

JOB FALLS SILENT

Monologue for 1 performer

Radio play

Christoph Korn, 2021

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Libretto:

Part 1: The Speech of Job, and the Speeches of the Friends

Part 2: God Responds

Part 3: Job Falls Silent



Kunststiftung
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Introduction, narrator's voice:
(neutral)

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And he was rich.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? ... Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

And the Lord spake, and Satan spake, and the Lord spake, and Satan spake. Then came a messenger unto Job, saying, Thy servants are slain, thy flocks are burned, thy possessions are stolen, thy sons are dead, and thy daughters are dead. And another messenger said. And another spake. And another spake.

Then Job arose, and rent his clothes, and shaved his head, and fell to the earth, and bowed himself low. And when Job's three friends heard all this misfortune, they came. They had become one to mourn him and to comfort him. And they lifted up their voice, and wept, and sat with him upon the earth seven days and seven nights, and spake nothing to him.

(left): Part 1 Job speaks, and his friends speak

Part 1: The Speech of Job, and the Speeches of his Friends

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

Be extinguished

the day

the night

the world

the moon

the dark

the year

the number

the man

the word

the pain

Be extinguished

the star

the light

the body

the mother

the boy

the eye

the lap

the chest

Be extinguished

the morning

the king

the earth

the prince

the gold

the house

the silver

the grave
the child

Be extinguished
the lawsuit
the peace
the voice
the life
the heart
the water
the hill
the lion
the body

Be extinguished
the death
the scream
the voice
the calm
the sea
the spirit
the suffering
the consolation
the ore
the friend

Be extinguished
the law
the house
the bread
the hope
the wind
the mouth
the mountain

Be extinguished

the sun

the star

the hand

the soul

the disgust

the flesh

the sinner

the grave

the night

Be extinguished

the mockery

the wisdom

the horror

the breeding

Be extinguished

the water

the people

the sovereignty

the clay

the flower

the day

the human being

the lead

the handle

Be extinguished

the happiness,

the misery,

the food

the stream

the oil
the son
the sheep
the lamp
the wrath
the straw
the child

Be extinguished
the peace
the evil
the tomb
the marrow
the pit
the fullness
the trace
the south

Be extinguished
the poor
the steppe
the deadline
the field
the sheaves

Be extinguished
the plea
the time
the sacrilegious
the heat
the lie
the worm
the friendship
the step

the city
the tongue
the ear

Be extinguished
the prince
the voice
the widow
the heart
the dew
the branch
the pine tree
the tooth

Be extinguished
the lack
the salt
the rope
the reins
the path
the ashes
the storm
the rubble
the blood

Be extinguished
the bones
the skin
the covenant
the eye
the pain
the horror
the nobility
the fire

the judge
the clan
the throat
the customer

Let the day be extinguished when one spake.

Then I would lie there and be quiet.

Then I would sleep and have peace.

The Friends:

(Softly)

(Whispered, left): A word has secretly come to me.

mmmmmmmm.....

(Whispered, left): From him my ear has received a whisper.

(two-fold, left/right): mmm..... and

(two fold, left/right): A breeze passed me by.

(whispered, left): A breath passed me by.

(whispered, left): I heard a voice. It was silence. Silence.

(two fold left/right): And I heard a voice.

(right): Hhhaaaahh.

(whispered, left): And I heard a voice.

(two fold left/right): Shout and see if someone answers you! Shout! If someone answers you!

(right): He does

(whispered, left): Shout if someone answers you!

(right): He catches

(whispered, left): Shout! If someone answers you!

(right): He helps

You

(whispered): Listen

(voiced): Hear

(two fold left/right): Hidden from the tongue – you will laugh with the stones. Listen to this. Listen.

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

I scream!

I roar!

I scream!

I roar!

I.....shou...t!

I.....shou...t!

I.....roar!

I.....ro...ar!

I.....ro...ar!

I.....ro...ar!

Scream!

Scream!

Scream!

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

Silence is what I want.

The speech of a desperate man fades into the wind.

But now lifts up.

Lifts.

Breathes.

Is there injustice on my tongue?

I spoke.

My life a breath.

My life a breath.

I want to talk, I want to lament.

My days a breath.

My days a breath.

My days a breath.

Breath of air.

Rest.

That I am a sound to myself

That he hears my voice

That he gives rain

That he is wounded

That he saves

That he whispers

That he judges

That he mocks

That he is silent

That he is mistaken

That he runs
That he lives
That he withers
That he seeks
That he hopes
That he lies
That he shares
That he stays

That he does great things and unfathomable things.
Miracles that no one can count.

That he hears my voice.
That he hears my voice.

That....he.....hears...m..y...vo-ice!

The Friends:

(Softly)

(two fold, left/right): Thy guilt. Thy tongue. Thy mouth. Thy lips. Thy voice.

(two fold, whispered, left/right): Wind

(two fold, left/right): Thy God. Thy fear. Thy word. Thy heart. Thy day. Thy tribulation.
Thy hip. Thy eye.

(two-fold, voiced, left/right): He distributes the light

(two fold, left/right): Thy lap

(two fold, whispered, left/right): The night

(two fold, left/right): Thy toil. Thy breath. Thy ear. Thy bread. Thy face. Thy city. Thy house. Thy tent. Thy womb. Thy cattle.

(two fold, whispered, left/right): Breath

(two fold, voiced, left/right): His heart is like stone

(two fold, left/right): Thy rock. Thy light. Thy back. Thy step. Thy fall. Thy noose. Thy fall. Thy king. Thy court. Thy tribe. Thy spirit.

(two fold, whispered, left/right): Lap

(two fold, voiced, left/right): He knows The Time.

(two fold, left/right): Thy sky.

(two-fold, voiced, left/right): He hides the waters.

(two fold, left/right): Thy excrement. Thy dream. Thy son. Thy body. Thy food. Thy misery. Thy belly. Thy flood. Thy wickedness. Thy end. Thy death.

JOB:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

You!

You!

Hear!

Hear!

With thy ears!

The Friends:

(softly)

(two fold, left/right): To the mighty belongs the land. Accept instruction. Convert thyself.
Throw thy gold into the dust. He will hear you.

(whispered, left): He will hear you.

JOB:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

Speak!

Against....God....Riot!

(miserable): Ähhhhhhh

(miserable): Ahhhhhh

The Friends:

(right): Accept instruction. Convert.

(two-fold, left/right): Here

(two fold, softly): Ohhhhhh

(two-fold, left/right): And now

And.....there

(two times, softly): Haaaaahhh

(two-fold, left/right): You

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

You!

Words!

Mouth!

Lips!

(miserable): Ähhhhhhhhchhhh

(miserable, left): ÄÄÄÄÄhhhhhk

Listen!

Listen!

The Friends:

(whispered, right): Throw thy gold into the dust. He will hear you.

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

No.....No...No

No, No, No, No, No....No!

No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No

The Friends:

(two fold): How long do you want to talk?

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

No!

The friends and Job at the same time:

(Friend): Plead, ask, speak

(Job): No, No, No, No, No, No, No.....

The Friends:

(two times): How long do you want to stay?

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

No!

The Friends:

Rest

The friends and Job at the same time

(friends): Suckle, sleep

(Job): I.....I.....I..I..I..I

The friends and Job at the same time

(Friends): How long do you want to live, see, rave, hear?

(Job): I,I,I,IIII....IIII!!

The Friends:

(whispered, right): How long will you scream?

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

(miserable): ÄHHHHhhhhhääääääähhhÄÄÄÄÄÄ...Ä..Ä..Ä..ÄÄÄÄÄ.Ä----

ÄÄÄÄ...Äächchchchchäääää.....ÄÄÄÄÄäääää....ALL THE SAME, that's how I say it then!

Guiltless, how guilty he kills.

My life disgusts me.

My life disgusts me.

My....li-fe....dis-gusts....me....!

The Friends :

(two fold, left/right): Misfortune hungers. Misfortune stands ready. The light will become dark; the steps shorter.

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

I scream violence.

And yet I am not heard.

I laugh.
And yet am not heard.

I suckle.
And yet am not heard.

I call.
I...shout!
And yet am not heard.
And yet am not heard.

I plead.
And yet am not heard.

I dream.
And yet I am not heard.

I cry.
And yet am not heard.
And yet am not heard.

Only the bare life I brought from it. Have mercy, friends, the hand of God has struck me.

Oh, that my speeches were written down!
Oh, that my speeches were written down!

Ca-rv-ed...into...the...rock...in...memory.

The Friends:

(whispered, left):

Dominion.
And horror.

And peace.

(two fold left/right): How can a person be just?

Job

And you?

The Friends:

(softly, left): You.

mmmmhhh....

And you?....

Job:

And you!?

The Friends:

(two fold left/right): Do you mean what you know?

Job:

You!!!

You, You, You, YouYouYouYouYouYou, dadadada.

The Friends:

(two fold left/right): What do you want to do?

(whispered, left): What do you want to do?

Job:

You!!

The Friends:

(two fold left/right): What can you know? Who would know? Who summons me?

Job:

You, You, You, You, You, You, rrrrrrrrrrrrrrr.....iiiiiiiiiiiiiiii

He! and He!

iiiiiiiiiiii.....

He! and He!

The Friends:

(two fold left/right): Who wants to stop him? He should not notice? Can he be reasonable? Can he come into the world as a human being? Could thou not be afraid? Could thy life flourish? Could thou forget?

Job:

Silence!

The Song of the Wisdom of God *(formal, like the Speeches of Friends)*

(Psalmody/singing, two-fold, left/right):

You put an end to the darkness.

(whispered, right):

The depth speaks

(Psalmody/singing, two-fold, left/right):

One churns up the earth like fire.

(two-fold, left/right):

The sea speaks.

(Psalmody/singing, two-fold, left/right):

One lays hands on the rocks.

(whispered, right):

The sea speaks.

(Psalmody/singing, two-fold, left/right):

You break tunnels and ward off the water.

What is wisdom worth?

(two-fold, left/right):

The abyss speaks.

And death speaks.

(Psalmody/Singing, two-fold, left/right):

The depth speaks: It is not in me.

The sea speaks: It is not in me.

(whispered, right):

The abyss speaks and death speaks.

(Psalmody/Singing, two-fold, left/right):

The abyss speaks and death speaks: I have heard with the ear but a rumour.

Job:

(Powerful to the utmost, thrust out, shouted out):

Horror falls upon me.

My dress is disfigured.

I am disgusted with my life.

I am disgusted with my life.

I cried..... yes

I waited....yes

I hoped....yes

I saved the poor man who cried out.

I broke the jaws of the unjust.

And plucked the robbery from his teeth.

They listened to me and were silent.

They listened to me and were silent.

After my words, no one spoke any more.

But now they laugh at me.

They pushed my foot away.

They have torn up my paths.

They detest me!

They're grabbing my dress.

They pierce the bones.

They roll close under the rubble.

Between the bushes they shout, without names.

I cry out to you!

I cry out to you!

!!.....shout!.....to!.....you!

But you don't answer!

But you don't answer!

But you don't answer!

But!.....you!.....do not!....answer!

Skin for skin

Step for step

Force for force

An eye for an eye

Hand for hand

I cry out to you!

Way for way

Meat for meat

God for God

Covenant for covenant

Land for land

Heart for heart

I cry out to you!

Curse for curse

Guilt for guilt
Ear for ear
Heart for heart
Gold for gold
Enemy for enemy
Man for man
Song for song
Oil for oil
Rock for rock
Wind for wind
Breath for breath

I cry out to you!

Word for word
Death for death
Fist for fist
Bread for bread
Gold for gold
Consolation for consolation

I cry out to you!

Anger for anger
Mouth for mouth
Dust for dust
Kiss for kiss
Night for night

Nooooo!!!

Answer!

(left): Answer!

(right with reverb): Answer!

(left with reverb): Answer!

(right with reverb, far away): Answer!

Narrator's voice:

(Neutral)

Then the rulers stopped speaking and put their hands over their mouths. And the princes held back their voices. And the tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. For whoever's ear heard him, he counted himself blessed. For he saved the poor man that cried out. For he broke the voice of the unjust. And plucked the spoils out of his teeth. And they listened to him and held their peace. And after his words no man spake any more. And after his words no man spake any more.

(left): Part two, The Response of God.

Part two: The Response of God

(God's answering speech is interspersed with a sine tone modulating from bottom to top. It moves from its lowest possible frequency point to its highest possible frequency point.)

The individual words to be heard are recorded five times, superimposed in stereo panorama and thus organised as speech choir.)

Narrator's voice:

(neutral, left): Part two, The Response of God

God:

(Chant, five times, superimposed):

You

You

You

You

You

You

You

You

You

You

Breath

Breath

Breath

Breath

Breath

You
You
You
You
You
Flesh
Flesh
Flesh
Flesh
Flesh
Mouth
Mouth
Mouth
Mouth
Mouth

You
You
You
You
You
God
God
God
God
God

Blood
Blood
Blood
Blood
Blood

Mud
Mud
Mud
Mud
Mud

Skin
Skin
Skin
Skin
Skin

You
You
You
You
You

Death
Death
Death
Death
Death

You
You
You
You
You
Flash
Flash
Flash
Flash
Flash

I
I
I
I
I
Flesh
Flesh
Flesh
Flesh
Flesh

Death
Death
Death
Death
Death
You
You
You
You
You

I

I

I

I

I

Lord

Lord

Lord

Lord

Lord

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Who

Who

Who

Who

Who

Mud

Mud

Mud

Mud

Mud

You

You

You

You

You

Skin
Skin
Skin
Skin
Skin

Snow
Snow
Snow
Snow
Snow

You
You
You
You
You
God
God
God
God
God

Has
Has
Has
Has
Has
Dew
Dew
Dew
Dew
Dew

I
I
I
I
I

You
You
You
You
You
Light
Light
Light
Light
Light

Part 3: Job Falls Silent

(The following sentence is repeated 12 times - tenderly. Line by line, more and more consonants and vowels fall silent until the sentence is transformed into silence. The successive spaces created in this way are sustained as silence. The sentence spoken here in German reads in its English translation as follows: "I put my hand on my mouth. Once I spoke, I will not do it again.")

Narrator's voice:

(neutral) Part 3: Job falls silent

Ich lege die Hand auf meinen Mund. Einmal habe ich geredet, ich tu es nicht wieder

Ich lege die Ha d auf einen Mund. nmal habe ich gerede , ich tu s nicht wieder

Ich le e die Ha auf einen nd. mal habe ich gerede , ich t s nicht wieder

Ich le e die Ha auf ein n . mal habe i h gere , ich t s nicht wieder

ch le die Ha auf n n . m habe i h gere , ich t s nicht wieder

ch l die Ha au n n . m habe i h gere , ich t s ni t wie r

ch l d a n n . m h i h gere , ich t s ni t wie r

ch l n n . m h i h r , ch t s ni t wie r

ch n n . m h h r , ch t s n t i r

h n m h , ch t s n t

h n h t s

h

n -----

(pitch) n -----

(pitch) n-----

ha -----

n -----

n-----

(pitch) n -----

n -----

hm -----