

In Lucem

from The Stone&Tara Songbook

Have you ever felt that you were on the verge of losing everything you cared about? Or have you actually experienced great loss? Many of us know the feeling, and perhaps in these past few years, even more so. In this time of uncertainty, illness and climatological disaster the feeling of loss is affecting us all and pressing on our souls. Our personal and social world has changed dramatically, and the very ground we walk on is trembling. In a sense it may have felt like this to Job, the biblical figure who was tested by God in a cruel game in which he was stripped of everything he had.

I remember his story being read to me when I was a child, and it would make me shudder. One part of the tale particularly stuck with me. It is toward the end, where the author mentions that Job finds a new home, and becomes a happy man again. I remember being stupefied when my father read this to us. How could anyone, I asked myself, be happy again after such loss, such sorrow, such great grief?

Perhaps this is making you smile, because you, like Job, have come out the other side of loss and grief. You may even have grown wiser and more patient as a result. Some, though, still struggle with the idea that there is always a promise in loss; that grief clears the way to the possibility of contentment. I wonder. But then again, perhaps these are not 'mind' concepts, but more 'soul' things. And what better language to speak to the soul but music!

Stone's music for *In Lucem* has lyrics inspired by the book of Job, where God tells Job: 'You will forget your misery.' The addition of excerpts from Psalm 126: 'They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy' confirm God's consolation to Job.

In the opening bars, the soprano voices soar, angel-like, into the clouds, launching a glorious theme. The altos answer in a down-to-earth, almost motherly, soothing tone - '*There, there. You will be fine!*'

Tenors and basses provide stability, reinforcing the stately chords, offering fragments of the lyrics. The magnificent organ accompaniment completes the triumphant character of the piece - a beautiful musical group hug, celebrating the so-hard-to-grasp wisdom of accepting that nothing is permanent.

Tara, November 2021

In lucem

Miseriae oblivisceris.

Laeta eris, luce vestieris.

Dolor tibi facta erit vaga memoria.

You will forget your sorrow.

You will be happy, you will clothe yourself in light.

Your sadness will be made a vague memory.

Exsultabimus et in gaudio metemus.

Ridebimus, amabimus iterum.

*Dolor nostrum erit aqua fluminis,
transiens per terram, migrans in mare.*

We will shout and sing and reap in joy.

We will laugh again, we will love again.

Our sadness will be like a river

Traveling across the earth, flowing into the river.

Miseriae oblivisceris.

Laeta eris, luce vestieris.

Dolor tibi facta erit vaga memoria.

You will forget your sorrow.

You will be happy, you will clothe yourself in light.

Your sadness will be made a vague memory.

With gratitude to Bart 'Demodokos' Berman my teacher of Latin and a fine musician.