

Tsippi Fleischer

Cain and Abel, Op. 57

Grand chamber opera in five scenes (2001-2)

Libretto: Yossefa Even-Shoshan



ISRAEL MUSIC INSTITUTE
מכון למוסיקה ישראלית

Tsippi Fleischer
Cain and Abel

Grand-Chamber Opera In Five Scenes

Libretto: Yossefa Even-Shoshan

English translation: Abraham Leader

Equi-rhythmic translation (exists here): Huw Rhys James

Language: Hebrew (original)

Where: an ancient land

When: at the dawn of time

Cast:

Cain – dramatic baritone

Abel – lyric baritone

Cain's lamb – mezzo soprano

Abel's lamb – soprano

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CAIN AND ABEL

FIRST SCENE:

THE SACRIFICIAL FEAST

A Song with Soloists (1)

Cain and Abel:

AT THE END OF DAYS WE SACRIFICE,
SO THAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER END,
WILL NEVER END.
SO THAT EAST AGAIN WILL GIVE BIRTH TO THE LIGHT
AND SOUTH WILL AGAIN CREATE.T.T
MORNING DEW
AND WEST WILL CONCEIVE THE COLD
AND GIVE BIRTH TO WATER,
THAT DECENDS FROM THE HEAVENS
DOWN TO THE EARTH,
DOWN TO THE EARTH,
AND THE EARTH SWEATS STEAM OF GRASS
AND HERBS AND TREES

Cain's Lamb and Abel's Lamb:

AND NORTH, WHAT WILL IT BRING FORTH?
WHAT WAS IT CONCEALED IN ITS WOMB?

Cain and Abel:

FOR THE NORTH IS MYSTERIOUS,
ITS SECRETS ARE VEILED AND DARK

Cain:

SOME SAY FROM THE NORTH EVIL WILL COME,
SOME SAY THE END WILL COME FROM THERE...

Abel:

MAYBE BLESSING WILL COME FROM THE NORTH.
IS NORTH PERHAPS A BEARER OF BOUNTY?

Cain and Abel:

AND ITS BLESSING WILL BRING THE DAYBREAK ONCE MORE,
ANOTHER LEAF MAY GROW ON BRANCHES NAKED OF TREE

Cain's Lamb and Abel's Lamb:

MAYBE NORTH IS MY MOTHER'S WOMB,
WHO FILLED HER NIPPLES WITH MILK.
AT THE END OF DAYS HE WILL PLANT ANOTHER KID IN ME
WHO WILL SUCK AT NORTH'S BREAST THROUGH MY NIPPLES,
WHO WILL SUCK AT NORTH'S BREAST

Cain:

MAYBE NORTH WILL CUT OFF YOUR NIPPLES AND BREASTS,
MAYBE NORTH WILL CASTRATE YOUR WOMB

Abel:

MAYBE NORTH WILL DRY UP THE SEA AND THE RIVERS,
AND STOP THE MORNING DEW AND TAKE EARTH'S BREATH AWAY.
FOR WITHOUT BREATH, THE ROOTS WILL ROT
AND THE FRUIT WILL CRAWL WITH WORM
AND WHEN SHE BREATHE HER LAST BREATH,
THE EARTH WILL BE FORLORN

Cain:

FOR NORTH IS MYSTERIOUS.
NORTH IS UNKNOWN.
IT BRINGS BIRTH MIRACULOUS,
BRINGS DEATH MYSTERIOUS

Cain + Abel + Cain's Lamb + Abel's Lamb ("Hymn Pastoral"):

AT THE END OF DAYS WE SACRIFICE,
SO THAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER END, WILL NEVER END,
SO THAT EAST AGAIN WILL GIVE BIRTH TO THE LIGHT,
AND SOUTH WILL AGAIN CREAT-T-T-TE, MORNING DEW
AND WEST WILL CONCEIVE THE COLD
AND GIVE BIRTH TO WATER,
THAT DECENDS FROM THE HEAVENS DOWN TO THE EARTH,
DOWN TO THE EARTH,
AND THE EARTH SWEATS STEAM OF GRASS AND HERBS AND TREES.

Cain's Lamb

WHAT CAUSES NORTH TO STOP AT THE END?

WHY DOES IT CREATE A BEGINNING?

WHAT TRANSFORMS A CURSE INTO BLESSING?

WHAT IS YOUR SACRIFICE?

B Duet of the brothers

Abel:

THAT WHICH IS BELOVED AND MOST PRECIOUS AND DEAR

Cain:

WHO IS ONE, WHO IS ONE AND NO OTHER

Abel:

WHO ENLIGHTENS MY MOONLESS NIGHTS

Cain:

WHO HEARS MY VOICELESS CRY,
VOICELESS, VOICELESS

Abel:

WHO REVEALED TO ME THE SECRETS OF ETERNITY, ETERNITY

Cain:

WHO TAUGHT ME THE LANGUAGE OF CREATION

Abel:

WHO'S HEART BEATS WITH MY HEART BEAT

Cain:

AND WHOSE BLOOD IS MY BLOOD

Abel:

SHE WHO IS ME

Cain:

MY LAMB

Abel:

MY LAMB

Cain:

MY BELOVED

C Duet of the Lambs

Abel's Lamb:

THUS YOU WHO TOOK ME,
TOOK ME TO THE SECRET PASTURE

Cain's Lamb:

WHO GAVE ME SWEET WATER TO DRINK,
GAVE ME WATER TO DRINK

Abel's Lamb:

WHO HELD ME IN HIS BOSOM ON THE NIGHT OF THE FROST

Cain's Lamb:

WHO ARE CLOTHED IN MY WOOL THAT YOU SHEARED IN THE SUMMER

Abel's Lamb:

YOU

Cain's Lamb:

SEND ME

Abel's Lamb:

TO NORTH

D Song for Soloists (2) + Ritual + Arietta of the two lambs

Cain and Abel:

YOU ALONE MY LAMB, YOU ALONE KNOW MY SECRETS
YOU ALONE SHARE MY NIGHTMARES
YOU ALONE, YOU ALONE

Abel:

AND TOGETHER WE WILL MISS A HEARTBEAT AT NIGHT

Cain and Abel:

FOR NORTH IS SO FAR, THAT ONLY A SACRIFICE THAT BRING IT CLOSER,
AND GIVE US MORE TIME AND GIVE THE SEA LIFE

Cain:

ONLY SHE WHO IS CLOSEST CAN BE A TRUE SACRIFICE

Abel:

YOU ALONE MY LAMB ARE CLOSE TO ME

Cain:

YOU ARE ME AND I AM YOU

Cain and Abel (Ritual):

COME CLOSE NOW AND LIE IN HIS BOSOM TO NORTH
AND EMBRACE HIS HIPS WITH YOUR LIMBS
LICK HIS EARS WITH YOUR WET TONGUE AND BLEAT,
AND BLEAT OUT ALL MY SECRETS,
SING OUT WITH YOUR VOICE, O BELOVED LAMB
TELL NORTH ALL THE THINGS THAT I FEAR
TELL HIM THAT YOU ARE MY OFFERING
YOU ARE ME
BESEACH HIM THAT ALL SHALL NOT COME TO AN END

Cain's Lamb and Abel's Lamb (Arietta):

I WILL SING MY PRAISE WITH MY VOICE
I WILL CRY AND APPEAL
I WILL PRAY WITH THE HOPE THAT I SHALL FIND FAVOUR,
THAT MY SACRIFICE BE NOT IN VAIN.

I WILL ASK FOR NORTH THAT HE GIVE US MORE TIME
AND THOUGH I WAS SENT THERE,
I WILL ASK,
WILL ASK THAT THE END

Abel's Lamb:

NEVER COMES.

SECOND SCENE:

CAIN'S LAMB IS REJECTED

E Duet of Brothers

Cain:

A FLAME, A BLUE FLAME,
LICKING THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR
A SILENT FIRE, A FLAME WITH NO FRICTION,
NO LIGHTNING, NO THUNDER
A TWISTED SERPENT MADE OF FIRE
THAT DESCENDS WITHOUT WINGS AND SWOOPS PS-S
DOWN ON THE SACRIFICE

Abel:

THE MESSENGER OF NORTH,
SEE HOW HIS NOSTRILS ARE FILLED WITH
THE SCENT OF THE SINGED
IF NORTH APPEASED BY THIS GIFT -
IS THE OFFERING TO HIS LIKING?

Cain:

THEY ARE STILL HERE, IN THEIR ENTIRETY

Cain and Abel:

AND THE STONE IS COLD AS IF NOTHING HAS TRANSPIRED

Abel:

THE OFFERING WAS NOT RECEIVED
NORTH REJECTED OUR GIFT
SO THE END OF THE WORLD IS NIGH
SOON THE SKIES WILL FALL FROM ON HIGH

F Ensemble - Abel, Cain's Lamb, Cain

(Ensemble of understanding)

Cain's Lamb:

TIME WILL STILL ENDURE

Cain:

YOU'RE ALIVE?

Abel:

AND YOU, MY LAMB, WHERE ARE YOU?

Cain's Lamb:

AND THE EARTH WILL BREATHE

Abel:

YOUR CURLS ARE SOFT, YOUR FUR IS STILL WARM, BUT YOU, WHERE ARE YOU?

Cain's Lamb:

AND THE SEA WILL LIVE FOR EVER

Abel:

YOUR EARS ARE ERECT, THEY WAIT FOR MY WHISPER, BUT WHERE ARE YOU?

Cain's Lamb:

THE PULSE OF ITS WAVES BRINGS DLOOD TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD

Abel:

THE NOSE IS MOIST, THE TONGUE IS WET, BUT YOU, WHERE ARE YOU?

Cain's Lamb:

SHE IS THE WORLD'S SACRIFICE

Abel:

WHERE IS SHE?

Cain's Lamb:

IN THE BOSOM OF NORTH, HIGH ABOVE

Cain:

AND YOU? AND YOU?

G Aria - Cain's Lamb:

WE WENT UP HALF WAY, HALF WAY TOGETHER,
WE WENT UP TOGETHER IN THE MIDST OF DEEP FOG, DEEP FOG
BODILESS WINGS PULLED US, PULLED US OUT, US OUT OF THE SCALE
AND WE FLEW WEIGHTLESS UNTIL A GATE OPENED IN THE SKY,
OPENED IN THE SKY
FACES OF MEN WITH BAT'S WINGS, OF MEN AND BIRDS,
OF BIRDS WITHOUT FACES, CRABS WITH THE FEET OF LEOPARDS,
THOUSANDS OF CREATURES, STRANGE, AND SO MANY OTHERS,
ALL GAZING IN SILENT EYES.
AND A MOUTHLESS ECHO IS HEARD AND IT SAYS:
O LAMB OF CAIN, GO BACK, FROM WHENCE YOU CAME
ONLY THE LAMB OF ABEL SHALL ENTER THE HEAVENLY GATE,
ONLY SHE HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO GIVE THE WORLD TIME.

Cain:

AND YOU?

Cain's Lamb:

I WAS SENT BACK TO YOU,
WAS SENT BACK TO MY BODY

Cain:

YOU ARE HERE, BUT THE WORLD'S TIME DOES NOT BEAT IN YOUR PRAISE
THE NORTH HAS VOMITED YOU UP FROM IT'S BOSOM

H Duet in Ariosi: Abel + his Lamb's soul

Abel:

CAIN, REJOICE, HER BODY IS WARM,
HER FEET ARE LIGHT AND MOVE
MY LAMB MAY GIVE ENDURANCE TO TIME
BUT HER BODY BE FOOD FOR THE RAVENS
YOUR LAMB WILL BLEAT FOR YOU AT NIGHT BUT I WILL BURY MINE

H1 Aria: The Voice of Abel's Lamb's Soul

Abel's Lamb's Soul

DO NOT WEEP FOR ME ABEL
I AM YOUR OFFERING
I HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH MAJESTY
DO NOT BURY MY BODY, FOR MY VOICE IS WITHIN ME
ITS ECHO ENDURES FOREVER
DO NOT WEEP FOT ME ABEL
I AM YOUR OFFERING
I HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH MAJESTY
YOUR BOSOM BE EMPTY, BUT THE MUSIC
IT WILL WARM THE COLD NIGHT.
RATHER THAN GIVING MY BODY TO BIRDS,
BUILD FROM IT SEVEN VOICES,
OF MY HORNS, MAKE THE TRUMPETS,
AND MAKE FLUTES FROM MY LEGS
STRECH MY SKIN ON A SKELETON OF DRUM
MAKE HARPS OF MY ENTRAILS
AND MAKE FIDDLES OF MY BOWELS

H2 Abel:

HOW WILL I CUT YOUR BODY INTO SEVEN PIECES?
YOU WHO FOR ME WERE MY ONE AND ONLY,
IT WOULD SURELY BE BETTER TO PRESERVE YOUR BODY
IN A SOFT BED OF EARTH.
YOU WERE MY BELOVED
I WILL KEEP YOUR VOICE
AND WITH EVERY BEAT THAT POUNDS IN MY CHEST

I WILL REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE MY SACRIFICE.

YOU, MY BROTHER,

REJOICE, YOUR LAMB STILL BREATHES WITH THE JOY OF LIFE

CAIN, REJOICE, HER BODY IS WARM

HER FEET CAN STILL MOVE

MY LAMB GIVES LIFE TO ALL CREATION

AND HER BODY SHALL BE SEVEN SOUNDS

THIRD SCENE:

THE JEALOUSY OF CAIN

I The Long Duet of Cain and his Lamb (Jealousy of Cain)

Cain's Lamb:

COME LET'S GO TO THE VALLEY

Cain:

LOOK, LOOK AT HIM

Cain's Lamb:

LET US LOOK FOR A SPRING

WHOSE WATER ARE SECRET AND SWEET

Cain:

HE CUT HER CORPS INTO SEVEN PIECES

AND NOW HE MAKES MUSIC FROM HER FLESH

Cain's Lamb:

THERE IS AN ORCHARD WITH FRUITS

THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN TOUCHED

Cain:

MASQUERADES AS A MOURNER

PLAYS HER ELEGIES, BUT IN TRUTH HE SINGS OF MY FALL

Cain's Lamb:

COME, LET'S GO

Cain:

WHY SHOULD I?

I WANT NO SECRET SPRINGS, NO ORCHARDS,

NO UNTOUCHED FRUITS,

FOR MY STOMACH IS FILLED WITH DECAY

Cain's Lamb:

LET US GO TO THE DESERT
LET'S CLIMB THE CLIFF AND LISTEN TO THE SILENCE
AND SPEAK IN EAGLES' TONGUES

Cain:

CAN I GO TO THE FOUNTAINS?
EV-RY STONE TELLS THE SECRET OF MY REJECTION
CAN I LISTEN TO THE SILENCE IF THE BIRDS AND THE BEASTS
FILL THE EARTH WITH SOUNDS OF ABEL'S TRIUMPH?

Cain's Lamb:

THESE ARE ONLY ILLUSIONS

Cain:

NO, THEIR TONGUES ARE SLANDEROUS
AND EV'RY MOUNTAIN AND STONE STARE ME DOWN
THEY STARE AT ME, BARING THE SECRET OF MY FAILURE

Cain's Lamb:

THIS IS NOT FAILURE

Cain:

MY SACRIFICE WAS REJECTED
YOU WERE SENT BACK
AM I NOT WORTHY IN THE EYES OF NOTRH?
AND WHY?

Cain's Lamb:

HOW COULD ONE WHO DWELLS HERE ON EARTH,
KNOW THE HEART OF NORTH UP ON HIGH?

Cain:

TOGETHER WE FEARED THE END OF DAYS, WE CONCEIVED A SACRIFICE
EACH OF US GAVE UP HIS MOST PRECIOUS POSESSION
AND WHY? WHY HIM AND NOT ME?

Cain's Lamb:

WERE WE TO KNOW HIS REASONS,
NORTH WOULD NO LONGER BE NORTH

Cain:

HE SINGS ONCE MORE AS IF WEEPING FOR HIS BELOVED LAMB
AS IF TO TELL THE WORLD OF HIS VICTORY
ACTING LIKE ONE WHO WILL NOT BE COMFORTED
BUT THE RIVERS OF CONCEIT FLOW THROUGH HIS SOUL
HE DESIRES TO RULE, TO STEAL MY BIRTHRIGHT
HE WANTS TO CRUSH ME SO THAT HIS WORD IS LAW
HE LAMENTS, AND THE SOUND OF HIS LAMENT TELLS THE WHOLE WORLD
THAT NORTH PREFERED ABEL

Cain's Lamb:

DREAMING AGAIN, YOUR THOUGHTS RUN WILD
THEY CREATE IN YOUR EARS STILLBORN VOICES
IF YOU LISTEN TO THE SILENCE AND SEE YOUR BROTHER
YOU MIGHT EASE HIS SUFFERING

Cain:

YOU CALL ME A DREAMER!
HE HAS SEDUCED YOU TOO WITH HIS LYING SONGS?
TRAITOR!
LEAVE ME!
YOU ARE THE MIRROR OF MY FAILURE
I REJECT YOU! GO!
I NEED YOU NO LONGER
STOP! STOP! STOP!
HE MUST STOP PLAYING
EV-RY PULL-LL OF THE STRING CUTS INTO MY FLESH
SCENES OF MY FALL
STOP! STOP! STOP!
HE MUST STOP PLAYING!
MY EAR HAS BEEN TORN AND EV-RY BEAT GRINDS MY HONOR INTO THE DUST
STOP! STOP! STOP!

Cain's Lamb:

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME, CAIN?
THE HAND THAT CARESSED ME, HELD MY BODY TO ITS BREAST
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME, CAIN?
THE HAND THAT I L-L-L-L-L-L-L-LICKED,
THAT TOOK ME OUT OF MY MOTHER'S WOMB
HAS BECOME THE HAND OF A BRUTAL MAN

Cain:

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAVE MY HANDS DONE?
A STRANGE CREATURE ENTERED ME

Cain's Lamb:

IT WAS JEALOUSY WHO CUT ME AWAY FROM YOUR HEART

Cain:

ONE MOMENT

I1 Arietta – Cain's lamb**Cain's Lamb:**

BUT SHE STILL CROUCHES BY THE THRESHHOLD OF YOUR HEART
IT WAS JEALOUSY, THE HATED ONE
THE BODILESS LOVER WHO WAITS IN AMBUSH BY THE DOOR
SHE HAS THE POW'R OF SH'OL
DO NOT BE SEDUCED, YOUR FAILURE IS IMAGINED
TRY TO BE KIND WITH A BROTHER'S PAIN
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, THIS IS A TEST AND SWALLOW YOUR SHAME,
ALREADY JEALOUSY HAS MADE YOUR FACE UGLY
CONTROL IT OR IT WILL CONQUER YOU AND GIVE BIRTH TO A MONSTER.

I2 Arietta – Cain**Section a**

LET US BE RECONCILED, MY LAMB
THE AFFRONT STILL BURNS, BUT I SHALL OVERCOME THE BEAST OF JEALOUSY
FORGIVE ME MY LAMB, MY BROTHER'S SUFFERING SADDENS ME TOO
LET US BE RECONCILED MY LAMB
THE AFFRONT STILL BURNS, BUT I SHALL OVERCOME THE BEAST OF JEALOUSY
I LIFTED UP MY HAND, I WAS SLANDEROUS

LET US BE RECONCILED MY LAMB

LET US FORGIVE AND FORGET THIS BITTER DAY OF HASTE

Section b

THE SUN NOW SETS, TELL MY BROTHER TO COME

WE WILL PLAY AT CATCHING THE EVENING SHADOWS

TELL MY BROTHER THAT SOLITARY MOURNING BLACKENS THE SOUL

WARM HIS SKIN WITH YOUR LUSCIOUS SOFT FUR

MAKE HASTE MY LAMB, THE SHADOWS ARE LONG

CALL MY BROTHER AND TELL HIM

THAT YOU ARE ME, AND I AM HE, AND YOU ARE HIS.

FOURTH SCENE:

THE MURDER

J Aria - Lament of Abel on his Lamb

THE DYING SUN GIVES BIRTH TO DARKNESS
A RED LINE IN THE WEST GIVES BIRTH TO BLACKNESS
WHEN THE BIRD TUCKS IN ITS WING, IT AWAKENS THE BIRD OF PREY
THE SLEEP OF THE CREATION GIVES BIRTH TO WAKEFULNESS
THE DEATH OF NIGHT GIVES BIRTH TO DAY
MY LAMB'S DEATH GAVE BIRTH TO NOTHING
IT IS GOOD FOR YOU THERE IN THE BOSOM OF NORTH,
WHO TOOK YOU FROM YOUR BODY
IT IS GOOD FOR YOU THERE
BUT MY SKIN WALLOWS IN THE NAKEDNESS OF YOUR ABSENCE

K Duet of Cain's Lamb and Abel

Cain's Lamb:

YOUR BROTHER ASKS YOU TO COME TO THE FIELD,
TO PLAY AT CATCHING THE EVENING SHADOWS

Abel:

I SEE IN THE SHADOWS THE DEPTHS OF MY LONGING,
HOW CAN I PLAY WHEN MY SHADOW HAS LOST ITS BODY?

Cain's Lamb:

HE FEARS THAT MOURNING WILL DARKEN YOUR HEART

Abel:

BUT IF LONELINESS IS LAW,
THEN ONLY THE MEM'RY OF A CURL OF MY LAMB'S SKIN,
THE ECHO OF TONGUE LICKING EAR GIVES ME STRENGTH TO BREATHE,
A TONGUE LI-LI-LI-LICKING A WET EAR AWAKENS THE BEAT OF MY HEART.

Cain's Lamb (Quasi arietta):

HE SAID YOU'RE A BROTHER, A COUPLE
YOUR BLOOD IS AS ONE, YOUR FLESH IS HIS FLESH
YOUR MOURNING HIS MOURNING
HE TOLD ME TO SAY THAT I AM HIM AND HE IS ME
SHE IS MY SISTER, HER HAIR IS MY HAIR
AND WHEN NURSING, TA TA TONGUE,
HER TONGUE TOUCHED MY TONGUE
YOU ARE HE, HE IS YOU, HE IS ME AND I AM YOU,
YOUR, YOURS.

L Terzett of Murder

Cain:

I CURSE YOU, YOU HOLD HER IN YOUR ARMS, DO YOU DIG ANOTHER PIT OF SHAME?

Abel:

PLEASE BE CALM

Cain:

HOW DARE YOU

Abel:

YOU'RE MISTAKEN

Cain:

SILENCE TRAITOR

Cain's Lamb:

YOU ORDERED ME TO COME HERE

Abel:

LET ME TRY TO EXPLAIN

Cain:

ONCE AGAIN YOU OPENLY HUMILIATE ME

Abel:

I THOUGHT THAT YOU SENT HER TO MAKE PEACE WITH ME

Cain's Lamb:

IT WAS YOU WHO SENT ME HERE

Cain:

I DID NOT SEND YOU TO WHORE IN HIS BOSOM, LYING BITCH!
MY EYES DID NOT DECEIVE ME WHEN I SAW HOW YOUR EARS
PRICKED UP AT HIS SAD MOURNING -
AWAY WITH YOU EXILED ONE

Cain's Lamb:

ABEL, THIS IS A TRAP

Abel:

NO, IT'S JUST JEALOUSY

Cain:

GO, I WANT YOU NO MORE

Cain's Lamb:

YOU ARE FULL OF HATERED

Cain:

DON'T COME BACK YOU BITCH!

Cain's Lamb:

ABEL, PROTECT YOURSELF

Abel:

HE WILL FORGIVE

Cain's Lamb:

ABEL, FLEE!

Abel:

NO, HE'S MY BROTHER

Cain:

STRANGER, YOU'RE NO BROTHER
AN ENEMY, AN UNKNOWN STRANGER
YOU STOLE MY BIRTHRIGHT, MY OFFERING,
MY HONOR AND MY LAMB AND SPACE AND TIME,
AND YOUR EXISTENCE SHOWS MY SHAME.
EV-RY BREATH YOU TAKE MAKES MY HEART MISS A BEAT
THERE'S NOT ROOM FOR US BOTH. THIS IS MY EARTH,
GO REIGN UP ON A THRONE IN HEAVEN AND THE EARTH WILL BE MY KINGDOM,
MY KINGDOM!
GO RISE UP TO HEAVEN, GO, LEAVE YOUR BODY

Abel:

YOU'RE HUNTING ME

Cain:

YOUR SUFFERING, IT HEALS MY WOUND

Abel: (screams)

IT TEARS THE SKIN, IT BURNS THE FLESH

Cain:

NOT ENOUGH, THE FLESH IS STILL UNBLEMISHED,
SO I WILL BREAK IT OPEN SO THAT YOU CAN LEAVE THIS BODY

Abel:

THIS FLESH IS YOUR FLESH, WE WERE BORN OF THE SAME WOMB

Cain:

CURSED BE THE SOURCE OF YOUR EXSISTENCE FROM WHENCE YOU CAME
HOW DOES A MAN DEPART THIS WORLD? IS IT THROUGH HIS PLACE OF BIRTH?

Abel: (screams)

AH

Cain:

MIGHT IT BE THROUGH THE DIAPHRAGM?

Abel: (screams)

AH

Cain:

DO HIS EYES EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT?

Abel: (screams)

AH

Cain:

WILL EARS THAT ARE CUT OFF BRING THE SILENCE OF DEATH?

Abel: (screams)

AH

Cain:

SHALL I AMPUTATE THE LEGS?

Abel: (screams)

AH

Cain:

TEAR OFF HIS HANDS?

Abel: (screams)

AH

Cain:

SLASH THE FACE. WHO KNOWS HOW THE SOUL LEAVES THE BODY?

Abel:

BLOOD FLOWS ON THE EARTH.

Cain:

THE SCARLET INTOXICATES,
MY THIRST IS NOT QUENCHED UNTIL IT HAS LEFT YOU ALL THIS SCARLET, THIS RED

Abel: (groaning and writhing)

AH

WHAT WILL MOTHER SAY, SHE WILL WEEP

Cain:

SHE BETRAYED ME WHEN SHE BROUGHT YOU INTO THE WORLD

Abel:

HOW WILL YOU LOOK INTO FATHER'S EYES?

Cain:

HE BETRAYED ME WHEN HE CARRIED YOU IN HIS ARMS

Abel:

O, HEAVEN, BROTHER, KILLS BROTHER!

Cain:

STRANGER KILLS STRANGER

Abel:

MY BROTHER, A STRANGER

Cain:(whispers)

END.

FIFTH SCENE:

ABEL'S SOUL ASCENDES TO HEAVEN

M Instrumental Introduction

M₁ Aria – Abel (parlando)

Abel's Soul (in Abel's voice):

MY FEET LIE ON THE EARTH NEXT TO MY EYES
ONE HAND HERE, ONE HAND THERE, NEXT TO A SKINLESS EAR,
AND HERE IS MY SEED, MY HEART SEVERED FROM THE ARTERY,
WALLOWING IN THE DIRT
MY BLOOD POURS FROM MY HAND, MY FOOT, MY EAR, MY SEEDS AND HEART,
AND I AM IN MY BLOOD, WHICH IS MIXING WITH THE EARTH,
DRYING ME OUT OF IT
WHERE IS ABEL, CAIN?

N Duet: Cain + Abel (incl. his soul)

Cain:

WHO IS CALLING?

Abel's Soul:

CAIN

Cain:

WHO ARE YOU?

Abel's Soul:

WHERE IS ABEL, CAIN?

Cain:

I AM NOT MY BROTHER'S KEEPER.
WHO ARE YOU?

Abel's Soul:

THE BREATH OF ABEL'S MOUTH

Cain:

DID THEY NOT PREPARE YOU A THRONE IN HEAVEN?

Abel's Soul:

THE WAY THERE IS MYSTERIOUS

Cain:

WHERE ARE YOU?

Abel's Soul:

BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH, WITHOUT BODY OR SPACE

Cain:

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Abel's Soul:

YOU HAVE SPILLED YOUR BLOOD
YOU HAVE EXPELLED YOUR SOUL
YOU HAVE PROFANED THE EARTH
YOU HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO DEATH
YOU HAVE MURDERED THE HUMAN IMAGE
YOU HAVE TAKEN THE WORLD OUT OF THE WORLD.

Cain:

WHAT IS THIS? THE EARTH TREMBELS

Abel's Soul:

THE WRATH OF NORTH AWAKENS

Cain:

COME, LET US FLEE

Abel's Soul:

NO REFUGE CAN BE SHARED BY A BROTHER WHO IS A STRANGER
AND A BROTHER WITH NO LIMBS

Cain:

IF WE RUN, WE MAY YET AVOID THE END

Abel's Soul:

HOW CAN I RUN WITHOUT LEGS?

Cain:

COME CLOSE TO ME
I WILL BE YOUR BODY AND YOU, YOU WILL BE MY SOUL -
MY BROTHER!

Q Duet: Abel's soul and his lamb's soul

(duet of two souls)

Abel lamb's soul:

COME TO ME ABEL

ABEL, THE GATES ARE OPEN.

Abel's soul:

MY LAMB, OR PERHAPS A DREAM

Abel lamb's soul:

YOUR LAMB WAITS AT THE END OF NORTH

TAKE LEAVE OF THE EARTH, RISE UP TO THE HEAVENS

A TWISTED SERPENT OF FIRE WILL GIVE LIGHT TO THE CHAMBERS

Abel's soul:

AND THE VAPOUR OF THE FIRE, IT TEARS ME,

IT TEARS ME APART FROM THE DRYNESS OF MY BLOOD TO ON HIGH

P Trio: Cain + Abel's soul + his Lamb's soul

Senza metrum, free units / bars. Parlando.

Cain:

AND A MANY ARMED MONSTER FROM THE DEPTHS

PULLS ME BY THE WEIGHT OF MY BODY DOWN, DOWN

TAKE ME BROTHER...

Abel's soul:

I CANNOT, THIS IS A WORLD WITHOUT BODIES

Cain:

ASK THAT THEY STRIP ME OF MY BODY

Abel's soul:

THE WEIGHT OF YOUR SIN MAKES YOUR BODY HEAVY

ONLY WAND'RING CAN MAKE YOUR LOAD LIGHTER

Cain:

FOR HOW LONG?

Abel's soul:

UNTIL THE END OF DAYS.

Abel lamb's soul:

COME TO ME ABEL

Abel's soul:

I AM BEING CALLED ON HIGH

Cain:

DO NOT LEAVE ME IN THE BOWELS OF THE ABYSS

Abel's soul:

BODILESS WINGS ARE PULLING ME

Cain:

AND WINGLESS BODIES ARE PULLING ME

THOUSANDS OF EYES PREY ON ME

HELP YOUR BROTHER, ABEL!

Q Duet of Uniting: Abel's soul + Abel's lamb soul

Abel lamb's soul:

COME TO ME ABEL, I WAIT

Abel's soul:

I COME, I COME

Abel lamb's soul:

I AGREED TO BE YOUR OFFERING, YOUR OFFERING

FOR I KNOW THAT THIS IS THE WAY TO BE FREE OF MY BODY

SO MY SOUL CAN COME CLOSE TO YOUR SOUL

COME TO ME, COME TO ME

Abel's soul:

I COME, I COME, BODYLESS UNTO YOU

Abel lamb's soul:

SOON

Abel's soul + his Lamb's soul:

WE WILL BE AS ONE

R Arietta – Cain:

I FALL INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT AND NO ONE CAN SAVE ME

CROCODILE JAWS ARE READY TO CONSUME ME AND NO ONE CAN SAVE ME

WHERE IS MY LAMB? WHERE IS ABEL? WHO WILL SAVE CAIN?

S Duet: Abel's Soul + Cain

Parlando

Abel's Soul:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
THE EARTH IS WET WITH OUR WARM BLOOD
COVER YOURSELF WITH MY BLOOD AND MARK THE BODY

Cain:

ALL CREATURES OF THE WORLD RISE UP AGAINST ME, DEMANDING REVENGE
I MURDERED A BROTHER AND BECAME A SOULLESS BODY

Abel's Soul:

DO NOT TOUCH HIS BODY FOR I AM WITHIN HIM

Cain:

I HAVE SINNED, MY INIQUITY IS GREAT
GIVE ME LIFE, FORGIVENESS!

Abel's Soul:

ABEL HAS FORGIVENESS FOR CAIN

Cain:

THE BLOOD IS THE SOUL, AND MY BROTHER'S SOUL COVERS MY BODY,
DO NOT TOUCH ME!

Abel's Soul:

ANY ONE WHO TOUCHES MY BROTHER, MURDERS MY BLOOD ONCE AGAIN,
AND VENGEANCE WILL BE SEVENFOLD

Cain:

ABEL? ABEL?

Abel's Soul:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

DO NOT LEAVE ME, ABEL!

Abel's Soul:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

DO NOT LEAVE ME, ABEL!

T Duet: Cain's lamb and Cain

Cain's lamb:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

YOU HAVE RETURNED MY LAMB, TO COMFORT A BROTHER IN DISTRESS

Cain's lamb:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

MY LAMB, COME MY LAMB, COME AND LIE IN MY BOSOM

Cain's lamb:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

WE WILL WAIT FOR THE SUNRISE

Cain's lamb:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Cain's lamb:

A_____ (Vocalize)

Cain:

YOU ARE SO DISTANT, WHAT IS YOUR LANGUAGE?

COME CLOSE TO ME, THE BLOOD IS STRANGE, BUT CAIN IS NO STRANGER.

U Epilogue: Aria-Requiem (Cain)

SILENCE AGAIN
THE ABYSS RECEDES
THE EARTH BECOMES STABLE UNDER MY FEET
THE STORM HAS BEEN SILENCED
THE WAVES OF THE SEA FLOW ONCE AGAIN
THROUGH A NO LONGER VIRGIN WORLD
THAT WAS VIOLATED BY MURDER,
THE TONGUES OF THE WORLD'S CREATURES
HAVE BEEN DIVIDED INTO THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

AND CAIN ALONE AND ORPHANED
WILL WANDER LIKE A REFUGEE
IN A FOREIGN LAND
AS THE EYE OF NORTH
FOLLOWS HIM FOREVER.

AND IN MEMORY OF A WORLD THAT ONCE WAS
OF A BROTHER AND A LAMB
ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE SIGN OF CAIN.

THE END