Palliative and Supportive Care

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On love: *Variations on Dante & Cassidy*

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Poetry

The author regards music as the art that binds all arts. As such, he invites readers to listen to the aria *Vide Cor Meum*, whose libretto was written by Patrick Cassidy and whose music was composed by Hans Zimmer. The aria is adapted from Dante's first sonnet, *A ciascun'alma presa e gentil core*, in *La Vita Nuova*.

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While watching you go away,
I lay down and wept, not prayed,
for I believe in no gods anymore
but ourselves.

E pensando di lei
Mi sopragiunse un soave sonno

Thinking of you,
a gentle sleep overtook me,
and with it a nightmare grabbed me,
filled with memories,
that wound as they are only memories,
the ghost of your perfume,
I cannot grasp.

Ego dominus tuus
Am I?

Vide cor tuum
"Look upon your heart,"
you say, even as you leave.

E d'esto cor ardendo
In the hand of Love,
my heart it burns,
the sound of sparks in the air …

Cor tuum
Umilmente pascea
yes, my heart …
broken, shattered,
devoured from within.

Appresso gir lo ne vedea piangendo
I weep.
I descend into the deepest chamber
of my sorrow.
Without you,
I remain where you left me.
My body becomes the earth
beneath its own weight.

La letizia si convertia in amarissimo pianto
Joy turns
into the bitterest tears.

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Io sono in pace

Are you? …

Cor meum
My heart,
my fallen, burning heart.

Io sono in pace

I know you are …

Vide cor meum
Please turn back
and look upon my heart once more
as your silhouette fades.

—

Historia nostra
in pectore manet

Reference

Cassidy P (2001) Vide Cor Meum. Libretto Based on Dante Alighieri's *La Vita Nuova*.

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