

## Zangtekst

### Tan Dun: Requiem for Nature

#### 1. Confession

##### (Koor)

O Nature, Ha,  
Mother of Earth,  
Spirit of All,  
eternal rest grant them:  
the suffering Water,  
the dying Forest,  
the dark Air,  
the innocent All Beings...  
O Nature,  
your eyes are the Sun and Moon  
Comforting and shining on our misery-souls  
with mercy and forgiveness....

##### (Khoomei-bas)

*[In het Mongools. Engelse vertaling:]*

O Nature,  
Your eyes are like sun and moon  
caressing my sinful soul  
Pity me, forgive me  
You invited me  
to visit Earth your home  
I repaid your hospitality  
with destruction everywhere  
Ah...  
Today I toppled another of your giant trees  
I heard it cry  
I saw it bleed  
O Nature  
I ask for your forgiveness  
I will turn this tree into a tree-drum  
May it contain Mother's presence  
Soil's heart  
River's pulse  
Cosmos' mantra  
I will drum it daily with my repentant heart  
Prayers will be made from my earnest heart

O Nature, Lord of All Beings  
O Nature, Source of All Lives...

**(Koor)**

Nature,  
Compassionate Nature,  
Forgive us  
And our misery-souls...  
The Tree-drums are beating,  
O, Nature  
The Wind-bells are ringing,  
The River-strings are plucked,  
And The Nature sound of  
Heaven and Earth  
are awakening the innocent All Beings,  
The light of nature is shining  
On the misery-souls.

**(Khoomei-bas)**

Ho!

**(Koor)**

O,  
Nature's wisdom shines as Sun Moon,  
Nature's grace warms our souls,  
Nature's love enlightens our life,  
Nature's sacrifice burns out our greed.  
O,  
Nature's wisdom shines as Sun Moon,  
Nature's grace warms our souls  
Nature's love enlightens our life,  
Nature's sacrifice burns out  
Man's greed!

**2. Mantra**

**(Vrouwenkoor)**

Flying, Chasing

Flying, Chasing

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha

*[Kleine Prins is angstig en in tranen. De kinderen zijn geschokt]*

Oh no! Oh no!

I made the bird drop down from the sky

Oh no! Oh no!

Look it's dead! No!

*[Iedereen is in paniek. Kleine Prins huilt met verstikkende tranen]*

Oh Heaven, how did this happen?

Can anyone help me?

Ease the sorrow in my heart?

Oh Heaven!

*[Tijdens de treurzang van de Kleine Prins opent zich een barst in de hemel, van waaruit de stem van Mantra klinkt in het koor]*

**(MANTRA in Sanskriet, vrouwenkoor)**

Namo ratna tryy

Nama ry gyana sagara

Vairocana-byuharajaya

Tathagataya

Arhate sam-yak sam

Buddhaya Buddha

**(mannenkoor)**

With love and compassion,

I am here to guide you,

To relieve the pain and sorrow, in your body and soul

If you chant me every day...

**(vrouwenkoor)**

I will chant you, I promise

Could you tell me how to relieve my suffering?

How?

**(mannenkoor)**

It's so easy.

Place the dead bird on one side of the scale,

A piece of your own flesh on the other.

When the scale balances,

You will no longer suffer.

**(vrouwenkoor)**

Ha ha ha ha,

This is easy.

The little bird is no bigger

Than your little finger.

where shall I cut the flesh?

Your hand?

Your leg?  
No no no no  
Ha ha ha ha!  
That will not hurt.  
Are you sure?  
Will you help me?  
It won't hurt. Ha ha ha...  
Yes, it won't hurt. Ha ha ha...  
Let us help you: one, two, three...  
Ouch! Ouch!  
The pain is killing me...  
Ha ha ha!  
Your flesh is larger than the little bird.  
Why the scale is not balanced?  
Oh, no!  
Did you not say it would be balanced?  
Come!  
Let's cut off one more.  
No way! No way!

**(MANTRA in Sanskriet, vrouwenkoor)**

Namo ratna tryy  
Nama ry gyana sagara  
Vairocana-byuharajaya  
Tathagataya  
Arhate sam-yak sam  
dhaya Buddha

**(mannenkoor)**

Your suffering in body and soul  
can't compare to that of the Buddha.  
All lives under the sun --  
Tiny as an ant  
Or giant as a dinosaur --  
All lives are of equal value.  
This means,  
The scale would only balance  
  
Place on it your reverence.  
Place on it your soul.  
Chant me every day.  
Only then would the scale be balanced.  
Only then would your suffering be eased.

**(vrouwenkoor)**

I understand the suffering in my body and soul,  
can't compare to that of the bird.

All lives in this world --  
Tiny as an ant  
Or giant as a dinosaur --  
All lives are of equal value.

**(het hele koor)**

Oh Nature, the Compassionate One  
You are born for all lives  
Awake for the world  
Mother of the Earth  
Light of enlightenment  
You say all lives shall be equal  
Heaven and Earth shall be one,  
Men shall respect all creatures,  
And all shall live in loving peace.  
O Nature, the Compassionate One,  
Your grace warms all souls.  
O Nature, the Compassionate One,  
Your love enlightens all lives.  
You are born for all lives  
Awake for the world  
Mother of Earth  
Light of enlightenment  
May you and I be one.

**3. The Deer of Nine Colors**

**(Sopraan)**

*(Kantonees, gesproken als in Chinese opera)*

A long time ago, I was a tree,  
but then I was cut down innocently...  
I, after waiting for a thousand years,  
the benevolent Nature finally let me reincarnate,  
and reincarnation became a deer!  
I am the soul of the forest, I belong to the forest,  
and I emit the nine colors of the forest,  
so people call me: The Deer of Nine Colors

One day I was with my deer sisters by the lake  
By the mystic lake that is known by none,

where my sisters and I dwell.  
Through silvery woods we deer roam,  
into misty fairy, ethereal light  
Deer of Nine Colors

Suddenly in distance we heard:  
Help! Help!  
Someone is drowning. He's calling for help.  
I must go rescue him!  
But, my deer sister said, "Do not go!  
Do not go! Once you go, we will be exposed.  
Humans will come to hunt us down.  
Velvet peeled, antlers torn,  
Skin stripped to make their gowns.  
What more? They will eat our flesh! Do not go!  
He is shouting: Help!  
I must go to rescue him!  
I know my rescue will surely result in betrayal.  
Yet still, I must go, otherwise he will drown...  
I must go.  
I must go to rescue him!  
"I am not dead?"  
No, you are not.  
"Are you not the Deer of Nine Colors?"  
Yes, I am the Deer of Nine Colors.  
"Oh heavens! My savior! I do not know how to thank you."  
No need to thank me. But I beseech you: Upon returning home,  
Do not disclose the place we deer live.  
Humans, alas -- humans wish to hunt us down.  
Therefore, I beseech you...  
If you betray me,  
You will reap what you sow.  
The Drowning Man then said to me,  
"you can rest assured"  
Speak no more, swear no more.  
We will meet again for sure.

After the drowning man returned home,  
he heard of reward offered by the King.  
"Deer of Nine Colors, most precious creature. Handsome fortune she will bring.  
Whoever discloses her whereabouts will fulfill our Queen's dream."  
The King hereby  
offers a hefty reward  
millions of gold

and numerous jewels  
and endless land.  
Drowning man heard this  
and started to think  
of the fortune he could make.

The Drowning Man then led the men  
right to me, and said:  
"Here she is -- The Deer of Nine Colors!"  
The tree wants to rest, but  
the wind never stops.  
And yet, I foresaw well your betrayal.  
But I still came to rescue you...  
Oh, Heavens! A human life I saved, to mankind  
I have been kind.  
Oh, Earth! That man's life I saved, to them  
I have been kind.  
Oh, you!  
Your life I saved, to you I have been kind.  
However... Why do you men still want to hunt me down?  
Why do you men still want to take my life?  
Pitiable mankind!  
To you I have been kind. Why do you still want to take my life?

Oh Heavens!  
Where are you?  
I pray for you to come protect me please  
Oh Heavens!  
You told me, about the tragic ends betrayers meet.  
Bad karma awaits those tainted  
With selfishness and greed.  
The Drowning Man then  
grabbed a guard's sword and  
pierced it deep within me.  
The tree wants to rest,  
but the wind never stops.  
Oh Heavens! Where are you?

**(koor)**  
Compassionate Nature, can you hear me?  
Compassionate Nature, can you see?  
We beg you to forgive us  
And to hear our penitence,  
Mankind, if you are selfishness and greedy

must lead to doom.  
Betray not your savor  
Forsake not your brothers.  
Nature, with love and compassion,  
Where are you?  
Please bestow upon us,  
No jealousy, but praise  
No selfishness, but the will to share  
No greed, but generosity  
No harm, but harmony  
May you and I be one

#### **4. Black Air**

##### **(koor)**

The air is black  
The wind is dark  
The water is crying  
And the Tears of Nature are like rainforest  
Come and go without a trace  
Life and death is like ocean and air  
Now, in black, in dark  
Nowadays breathe in, breathe out  
O Nature the life you give to all beings  
Are threatened by humans  
Forgive me and my greed  
Let your thousands of Karmas  
Caress our sinful souls  
For no longer to destroy you  
Oh Nature

#### **5. Fire and Sea**

##### **(Mongoolse khoomei-bas met morin khuur)**

Flaming sea. Melting rocks.  
Combined with a never-seen solar eclipse.  
With exhaustion I reach the dried-up river,  
Only to find this mysterious woman  
Taking some of her final breaths...  
Let me now  
Pray to the deities  
With my music



To bring her back  
From the grasp of death

Finally, you are awakening...

**(Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan)**

In my previous life, I was a deer, but I was hunted and killed by dreamers.  
The compassionate nature made me reincarnate into a woman in this life...  
Now, I waked up.  
My hometown's silkworms died away two years ago  
I travelled across the Silk Road  
To collect baby silkworms and pupae.  
These are the ones I found in Suzhou.  
I put them right here in my hair.  
To bring them back home from the opposite end of the Silk Road...

**(Mongoolse khoomei-bas met morin khuur)**

Silk Road, an invisible road.  
Connecting our tangible hearts.

**(Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan)**

Buddha, the Compassionate One, where are you?  
I have no more strength to complete the journey  
From this end of the Silk Road to the opposite end.  
Buddha, the Compassionate One, where are you...

**(Mongoolse khoomei-bas)**

In your heart...

**(Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan)**

My name is Nina.  
You are...?

**(Mongoolse khoomei-bas met morin khuur)**

For seventeen years I roamed the west,  
To collect the Heart Sutra and sacred music  
And bring them back to my hometown of Dunhuang  
I am Kongxian, a minstrel monk.

**(Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan)**

Dunhuang, I have been there.  
The caves and murals mesmerize me!  
Beautiful legends, dreams and beliefs.

**(beiden)**

Dunhuang's murals vividly paint

Home lies so far away,  
Wandering hearts are heavy and weary.  
Roaming across a barren land,  
What day will I return?  
All those I have encountered are strangers,  
Until I met a kindred soul in the desert.

**(Mongoolse khoomei-bas met morin khuur)**

Nina, you are shivering!

**(Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan)**

It is freezing...  
Melody sighs over miserable fate.  
Sorrow makes those tenuous strings break.  
You came to me like the blossoming spring,  
Stringing along hopes and dreams,  
But my life is fading away...  
We must have met in a previous life.  
Do not leave me now.  
It will be difficult to meet again in our next life... *(He sobs.)*  
I feel your sorrow.  
You feel my heartbreak.  
Our love is destined to part.

**(Mongoolse khoomei-bas met morin khuur)**

Nina, see you next life...

**(koor)**

*(Heart sutra, vertaald door Meester Xuan Zang (Tang-dynastie)*

ry va lo ki tesvaro  
bodhisattvo  
mwuhaim  
The Bodhisattva of Compassion,  
When he meditated deeply,  
saw the emptiness of all five skandhas  
And sundered the bonds that caused him suffering.

**(Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan en bassen)**

Oh, Sariputra,  
Form does not differ from emptiness,  
And emptiness does not differ from form.

Form is emptiness;  
Emptiness is Form;  
So are feelings, perceptions, mental formations and consciousness.  
Sariputra,  
All things and phenomena are in nature Emptiness:  
they are non-arising, non-ceasing,  
Non-defiled, non-pure,  
Non-increasing, non-decreasing.  
Therefore, in emptiness there are no forms,  
No feelings, perceptions, mental formations or consciousness.  
No eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body or mind;  
No sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touch or mind object;  
No realm of the eyes,  
Up to no realm of consciousness.  
No ignorance,  
And no ending of ignorance,  
Up to no old age and death,  
And no ending of old age and death.  
No Suffering,  
No Accumulation or Cessation of Suffering, nor the Path.  
No wisdom, and no attainment.  
With nothing to attain,  
The Bodhisattva  
Relying on Prajna Paramita  
Has no hindrance in his mind.  
Because there is no hindrance,  
He has no fear,  
And he leaves distorted dream-thinking far behind.  
And reaches ultimate Nirvana.  
All Buddhas of the past, present and future,  
By relying on Prajna Paramita  
Attain supreme enlightenment.  
Therefore, the Prajna Paramita is  
The great transcendent mantra,  
The great bright mantra,  
The supreme mantra,  
The unequalled mantra.  
It can eliminate all suffering,  
And is genuine and not false.  
That is why the Mantra of Prajna Paramita was spoken.  
Recite it like this:

**(koor)**

Gate gate (Gone! Gone!)

Pāragate (Gone beyond.)  
Pārasaṃgate (Gone altogether beyond.)  
Bodhi Svāhā (To accomplish Enlightenment!)

## 6. The Tears of Nature

### (Mongoolse khoomei-bas)

O, humans:  
Have you heard the rain -  
That's my tears.  
Have you heard the black wind -  
It is crying for death

### (Tibetaanse sopraan)

My Sun, please shine on humans  
To cure their viruses and greed in their souls,  
My moon, please shine on humans  
To let and lead them to love and share  
More with All Beings.  
O, My Ocean, breathe in in the night,  
breathe out in the day,  
That's the way she watches you,  
And leaves you with a thousand of my curses,

### (Mongoolse khoomei-bas)

O, humans  
May you and I be one!

### (koor)

The Tree-drums are beating,  
O,  
The Wind-bells are ringing,  
O, Nature  
The River-strings are plucked,  
And the Nature sound of Heaven and Earth  
are awakening the innocent All Beings,  
The light of nature is shining on  
the misery souls

### (Mongoolse khoomei-bas)

Ho!

### (koor)

O,

**(koor, Mongoolse khoomei-bas, Tibetaanse inheemse sopraan, sopraan)**

O, Nature's wisdom shines as Sun Moon,  
Nature's grace warms our spirits,  
Nature's love enlightens our life,  
Nature's sacrifice burns out our greed.  
Nature's wisdom shines as Sun Moon,  
Nature's love enlightens our life,

O Nature, the spirit of All,  
Nature's wisdom shines as Sun Moon,  
Nature's grace warms our souls,  
Nature's sacrifice burns out our greed.  
Burns out!

O,  
Nature's wisdom shines as Sun Moon,  
Nature's grace warms our souls,  
Nature's sacrifice burns out our greed.  
Burns out, burns out, burns out!

O Nature, the spirit of All,  
Can you hear:  
We are confessing for their sins  
and our Living Death  
May you and I be one.

**Muziek en libretto: Tan Dun**