

<b>To:</b>	<b>All lastpostchoirsingers &amp; audience who have difficulty understanding Dutch</b>
<b>From:</b>	Translations by Pauline Donders, Hendrik Jan Bosman <a href="http://www.delastpost.nl">www.delastpost.nl</a>
<b>Ter:</b>	Use this document only to understand the meaning of the words you sing
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<b>File:</b>	DeLastpost_TextsInEnglish_v2017-04-05.docx
<b>Title:</b>	De lastpost / The Nuisance - English Translation

# De lastpost / The Nuisance - English Translation

Translated by Pauline Donders and Hendrik Jan Bosman

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## About this translation

Pauline Donders and Hendrik Jan Bosman translated most of these texts just to help the singers understand the words they sing. Therefore, the translation is *not* intended to be poetic. It is also *not* intended to be correct English; the words chosen and the word order resemble the original song texts as much as possible.

## Part 1

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### 1. Begin

*All singers and audience*

Tell us, everything must begin some time  
Begin with your music, your sentences,  
Tell us, bring the story to mind  
Of him, Jesus the Troublemaker. Sing!  
Just begin, and sing!

---

### 2. Dansen van plezier / Dancing for joy

*Children of Jerusalem*

Here comes the big parade.  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
And on a donkey, there up front:  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
Look over there: they won't be here for long,  
But we are dancing for joy.  
No child that can stand still now,  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yes!  
  
This is it, here he comes!  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
We know a song about that:  
    Hello Jesus! Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
So wave branches about  
And throw your coats on the ground  
So he can walk on them  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yes!  
  
Now we walk through the city gate  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
The king and his children's choir  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
The grownups shout loudly:  
'Jesus, proclaim the insurrection!'  
That's what they're grownups for...  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yes!  
We arrive at the temple  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
The people have already left  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna!  
The grownups of the city  
are already fed up with their king  
But us, no one can get us out of here  
    Hello Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yes!

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### 3. Nooit geweten / Never Knew

#### *A reflection*

Never knew that I was waiting,  
searching, questioning, hoping, reaching,  
for god and life and love and faithfulness  
Never knew that everyting was waiting  
for you.

For when you sit there  
and speak like that  
I drink from your lips  
I dream from your eyes  
I follow in your footsteps.  
Call me – and I'll come running.

Never before were the days so full and so bright  
never before was life sweeter  
my gaze spellbound  
my heart overflowing  
An end to my waiting are you -  
Oh, see me and name me and know me, call me!

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### 4a. Pardon, jongeman / Excuse Us, Young Man

#### *Jesus*

The world is about to be cleansed  
The whole thing will be turned around.  
Who bullies people, will be booed away,  
what holds people captive, [will be] torn apart.

#### *Jesus (repeated by the people on the square)*

A new world is coming soon  
where those who cry now, will be able to laugh again  
Who are oppressed now, will be allowed to stand up  
Who hide in shelter now, will skip and dance.

#### *Priests and bible hacks*

Excuse us, young man,  
What are you teaching the people?  
Are you at all qualified?  
What gives you the right?  
Who vouches for you?  
You can say all matter of things,  
But does it make sense?  
Where does it come from, what you are saying?

#### *Jesus*

I'm sorry, but I won't say that.

My words blow like the wind.  
And who doesn't see truth in them  
is deaf while hearing, and blind while seeing.

The truth is: coercion or dominion  
have no place in my kingdom.  
No high or low, for every human is free,  
equal to every other.

*People on the temple square*

He says that well: coercion or dominion  
have no place in his kingdom  
[etc.]

*Priests and bible hacks*

What kind of talk is that?  
Do you have any idea who you are dealing with?  
We are The Authorities,  
Keepers of life and doctrine.  
Respect, please!  
For, if you do not realise it by now:  
This house belongs to God,  
and we are its stewards!

---

## 4b. Zoals dat gaat / As it goes

*Jesus / Priests and bible hacks*

A wine farmer appointed stewards.  
He said: "Take good care of my vineyard.  
And when the grapes turn ripe,  
we will share her abundance"  
(That's what's you should to do with abundance)

Yet, this sharing never happened.  
Every servant coming for the rent  
(That's not so strange, is it?)  
was scolded, thrown out on the street  
(What's that you say?)  
and sent away, black and blue.  
(Wait a minute: Where is this going? What is the point?)

At last the farmer sent his son.  
He thought: "Him they will not harm."  
(We're getting the point...)  
But they beat him to death, just like that,  
(We're on to you...)  
As it goes in the world.

---

#### 4c. Pardon Jongeman (deel 2) / Excuse us young man (part 2)

##### *Priests and bible hacks*

Well now! What kind of story was that, young man?  
Are you poking fun at us?  
Do those stewards refer to us?  
And that wine farmer of yours, would that be God?  
Are you his son, by any chance?  
The arrogance! So needlessly offensive!  
Keep your mouth shut, you, and fast!  
Rebels like you get wrecked!

##### *Jesus*

Stewards who act like owners,  
Doesn't that sound very familiar to you?  
Just figure out: who fits that image?  
You know that, if you are honest...

So watch out: the day will come that the power  
of those who still think a whole lot of themselves,  
of king, emperor, ruler, highly esteemed,  
will blow away like dust on the wind.

##### *People on the temple square*

One day, the day will come that the power  
of God will conquer the world,  
the day that this king, long awaited,  
begins his kingdom of peace here with us!

---

#### 5. En de wereld die lag open / And the World, it Lay Open

Everything rages.  
Everything collides and yields.  
And behind every tree a bear.  
And through the forest I see  
no more roads to go.

When I set out, with fresh courage  
and only voice and staff and hat,  
and the world, it lay open  
to my dreaming, thinking, hoping,  
and the world at my feet  
only needed to meet  
me - I thought.

This world, yours as well,  
carry her, care for her,  
cradle her like your baby.  
That is all I meant to say –  
Is that not all I meant to say...

---

## 6. Niet op het feest /Not during the feast

*Priests*

Hello, you here as well? But why it is ...

Hello! Well...

... this order to be here at once?

Something to do with Easter, if I'm not very mistaken

Why be here at once?

As I was saying: If I'm not very mistaken, ...

If it is what I fear, everything will go wrong,  
much worse than we can dream right now.

Gentlemen!

No, no, friend. I was just saying to my neighbour...

Perhaps there is trouble with the Romans

Gentlemen!

I was saying: Everything is calm.

They would just a well have us disappear.

I was saying: Easter will be great.

Pilate is almost all-powerful...

I begin. I open this emergency meeting

Oh...

Yes...

You know what it is about, don't you?

No...

What?

About Jesus, that rabbi from the streets.

Ah!

Him!

Yes!

So...

To you the floor! Who has seen anything about him?

I saw him in the temple square, with unfettered sermons

Very good, how he destroyed the entire old boys' network!

So you adore him?

On the contrary! Just think what his talk will cost us, priests, in authority!

Such a fake theologian, such a joke of a prophet,

What is that you say?

Such a religious troublemaker!

What do you say? Troublemaker?

Teacher!

Troublemaker!

I yield the floor to whoever has something to say.

I saw him come through the city gate,

Terrible!

... cheered as the new king.

What do you think the Romans will do to us,  
in honour of his coronation?

Well, that is true...

So out with him, after all?

Yes, out with him, this is getting out of hand

Alright, out then.  
Do you mean that?  
High time that someone solve this.  
Such a rebel!  
Out with him!  
Such a revolutionary!  
So you say: Out?  
Such a political troublemaker!  
Out with him! A real troublemaker! Out with him!

In short, I conclude: Out with him!  
But be careful: during the feast,  
the City will be filled with people,  
who adore him, and do not want to see  
us curse their hero.  
Yet you say: Out with him.  
Not during the feast!  
I am worried that too bad a press  
will do us in then.  
Not during the feast!  
So not during the feast! Out with him!  
Troublemaker!  
But how to accomplish the end of a troublemaker?  
But how?  
Out with him! Not during the feast! Troublemaker! Out with him!

---

## 7. Die dag / That Day

### *A Woman*

Now that I look back on that day,  
now that I see what I did not see then,  
I know for sure: my life is  
contained in that event.  
Who could tell me back then  
how everything still smells like him,  
could predict  
that everything that happened then  
is still colouring my days?

Uninvited I arrived,  
just went up to his table,  
poured out my oil, expensive, perfumed,  
in one go, solemnly, on him.  
That was for him, my king,  
my teacher, messiah, friend!  
This coronation:  
I wanted to show him  
how much he deserved that!

All his friends shouted sourly:  
Madness! Waste of money! Much too expensive!  
He said: 'Let her be! That oil is  
already for my funeral.'  
He also said: 'Wherever in the world  
my message will live on,  
continue to honour her,  
remember that with what she is giving me  
she has already embalmed me.'

I stood there, nailed to the floor:  
what remained of my gesture?  
Oil of joy that I had poured,  
now became a symbol of his death.  
Who could tell me back then  
why that is the same thing,  
could predict  
that he who I still miss  
is not for a day no longer with me?

Who could tell me back then  
that to be dead is not to be gone,  
could predict  
that he who I still miss  
is still here with me always?



---

## 8. Wat komt hij doen / What does he want?

### *Priests*

Now one more speaker asking our attention:  
There is a man at the door, who calls himself Judas,  
A friend of that troublemaker, but he wants  
nothing to do with him anymore now.  
What does he want, that man?  
He wants to help us arrest his friend discreetly  
Why he would do that, I have no idea, but that doesn't matter.  
A great chance!  
Ask him!  
What is his price?  
Judas? Ask him!

He says: For thirty pieces of silver I will do it.  
Well, that is not too bad, with our budget  
those are no shocking expenses.  
The price of a slave, surely that is not too much  
to wipe out Jesus?  
That is not much  
Come on, pay the man.  
Look, Judas, your traitor's money,  
we will not ask you any uncomfortable questions.  
It's quite a sum, so take care  
that you can carry that burden...  
And that is one, and that is two, and that is three, ...  
thirty, and that is that!

---

## 9. Wacht / Wait

### *A reflection*

Wait, wait a moment:  
behind me time  
stands still, before me lies what  
unwritten,  
in your hands, in your eyes,  
wherever you will go.

But wait, wait,  
were you not once  
who I am, I who you  
thought to become?  
I thought you, dream you, knew you,  
more than I know myself.

And now?

Oh, everything piles up in me.  
Pride upon tears  
Spite upon truth  
Passion upon pain

You change the rules,  
you turn the tables -  
not I.

Heavy is my heart.  
It rages and weighs,  
it ponders and turns  
and breaks.

---

## 10. Aan tafel / At the Table

### *Judas*

Some Messiah! doesn't have a clue  
what is going to happen to him, eats merrily with us.  
I have betrayed him, made money off of him,  
but am sitting here at the table like his best friend.

See him sit there: takes a piece of bread.  
But what does he say now: "Tomorrow I'll be dead.  
One of you is the one to betray me.  
Those are friends for you. That is how it goes..."

Quickly I say: "Surely, not I? Surely I am not like that?"

"You've said it", he says, and looks at me.  
Too close. Too painful. I must go...

---

## 11. Anders dan anders / Not the same

*Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is different from all the other nights?

*Oldest one at the table*

That I will tell you: We lived in distress  
trapped as slaves in a land of death.  
But listen, remember, how this very night  
we were brought back from oppression into freedom.

*All*

Blessed are you, the One, the King of All,  
You give us the wine of freedom that will sparkle.

*Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is different from all the other nights?

*Oldest one at the table*

That I will tell you. We were trapped  
Stopped by water, and threatened by violence.  
But listen, remember, how this very night  
We were led through churning depths to dry ground.

*All*

Blessed are you, the One, the King of All,  
You give us the bread of life that will breathe.

*Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is different from all the other nights?

*Oldest one at the table*

That I will tell you: We just wandered about  
through barren deserts, with nothing to unite us.  
But listen, remember that voice from the cloud.  
He gave us direction and made us into a people

*All*

Blessed are you, the One, the King of All,  
You give us your word of love that will lead.

*Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is different from all the other nights?

*Jesus*

For me she is the last one.  
I will not longer celebrate her.  
My body will be broken like this bread here.  
My blood will be poured out like this wine.

Yet I will not perish:

Look here: this bread, I break it.  
Look here: the wine, I pour it.  
Life and freedom and love,  
yes, everything I am and ever have been:  
I pass it on to you.

So break the bread and share it.  
Drink of the wine. Remember  
life and freedom and love,  
yes, everything you are and ever have been.  
And pass it on to others.

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## 12. Van hand tot hand / From Hand to Hand

*All singers and audience*

Blessed is God, who lives,  
who gives bread for breaking,  
who pours wine for sharing  
until everyone has enough.  
Blessed is God, who lives!

Now it goes from hand to hand:  
life from rim to rim,  
love from mouth to mouth,  
freedom from country to country,  
a celebration that spans All.

This room is much too small  
for all those invited to be guests here.  
The sharing goes on and on,  
in an unbroken line:  
the world will become one big feast!

Blessed is God, who lives,  
who gives bread for breaking,  
who pours wine for sharing  
until everyone has enough.  
Blessed is God, who lives!

## Part 2

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### 13. Onderweg / On our Way

*Peter*

Taking a stroll together, in the middle of the night.  
Towards the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus says: "Wait.  
I must tell you, what will happen next:  
Like a lamb by wolves I will be dragged away.

You, dear friends, will leave me alone,  
running for your lives, in all directions.  
No one will want to know me when I am being caged,  
but remember: it doesn't matter. You will never lose me.

Angrily I say: "Surely not I? Surely, I am not like that?"

"Think," he says, "about what you say.  
Before the rooster crows, you will run away..."

---

### 14. Tussen de zwarte bomen / Among the black trees

*Jesus*

How did I end up here,  
shivering, alone, in the night?  
Lost, among the black trees,  
hidden from what awaits me in a minute.  
Oh, Father! You seem so far away from me!  
Who else can stand with me now?

See my friends sleep, over there:  
Would stay awake with me,  
but their eyelids are too heavy  
to make that happen.  
I am alone...

What's about to happen to me?  
All I know is: this is going wrong.  
My life, my body, all my dreams:  
to shreds, because a troublemaker is never welcome.  
Oh, Father! Does it really have to go like this with me?  
Can I really not skip this?

You who, tired and afraid,  
would never leave me:  
Is it already taking too long for you  
to see it through?  
I am alone...

Where should this lead up to?  
Should I flee, or stay strong?  
This life that I have taken on  
now only seems the preparation for my death.  
Oh, Father, you always have your plan ready, don't you?  
What should I do? You tell me...

Wake up! Stand up!  
Don't let courage sink.  
Look: the gang is already coming  
to arrest me.  
We're going over there...

---

## 15. Volgens afspraak / As agreed

### *Judas*

Where can I run? Where can I hide,  
away from the despair that fills me?  
Can I get away from the thoughts,  
away from the darkness that envelops me?  
Where is a way out? Where will I find breath,  
away from my deeds, away from the guilt?

Underneath this tree I rest, panting, for a short while,  
What just happened: How can I live with it?

I see it again: Me and the men,  
clubs and swords along for the job,  
Then a short search. Sure enough, there he is!  
We come closer, close the loop,  
and as agreed, I give the sign:  
I walk towards him and give him... a kiss.

He says: "Dear friend, what has driven you?"  
Friend! He calls me friend! Can I live with that?

Furious Peter swings a sword.  
Jesus says: "Stop that! We will not strike!"  
Disciples flee, scared like hares,  
he is bound, meets my eye.  
I stand watching, cold and terrified,  
now I realise what I have done.

Underneath this tree I think, with fear and trembling:  
I have murdered him! With that I can not live...

---

## 16. Die ken ik niet / I Don't Know Him

*Peter*

Of everything that went wrong then, this left the deepest mark.  
Panic seized me, one moment, and is still resounding.  
Though I am alive, what can that still give me  
now that I get up every morning with that accusation in my ear?

I was ready to defend him, sword firmly in hand.  
But when he wanted nothing to do with fighting, I stood clumsy to the side.  
I watched how they beat him, wild, without restraint, fierce,  
until a servant girl said: "Hold on, don't you also belong with that rebel?"

Blind terror: was I being arrested as well? Panicked I just yelled: "No!  
I don't know where you get that nonsense, I don't go along with that gang."  
"Sure you do," said a second one to me, "I recognise you!"  
So I yelled more fiercely: "What are you talking about, woman?"

"What rubbish," said a third shoulder-push, "you are definitely one of them!"  
"Damn it," I shouted, "I am telling you, I don't know that guy!"  
In the silence following those words a rooster crowed,  
and I knew that I had let Jesus down three times already...

Out of everything that went wrong then, this left the deepest mark.  
Panic lasts only a moment and guilt lasts for evermore.  
That is how it has been ever since. What wouldn't I give  
to not hear that cursed crowing every morning anymore!

---

## 17a. Kiezen jullie maar / You Choose

*Herald:*

All rise for the gouvernour!

*Pilate*

Yeah, that thing with Jesus back then, what an affair!  
Even before I spoke, they had already made up their minds:  
"The charge is insurrection! Death penalty the demand!"  
Defendant said nothing, so I found no proof.  
I wanted those screamers out of my palace.

I said: for Easter I always grant someone pardon  
But look: there is another troublemaker on the nomination.  
Will Jesus Barabbas get lucky, a rebel and a murderer,  
of Jesus from Nazareth, a king, no less?  
So, who will it be? Which Jesus? You choose!

---

## 17b. Ik kreeg een droom / I had a dream

*Clerk*

Here a message for Pilate, greetings from your wife.

*Mrs. Pilate*

My dear Pontius, let him be,  
the man who stands before you, let him be.  
Let him live, for I know:  
He is not guilty, simply not guilty.  
I had a dream, Pilate!  
And in it I saw: Let him be,  
the man who stands before you, let him be.

My dear Pontius...

You are the gouvernour, you have the power.  
My arm are too short, I lack the strenght.  
You can decide, but I know:  
He is not guilty, simply not guilty!  
You are making a mistake, Pilate!  
Therefore, I tell you: let him be,  
Don't have him crucified, let him be!

My dear Pontius... a sweet, sweet kiss...

---

## 17c. Kiezen jullie maar / You Choose – part 2

*Pilate*

In the minute that I was interrupted like that  
that priestly clique started to rile up the mob.  
So when I got down to business and asked: "Who should I release?"  
They all shouted: "Barabbas! Yes, we want Barabbas!"  
I was startled! It was unbelievable, all that anger.

But what do you want to do with Jesus, then?  
They bellowed: "On the cross! Finished! The guy should hang!"  
I washed my hands and said: "I keep them clean."  
They roared again: "Cross! Dead! Just do it!"  
So I said quickly: "All right. Flog and crucify him. Out with this person!"



---

## 18. Zo doen we dat / That's how it's done

### *Soldiers*

Men!

Yo!

All set?

Yes!

Whips ready?

Yep!

And... 1!

Yeah, that's it! 2!

Your turn! 3!

There! You again! 4!

So,

So there!

Jew-king! 5! 6!

Rebels like you get wrecked! 7! 8!

Yes, they get wrecked! 9!

Come on, hit him, he's not your mother! 10!

Alright! 11!

Look, this is how it's done! 12!

Troublemaker, troublemaker! 13! 14!

But they beat him to death, 15!

just like that, 16!

to death, just like that 17!

dead simple 18!

Where are we now? 19!

Twenty, I think

Out! 20!

Out with him! 21!

Keep on going! 22!

Already...

Head!

... for my... 23!

... funeral

Back! 24! 25!

Shoulders! 26!

Cheered... 27!

... as the new king. 28!

Troublemaker, troublemaker!

Legs! 29!

Arms! 30!

Is he still alive?

Sure, he's fine.

A little bit more, then. And... 31!

Are we almost done? 32!

Sore arm... 33!

Come on, sissy!

Wherever in the world... 34!

... my message... 35!

... message  
Fake theologian! 36!  
Joke of a prophet! 37!  
And... 38!  
Has now become...  
OK, stop! 39!  
... a symbol of my death.

---

## 19. Ik lijk wel gek / I Must Be Crazy

*Simon of Cyrene:*

Step by step, foot by foot, along the long road

How did it happen that I am toiling  
with that cross on my neck?

Just now he was walking here, black and blue  
and now I am, I must be crazy.

Hey, you there, Simon of Cyrene!

Again he fell down from pain  
on the long road of suffering  
That is why one of those Romans said to me:  
"You there, help him. Bad luck for you."

Hey, you there, Simon of Cyrene!

So now I am carrying his cross.  
Oh well, I have a broad back.  
Soon I will be safe at home  
but he will get that cross back.

---

## 20. Geen woorden meer / No more words

*Roman soldiers, people standing by*

Left! Right! Left! Right!

Look! There he is, our King Troublemaker!

March on the spot and... at ease!

Get that scum over here.

Give him some wine, that will keep him calm.

He doesn't want it.

He doesn't want it? Whatever. I don't care.

Look! There he stands, King Troublemaker!

Take off his clothes.

Whoever wants them, can have them, just raffle them or something.

Who wants clothes from a troublemaker?

Put him down on that cross over there. Nail him to it.

Nails through the wrists

Some more through the ankles.

Great! Now up with the thing!

Look! There he hangs, King Troublemaker!

Yes, he hangs just right like that:

Right in the middle, among the robbers

That's where he belongs.

Now a notice above his head:

"This here is Jesus, from Nazareth, that dump, King of the Jews"

What that means? What do I know? Pilate wants it.

There he writhes, the poor sod,

gasps for breath.

There he hangs, on display for all his people.

Hey, you, saviour! Son of God!

Save yourself or croak!

Come down from that cross, if you can!

If you're The King, then do it!

Ha, Ha! I laugh: this is quite a change from "Hosanna!"

What has happened in just one week?

The noon hour. The sun is at its peak.

But around us, and within us, it gets dark,

black as night. No hand in front of our face.

The sun can no longer bear to see what we are doing.

I am laughing no more.

What is this?

What kind of man is this?

The world is silent, tense. The hours crawl.

Until he, he of all people, tears up the silence.

He screams, a raw scream, full of despair:

My God! My God! Why do you abandon me?

No one wants to understand. Still they are laughing:

Hear! The loser calls his God!  
We're very curious if that will amount to anything,  
If perhaps you can already see someone  
coming to rescue him? Don't think so!

Jesus is silent.  
No breath.  
No more words.  
One scream.  
Then he collapses  
And suffocates.  
And dies.

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## 21. Aan rafels / To shreds

*Priests, People, Soldiers*

No!  
What have we done?  
What have we done, for Heaven's sake?

*Priests*

The Curtain in the temple,  
Our highest, our most holy:  
Smeared. Ripped! To shreds!  
The world rips and cracks and trembles  
Now that we have arrested him.

*People*

The ground on which we live  
cracks open, and we tumble.  
No limit! No death! No life!  
The world rips and cracks and trembles  
Now that we have jeered him away.

*Soldiers*

Soldiers' knees are shaking  
and our laws falter:  
That Cross! That crown! That king!  
The world rips and cracks and trembles  
Now that we have finished him off.

*Priests, People and Soldiers*

Nothing will ever be the way it was.  
What have we done?

<One minute of silence>

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## 22. Leegte van dagen / Emptiness of Days

### *A reflection*

Everything in me echoes the past,  
everything turns to stone, has broken  
off like glass.

And I tear my heart open  
on the emptiness of days  
which one by one by one  
and not a single one  
the way it was.

Put out the stars, steal away the moon,  
for all light turns to shadow  
and each new dreamless night  
whispers, desperately, your name.

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## 23. Adieu

### *Choir and audience*

The night has crept closer,  
The light has secretly crawled away  
A grave lies open in the dusk  
Rest in peace, peace be with you, adieu  
Goodbye Jesus, adieu, adieu, adieu

A stone will now close off the opening.  
A guard will be patrolling there.  
There's nothing any human can try here.  
Rest in peace, peace be with you, adieu  
Goodbye Jesus, adieu, adieu, adieu

The end. Is it all over then?  
[Should we] go home, slink away quietly?  
You tell me: is there anything left to hope for?  
Stand up, peace be with you, adieu  
Goodbye people, adieu, adieu, adieu

## Epilogue

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### 24. Maar in mijn hart / But in My Heart

*All singers*

See me

See me stand here without you

And the water rises – higher than my mouth.

And my feet, however earching, find no ground.

But in my heart grows a calling,  
grows a wishing, grows a waiting.

In my heart grows a knowing:  
wherever I am, there you are too.

And if I stumble, if I fall,  
if I drown in questions,  
I know you will carry me.

You who were and are and will always be  
so much bigger than this heart of mine.

# Matthew's Story in a Nutshell

## In De lastpost, een veelstemmig verhaal

See also [www.delastpost.nl/inenglish](http://www.delastpost.nl/inenglish)



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### Part I

#### Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

Pilgrims are arriving in Jerusalem for the celebration of the Jewish Easter. Among them is Jesus, riding on a donkey. On his entry he is cheered by the inhabitants of the city, who expect him to drive away the hated Romans. Jesus goes to the temple, however. The children continue to follow him.

*(Dansen van plezier – Dancing for Joy)*

#### Debate in the Temple Courts

Upon entering the temple courts Jesus chases away all the merchants and starts to prophesy about a new world that is coming. He is confronted by the priests and scribes. Jesus offends them by telling a story with an all too clear message. The people that have been listening respond with enthusiasm and the priests and scribes retreat.

*(Pardon, jongeman – Excuse Us, Young Man)*

#### Meeting of the High Priests

The high priests decide that Jesus poses a threat and must be taken care of. At the same time they realise that they risk causing a revolt if they arrest him in public.

*(Niet op het feest – Not during the Feast)*

#### A Woman Embalms Jesus with Expensive Oil

Jesus and his disciples are sitting at the table, when a woman enters. She approaches Jesus and pours very expensive oil on him to, in a way, anoint him as king. The disciples complain about the wasting of this expensive oil, but Jesus praises the woman. He says that with her oil she has already embalmed him for his death...

*(Die dag – That Day)*

#### Judas Betrays Jesus

Judas, one of Jesus' friends, goes to the meeting of the high priests. He announces that for thirty pieces of silver he is willing to tell them where they will be able to arrest Jesus without being noticed. He is paid at once.

*(Wat komt hij doen? – What Does He Want?)*

#### Jesus' Last Supper

On Thursday night Jesus and his friends celebrate Pesach, the Jewish Easter. At the start of the night, Jesus says that he knows he will be betrayed and that he also knows who will betray him. Judas is ashamed and slinks away.

*(Aan tafel – At the Table)*

In the Pesach ritual the youngest child (here: the youngest disciple) asks questions about the meaning of the celebration. The oldest person present, in this case Jesus, answers and tells about the history of the Jewish people: the enslavement in Egypt, the exodus through the sea, the coming together in one people under one God. After each answer everyone joins in a festive song of thanks.

*(Anders dan anders - Not the same, part 1)*

After the fourth question Jesus says unexpectedly that this Pesach meal will be his last. He breaks the bread and pours the wine. In the same way, he says, will his body be broken and his blood be shed. He then passes both bread and wine around and adds: in this way I give myself and everything for which I have lived to you. Then he instructs his disciples to do the same and in this way spread freedom, life and love.

*(Anders dan anders - Not the same, part 1)*

In conclusion everyone sings an exuberant song of praise.

*(Van hand tot hand – From Hand to Hand)*

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## Part II

### The Mountain of Olives (the Garden of Gethsemane)

On their way to a place to spend the night, Jesus tells his friends that they will all abandon him. They are shocked and protest. Jesus says to Peter: before the rooster crows, you will be gone.

*(Onderweg – On our Way)*

In the garden of olives Jesus asks his friends if they will stay awake with him. He isolates himself and prays to God in despair. Three times he returns to his friends and each time he finds that they have fallen asleep. On his final return he urges them to get up and wait with him for his arrest.

*(Tussen de zwarte bomen – Among the Black Trees)*

Judas arrives accompanied by a number of men that have been sent by the high priests to arrest Jesus. He identifies Jesus by giving him a kiss. Jesus addresses him as 'friend'. Later Judas will come to regret his actions and he will hang himself from a tree.

*(Volgens afspraak – As Agreed)*

### Before the High Priests

Jesus is interrogated by the high priests, who decide that he should be put to death. Peter is watching from a distance when bystanders recognize him and accuse him of being Jesus' friend.

Three times he denies this. Then the rooster crows.

*(Die ken ik niet – I Don't Know Him)*

### Conviction by Pilate

As the legal authority of the high priests is limited, they take Jesus to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. He does not consider Jesus to be a serious threat, but the high priests pressure him to convict Jesus anyway. Pilate attempts to find a way to release Jesus and allows the people to decide who should be pardoned: Jesus or the infamous freedom fighter Barabbas.

*(Kiezen jullie maar, – You Choose, part 1)*

Pilate is distracted for a moment when his wife urges him to leave Jesus alone.

*(Ik kreeg een droom – I Had a Dream)*

In the meantime the high priests have incited the people to demand the release of the freedom fighter and the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate washes his hands and orders Jesus to be flogged and crucified.

*(Kiezen jullie maar, – You Choose, part 2)*

### Jesus is Mocked, Flogged, Crucified; He Dies

During a rough soldiers' game Jesus is dressed up like a king and mocked. Next he is flogged to within an inch of his life.

*(Zo doen we dat – That's How it's Done)*

Afterwards Jesus has to carry his own cross to the place of execution, but, as he is no longer able to do so, a passer-by is forced to carry it for him.

*(Ik lijk wel gek – I Must Be Crazy)*

The soldiers then undress Jesus and nail him to the cross while the crowds of spectators mock him. In the middle of the day everything turns dark and the soldiers become frightened, but the mocking continues, even after Jesus cries out "My God, why have you forsaken me". At last he dies.

*(Geen woorden meer – No More Words)*

### After Jesus' Death

Strange things happen and make the high priests understand that the world has been changed forever.

*(Aan rafels – To shreds)*

Jesus' body is placed in a grave, which is then sealed off with a heavy rock and guarded, at the request of the high priests. It seems as if all hope is lost, that it was all for nothing. Is this then the end of the story?

*(Adieu – Adieu)*

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## Epilogue

This may be the close of the Passion, but the story does not end here. Matthew and the other evangelists describe Jesus' resurrection and his command to all people to carry his message into the world; where he himself will then be as well.

*De lastpost concludes with a poem in song: Maar in mijn hart – But in My Heart.*