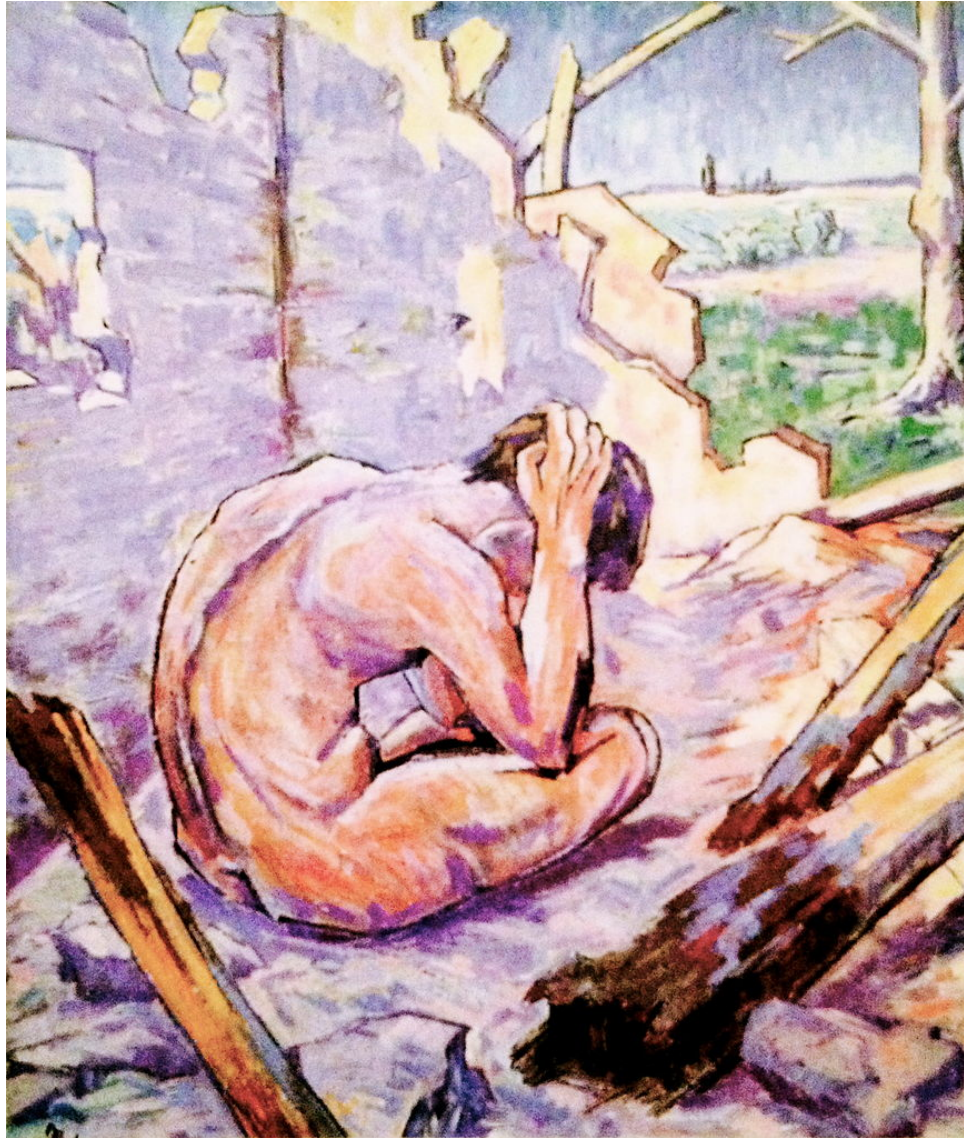


# Job Sat Upon the Ash Heap

An anthem for SATB choir written by Arthur Eschenlauer

Piano accompaniment by F. Michel Kline

Second edition, September 2018



<http://eschenlauer.com/music/JobSatUponTheAshHeap/satb/>

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Job struggles to explain why he suffers so much.

Conventional wisdom proclaimed that one must suffer for what he has done wrong. Job believes this, and yet he still suffers, even when he tried to do everything right. But, because he believes that God is just, he asks God to explain why God is making him suffer so horribly.

I met a priest who had left the ministry and entered law school, so I asked him what his perspective on divine justice is. He said:

Job is sitting in the garbage dump, scraping the boils on his skin with a broken piece of pottery, and he cries out to God, 'What did I do to deserve this?' God comes in a whirlwind and replies ... 'Nothing'. But where the story really ends is several thousand years later, when God comes to earth as one of us to tell Job, 'Move over. Make room on the garbage heap for Me, too. Because I will not make your suffering go away, but I will share it with you, I will experience it completely, and I will be there to strengthen you in your struggle.' God does not cause the suffering; God participates in the recovery.

# Job Sat Upon the Ash Heap

Song by Art Eschenlauer  
piano arr. by F. Michel Kline  
Second ed., Sept. 2018

$\text{♩} = 100$

Tenor

Bass

Piano

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Job sat up - on the ash heap and scraped his sores with a

*p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Job sat up - on the ash heap and scraped his sores with a

*mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

*Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

6

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pn.

*p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

He was a faith - ful man, ev - en when fac - ing dis - as - ter.

*p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

He was a faith - ful man, ev - en when fac - ing dis - as - ter.

*p* *mp* *p*

pot shard.

*p*

pot shard.

*mp* *p*

*Red.* *Red.*

12

S. *mp* Sa - tan said to God,

A. *mf* *melody* Sa - tan said to God,

T. *f* *melody* "I have not

B. *mf* "I have not

Pn. *mp* *p* *mp*

(Xed.) | Xed. | Xed. | Xed. | Xed. | Xed. | Xed. | Xed. |

18

S. *mp* *mf* *mp* God said, *melody* "Look up - on my ser - vant, Job. He is *(harmony)* peer - less in his

A. *mp* *mf* *mp* God said, *melody* "Look up - on my ser - vant, Job. He is *melody* peer - less in his

T. *mp* seen a right - eous man." God said, He is peer - less in his

B. *mp* seen a right - eous man." God said, He is peer - less in his

Pn. *mf* *mf* *mp*

Xed. | Xed. | Xed. | Xed. |



31

S. *p* *sfp* *a tempo*  
sure - ly, he will curse you."

A. *mp* *sfp* *a tempo* *p*  
sure - ly, he will curse you." Job

T. *p* *sfp* *a tempo*  
sure - ly, he will curse you."

B. *p* *sfp* *a tempo* *p*  
sure - ly, he will curse you." *melody* Job sat up - on the

Pn. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
*a tempo*

Red. \_\_\_\_\_

36

S. *p*  
He

A. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*  
sat up - on the ash heap and scraped his sores.

T. *p* *melody*  
He was a faith - ful

B. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*  
ash heap and scraped his sores with a pot shard.

Pn. *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*  
*a tempo*

Red. \_\_\_\_\_

41

S. *mp* was a faith-ful man, ev-en when \_\_\_\_\_ fa - cing dis-as - ter. *p*

T. *mp* man, ev-en when fac - ing dis - as - ter. *p*

Pn. *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

46

A. *p* "Oh, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Why me? *mp* Why have you made me your

T. *mp* "Oh, Lord, why me? *p* Why me?

Pn. *mp* *p*

51

S. *mf* My health, my

A. en - e - my?

T. Why me?

B. *mp* My health,

Pn. *mp* *mf* *mp*

55

S. *f* flocks, *mf* my ten beau - ti - ful child - ren! *p* *mf* Oh, *melody* *mp*

A. *mf* my ten beau - ti - ful child - ren! *p* Oh,

T. *ff* *melody* my ten beau - ti - ful child - ren! *mf*

B. *mf* my flocks, my ten beau - ti - ful child - ren! *p*

Pn. *f* *mp*

59

S. Lord! Why me? *mf* (harmony) What have I done? *f* *melody* I have *mp*

A. Lord! Why me? What have I done? I have *mp*

T. *f* "Oh, Lord, Why me? What have I done to de - serve this fate? I have *mp*

B. *mp* "Oh, Lord, Why me? What have I done *melody* to de - serve this fate? I have *ff* *mp*

Pn. *f*



63

S. *mf* *ff* *molto rit.* *a tempo*  
 tried hard to serve You! I don't think I've failed You. Treat me

A. *mf* *molto rit.* *a tempo*  
 tried hard to serve You! I don't think I've failed You. Treat me

T. *mf* *molto rit.* *a tempo*  
 tried hard to serve You! I don't think I've failed You. Treat me

B. *mf* *molto rit.* *a tempo*  
 tried hard to serve You! I don't think I've failed You. Treat me

Pn. *mf* *f* *mf*  
 tried hard to serve You! I don't think I've failed You. Treat me

67

S. *mf* *mp* *mp*  
 just - ly!" Job

A. *mp* *p* *mp* *melody*  
 just - ly!" Job sat up - on the ash heap and

T. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*  
 just - ly!" Job sat up - on the

B. *mp* *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *p* *mp*  
 just - ly!" Job sat up - on the ash heap and scraped his sores with a

Pn. *mp* *mf* *p*  
 just - ly!" Job sat up - on the ash heap and scraped his sores with a

72

S. *p* *mp* *p* *mf*  
 sat up - on the ash heap and scraped his sores. *melody* He

A. *mf* *mp*  
 scraped his sores with a pot shard. He

T. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
 ash heap and scraped his sores with a pot shard. He

B. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
 pot shard. Job sat up - on the ash heap. He

Pn. *mp* *p* *mp*

*Red.*

75

S. *mp*  
 was a faith - ful man, ev-en when fac - ing dis - as-ter.

A. *p*  
 was a faith - ful man, ev-en when fac - ing dis - as-ter.

T. *p*  
 was a faith - ful man, ev-en when fac - ing dis - as-ter.

B. *p*  
 was a faith - ful man, ev-en when fac - ing dis - as-ter.

Pn. *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *poco rit.*

*Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

81

S. *mp*  
*melody*  
 "Job, I love you. I do not cause your

A. *p*  
 "Job, I love you.

B. *p*  
 I do not cause your

Pn. *rit. a fermarsi, poco a poco*  
*a tempo*  
*mf* *p*

87

S. *p*  
 suf-fer-ing. I suf-fer,

A. *p*  
 I suf-fer, too.

T. *mp*  
*melody*  
 When I see you suf-fer, Job, I suf-fer, too.

B. *p*  
 suf-fer-ing. When I see you suf-fer, Job, I suf-fer, too.

Pn. *p*

92

S. *mp* I come to be

A. *mp* melody I care for My child - ren, *p* each one whom I cre - at - ed. *p* I come to be

T. *mp* melody each one whom I cre - at - ed. *p* I come to be

B. I care for My child - ren, I come to be

Pn.

97

S. *p* molto rit. ma poco a poco *p* their strength, not to con - demn them." Job *mf*

A. *pp* molto rit. ma poco a poco *p* their strength, not to con - demn them." Job *mf* melody

T. *pp* molto rit. ma poco a poco *p* their strength, not to con - demn them." Job *p*

B. *pp* molto rit. ma poco a poco *p* their strength, not to con - demn them." Job

Pn. *pp* molto rit. ma poco a poco *f*

102 *a tempo*

S. *rose up from the ash heap and cast a - way his pot shard. God*  
*a tempo* *f* *ff* *p*

A. *rose up from the ash heap and cast a - way his pot shard. God*  
*a tempo* *f* *ff* *mf*

T. *rose up from the ash heap and cast a - way his pot shard. melody God*  
*a tempo* *f* *ff* *p*

B. *rose up from the ash heap and cast a - way his pot shard. God*  
*a tempo* *f* *ff* *p*

Pn. *p* *f* *mp*

*And.*

107

S. *had no quar - rel with him and showed how much God loved him.*  
*mp* *p*

A. *had no quar - rel with him and showed how much God loved him.*  
*mp* *p*

T. *had no quar - rel with him and showed how much God loved him.*  
*f* *mp*

B. *had no quar - rel with him and showed how much God loved him.*  
*mp* *p*

Pn. *mf* *mp*

*And.* *And.*

111 *molto rit. ma poco a poco*

Pn. *f* *mf*

*And.* *And.* *And.* *And.*

Cover Image: Otto Rahm, “Hiob”, 1951.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Otto\\_Rahm\\_\"Hiob\",\\_1951.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Otto_Rahm_\)

Practice video (instrumental SATB parts with synthesized piano):

<https://youtu.be/BLJcaqFqrUc>

or, equivalently, at

<https://tinyurl.com/JobSatPractice>

Practice part emphasizing Soprano

<https://youtu.be/UCjBhR2epkM> = <https://tinyurl.com/JobSatSoprano>

Practice part emphasizing Alto

<https://youtu.be/OIdoF05sqao> = <https://tinyurl.com/JobSatAlto>

Practice part emphasizing Tenor

<https://youtu.be/1g3AW0cnleM> = <https://tinyurl.com/JobSatTenor>

Practice part emphasizing Bass

<https://youtu.be/4Vq4bvMkOhk> = <https://tinyurl.com/JobSatBass>

Video (recording of arrangement for solo Baritone and Piano):

<https://youtu.be/OkWqMfXvzNo>