



The Eternal Stranger (text)

A Monodrama for Actor and Orchestra

by Joshua Sobol

A man observing people in a strange place
On the shores where the sea kicked him out.
Trying to learn their manners thereof,
The masters of the land.
Their gestures and their facial expressions,
The sharp gaze of their eyes, cutting and cold
Wildcats' knife-like Gaze.

They take him for a man-hater
He sees it in the way they stare at him.

I'm not a man-hater!
On the contrary!
I love human beings
I love animals plants and woods.
Nature itself.
I love the light and warmth of the sun;
I love the shadow of the trees, tall and dense;
The sound of the wind
Swishing through the leaves;
I love the water;
I love the cool breeze;
I love, yes I do, I love, yes I do, I love...

But my strong love of all that is
From your bitter hatred does not release.

You have lived a silent life
Without a soul in the world
To exchange a single word –
Not about joy,
Nor pain and nor sorrow,
Nor rapture of creation,
Nor angst of perdition,
Nor a simple daily small talk.
Have you had a good night's sleep?
What did you dream?
What do you do tonight?
Just to talk
To share thoughts with someone,
With a human being.



The language of People around you
Swishes by as insects in grass.
Moaning of trees in the wind.
Roaring of waves in the sea.
Mooring of cows far away.

My mother's language is buried inside me.
Her voice calling in silence:
My son, where are you? my beloved son.
Calling me from within myself
From within a barren land.

Flowers of beauty are ringing in the wind.
Voices of lost people
In an unwritten language.

In a wordless language,
He recounts the heart's yearning
For the voices he loved,
And his hand reaching out to hold
Something that was warm and alive,
Returned empty and void.

When the language of words fades out into dark
The body breaks its silence
The talking voice is breaking
The body speaks its language
Drowning the eyes in tears
Setting the flesh on fire
The blood in the arteries roars
Sending the limbs to dance
To the rhythm of the pounding heart
Beating time in the temples
Closing the yearning eyes
Bringing his dead ones again back to life,
In a dream.
Giving them their voices again
The voices exploding with Life!

You alone
In the dark freezing night
You were my star.
You were the only human spark
In a world Godless and dark.