

ANGELUS: Angels de Beer

(full text)



This collaged text cannibalises as its main thread fragments of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. It is interspersed with a section from Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*, and smaller shards which have been taken from quotes by Samuel Beckett, Joseph Conrad, Goethe, J. R.R. Tolkien, Virginia Woolf, and biblical scriptures. The text is structured in 'acts' and 'scenes' according to the different spaces in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, and the audience's movement through them; the 'kneeplays' serve as hinges. This document is the full text quarry, there is no expectation that the final performance will include it in its entirety.

Kneeplay 1 - Forewarnings

That sound, that sound, it... What is that... Like birds... Or like something...

I am frightened, I...

I am frightened, I...

No, no fear!

ACT I

Scene 1 – The Annunciation

Greetings, Prophets!

The Great Work begins.

The Messenger has arrived.

I, I, I am the Bird of Heaven, the Celestial Eagle, Continental Principality...

I, I, I, I am the Morning Star, Sister of the Dawn.

I, I, I, I am an infinite aggregate myriad entity,

Se-ra-phim

Che-ru-bim

Ga-bri-el!

Mi-k-a-el!

Ra-pha-el!

Or-phi-el!

Jo-phi-el!

Uri-el!

U-tú-li-en!

Scene 2 – The Entrance

I, I, I am come!

I, I, I am come!

I, I, I am come!

I, I, I am come!

Feathery Bosom, Bright Steel!

Majestic Aileron, Pennon, Pinion.

Primaries, and Secondaries, and Tertials.

Edges: Leading and Trailing.

Coverts: Lesser, Median, Antebrachial.

Major and Minor.

Scapulars and Speculum!

Alula! Alula! Alula!

I, I, I, I unfold my leaves.

In salutation open sharp before You.

I, I, I am made from His Brush, for Your Pleasure.

Singing Praises antiphonally,

We Guard, We Reveal, We Adore,

We Guide, We Blazon, We Proclaim. We warn.

Prophets, tonight you become.
Eyes that pierceth Dark.
Hearts all Hot for Truth.
The True Great Aesthetes, the Knowing Minds!
Gazes-of-the-Land, Delicate Surveyors, Holy Seer-Heads!
I, I, I am the Book. Read!

Kneeplay 2 – Gathering the flock

Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy!
The world is holy! The soul is holy!
The skin is holy! The bone is holy! The tongue and hand and every hole is holy!
Every Thing is holy! Every Body is holy! Everything and everybody and everywhere is
holy! Everyday is in eternity! Everyone is an Angel!

ACT II

Scene 3 - Ascension

Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy!
The world is holy! The soul is holy! The skin is holy! The bone is holy! The tongue and
hand and every hole is holy!
Every Thing is holy! Every Body is holy! Everything and everybody and everywhere is
holy! Everyday is in eternity! Everyone is an Angel!

The charcoal is holy - the canvas is holy - the brush is holy - the pigments are holy - the
oils and varnishes are holy - the gallerygoers are holy- their eyes are holy -the ecstasy is
holy!

Holy Claes (de Beer) - holy Gillis (van Everen) – holy Sint Lucasgilde
Holy the maidens – holy de garments
 holy the dogs - holy the unknown buggered and suffering beggars
Holy the hideous human angels!
Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy!

Holy time in eternity - holy eternity in time - holy spaces in eternity
holy the chambers – holy the vistas – holy perspectives

Holy the sea – holy the tree – holy the tower - holy the windows
holy the visions - holy the hallucinations
holy the eyeball - holy the abyss!

Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy!

Holy Is Every Thing, everything that Was and Is!
And Holy everything yet to come: Holy! Holy! Holy!
Holy Forgiveness! Mercy! Charity! Beauty! Holy! Ours! Bodies! Suffering! Magnanimity!
Holy the supernatural extra brilliant intelligent kindness of the soul. Holy! Holy! Holy!

ACT III

Scene 4 – A re-visitation

I, I, I, I have returned.
Look up, look up, look up.
It is Not-to-Be Time

Paradise itself Shivers and Shifts!
From the Council of Celestial Principalities
Met in this time of Crisis and Confusion:
Heaven here reaches down to disaster
And in touching you touches all of Earth.

Scene 5 – You can take a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink

I, I, I, I know Thee Prophet: Your Battered Heart,
Bleeding Life in the Universe of Wounds.
Surely you see towards what We are Progressing?

Scene 6 – Revelation

I, I, I, I truly tell thee:
Stop moving.
Poor Blind Children.
STASIS!

The Heavens shake
at their foundation,
The fabric of the sky
unravels.
Angles hover / anxious fingers worry.

The tattered edge.
Before the boiling of blood and the searing of skin
Comes the Un-Secret Catastrophe:
Before Life on Earth becomes finally merely impossible,
It will for a long time before have become completely unbearable.

Scene 7 - Redemption

What will the grim Unfolding of these Latter Days bring?
To Live Past HOPE
To Find Hope ANYWHERE.
To see BEAUTY, to see it REALLY.
To know It, for what It is. To Love It, for what It is.
And then, surrendering, to jump right in...

Kneeplay 3 – Guiding the flock

TO SEE - TO FIND – TO SURRENDER

HOPE – BEAUTY – LOVE - ANYWHERE – NOW - HERE– REALLY

I, I, I, I truly tell thee
Poor blind Children
Before Thou enters and Our Creator reachest,
Facie ad Faciem,
Learn now this Lesson:
There is No Zion Save Where Thou Art!

I, I, I, truly tell thee
Forsake the Open Road.
Forego the Rushing Mode.
Desist Thy Hurried Progress.
Un-hastily, without duress,
Let Deepest Roots Grow.

ACT IV

Scene 8 – Adoration

When Thou sayest to the Moment flying:
Beautiful Moment, do not pass away!
Oh, then from your labours Thou shall be free,
The clock shall stop, the clock-hands fall,
And time come to an end for thee.

I, I, I, I announce: STASIS!
Look, Observe, Perceive.
Thou canst think, thou canst imagine.
Relish and Savour in all of these.
Your Spirit soaring BEYOND with ease.

