The War in Heaven
(Angel’s Monologue)

by

Joseph Chaikin and Sam Shepard

I died
the day I was born
and became an Angel
on that day
since then
there are no days
there is no time
I am here
by mistake
I’m not sure now
how it happened
I crashed
I know I crashed
In these streets
I came down
I don’t know what went wrong
I was a part of something
I remember being
a member
I was moving
I had certain orders
a mission
I had a small battalion
Principalities
Dominions
I'm not sure now
how I fit
where
I fit
exactly
I know
there were those
above me
and those
below
but I'm not sure now
where I fit

so many things
now
so many
earth
earth
just a little part
just so much
so tiny
you can never catch
so many
air
sometimes
earth
so small
tiny
so much more
ever
more
more
more
more
and more
and dead
sometimes
even dead
yes
it's true

There was a time
when I felt I had a destination
I was moving
toward something
I thought I understood
There was an order
that was clear to me
a lawful order
Then we were invaded
all the domains were shattered
connections
were broken
we were sent
in a thousand directions
I'd be on a mission
and forget where I was going
I'd try to return
and forget how to find my way back
I'd be lost
in between
That's how I crashed
in a moment of doubt
I crashed
to earth

sometimes grief
now
grieving
both
sometimes
it's true
sometimes it's true
it is
grief
grieving
and grief
both
changing
yes
moving
so many times
it's true
I think it's true
sometimes God
changing
sometimes nothing
sometimes no one else
sometimes nothing
sometimes only God
sometimes beginning
over
beginning
yes
it's true

Every minute I'm here
something's changing in me
something's diminishing
my power slips away
Every second I'm here
I'm weakening
Take me back
where you first found me
and leave me there
I'll find my way back
from there
Take me back
I'll perish
if I stay tied up like this
I will
I'll perish
Then you'll be without me
Turn me loose
Turn me loose
I can't live
without you imagining me
I have no life
without your thought
of me
But you can't see me
as I'm intended to be
unless I'm turned loose
Turn me loose
Turn me loose
You've kept me long enough
nothing
don't
don't care
I say I'm not interested
not interesting to me
but then God
again
God
everywhere
air
everything
out there
beginning
again
beginning
yes
it's true
I think it's true
more
the more
is never
never
stops
too much
more
more
more
more
and more
so nothing
ever stops
cuts
because
too much
more
extraordinary

Take me back
where you first found me
Put me on the place
I'll find my way
back
from there
Take me back
There was a time
when I used to walk
and flowers sprang up
behind me
Now look
no flowers
Take me back
There was a time
to be held and
was so powerful
it would blind the sun
Now look
no light
nothing
Take me back
There was a time
to be brought into
surrounded me
on all sides
voices
bells
an incredible ringing
Now listen
nothing
no sound
but the sound
of my voice
Take me back
I'm hovering
above myself
looking
for a way
back in
I'm all around this body
waiting
Turn me loose
Every second
I'm weakening
Turn me loose

air
again it comes
surrounded
everywhere
it comes
more
so much more
and more
and more
and more
Turn me loose
I was here
once before
quite a while back
I was sent here
on a mission
with a small battalion
We were assigned
to deliver a soul
of a very great man
here on earth
I forget his name now
but he was very great
almost worshipped
We arrived
the streets were packed with people
throng of people
all weeping
and moaning
grieving
grief
it’s true
A huge regiment
of soldiers
on horses
led by a General
riding a white stallion
A long line
of black limousines
barely moving
Canons were fired
Rifles were fired
Flags of all nations
were flown at half mast
Torches burned
The family of the dead man
stood around the open casket
in silence
Hundreds of people
passed by
and kissed the corpse
on the lips
Some fell to their knees
kissing the ground
beneath him
We descended
into the middle of this
and sat on the four corners
of the casket
waiting
for the appearance
of the dead man's soul
We have certain
very definite signs
that tell us
One of these signs
is "the skin of the breath"
We wait
for that to appear
it's usually the very first
to come
We waited all day
We followed the casket to the cemetery
we waited there for it
but nothing appeared
We checked very carefully
with each other
to make sure
we weren't making a mistake
We sat on the corpse
in different stations
one of us
on the chest
one of us
stood on his eyes
another one
on his knees
We looked inside his nose
We checked his ears
but there was absolutely no sign
of a soul
They finally closed the casket up
and lowered him down
We waited
all through the night
and part of the next morning
just in case
Nothing came
nothing even resembling a soul
appeared to us
So we all went back
and reported our findings
to the Principalities
They told us
they must have been mistaken

Extraordinary
I can tell
where God is my life
and Hell
I was dead
so many times
10
12
14
20
30
now 40
so many times
I've been dead
then better
dead
now better
so many times
sometimes
so much
so much more
so much
not earth
not just earth
earth is too tiny
too small
let's say
one day
one day
derad
derad
and nothing else
just dead
nothing
but maybe it's not so
maybe something new starts there
maybe I can't think it
can't remember
maybe not human
maybe a turtle
I can't tell
maybe some wonder
extraordinary
right now
it all starts again
again
again again again
dead dead
born
so many times
again
not just earth
so many more
and more
and more
and more
yes
maybe sometimes
love
love
not everyone
just someone
love
it's great
but sometimes
hate
I hate it
I hate someone
sometimes
I hate
hate
not good
it's not so good
sometimes war
it's war
cut
we don't want them
it's like that
sometimes
war
it's true
they hate
fight
you have to look for an Angel
in the middle
in the midst of this

Turn me loose
Turn me loose now
you've kept me long enough
sometimes
sometimes you can't bring them
you can't call them down
Angels
you don't know their language
you're not speaking them
they're not there
they've gone
now
away
they've gone

Turn me loose now
I have a partner
the partner
is me
the partner
has a partner
in me
Turn me loose

sometimes soul
looking
for someone
my someone else
soul
sometimes
looking
for someone else
soul
sometimes one
looking
Can you see
someone
alone
along
looking
for soul
sometimes
can't see them
only sometimes
and some
yes
sometimes
sometimes sex
in soul
sex
in someone else
touch
between two
in each other
or out
outside
both
everywhere
every time
sometimes together
both
changing
moving
into each other
sometimes no soul
sometimes dead
can't live very much
gone
empty
soul
empty empty
soul
without a body
looking
for a body

Take me back
Every second I stay
I weaken
Take me back now
you've kept me long enough

sometimes sex
together
fucking
each other
one goes over
to the other
leaves
the other
then comes back
sometimes many
living
in one
in an animal
sometimes
in a bird
same
between
two animals
sometimes
new
nothing's different
sometimes
ancient
old old old
before birth
even
still
going on
going going going
soul
not killed
at death
still going
dead alive
still
not so clear
still around
still
ones you've known
not definite
you can't know
for sure
not one
can be sure
ever
sometimes clear
sometimes funny
sex
with someone else
you can never be sure
not only me
only me
myself
sometimes two
some one
sometimes two
sometimes only one
sometimes a woman
and a man
sometimes only one
either one
alone
jerking off
sometimes
sometimes not
sometimes God
sometimes only God
and sometimes
so many
someone else
only one time
self
sometimes two
sometimes music
delivers
it's beautiful
music
is great
so many things
so much can happen
open
open
music
can deliver
turning
deliver
something
something will clear
sometimes music
music
that will clear things
away
music
that will clear
the air

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