

THE FLOOD

Igor Strawinski

Musical play in un atto su testo di Robert Craft

First performance: Amburgo, Staatsoper, 30th of April 1963

Characters:

Lucifer / Satan , tenore

God , 2 bassi

Noah , recitante

Noah's Wife, "

Noah's Sons, "

Narrator , "

Caller , "

Coro

Prelude

Coro

Te Deum, Te Deum laudamus, Te Dominum confitemur.

Te aeternum Patrem omnis terra veneratur.

Tibi omnes angeli, Tibi coeli et universae potestates.

Tibi Cherubim et Seraphim incessabili voce proclamant:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt coeli et terra majestatis gloriae tuae.

Narrator

And God said,

Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering of the waters called the Seas.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb-yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth.

And it was so. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life... and God created whales, and every living creature that moveth, and God blessed them saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas... and God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind... And God said, let us make man in our image....

God

A skilful beast will I make

After my like and shape and likeness,

The which shall worship to Me take...

Take thou now the spirit of Life

With the female thou shalt have to wife,

And receive both your souls from Me;

Adam and Eve your names shall be.

Narrator

But God had created a power next after Himself. Lucifer, son of the morning, whose pride will cast him out from heaven an who, for revenge, will deceive the mother of mankind.

God

I make thee master, mirror of my might,

I name thee Lucifer, bearer of light.

Narrator

But Lucifer was vain, Lucifer was proud, Lucifer was ambitious.

Lucifer

The beams of my brightness burn so bright

Like a lord am I left so to dwell in this light.

More fairer by far than my feres,

My power surpasses my peers...

I will be the highest of Heaven! oh! what! oh Deuce! All goes down! Out, out, horror! helpless, hot, hot, hot.

Narrator

And Satan (Lucifer no more) burns on bale and smothers in smoke smouldering REVENGE.

Satan

God made the world for love

And for love made He man (thereat had I great envy).

I will, then, God betray,

Take from Him man my prey. To Paradise!

Melodrama

Narrator

In a worm's likeness will he wend.

Satan

"Eve! Eve!"

Narrator (Eve)

"Who is there?"

Satan

"I, a friend!"

Narrator

.....and the subtle serpent deceiveth Eve, and Eve gave also unto her husband of the forbidden fruit, and he did eat. And God knew that the serpent had beguiled Eve and He cursed the serpent and cursed the ground for Adam and Eve. And the Lord sent them forth from Eden.

God

I, God, that all world have wrought,
See, my people in deed and thought set foully in sin.
Man that I made I will destroy
With the beasts of the ground
And birds that fly,
For on Earth, for on Earth they bring me no more joy,
And the evil must not multiply.
Noah, my servant, free,
That righteous man of art, as I see,
A ship soon thou shalt make thee
Of trees light and dry.

Noah

O, mercy, Lord!
What may this mean?

God

Noah, as I bid thee, do fulfil
Although thou hast but little skill.

Noah

Oh, mercy Lord! wouldst Thou take heed!
I am full old and out of heart
So that I dare do not day's deed
Without great mastery on my part.

God

I shall thee succour and thee speed
And give thee health in head and heart.
Mankind shall be sunken for their sin.

Noah

Oh Lord, Thy will shall ever be wrought
But of shipcraft know I nought.

God

Noah, I shall guide thee in all thy work.
Destroyed all the world shall be
Save thou, thy wife, thy wife, thy sons three,
And all their wives also with thee
Shall saved be, for thy sake.

Noah

Thy bidding, Lord, I shall fulfil.

The Building of the Ark

(*Choreography*)

The Catalogue of the Animals**Noah**

The Lord bade that I should bring
Of beasts and fowls that sing
Of every kind a pair.

Caller

Here are lions, leopards in,
Horses, mares, oxen, swine,
Goats, calves, sheep and kine.

Camels, asses, men may find,
Buck, doe, hart and hind,
Beasts of all manner and kind.

Thake here cats and dogs, too,
Otter, fox, fulmart, also,
Hares, hopping gaily, can go.

And here are bears, wolves set,
Apes, owls, marmoset,
Weasels, squirrels, and ferret.

Still more beasts are in this house:
Here are cats make it full crouse -
Here a rat, there a mouse....

Here are fowls large and small....
Hérons, cranes thin and tall,
Swans, peacocks, together all.

Here are cocks, kites, crows,
Rooks ravens, many rows,
Ducks, curlews, and Heaven knows.

Here are doves, digs, drakes,
Redshanks running through the lakes,
And each fowl that a song makes.

The Comedy

(Noah and his wife)

Noah

Wife, come in! Why stand'st thou there?
It is time to go or drown, that I swear.

Noah's wife

I see no need, though thou stay all day and stare.

Noah (aside)

Lord, that women be crabbed ay,
and never are meek, that I may say,
As is well seen by me today
In witness of you each one.
(shouts)
Come in, wife, in twenty devils' way...

Noah's wife

I will not come in today,
And I shall not drown.

Row forth, Noah, "save thy life"
But mind thee, with another wife.
(She walks away)

Sons of Noah

Mother, we pray you, all together,
Come into the ship for fear of the weather,
The flood is flowing in full fast,
For fear of drowning we are aghast.
(Noah's wife enters the Ark)

Noah

Welcome, wife, into this boat....

Noah's wife

And have thou that for thy note!
(she boxes his ears)

Noah (he surveys the whole scene about him)
The earth is covered with flood.

The Flood

(*Choreography*)

The Covenant of the Rainbow

God

A Covenant, Noah, with thee I make,
And with all thy seed for thy, for thy sake.

Noah

Sons, with your wives shall ye be stead,
And multiply your seed shall be,
Your bairns shall then each other wed,
And worship God in good degree.
All beasts and fowls shall forth be bred,
And so a world begins to be.

Satan

The forbidden act will forever disobey,
Though the quick chain of love to Adam stay,
Though the salt tines of the punishing flood
And cleaning blood from a Redeemer's wound
Will drownits animal sound.

Narrator

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them,
Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Coro

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra majestatis gloriae tue.
Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Tibi Cherubim et Seraphim incessabili voce proclamant:
Tibi coeli et universae potestates,
Te aeternum Patrem omnis terra veneratur.
Te Deum, Te De.....

THE END