said for the sake of those who are listening that they may believe I've come from You. Lazarus come out Lazarus come out! Lazarus come out! Lazarus come out! Martha come to unbind him and let him go free. Now Martha, do you believe? Do you believe? Martha do you believe, Do you believe? Martha Do you believe? Do you believe?

IF THOU ART CHRIST

COMMENT RELATED TO IF THOU ART CHRIST

Gestus was brought to Christ because of his sins and crimes. He knew who Jesus was and how he was proclaimed the "king of the Jews." However, he now saw Christ experience the same ignominious death that he, himself and Dismas were now suffering. In his despair he cried out to mock Our Lord. He despaired and sought some relief through the venting of his misery. The voice of Gestus is a powerful voice that carries these taunts to Our Lord. However, at the very end after he has said all that he can say, he alone expresses the condition asking for a sign, "If thou art God." The voice now is without power, rather it shows a vulnerability and possibility of hope.

IF THOU ART CHRIST

GESTUS: If thou art Christ

CHORUS: thou art Christ

GESTUS: save yourself and save us too.

CHORUS: Why don't you save us and yourself?

GESTUS: A miracle

CHORUS: A miracle

GESTUS: for God is not hard to do

CHORUS: Is it so hard?

GESTUS: I see nothing but man's own worst disgrace. Defeat and darkness where is Your Holy face?

GESTUS: If thou art Christ

CHORUS: thou art Christ

GESTUS: save yourself and save us too.

CHORUS: Why don't you save us and yourself?

GESTUS: A miracle

CHORUS: A miracle

GESTUS: Should not be so hard to do.

CHORUS: Is it so hard?

GESTUS: You saved others. Why can't you save yourself? Where is your power and Your Glory now?

GESTUS: If thou art Christ?

CHORUS: If thou art God?

GESTUS & CHORUS: Save yourself and save yourself and save yourself and save us too.

GESTUS: If thou art God

DISMAS

COMMENT RELATED TO DISMAS AND SALVATION

Dismas was also brought to Jesus and crucifixion because of his crimes, i.e. his sins. His wonderful eleventh-hour conversion and defense of the holy Kingship of Jesus on Calvary merited him the everlasting title 'The Good'. It was in the throes of his death agony that this new man was reborn on a cross, and was canonized by the gasps of the heaving voice of our Savior Himself as he hung from the nails that transfixed him to the cross of our salvation. From data garnered from common tradition, the Fathers of the Church, and several non-inspired accounts of the gospel story, we know that the first meeting of our Egyptian-born (good) thief and the Holy Family took place in Egypt during the flight of the holy family away from Herod. Dismas was a very young man then but discerning enough to see, especially in the face of the child Jesus' mother a holiness and beauty that he dared not profane. Indeed, it is said that he interceded with his fellow accomplices to give the holy family a safe conduct into Egypt, though he did not respond to grace at this time. Worse still, according to Pope St Gregory the Great, Dismas fell in the later days so low that he was stained with the sin of Cain's murder of a brother. At Golgotha, a transformation was won through the intercession of the Woman (Mary), who ponders all things in her heart and never forgets one who has given her Son a cup of cold water. This dying man's only request from his Lord was but a remembrance in his Kingdom.⁴ We see in this Cantata, how his salvation spreads to all those who were present and sought Our Lord as the Chorus builds in a canon.

DISMAS

Are you without the fear of God?

We both have come to the same fate.

And we receive, what we deserve, but look this man, is innocent.

Lord, O Lord, would You remember me, when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord would You re member me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord would You re member me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord would You re member me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord would You remember me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Would You remember me?

Lord, O Lord, would You remember me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

⁴ <https://www.scross.co.za/2017/06/more-on-the-two-thieves/>

JESUS (*JESUS TAKES ON THE MELODIC FORM OF DYSMAS*)

I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise

CANON

A Canon takes place as the Salvific Grace spreads from Christ, to His Mother, to St. John and here to St. Dismas as it flowed out into the communion of saints.

Lord, O Lord would You remember me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord, would You remember me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord, would You remember me when You come You come into Your kingdom? Would You remember Me?

Lord, O Lord, would You remember me when You come You come into Your kingdom?

Lord, O Lord would you remember me You come into Your kingdom? Would You remember me?

JESUS

I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise
I promise you on this same day You'll be with me in Paradise

BEHOLD

Woman Behold your son, Behold your mother

CREDO

Credo in unum Deum Patrem Omnipotentem

I believe in God, the Father Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ His only Son, Our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, By the Holy Ghost, He was born of the Virgin Mary, of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified and died. And then He was buried. He descended into hell. The Third day, He arose, from the dead, He arose. He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in God, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church and in the communion of the saints and in the forgiveness of sins believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting, Amen (I believe) Amen (I believe) Amen (I believe).

MAGNIFICAT

MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

For He has looked with favor on His handmade.

All generations from this day will call me blest for the Almighty has done great things for me and Holy is His name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm

He Has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones

He has lifted up the poor and lowly ones

He has filled the hungry with good things

the rich He sent empty away.

He has upheld His servant Israel

He has remembered His promise of mercy the promise that He made to our fathers and then to Abraham to His children forever.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

In God my Savior.

IN THIS IS LOVE

ST. JOHN

In this is love not that we have loved God but that He has first loved us. To show His love He sent us His Son into the world that we might have life through Him. Beloved if God so loved us so we also ought to love one another. And he who loves is born of God and God abides in him and he in God. And the love that abides is perfected So that there is no fear when we see Him. In perfect love there is no fear and he who fears is not perfect in love. And so because our God has first loved us, let's there fore also love our own brother. This is the love He has for us.

NADA

Let nothing disturb thee
Let nothing Frighten thee
All things pass a way
God never changes
patience obtains everything.
All things pass a way
He who hath God wants nothing
And all things pass away
God alone, God alone suffices
And all things pass away

NUNC DIMITTUS

SOPRANOS

Protect us Lord

Protect us Lord

Protect us

Lord

TENOR Protect us Lord, as we stay awake, watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep rest in His peace.

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared, in the sight of every people a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

SOPRANOS

Protect us Lord

Protect us Lord

Protect us

Lord

TENOR Protect us Lord, as we stay awake, watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep rest in His peace. Protect us Lord

LOVE'S WHOLE POSSESSION

If Lord, thy love for me is strong
as this which binds me unto Thee,
What keeps me from Thee Lord, so long?
What keeps Thee Lord, so long from me?
O soul, what then desirest now
Lord, Thy face I'd see, Thy face I'd see, Thy face I'd see.
What fears can yet assail thee now?
All I fear is to lose Thee, to lose Thee, to lose Thee, to lose Thee.
Love's whole possession I entreat.
Lord, make my soul Thy own abode,
and I will make a nest so sweet,
it may not be too poor for God.
O soul in God, soul in God,
hidden from sin,
what more desires for thee remain?
Save but to love and to love again.
And all aflame with love within love on and turn to love again.
And all aflame with love within love on and turn to love again.
Love on and turn to love again.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Our life, our sweetness and our hope

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Our life, our sweetness and our hope

To you do we cry poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our
sighs

For we are mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then most gracious advocate your eyes of mercy upon us and after this
our exile

show us the most blessed fruit of your womb Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,

Oh clement Oh loving Oh sweet Virgin Mary our life and our sweetness and our
hope

Oh clement Oh loving Oh sweet Virgin Mary our life and our sweetness and our
hope

Oh clement Oh loving Oh sweet Virgin Mary our life and our sweetness and our
hope

Hail Holy Queen Holy Queen Holy Queen Mother of God Mother of God,
Mother of God

