

**JOB: DRAMATIC POEM
FOR SOLO VOICES,
CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA**

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Job: Dramatic Poem for Solo Voices, Chorus and Orchestra by F. S. Converse

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F. S. CONVERSE

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JOB

DRAMATIC POEM



From William Blake's Illustrations to the Book of Job

NEW YORK : THE H. W. GRAY COMPANY
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LONDON

TO
WALLACE GOODRICH

COMPOSED FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL FESTIVAL
OF THE
WORCESTER COUNTY MUSICAL ASSOCIATION
1907

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DRAMATIC POEM

FOR
SOLO VOICES, CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

Published by
BY
F. S. CONVERSE

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CHARACTERS.

JOB *Tenor*
HIS FRIEND *Baritone*
A WOMAN OF ISRAEL *Messo-Soprano*
THE VOICE OF JEHOVAH *Bass*
VOICES OF PRAYER AND ADORATION *Chorus*

The text is drawn from the Vulgate Version
of the Book of Job and of the Psalms, and has
been arranged with the assistance of

PROFESSOR JOHN HAYS GARDINER

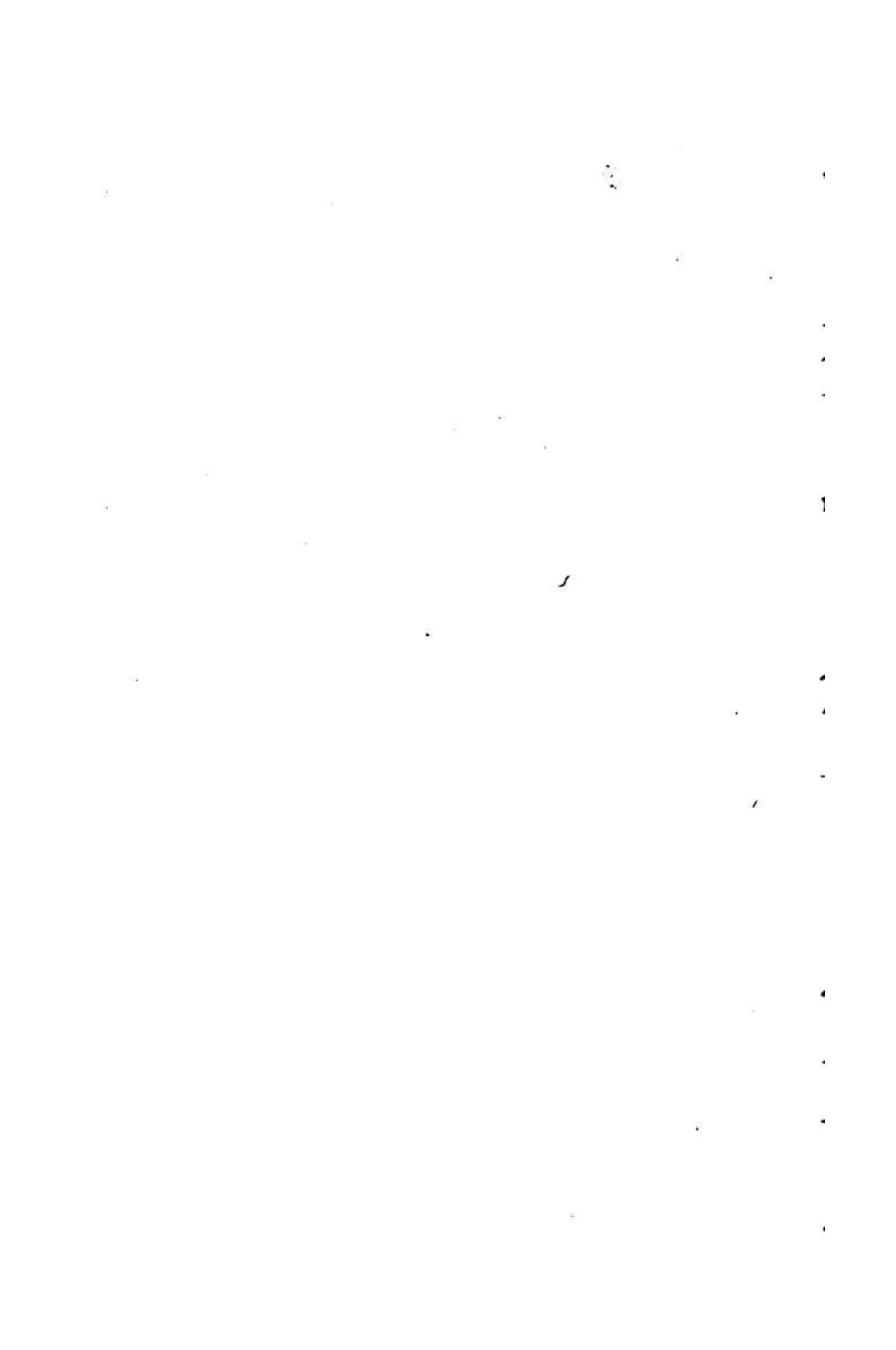
of

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

English translation by

JOHN ALBERT MACY

03.2.32.1188



JOB

A Dramatic Poem for Solo Voices, Chorus, and Orchestra. (The text consists of passages from Job and the Psalms in the Vulgate or authorized Latin version of the Bible. The English words are a paraphrase fitted to the music without regard to accepted English translations.)

THE PERSONS.

JOB	Tenor	A WOMAN OF ISRAEL	Mezzo-Soprano
HIS FRIEND	Baritone	THE VOICE OF JEHOVAH	Bass
VOICES OF PRAYER AND ADORATION		Chorus	

MULIER.

Miserere mihi, Domine, et exaudi orationem meam.

CHORUS.

In te, Domine, speravi, non confundar in aeternum: in iusticia tua libera me. Inclina ad me aurem tuam: accelera, ut eruas me. In manus tuas commendo spiritum meum.

MULIER.

Redemisti me, Domine Deus veritatis.

CHORUS.

Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes: laudate eum, omnes populi. Quoniam confirmata est super non misericordia eius, et veritas Domini manet in aeternum.

IOB.

Pereat dies, in qua natus sum, et nox, in qua dictum est: Conceptus est homo. Dies illa vertatur in tenebras, non requirat eum Deus

THE WOMAN.

Have thou mercy upon me, Lord my God, in accordance with thy loving-kindness.

CHORUS.

In thee, O my God, I lay my trust, let me never be confounded. In thy justice and mercy deliver thou me. Incline thou thine ear to thy servant, and be thou, Lord, my fortress and rock. Into thy hands I commit my spirit forever.

THE WOMAN.

Thou hast redeemed me, God my Redeemer, Lord my Saviour.

CHORUS.

Praise ye the Lord our God, all ye nations: O all ye people, praise the Lord. For his mercy is ordained over us and the truth of our holy Lord shall abide forever.

JOB.

Perish the morning in which I was born, the night when a child was born into sorrow. Turn that day into darkness and shadow; let the eye

desuper, et non illustretur lumine. Maledicant ei, qui maledicunt diei, qui parati sunt suscitare Leviathan. Nunc enim dormiens silem, et somno meo requiescerem cum regibus et consulibus terræ, qui ædificant sibi solitudines. Ibi impii cessaverunt a tumultu, et ibi requieverunt fessi robore. Quare misero data est lux, et vita his, qui in amaritudine animæ sunt, qui expectant mortem, et non venit?

AMICUS.

In horrore visionis nocturnæ, quando solet sopor occupare homines, pavor tenuit me, et tremor, et omnia ossa mea perterrita sunt: et cum spiritus me præsentem transiret, inhorruerunt pili carnis meæ. Stetit quidem, cuius non agnoscebam vultum, imago coram oculis meis, et vocem quasi auræ lenis audivi: Numquid homo Dei comparatione iustificabitur? Forsitan vestigia Dei comprehendes, et usque ad perfectum Omnipotentem reperies? Excelsior cœlo est, et quid facies? profundior inferno, et unde cognosces? Si iniquitatem, quæ est in manu tua, abstuleris a te, et non manserit in tabernaculo tuo iniustitia, tunc levare poteris faciem tuam absque macula, et eris stabilis, et non timebis. Miseriæ quoque oblivisceris, et quasi aquarum, quæ præterierunt, recordaberis. Et quasi meridianus fulgor consurget tibi ad vesperam: et cum te consumptum putaveris, orieris ut lucifer.

of God be never upon it, and let not his light shine upon it. Let them curse the day, who curse the daylight, who are ready to raise up Leviathan. For I should be in silent slumber and deep in sleep lie resting quietly, like unto kings and to counsellors mighty who have built places desolate in solitude. There the wicked no longer vex, and cease from troubling, and there the souls that are weary lie in long slumber. Oh, why are light and life sent unto him whose way is hid and whose spirit is clouded with bitterness, who longeth for death, but it cometh not?

THE FRIEND.

In the horror of a vision of darkness, when the earth was deep in slumber and the night was still, terror filled my soul with trembling, and all my being quivered with wonder and fear. Behold, a spirit came in presence before me, and my flesh was cold and my heart was chill within me. There before me saw I one whose face I knew not, and the shadow of a form in the darkness. And a voice as of a wind came out from the darkness: How if man compare himself to God-Almighty shall he be justified? For by man shall God and his ways be comprehended, and his most high perfection, canst thou in any way find it out? Higher than the heavens is he, and what canst thou know? Deeper than hell our Lord is, and what canst thou understand? If thou puttest from thee all wickedness and evil that thou holdest in thine hand, and if thou wilt cast out from thy dwelling-place every injustice and sin, thou canst raise an innocent face, pure and wholly without stain, and thou shalt fear not. Thy misery shall be forgotten, and even as waters that pass and return not, it shall come no more. And brightness clear as the light of noonday shall shine upon thee when the evening falls. And when thou hast thought thy life consumed, thou shalt shine forth like Lucifer.