

# BETWEEN WORLDS

## INTROIT

*Night. The small hour before dawn.*

*In the dark: a very large, empty, deserted office space, high up. Unfurnished. A curtain of tall, narrow windows all around divided by the verticals of the Tower's structure. Darkness beyond. Perhaps stars, a plane passing, lights winking in the great dark. Working lights, here and there, but mostly shadow and darkness.*

*Balanced in the void: the SHAMAN sings an aria (icaro) of broken consonants, chanting and muttering, and then whistling, while rhythmically shaking a bunch of dry leaves, confronting – saluting – the night's powers.*

*On the office floor: enter the JANITOR, dressed in generic uniform. He takes in the view of the night from the windows, the city beneath him, the night sky above. He has no fear of the abyss or the empty floor: this is his privilege, a place to be alone... But he also has his work: to set up a buffet table for a morning conference.*

JANITOR

I rise in the dark  
And ride the subway  
Under the night city –  
Thousands of us  
Wash the stairs, empty the trash  
Dust the desks, polish the water fountains  
A hundred and ten floors!  
– Unseen  
So everything will be as it was  
For the unknown  
People to appear  
Each new day –  
  
Listen to the silence –  
  
A hundred and ten floors  
Each one an island  
Illuminated in the night –

*What did we see?*  
Unconfirmed reports  
This just in  
*What did we see?*  
Has just occurred  
No word on details  
*What did we see?*  
I saw a plane  
Tearing the sky –  
I saw it hit –  
I saw an orange ball of fire –  
I thought for a moment  
It must be a movie –  
Turn on the TV !  
*What did we see?*  
Turn on the TV!  
*What did we see?*  
Turn on the TV!  
*What did we see?*

*Silence.*

*Then suddenly everyone is trying to get through. A human babble of urgency in many languages from the world outside the Tower. A reprise of the 'Good Morning' opening transmissions, but in terrible reverse.*

CHORUS

Please call home  
Your voice mail is not working  
I need to know where you are  
Cuidense mucho  
Please call home  
Appelle-moi  
I need to make sure you are OK because  
Honey, I can't reach you  
As soon as you can  
Please call  
Bitte rufe mich an  
I love you, be safe  
Por favor llamar a casa  
Por favor  
Please call

## SCENE 11 – THE END OF THE DAY

*The MOTHER sits waiting. The SISTER walks towards her and gently takes the phone from her hand. The MOTHER bursts into a primal lamentation of sorrowing and grief. A lament branches out through the CHORUS: a tree of grief joining everyone, all of humanity.*

*Scraps of paper start to drift down from high above. The CHORUS picks them up at random, and sing INDIVIDUALLY the messages they find. The JANITOR walks among the living.*

CHORUS

My dearest  
My beloved  
My heart  
My love  
Mi amor  
My whole world  
You are everything  
I wish you well  
Meu amor  
I am so sorry  
It breaks my heart  
Mon amour  
I cannot find the words  
The only words  
Mera pyaar<sup>1</sup>  
I send these words  
This is for you  
Nae Salang<sup>2</sup>  
Thank you for everything  
You made my life  
I am thinking of you  
Now and always  
Aishiteru<sup>3</sup>  
I wouldn't change anything  
Go on loving  
Out of the depths of my heart

---

1 Hindi  
2 Korean  
3 Japanese