

Dies Irae - Requiem - W A Mozart

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Solvat sæclum in favilla
Teste David cum Sibylla
Quantus tremor est futurus
Quando iudex est venturus
Cuncta stricte discussurus

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Dies irae means 'the Day of Wrath' and is a medieval Latin poem about the Last Judgment. It describes a vivid scene where all souls are judged by God, with the righteous ascending to heaven and the sinful condemned to eternal punishment.

*Dies irae, dies illa
Solvat saeculum in favilla,
teste David cum Sibylla*.
Quantus tremor est futurus,
quando iudex est venturus,
cuncta stricte discussurus!***

Day of wrath, day of anger
will dissolve the world in ashes,
as foretold by David and the Sibyl*.
Great trembling there will be
when the Judge descends from heaven
to examine all things closely.

**"Teste David cum Sibylla" translates to "As foretold by David and the Sibyl". David represents the biblical prophets, and the Sibyl represents the classical prophets of ancient Greece and Rome, thus combining Jewish and Classical elements in the prophecy of the day of wrath.

Incorporating the Sibyl along with David in the "Dies Irae" text is a way of universalizing the themes of the Requiem, intertwining both Biblical and classical prophecies to present a vision of the end times that resonates with diverse cultural traditions.

**There are only 21 unique words to learn!