

Odin, the Opera
Libretto 2019 - Act II

Throughout this act, we occasionally see all the soldiers from the various armies marching towards Ragnarok.

ACT II SCENE 1 – Weather Reporter
(The tv screen comes alive)

Narrator:

Welcome back! Hope everything worked out well! Oh, (Happy Easter or something in season).

In the second act, we will observe four conditions Odin and his Ancients will confront: First, the “bigger storm” phenomenon: there's always a greater force out there that one must eventually face. Someone bigger, stronger.

Two, is the “that’s why I have allergies” theory: which is realizing the things that really rule ones life are the little things one chooses to ignore or think un-important.

Three, is Shakespeare’s most famous weather forecast: Fair is foul and foul is fair. Simply stated, things are not what they appear to be. Some things never change.

And that brings us to number four, the history knocks but no one seems to hear it theory - reminds me of all those people who live near the coast in Southern California where a massive fire will destroy an area of houses. The houses are rebuilt. Several years later, massive rains will quickly erode the barren lands and the new houses go out in a mudslide. Then they are rebuilt and the cycle continues. Hmm!,

(New camera POV) Our forecast calls for Loko to stir up high winds as he revs up the Giants for Ragnarok, Meanwhile, Odin places himself in a high pressure area as he comes to terms with the affect his knowledge is having on his warrior power. He’s learning that if you want a place in the sun, you may have to endure a few blisters. *(The television screen goes black).*
(Segue to II 2)

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ACT II SCENE 2 - We witness Loki transforming into Loko. Loko then walks into II-3.

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ACT II SCENE 3 - Loko, Giants, Dwarf, and Ravens

The Ravens are on their usual watch from their world perch when they again come upon Loko and the Giants. Loko tells the Giants in complete detail, how he (as Loki) planned and then murdered Baldar as the Dwarf meanders about.

The Giants are mumbling amongst themselves as Loko enters and commands their attention.

Loko:

Yo Giants! My Giants, I must tell you of my triumph. – our triumph.

Last night at Asgard, I killed the God Baldar, son of Odin..... the boy with strange thoughts. He is dead. The heir to Odin's legacy is dead and I killed him.

Giant I:

But how did you do it?

Giant III:

Baldar was so well protected by his mother.

Loko:

I posed as an old woman and had a discussion with his mother, Frigg, who told me Baldar was protected from everything on the earth except for one thing, mistletoe. (Giants mumble to themselves)

Loko:

So I made a dart from mistletoe. Waited for the right moment and shot it into Baldar's neck. He didn't know what hit him.

Giants I, II and III speak simultaneously:

(I) Odin will kill you!

(II) This means war!

(III) This could mean Ragnarok!

Loko:

Bring it on!! Bring it on!!

(Segue to II 4)

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ACT II SCENE 4 - Odin and the Ravens

The Ravens fly to Valhalla to tell Odin of Baldar's death.

(The Ravens abruptly enter)

Raven I:

Excuse me.

Raven II:

Excuse us dear Odin.

Raven I:

We have some serious news to report to you.

Raven II:

Baldar was murdered last night at Asgard.

Odin:

That can't be! I was there. Who did it??? Tell me now!!!!

Raven I:

We were on the world outpost

Raven II:

when we spotted Loko and the Giants.

Raven I:

Loko told the Giants how he turned himself into an old woman who spoke to Frigg and learned the one weakness that could kill him.

Raven II:

It was Mistletoe.

Raven I:

Loko turned himself into Loki

Raven II:

at the Asgard party

Raven I:

and shot a dart made from mistletoe

Raven II:

into Baldar's neck.

Raven I:

Killing him instantly.

Odin (speaking as he walks away):

I must kill this he thing, she thing. No one gets away with murdering my boy. No one! No one!
Go and order the Berserks to find Loki, Loko, whoever it is and kill her, him on the spot. Slowly
with no mercy. Only pain!

(segue to II 5)

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ACT II SCENE 5 - Frigg, The Ravens, Odin, and Dwarf

The Ravens find Frigg in a haystack with the Dwarf. They interrupt the orgy and get her undivided attention. They tell her about Loki murdering her son, Baldar. She goes into a fit of rage. Odin arrives to console her. They argue over blame. Frigg has her personal apocalypse and collapses.

Frigg:

You startled us.

Raven I:

I, we have some very bad news.

Frigg:

What is it? Please tell me!

Raven II:

It's Baldar, he is dead.

Frigg:

(Gasps for breath)

Oh my God!

It, it can't be my Baldar. It just can't be. Nothing could harm him ...except Mistletoe,
(Dwarf quietly sneaks away)

Raven I:

And that's what killed him. Mistletoe on the tip of a dart. A poison dart.

Frigg:

No one knew about Baldar's weakness to Mistletoe, except, except the old woman who asked
all the questions about Baldar. It was that woman who killed him.

Raven II:

I'm afraid that's not so. We saw his killer and it was not an old woman. It was Loko, leader of
the Giants.

Frigg *(sobbing)*:

My God!

Raven I:

Is there anything we can do for you?

Frigg *(somewhat regains composure)*. I know! I know! I do know the eyes of that old woman!
It was Loko. Loko killed my boy!

Odin: (*approaches Frigg*)

Frigg.

Frigg:

He was such a good boy!

Odin:

It was Loko who killed him.

Frigg (Frigg and Odin begin to argue):

How could that be Mister All Knowing? How did you not know about Loki's plan?

Odin

It was you who gave away the secret!

Frigg (breaks down):

A plot against your son? And you blindly watched it happen (she begins to beat him and then collapses in his arms - her personal apocalypse. Odin lays her on the ground.).

Odin (breaking up)

Baldar was right. And I knew it. But I couldn't face his words.

(*Segue to II 6*)

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ACT II SCENE 6 - Baldar's Funeral - Glythia, Odin, Frigg and Mourners (entire cast)

Glythia

Baldar, Gaybo, Woonyo

Odin, Frigg and Mourners

Baldar, Gaybo, Woonyo

Glythia

Baldar, Soweelo, Woonyo

Odin, Frigg and Mourners

Baldar, Soweelo, Woonyo

Glythia

Baldar, Thawgauze, Woonyo

Odin, Frigg and Mourners

Baldar, Thawgauze, Woonyo

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ACT II SCENE 7 - Weather Reporter

(*The tv comes alive*)

Narrator:

The Ravens, like messengers, are a strange lot. They circle the globe and deliver Odin information on what they see. They have no vested interest in balanced information - only the delivery of what they see from their viewpoint. Sort of like NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, or Fox News? Would that make the Raven's right wing FOX and the left wing CNN?

(New camera POV) Anyway, our latest forecast calls for some of our biggest stars to show how small they really are. Knowledge begins to creep into all our characters forcing them to view life and themselves in a different light. The brutal conditions Loko must live with – part male, part female take their toll as he/she has a personal apocalypse and falls apart. Then Loko is captured by The Berserks, who are under Odin’s orders to kill her. But they can’t because they now know the difference between murder and killing on the battlefield.

(New camera POV) Then, the winter chill hits when Frigg has her personal apocalypse upon learning about the death of Balder. And the chill continues as Odin himself reaches his personal apocalypse. The impending Ragnarok, Baldar’s death, Loki’s betrayal and his inner struggle between knowledge and barbarism all bring him down. But the warrior in him won’t give up and he continues his wintery push towards Ragnarok. Afterall,, it’s not the size of the dog in the fight. It’s the size of the fight in the dog.

(The television goes black)

(Segue to II 8)

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ACT II SCENE 8 - Odin, the Ravens, and Baldar’s Ghost

As the chorus sings, Odin sits at the foot of the tree, laden with many hanging bodies. He is contemplating and asking the tree if his violent ways have been wrong and is beginning to be threatened by the concept of mind over matter. The longer he thinks about this concept, the more he understands it. He asks The Tree what he must do to gain knowledge. Odin is developing peaceful tendencies in spite of himself.

Odin's thoughts are interrupted by The Ravens who inform him about the murder of Baldar. Odin is enraged and sends the Ravens to order the Berserks to locate and execute Loki/Loko.

Odin:

Oh tree of life, speak to me. I am
born of the sword, yet I feel more and more
Baldar was right. Knowledge is a power far greater than
force. I feel it more and more and I’m drawn to its presence.
Baldar’s Ghost (from behind The Tree speaks as The Tree):

These thoughts come from you

Odin:

Baldar! Is that you?

Baldar’s Ghost:

Knowledge can stop violence. We can live with our neighbors in peace. Respect differences, have compassion.

Odin:

I can see it in my posse. They’re falling apart. In their finest hour, they are falling apart.
Knowledge tempers and a tempered warrior has lost his edge.
And that can kill him. Which may be our fate.

Baldar’s Ghost:

Times are changing. People are changing. You are changing.
The Heathen Age is over. Join instead of conquering. Make negatives positives.

(Segue to II S9)

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ACT II SCENE 9 - The Berserks and Loko/Loki

This scene is realized as a choreographed dance scene. The Berserks proceed to bound and gag Loko/Loki. They mumble at her/him about his/her ill deeds. She/he offers a muted, yet vicious response to virtually everything that's said. As the Berserks are gaining knowledge, they are also gaining a conscience. They quickly divide into two camps. One that wants to follow the "execute" orders of Odin and one who realizes his order to murder in cold blood is different than killing on the battlefield. This division becomes their personal apocalypse (conscience). It also forces both camps to back away from hurting Loko/Loki.

Berserk 1:

Come with us.

Berserk 2:

Odin wants you dead.

Berserk 3:

You're gonna die.

Berserk 4:

You will pay for Baldar's death.

Berserk 5:

The fire awaits you.

Berserk 6:

An eye for an eye.

Berserk 7:

Don't get cold feet.

Berserk 8:

You little freak.

The Berserks divide into two camps –those for killing and those for not killing.

They argue with each other.

Berserk 1:

This is not battle.

Berserk 2:

Kill it!

Berserk 3:

This is murder.

Berserk 4:

Kill it!

Berserk 5:

This is not right.

Berserk 6:

Odin said kill it!

Berserks A:

No

Berserks B:

Yes.

Berserks A:

No

Berserks B:

Kill it!

Berserks A:

No

Berserks B:

Yes

Berserks A:

No.

Arguing diminishes into agreeable chatter to release Loko/Loki. Everyone disperses in their own direction, including Loko/Loki.

(Segue to II 10)

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ACT II SCENE 10 - Loki/Loko's Apocalypse

From the love garden, it is Loki's apocalypse. She/he doesn't have a true sex, doesn't have a real home, wants to be human but can't be, can't dream, is she animal or man? - all of which has given her a suicidal quality. He/she sits with half Loki's clothing on and half Loko's.

Loko:

I am the leader of the Giants. The most feared army in the world. They fear me, yet I am fearful of myself. Sometimes, I can't control myself. I don't know from one minute to the next, if I'm a he,

Loki:

Or a she

Loko:

If I'm a leader

Loki:

Or a follower.

Loko:

If I am a God.

Loki:

Or a whore.

Loko:

If I am the foe who once and for all defeats Odin

Loki:

Or the one who's defeated by Odin.

Loko:

I have a plan to rule the world. A plan that will make me the supreme being.

Loki:

But that plan requires me to conspire, betray and lie to Odin.

Loko:

At first, I was okay with that, but now, it makes me feel sick.

Loki:

I don't know what's happening to me-to me-to me.

Loko:

I am changing. I am falling apart in the face of the biggest challenge in my life, I am falling apart-apart-apart.

Loki:
Something's happening in my head-my head-my head.
Loko:
There's so much going on-going on-going on. Nothing's as clear as it use to be-to be-to be.
Loki:
Then there was Frigg. And how I tricked her into revealing Baldar could die from mistletoe-toe-toe. And I used that to kill him in cold blood-blood-blood. At first, I was okay with that.
Loko:
But now I mourn it.
Loki:
That was murder.
Loko:
It wasn't combat,
Loki:
It was cold blooded murder.
Loko:
I am Loko, Ruler of the Giants-Giants-Giants.(breaks down)
I don't know what's wrong with me-me-me. I- I want to be remembered-d-d.
History will remember me (he reaches his personal apocalypse).
(An out-of-control duet ensues):
Loki:
Or will it remember me-me-me.
Loko:
N-No, it will be me-me-me.
Loki
M-Me-e-e.
Loko:
M-Me-e-e.
Loki:
M-Me-e-e.
Loko:
M-Me-e-e.
Loki:
M-Me-e-e.
Loko:
M-Me-e-e
(Loko/Loki completely falls apart. As she lies on the ground, the Berserks surround her, close in and capture her)
(Segue to II 11)

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ACT II SCENE 11 - Odin's apocalypse

The grief over Baldar, the cruel yet true words of Frigg, the deception of Loki and the overwhelming power of his discovery of knowledge overwhelms the great warrior into a personal apocalypse which also alters his speech and demeanor).

Odin:
I am the greatest and most feared warrior the world has ever known,
now have a most worthy opponent.
An opponent like no other.
An opponent who can bring me to my knees, without drawing a sword.

An opponent, who gives hope in the darkest hour.
An opponent who gives civility to me and those around me
And excites me like no other. An opponent who has proven to be the future. I know not what to do. They say keep your friends close and your enemies closer. Well, I have taken this opponent into my world and now its engulfed my soul. Even my warriors think before they act. That hesitation is enough to get them killed. Everything's changed. Nothing's the same.
(Odin enters a dream-like frenzy—his personal apocalypse)

When knowledge first came into my being, I was curious and sought additional information. I then drank from the spring, which gave acumen to those who tested the water. I gave my eye for that drink, yet I thirst for more.

I then conferred with The Tree of Life, the tree that roots and shelters all terrestrial substrates. I suspended my body from a noose around my cervical spine for 216 consecutive cycles of daylight and darkness. Multitudes made their pilgrimage to see me hanging. No one offered sustenance or H2O. Someone stabbed me in the side with a rapier.

But in my torment, I saw the light. That light represented a huge beacon of civility and erudition. A new society where one spoken word of kindness brought many returns. A place where the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. One good deed recapitulates itself nachmal vielen zeit. I could envision a rehabilitated planet where evil is overcome by good.

I was cognizant Ragnarok would be my fifteen minutes, but that light had transformed my being. Heretofore, I was Odin, proponent of violent acts. Hence, I am Odin, pundit of grey matter.

(Odin snaps out of his state)

Odin:

But no, I am Odin. My manliness and warrior ways refuse to change. I have no choice but to commit myself to death at Ragnarok. I shall fight till the end.

(Odin calls out for his Chief Berserk, Fromin)

Fromin! (Looks about as he wanders about)

Fromin! (Becomes more agitated)

Fromin! (Fromin comes rushing in and stops in front of Odin with a salute and undivided attention)

Odin:

Listen carefully. We have a change in the battle plan. The Strays are our enemy. Under Loko's command, they are set to turn on us. (Fromin looks confused). So here's what we do. (grabs a stick and writes on the ground).

The Strays are set to meet the Berserks and the Army of Valhalla in the Septor Valley. From there we all head for Ragnarok (Fromin nods in agreement)

I want you to get both armies in place before The Strays arrive. Spread them out so that once The Strays arrive, we can surround them. Take their weapons and clothing, bound, gag and Kiiiiill(Odin pauses in the middle of the work kill). Make sure they don't escape.

And then I want all of the Berserks to each take a Stray uniform and place it over their clothes. Half of the Berserks, disguised as Strays will strike the Giants from the east (points).

while half of the Valhalla army attacks from the west . (points)

The other half attacks from the north (points) and here, the remaining Berserks will attack from the south. Now go and do what you must do. And do not forget to

(both chant in unison)
Kick up the dust!
(Segue to II 12)

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ACT II SCENE 12 – Weather Reporter

(The television screen comes alive)

Narrator:

Ah, knowledge and the quest for it. We've become so smart. We have smart toys, smart houses, smart automobiles, smart computers and even smart bombs. Yes, we're really smart. So smart we use our knowledge and our language to purposefully un-communicate. Isn't telling a lie, even a small one, is an intentional mis-communication. And what about legal documents. Yeah, they really communicate.

(New camera POV) John Cage spoke about the fact that we have armed our language and that we use it in many ways to purposefully mis-communicate or mislead - rather than to truly communicate. He claimed we have militarized our language and called for us to demilitarize our use of language. Yes, some have traveled to the opposite end of Odin's quest. We're hanging from the wrong side of the Tree of Life.

(New camera POV) Our forecast says the greatest storm of all time, the apocalypse is before us. The wind will blow and the weather will undergo abrupt and dramatic storm patterns – from a tornado to a bone chilling ice storm..all in a matter of minutes.

(New camera POV) All the Ancients are ready: The Giants and the Berserks are all poised on the Plain. So sit back and enjoy the stormy weather! *(The tv screen goes black).*

(Segue to II 13)

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ACT II SCENE 13 – Ragnarok

In this dance sequence, the ground begins to shake, the wind blows, the horn-blowing intensifies, the marching troops pound, the skies light up and we hear the cries of battle. From all directions, we see fragments of conventional battle movements, but what's anticipated never happens. As the Ravens watch from their nest, everything loses direction and functionality. Reality breaks down and physical things fall apart. Time breaks down, people move backwards, people migrate from being a part of the battle into their own world, nervous breakdowns occur, etc... We have entered the absence of meaning. During one of the glimpses, we see the Giants and Berserks square off for battle, the Ravens succumb, Loko/Loki is killed by Odin, Frigg is killed as Baldar's Ghost watches from afar, Odin is killed by Fenrir, the wolf. Finally, all becomes quiet.

Chorus:

Good versus evil.

Evil versus good.

Hurricanes, earthquakes, the earth is getting warmer, fires, glaciers melting, climate changes, erosion, disease, hunger, poverty, greed, lack of caring, self, I, me, mine, violence, lack of morals, lack of ethics, civil unrest, civil disobedience, my way is better than yours, my religion is

better than yours, chaos, this song will repeat itself, this song will repeat itself, this song will repeat itself, this song will repeat itself.

(The Giants and Berserks square off for Battle of Ragnarok.

The war to end all wars is upon us. The Gods will die. Everyone will die. The earth shall be no more. Good will be defeated. Is that bad? And no one really knows why. History will repeat itself and once again, no one will hear it. We face the cold of winter as we dream of spring. The road, the journey, it changes us. We shed our skin and grow new.

It's always the same, you can never go home.

Some see. While others are blind. We are not who we were when the journey began so we must march on, march on, march on.

(the Ravens succumb)

Ragnarok, Ragnarok.

Ragnarok, Ragnarok.

(Loko/Loki is killed by Odin)

I will question authority.

War is the greatest affair.

The box of death my dear.

I wouldn't miss your greatest moment.

(Frigg is killed as Baldar's Ghost watches from afar)

Baldar, you are my life.

I have arranged his protection.

No one can hurt him. No one can hurt him.

He was such a good boy.

(Odin is killed by Fenrir, the wolf)

Odin, Wodon.

Wuton, Wotan.

Odin, Wodon.

Wuton, Wotan.

Odin, Odin, Odin.

History.

(Segue to II 14)

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ACT II SCENE 14 - Epilogue

A ray of sun appears. Somewhere near the top of the Tree of Life, we see the back side of a man and woman emerging from the foliage. Looking at the bright new day, the couple is young. They hold hands and gradually begin to dance. The joy of a new day, a new beginning, a new love and a new opportunity. As they dance and swirl they finally come into view of the audience. It's a young Odin and Loki.

(Segue to II 15)

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ACT II SCENE 15 – Weather Reporter

(The tv screen comes alive)

There you have it! Obsession is more than a fragrance. Tolerance is something expected of others. Peace has no meaning without war. People don't live the religion they practice and always return to where they've already been? History repeats itself. The marketers know that - and bet millions on it every day. And yep...we buy it.

(New camera POV) The updated forecast, calm fulfilled thoughts, thunderous applause, a serene potty break, a smooth and safe journey home, and clear skies [tomorrow](#) – to each and every one of you! (*The screen goes black*).

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ACT II SCENE 16 - After music and bows

END of Opera