

***GURU***

opera in three acts by Laurent Petitgirard

Libretto by Xavier Maurel

*based on an original idea by the composer*

Editions OSF PRODUCTIONS

## Dramatis Personae

Guru	bass baritone
Marie	actor
Victor (Guru's assistant)	tenor
Iris (child's mother)	lyric soprano
Marthe (Guru's mother)	contralto
Carelli (the sect "scientist")	bass
Six new Disciples (vocal ensemble)	
New Disciple 1	soprano
New Disciple 2	mezzo soprano
New Disciple 3	contralto
New Disciple 4	tenor
New Disciple 5	baritone
New Disciple 6	bass

Guru was commissioned by the French State (Ministry of Culture and Communication).  
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**ACT 1**  
*(an island coast)*

**PROLOGUE****WOMEN**

*(sopranos and contraltos, far away, backstage)*

Open

Open your eyes

Cross the threshold

Find deliverance from the world

*Gradually, the Disciples enter, humming.*

*They are joined by the seven new Disciples (one is Marie).*

**SCENE 1****VICTOR & CARELLI**

Work which moves ahead

Revolutions

Metamorphoses

All that acts

Acts in silence

All grand plans

Revelations

Disturbances

All that engenders

Engenders in secret

**VICTOR**

Those outside

**CARELLI**

Those who accuse us

**VICTOR**

Because of our silence

**CARELLI**

Because of our secret

**VICTOR**

You know them

**CARELLI**

You know them

**VICTOR**

You know them

**CARELLI**

You know them

**VICTOR & CARELLI**

'Tis the conspiracy of fools  
Of charlatans of sages

*Enter Guru*

**GURU**

'Tis the conspiracy of fools  
Of charlatans of sages  
How fortunate that not all are deaf

For there are men

**DISCIPLES**

*(contraltos)*

For there are men

**GURU**

For there are women

**DISCIPLES**

*(contraltos)*

For there are women

**GURU**

Who see and hear

**DISCIPLES**

*(tenors)*

For there are men

**DISCIPLES**

*(contraltos)*

For there are women

**GURU**

You my friends  
You who can hear  
And you who can see

**DISCIPLES**

We can hear  
 And we can see  
 Speak to us Master

**GURU**

I am no master  
 You are the masters  
 I am your guide  
 As you are mine  
 Nothing have I invented  
 The future we shall travel  
 We shall tread the path together  
 Whither you may wish  
 Whence you have come

*Pointing to the new Disciples*

My friends and companions  
 Here have come  
 Others who like you  
 Have chosen to find  
 The truth

Come near  
 Closer to us

**VICTOR**

Come take what you have come to seek  
 Come take what you have come to seek

**VICTOR & CARELLI**

Come take what you have come to seek  
 Come take what you have come to seek

**NEW DISCIPLES**

*(while Victor & Carelli continue)*

The truth  
 The truth

**VICTOR, CARELLI & NEW DISCIPLES**

Come take what you have come to seek  
 Come take what you have come to seek

**NEW DISCIPLES**

The truth

The truth

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

The truth

The truth

*Long silence***DISCIPLES**

You have left

As did we

As did we

In the quest for truth

As did we

As did we

Life in the cities

As did we

You are here on the isle

As are we

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to know

As you know

As you know

We wish to be able

As you can

As you can

To venture forth

As you have

Pure and sound of heart

As you are

**DISCIPLES**

Everywhere on this earthly ground

All vermin do abound

Death does speak rise and resound

**NEW DISCIPLES**

Pure entity of firmament and water

**DISCIPLES**

Here at last on this shore

Translucency can engulf us

Let us blaze in adoration

Let us bend our backs

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Thou art our guide

Guru

Guru

Thou art our guide

Guru

Guru

As we are thine

Guru

Our hands in thine

Guru

*Marie remains at a distance.*

*She is the only one not singing.*

**SCENE 2****GURU**

The conspiracy of fools  
 Of charlatans of sages  
 Has been a perfect triumph  
 It was designed thus  
 To conceal the truth from us

Friends and companions  
 The reason for us being here  
 Together on this isle  
 Is that we know something more

And yet  
 You

*Pointing to a woman amongst the new Disciples*

**DISCIPLES**

Who

**NEW DISCIPLES**

Me me me me me me

**GURU**

Yes you yes you there

**GURU**

That orange which despite my advice  
 You have hidden in your pocket  
 Be not surprised that I know  
 For I know you

It is one piece of the fruit you secretly  
 Brought to the isle  
 In defiance of my modest exhortations  
 Is that not so

Because you refuse to believe  
 What I say or even worse  
 You believe it you believe that I speak the truth  
 But you love your body more than truth  
 You persist in believing that your body  
 Needs calories and vitamins

You fear that the diet we all have here  
 In accordance with the rules  
 Will not suffice and will cause bodily harm

I love you have no fear  
 But I myself see into your heart  
 As into that orange  
 Open yourself open it  
 Say what your eyes see  
 As my eyes see into the heart of the fruit

**DISCIPLES**

What does she see

**DISCIPLE WITH ORANGE**

On the orange flesh of the fruit  
 Colors on color  
 Dappled blue and white

**GURU**

And what do you think those traces are

**DISCIPLE WITH ORANGE**

The early stages of putrefaction  
 The fruit has lived too long

**GURU**

Putrefaction yes indeed  
 For it has lived too long  
 There is the effect of calories and vitamins  
 Now here is the truth I shall teach you  
 All that lives too long  
 Will putrefy

You have seen old men and women  
 You have seen those bodies  
 That crumble  
 Having lived so long

Life is chiefly putrefaction  
 It inevitably appears  
 What then can cleanse such putrefaction  
 And put an end to decay

**DISCIPLES**

Death death

**GURU**

Indeed 'tis death as death is rest  
'Tis relief and only death is pure

No need for vitamins  
They merely add futile time to life  
And are the ferments of putrefaction

After death 'tis naught but light and purity  
Our aspiration  
And so we must deliver ourselves  
From what

**DISCIPLES**

Fear fear

**GURU**

Fear alone can stand in our way  
Life is nothing but violence and combat  
From life we learn fear

And 'tis fear itself  
That does hold us back  
Hindering our release from fear

We are all like you  
We carry an orange  
Concealed in a pocket  
And the orange with such a thick rind  
Is none other than fear

But the day when we shall be  
Delivered from fear  
No longer shall we foolishly dread death

**GURU, VICTOR & CARELLI**

No longer shall we dread friendly death  
Nor dread losing nor taking nor killing  
And we shall refuse fools  
The right to judge us without understanding

**CARELLI**

Sea water as you know is  
Our food

**GURU**

We must be ready to embrace  
The principle from whence we came  
The only life fit to be called a life

For death  
Death too is a life  
And life is a death

And which is pure and which is impure  
As you know  
We are here to embrace purity  
The sea

Yes my friends my companions  
Purify ourselves unto death

Everywhere on this earthly ground  
All vermin do abound

*The Disciples answer Guru as they move away*

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Everywhere on this earthly ground  
All vermin do abound  
Let us blaze in adoration  
Let us bend our backs

*Exeunt Disciples & New Disciples, still singing*

**SCENE 3****GURU***(to Marie)*

So you will not sing

**MARIE**

I do not sing

**GURU**

Why do you not sing

**MARIE**

Why should I sing

**GURU**

Why indeed

Why

**VICTOR & GURU***(alternately)*

Why why

Why why

**GURU**

Who are you

**MARIE**

Marie

**GURU**

Is that enough

**MARIE**

Yes

**GURU**

In truth you know not who you are

But I shall tell you

You are a lost spirit

That is why

You have come to our isle

That is why you do not sing

You have only done things half-heartedly Marie

You are hurting yourself

*He grabs her by the arm*

**MARIE**

You are the one hurting me

**GURU**

I like you Marie

I can feel in you

A movement of panic

From a heart filled with strength and fear

I hear it beat

In time with questions that distress you

**MARIE**

I have come to destroy you

**GURU**

Is that so

As simple as that

Why

**VICTOR**

Why

**MARIE**

I know you you see

**GURU**

Is that so

Pray tell me

**VICTOR**

Do tell

**MARIE**

I know you that is all

**GURU**

And what if I were to kill you

**MARIE**

You can do so

**GURU**

I shall not

I shall wait for you to understand

Death is a dominating mistress

She cannot be compelled to do anything

As you have come here on a quest to find her  
I shall wait for you to find by yourself what you are seeking

**MARIE**

*(free)*

I have come to destroy you

**GURU**

I shall not kill you

I wish you nothing but joy

You have caused me such sorrow

Your distress was mine

Marie

You will not kill me Marie

You wish only for joy

You may know me

I wish to know you

For a long time you have sought me

And I have sought you for a long time

I enjoy your threats

Here we are face to face

Marie

*Two Disciples enter and walk towards Marie*

**GURU**

I shall leave you

*Addressing the two Disciples*

Take her

*To Marie*

They will show you our isle

*Exit Marie with the two Disciples*

**SCENE 4**

*Victor & Guru alone*

**VICTOR**

I admire your composure  
Be not concerned  
She will be dead by this evening

**GURU**

I have no anxiety  
I do not wish her dead  
I have given my word

**VICTOR**

I cannot understand you

**GURU**

I am not surprised

**VICTOR**

What do you mean

**GURU**

That you do not understand  
That you understand nothing  
This woman is a trial  
Set on my path

'Tis a sign I have been sent  
A petition and a voice  
She is my choice

She is the force within myself  
Over which I must prevail  
She is myself

**VICTOR**

Does she really know you  
Do you know who she is

**GURU**

That is of no importance  
'Tis between her and me  
Between me and me  
You have no need to be involved

**VICTOR**

I think you are not fully aware  
Of what have you conjured up  
Remember that it is I  
And only I  
Who have given you all this  
Without me you are nothing

I know not what has come to pass  
But 'tis serious  
Ever so serious

You believe you are what you are not  
And do not forget  
That I know who you are  
I know who you are

**GURU**

You know nothing of me  
You know nothing of anything  
You are like the others  
Just one of a number of others  
Alone I am and I alone know

Now leave me  
I need to think

And I need to listen  
To the great mute voices  
That I alone can hear

*Exit Victor*

**SCENE 5**

*Guru walks over to the mirror.  
Enter Iris who observes him for a moment.*

**GURU**

What are you doing there

**IRIS**

I wish to speak to you

**GURU**

I know what you mean by speaking

**IRIS**

I cannot sleep at night  
'Tis night that sleeps in me  
As if a body in absentia

And my body merges  
With the belly of the night  
Contorting and emptying  
As does death in me

**GURU**

The voice is not yours  
But that belly speaking for you

**IRIS**

The belly from which life issued forth  
Burgeoning life  
From which your son issued forth

**IRIS/GURU**

The child I had so needed/we needed

**IRIS**

That child  
Who is mine  
I see him so rarely  
I fear for him

**GURU**

You fear for yourself

**IRIS**

I wish to see him

**GURU**

You do see him  
 Very often do you see him  
 As do we all

**IRIS**

That is not seeing him  
 When seeing him thus

**GURU**

You wish to have him for yourself alone  
 But that is impossible  
 He did not come for you  
 And that belly from which you believe he came  
 Must never gripe nor groan

You have understood that have you not

**IRIS**

I have understood

**GURU**

He came for us all  
 You know the path he must follow

**IRIS**

I do

**GURU**

The path leading to

**IRIS**

Translucency

**GURU**

The food he eats shows him the way  
 The path to translucency

**IRIS**

But he eats nothing  
 What Marthe gives him  
 As Carelli says  
 Does not feed him

**GURU**

He eats

**IRIS**

He eats  
Water  
Sea water  
I fear for him

**GURU**

You fear for yourself

**IRIS**

I wish to see him

**GURU**

You see him often

**IRIS**

He will perish  
I am so afraid

**GURU**

Be not afraid  
I am here  
I am here for you  
For you as for all of you

**IRIS**

The child is afraid  
The child is hungry  
The child is cold  
In this vast sanctuary

**GURU**

This vast sanctuary  
Is made for him alone

His quest for us is here

**IRIS**

He is here suffering for us  
It makes my belly ache

**GURU**

He is not suffering

**IRIS**

How sure are you

**GURU**

He is not suffering  
You are not suffering  
I am here for you all  
I love you

**IRIS**

I love you  
I am not suffering

**GURU**

Be not afraid

**IRIS**

I am not afraid  
He is not suffering

**GURU**

Your belly aches no more  
Leave me now

*Exit Iris*

**SCENE 6****GURU**

How difficult it is  
To be the only one to know  
Ever higher must I go  
Ever higher

I remember everything  
The years piled on my back  
Are sometimes a burden to me  
And I can see them all  
But only now  
Am I beginning to understand

I must go down no more  
Never go down again  
My face is fading  
'Tis another vision  
That is now in me

Through those eyes I see  
And all must see  
Through my eyes

Henceforth I carry  
The years of my life  
And the years of the world  
This weight is no burden  
It must not be a burden  
I am eternity

END OF ACT 1

**ACT 2**  
*(in the sanctuary)*

**SCENE 1**

*Inside the sanctuary is a shrine with a reliquary above the altar.  
Enter Marie who walks towards the altar*

**MARIE**

Destroy  
He wants to destroy them  
Destroy  
He wants to destroy everything  
Destroy  
I must destroy him

*Hearing Marthe enter, she hides.*

**MARTHE**

Sleep child  
Sleep child an ever deeper sleep  
May your dreams take you back to the beginning  
To find there the bright light  
That will rock you gently unto death

Sleep child sleep  
An ever deeper sleep  
Sleep

*She removes a crib from the reliquary*

**MARTHE**

*(to the child)*  
How ugly you are  
You cannot possibly be  
My son's child  
It is utterly impossible  
But then your mother is a lying shrew  
So jealous  
So deceptive  
A liar  
And so envious

*She begins to "feed" the child*

**MARTHE**

How hungry you are

I understand you  
 But do not drink too quickly  
 If you want this to last  
 The contents of this bottle  
 Will not take you far  
 My son is no fool  
 He has indeed understood what you are  
 No he will not let her have her way  
 No he will not let her have her way

He will get rid of you  
 Yes indeed yes indeed yes indeed

The contents of this bottle  
 Will not take you far in this life

*Suddenly worried*

Well you have stopped drinking  
 Well not hungry any more

Well come on  
 Wake up

*The child finally responds*

Well there you are  
 Come now that's nothing

*She cradles the child in her arms  
 Enter the Disciples & New Disciples  
 Marthe places the crib back in the reliquary*

### **NEW DISCIPLES**

The Child the Child the Child  
 The Child the Child the Child  
 The Child the Child the Child  
 The Child the Child the Child the Child

### **DISCIPLES**

He cannot be seen

*The two choirs crossing and singing one over the other*

### **NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see him

**DISCIPLES**

The Child the Child

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child

**DISCIPLES**

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Chosen One

**DISCIPLES**

The Child cannot be seen

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

**NEW DISCIPLES/DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Chosen One/The Chosen One must not be seen

**SCENE 2****MARTHE**

What are you doing here

**4 NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

**MARTHE**

Away with you

**FOUR NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

**MARTHE**

Silence

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child

**DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Chosen One

**DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Chosen One

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child

We wish to see the Chosen One

**MARTHE**

Silence

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

The Child

**MARTHE**

Silence

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

The Chosen One

**MARTHE**

Silence

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

The Chosen One

**MARTHE**

Silence

*Gradually she manages to silence the Disciples*

You are forbidden from entering

No one just walks in here

This is hallowed ground

How dare you

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES***(basses)*

We want to see him

**MARTHE**

Away with you

Depart from this place

**DISCIPLES**

We want to see him

He is here

**NEW DISCIPLES**

He is here

**DISCIPLES**

Here the Child is being purified

And protects us

**MARIE**

So you wanted to see him

You wanted to see him

Respond

*Long silence*

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

Here the Child slumbers the sleep  
Where all our dreams merge

**MARIE**

*(simultaneously)*

What did you want to see  
Do you even know  
Do you even know  
Why you are here

My poor friends  
Why are we here

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

*(basses & tenors)*

We are here to find  
The truth in our life  
At times it is so harsh  
So harsh  
It is so harsh at times  
So harsh

**MARIE**

But what is so harsh  
Why is it so harsh

**DISCIPLES**

Because we are alone

**NEW DISCIPLES**

*(echoing)*

Alone alone so very much alone so very much alone

**A NEW DISCIPLE**

*(contralto)*

Because we are alone

**DISCIPLES**

*(contraltos)*

Because we are alone

**MARIE**

So

Does being alone mean  
 That nothing else counts  
 Alone  
 We remain alone  
 Each one lonelier than the other  
 And what entitlements does that bestow on us

*(referring to the child)*

And for him  
 What entitlements does that bestow on him

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Child

**DISCIPLES**

We wish to see the Chosen One

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

It is our right  
 We want to see the Chosen One

**MARIE**

He is a child

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We want to see the Child

**MARIE**

He is all but dead

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

He has stretched his arms out to us

**MARIE**

He will perish

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

He is showing us the way

**MARIE**

You will all perish

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We are stretching our arms out to him

**MARIE**

That is where he will take you

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We offer our voices up to him

**MARIE**

He is leading us to death

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Death

Death

Death

Death

Death

Death

Death

*During the litany, the Disciples' behavior has become increasingly threatening to Marie.  
A voice stops them.*

**GURU**

*(entering)*

Silence

*Enter Marthe*

How dare you enter here  
Yes you know that it is forbidden  
The only time you can enter  
Is for the holy time of exposition  
You were told that clearly weren't you  
Weren't you told that clearly

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES**

Yes we were yes we were yes we were

**GURU**

So then

As you knew very well

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES**

Yes yes yes

**GURU**

Do you wish to endanger us all

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES**

No no

**GURU**

What have you brought to this isle  
 Is it your own failure  
 That you have brought to our isle

Is that the gift  
 You brought here when you came

Whereas I have given you all  
 In return you have offered nothing  
 More than your miserable failure

Respond

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES**

No no

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

No

**GURU**

You are worthless do you hear  
 Nothing can you demand

Have you understood  
 On one side is infinity on the other nothing

**A NEW DISCIPLE & DISCIPLES**

*(contraltos)*

Infinite nothingness

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Infinite nothingness

Infinite nothingness

Infinite nothingness

Infinite nothingness

*Continuing until off stage*

**GURU**

*(simultaneously)*

Now leave

*To Marie*

You stay

*To Marthe*

Take them back

*Exit Marthe*

**SCENE 3**

*Marie and Guru are left alone.*

**MARIE**

The child

**GURU**

The child

**MARIE**

He is a child

**GURU**

He is a child

**MARIE**

He will die

**GURU**

Do you believe that

**MARIE**

He is all but dead

**GURU**

So you believe that

**MARIE**

We are all going to die

**GURU**

You are not well Marie

**MARIE**

That is where you are leading us

**GURU**

How greatly you must have suffered Marie

**MARIE**

*(free)*

You are leading us to death

**GURU**

There is something amiss in you

Why is your mind filled with thoughts of death

No one here will die Marie

They are not being forced to stay against their will

Do you think that all those who are here  
 These people who to your eyes are troubled  
 Unhappy and lonely  
 Do you think that they have come here to die

You yourself were not forced to come here  
 Were you

**MARIE**

*(free)*  
 That's true

**GURU**

You came here to find succor  
 You came here to find a higher life  
 But you are mistaken Marie

About you mission here with us you are mistaken  
 About the meaning of your life you are mistaken  
 You dismiss me as your enemy and you are mistaken

For I am the only one capable of helping you  
 Thou art thine own enemy

All the violence of which you accuse me  
 Is in you Marie  
 It is in you is it not

All the violence of which you accuse me  
 Is in you and you know that full well

Is that not so now respond

I know this Marie

And therefore I shall help you  
 To be released from yourself

You are the same as all others here

No one here will die

**MARIE**

But  
 I know that this child will die

**GURU**

Do you think that the child is yours  
 Do you even know what he desires  
 You have borne no child Marie  
 You know nothing of authentic life  
 Nor of matter or flesh  
 You know nothing of the body  
 He will carry you all to the greatest heights  
 He and I to the pinnacle of life  
 The child is mine Marie  
 I can feel his body in mine

**MARIE**

I have seen him  
 He is feeble and ill  
 He will die  
 I have seen him  
 He is feeble and ill  
 He will die  
 He is feeble and ill  
 He will die

*While Guru speaks next, Marie keeps on repeating "He is feeble and ill, he will die."*

**GURU**

I am tired of having to explain things to you  
 Ask Carelli.

**MARIE**

He is feeble and ill  
 He will die  
 He is feeble and ill  
 He will die

**GURU**

He will tell you all he has learned  
 Thanks to me  
 So be silent now

**MARIE**

Stop  
 You are the evil  
 You bring ruin  
 And destruction  
 Surely you can see that you are mad

**GURU**

Indeed I am mad  
 That term denotes those who know  
 Those who reveal  
 And who accomplish

There is a force being exerted on you  
 Holding you back  
 As if a hand were tightening around your heart  
 As if a voice were speaking through your mouth  
 Spurn it and release yourself  
 Surrender yourself to me

*He tries to take her in his arms, but she resists his embrace.*

**MARIE**

No  
 Stop  
 No  
 Help

**GURU**

Look at me  
 I am the higher force  
 Who will take you to the greatest heights

Look at me  
 I am energy

In me flow  
 All the currents of the Ocean

I am breath and purity  
 I shall sow the seed for ultimate existence in you

Now struggle no more  
 Abandon your sterile combat

Let freedom inside  
 We were born  
 To sow the seed of the world

*He holds her close, about to rape her.*

**IRIS**

*(appearing, followed by Marthe, Carelli,  
 Victor and all the Disciples)*

No  
 My child

**SCENE 4**

*Marthe wrenches Marie from Guru's clasp. Iris rushes over to Guru who turns to face those who have entered.*

**GURU**

*(to the Disciples)*

Shame

**MARTHE**

*(to Marie)*

Shame

**IRIS**

*(to Guru)*

Shame

**GURU, MARTHE & IRIS**

*(each addressing a different person)*

Shame on you

*All three reply simultaneously*

**GURU**

*(to all)*

Shame on you

You have defiled this site

You have profaned my law

**MARTHE**

*(to Marie)*

Shame on you

You hypocritical whore

You deceitful shrew

**IRIS**

*(to Guru)*

Shame on you

You have trampled my life underfoot

You have trampled life itself underfoot

**VICTOR**

*(aside, to Guru)*

You must pull yourself together

You must get your thoughts together

*Marie and Iris walk towards the reliquary to open it. Marthe and Guru block the way.*

**GURU**

*(to Victor)*

Leave me alone

**VICTOR**

*(to Guru)*

Something serious is happening

**GURU**

Leave me alone

**IRIS**

*(to Marthe)*

Let me through

He is my child

Let me through

**GURU**

*(to Iris & Marie)*

Do not go near the child

He is blessed

You cannot comprehend

**VICTOR**

*(to Guru)*

So you do not understand

**IRIS**

*(to Marthe)*

So you do not understand

**GURU**

*(to all)*

What must be accomplished

Shall be accomplished

Such was the agreement

For joining me here on this isle

Follow your destiny

**MARTHE**

*(to Iris)*

You are mistaken

You should heed him

This is not your child

**NEW DISCIPLES**

No no no no no no

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

No

We cannot understand

**IRIS**

He is my only child

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We shall be silent no longer

**IRIS**

My own little child

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We do not understand anything any more

**IRIS**

I gave birth to him

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We shall not be silent

**GURU**

*(to the Disciples)*

Silence

Hush hush

*(to Carelli)*

You must explain it to them

They cannot understand

**VICTOR**

*(to Guru)*

Stop while it is still time

If you do not wish to lose everything

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We do not understand

**IRIS**

Give my child back to me

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We shall be silent no longer

**MARTHE***(simultaneously, to Iris)*

Stop bleating

**IRIS**

My own little child

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We do not understand anything any more

**MARTHE***(simultaneously, to Iris)*

How pitiful you are

**IRIS**

Do not abandon me

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We shall not be silent

**VICTOR***(aside, to Guru)*

If the child dies now

And we all witness the death

The shock will be so great

That they will turn against you

**MARIE***(to Marthe, pointing at Guru)*

He too was once a child

Was he not

Do you remember Marthe

Do you remember

**MARTHE***(to Marie)*

Stop it

**MARIE**

Do you remember his baby smiles

Your arms can still feel

The mark of his body

Marthe do you remember

**MARTHE**

Stop it

**MARIE**

Do you remember his childish grins and frowns  
 And how he cried when hungry  
 How you would rush to him  
 Marthe do you remember

**GURU**

*(to Marie)*  
 Stop it

**MARIE**

*(to Guru)*  
 And you do you remember  
 How sweet it was to be in her arms  
 Soothed at last  
 How sweet it was each time  
 To be once again a child in her arms

**GURU**

Stop it

**VICTOR**

*(aside, to Guru)*  
 Such a scene in front of everyone  
 Must stop must stop  
 Do you not understand

**GURU**

*(to Carelli)*  
 Well explain it to them  
 Tell them that he will not die

**CARELLI**

Listen dear friends  
 What you must realize is  
 That this child  
 Now how can I get you to understand

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We wish to understand  
 We are capable of understanding

**CARELLI**

Indeed you are indeed

So you see  
 The human body is made of water  
 Water an abundance of water

It is nothing but water  
 But that water is impure  
 Combined with substances that corrupt

I have discovered the secret of the water  
 Instead of feeding corrupt matter  
 If we can feed the water itself  
 Then the body attains supremely sensitive life  
 It joins in resonance  
 With the substance of the world  
 Which too is made of water

This matter once purified  
 Is true life which is far removed  
 From what we call life  
 In our prehistoric times

The time of a new consciousness then comes  
 Offering infinite possibilities

#### **CARELLI & GURU**

This purified matter  
 Is universal consciousness

#### **DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

But the child  
 The child  
 What will become of him  
 He is but a child

#### **CARELLI**

The child will be our guide  
 Thanks to my discovery  
 He will be the first to attain  
 Universal substance  
 A pure untouched consciousness was needed  
 For us all to be able to attain it

#### **GURU**

And thus  
 What we once thought was death  
 Is life  
 And what we call life  
 Is merely the corruption  
 Keeping us from life

#### **DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES/IRIS**

But what of the child

Is our/my child suffering  
'Tis only a child

**GURU**

No he suffers not

**IRIS**

But I  
I do suffer  
Woe is me  
And I know of his suffering  
For his body is my body  
I have no need of your beverage  
To have the purest conscious awareness of him  
For his substance is mine  
He is the water of my water  
I must save him I know

*She rushes towards the reliquary. Some try to stop her. Marie comes to help her. Chaos ensues. She finally gets hold of the reliquary and opens it. The silence is long and tense.*

**MARIE**

He is dead

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Dead

*Guru wrenches the tiny body from Iris and brandishes it on high.*

**GURU**

The moment has come  
That renders possible all other moments

**NEW DISCIPLES**

Dead

**GURU**

My friends may we rejoice  
For 'tis the moment when all is accomplished  
The conspiracy of fools  
Of charlatans of sages  
has finally been resolved

**NEW DISCIPLES**

Dead

**GURU**

My friends my companions  
 I can understand you  
 As I have always understood you

What you are seeing here  
 Has never before been seen  
 What you now know  
 Has never before been known

This pure body this serene body  
 Is pulsing in my hands  
 You too can feel it  
 For it is quivering communicating pulsating  
 For life without fault  
 For life without gloom  
 For life without fear

You see tears shed by a weeping mother  
 And you feel pity for her  
 I can understand you  
 I too feel pity for you Iris

A mother cannot know  
 A mother does not know  
 For mothers have brought us all forth  
 Into this life of hardship  
 Of terror and affliction

But the era of our prehistory is complete  
 And now the first man in history  
 Has come  
 Here eternity has ended  
 And has begun  
 We all are here at last  
 Ready to step through the doorway of the authentic world

**GURU**

My friends my companions  
 Say not that this child is dead  
 It is but a foolish delusion  
 The child is life itself  
 Our translucency to come  
 The destiny to which I have brought you  
 Henceforth we are  
 The human race  
 We are the human race

We are the human race

**VICTOR**

*(hesitantly at first)*

We are the human race

**CARELLI**

*(joining in)*

We are the human race

**GURU, VICTOR & CARELLI**

We are the human race

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We are the human race

**DISCIPLES**

We are the human race

**GURU, VICTOR & CARELLI**

Our advent is now

*Some Disciples (contraltos) join in.*

Thus was our destiny

To attain this goal

**GURU, VICTOR, CARELLI**

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We have finally reached the aurora of infinity

**VICTOR**

*(with sopranos and contraltos)*

We are the last

**CARELLI**

*(with tenors and basses)*

We are the first

**GURU, VICTOR, CARELLI,**

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Through us the unaccomplished is now accomplished

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

*(basses)*

Mmmm

END OF ACT 2

**ACT 3**  
*(an island coast)*

**ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE**

*Followed by*

**SCENE 1**

*Iris, alone, on the cliffs*

**IRIS**

I let my child die  
I must utter this and proclaim it  
Again and again  
I let him die  
I let him die

I am suffering  
From a disease more cruel than unhappiness

It was I who killed him  
I let him die  
I let my child die

I must shout it out and shout it out again  
I let my child die  
I have lost everything  
How I suffer

Dawn will soon break  
A new day like any other  
A day so different so unique  
So dreadfully unique

Something inside me is crying out  
I must shout it out and shout it out again  
I let my child die

I made you an orphan  
In life  
Just as in death you have made me  
An orphan  
Ah how I suffer

The sea is deaf as we cry out  
As I was deaf to my child crying out

The sea with its relentless roar  
Muffles all cries

As I did  
When my child cried out

No one can wake the sea from her slumber  
But what must be done  
Is to embark on that slumber  
And roar with her  
To be bound up in her relentless tumult  
Reduced to nothing more than a roar  
The universal roaring of things  
The universal roaring of things

My aspiration is  
To be the child of my child  
As I delivered him to death  
May his death deliver me to mine  
Ah how I suffer

In the arms of the sea  
My son I shall cradle thee  
In the arms of the sea  
My son I shall cradle thee

We shall my love  
Be united forever  
In the ebb and flow of sea and death

I shall cradle thee

Your tiny hands in mine  
I shall cling to them  
And the name I could never give  
I shall give to thee

I let my love die  
I must utter this and proclaim it  
Again and again  
I let you die  
I let you die  
In death I shall become a mother

*She hurls herself from the cliff.*

**SCENE 2**

*Enter the Disciples*

**DISCIPLES**

*(tenors & basses)*

Everywhere on this earthly ground  
All vermin do abound

**NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

*(contraltos)*

It was our destiny

**DISCIPLES**

*(basses)*

Here at last on this shore

**NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

*(all)*

It was our destiny  
To achieve this goal

**DISCIPLES**

*(basses)*

Translucency is engulfing us

**NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES**

*(all)*

We have reached the infinite dawn at last

*Guru et Carelli have been watching the Disciples as they make ready.*

**GURU**

Faster

Tell them to go faster

**DISCIPLES**

We shall be the first

**CARELLI**

Yes indeed yes

But are you certain

**GURU**

Certain

You are asking me if I am certain

Me

**CARELLI**

No no

**DISCIPLES**

We are the last ones

**GURU**

Tell them to go faster

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Day has broken greeting us with a song of light

We are ready

To fulfill the final agreement

**CARELLI**

Faster

**GURU**

Louder

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

May we all see together

What eternal cradle that abyss will be for us

**CARELLI**

Louder

**GURU**

Faster

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

We are departing a life of doubt and gloom

For another both perpetual and transcendent

With neither zenith nor nadir

We stand at the gates of the authentic world

No anguish or fear do we feel

Confronting this foul flesh

**GURU**

You have waited

You have had faith in me

Now the day has come

For your reward

Do you have even a remote idea

Of the happiness in store

Happiness so intense

Never before experienced

Have you earned it  
 Answer me  
 Do you deserve it

**NEW DISCIPLES**

Yes no yes no yes no

**DISCIPLES**

*(a continuous clamor)*

Yes no

**GURU**

Silence

I shall tell you now  
 Many of you are not deserving  
 Many of you  
 In the depths of your hearts  
 Are still in the grips of  
 Vice and deception

I as your guide  
 Your father and your brother  
 I who love you all  
 Yes all more than myself  
 Not only the purest of the pure amongst you  
 But also those who practice vice and deception

*(Pointing to a Disciple)*

You there looking in every direction  
 You are bad

*(Pointing to a Disciple)*

And you fickle female  
 Who will not renounce the flesh

*(Pointing to a number of Disciples in turn)*

And you and you and you and you

Yes despite the vice and deception  
 Still prevailing in you  
 I have offered you the opportunity promised

For the incommensurable future  
And the incommensurable sea  
Will soon  
Embrace you in joy

You have seen the child  
You saw peace on his face  
When he finally attained the translucency  
Of authentic life

Rejoice for at last you will experience it  
You too just as he did  
Will experience that life

**SCENE 3****MARTHE***(interrupting him as she enters)*

That death

Yes death

He has not deceived you about that

He has never concealed

What he calls authentic life

What humans since time immemorial have called

Death

That authentic life

Is indeed death

The peace seen on the child's face

Was the peace of death

Have you not understood

**GURU**

Silence you crazed hag

**MARTHE***(to Guru)*

You are still my son

I cannot and shall not forget it

And in the name of the love I bear for you

I beg you to stop this folly

Before it is too late

Are not the death of your child

And the death of your mother

Enough for you

**GURU**

Silence

**MARTHE**

No I shall not be silenced

I followed you here as did all the others

That I must admit

Out of love I became your accomplice

And out of love I must now

Speak no longer able to remain silent

**GURU**

She is the one isn't she

She is the one who turned you away from me  
And from the truth I bring

To you all I say heed her not  
She is the viper the whore  
Who refuses to sing  
And speaks through her mouth

**MARTHE**

No she is not  
Listen to me all of you  
I sing and am singing for you  
To take you away from this folly  
Where he is leading you

**GURU**

*(to Carelli)*  
Silence her

**MARTHE**

*(to Carelli)*  
And you quack and impostor do not move

*(to Guru)*

If you wish to silence me  
You will have to do it yourself  
If you dare

*(to the Disciples)*

Wake up  
Before it is too late  
Wake from this evil dream  
He has taken everything from you and now life

**GURU**

*(to Marthe)*  
Mother I beseech you  
Stop

**MARTHE**

Do you not see  
That my son is a madman

*Guru rushes over and grabs his mother by the throat, strangling her.*

You are mad my poor child

*With difficulty*

You are mad

*Dying*

You are mad

**GURU**

I have done this for you

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Oh Guru Guru

**GURU**

*(to Carelli)*

Present my instructions to them

**SCENE 4****CARELLI**

You have all been given a flask of special water  
This is how your journey will be  
On the path to translucency  
One after the other you will drink  
The contents of your flasks

Little by little you will feel release  
From material clutches

You will feel your body  
Become ever so light  
So as to enter into universal substance

**GURU**

*(to Carelli)*

Drink first and show them the way

So you are reluctant  
Am I or are you  
The cause of your misgivings  
This concoction is your discovery  
Is it not

**CARELLI**

*(quietly, to Guru)*

But that was not the plan

**GURU**

*(to the Disciples)*

He tells me that he is not sure of deserving the honor  
Of being the first to go

But I say that he has earned that right  
For it is thanks to his brilliance  
That I can promise you salvation  
And pure translucency  
Which will allow you to quit  
This preposterous and corruptible life

*(to Carelli)*

And I shall grant you  
An even greater honor  
For I myself shall serve you  
The precious liquid

*Marie rushes forward with a number of Disciples, thrusting Victor to the front, taking the pressure off Carelli.*

**MARIE**

Here he is Guru  
Here is your most loyal Disciple

*Victor is clutching a small suitcase*

We caught him  
On the other side of the island  
Launching a boat

**GURU**

Stop the traitor

*A number of Disciples grab Victor. As they wrench the case from him, it bursts open, spilling a huge amount of money onto the ground.*

**MARIE**

You can see that he has not  
Lost his grasp on what is real

Here is the entire treasure of your community

*(pointing it out to Guru)*

All the money  
He has stolen from you  
Is here

**GURU**

May I congratulate you  
Thank-you Marie  
I knew that you would end up understanding  
You have stopped the traitor from fleeing

*(To the Disciples)*

Friends and brethren  
Thank her  
Thank Marie our sister  
The strongest one here amongst us  
Embrace her heart to heart

I say unto you that of all of us here  
The most worthy of love  
Is you Marie

**MARIE**

*(being swept along by the Disciples)*

Leave me alone

**DISCIPLES**

We thank you Marie

**MARIE**

Listen to me

**GURU**

Of all of us here you are

The most worthy of love

**DISCIPLES**

Marie

Marie

**MARIE**

Leave me alone

**DISCIPLES**

We thank you

**GURU**

On this day of translucency

You Marie have shown us the way

*(pointing to Victor)*

He over there is not worthy

To make the journey with us

He must die like a dog

Like a rabid dog

**MARIE**

No

Listen instead to what he has to say

**GURU**

Indeed she is right

Let us listen to what he has to say

No doubt it is very interesting

Release him

*The Disciples release Victor.*

Well  
We are listening

*Victor does not utter a word.*

Well then

**DISCIPLES**

We are waiting

**GURU**

Well then

**DISCIPLES**

We are listening

**VICTOR**

*(gradually gaining confidence)*

He is deceiving you  
He has been lying since the beginning  
Beguiled by the figments of his imagination  
You have given him everything  
Money freedom  
Even your home  
Your mind  
Your powers of discrimination  
Your judgment

Carelli helped him  
Concoct his preposterous theories  
Simply to dominate you  
And have his power prevail

Do you not realize  
That you no longer see or distinguish  
Good or evil

**GURU**

'Tis a fascinating tale  
And you Victor what role did you play

**VICTOR**

Me  
I was your accomplice

**GURU**

My accomplice

**VICTOR***(to the Disciples)*

Yes I shall tell you all the tale  
 Yes I was his partner

Through sheer greed  
 I allowed him to exploit you  
 But never did I think that he was prepared  
 To lead you to death

Now I know that he is mad  
 Quite simply

*On the word "mad" the Disciples start up a continuous hissing.***VICTOR**

Deliver yourselves from him  
 Do not drink what he would have you drink

He is nothing but a swindler  
 As I was too  
 I was a swindler  
 I went along with him

But now he is a madman  
 And I shall follow no longer

*(The hissing stops.)***GURU**

But the money  
 You did not forget to take that  
 The money  
 Which I allegedly stole from them  
 You did not forget the money  
 The cash the cash

**DISCIPLES**

The cash

**GURU**

Like a dog he must die  
 Like a rabid dog

*The hissing resumes.**The Disciples walk over to Victor and put him to death.*

**SCENE 5****MARIE**

They are mad  
They are as mad as you are

**GURU**

No we are not mad  
But what is madness

I have already told you  
In this degenerate world  
One simply needs to tell the truth  
To be called mad

I have offered them  
Their greatest aspiration in the world  
They and I shall experience  
All together truth

Come with us  
Come with me

Marie I love you

**MARIE**

How sorry I feel for you  
How sorry I feel for you

**GURU**

*(turning away from Marie, to Carelli)*

Now  
They must drink  
And you will be first  
Show them

*Carelli does not move. Guru rushes at him and forces him to drink the contents of a flask.*

*No sooner has Carelli swallowed it than he collapses. Guru forces him to his feet.*

**GURU**

So  
What do you see  
What do you feel

**CARELLI***(with difficulty)*

Pain

Dreadful pain

**GURU***(whispering)*

Not that

The truth tell the truth

**CARELLI**

I see

The truth

*Guru pushes him over the precipice.***GURU***(to the Disciples)*

Did you hear

The truth he said

He said the truth

**DISCIPLES**

The truth he said

He saw the truth

**GURU**

Go ahead now

Drink

**MARIE**

No stop

Listen to me

**GURU**

Drink drink

**MARIE**

No wait

**GURU**

Drink drink

**MARIE**

I beseech you

**GURU**

Drink

**MARIE**

You will not drink  
 You do not wish to  
 It is he who wishes you to

**GURU**

Are you certain about what you have said  
 Very well  
 You can speak to them

*(to the Disciples)*

My friends my companions  
 I ask you to listen to this woman

**Scene 6****MARIE**

I know that you have been here a long time  
 That you have left behind  
 Many things to follow this man  
 I know that you have found in him  
 Meaning where once there was none  
 Today he is asking you to take the step  
 Across the final threshold which is  
 So he has said  
 The one that justifies all steps  
 Which you have already taken

I know all this  
 And I also know  
 That you are sincere

But I beg of you  
 Open your eyes  
 All this is mere delusion  
 He has brought you here to this isle  
 Which is nothing but a simple island  
 Just a gap in the sea  
 And in yourselves

No there is no dual world  
 There is but one  
 The one you have been promised does not exist  
 The journey is mere delusion

Look at yourselves at one another

You are simply men and women  
 Who have endured the suffering and disappointment of life  
 As we all have

I too came here  
 With my suffering and the same disappointment

But to find meaning  
 Where there is none  
 Unlike you it is life  
 This one and only life  
 Which I have chosen  
 And which I am asking you to choose

*(to Guru)*

And you perhaps the most miserable  
 Of us all here  
 And therefore the most dangerous  
 Renounce  
 Renounce now  
 Neither prophet nor guide are you  
 Neither master  
 Nor even a man  
 You are a child

You killed your son your wife your mother  
 Your two most faithful friends are dead  
 It is time to put an end to this foolish dream

*(to the Disciples)*

You are free  
 Please believe me  
 You are free

## Scene 7

### **NEW DISCIPLE**

*(tenor)*

I  
 I shall drink the mixture  
 And through death attain  
 Universal substance

### **TWO NEW DISCIPLES**

I will have no more of this life  
 So sorrowful and corruptible  
 Now shall I drink the mixture

*The Disciples begin to drink, emptying their flasks one after the other.*

**THREE NEW DISCIPLES**

*(soprano, mezzo & contralto)*

We shall drink the mixture  
And through death attain  
Universal substance

**GURU**

*(simultaneously)*

They are drinking  
They are all drinking  
Look Marie they are drinking

**NEW DISCIPLES**

We reject this life  
So sorrowful and corruptible  
We wish to attain  
Translucency

**GURU**

*(simultaneously)*

They have loved me they have believed in me  
They trust me  
Their love is outstanding

**DISCIPLES**

We shall drink the mixture  
And through death attain  
Universal substance

**GURU**

*(simultaneously)*

Yes drink brethren  
My friends my companions  
I love you

*While the Disciples are singing and drinking, the first ones to drink start collapsing one after the other, moaning.*

**NEW DISCIPLES**

*(simultaneously with Disciples & Guru)*

Ah such pain  
It is burning  
Such pain

**GURU***(to new Disciples)*

No it is not burning  
 Be patient  
 You will see the light  
 Be strong

*Gradually the enthusiastic singing of the Disciples who have not yet emptied their flasks is replaced by the moaning and groaning of those who have.*

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES***(verses intermingled)*

We shall all drink the mixture  
 Ah such pain  
 The burning  
 Such unbearable pain

**GURU***(at the same time as the Disciples complaining)*

No it is not  
 Stop  
 Be worthy of your destiny  
 Of our destiny  
 Be worthy of me

**DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES**

Such unbearable pain

**A NEW DISCIPLE***(mezzo)*

You deceived us

**A NEW DISCIPLE***(tenor)*

And why are you not drinking

**GURU***(in the midst of the moaning and groaning)*

Silence  
 Stop that noise  
 You are worthless  
 What right do you have to moan  
 Open your eyes  
 You are simply ignorant  
 You are fools  
 Stand up straight and face eternity  
 Have you not understood

That the firmament and sea are watching you  
 That you are accomplishing the destiny  
 Of the entire human race

Have you understood nothing  
 Silence you herd of swine  
 You shameful pack of blind beasts  
 Deaf beasts  
 I as your guide order you to do so  
 I as your god  
 I order you to be silent

*Then, one after the other, they fall silent, as one after the other  
 they die.*

*Guru walks back to Marie*

## Scene 8

Did you see that  
 They have gone  
 By now they are there  
 In the authentic land  
 'Tis our turn now  
 Our turn to follow them

*He hands her a flask*

Yes you too will drink

### MARIE

You drink first  
 Then I shall drink  
 I wish to see you also  
 Embarking on the journey

### GURU

Yes someone must see me  
 You must watch me  
 Look at me

### MARIE

I am watching you  
 Fear nothing  
 I am watching you

### GURU

I shall drink first

Then you

**MARIE**

You first

Then me

*He drinks.*

**GURU**

*(Stricken with the same pain as the others who drank earlier)*

Ah

Such burning

Marie such pain

**MARIE**

No it is not burning

I am watching you

And eternity too is watching you

**GURU**

Do not leave me Marie

Such dreadful pain

**MARIE**

No it is happiness

And authentic life

I am watching you

And you too must watch

Open your eyes

Do you see the truth

**GURU**

The truth

Yes I can see the truth

*He stumbles over to the edge of the cliff and falls over the precipice.*

*Marie is left alone, surrounded by bodies, holding the flask which Guru gave her.*

*She walks over to the edge of the cliff and hurls it as far as she can.*

*The music stops. The only sound heard is a never-ending scream uttered by Marie.*

END OF GURU