

The Serpent and the Dove

Robin Gordon

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Andante

Smoothly, with reptilian hypocrisy

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'Andante' with the instruction 'Smoothly, with reptilian hypocrisy'. The score is divided into three systems, each starting with a measure number in a circle (8, 4, and 7 respectively). The lyrics are: "Oh Dove, sym-bol of love, fly down," cried the snake, "to me in the dust. Wing-less and leg-less I'm just an im-pot-ent worm. I squirm help-less-ly here in the dirt, un-a-ble to help, un-a-ble to hurt, un-

8 *mp*
"Oh Dove, sym-bol of love, fly down," cried the snake, "to me in the

4 *mp*
dust. Wing-less and leg-less I'm just an im-pot-ent worm. I

7 *mp*
squirm help-less-ly here in the dirt, un-a-ble to help, un-a-ble to hurt, un-

11

a - ble to walk, un - a - ble to fly. I long to ask why the

14

Lord has cre - a - ted me so. Why make me so low? Oh, you who are

17

fa-voured with flight, pi - ty my plight. He takes on your shape when He

20

wills, the cur - er of ills. He'll list - en to you. Fly down to me,

23

do. I'll whis-per my sins in your ear, so no - one will hear. Then

pp

pp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23, 24, and 25. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a fermata over the first measure. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line with dotted rhythms in the left hand. Dynamics include *pp* in both parts.

26

fly to the hea-vens on high, and take my la - ment and my sigh to the

f mp

mp f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26, 27, and 28. The vocal line continues with a fermata over the first measure. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f mp* in the vocal line and *mp f* in the piano accompaniment.

29

Lord, to the Just, lest I die in the dust." The Dove flew down.

p pp ppp mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29, 30, 31, and 32. The vocal line has a fermata over the first measure. The piano accompaniment features a more complex texture with chords and moving lines. Dynamics include *p pp ppp mp* in the piano accompaniment.

35

f
The Ser-pent struck!

39 The Dove tries to fly but falls back (Bars 39-43)

mf mp p mp mf

42 The Dove dies. The Serpent

f mf mp mf mp mf mp

46 slithers forward

46 slithers forward

mf *ff* *p* *mp* *f* *mp*

50

50

mp

"Cu-unn-ing is - s the be - ett - er pa - art of

53

53

luck," observed the snake, "My sor-row's-ss fake, my ven - om's re-al, as this de -

57

57

lici-ous bird can feel."

63

Fine words are for the birds, and par - snips are not butt-ered by

67

Soave
all the grease that's utt-ered. All that glis - ters, we are shown, may

71

not be gold, but by its fruit it's known.