**A FEMININE UNIVERSE: ANTIPHONS OF HILDEGARD VON BINGEN**

**TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS**

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| **Karitas**  habundat in omnia,  de imis excellentissima  super sidera  atque amantissima  in omnia,  quia summo regi osculum pacis dedit. | **Charity**  abounds towards all,  most exalted from the depths  above the starts,  and most loving towards all,  for she has given  the supreme king the kiss of peace. |
| **O Pastor animarum,**  et o prima vox,  per qua omnis creati sumus;  nunc tibi placeat  ut digneris nos liberare  de miseris et languoribus nostris. | **O shepherd of souls,**  and O primal voice  through which we all were created,  Now let it please you  to deign to free us from our miseries  and our diseases. |
| **O frondens virga**  in tua nobilitate stans  Sicut aurora procedit:  Nunc gaude et letare et nos debiles dignare  A mala consuetudine liberare  Atque manum tuum porrige  Ad erigendum nos. | **O leafy branch,**  standing in your nobility  as the dawn breaks forth:  Now rejoice and be glad,  and deign to set us frail ones  free from evil habits  and stretch forth your hand  to lift us up. |
| **Spiritus Sanctus vivificans vita,**  movens omnia,  et radix est in omni creatura,  ac omnia de inmunditia abluit,  tergens crimina,  ac ungit vulnera,  et sic est fulgens ac laudabilis vita,  suscitans et resuscitans omnia. | **The Holy Spirit is a life-giving life,** moving all things, and a root in every creature, and cleanses all things from impurity, scrubbing out guilt,  and anoints wounds; and is therefore a gleaming and praiseworthy life,  arousing and resurrecting all. |
| **O Virtus Sapientiae,**  quae circuiens circuisti  comprehendendo omnia in una via,  quae habet vitam,  tres alas habens,  quarum una in altum volat,  et altera de terra sudat,  et tertia undique volat.  Laus tibi sit, sicut te decet, o sapientia. | **O Virtue of Wisdom,**  who circling, circles,  comprehending everything in a single way  that has life;  having three wings,  since one soars on high,  and another perspires on the ground,  and the third flies everywhere;  praise be to you as you deserve, O wisdom. |
| **O eterne Deus,**  nunc tibi placeat  ut in amore ardeas  ut membra illa simus  que fecisti in eodem amore,  cum Filium tuum geunisti,  in prima aurora  ante omnem creaturam,  et inspice necessitatem hanc  que super nos cadit,  at abstrahe eam a nobis  propter Filium tuum,  et perduc nos in leticiam salutis. | **O eternal God,**  now let it please you  to burn in that love  that we may be those limbs  that you made in the same love  when you begot your Son  in the primal dawn  before all creation,  and look upon this need  that falls upon us,  and take it from us  for your Son's sake,  and lead us into the bliss of salvation. |
| **Cum erubuerint**  infelices in progenis sua,  procedentes in peregrinatione casus,  tunc tu clamas clara voce,  hoc modo homines elevans  de isto malicioso casu. | **While the unhappy ones were blushing**  at their offspring  walking in the exile of the fall,  then you cry out with a clear voice,  in this way lifting humanity  from this wicked fall. |
| **Quia ergo femina**  mortem instruxit,  clara virgo illam interemit,  et ideo est summa benedictio  in feminea forma  per omni creatura,  quia Deus factus est homo  in dulcissima et beata virgine. | **Therefore because a woman**  constructed death,  a shining virgin has demolished it;  and so the supreme blessing is  in feminine form  beyond all creation,  because God became man  in the most sweet and blessed Virgin. |
| **O quam magnum miraculum est**  quod in subditam femineam formam  rex introivit.  Hoc Deus fecit  quia humilitas super omnia ascendit.  Et o quam magna felicitas est  in ist forma,  quia malicia,  que de femina fluxit –  hanc femina postea detersit,  et omnem suavissimum odorem virtutem  edificavit,  ac celum ornavit  plus quam terram prius turbavit. | **O what a great miracle it is**  that into a submissive feminine form  entered the king.  This God did  because humility ascends over all.  And O what great felicity is  in this form,  for malice,  which flowed from woman –  woman thereafter rubbed it out,  and built  all the sweetest fragrance of the virtues,  and embellished heaven  more than she formerly troubled earth. |
| **O pulchre facies**  Deum aspicientes et in aurora edificantes,  O beate virgines,  Quam nobiles estis,  In quibus rex se consideravit  Cum in vobis  Omnia celestia ornamenta presignavit,  Ubi etiam suavissimus hortus estis,  In omnibus ornamentis redolentes. | **O beautiful faces**  beholding God  and building in the dawn,  O blessed virgins,  how noble are you  In whom the king contemplated himself,  when in you he foreshadowed all the celestial beauties,  whereby you are also the sweetest garden, redolent with all beauties. |
| **O virgo Ecclesia,**  plangendum est,  quod sevissimus lupus  filios tuos  de latere tuo abstraxit.  O ve callido serpenti!  Sed o quam preciosus est sanguis  Salvatoris,  qui in vexillo regis  Ecclesiam ipse desponsavit,  unde filios  illius requirit. | **O virgin Church,**  we must grieve  because a most savage wolf  has snatched your children  from your side.  Oh woe to the cunning serpent!  But oh, how precious is the blood  of the Savior,  who with the king's standard  married the Church to himself;  therefore he is seeking  her children. |
| **Nunc gaudeant materna viscera**  Ecclesie,  quia in superna simphonia  filii eius in sinum suum collocati sunt.  Unde, o turpissime serpens,  confusus es,  quoniam quos tua estimatio  in visceribus suis habuit  nunc fulgent in sanguine Filii Dei,  et ideo laus tibi sit, rex altissime,  Alleluia. | **Now let the motherly heart**  of the Church rejoice,  because in supernal harmony  her children are gathered into her bosom.  Hence, O shameful serpent,  you are confounded,  because the ones your jealousy  held in its maw  now gleam in the blood of God's Son,  and therefore praise be to you, King Most High.  Alleluia. |
| **Nunc aperuit nobis**  clausa porta  quod serpens in muliere suffocavit.  Unde lucet in aurora flos  de virgine Maria. | **Now a closed gate** has opened to us that which the serpent choked in a woman, hence the flower of the Virgin Mary  gleams in the dawn. |
| **O quam mirabilis est**  prescientia divini pectoris  que prescivit omem creaturam.  Nam cum Deus inspexit  faciem hominis quem formavit,  omnia opera sua  in eadem forma hominis  integra aspexit.  O quam mirabilis est inspiratio  que hominem sic suscitavit. | **Oh, how marvelous is**  the foreknowledge of the divine heart  which foreknew all creation.  For when God looked  on the face of the man that he had formed,  he saw all his works  in that same human form  made complete.  Oh, how marvelous is the inspiration  that in this way roused man to life. |
| **O viridissima virga,**  ave, quae in ventoso flabro sciscitationis  sanctorum prodisti.  Cum venit tempus  quod tu floruisti in ramis tuis,  Ave, ave sit tibi,  quia calor solis in te sudavit  sicut odor balsami.  Nam in te floruit pulcher flos  qui odorem dedit omnibus aromatibus  quae arida erant.  Et illa apparuerunt omnia  in viriditate plena.  Unde caeli dederunt rorem  super gramen,  et omnis terra laeta facta est,  quoniam viscera ipsius  frumentum protulerunt  et quoniam volucres caeli  nidos in ipsa habuerunt.  Deinde facta est esca hominibus  et gaudium magnum epulantium.  Unde, O suavis Virgo,  in te non deficit nullam gaudium.  Haec omnia Eva contemsit.  Nunc autem laus sit altissimo. | **O greenest branch,**  hail, which in the windy breath of seeking  saints came forth.  When the time arrived  for you to flourish in all your branches,  Hail, hail to you,  for the heat of the sun perspired in you  like the scent of balsam.  For upon you blossomed the lovely flower  which gave fragrance to all the scents  which had been barren.  And everything became manifest  in full verdancy.  Then the heavens dropped dew  upon the grass,  and the whole earth was made joyful,  since her womb  brought forth grain  and since the birds of the sky  made their nests in it.  From this food was made for mankind  and great joy for the feasters.  Therefore, O sweetest virgin,  there is no joy lacking in you.  All of this Eve spurned.  Yet now let there be praise to the Most High. |

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