Editor’s Notes for “Lamentaciones Breves del Viernes Santo”

This is Eslava’s setting for the three lamentations utilized for Holy (Good) Friday by the Roman Catholic church. I had originally transcribed this work in 2020 but having learned much about MuseScore and transcriptions during the past two years, I have re-edited it accordingly.

This concludes a series of nine pieces for Holy Week. Because these lamentations are much shorter in duration and somewhat less elaborate than those for Holy Wednesday and Thursday (or perhaps to give the musicians and choristers somewhat of a break after those more lengthy programs), Eslava combined them in the single handwritten manuscript that was my source for this transcription. Unlike the Lamentations for Wednesday and Thursday, published in 1861, to the best of my knowledge the Friday Lamentations were never formally published.

The source manuscript, which consisted of the various instrumental and vocal parts, was missing the final page of the first violin section (31 measures!). Rather than leave that blank, I chose to “channel” Eslava and compose my own version. This is reflected by red notes in the score. If I ever find the missing page(s), I will revise accordingly.

The Book of Lamentations in the Bible forms part of the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Holy Week (the week preceding Easter Sunday), signifying the important themes of lament, atonement, and repentance that underlay the Paschal festivities. The Lamentations consist of three sets of three lectures, for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Over time, the tradition moved from morning matins to the night before, so that in some cases the Lamentations are named for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Such is the case for Eslava’s Lamentations.

As used in the Catholic liturgy, the text comes from the Latin Vulgate Bible, which retains a trace of the original arrangement of the poetry with a Hebrew letter at the beginning of each verse, which is prominently reflected in Eslava’s work. Each lecture is ended with the call: “Jerusalem convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum” (“Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God”), which actually comes from Hosea 14:1. This too is reflected in Eslava’s pieces.

<p>| FIRST LAMENTATION FOR HOLY FRIDAY (LAMENTATIONS 3: 22-23,25-30) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <strong>LATIN LYRICS</strong>                | <strong>ENGLISH TRANSLATION (NRSV)</strong>  |
| De Lamentatione Jeremiae Prophetae | From the Lamentation of Jeremiah the Prophet |
| 22 [Heth.] Misericordiae Domini, quia non sumus consumpti; quia non defecerunt miserations ejus. | 22 (Heth:) The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. |
| 23 [Heth.] Novi diluculo, multa est fides tua. | 23 (Heth:) They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. |
| 25 [Teth.] Bonus est Dominus sperantibus in eum, animae quaerenti illum. | 25 (Teth:) The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. |
| 26 [Teth.] Bonum est praestolari cum silentio salutare Dei. | 26 (Teth:) It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>Hebrew Text</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 [Teth.]</td>
<td>Bonum est viro cum portaverit jugum ab adolescentia sua.</td>
<td>It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 [Jod.]</td>
<td>Sedebit solitarius, et tacebit, quia levavit super se.</td>
<td>to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 [Jod.]</td>
<td>Ponet in pulvere os suum, si forte sit spes.</td>
<td>to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 [Jod.]</td>
<td>Dabit percutienti se maxillam: saturabitur opprobriis.</td>
<td>to give one’s cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jerusalem convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.</td>
<td>Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.</td>
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**SECOND LAMENTATION FOR HOLY FRIDAY (LAMENTATIONS 4: 1-6)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 [Aleph.]</td>
<td>Quomodo obscuratum est aurum, mutatus est color optimus! dispersi sunt lapides sanctuarii in capite omnium platearum!</td>
<td>How the gold has grown dim, how the pure gold is changed! The sacred stones lie scattered at the head of every street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 [Beth.]</td>
<td>Filii Sion inclyti, et amicti auro primo: quomodo reputati sunt in vasa testea, opus manuum figuli!</td>
<td>The precious children of Zion, worth their weight in fine gold—they are reckoned as earthen pots, the work of a potter’s hands!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 [Ghimel.]</td>
<td>Sed et lamiae nudaverunt mammam, lactaverunt catulos suos: filia populi mei crudelis quasi struthio in deserto.</td>
<td>Even the jackals offer the breast and nurse their young, but my people has become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 [Daleth.]</td>
<td>Adhaesit lingua lactentis ad palatum ejus in siti; parvuli petierunt panem, et non erat qui frangeret eis.</td>
<td>The tongue of the infant sticks to the roof of its mouth for thirst; the children beg for food, but no one gives them anything.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 [He.]</td>
<td>Qui vescebantur voluptuose, interierunt in viis; qui nutriebantur in croceis, amplexati sunt stercora.</td>
<td>Those who feasted on delicacies perish in the streets; those who were brought up in purple cling to ash heaps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 [Vau.]</td>
<td>Et major effecta est iniquitas filiae populi mei peccato Sodomorum, quae subversa est in momento, et non cepurunt in ea manus.</td>
<td>For the chastisement of my people has been greater than the punishment of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment, though no hand was laid on it.</td>
</tr>
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**THIRD LAMENTATION FOR HOLY FRIDAY (LAMENTATIONS 5:1-11)**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Recordare, Domine, quid acciderit nobis; intuere et respice opprobrium nostrum.</td>
<td>Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Haereditas nostra versa est ad alienos, domus nostrae ad extraneos.</td>
<td>Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to aliens.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Pupilli facti sumus absque patre, matres nostrae quasi viduae.</td>
<td>We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Aquam nostram pecunia bibimus; ligna nostra pretio comparavimus.</td>
<td>We must pay for the water we drink; the wood we get must be bought.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Cervicibus nostris minabamur, lassis non dabatur requies.</td>
<td>With a yoke on our necks we are hard driven; we are weary, we are given no rest.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line</td>
<td>Latin Text</td>
<td>English Translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>AEgypto dedimus manum et Assyriis, ut saturaremur pane.</td>
<td>We have made a pact with Egypt and Assyria, to get enough bread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Patres nostri peccaverunt, et non sunt: et nos iniquitates eorum portavimus.</td>
<td>Our ancestors sinned; they are no more, and we bear their iniquities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Servi dominati sunt nostri: non fuit qui redimeret de manu eorum.</td>
<td>Slaves rule over us; there is no one to deliver us from their hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>In animabus nostris afferebamus panem nobis, a facie gladii in deserto.</td>
<td>We get our bread at the peril of our lives, because of the sword in the wilderness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pellis nostra quasi clibanus exusta est, a facie tempestatum famis.</td>
<td>Our skin is black as an oven from the scorching heat of famine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mulieres in Sion humiliaverunt, et virgines in civitatibus Juda.</td>
<td>Women are raped in Zion, virgins in the towns of Judah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jerusalem convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.</td>
<td>Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.</td>
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