

PAGANINI'S SPEECH

- ~~PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM THE VIOLINIST~~
~~NICOLA PAGANINI AND MY LIFE IS A NIGHTMARE.~~
THERE ARE 9 DOORWAYS TO THE MIND AND I HAVE OPENED THEM ALL. MY LIFE BEFORE YOUR EYES IS SLOWLY FILING WITH POISON, YET OTHERS INSIST ON CONSUMING MY SOUL LIKE A RARE BRANDY. IF YOU ONLY KNEW, IF YOU ONLY KNEW,
- ~~YOUR MOUTHS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN GOD'S IMAGE,~~
~~YOUR EARS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED FOR GOD'S USE...~~ INDULGE US A LITTLE. BE KINDLY, PITY ME FOREVER FIGHTING THE IMPOSSIBLE.
- ~~OR GO AHEAD THEN LAUGH, HAVE A GOOD LAUGH ON ME~~
~~BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I DARE NOT TELL YOU.~~
~~SO MANY THINGS NOT A LIVING SOUL SHOULD HAVE TO HEAR.~~
HAVE MERCY.
- I ENTERED THIS GAME UNDER AN UNFAVOURABLE SIGN AND HAVE PROVED THE PLANETS WRONG. (I HAVE A NEED NOT TO ENCOUNTER MYSELF ANYMORE AND TO FORGET EVERYTHING TO REMAIN IN UTTER ISOLATION. I KNOW THE WHOLE WORLD' STEP BY STEP DOWN TO THE LAST.
- BUT THIS DELIRIUM IS A DISEASE OF THE NIGHT. I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF UN-NATURAL ACTS AND I MUST DEFEND MYSELF. THERE IS NO EASY ROAD TO GET WHERE YOU WANT TO GO MY FRIENDS AND I HAVE SCRAVED ELEVATIONS WHERE NO MAN HAS EVER BEEN, SO LIFE FOR ME HAS BEEN BESET WITH DIFFICULTIES.
- WHY DO I BOTHER EXPLAINING MYSELF LIKE THIS WHEN I KNOW NO OTHER HUMAN COULD POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND?
- IF IT WERE A HABIT OF MINE TO KEEP A DIARY, IF I COLLECTED PRESS NOTICES... OR IF I CARRIED ABOUT WITH ME ONLY A FRACTION OF THE NUMEROUS LETTERS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MORE OR LESS GOOD FRIENDS, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU OF MY YOUTH & CAREER... BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE AT PRESENT TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS SO AS TO REPLY ADEQUATELY... TO THE MOST NECESSARY QUESTIONS OF A BIOGRAPHER?
- IT SNOWED THIS MORNING, THERE WAS ICE ON THE LAKE FOR ME THIS IS THE EIGHTH MONTH OF WINTER. ALL THAT'S LACKING IS AN EARTHQUAKE & MAY GOD SEND IT. I HAVE TO TAKE MY MEDICINE EVERY DAY - IT TAKES AT LEAST 5 SPOONFULS OF PURGATIVE... TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF EVACUATIONS THIS EVENING, HOWEVER I DON'T FEEL LIKE TAKING THE 2ND DOSE AS I'M TOO DOWN FROM THE 1ST ONE THIS MORNING
- MY VIOLIN IS STILL A LITTLE OUT OF HUMOUR WITH ME.

PAGANINI'S SPEECH.

(2)

- DOCTORS IN PARIS ARE NO GOOD & I AM TORMENTED EVERY NIGHT BY PAINS IN MY THIGHS & LEGS, BY FEVER AND COUGHING. I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR 12 DAYS BUT I HAVE COMPOSED 3 BIG SONATAS, ONE OF WHICH IS WORTHY OF A QUEEN. ~~OH THE SLINGS & ARROWS OF OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE~~
- I PLAY MORE MORE MUSIC AT MY CONCERTS THAN IS THE CASE WITH MANY OTHER ARTISTS, BUT I DO SO SO WITH PLEASURE AND WOULD DO EVEN MORE, WERE IT NOT TO IMPOSE TOO GREAT A STRAIN UPON MY PHYSICAL POWERS. I BELIEVE I HAVE, LIKE MUTIUS SCAEVOLA, CONQUERED PAIN. THIS MORNING I INJURED THE 3RD FINGER OF MY LEFT HAND CUTTING SOME CHEESE, & EXCEPT FOR A SLIGHT THROBBING I CAN BARELY FEEL IT.
- WHAT PAINS ME MORE ARE THE RIDICULOUS REPORTS WHICH CIRCULATE. NO ONE ASKS IF YOU HAVE HEARD PAGANINI, BUT HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? TO BE HONEST, I REGRET THE GENERAL OPINION AMONG ALL THE CLASSES THAT I AM IN COLLUSION WITH THE DEVIL. THE NEWSPAPERS ~~AND~~ TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT MY OUTWARD APPEARANCE. I WANT TO MAINTAIN MY OWN INDIVIDUALITY AND NO ONE CAN BLAME ME FOR THIS, SINCE IT SEEMS TO SATISFY THE PUBLIC. ~~AND WHAT OF POPULARITY? BUT AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POWERS & POPULARITY, OLD HERRING MEYER, ANNOUNCED A FOUR-YEAR RETIREMENT FROM PERFORMANCE TO BECOME "THE PAGANINI OF THE FUTURE"~~
- MY DETRACTORS TELL ALL THEIR FRIENDS (IF THEY HAVE ANY) VICIOUS LIES & RUMOURS, AND THEN THEY REST EACH NIGHT, ASSURED IN THEIR IGNORANCE.
- THERE ARE THOSE WHO CONSIDER ME UNSTABLE - THE FOOLS ARE NOT AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF MY ART. MY CRITICS ARE DEAFER THAN A CHILD'S MIND. I AM NO MERE JUGGLER OF NOTES. ~~DID THEY NOT HAVE ANYTHING ELSE INSIDE THEIR MOUTH?~~
- I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO THEM. WHERE ARE YOU, YOU CRACKED CRYSTAL DOGS, FLAPPING LIKE LAUNDRY WHIPPING IN THE WIND, YOU UPROOTED TREES FLOATING THRU STINKING AIR, YOU BROKEN DOWN CARRIAGES, A NESTING PLACE FOR RATS & VERMIN.
- ~~AND IF I COULD SPEAK TO YOU I WOULD SAY I AM NOT TO BE WIT I MUST~~
- THESE ARE THE KIND OF SNAKES SUPPLIED WITH EXCUSES OR ELSE THE ONES WITH RATTLES.

PAGANINI'S SPEECH

(3)

- HERE'S ~~WHAT~~ ~~THE~~ A RIDICULOUS REPORT FROM VIENNA "I HAD PLAYED THE VARIATIONS ENTITLED THE WITCHES, & THEY PRODUCED SOME EFFECT. AFTERWARD AN INDIVIDUAL OF SAUBW COMPLEXION APPROACHED ME AND AFFIRMED THAT HE SAW NOTHING SURPRISING IN MY PERFORMANCE FOR HE HAD DISTINCTLY SEEN, WHILE I WAS PLAYING MY VARIATIONS, THE DEVIL AT MY ELBOW, DIRECTING MY ARM AND GUIDING MY BOW. MY RESEMBLANCE TO HIM WAS PROOF OF MY ORIGIN. HE WAS CLOTHED IN RED - HAD HORNS ON HIS HEAD AND CARRIED HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS.
- AFTER SO MINUTE A DESCRIPTION, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND LADIES & GENTLEMEN, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DOUBT THE FACT; HENCE MANY CONCLUDED THAT THEY HAD DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF WHAT THEY TERMED MY WONDERFUL FEATS.
- NOW I ASK YOU LADIES & GENTLEMEN - DO YOU SEE A DEVIL STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU, OR MERELY A SICKLY MAN WHO HAS A STRANGE & UNIQUE ABILITY. THESE STORIES ARE THE WILDEST FABRICATIONS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD DISCREDIT MY MASTERY OF THE VIOLIN.)
- I MERELY PLAY THE VIOLIN IN THE ITALIAN MANNER. I AM NO SERVICE JEASANT OF MOULDY SCHOOLS OF VIOLIN PLAYING. THOSE MUSICIANS WHO SQUEEZE OUT A MISERLY LIVING FROM THEIR ART CAN LAY THEIR ARMS ACROSS THE ROAD & LET A COACH RUM OVER THEM.
- WHAT IS IT THAT I AM ATTEMPTING TO SAY? SOMETHING FOR BIRDS TO PECK AT? MY ACCUSERS ARE WRETCHED VERMIN TAINTED WITH ALIEN PHILOSOPHIES & DESERVE NO MORE OF MY TIME OR CONCERN.
- I ^{MY ROOM IS SHAPED LIKE MY FACE} GATHER UP ALL OF MY MEDICINE BOTTLES & SET THEM IN SEQUENCE ON A SHELF, BUT I WOULD BE THE LAST TO DRAW UP A PLAN AS IF I WERE INVOLVED WITH TIMETABLES, MATHEMATICAL CALCULATIONS OR WAR.
- ~~THE ROLE OF ART IS TO OPEN UP AGAIN THE UNIVERSE. THIS CAN BE EFFECTED ONLY BY SHATTERING CONVENTIONAL STANDARDS.~~
- CERTAIN COMBINATIONS OF MY NOTES POSSESS POWER OF ILLUMINATION FAR GREATER THAN INTELLIGENT MINDS (SO-CALLED) CAN GRASP. WHEN I AM ON STAGE YOU ARE WITNESSING IMAGINATION PUTTING ITSELF ON STAGE.
- I BELIEVE IN ASTONISHMENT AT ANY COST - ENOUGH ENDLESS WANDERINGS IN PAST MEMORIES.

- But then who among you has seen what I have seen (4)
or heard what I have heard?
- I do not sing of this world nor of the other stars. I sing
of all the possibilities of myself beyond this world and
all the stars as well.
- ~~I sing of the joys of wandering & the delight in dying
that death.~~
- I have loved atrocious women in abysmal quarters of this
city. Their blood was iron, their death was fire. Women who
were so beautiful it frightened me. I refused to love or be loved.
- ~~Backward revolves the luminous wheel.~~
- I have seen a winged man without a head, carrying his
rotting lungs on his back.
- I have seen a clown with small fetuses emerging from
his beard.
- I have seen a house in the middle of the ocean. Its windows
were rivers flowing out of my eyes. Octopi swarmed on
all sides & clung to the waves. If you listened closely you
could hear their hearts beating in triplets and their sharp
beaks tapping on the window pane.
- ~~Two drowning men rising from the deep watery graves,
& holding their arms out to the sea in supplicate.~~
- I have seen a tiny light come down from the sky at
night & land on my stomach & illuminate the interior
of my body.
- I have seen an enormous white dog chewing on the moon
- ~~I have seen my hollow footings on the top of the world
I have seen carrying gold & precious metals from other worlds
I have seen pouring fires no one has seen before!~~
- ~~I have heard~~ - I am only one small sound, but I have
a great multitude of smaller noises within me
- my immovable lord, my immovable lord.
- I have heard the octaves & scales which lie deep
within the earth beneath my feet
- I have heard the sound inside a volcano.
- I have heard the sound of my lips brushing women
with thighs of glass.
- What a strange sound was slithering up the stairs.
Can't you hear it? Will it endure until everyone else awakes?
- The sphinx has been sensing it with watchful eyes.

ON STAGE

- ~~LADIES & GENTLEMEN~~ I HAVE PLAYED MY WHOLE LIFE IN A THEATRE OF CATACUS. THEIR SNEERS ADD UP TO ZERO.
- I HISS BACK FROM BEHIND THE FOOTLITES, AGAINST THE DARK CURTAINS FRAMING THE STAGE. I AM THE CREATURE WHO STEPS OUT. I AM A LIVING CASSETT OF BLACK VELVET
 - ~~I WALKED IN SILENCE~~, THE STAGE SLOWLY IS INUNDATED WITH FOG
 - I LOFT MY BOW & BUTTERFLIES FLY OUT - RISING TO THE CHANDELIERS - AN INTERLUDE ENTIRELY FROM MY OWN THOUGHTS
 - I SLASH MY WRISTS AND THE BLOOD OF MY MUSIC FLOWS OVER BROKEN PORCELAIN.
 - ON SOME NITES MY FINGERS BECOME PHOSPHORESCENT, ON SOME NITES MY MUSCLES ARE AQUIVER WITH MERCURY.
 - INSIDE ME IS NOTHING BUT THE ECHO OF ROLLING DICE.
 - THE STRINGS TREMBLE AT MY TOUCH.
 - MY VIOLIN HOLDS BACK A RIVER, MY MUSIC IS A NET WHICH ENTRAPS, SHUDDERING, SHIVERING, SCREAMING FISH.
 - ~~NOW MY VIOLIN IS STUFFING - WASHING UP WHITES ON DISTANT BEACHES WITH BRAIDS OF SEAWEED.~~
 - MY MUSIC MIXES SNOW & FIRE. THE ELECTRICITY OF THIS MAGIC PULSES THROUGH MY BODY. - DOING ME INFINITE HARM, CAUSING ME TO SHAKE ALL OVER
 - A PERSONAGE TAKES OVER MY BEING, WEARING A MASK WITH MY FEATURES. VIOLENTLY HE WRENCHES THE BOW & VIOLIN FROM MY HANDS. ~~HE WRENCHES~~
 - OH MUSIC. SUCING MUSIC - WITH MARBCE HARMONIES WHICH CRUSH THE FROZEN SKY. THIS UNPARALLEL LIQUOR WHICH POURS IN THRU IT'S EARS, PIERCING THEIR CENTRAL CRYSTALS. OH BREAK THE FROZEN GYAKS OF THEIR FOREHEADS. MUSIC, OH WOUNDING MUSIC.
 - I AM A WHEEL WHIRRING IN ECSTASY. MY SKULL IS A RED HOT COAL - LIGHTING IN YOUR PRESENCE. I CAME TO PLAY FOR YOU MY PHANTOM SKIN TREMBLING IN YOUR AIR.
 - I ALONE HAVE DARED TO BREAK THE SILENCE WITH CATASTROPHE CAUSING SOUND. WHO ELSE DARES TO BREAK THE BALL, SHATTER TEXTURE & EMERGE ABOVE & COME FORTH BOUND.
 - I FEEL MY BODY SINKING, PLUNGING THRU ENDLESS TUNNELS OF BOUQUETS, MY BODY OUSTAGE IN OUTLINE MY OWN SIHOUETTE APPEARS, MY BODY OUTURED ~~BY~~ BY THROWING KNIVES.
 - ~~THE WORLD IS A HUGE MOUTH SOUND.~~
 - WHERE ARE YOU NOW? CAN YOU SEE ME? HEAR ME? WHO IS OUT THERE?

- I WISH I COULD SAY ~~TO YOU WHAT I THINK~~ ^{MOVE} BUT AN EYE. (6)
A STINGING ~~WHITE~~ WHITE EYE, A PITILESS EYE, A LIFELESS
EYE TOO, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT - HAS NAILED ME DOWN HERE
- MY IMMOVABLE LORD, MY IMMOVABLE LORD.
- I ~~UNDERSTOOD THAT I CARRY A SINGLE MARCHING MELODY WITH
ME, AND ALL THAT IS DEATH, BUT I PROCEED WITHOUT FEAR
YES. I CARRY DEATH NOW, BUT WHEN I DIE I WILL BE THE ONE
WHOM DEATH MUST GRAB IN HIS INTERCEPTABLE ARMS.~~ ← I RECALL
DESERTED ROADS AT NIGHT. I LOOK OUT & GREET HER BY
NAME & SHE SAID "LOVE ME LIKE THIS" & YOU CAN HAVE
ALL" I AM ADDICTED LIKE NO ONE ELSE TO THESE DEVIATIONS.
I WILL BE TRANSFIGURED THROUGH CALAMITY.
DEATH IS MY APOCALYPSE.
- AS FOR NOW THE ONLY HOPE REMAINS: IT IS THAT AFTER
MY DEATH, CALAMITY WILL ABANDON IT'S PREY & THAT THOSE
WHO HAVE SO CRUELY AVENGED MY TRIUMPHS WILL LEAVE
MY ASHES AT REST.
- ~~MY GOD, I HAVE NO MORE STRENGTH.~~
- EXCUSE ME BUT I AM REALLY TOO EXHAUSTED TO KEEP
TALKING ABOUT THESE MATTERS, I MUST GO TO MY ROOM
& LIE DOWN. I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL EVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
I EXIST WITH AN ECLIPSE.