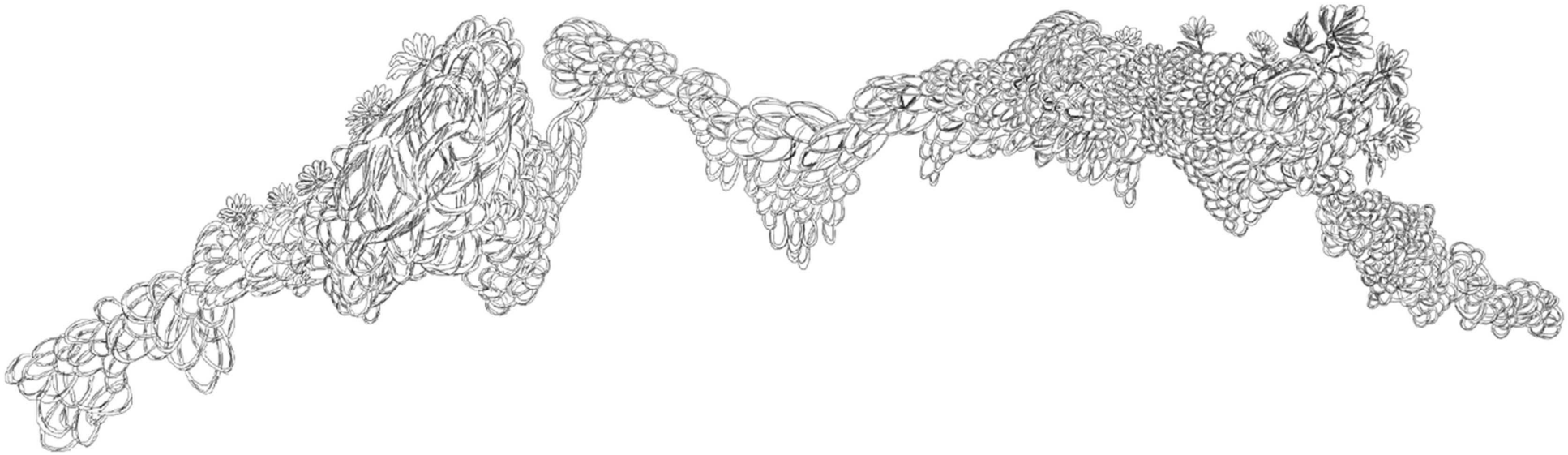


LIBERATION THROUGH HEARING

DGANIT ELYAKIM & SHAHAR SARIG



Level 1 - External Signs Of Death, part I, for choir

If the fingernails and toenails become bloodless or lustreless,
This indicates death after nine months, less half a day.
If the cornea of the eyes begins to cloud over,
This indicates death after five months.
If the hair on the nape of the neck grows upwards,
This indicates death after three months.
If one urinates, defecates, and sneezes simultaneously,
This too is an indication of death.
If one's urine falls into two forks,
If one's muscles become utterly loose and flabby,
If feces are excepted and semen ejaculated simultaneously,
If one's body odour changes dramatically,
If one's conduct changes dramatically,
If one blushes little and one's complexion becomes pallid,
If the tone of one's voice becomes thin,
and one's eyes become sunken,
If the space above the bridge of the nose becomes exfoliated,
If the eyes do not clearly perceive forms,
Or else, if they perceive incorrectly,
If the ears do not hear,
Or else, hear incorrectly,
If the nose does not smell,
Or else, smells incorrectly,
If the tongue does not taste,
Or else, tastes incorrectly,
If the point between the eyebrows is effaced,
Or evaporation ceased from the crown of the head,
These signs may also indicate that
One has fallen into the hands of the Lord of Death.

Level 2 - The Intermediate State, for percussion and narrator

Now the time has come for you to seek the way.
Just as your breath stops,
A clear light will dawn.

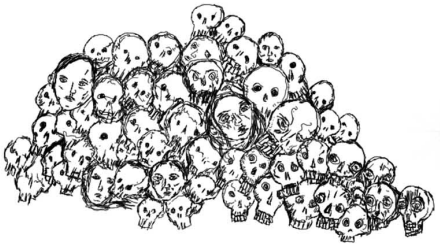
Your outer breath stops
And you experience reality
Stark
And void-like space.

Your immaculate naked awareness
Is dawning clear
And void
Without a horizon, without a center.

At that instant, you yourself,
Must recognize it as yourself.
You must stay with that experience.

Cutscene 1 - for harpsichords and narrator

If —
It is feared that,
The deceased has not recognized the first inner radiance,
The so-called second inner radiance
Will arise.
When this occurs,
The Consciousness,
Suddenly becomes awake,
And lucid.
At this point,
The consciousness emerges fro
And one may not know
Whether or not,
He,
Or she,
Has died.



Level 3 - The Intermediate State, for recorders and narrator

Alas,
Now, as the intermediate state of reality arises before me,
Renouncing the merest thought of awe,
Terror and fear,
I will recognize all that to be awareness,
Manifesting naturally of itself.
Knowing such sounds, lights, and rays
To be visionary pneumonia
Of the intermediate state.
Go forward, reciting these words...



Cutscene 2 - for harpsichords and narrator

If, however,
After receiving this introduction,
As the result of negative obstruction
And aversion,
The deceased are nonetheless
Overawed by the lights and rays,
And turn away,
And if,
They remain bewildered,
Then, on the second day,
An assembly of deities will come to escort them
And, at the same time,
The negative past actions which are conductive to a rebirth in hell realms,
Will – also – emerge.

Level 4 - External Signs Of Death, part II, for choir

If one cannot see the point of the nose with the eyes,
One may die after five months.
If one cannot see the tip of one's own tongue,
One may die after three days even if one is not sick.
If one gazes at the surface of a clear mirror, one cannot see with one's left eye,
One may die after seven months.
It has also been said that the number of days indicated might not necessarily be defined.
Furthermore, it is said that if one leaves no footprints in soft earth,
This may indicate death,
And if one becomes weaker after having eaten nutritious food,
And if one's shadow changes its shape unnaturally,
This too may indicate death.
When lice and nits suddenly gather or leave,
This may indicate death.
If a former temperament, peaceful or wrathful, is reserved,
And a former pattern of behaviour, good or bad, changes,
These too are signs indicative of a person's death.
If one's image reflected in water or in a mirror, lacks a head or limbs,
This too may be a sign of death.
If there is a retraction of the penis and protrusion of the testicles, or vice versa,
If a previously unheard pulmonary wheezing sound occurs,
And if one cannot sense the smell of a dying butter lamp,
These are said to be signs of that one will certainly die imminently.
In addition to such signs, the following may also occur:
A turbid confusion and darkening of normal consciousness,
A loss of one's former appetite,
Embarrassment and incapacity in undertaking virtuous acts,
An urge to leave, and in inability to stay in one place,
Discomfort in bed and inability to fall asleep,
Recurring amnesia and disorientation,
Recurring memories of one's former kindred,
And the desire to be with them again,
Death wishes and the desire to commit suicide,

Level 5 - The Intermediate State, for percussion and narrator

Listen without distraction.
That which is called death has now arrived.
Do not be attached and do not cling
However terrifying the appearances of the intermediate state of reality might be,
Go forward, remembering these words...

Cutscene 3 - for harpsichords and narrator

Yet,
even after being given this introduction,
there are some whose positive opportunities have been exhausted by,
great negativity,
who,
even now,
will not have accepted this introduction.
These individuals will have turned away in fear
for both the sounds and the luminosities
and become agitated by desire and negative obscuration.
So, on the fourth day,
a transcendent assembly of deities
will come down to escort them
and,
at the same time,
the light path indicative of the realm of the anguished spirits,
which is generated by desire and miserliness
will emerge.



Level 6 - The Intermidiate State, for bass clarinet

As a roam in the cyclic existence
driven by deep-seated habitual tendencies,
may the divine assembly of awareness holders attend to me
and lead me on the path, with great love.

May the assembly of spiritual heroes and awareness holders
draw me forward,
And support me from behind

And, thus encircled,
may I be rescued
from the fearsome passageway of the intermediate state,
and be escorted to the sacred pure realm of the sky-farers

Cutscene 4 - for harpsichords and narrator

Yet,
even after being given this introduction,
there are some whose positive opportunities have been exhausted by,
great negativity,
who,
even now,
will not have accepted this introduction.
These individuals will have turned away in fear
for both the sounds and the luminosities
and become agitated by desire and negative obscuration.

So, on the fourth day,
a transcendent assembly of deities
will come down to escort them
and,
at the same time,
the light path indicative of the realm of the anguished spirits,
which is generated by desire and miserliness
will emerge.



Level 7 - External Signs Of Death, part III, for choir

If one feels continuously angry and short-tempered,
If one feels fearful, wherever one may be,
If one's positive perspective, devotion, and similar qualities ebb away,
If one feels aversion towards saintly beings,
If one feels depressed, whenever one maybe,
and constantly wishes to go elsewhere,
If one wishes to be separated from sympathetic Buddhist companions,
If one delights in the social diversions,
and destructive activities of cyclic existence,
Or,
If one feels excessive attachment, aversion, pride, or envy,
These may all indicate that
One has fallen into the hands of the Lord of Death.

The End

Music by: Dganit Elyakim
Visual: Shahar Sarig

Cutscenes (puppets and stop motion films):
Omer Gal

Percussion: Tomer Galili

Recorders: Inbar Solomon

Bass Clarinet: Yoni Silver

Voices:
Michal Oppenheim
Anat Pick
Guy Harries

Interactive and game developer:
Yotam Noy

Libretto:
Shahar Sarig and Dganit Elyakim
Based on the Bardo Thodol

Sound Director:
Ronald Boersen

