

EDI SHUKRIU**A play fragment, and poems**

From the play
EURYDICE`S RETURN

ACT ONE

(A SPACE THICK WITH FOG WHICH GRADUALLY DISPERSES TO REVEAL EURYDICE. SHE STANDS PALE AND STILL CENTRE STAGE, WATCHING ORPHEUS, WHO SITS ON A ROCK, ABSORBED IN TUNING HIS LYRE. SEE NO EVIL MALE AND SEE NO EVIL FEMALE SNEAK ON, WITH THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER. AS SOON AS THEY SEE EURYDICE, THEY STOP, HIDE BEHIND A TREE, RUB THEIR EYES IN ASTONISHMENT, THEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND PUT ON MASKS WHICH HAVE HOLES IN THEIR CENTRES)

SEE FEMALE: Whatever's that?
 SEE MALE: You've never set eyes on that before.
 SEE FEMALE: Don't believe your eyes? Envious because you can't see what I'm looking at.
 SEE MALE: I've never seen the like. It's beyond belief.
 SEE FEMALE: What can you see, then?!
 SEE MALE: Eurydice!
 SEE FEMALE: Eurydice returned?!
 SEE MALE: Don't believe it? Can't you see her? So Orpheus didn't sing in vain.
 SEE FEMALE: Run and get the others. I'll stay here, I see better than you.
 SEE MALE: Me? No... I'm not budging! You're always conning me.
 SEE FEMALE: I don't, you do! You're mad to hang about. Can't you see what's happening? Rush and get the others!
 SEE MALE: Why me... I'm staying. One sniff and they'll be here.

(ORPHEUS LOOKS UP, SEES NOTHING BUT EURYDICE. IN ASTONISHMENT HE RUBS HIS EYES ALTERNATELY WITH EACH HAND)

ORPHEUS: Can't be true!
 (HE WALKS RIGHT ROUND HER GETTING SLOWLY NEARER. TIME AND AGAIN HE TRIES TO TOUCH HER BUT SOMETHING HOLDS HIM BACK)

SEE MALE: What's happening?
 SEE FEMALE: Patience is a virtue.

SEE MALE: And you're a model of patience?!
(HE PUTS ON HIS MASK)
Nothing's happening...

SEE FEMALE: Something'll happen... We'll make it happen...
(LIMPING, SHE APPROACHES ORPHEUS)
Isn't life enticing! Look up into the endless blue... it's calling your heart to fly.

SEE MALE: (WALKING AROUND BENT DOUBLE)
And this necklace of mountains! Speaking straight to the heart. A voice tells me my chest is so broad my arms could embrace them!

(MEANWHILE HEAR NO EVIL MALE AND HEAR NO EVIL 1ST FEMALE COME ON FOLLOWED BY HEAR NO EVIL 2ND FEMALE)

HEAR F1: Strange... Come on... I can hear such lovely sentiments!
HEAR F2: They'll be spouting poetry next!
HEAR F1: What do I call brooks and rivers that look as if they're minding their own business? (SHE STARTS LEAPING ABOUT) Jumping sharp-eyed over stone after stone, trapping rocks before they slowly, friskily caress the meadows.

SEE FEMALE: And the fields! They're not pampered brides, changing their appearance with every breeze, are they?

HEAR MALE: But it all looks nicer when it's given life in the real world! Just close your eyes... (HI PUTS HIS MASK ON HIS EAR) ... and listen to how wonderful he says life is.

SEE MALE: Oh... how sweet life is.
HEAR F2: It's tempting you to live.
ORPHEUS: I can see it all... feel it all...
HEAR F1: (PUTTING HER MASK OVER ORPHEUS` HEART) ... but a corner of your heart feels empty...

HEAR MALE: ... hiding inside you, it grows irrepressibly when your happiness takes wing...

HEAR F1: Overgrows your mind.
SEE FEMALE: Cauterizes the pain.
HEAR F2: Makes you blind.
ORPHEUS: How do I cauterize what gives me no peace... it's inside me!
HEAR MALE: You'd cauterize a part of yourself too. You'd no longer me you, then.
ORPHEUS: I can't cauterize myself!
HEAR F1: (DANCING) So you run rings round life, embraced by beauty and pain...

ORPHEUS: (HUNCHING HIS SHOULDERS...HE TAKES HIS LYRE AND SINGS)

Oh glorious Eurydice
Why did you leave in secrecy

Now the world has no tenderness
 You left me with such bitterness
 singing songs through my endless tears...
 (RESTING HIS HEAD ON ONE HAND, THINKING)

SEE MALE: Oh glorious Eurydice
 Why did you leave me in pieces,
 devastated... pooped, you know...
 I love you so, I love you so...
 SEE FEMALE: You loved her too, eh? (SHAKING HIM) Go on, admit it!
 SEE MALE: You stupid...
 HEAR MALE: Sssh! Stop this nonsense you two!
 HEAR F2: Sssssh!

(EVERYONE EXCEPT EURYDICE AND ORPHEUS GO
 SSSSH! THEN RETREAT AS ORPHEUS MOVES TOWARDS
 EURYDICE LIKE A SLEEP WALKER)

ORPHEUS: I love you so! The sky above knows how much I love you!
 EURYDICE: (DOES NOT ANSWER)
 ORPHEUS: (WALKING AROUND HER) Why don't you say something? You
 haven't said a word since you appeared... The rocks and stones would
 move... make some sound... But you haven't said a word... not even
 one sing of life in your loving eyes... Tell me what I've done wrong!
 EURYDICE: (IN A HOARSE VOICE) Are you tortured by guilt?
 ORPHEUS: You spoke?! God above, she spoke! That's a good sign!
 SEE FEMALE: (ALL AGOG) That's a good start!
 HEAR MALE: The excitement's killing me...
 HEAR F1: It's happening, at last!
 ORPHEUS: I knew there was hope. We all have to live in hope! Last I saw you
 were a shade, a shade running away from me...
 HEAR F2: No-one runs away without a word!
 SEE FEMALE: Without saying goodbye, no way!
 ORPHEUS: You've come at last! Eurydice's returned... Ayeeeh... my Eurydice
 returned... (APPROACHING EURYDICE) Sweetness, come...
 EURYDICE: I can't.
 ORPHEUS: Why not?
 EURYDICE: It's not possible.
 ORPHEUS: Still trying to torture me?
 EURYDICE: I said I can't.
 ORPHEUS: Why ever not? Aren't you my Eurydice? Are you or aren't you, tell
 me!
 EURYDICE: Oh, Orpheus!
 SEE MALE: Grab her, my boy... Smother her! Why beg her?
 HEAR F1: Take your time... Go easy.
 HEAR F2: The gods have got a finger in this pie! No-one but gods...
 ORPHEUS: Are the gods playing a game with me?
 EURYDICE: The gods have never done you any harm!

ORPHEUS: Why shouldn't I blame the gods?
 EURYDICE: Why on earth should you?
 ORPHEUS: If you're Eurydice you'd run to me... instead of standing there like a stone... so beautiful... so distant...
 EURYDICE: Mourning doesn't suit you.
 ORPHEUS: (REACHING OUT) Come closer, please...
 EURYDICE: I can't, you must understand.
 SEE MALE: You women and your sulks! All you know to sulk!
 HEAR MALE: Stupid pride, decked out in spite.
 HEAR F1: I don't go around sulking! (TO HEAR MALE) Do I, darling?
 HEAR MALE: (HUGGING HER) My precious. (STOPPING HER MOUTH WITH A KISS)
 SEE MALE & SEE FEMALE: Sssssh!
 ORPHEUS: Then why can't I come closer to you?
 EURYDICE: Persephone let me come on one condition.
 ORPHEUS: Another condition?! I'm not having any conditions.
 EURYDICE: (HUNCHING HER SHOULDERS)
 HEAR F.2: Who's this Persephone, then?
 HEAR MALE: Persephone! Wife of Hades, god of the Underworld!
 HEAR F.2: Oh right... I did know... I forgot!
 ORPHEUS: Conditions... endless conditions... evasions... ordeals.
 EURYDICE: There's no way round it. At all. Why won't you understand?
 ORPHEUS: What can I understand? There are rules in life and in death?!
 EURYDICE: But you know you've got to suppress your feelings when circumstances demand.
 ORPHEUS: Suppress... repress... put barriers up...
 EURYDICE: Dead right, when they serve your purpose.
 ORPHEUS: Don't Eurydice... That's what I didn't do...
 EURYDICE: Didn't you?
 ORPHEUS: Something inside made me...
 EURYDICE: Your inner strength?
 ORPHEUS: I get you... let's stop talking... Let me just hug you... touch you...
 HEAR MALE: He's a complete ass! Don't beg, old boy!
 HEAR F.2: Stick to your guns, Eurydice!
 HEAR F.1: Don't give an inch! They all go too far then it's: "Please forgive me!"
 SEE FEMALE: There's nothing for her to forgive. (TO SEE MALE) Doesn't know how lucky she is... Behaves as if she'd dropped out of the sky.
 ORPHEUS: Come to me... I've got to hug you... I've waited so long!
 EURYDICE: (WALKING TOWARDS ORPHEUS) No, we must go easy. We messed up our first chance... We mustn't mess this one up!
 ORPHEUS: Please don't!... (HOLDING HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS) Such bitter memories! Why remind me?!
 EURYDICE: Remind you?! Remember me?!... I'm from the past... the bitter past...
 ORPHEUS: Don't glorious Eurydice... Please don't... (APPROACHING HER)
 EURYDICE: Don't come any nearer! You mustn't!
 ORPHEUS: (STOPPING IN CONFUSION)

EURYDICE: I've waited so long for you! Every day I knocked on Hades door but every day his door was locked to me. The guard got to know me... they let me into his courtyard at dawn and let me out at dusk...

(HEAR F.2'S WEEPING BECOMES AUDIBLE)

EURYDICE: ... And Cerberus got to know me so well he stopped barking at me... I spent ages trying to reach Persephone. Was it degrading? No, because I knew you were suffering... I wasn't doing it for me...

HEAR F.1: ... nor for the sun that had deserted me...

SEE MALE: ... nor the sky...

HEAR F.2: ... nor the flowers...

SEE MALE: But for my husband!

EURYDICE: ... I suffered for you. I suffered with your suffering!

ORPHEUS: Eurydice, let's stop talking...

EURYDICE: Why should we stop? I've got to tell you everything. Your suffering seems to have blinded you to my suffering! I'm not just saying this to add to yours...

ORPHEUS: Why are you saying it then?

EURYDICE: The past doesn't exist. There is no past. There is no past, are you listening?!

SEE MALE: Everything leaves its mark on us!

HEAR F.2: We carry it inside us.

HEAR F.1: Moments happen like snow flakes, gathering together...

HEAR MALE: ... forming circles in the passage of time...

HEAR F.1: Some vanish as they touch you...

SEE MALE: If you're warm with love.

HEAR F.2: Love is blind...

HEAR MALE: ... deaf...

SEE MALE: ... unreasonable...

SEE FEMALE: Love is warm. Love's a fire.

EURYDICE: No, no, there's no past. Everything's within us.

SEE FEMALE: Bitter moments edge their way into our heads...

HEAR MALE: ... growing into an avalanche.

HEAR F.1: Freezing right through to our hearts!

EURYDICE: The past seems bitter... as each year passes it gets more and more bitter!

ORPHEUS: Eurydice, for god's sake, talks sense.

EURYDICE: I'm telling the truth...

ORPHEUS: No, my Eurydice's lips couldn't say those things, her mind couldn't make them up! Eurydice, is it you or your shadow?

EURYDICE: My poor love doesn't recognize me !

ORPHEUS: Eurydice, I beg you! Don't play such hard games with me!

EURYDICE: Do you want me to come closer?

HEAR MALE: She's torturing him just for fun.

SEE FEMALE: Throw yourself into his arms! Why do you need memories?

HEAR F.2: Hug him! And you'll forget everything!

EURYDICE: (COMING UP TO ORPHEUS) Look, my face is still pale from the gloom of Hades!

ORPHEUS: (REACHING OUT TO CARESS HER) I'll send the gloom packing, my love!

EURYDICE: (BACKING AWAY FROM HIM) I think the gods know what could happen, so Persephone imposed this one condition.

ORPHEUS: Have you got to the bottom of it?

EURYDICE: Yes, I have: you're not allowed to touch me! Or hug me! I can forget you! But only if I want to, if I decide to! Not if you...

ORPHEUS: Well do it, then!

EURYDICE: I'm not sure I want to... if I can forget... if I must forget.

ORPHEUS: I love you!

EURYDICE: The wind's blowing all our words away!

ORPHEUS: I do love you!

EURYDICE: But who is it you love!... Which one of us?

ORPHEUS: What are you trying to say: which one?

EURYDICE: Well, which one do you love? The Eurydice of your visions?

ORPHEUS: You're a goddess to me...

EURYDICE: From up there?

ORPHEUS: From our star.

EURYDICE: Always shining and smiling. Is that the one you love?

ORPHEUS: Why shouldn't I?

EURYDICE: I don't want to be a goddess. There are no gods! There are people, only people...

ORPHEUS: You're confusing me.

EURYDICE: I came to clear your mind.

ORPHEUS: Then close your eyes and come to me! I've got to feel you're here once more, feel you... We've got plenty of time to talk.

EURYDICE: (HESITATING... THEN REACHING OUT BUT NOT MOVING HER FEET)

SEE FEMALE: I you want to forget, close your eyes!

HEAR MALE: If you close your eyes, you can't see.

SEE MALE: If you can't see, you know nothing.

HEAR F.1: If you know nothing, you're worthless.

SEE FEMALE: If you're worthless, what use are you?

HEAR F.2: This is some word-game: forget - see, see - know nothing, know nothing - worthless? Orpheus loves her, that's that!

HEAR F.1: If only he could touch her!

EURYDICE: Kisses follow.

ORPHEUS: You're speaking so coldly.

EURYDICE: I've come from the gloom.

ORPHEUS: I don't believe it's you!

EURYDICE: It is me, believe me!

ORPHEUS: I've got to touch you... I must... (TRYING TO GET CLOSER TO HER)

EURYDICE: Don't!...

ORPHEUS: I've got... I need to.. I must...

EURYDICE: Don't, don't, please! G away!... Gooooo awaaaaay!!!!

(THE SPACE GROWS DARK)

ACT TWO

HADES: (SMILING, HIS EYES CLOSED... REACHING OUT TO TOUCH HER HAND)

You aren't Persephone! Who the hell are you?

WHORE: Don't get uptight, my lord! I'm one of the many shades in your kingdom!

HADES: A shade, you say? Which one? Speak!

WHORE: (SHOWING OFF ALL SHE'S GOT) I'm Love!

HADES: Love? You?!

WHORE: Love and Hatred combined!

HADES: You're one of my shades!

WHORE: I'm their idol of emotions, only their idol. (STILL MOVING ABOUT)

HADES: (LEERING AT HER) Hmmmm, you might be an idol...

WHORE: Rulers come and go, the real ruler's me!

HADES: You're so arrogant!

WHORE: Wherever I am, reason disappears. (CARESING HIM)

HADES: You're the devil of emotions... (SCRATCHING HIS BEARD)

How did you manage to get to me?! My doors are impenetrable.

WHORE: I'm here, aren't I... I saw your guards, my lord...

HADES: What did you do to them, shade of shades?

WHORE: Nothing, my lord. Nothing they didn't want...

HADES: (INDICATING TO THE DANCERS TO WITHDRAW. THEY GO SO FAR THEN EAVESDROP) Well, go on, what are you after? Tell me at once or I'll put the Fates onto you

WHORE: (CARESSING HIM) I'm not after anything, my lord!

HADES: Nothing! You're playing with words now!

WHORE: I know there's no return from your world. Even Eurydice didn't manage to get away.

HADES: She was at the gates.

WHORE: I know but... she wasn't clever enough. The beauty that opens all doors, couldn't open these gates.

HADES: She's proud.

WHORE: What's she got to be so proud of... nothing compared to me!

HADES: What are you after?

WHORE: I exploit my natural talents... (MAKING EYES AT HIM)

HADES: You haven't told me why you come, you wicked, beautiful shade!

WHORE: (SMILING, SHE GOES ON DANCING)

DANCER 1: (AS HEAR NO EVIL) Oh god, she's getting there!

DANCER 2: (AS SEE NO EVIL) There's no man she can't get over!
 GUARD 1: He's a god!
 DANCER 2: This isn't about being a god.
 WHORE: (DANCING NEARER AND NEARER TO HADES)
 HADES: Now tell me why you come?
 WHORE: To be at your side... (CARESSING HIM)
 HADES: Uh huh?
 WHORE: ... nothing else.
 HADES: You know, I've got a wife.
 WHORE: I know, my lord, I know... that doesn't make any difference.
 HADES: (ENJOYING HER CARESSES) Mmmmm... it doesn't... mmm...
 WHORE: Every woman has charms.
 HADES: But... I.. I love my wife... mmm...
 WHORE: Love her, lord!... Adore her! You'll find more than one fragrant
 flower in a garden...
 HADES: You're the devil of a flower... I...
 WHORE: (EMBRACHING HIM) You're so big-hearted... big enough for me
 as well.
 HADES: But...
 WHORE: A man like you shouldn't be with just one woman...
 HADES: (SMILING, ENJOING HER CARESSES) Mmmm.....
 (CARESSING HER)
 DANCER 1: My god, look how he's enjoying it!
 DANCER 2: Doesn't want her, that's a God one!...
 GUARD 1: He's a man.
 DANCER 1: Then he shouldn't pretend he's a god.
 GUARD 2: Some god... can you hear Persephone?
 DANCER 2: I'll die laughing!
 (ENTER PERSEPHONE, HADES GETS UP HURRIEDLY,
 PRETENDING HE HASN'T SEEN HER)
 HADES: Guard, Guaaaard!
 WHORE: Lord, what's up?!
 HADES: Guard!!!
 GUARDS: Yes my lord?
 HADES: Send this whore packing!
 GUARDS: Whatever you say, my lord!
 WHORE: Lord! You what, my lord?
 HADES: Have her heart cut out!
 GUARDS: Yes, lord!
 HADES: Damp her in the eternal meadows! Let the shade perpetually chase
 her own heart!
 WHORE: Why... what's up, why?
 GUARD: (DRAGGING THE WHORE AWAY)
 WHORE: (SEEING PERSEPHONE) Oh, that's what it's about. You
 almighty got shit scared!
 HADES: Watch out for her tricks! You know what she's like!
 GUARD: Whatever you say, lord!

HADES: Oh, is that you, dear? Sit by my side and give me some peace... What a day...

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PERSEPHONE: Eurydice...

HADES: I know what you're getting at... I won't listen!

PERSEPHONE: Please...

HADES: I don't want to hear, I don't!

PERSEPHONE: My dear husband, I understand you... Before Orpheus none of the living ever entered your kingdom.

HADES: It only happened that once.

PERSEPHONE: Once and again I begged you to show mercy to poor Orpheus... No-one touched us as he did with his pain... I can still hear his magical song that turned the lock of impregnable Hades. Sound flowing from an ordinary mortal broke your stony heart...

HADES: Heavenly sounds.

PERSEPHONE: That boy's heart and soul were so great. Nothing else can explain the immortality of his song.

HADES: Now what's the matter with you? It is just that you're nervous about traveling to your mother tomorrow?!

PERSEPHONE: That isn't so important. It fills me with pride, you giving permission... permitting the poor boy to take his wife away from the kingdom of no return! Icy Hades had a heart. He wouldn't present this permission to anyone.

HADES: My mistake, Persephone.

PERSEPHONE: This one example showed me enough to know you forever! OK, it all went wrong through no fault of ours or of poor Eurydice, but it taught me life has rules, which must be respected though failure to do so doesn't always mean anything.

HADES: The one and only example! That fool didn't listen to me!

PERSEPHONE: Don't call him fool.

HADES: Then what would you call such a fool?

PERSEPHONE: He was only foolish in love. The poor boy was burning with so much love, he even softened you...

HADES: Softened me? What is this impudence about? I do my duty. And if once, just that once I gave in, it doesn't mean I gave in to a fool's tears!

PERSEPHONE: It's only your mouth saying that.

HADES: No, I did it because I saw myself - my love - in him. So I had to test him to see how much he loved her, how far he'd forget himself to save Eurydice!

PERSEPHONE: I know how generous you are! I'm the one person who knows how big your love is. This iciness is just self-protection...

HADES: Woman's talk. If you call respecting the rules being icy, so be it. I think the boy was a fool.

PERSEPHONE: He was in love!

HADES: He was in love! Don't bother thinking I helped him because he loved the girl so much, because he suffered ... Rot! I did it because his song astounded me, thrilled my soul! I never felt like this...

PERSEPHONE: Love spoke through him!

HADES: Love's dream. Only it's dream! He himself proved that. If he'd really wanted Eurydice back he wouldn't have turned round.

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ACT THREE

(EURYDICE WAITING. SHADOWS MOVE AT THE BACK. AFTER A WHILE PERSEPHONE APPEARS.)

EURYDICE: You've come, at last, immortal Persephone! The look in your eyes isn't promising. But what do your lips say?

PERSEPHONE: (CARESSING HER) Eurydice dear, Hades isn't stony hearted. He understands you, and you should try to understand him!

EURYDICE: Understand him?! All my life I've had to understand people! I do try, so tell me, Goddess, why am I always miserable?

PERSEPHONE: This bitterness doesn't suit you.

EURYDICE: What's so worrying about being a shade! Aren't I just a shade? Was I ever mortal with happiness and bitterness? Always smiling to make other people happy!

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PERSEPHONE : Your revelation starts here. You are beautiful but you aren't a doll. That's why I'm taking you with me.

EURYDICE: What about Hades?

PERSEPHONE: Are you frightened of him?

EURYDICE: Come on, Goddess, I'm not frightened of anyone! I've had more than my share of suffering and injustice, they're in constant supply. But I know no fear. Won't you make Hades angry?

PERSEPHONE: Leave that to me. Let's work out how to do it.

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ACT FOUR

(EURYDICE AND ORPHEUS STANDING AT A DISTANCE, THE OTHERS SPYING AND EAVESDROPPING)

EURYDICE: This was how I was brought to you.

ORPHEUS: A path strewn with conditions.

EURYDICE: How did you think it would be?

ORPHEUS: The gods have no mercy on us.

EURYDICE: It isn't mercy we need. Reason showed me the right path.

ORPHEUS: You sound so cold.

EURYDICE: What's the point of mourning the past, the unhappy times? Tears make no sense, I cried all mine a long time ago. But mourning never got anyone anywhere.

ORPHEUS: It got you to me.
 EURYDICE: Don't kid yourself, Orpheus! Going to Hell and back taught me disappointment. It wasn't tears that brought me here.
 ORPHEUS: Then it must have been my song.
 EURYDICE: Nor your song.
 ORPHEUS: (IGNORING HER) My song was inspired by suffering for you.
 EURYDICE: Your song helped you once. Inspiration gives life, but it's a dead end.
 ORPHEUS: You undervalue the power of song! My Eurydice would never think like that. This long separation has changed you.
 EURYDICE: Yes, time does... bring experience. That's why I'm so sure singing is a dead end, even if it is immortal.
 ORPHEUS: My singing opened doors for you.
 EURYDICE: Singing put the keys in your hand, you were so near! But what happened then?

ORPHEUS: You're mad, I don't know you.
 EURYDICE: You dreamt night after night of hearing them again, didn't you?
 ORPHEUS: Pure irony! You never meant a single word!
 EURYDICE: That's not true! Every word came from my heart. Once love's scales fell from my eyes, I saw your weaknesses for the first time but that didn't stop me loving you. Quite the opposite, I no longer saw a God to worship or bow down to but a man with human strengths and weaknesses. Once I saw you as a man, I stopped feeling small, insignificant. No longer was I happy only because you loved me. When I realized this, new, more profound feelings took root in me. It all made me happy. Then I loved my Orpheus as a man exalted above the gods whenever he unleashed his song, our song!

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 ORPHEUS: You've changed. Witch of the gods is to blame for this?
 EURYDICE: You're wrong to look for someone else to blame! I have changed, Orpheus. When two people know each other so long of course they change a bit.
 ORPHEUS: But you've changed a lot!
 EURYDICE: Maybe...

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 EURYDICE: (TOUCHING HERSELF) Look, I'm touching my body, it's flesh and blood... touchable... (STROKING HER ARM) I've got soft skin, skin so smooth... (PUTTING HER HAND ON HER HEART) Here... right here... I can hear it beating, so I must have a heart... I can feel, so I must have feelings too!... (TOUCHING HER HEAD) Then... this must be my head... Yes, yes here it is... (LOOKING AT ORPHEUS) in exactly the same place as yours... Yes, yes, at first sight it seems the same!...
 ORPHEUS: I don't like the way you're behaving, I don't like it at all!

EURYDICE: You don't like me? Why should you like me?
ORPHEUS: You're a woman!
EURYDICE: Did I ever say I wasn't?
ORPHEUS: Then behave like a woman!
EURYDICE: All right! Whatever you say! (STARTING TO UNDRESS)
ORPHEUS: What are you doing? Have you gone mad? You're not Eurydice!
... ..

ORPHEUS: You're a shade... not Eurydice... I've got to touch you...
EURYDICE: Don't Orpheus don't... don't touch me!... I don't want you to.
ORPHEUS: You're not Eurydice... who the devil are you... I must touch you...
EURYDICE: Don't Orpheus! Don't!
ORPHEUS: I must...
EURYDICE: Don't!

(THICK FOG FILLS THE AREA. WE HEAR ORPHEUS CRY
IN EXHAUSTION)

Translated from the Albanian by Vera Xerxa & Tinch Minter

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