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

**TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS**

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| **Karitas**habundat in omnia,de imis excellentissimasuper sideraatque amantissimain omnia,quia summo regi osculum pacis dedit. | **Charity**abounds towards all,most exalted from the depthsabove 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 placeatut digneris nos liberarede miseris et languoribus nostris. | **O shepherd of souls,** and O primal voicethrough which we all were created,Now let it please youto deign to free us from our miseriesand our diseases. |
| **O frondens virga** in tua nobilitate stansSicut aurora procedit:Nunc gaude et letareet nos debiles dignareA mala consuetudine liberareAtque manum tuum porrigeAd erigendum nos. | **O leafy branch,**standing in your nobilityas the dawn breaks forth:Now rejoice and be glad,and deign to set us frail onesfree from evil habitsand stretch forth your handto 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 circuisticomprehendendo 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 waythat 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 placeatut in amore ardeasut membra illa simusque fecisti in eodem amore,cum Filium tuum geunisti,in prima auroraante omnem creaturam,et inspice necessitatem hancque super nos cadit,at abstrahe eam a nobispropter Filium tuum,et perduc nos in leticiam salutis. | **O eternal God,**now let it please youto burn in that lovethat we may be those limbsthat you made in the same lovewhen you begot your Sonin the primal dawnbefore all creation,and look upon this needthat falls upon us,and take it from usfor 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 elevansde isto malicioso casu. | **While the unhappy ones were blushing**at their offspringwalking in the exile of the fall,then you cry out with a clear voice,in this way lifting humanityfrom this wicked fall. |
| **Quia ergo femina** mortem instruxit,clara virgo illam interemit,et ideo est summa benedictioin feminea formaper omni creatura,quia Deus factus est homoin dulcissima et beata virgine. | **Therefore because a woman**constructed death,a shining virgin has demolished it;and so the supreme blessing isin feminine formbeyond all creation,because God became manin the most sweet and blessed Virgin. |
| **O quam magnum miraculum est**quod in subditam femineam formamrex introivit.Hoc Deus fecitquia 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 virtutemedificavit,ac celum ornavitplus quam terram prius turbavit. | **O what a great miracle it is**that into a submissive feminine formentered the king.This God didbecause humility ascends over all.And O what great felicity isin this form,for malice,which flowed from woman –woman thereafter rubbed it out,and built all the sweetest fragrance of the virtues,and embellished heavenmore than she formerly troubled earth. |
| **O pulchre facies** Deum aspicienteset in aurora edificantes,O beate virgines,Quam nobiles estis,In quibus rex se consideravitCum in vobisOmnia 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 youIn whom the king contemplated himself, when in youhe foreshadowed all the celestial beauties,whereby you are also the sweetest garden,redolent with all beauties. |
| **O virgo Ecclesia,**plangendum est,quod sevissimus lupusfilios tuosde latere tuo abstraxit.O ve callido serpenti!Sed o quam preciosus est sanguisSalvatoris,qui in vexillo regisEcclesiam ipse desponsavit,unde filiosillius requirit. | **O virgin Church,**we must grieve because a most savage wolfhas snatched your childrenfrom your side.Oh woe to the cunning serpent!But oh, how precious is the bloodof the Savior,who with the king's standardmarried the Church to himself;therefore he is seekingher children. |
| **Nunc gaudeant materna viscera**Ecclesie,quia in superna simphoniafilii eius in sinum suum collocati sunt.Unde, o turpissime serpens,confusus es,quoniam quos tua estimatioin visceribus suis habuitnunc 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 harmonyher children are gathered into her bosom.Hence, O shameful serpent,you are confounded,because the ones your jealousyheld in its mawnow gleam in the blood of God's Son,and therefore praise be to you, King Most High.Alleluia. |
| **Nunc aperuit nobis** clausa portaquod serpens in muliere suffocavit.Unde lucet in aurora flosde virgine Maria. | **Now a closed gate**has opened to usthat which the serpent choked in a woman,hence the flower of the Virgin Marygleams in the dawn. |
| **O quam mirabilis est** prescientia divini pectorisque prescivit omem creaturam.Nam cum Deus inspexitfaciem hominis quem formavit,omnia opera suain eadem forma hominisintegra aspexit.O quam mirabilis est inspiratioque hominem sic suscitavit. | **Oh, how marvelous is**the foreknowledge of the divine heartwhich 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 formmade complete.Oh, how marvelous is the inspirationthat in this way roused man to life. |
| **O viridissima virga,** ave, quae in ventoso flabro sciscitationissanctorum prodisti.Cum venit tempusquod tu floruisti in ramis tuis,Ave, ave sit tibi,quia calor solis in te sudavitsicut odor balsami.Nam in te floruit pulcher flosqui odorem dedit omnibus aromatibusquae arida erant.Et illa apparuerunt omnia in viriditate plena.Unde caeli dederunt rorem super gramen,et omnis terra laeta facta est,quoniam viscera ipsiusfrumentum protuleruntet quoniam volucres caelinidos in ipsa habuerunt.Deinde facta est esca hominibuset 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 arrivedfor you to flourish in all your branches,Hail, hail to you,for the heat of the sun perspired in youlike the scent of balsam.For upon you blossomed the lovely flowerwhich gave fragrance to all the scentswhich had been barren.And everything became manifestin full verdancy.Then the heavens dropped dewupon the grass,and the whole earth was made joyful,since her wombbrought forth grainand since the birds of the skymade their nests in it.From this food was made for mankindand 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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