

GURU

opera in three acts by Laurent Petitgirard

Libretto by Xavier Maurel

based on an original idea by the composer

Editions OSF PRODUCTIONS

Dramatis Personae

Guru	bass baritone
Marie	actor
Victor (Guru's assistant)	tenor
Iris (child's mother)	lyric soprano
Marthe (Guru's mother)	contralto
Carelli (the sect "scientist")	bass
Six new Disciples (vocal ensemble)	
New Disciple 1	soprano
New Disciple 2	mezzo soprano
New Disciple 3	contralto
New Disciple 4	tenor
New Disciple 5	baritone
New Disciple 6	bass

Guru was commissioned by the French State (Ministry of Culture and Communication).
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ACT 1
(an island coast)

PROLOGUE**WOMEN**

(sopranos and contraltos, far away, backstage)

Open

Open your eyes

Cross the threshold

Find deliverance from the world

Gradually, the Disciples enter, humming.

They are joined by the seven new Disciples (one is Marie).

SCENE 1**VICTOR & CARELLI**

Work which moves ahead

Revolutions

Metamorphoses

All that acts

Acts in silence

All grand plans

Revelations

Disturbances

All that engenders

Engenders in secret

VICTOR

Those outside

CARELLI

Those who accuse us

VICTOR

Because of our silence

CARELLI

Because of our secret

VICTOR

You know them

CARELLI

You know them

VICTOR

You know them

CARELLI

You know them

VICTOR & CARELLI

'Tis the conspiracy of fools
Of charlatans of sages

Enter Guru

GURU

'Tis the conspiracy of fools
Of charlatans of sages
How fortunate that not all are deaf

For there are men

DISCIPLES

(contraltos)

For there are men

GURU

For there are women

DISCIPLES

(contraltos)

For there are women

GURU

Who see and hear

DISCIPLES

(tenors)

For there are men

DISCIPLES

(contraltos)

For there are women

GURU

You my friends
You who can hear
And you who can see

DISCIPLES

We can hear
 And we can see
 Speak to us Master

GURU

I am no master
 You are the masters
 I am your guide
 As you are mine
 Nothing have I invented
 The future we shall travel
 We shall tread the path together
 Whither you may wish
 Whence you have come

Pointing to the new Disciples

My friends and companions
 Here have come
 Others who like you
 Have chosen to find
 The truth

Come near
 Closer to us

VICTOR

Come take what you have come to seek
 Come take what you have come to seek

VICTOR & CARELLI

Come take what you have come to seek
 Come take what you have come to seek

NEW DISCIPLES

(while Victor & Carelli continue)

The truth
 The truth

VICTOR, CARELLI & NEW DISCIPLES

Come take what you have come to seek
 Come take what you have come to seek

NEW DISCIPLES

The truth

The truth

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

The truth

The truth

*Long silence***DISCIPLES**

You have left

As did we

As did we

In the quest for truth

As did we

As did we

Life in the cities

As did we

You are here on the isle

As are we

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to know

As you know

As you know

We wish to be able

As you can

As you can

To venture forth

As you have

Pure and sound of heart

As you are

DISCIPLES

Everywhere on this earthly ground

All vermin do abound

Death does speak rise and resound

NEW DISCIPLES

Pure entity of firmament and water

DISCIPLES

Here at last on this shore

Translucency can engulf us

Let us blaze in adoration

Let us bend our backs

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Thou art our guide

Guru

Guru

Thou art our guide

Guru

Guru

As we are thine

Guru

Our hands in thine

Guru

Marie remains at a distance.

She is the only one not singing.

SCENE 2**GURU**

The conspiracy of fools
 Of charlatans of sages
 Has been a perfect triumph
 It was designed thus
 To conceal the truth from us

Friends and companions
 The reason for us being here
 Together on this isle
 Is that we know something more

And yet
 You

Pointing to a woman amongst the new Disciples

DISCIPLES

Who

NEW DISCIPLES

Me me me me me me

GURU

Yes you yes you there

GURU

That orange which despite my advice
 You have hidden in your pocket
 Be not surprised that I know
 For I know you

It is one piece of the fruit you secretly
 Brought to the isle
 In defiance of my modest exhortations
 Is that not so

Because you refuse to believe
 What I say or even worse
 You believe it you believe that I speak the truth
 But you love your body more than truth
 You persist in believing that your body
 Needs calories and vitamins

You fear that the diet we all have here
 In accordance with the rules
 Will not suffice and will cause bodily harm

I love you have no fear
 But I myself see into your heart
 As into that orange
 Open yourself open it
 Say what your eyes see
 As my eyes see into the heart of the fruit

DISCIPLES

What does she see

DISCIPLE WITH ORANGE

On the orange flesh of the fruit
 Colors on color
 Dappled blue and white

GURU

And what do you think those traces are

DISCIPLE WITH ORANGE

The early stages of putrefaction
 The fruit has lived too long

GURU

Putrefaction yes indeed
 For it has lived too long
 There is the effect of calories and vitamins
 Now here is the truth I shall teach you
 All that lives too long
 Will putrefy

You have seen old men and women
 You have seen those bodies
 That crumble
 Having lived so long

Life is chiefly putrefaction
 It inevitably appears
 What then can cleanse such putrefaction
 And put an end to decay

DISCIPLES

Death death

GURU

Indeed 'tis death as death is rest
'Tis relief and only death is pure

No need for vitamins
They merely add futile time to life
And are the ferments of putrefaction

After death 'tis naught but light and purity
Our aspiration
And so we must deliver ourselves
From what

DISCIPLES

Fear fear

GURU

Fear alone can stand in our way
Life is nothing but violence and combat
From life we learn fear

And 'tis fear itself
That does hold us back
Hindering our release from fear

We are all like you
We carry an orange
Concealed in a pocket
And the orange with such a thick rind
Is none other than fear

But the day when we shall be
Delivered from fear
No longer shall we foolishly dread death

GURU, VICTOR & CARELLI

No longer shall we dread friendly death
Nor dread losing nor taking nor killing
And we shall refuse fools
The right to judge us without understanding

CARELLI

Sea water as you know is
Our food

GURU

We must be ready to embrace
 The principle from whence we came
 The only life fit to be called a life

For death
 Death too is a life
 And life is a death

And which is pure and which is impure
 As you know
 We are here to embrace purity
 The sea

Yes my friends my companions
 Purify ourselves unto death

Everywhere on this earthly ground
 All vermin do abound

The Disciples answer Guru as they move away

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Everywhere on this earthly ground
 All vermin do abound
 Let us blaze in adoration
 Let us bend our backs

Exeunt Disciples & New Disciples, still singing

SCENE 3**GURU***(to Marie)*

So you will not sing

MARIE

I do not sing

GURU

Why do you not sing

MARIE

Why should I sing

GURU

Why indeed

Why

VICTOR & GURU*(alternately)*

Why why

Why why

GURU

Who are you

MARIE

Marie

GURU

Is that enough

MARIE

Yes

GURU

In truth you know not who you are

But I shall tell you

You are a lost spirit

That is why

You have come to our isle

That is why you do not sing

You have only done things half-heartedly Marie

You are hurting yourself

He grabs her by the arm

MARIE

You are the one hurting me

GURU

I like you Marie

I can feel in you

A movement of panic

From a heart filled with strength and fear

I hear it beat

In time with questions that distress you

MARIE

I have come to destroy you

GURU

Is that so

As simple as that

Why

VICTOR

Why

MARIE

I know you you see

GURU

Is that so

Pray tell me

VICTOR

Do tell

MARIE

I know you that is all

GURU

And what if I were to kill you

MARIE

You can do so

GURU

I shall not

I shall wait for you to understand

Death is a dominating mistress

She cannot be compelled to do anything

As you have come here on a quest to find her
I shall wait for you to find by yourself what you are seeking

MARIE

(free)

I have come to destroy you

GURU

I shall not kill you

I wish you nothing but joy

You have caused me such sorrow

Your distress was mine

Marie

You will not kill me Marie

You wish only for joy

You may know me

I wish to know you

For a long time you have sought me
And I have sought you for a long time
I enjoy your threats
Here we are face to face
Marie

Two Disciples enter and walk towards Marie

GURU

I shall leave you

Addressing the two Disciples

Take her

To Marie

They will show you our isle

Exit Marie with the two Disciples

SCENE 4

Victor & Guru alone

VICTOR

I admire your composure
Be not concerned
She will be dead by this evening

GURU

I have no anxiety
I do not wish her dead
I have given my word

VICTOR

I cannot understand you

GURU

I am not surprised

VICTOR

What do you mean

GURU

That you do not understand
That you understand nothing
This woman is a trial
Set on my path

'Tis a sign I have been sent
A petition and a voice
She is my choice

She is the force within myself
Over which I must prevail
She is myself

VICTOR

Does she really know you
Do you know who she is

GURU

That is of no importance
'Tis between her and me
Between me and me
You have no need to be involved

VICTOR

I think you are not fully aware
Of what have you conjured up
Remember that it is I
And only I
Who have given you all this
Without me you are nothing

I know not what has come to pass
But 'tis serious
Ever so serious

You believe you are what you are not
And do not forget
That I know who you are
I know who you are

GURU

You know nothing of me
You know nothing of anything
You are like the others
Just one of a number of others
Alone I am and I alone know

Now leave me
I need to think

And I need to listen
To the great mute voices
That I alone can hear

Exit Victor

SCENE 5

*Guru walks over to the mirror.
Enter Iris who observes him for a moment.*

GURU

What are you doing there

IRIS

I wish to speak to you

GURU

I know what you mean by speaking

IRIS

I cannot sleep at night
'Tis night that sleeps in me
As if a body in absentia

And my body merges
With the belly of the night
Contorting and emptying
As does death in me

GURU

The voice is not yours
But that belly speaking for you

IRIS

The belly from which life issued forth
Burgeoning life
From which your son issued forth

IRIS/GURU

The child I had so needed/we needed

IRIS

That child
Who is mine
I see him so rarely
I fear for him

GURU

You fear for yourself

IRIS

I wish to see him

GURU

You do see him
 Very often do you see him
 As do we all

IRIS

That is not seeing him
 When seeing him thus

GURU

You wish to have him for yourself alone
 But that is impossible
 He did not come for you
 And that belly from which you believe he came
 Must never gripe nor groan

You have understood that have you not

IRIS

I have understood

GURU

He came for us all
 You know the path he must follow

IRIS

I do

GURU

The path leading to

IRIS

Translucency

GURU

The food he eats shows him the way
 The path to translucency

IRIS

But he eats nothing
 What Marthe gives him
 As Carelli says
 Does not feed him

GURU

He eats

IRIS

He eats
Water
Sea water
I fear for him

GURU

You fear for yourself

IRIS

I wish to see him

GURU

You see him often

IRIS

He will perish
I am so afraid

GURU

Be not afraid
I am here
I am here for you
For you as for all of you

IRIS

The child is afraid
The child is hungry
The child is cold
In this vast sanctuary

GURU

This vast sanctuary
Is made for him alone

His quest for us is here

IRIS

He is here suffering for us
It makes my belly ache

GURU

He is not suffering

IRIS

How sure are you

GURU

He is not suffering
You are not suffering
I am here for you all
I love you

IRIS

I love you
I am not suffering

GURU

Be not afraid

IRIS

I am not afraid
He is not suffering

GURU

Your belly aches no more
Leave me now

Exit Iris

SCENE 6**GURU**

How difficult it is
To be the only one to know
Ever higher must I go
Ever higher

I remember everything
The years piled on my back
Are sometimes a burden to me
And I can see them all
But only now
Am I beginning to understand

I must go down no more
Never go down again
My face is fading
'Tis another vision
That is now in me

Through those eyes I see
And all must see
Through my eyes

Henceforth I carry
The years of my life
And the years of the world
This weight is no burden
It must not be a burden
I am eternity

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2
(in the sanctuary)

SCENE 1

*Inside the sanctuary is a shrine with a reliquary above the altar.
Enter Marie who walks towards the altar*

MARIE

Destroy
He wants to destroy them
Destroy
He wants to destroy everything
Destroy
I must destroy him

Hearing Marthe enter, she hides.

MARTHE

Sleep child
Sleep child an ever deeper sleep
May your dreams take you back to the beginning
To find there the bright light
That will rock you gently unto death

Sleep child sleep
An ever deeper sleep
Sleep

She removes a crib from the reliquary

MARTHE

(to the child)
How ugly you are
You cannot possibly be
My son's child
It is utterly impossible
But then your mother is a lying shrew
So jealous
So deceptive
A liar
And so envious

She begins to "feed" the child

MARTHE

How hungry you are

I understand you
 But do not drink too quickly
 If you want this to last
 The contents of this bottle
 Will not take you far
 My son is no fool
 He has indeed understood what you are
 No he will not let her have her way
 No he will not let her have her way

He will get rid of you
 Yes indeed yes indeed yes indeed

The contents of this bottle
 Will not take you far in this life

Suddenly worried

Well you have stopped drinking
 Well not hungry any more

Well come on
 Wake up

The child finally responds

Well there you are
 Come now that's nothing

*She cradles the child in her arms
 Enter the Disciples & New Disciples
 Marthe places the crib back in the reliquary*

NEW DISCIPLES

The Child the Child the Child
 The Child the Child the Child
 The Child the Child the Child
 The Child the Child the Child the Child

DISCIPLES

He cannot be seen

The two choirs crossing and singing one over the other

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see him

DISCIPLES

The Child the Child

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child

DISCIPLES

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Chosen One

DISCIPLES

The Child cannot be seen

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

NEW DISCIPLES/DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Chosen One/The Chosen One must not be seen

SCENE 2**MARTHE**

What are you doing here

4 NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We cannot see the Child the Chosen One

MARTHE

Away with you

FOUR NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

We wish to see the Child the Chosen One

The Child the Chosen One

MARTHE

Silence

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child

DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Chosen One

DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Chosen One

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child

We wish to see the Chosen One

MARTHE

Silence

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

The Child

MARTHE

Silence

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

The Chosen One

MARTHE

Silence

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

The Chosen One

MARTHE

Silence

Gradually she manages to silence the Disciples

You are forbidden from entering

No one just walks in here

This is hallowed ground

How dare you

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES*(basses)*

We want to see him

MARTHE

Away with you

Depart from this place

DISCIPLES

We want to see him

He is here

NEW DISCIPLES

He is here

DISCIPLES

Here the Child is being purified

And protects us

MARIE

So you wanted to see him

You wanted to see him

Respond

Long silence

THREE NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

Here the Child slumbers the sleep
Where all our dreams merge

MARIE

(simultaneously)

What did you want to see
Do you even know
Do you even know
Why you are here

My poor friends
Why are we here

THREE NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

(basses & tenors)

We are here to find
The truth in our life
At times it is so harsh
So harsh
It is so harsh at times
So harsh

MARIE

But what is so harsh
Why is it so harsh

DISCIPLES

Because we are alone

NEW DISCIPLES

(echoing)

Alone alone so very much alone so very much alone

A NEW DISCIPLE

(contralto)

Because we are alone

DISCIPLES

(contraltos)

Because we are alone

MARIE

So

Does being alone mean
 That nothing else counts
 Alone
 We remain alone
 Each one lonelier than the other
 And what entitlements does that bestow on us

(referring to the child)

And for him
 What entitlements does that bestow on him

NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Child

DISCIPLES

We wish to see the Chosen One

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

It is our right
 We want to see the Chosen One

MARIE

He is a child

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We want to see the Child

MARIE

He is all but dead

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

He has stretched his arms out to us

MARIE

He will perish

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

He is showing us the way

MARIE

You will all perish

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We are stretching our arms out to him

MARIE

That is where he will take you

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We offer our voices up to him

MARIE

He is leading us to death

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Death

Death

Death

Death

Death

Death

Death

*During the litany, the Disciples' behavior has become increasingly threatening to Marie.
A voice stops them.*

GURU

(entering)

Silence

Enter Marthe

How dare you enter here

Yes you know that it is forbidden

The only time you can enter

Is for the holy time of exposition

You were told that clearly weren't you

Weren't you told that clearly

THREE NEW DISCIPLES

Yes we were yes we were yes we were

GURU

So then

As you knew very well

THREE NEW DISCIPLES

Yes yes yes

GURU

Do you wish to endanger us all

THREE NEW DISCIPLES

No no

GURU

What have you brought to this isle
 Is it your own failure
 That you have brought to our isle

Is that the gift
 You brought here when you came

Whereas I have given you all
 In return you have offered nothing
 More than your miserable failure

Respond

THREE NEW DISCIPLES

No no

THREE NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

No

GURU

You are worthless do you hear
 Nothing can you demand

Have you understood
 On one side is infinity on the other nothing

A NEW DISCIPLE & DISCIPLES

(contraltos)

Infinite nothingness

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Infinite nothingness

Infinite nothingness

Infinite nothingness

Infinite nothingness

Continuing until off stage

GURU

(simultaneously)

Now leave

To Marie

You stay

To Marthe

Take them back

Exit Marthe

SCENE 3

Marie and Guru are left alone.

MARIE

The child

GURU

The child

MARIE

He is a child

GURU

He is a child

MARIE

He will die

GURU

Do you believe that

MARIE

He is all but dead

GURU

So you believe that

MARIE

We are all going to die

GURU

You are not well Marie

MARIE

That is where you are leading us

GURU

How greatly you must have suffered Marie

MARIE

(free)

You are leading us to death

GURU

There is something amiss in you

Why is your mind filled with thoughts of death

No one here will die Marie

They are not being forced to stay against their will

Do you think that all those who are here
 These people who to your eyes are troubled
 Unhappy and lonely
 Do you think that they have come here to die

You yourself were not forced to come here
 Were you

MARIE

(free)
 That's true

GURU

You came here to find succor
 You came here to find a higher life
 But you are mistaken Marie

About you mission here with us you are mistaken
 About the meaning of your life you are mistaken
 You dismiss me as your enemy and you are mistaken

For I am the only one capable of helping you
 Thou art thine own enemy

All the violence of which you accuse me
 Is in you Marie
 It is in you is it not

All the violence of which you accuse me
 Is in you and you know that full well

Is that not so now respond

I know this Marie

And therefore I shall help you
 To be released from yourself

You are the same as all others here

No one here will die

MARIE

But
 I know that this child will die

GURU

Do you think that the child is yours
 Do you even know what he desires
 You have borne no child Marie
 You know nothing of authentic life
 Nor of matter or flesh
 You know nothing of the body
 He will carry you all to the greatest heights
 He and I to the pinnacle of life
 The child is mine Marie
 I can feel his body in mine

MARIE

I have seen him
 He is feeble and ill
 He will die
 I have seen him
 He is feeble and ill
 He will die
 He is feeble and ill
 He will die

While Guru speaks next, Marie keeps on repeating "He is feeble and ill, he will die."

GURU

I am tired of having to explain things to you
 Ask Carelli.

MARIE

He is feeble and ill
 He will die
 He is feeble and ill
 He will die

GURU

He will tell you all he has learned
 Thanks to me
 So be silent now

MARIE

Stop
 You are the evil
 You bring ruin
 And destruction
 Surely you can see that you are mad

GURU

Indeed I am mad
 That term denotes those who know
 Those who reveal
 And who accomplish

There is a force being exerted on you
 Holding you back
 As if a hand were tightening around your heart
 As if a voice were speaking through your mouth
 Spurn it and release yourself
 Surrender yourself to me

He tries to take her in his arms, but she resists his embrace.

MARIE

No
 Stop
 No
 Help

GURU

Look at me
 I am the higher force
 Who will take you to the greatest heights

Look at me
 I am energy

In me flow
 All the currents of the Ocean

I am breath and purity
 I shall sow the seed for ultimate existence in you

Now struggle no more
 Abandon your sterile combat

Let freedom inside
 We were born
 To sow the seed of the world

He holds her close, about to rape her.

IRIS

*(appearing, followed by Marthe, Carelli,
 Victor and all the Disciples)*

No
 My child

SCENE 4

Marthe wrenches Marie from Guru's clasp. Iris rushes over to Guru who turns to face those who have entered.

GURU

(to the Disciples)

Shame

MARTHE

(to Marie)

Shame

IRIS

(to Guru)

Shame

GURU, MARTHE & IRIS

(each addressing a different person)

Shame on you

All three reply simultaneously

GURU

(to all)

Shame on you

You have defiled this site

You have profaned my law

MARTHE

(to Marie)

Shame on you

You hypocritical whore

You deceitful shrew

IRIS

(to Guru)

Shame on you

You have trampled my life underfoot

You have trampled life itself underfoot

VICTOR

(aside, to Guru)

You must pull yourself together

You must get your thoughts together

Marie and Iris walk towards the reliquary to open it. Marthe and Guru block the way.

GURU

(to Victor)

Leave me alone

VICTOR

(to Guru)

Something serious is happening

GURU

Leave me alone

IRIS

(to Marthe)

Let me through

He is my child

Let me through

GURU

(to Iris & Marie)

Do not go near the child

He is blessed

You cannot comprehend

VICTOR

(to Guru)

So you do not understand

IRIS

(to Marthe)

So you do not understand

GURU

(to all)

What must be accomplished

Shall be accomplished

Such was the agreement

For joining me here on this isle

Follow your destiny

MARTHE

(to Iris)

You are mistaken

You should heed him

This is not your child

NEW DISCIPLES

No no no no no no

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

No

We cannot understand

IRIS

He is my only child

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We shall be silent no longer

IRIS

My own little child

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We do not understand anything any more

IRIS

I gave birth to him

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We shall not be silent

GURU

(to the Disciples)

Silence

Hush hush

(to Carelli)

You must explain it to them

They cannot understand

VICTOR

(to Guru)

Stop while it is still time

If you do not wish to lose everything

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We do not understand

IRIS

Give my child back to me

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We shall be silent no longer

MARTHE*(simultaneously, to Iris)*

Stop bleating

IRIS

My own little child

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We do not understand anything any more

MARTHE*(simultaneously, to Iris)*

How pitiful you are

IRIS

Do not abandon me

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We shall not be silent

VICTOR*(aside, to Guru)*

If the child dies now

And we all witness the death

The shock will be so great

That they will turn against you

MARIE*(to Marthe, pointing at Guru)*

He too was once a child

Was he not

Do you remember Marthe

Do you remember

MARTHE*(to Marie)*

Stop it

MARIE

Do you remember his baby smiles

Your arms can still feel

The mark of his body

Marthe do you remember

MARTHE

Stop it

MARIE

Do you remember his childish grins and frowns
 And how he cried when hungry
 How you would rush to him
 Marthe do you remember

GURU

(to Marie)
 Stop it

MARIE

(to Guru)
 And you do you remember
 How sweet it was to be in her arms
 Soothed at last
 How sweet it was each time
 To be once again a child in her arms

GURU

Stop it

VICTOR

(aside, to Guru)
 Such a scene in front of everyone
 Must stop must stop
 Do you not understand

GURU

(to Carelli)
 Well explain it to them
 Tell them that he will not die

CARELLI

Listen dear friends
 What you must realize is
 That this child
 Now how can I get you to understand

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We wish to understand
 We are capable of understanding

CARELLI

Indeed you are indeed

So you see
 The human body is made of water
 Water an abundance of water

It is nothing but water
 But that water is impure
 Combined with substances that corrupt

I have discovered the secret of the water
 Instead of feeding corrupt matter
 If we can feed the water itself
 Then the body attains supremely sensitive life
 It joins in resonance
 With the substance of the world
 Which too is made of water

This matter once purified
 Is true life which is far removed
 From what we call life
 In our prehistoric times

The time of a new consciousness then comes
 Offering infinite possibilities

CARELLI & GURU

This purified matter
 Is universal consciousness

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

But the child
 The child
 What will become of him
 He is but a child

CARELLI

The child will be our guide
 Thanks to my discovery
 He will be the first to attain
 Universal substance
 A pure untouched consciousness was needed
 For us all to be able to attain it

GURU

And thus
 What we once thought was death
 Is life
 And what we call life
 Is merely the corruption
 Keeping us from life

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES/IRIS

But what of the child

Is our/my child suffering
'Tis only a child

GURU

No he suffers not

IRIS

But I
I do suffer
Woe is me
And I know of his suffering
For his body is my body
I have no need of your beverage
To have the purest conscious awareness of him
For his substance is mine
He is the water of my water
I must save him I know

She rushes towards the reliquary. Some try to stop her. Marie comes to help her. Chaos ensues. She finally gets hold of the reliquary and opens it. The silence is long and tense.

MARIE

He is dead

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Dead

Guru wrenches the tiny body from Iris and brandishes it on high.

GURU

The moment has come
That renders possible all other moments

NEW DISCIPLES

Dead

GURU

My friends may we rejoice
For 'tis the moment when all is accomplished
The conspiracy of fools
Of charlatans of sages
has finally been resolved

NEW DISCIPLES

Dead

GURU

My friends my companions
 I can understand you
 As I have always understood you

What you are seeing here
 Has never before been seen
 What you now know
 Has never before been known

This pure body this serene body
 Is pulsing in my hands
 You too can feel it
 For it is quivering communicating pulsating
 For life without fault
 For life without gloom
 For life without fear

You see tears shed by a weeping mother
 And you feel pity for her
 I can understand you
 I too feel pity for you Iris

A mother cannot know
 A mother does not know
 For mothers have brought us all forth
 Into this life of hardship
 Of terror and affliction

But the era of our prehistory is complete
 And now the first man in history
 Has come
 Here eternity has ended
 And has begun
 We all are here at last
 Ready to step through the doorway of the authentic world

GURU

My friends my companions
 Say not that this child is dead
 It is but a foolish delusion
 The child is life itself
 Our translucency to come
 The destiny to which I have brought you
 Henceforth we are
 The human race
 We are the human race

We are the human race

VICTOR

(hesitantly at first)

We are the human race

CARELLI

(joining in)

We are the human race

GURU, VICTOR & CARELLI

We are the human race

NEW DISCIPLES

We are the human race

DISCIPLES

We are the human race

GURU, VICTOR & CARELLI

Our advent is now

Some Disciples (contraltos) join in.

Thus was our destiny

To attain this goal

GURU, VICTOR, CARELLI

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We have finally reached the aurora of infinity

VICTOR

(with sopranos and contraltos)

We are the last

CARELLI

(with tenors and basses)

We are the first

GURU, VICTOR, CARELLI,

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Through us the unaccomplished is now accomplished

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

(basses)

Mmmm

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3
(an island coast)

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE*Followed by***SCENE 1***Iris, alone, on the cliffs***IRIS**

I let my child die
 I must utter this and proclaim it
 Again and again
 I let him die
 I let him die

I am suffering
 From a disease more cruel than unhappiness

It was I who killed him
 I let him die
 I let my child die

I must shout it out and shout it out again
 I let my child die
 I have lost everything
 How I suffer

Dawn will soon break
 A new day like any other
 A day so different so unique
 So dreadfully unique

Something inside me is crying out
 I must shout it out and shout it out again
 I let my child die

I made you an orphan
 In life
 Just as in death you have made me
 An orphan
 Ah how I suffer

The sea is deaf as we cry out
 As I was deaf to my child crying out

The sea with its relentless roar
 Muffles all cries

As I did
When my child cried out

No one can wake the sea from her slumber
But what must be done
Is to embark on that slumber
And roar with her
To be bound up in her relentless tumult
Reduced to nothing more than a roar
The universal roaring of things
The universal roaring of things

My aspiration is
To be the child of my child
As I delivered him to death
May his death deliver me to mine
Ah how I suffer

In the arms of the sea
My son I shall cradle thee
In the arms of the sea
My son I shall cradle thee

We shall my love
Be united forever
In the ebb and flow of sea and death

I shall cradle thee

Your tiny hands in mine
I shall cling to them
And the name I could never give
I shall give to thee

I let my love die
I must utter this and proclaim it
Again and again
I let you die
I let you die
In death I shall become a mother

She hurls herself from the cliff.

SCENE 2

Enter the Disciples

DISCIPLES

(tenors & basses)

Everywhere on this earthly ground
All vermin do abound

NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

(contraltos)

It was our destiny

DISCIPLES

(basses)

Here at last on this shore

NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

(all)

It was our destiny
To achieve this goal

DISCIPLES

(basses)

Translucency is engulfing us

NEW DISCIPLES & DISCIPLES

(all)

We have reached the infinite dawn at last

Guru et Carelli have been watching the Disciples as they make ready.

GURU

Faster
Tell them to go faster

DISCIPLES

We shall be the first

CARELLI

Yes indeed yes
But are you certain

GURU

Certain
You are asking me if I am certain
Me

CARELLI

No no

DISCIPLES

We are the last ones

GURU

Tell them to go faster

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Day has broken greeting us with a song of light

We are ready

To fulfill the final agreement

CARELLI

Faster

GURU

Louder

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

May we all see together

What eternal cradle that abyss will be for us

CARELLI

Louder

GURU

Faster

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

We are departing a life of doubt and gloom

For another both perpetual and transcendent

With neither zenith nor nadir

We stand at the gates of the authentic world

No anguish or fear do we feel

Confronting this foul flesh

GURU

You have waited

You have had faith in me

Now the day has come

For your reward

Do you have even a remote idea

Of the happiness in store

Happiness so intense

Never before experienced

Have you earned it
 Answer me
 Do you deserve it

NEW DISCIPLES

Yes no yes no yes no

DISCIPLES

(a continuous clamor)

Yes no

GURU

Silence

I shall tell you now
 Many of you are not deserving
 Many of you
 In the depths of your hearts
 Are still in the grips of
 Vice and deception

I as your guide
 Your father and your brother
 I who love you all
 Yes all more than myself
 Not only the purest of the pure amongst you
 But also those who practice vice and deception

(Pointing to a Disciple)

You there looking in every direction
 You are bad

(Pointing to a Disciple)

And you fickle female
 Who will not renounce the flesh

(Pointing to a number of Disciples in turn)

And you and you and you and you

Yes despite the vice and deception
 Still prevailing in you
 I have offered you the opportunity promised

For the incommensurable future
And the incommensurable sea
Will soon
Embrace you in joy

You have seen the child
You saw peace on his face
When he finally attained the translucency
Of authentic life

Rejoice for at last you will experience it
You too just as he did
Will experience that life

SCENE 3**MARTHE***(interrupting him as she enters)*

That death

Yes death

He has not deceived you about that

He has never concealed

What he calls authentic life

What humans since time immemorial have called

Death

That authentic life

Is indeed death

The peace seen on the child's face

Was the peace of death

Have you not understood

GURU

Silence you crazed hag

MARTHE*(to Guru)*

You are still my son

I cannot and shall not forget it

And in the name of the love I bear for you

I beg you to stop this folly

Before it is too late

Are not the death of your child

And the death of your mother

Enough for you

GURU

Silence

MARTHE

No I shall not be silenced

I followed you here as did all the others

That I must admit

Out of love I became your accomplice

And out of love I must now

Speak no longer able to remain silent

GURU

She is the one isn't she

She is the one who turned you away from me
And from the truth I bring

To you all I say heed her not
She is the viper the whore
Who refuses to sing
And speaks through her mouth

MARTHE

No she is not
Listen to me all of you
I sing and am singing for you
To take you away from this folly
Where he is leading you

GURU

(to Carelli)
Silence her

MARTHE

(to Carelli)
And you quack and impostor do not move

(to Guru)

If you wish to silence me
You will have to do it yourself
If you dare

(to the Disciples)

Wake up
Before it is too late
Wake from this evil dream
He has taken everything from you and now life

GURU

(to Marthe)
Mother I beseech you
Stop

MARTHE

Do you not see
That my son is a madman

Guru rushes over and grabs his mother by the throat, strangling her.

You are mad my poor child

With difficulty

You are mad

Dying

You are mad

GURU

I have done this for you

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Oh Guru Guru

GURU

(to Carelli)

Present my instructions to them

SCENE 4**CARELLI**

You have all been given a flask of special water
This is how your journey will be
On the path to translucency
One after the other you will drink
The contents of your flasks

Little by little you will feel release
From material clutches

You will feel your body
Become ever so light
So as to enter into universal substance

GURU

(to Carelli)

Drink first and show them the way

So you are reluctant
Am I or are you
The cause of your misgivings
This concoction is your discovery
Is it not

CARELLI

(quietly, to Guru)

But that was not the plan

GURU

(to the Disciples)

He tells me that he is not sure of deserving the honor
Of being the first to go

But I say that he has earned that right
For it is thanks to his brilliance
That I can promise you salvation
And pure translucency
Which will allow you to quit
This preposterous and corruptible life

(to Carelli)

And I shall grant you
An even greater honor
For I myself shall serve you
The precious liquid

Marie rushes forward with a number of Disciples, thrusting Victor to the front, taking the pressure off Carelli.

MARIE

Here he is Guru
Here is your most loyal Disciple

Victor is clutching a small suitcase

We caught him
On the other side of the island
Launching a boat

GURU

Stop the traitor

A number of Disciples grab Victor. As they wrench the case from him, it bursts open, spilling a huge amount of money onto the ground.

MARIE

You can see that he has not
Lost his grasp on what is real

Here is the entire treasure of your community

(pointing it out to Guru)

All the money
He has stolen from you
Is here

GURU

May I congratulate you
Thank-you Marie
I knew that you would end up understanding
You have stopped the traitor from fleeing

(To the Disciples)

Friends and brethren
Thank her
Thank Marie our sister
The strongest one here amongst us
Embrace her heart to heart

I say unto you that of all of us here
The most worthy of love
Is you Marie

MARIE

(being swept along by the Disciples)

Leave me alone

DISCIPLES

We thank you Marie

MARIE

Listen to me

GURU

Of all of us here you are

The most worthy of love

DISCIPLES

Marie

Marie

MARIE

Leave me alone

DISCIPLES

We thank you

GURU

On this day of translucency

You Marie have shown us the way

(pointing to Victor)

He over there is not worthy

To make the journey with us

He must die like a dog

Like a rabid dog

MARIE

No

Listen instead to what he has to say

GURU

Indeed she is right

Let us listen to what he has to say

No doubt it is very interesting

Release him

The Disciples release Victor.

Well
We are listening

Victor does not utter a word.

Well then

DISCIPLES

We are waiting

GURU

Well then

DISCIPLES

We are listening

VICTOR

(gradually gaining confidence)

He is deceiving you
He has been lying since the beginning
Beguiled by the figments of his imagination
You have given him everything
Money freedom
Even your home
Your mind
Your powers of discrimination
Your judgment

Carelli helped him
Concoct his preposterous theories
Simply to dominate you
And have his power prevail

Do you not realize
That you no longer see or distinguish
Good or evil

GURU

'Tis a fascinating tale
And you Victor what role did you play

VICTOR

Me
I was your accomplice

GURU

My accomplice

VICTOR*(to the Disciples)*

Yes I shall tell you all the tale
 Yes I was his partner

Through sheer greed
 I allowed him to exploit you
 But never did I think that he was prepared
 To lead you to death

Now I know that he is mad
 Quite simply

*On the word "mad" the Disciples start up a continuous hissing.***VICTOR**

Deliver yourselves from him
 Do not drink what he would have you drink

He is nothing but a swindler
 As I was too
 I was a swindler
 I went along with him

But now he is a madman
 And I shall follow no longer

*(The hissing stops.)***GURU**

But the money
 You did not forget to take that
 The money
 Which I allegedly stole from them
 You did not forget the money
 The cash the cash

DISCIPLES

The cash

GURU

Like a dog he must die
 Like a rabid dog

*The hissing resumes.**The Disciples walk over to Victor and put him to death.*

SCENE 5**MARIE**

They are mad
They are as mad as you are

GURU

No we are not mad
But what is madness

I have already told you
In this degenerate world
One simply needs to tell the truth
To be called mad

I have offered them
Their greatest aspiration in the world
They and I shall experience
All together truth

Come with us
Come with me

Marie I love you

MARIE

How sorry I feel for you
How sorry I feel for you

GURU

(turning away from Marie, to Carelli)

Now
They must drink
And you will be first
Show them

Carelli does not move. Guru rushes at him and forces him to drink the contents of a flask.

No sooner has Carelli swallowed it than he collapses. Guru forces him to his feet.

GURU

So
What do you see
What do you feel

CARELLI*(with difficulty)*

Pain

Dreadful pain

GURU*(whispering)*

Not that

The truth tell the truth

CARELLI

I see

The truth

*Guru pushes him over the precipice.***GURU***(to the Disciples)*

Did you hear

The truth he said

He said the truth

DISCIPLES

The truth he said

He saw the truth

GURU

Go ahead now

Drink

MARIE

No stop

Listen to me

GURU

Drink drink

MARIE

No wait

GURU

Drink drink

MARIE

I beseech you

GURU

Drink

MARIE

You will not drink
 You do not wish to
 It is he who wishes you to

GURU

Are you certain about what you have said
 Very well
 You can speak to them

(to the Disciples)

My friends my companions
 I ask you to listen to this woman

Scene 6**MARIE**

I know that you have been here a long time
 That you have left behind
 Many things to follow this man
 I know that you have found in him
 Meaning where once there was none
 Today he is asking you to take the step
 Across the final threshold which is
 So he has said
 The one that justifies all steps
 Which you have already taken

I know all this
 And I also know
 That you are sincere

But I beg of you
 Open your eyes
 All this is mere delusion
 He has brought you here to this isle
 Which is nothing but a simple island
 Just a gap in the sea
 And in yourselves

No there is no dual world
 There is but one
 The one you have been promised does not exist
 The journey is mere delusion

Look at yourselves at one another

You are simply men and women
 Who have endured the suffering and disappointment of life
 As we all have

I too came here
 With my suffering and the same disappointment

But to find meaning
 Where there is none
 Unlike you it is life
 This one and only life
 Which I have chosen
 And which I am asking you to choose

(to Guru)

And you perhaps the most miserable
 Of us all here
 And therefore the most dangerous
 Renounce
 Renounce now
 Neither prophet nor guide are you
 Neither master
 Nor even a man
 You are a child

You killed your son your wife your mother
 Your two most faithful friends are dead
 It is time to put an end to this foolish dream

(to the Disciples)

You are free
 Please believe me
 You are free

Scene 7

NEW DISCIPLE

(tenor)

I
 I shall drink the mixture
 And through death attain
 Universal substance

TWO NEW DISCIPLES

I will have no more of this life
 So sorrowful and corruptible
 Now shall I drink the mixture

The Disciples begin to drink, emptying their flasks one after the other.

THREE NEW DISCIPLES

(soprano, mezzo & contralto)

We shall drink the mixture
And through death attain
Universal substance

GURU

(simultaneously)

They are drinking
They are all drinking
Look Marie they are drinking

NEW DISCIPLES

We reject this life
So sorrowful and corruptible
We wish to attain
Translucency

GURU

(simultaneously)

They have loved me they have believed in me
They trust me
Their love is outstanding

DISCIPLES

We shall drink the mixture
And through death attain
Universal substance

GURU

(simultaneously)

Yes drink brethren
My friends my companions
I love you

While the Disciples are singing and drinking, the first ones to drink start collapsing one after the other, moaning.

NEW DISCIPLES

(simultaneously with Disciples & Guru)

Ah such pain
It is burning
Such pain

GURU*(to new Disciples)*

No it is not burning
 Be patient
 You will see the light
 Be strong

Gradually the enthusiastic singing of the Disciples who have not yet emptied their flasks is replaced by the moaning and groaning of those who have.

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES*(verses intermingled)*

We shall all drink the mixture
 Ah such pain
 The burning
 Such unbearable pain

GURU*(at the same time as the Disciples complaining)*

No it is not
 Stop
 Be worthy of your destiny
 Of our destiny
 Be worthy of me

DISCIPLES & NEW DISCIPLES

Such unbearable pain

A NEW DISCIPLE*(mezzo)*

You deceived us

A NEW DISCIPLE*(tenor)*

And why are you not drinking

GURU*(in the midst of the moaning and groaning)*

Silence
 Stop that noise
 You are worthless
 What right do you have to moan
 Open your eyes
 You are simply ignorant
 You are fools
 Stand up straight and face eternity
 Have you not understood

That the firmament and sea are watching you
 That you are accomplishing the destiny
 Of the entire human race

Have you understood nothing
 Silence you herd of swine
 You shameful pack of blind beasts
 Deaf beasts
 I as your guide order you to do so
 I as your god
 I order you to be silent

*Then, one after the other, they fall silent, as one after the other
 they die.*

Guru walks back to Marie

Scene 8

Did you see that
 They have gone
 By now they are there
 In the authentic land
 'Tis our turn now
 Our turn to follow them

He hands her a flask

Yes you too will drink

MARIE

You drink first
 Then I shall drink
 I wish to see you also
 Embarking on the journey

GURU

Yes someone must see me
 You must watch me
 Look at me

MARIE

I am watching you
 Fear nothing
 I am watching you

GURU

I shall drink first

Then you

MARIE

You first

Then me

He drinks.

GURU

(Stricken with the same pain as the others who drank earlier)

Ah

Such burning

Marie such pain

MARIE

No it is not burning

I am watching you

And eternity too is watching you

GURU

Do not leave me Marie

Such dreadful pain

MARIE

No it is happiness

And authentic life

I am watching you

And you too must watch

Open your eyes

Do you see the truth

GURU

The truth

Yes I can see the truth

He stumbles over to the edge of the cliff and falls over the precipice.

Marie is left alone, surrounded by bodies, holding the flask which Guru gave her.

She walks over to the edge of the cliff and hurls it as far as she can.

The music stops. The only sound heard is a never-ending scream uttered by Marie.

END OF GURU