

The People

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A one-act with music by Selah DeGering

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The People  
by Selah DeGering  
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A one-act with music  
2 women, 2 men, 4 gender blind

SAMPLE

## Cast of Characters

Pain	A woman, a living being with little in common with the immortals she shares the world with.
Helper	Male. An elemental of all animals and insects.
Speaker	Male. Deity walking among the immortals; a leader.
Mother	Female. Deity; goddess of death and life.
Flower	An elemental of flowers and plants.
Water	An elemental of water (not undersea life).
Clay	An elemental of clay and dirt.
Stone	An elemental of stone.
Wind	An elemental of wind
Fire	An elemental of fire

A group of ELEMENTALS stand in a circle facing each other. A SPEAKER stands above them in the center. They stomp and clap to a beat.

My God made me from stone and ore

STONE

Stone and ore  
Stone and ore

ELEMENTALS

My God made me to  
Build the mountain

STONE

Made to cut across the sky

ELEMENTALS

My God made me to see  
Stone walls all around me  
And said:

STONE

You are a child of God!

ELEMENTALS

My God made me from clay and soil.

CLAY

Clay and soil  
Clay and soil

ELEMENTALS

My God made me to  
Shape His glory

CLAY

Made to stand upon and support

ELEMENTALS

CLAY

My God made me to see  
The bed 'neath Water's feet  
He said:

CLAY and WATER dance together, lovers.

FIRE

Whooh!

ELEMENTALS

You are a child of God!

WOOD

My God made me from wood and bark

ELEMENTALS

Wood and bark  
Wood and bark

WOOD

My God made me to  
Bend the sapling.

ELEMENTALS

Made to nurture, grow up

WOOD

My God made me to see  
And provide what people need

WOOD gives FLOWER an apple. She passes the  
apple to Wind.

WOOD

And said:

ELEMENTALS

You are a child of God!

SPEAKER

Our God made us from all the Earth

ELEMENTALS

All the Earth  
All the Earth

SPEAKER

Our God made us to beautify His world

ELEMENTALS

Made us to add unto His work

SPEAKER

Our God made us to see  
The way the world could be  
He said:

ELEMENTALS

We are the children of God!

SPEAKER

When I was made,  
A voice said,

ELEMENTALS

"You are a child of God!"

SPEAKER

When you were made,  
A voice said:

ELEMENTALS

"You are a child of God!  
You are a child of God!"

Enter PAIN, dirty and starving, lost.

SPEAKER

We are the people!

ELEMENTALS

We are God's people!  
We are God's people!

SPEAKER

We are God's people!  
Who are you?

WIND

I am a child of God!

SPEAKER

Who are you?

FIRE

I'm a creation in his kingdom!

SPEAKER

Who are you?

ELEMENTALS

I am a child of God  
I am a child of God

SPEAKER

When you were made

PAIN

Made not from clay  
From clay or stone

SPEAKER

When you were made

PAIN

Not clay or stone  
But blood and bone

SPEAKER

A voice said:

PAIN

Who are you?  
Who are you?

ELEMENTALS

A child of God!  
We are God's people!  
Child of God!

PAIN

My God carved her name into my back!  
Where I can never see  
But I can feel her words on me  
They say:

ELEMENTALS

Death!

PAIN

My name is Pain!

ELEMENTALS

Pain!

PAIN

My God is Death!

SPEAKER

Stop! Stop! How can you say such things?

The ELEMENTALS inspect her curiously. PAIN recoils.

WATER

She isn't...

CLAY

...Like us.



None of us are like each other.

STONE

She must have been made for something.

WIND

I wasn't made like you.

PAIN

You are a child of God.

FLOWER

No...

PAIN

You are a child of God.

FIRE

I'm not.

PAIN

You must be child of God.

WATER

You are!

CLAY

PAIN flinches into the arms of SPEAKER.

He inspects her tattered, dirty clothes to reveal a dark, spreading mark, like a tattoo, across her shoulder.

Who did this?

SPEAKER

My God.

PAIN

Impossible.

WOOD

My God.

PAIN

Who deformed this- this-

SPEAKER

My God!

PAIN

Made not from clay  
Not clay or stone  
Not clay or stone  
But blood and bone

ELEMENTALS

You are children of God!

PAIN

Her god carved her name into her back!  
Where she can never see  
But can feel her words-

ELEMENTALS

They say Death!

PAIN

"You are a child of God!"

ELEMENTALS

A voice said!

SPEAKER

"You are a child of God!"  
You are a child of-

ELEMENTALS

The sky opens. Light falls on the SPEAKER and  
PAIN.

ELEMENTALS

God...

SPEAKER

Lord?  
 What is this child for?  
 What is her purpose?  
 What is her name?

PAIN

My name is Pain.  
 My mother made me to be so,  
 A branch off from her blackened, broken side.

HELPER

I don't know who you are,  
 But I say it isn't so.

PAIN

How would you know?

ELEMENTALS

How would you know?

SPEAKER

Lord?  
 Who do you send  
 To save this lost... Woman?

God's light falls upon HELPER. HELPER looks at  
 what everyone is looking at only to find that it's  
 him.

SPEAKER

You will save this Woman.  
 Take her to where she was made.

Speaker bades HELPER over. He tenderly places  
 PAIN in his arms.

SPEAKER

Darkness from birth  
Daughter of the Earth  
Our God has laid His claim.

SPEAKER takes clay from CLAY and draws a  
mark on PAIN's face.

SPEAKER

On you He does the same.

SPEAKER draws a mark on HELPER's face.

SPEAKER

On you He bestows His name.  
You are one of us.

PAIN

I'm not.

ELEMENTALS

Made to beautify His world...

PAIN

I was made for pain.

ELEMENTALS

Made to beautify His world

PAIN

I was made to suffer

ELEMENTALS

You were made to see  
What the world was made to be  
He said-

PAIN

I was made by the wound of the Earth  
The mother of despair

The mother of decay  
 She and all her deathlings there  
 She made me for pain  
 She made me for pain

STONE

This Godling that made you  
 She was made by our God, too  
 And we all have a purpose

PAIN

But you don't know what mine is.

ELEMENTALS

He made the Fire.  
 He made the Wind.  
 He made the Stone.  
 The Wood, Clay, Flower

SPEAKER

And all that is known.

PAIN

But you don't know me!

SPEAKER

...You will save this Woman.  
 Take her to where she was made.

ELEMENTALS

You have been chosen  
 By the Lord

HELPER

To heal her of her pain

PAIN

You can do that?

HELPER

I don't know.

ELEMENTALS

He is chosen all the same.

STONE

I'll help you.

FLOWER

As will I.

SPEAKER

Now go and return...changed.

The ELEMENTALS take their seats and establish a  
new beat outside the scene.

PAIN

There, I see the mountains.

FLOWER

They cut across the sky!

PAIN

We must go around.

The awful place where I was named,  
Past there, it can be found.

STONE

I made this mountain.

FLOWER

I remember, I was young.

STONE

Those pebbles that you're thinking of,  
I made when you were small.  
This giant that I built upon is old  
As it is tall.

Oh, that I was there to see!

FLOWER

I was quite the sight.  
I turned a valley upside down  
In a hundred million nights!

STONE

Oh! That I could do such feats!

FLOWER

I'd like to see her try-

PAIN

I'd like to see you try!

STONE

If those two can't be of help,  
They ought to stay behind.

PAIN

PAIN starts to leave, HELPER watching nervously,  
but FLOWER takes PAIN's face in her hands and  
sings, impassioned.

I've always longed  
For a journey.

FLOWER

Oh no

PAIN

FLOWER lets her go.

Wind only takes me so far.  
I've always longed  
Like a pilgrim  
To see the face of God.  
You have seen it?

FLOWER

Not the one you're thinking of.

PAIN

But He shined His light on you.

FLOWER

And I saw clouds above-

PAIN

I've always longed  
For a journey!  
And this is my chance!  
I'm the youngest of His children,  
(But for you, of course.)  
Oh, and my brother there.

FLOWER

Clearly, you're the nymph-god  
Of the flowers.  
And you, of hulking stone.  
But you, I can't tell from looking,  
At least, not by sight alone.

PAIN

My brother doesn't talk much.

FLOWER

He talked to me.

PAIN

He's either quiet, or  
He's howling in the night.  
He is wild born,  
He sprawls like all my weeds;  
Come morning, though,  
He snaps himself shut tight.

FLOWER

PAIN



He talked to me.

FLOWER

In the blue-time  
At the waking of the sun,  
My brother makes the strangest sounds.  
He twits and tweets and crones,  
Unlike I've ever heard,  
No one can sleep while he's around.

PAIN

You seem like such  
A loving sister.

FLOWER

I love him so.

PAIN

It's no wonder  
He won't say.  
It's as if he's  
A good listener-

FLOWER

Yes, I taught him that.

PAIN

Of course, I couldn't  
See another way.

FLOWER

We're twins, you know,  
God sprouted us from  
One of these small seeds,  
We'd fit in the  
Palm of your hand.  
And when it sprouted, bloomed-

STONE

God's most beautiful was born!