

ELEMENT : AIR

Complete darkness. Pause. Music.

Voice Over

V.O: There was a time when darkness prevailed. A time when sound was silent and the world was still. A time when nothing was everything and life was yet to be born.

A small white light appears in the centre of the stage. It begins to move.

V.O: Out of the dark silence came LIGHT.

The white light begins to grow bigger and is still flitting about quickly.

V.O: The light emerged and began to explore. Over millions of years it evolved. And SOUL was born.

The white light is still quickly moving. Then it slows down to a stop. Rapid change of colours (on actor – who then slowly stands up)

Voice Over

V.O: Now free and out of silence came sound...

SOUL: (shouting) Who am I?

Complete darkness (sudden)

Music explodes – AIR, FIRE, WATER & EARTH Dance.

At the end of the DANCE AIR and SOUL are left.

SOUL is CENTRE STAGE, AIR (13 actors) dart fast and from all sides of the stage. AIR surrounds SOUL and begins to push and pull.

AIR 1: Who is this that has entered into our world?

AIR 2: Who is this that walks with his physical body in a world where the body is nothing?

AIR 3: Who is this that appears different to us?

SOUL: Who are you to move so quickly, in and around so fast?

AIR 4: One so questioning? But one who appears to have contained two, not so good.

SOUL: Contained two? What do you mean? Who or what are you and where am I?

AIR 5: Where are you? Answer to the question an easy one. You are in the world of ideas!

SOUL: A world of ideas? But, what, where is that?

AIR 6: More questions. Good, good, a sharp mind. But you still haven't answered my questions. Who are you and where did you come from?

LIGHT: I'm not sure really.

AIR (All) laughs.

AIR 7: Not sure.

SOUL: Yes, you see I just started thinking, (**AIR** murmurs: Very good, thinking, very good), and I wondered who I am.

AIR 8: A fine question but not easily answered. I, on the other hand, am everywhere. I can go anywhere, I can see everything.

SOUL: (not sure what **AIR** is meaning) Yes but who are you?

AIR (ALL): **I AM AIR** (MOVES FRANTICALLY AROUND STAGE).

SOUL: But what do you do?

AIR 9: I am the life of every living creature. I give oxygen to all that require and I take it from all those that don't.

SOUL: Do *I* need you?

AIR 10: Every living creature, be it small or be it large, needs AIR. I am the life support to every living mind.

AIR 11: I feed your mind its nourishment for you to form ideas and concepts.

AIR 12: For you to learn and grow. I keep you alive so you can explore and breathe.

AIR 13: Without me you cannot survive. I am the one constant in this world. Nothing else can compare to me.

AIR 1: All need me and I need for nothing. I exist because I say so.

AIR 2: I provide a lifetime of air, of breath, of life itself! There is no greater gift to bestow.

AIR 3: So you see, you need not go anywhere else. Everything you need is right here. Right here with me.

SOUL: Everything I need is right here?

AIR 4: Everything in the world of ideas, yes.

PAUSE

SOUL: Contained two? What you mean?

AIR 5: Two? Nothing.

SOUL: Nothing! You seemed upset by it. (With more force) What did you mean?

AIR 6: Nothing, no two, only one. Stay here and enjoy the fresh air!

SOUL: Hang on; two you said, I appear to be two. Do you mean to say there is another like me? One who is, is physical?

AIR 7: No. Nothing of the sort. How can there possibly be two of you? You don't even know who you are, let alone know that there is another of you.

SOUL: You're playing mind games Air! (Realisation) The world of ideas, the mind, life and two of me... of course! I have something you don't Air.

AIR 8: What?

SOUL: Physicality! A body. I have a **physical** presence! I am solid.

AIR 9: But what good is that?

SOUL: For an entity of pure intellect I am surprised that I have to tell you. With solid flesh I have action! I can perform tasks the mind alone can never achieve! Just think, sorry, that is all you can do; just think how I can touch other real, solid objects. How I can actually feel the air in my hair. How I can feel the hard ground on the soles of my feet!

AIR 10: (sarcastic) Souls of your feet? Very well, 'Soul' tell me, that is all very well but for purpose do you require these 'skills'? They are nothing but a hindrance to pure thought?

SOUL: Can't you see? While you provide life's nourishment, sustaining all living creatures life I am one step further. I can create!

PAUSE

AIR 11: No you mustn't! You must stay with me and let me feed you air.

SOUL: You're scared. You're scared that if I set outside this 'world of ideas' I'll discover something else, something other than you!

AIR 12: Listen to me. I am you're life. Me, Air. You must stay. There is nothing beyond my realm.

SOUL: You're scared I'll create something greater than you. Something that doesn't need you. I'll discover what lies beyond and I shall discover who I am. I can't think in here. It is too much thought and not enough action!

AIR 13: I warn you. Only harm will come to you. To know thy self is to know what the essence of life is. This 'other self' you seek shall not be easy to find.

AIR 1: You will need your wit about you and your mind sharp.

AIR 2: I will give you this sword and this cloak. But mark my words, the sword will not cut solid flesh but cut the intellect of all of those you meet. The cloak will protect you from the spiteful and poisonous words that others may speak.

AIR 3: Guard them well for they are valuable and will aid you when the darkness of the mind descends.

AIR 4: Remember one thing. I am Air. I am all around. I see everything.

(**AIR** disappears quickly – **SOUL** puts on the cloak and is left standing on stage alone with sword in hand)

FADE TO BLACK

ELEMENT : FIRE

BLACK SLOWLY TO RED LOW LEVEL LIGHT

SOUL, with cloak on, is left standing on stage alone with sword in hand. **SOUL** looks slightly bewildered.

MUSIC OF THE FLAME

From all directions **FIRE** (11 actors) flickers onto the stage and links together surrounding **SOUL**.

SOUL begins to struggle but it seems impossible to break the **FIRE** chain. Then he tries cutting **FIRE** with the sword but again that does not work, in fact that makes it worse and the **FIRE** seems to grow stronger.

SOUL then takes the cloak off and starts to smother **FIRE** with it. **FIRE** dies down enough for **SOUL** to jump over it and then take the cloak back.

FIRE rises again.

SOUL: (angry) Why did you attack me?

FIRE 1: Attack? I did not attack you. I live and breathe flames.

SOUL: You were burning me! Who are you that can burn others?

FIRE 2: **I AM FIRE.** I burn bright and I live by my rules. I am the creator, a purifier. I am flame, the sun and the blood of life.

SOUL: You are a destroyer!

FIRE 3: All life is destroyable. But I am not life. I am never destroyed. I bring new life to those who have turned to ash and free them of all suffering.

SOUL: You *bring* suffering to others. How can you possibly benefit others?

FIRE 4: Let me tell you the future...

FUTURE MUSIC

FIRE 5: The Sun and the Wind. Both elements of Earth, both as individual and independent as each other. One day the Wind goaded the Sun. Wind claimed it was stronger, more powerful and above all more intelligent.

FIRE 6: The Sun laid down a challenge and the Wind duly accepted. The Sun noticed a man out walking and said that whoever could make the man take off his jacket would be the better element. The Sun claimed that there is great power in gentleness.

FIRE 7: The Wind, in its arrogance, claimed that would be easy and drew the biggest breath it could manage. In one ferocious gust, the Wind blew as hard as it could.

FIRE 8: The man felt the wind hit him so hard it almost knocked him off his feet. After steadying himself he pulled his coat tight around him and began to walk again this time with his head down.

FIRE 9: The Wind could not believe what had happened and grew very angry. The Wind took another, even bigger breath, as deep as it could muster and in one go blew as twice as hard before.

FIRE 10: The blast of Wind hit the man even harder and once again almost knocked him on his feet. And once again he held onto his coat with more determination than ever.

FIRE 11: The Sun smiled at the Wind and said, "Watch this," and the Sun stretched out its many long fiery arms and gave the biggest fiery smile it could manage.

FIRE 1: The Sun's hot fiery rays filtered through space, past stars and into the Earth's atmosphere. Eventually the man who was clutching his coat with all his might, looked up at the sky.

FIRE 2: He saw the hot Sun glowing in the blue sky, beating down on him. Soon the man was getting too hot to wear his coat so he began to take it off! The Wind could not believe what had happened.

FIRE 3: “How did you do that?” the Wind said. The Sun replied, “It was easy, I gave the man warmth, light and heat. All things that give comfort to the man and I gave them with gentleness.

FUTURE MUSIC FADES OUT

SAME RED LOW LEVEL LIGHTING AS START OF SCENE.

FIRE 4: I AM THE SUN (all **FIRE** move frantically around **SOUL**). I am giver of life, of heat, of passion! Without me nothing will live. I am the flame to light your path.

SOUL: I ask you one more question.

FIRE 5: Proceed. I fear nothing.

SOUL: If you give life but claim not to be life and thus can never be destroyed, tell me how I managed to pass over you when we first meet?

ALL FIRE move very frantically again.

FIRE 6: I cannot answer you that.

SOUL: (realisation) You don't actually know do you? That has never happened to you before. I tried cutting you with my sword but your flames could not be cut. I then laid my cloak onto top of you and you began to suffocate!

FIRE 7: Where did you get those, those things?

SOUL: I got them from Air.

FIRE 8: Air? What is Air? I have never heard of such a word.

SOUL: Of course. You are unaware of Air. I was given these items to help me through my journey to find another who is just like me. One who has something both you and Air haven't got. Not only do I possess the ability of thought I also possess the ability of action.

FIRE 9: And how does that help you?

SOUL: Not only could I think of a way to free myself from your flames I was able to do it physically as well.

FIRE 10: How did you know your cloak would harm me?

SOUL: Air said that it too was the giver of life and how every living creature, every living being needs Air to survive. You are no exception. You *need* Air to live.

FIRE 11: This cannot be!

SOUL: It is true. Without oxygen you cannot breathe. You become nothing, your flames die and you cease to exist. Look I'll show you again (**SOUL** begins to take his cloak off)

FIRE 1: No, no. Stop! You must help me.

SOUL: But how can I help you?

FIRE 2: You must never use that cloak on me again. I will give you the power of fire to keep me alive and help you light your way in finding what you seek.

FIRE gives **SOUL** a wand.

FIRE 3: Please give the power of fire to others so I shall always live and provide fire and heat to those that need me.

SOUL: I shall do as you wish. I shall leave and tell all those I meet about you.

FIRE 4: May the light be always with you.

FIRE 5: And I shall protect you as you travel.

FADE TO BLACK