

# De lastpost / The Nuisance - English Translation

Translated by Hendrik Jan Bosman and Pauline Donders

About this translation.....	1
<b>Part 1.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1*. Begin.....	2
2*. Sing and play (Dansen van plezier).....	2
3. Never Knew (Nooit geweten).....	3
4. That Man (Die man) - 2019.....	4
4a. Excuse Us, Young Man (Pardon, jongeman).....	6
4b. As it goes (Zoals dat gaat).....	7
4c. Excuse us young man - part 2 (Pardon Jongeman - deel 2).....	7
5. And the World, it Lay Open (En de wereld die lag open).....	8
6. Not during the feast (Niet op het feest).....	8
7*. That Day (Die dag).....	10
8. What does he want? (Wat komt hij doen?).....	11
9. Wait (Wacht).....	12
10*. At the Table (Aan tafel).....	12
11*. How come? (Anders dan anders).....	13
12*. From Hand to Hand (Van hand tot hand).....	14
<b>Part 2.....</b>	<b>15</b>
13*. In the Moonlight (Onderweg).....	15
14. Among the black trees (Tussen de zwarte bomen).....	15
15. As agreed (Volgens afspraak).....	16
16. I Don't Know Him (Die ken ik niet).....	17
17a*. Who's it going to be? - part 1 (Kiezen jullie maar - deel 1).....	17
17b*. I've had a dream (Ik kreeg een droom).....	18
17c*. Who's it going to be? - part 2 (Kiezen jullie maar - deel 2).....	18
18. That's how it's done (Zo doen we dat).....	19
19*. I Must Be Nuts (Ik lijk wel gek).....	20
20. No more words (Geen woorden meer).....	21
21*. In tatters (Aan rafels).....	22
22. Blankness of Days (Leegte van dagen).....	23
23*. Farewell (Adieu).....	23
<b>Epilogue.....</b>	<b>24</b>
24. But in My Heart (Maar in mijn hart).....	24
<b>Matthew's Story in a Nutshell.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem</b> .....	25
<b>Debate in the Temple Courts</b> .....	25
<b>Meeting of the High Priests</b> .....	25
<b>A Woman Embalms Jesus with Expensive Oil</b> .....	25
<b>Judas Betrays Jesus</b> .....	25
<b>Jesus' Last Supper</b> .....	25
<b>The Mountain of Olives (the Garden of Gethsemane)</b> .....	26
<b>Before the High Priests</b> .....	26
<b>Conviction by Pilate</b> .....	26
<b>Jesus is Mocked, Flogged, Crucified; He Dies</b> .....	26
<b>After Jesus' Death</b> .....	26

---

## About this translation

Texts with an asterisk in the title were translated in 2017 by Hendrik Jan Bosman, to be sung on the same music as the Dutch texts.

The other texts were translated earlier, by Pauline Donders and Hendrik Jan Bosman, just to help the singers understand the words they sing. This translation is *not* intended to be poetic nor to be correct English; the words chosen and the word order resemble the original song texts as much as possible.

In 2019, 4. That Man was added. It replaces 4a-c, 6, and 8.

## Part 1

---

### 1\*. Begin

*All singers and audience*

O tell, stories need a beginning.  
Begin, give us your words, your singing.  
And tell, tell us the news you're bringing  
of him, Jesus the Nuisance. Sing!  
Begin, now, and sing!

---

### 2\*. Sing and play (Dansen van plezier)

*Children of Jerusalem*

Hurray! The big parade is here.  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
And on that donkey, riding near:  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
And even though he's far away  
all the children sing and play  
We wait for him, we dance and cheer:  
    Hi, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hurrah!

The king arrives, he won't be long  
    Hi, Jesus! Hosanna!  
It's just like in that bible song:  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
We wave our branches all around,  
spread our coats out on the ground  
to pave the way he's walking on.  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hurrah!

We pass the city gates and sing:  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
A childrens' choir for the king.  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
The grown-ups raise their fists and shout:  
'Jesus, kick those Romans out!'  
That's just another grown-up thing.  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hurrah!

And now we're in the temple square.  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
You won't see any grown-ups there.  
    Hi Jesus! Hosanna!  
They don't like Jesus anymore,  
so they're walking out the door.  
But we're not going anywhere.  
    Hi Jesus, Hosanna! Hosanna! Hurrah!

---

### 3. Never Knew (Nooit geweten)

*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!

---

## 4. That Man (Die man) - 2019

### *Kajafas*

What do I do about that man?  
That nuisance, that rebel, that unhinged teacher.  
He drives the people wild, they make him far too great.

### *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.

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.

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 my kingdom.  
No high or low, for every human is free,  
equal to every other.

### *Kajafas*

What do I do about that man?  
I put him in his place, for I am the high priest.  
He shakes his head and laughs.  
Then he makes a fool out of me,  
just listen to what he tells:

### *Jesus*

A wine farmer appointed stewards.  
He said: "Take good care of my vineyard.  
And when the grapes turn ripe,  
we will share her abundance"

Yet, this sharing never happened.  
Every servant coming for the rent  
was scolded, thrown out on the street  
and sent away, black and blue.

At last the farmer sent his son.  
He thought: "Him they will not harm."  
But they beat him to death, just like that,  
As it goes in the world.

### *Kajafas*

What kind of a story was that?  
That son, is that supposed to be him?  
And we, the priests, those stewards?  
And has he no respect?  
No respect for our authority?

*Jesus*

You hear this, but you don't get it.  
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, that some day 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*

It will be like that: the day comes that the power  
of God will conquer the world,  
the day that this king, long awaited,  
begins his kingdom of peace here with us!

*Kajafas*

Wat do we do about that man?  
We must get rid of him!  
Just think about the Romans:  
They'll burn down everything,  
if this should become a revolt!  
He has to go, that man!  
But wait: not on the feast,  
that would cause too much trouble.  
Far from his fans, or else it will not work.  
But what? When? How? Who could tip us off?  
A renegade, perhaps, who has lost faith in him?

---

#### 4a. Excuse Us, Young Man (Pardon, jongeman)

*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. As it goes (Zoals dat gaat)

### *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. Excuse us young man - part 2 (Pardon Jongeman - deel 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. And the World, it Lay Open (En de wereld die lag 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. Not during the feast (Niet op het feest)

### *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\*. That Day (Die dag)

### *A Woman*

Now that I look back again,  
I can see what I could not then:  
My whole life, in some hidden way,  
has come together on that day.  
Who ever could have told me  
He still is in all I see;  
have foretold me,  
that this one encounter would be  
the thing still defining me?

Uninvited I arrived  
at his table, right by his side,  
took my ointment, costly and sweet,  
and poured it on his head and feet.  
This was his coronation:  
My teacher, my friend, my king!  
My donation:  
I wanted, in so many ways,  
to show he deserved my praise.

All his friends called out, enraged:  
'Madness! Money lost! Such a waste!'  
He said: 'Let her! This ointment makes  
my body ready for the grave.'  
And he said: 'Pay attention:  
Wherever my news is brought,  
she'll be mentioned:  
the only one here who has caught  
the meaning of what I've taught.'

Dumb I stood, nailed to the ground.  
What I'd meant, had been turned around.  
Signs of love, in one single breath,  
were now a symbol of his death.  
Who ever could have told me,  
how those are in fact the same;  
have foretold me,  
that he who I miss every day  
will always be on my way?

Who ever could have told me,  
that 'dead' is not 'gone away',  
have foretold me,  
that he who I miss every day  
is here in my life to stay?

---

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

### *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. Wait (Wacht)

### *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\*. At the Table (Aan tafel)

### *Judas*

Look at that Messiah! If he only knew  
what's about to happen, doesn't have a clue.  
I have just betrayed him, but I still pretend,  
sitting at the table as his closest friend.

See the man just sit there, take a piece of bread.  
But, what is he saying? 'Soon I will be dead.  
One of you betrays me, one of you who knows.  
Well, so much for friendship, that is how it goes.'

I reply: 'Never me! How could that ever be?'

Our eyes meet. He says: 'Well, you would know.'  
Far too close. Too painful. I must go...

---

## 11\*. How come? (Anders dan anders)

### *Youngest one at the table*

How come, how come,  
how come tonight is not,  
how come tonight is not the same,  
diff'rent from others, from others,  
is diff'rent from all the others?

### *Oldest one at the table*

I'll tell you the story: We lived in distress  
as prisoners, slaving in a valley of death.  
But listen, remember, how this very night  
He led us to freedom, and from darkness to light.

### *All*

O blessed you are, o blessed you are,  
the One and only King of All,  
You give us the wine, you give us the wine  
of freedom that makes us whole.

### *Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is not the same, different from all the others?

### *Oldest one at the table*

I'll tell you the story: We still couldn't flee.  
On one side the armies, on the other the sea.  
But listen, remember, how this very night  
He paved us a path among the waves, a way to life.

### *All*

O blessed you are, o blessed you are,  
the One and only King of All,  
You give us the bread, you give us the bread  
of life that 'll make us whole.

### *Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is not the same, different from all the others?

### *Oldest one at the table*

I'll tell you the story: We wandered in vain  
through desert and wasteland, with no purpose or name.  
But listen, remember his voice on that day:  
He led us to love, let his commandments show the way.

### *All*

O blessed you are, o blessed you are,  
the One and only King of All,  
You give us your word, you give us your word

of love that 'll make us whole.

*Youngest one at the table*

How come this night is not the same, different from all the others?

*Jesus*

For me it is the last one.  
I will no longer see it.  
My body will be broken, like this bread is.  
My blood, it will be poured out like this wine.  
Yet I will never perish:

Look here, this bread: I break it.  
Look here, this wine: I pour it.  
The bread and wine are life and love and freedom,  
yes, everything I am and ever was,  
I pass it on to you now.

So break the bread and share it.  
So drink the wine. Remember  
this bread and wine as life and love and freedom,  
as everything you are and ever were,  
and pass it on to others.

---

## **12\*. From Hand to Hand (Van hand tot hand)**

*All singers and audience*

O, blessed the One who lives  
for bread and the life it gives,  
for wine in which freedom flows,  
the Word and the love it brings.  
Yes, blessed the One who lives.

Together as one we stand,  
pass freedom from hand to hand,  
let love go from mouth to mouth,  
let life grow from land to land,  
'till all of the world is spanned.

This table could never fit  
all those who've been called to it.  
The sharing goes on and on,  
with everyone, bit by bit,  
a flow that will never quit.

So, blessed the One who lives  
for bread and the life it gives,  
for wine in which freedom flows,  
the Word and the love it brings.  
Yes, blessed the One who lives.

## Part 2

---

### 13\*. In the Moonlight (Onderweg)

*Peter*

Walking in the moonlight, hour's getting late,  
to the Mount of Olives. Then he tells us: "Wait.  
Listen to my warning, things are going wrong.  
They are out to get me, and they won't be long.

You, my dear companions, will abandon me.  
When the shepherd's missing, all the sheep will flee.  
You'll not want to know me, let me die. But then:  
You will never lose me. We will meet again."

I reply: "Never me!  
How could that ever be?"

Then he says: "My friend, I'll let you know:  
When you'll hear the rooster, you will go..."

---

### 14. Among the black trees (Tussen de zwarte bomen)

*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. As agreed (Volgens afspraak)

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

*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\*. Who's it going to be? - part 1 (Kiezen jullie maar - deel 1)

*Herald:*

All rise, all rise, Mr. Pilate's here!

*Pilate*

As for the Jesus case: I had my doubt.  
Before I had said a word, they began to shout:  
"Indictment: rebellion! Death our demand!"  
But Jesus seemed harmless. The charge would not stand.  
I wanted this over, so I tried a plan.

I said: "You know, that on the Feast it is tradition  
to pardon a prisoner. Now, you make the decision:  
Will Jesus Bar Abbas, the terrorist, be free?  
Or Jesus of Nazareth, the teacher? Tell me:  
Just who will I free? Which Jesus? Who's it going to be?"

---

## 17b\*. I've had a dream (Ik kreeg een droom)

*Clerk*

Message for you, mister Pilate, greetings from your wife.

*Mrs. Pilate*

My darling Pontius, please let him be,  
the man in front of you, please let him be.

Do not convict him, for I know:

He is not guilty, simply not guilty.

I've had a dream, my darling!

And now I ask of you: Please let him be,  
the man in front of you, please let him be.

My darling Pontius...

You are the governor, you're in command.

I stand here powerless, with empty hands.

You're the decider, yet I know:

He is not guilty, simply not guilty!

Make no mistake, my darling!

Again, I beg of you: Please let him be,

Don't have him crucified, please let him be!

My darling Pontius... / A loving, loving kiss...

---

## 17c\*. Who's it going to be? - part 2 (Kiezen jullie maar - deel 2)

*Pilate*

In that one minute, while my wife had me distracted,  
The high priest had worked the crowds, who eagerly reacted.

I asked them to choose now. They answered as one cry:

"Not him, but Bar Abbas! Bar Abbas is our guy!"

It scared me: The rage, the hatred! Who could tell me why?

"What then," I asked, "of Jesus? How should he be punished?"

The crowds bellowed: "Nail the guy! A cross! We want him finished!"

"I wash my hands clean," I said, "my conscience must be clear!"

They kept screaming: "Kill! Cross!" I gave in to fear.

"All right," I said, "Flog him... Then have him crucified... Get him out of here!"

---

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

### *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\*. I Must Be Nuts (Ik lijk wel gek)

*Simon of Cyrene [pronounce: Sai-ree-nee]*

Step by step and step by stumble  
on the long, long way

How did I come to this?  
Lugging lumber! Chafes and cuts!  
First that wooden cross was his,  
now it's mine, I must be nuts.

Hey, you there! Simon of Cyrene!

He stumbled down in pain.  
Then some Romans drew me near,  
said before I could complain:  
"Help this loser over here!"

Hey, you there, Simon of Cyrene!

Fine! Let me make the climb,  
bear his cross. I can, I will.  
He will get it back in time  
On the execution hill.

---

## 20. No more words (Geen woorden meer)

*Roman soldiers, people standing by*

Left! Right! Left! Right!

Look! There he is, our King Nuisance!

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 Nuisance!

Take off his clothes.

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

Who wants clothes from a nuisance?

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 Nuisance!

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 pants.  
No breath.  
No more words.  
One scream.  
Then he collapses  
And suffocates.  
And dies.

---

## **21\*. In tatters (Aan rafels)**

### *Priests, People, Soldiers*

No!!  
What is it we have done?  
For heaven's sake, what is it we have done?

### *Priests*

The curtain in the temple,  
our highest and our holiest:  
Torn up! To shreds! In tatters!  
The world, it breaks and tears and shakes  
now we, the priests, have captured him.

### *People*

The ground we've always lived on  
breaks open, and we're tumbling:  
No grasp! No death! No living!  
The world, it breaks and tears and shakes  
now we, the crowds, have laughed at him.

### *Soldiers*

Our soldiers' knees are buckling,  
our iron laws are faltering:  
That cross! That crown! That kingdom!  
The world, it breaks and tears and shakes  
now we, the troops, have finished him.

### *Priests, People and Soldiers*

Life will never be the same.  
What is it we have done?

<One minute of silence>

---

## 22. Blankness of Days (Leegte van dagen)

### *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 blankness 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.

---

## 23\*. Farewell (Adieu)

### *Choir and audience*

The last shimmers of light are fleeing,  
the long shadows of night come creeping.  
A grave lies in a garden, sleeping.  
So sleep, resting in peace, farewell.  
Dear Jesus, farewell.

A stone blocking the cavern's entrance.  
A guard, openly in attendance.  
All help hopelessly at a distance.  
So sleep, resting in peace, farewell.  
Dear Jesus, farewell.

That's it. Does it all end in sorrow,  
Go home, back in the line tomorrow?  
Just look: What is there left to hope for?  
So rise, living in peace, farewell.  
Dear people, farewell.

## Epilogue

---

### 24. But in My Heart (Maar in mijn hart)

*All singers*

See me

See me stand here without you

And the water rises - higher than my mouth.

And my feet, however searching, 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)



## 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 – Sing and Play)*

### 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 – How Come?, 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 – How Come?, part 2)*

In conclusion everyone sings an exuberant song of praise.

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

---

## 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 – In the Moonlight)*

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 – Who's it going to be?, part 1)*

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

*(Ik kreeg een droom – I've 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 – Who's it going to be?, 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 Nuts)*

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 – In Tatters)*

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 – Farewell)*

---

## 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.*