

**THEIR LIVES TRANSLATED:
AN ORIGINAL PLAY
IN THREE ACTS WITH
PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE**

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Their Lives Translated: An Original Play in Three Acts with Prologue and epilogue by Cora Ten Eyck

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CORA TEN EYCK

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American Dramatists Series

Their Lives Translated

AN ORIGINAL PLAY
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PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE

By
CORA TEN EYCK



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

PRINCIPAL

TAMMEN—*Spirit of Solitude.*
DEGEN } *Lovers of all Time.*
CORNA }
CRAIG—*Their celestial friend.*

MINOR

Three Judges of the Seventh Heaven.

OSMO—*Corna's man in the Stone Age.*

OAK—*A man of the Stone Age.*

JUSTIN—*Corna's father, a medieval King.*

HAGAR—*Corna's nurse.*

Attendants; soldiers.

Three Gentlemen of Georgian Period.

LADY SYBIL } *Corna's friends.*
LADY CLARA }

LORD FULTON—*Corna's suitor.*

FATHER OF CORNA.

Three Citizens.

Their Lives Translated

PROLOGUE

Scene in the mountains. Tammen is seen waiting for a youth who struggles wearily up over the rocks toward him.

TAMMEN !

"What seekest thou here, rash youth, in this forbidding spot?

Has sorrow urged thee to these lonely heights?
Or hast thou heard the music of the spheres,
And seek'st thou here the hand that strikes the harp?

Seems to mine aging eye you must be ministered
By legion guardian angels. Speak, splendid youth,
Acquaint me with thy heart's profoundest wish;
Perhaps my feeble hand may hold the cup
Of knowledge that thou cravest; well I know
Not Youth's gay whim hath been thy pilot here;
The "Mighty Secret" must have stretched to you
her hand

Across the waste and burning desert sand;
Thou art the one, truly I know thy face.

DEGEN

Father, had my heart been a book that you had read
You could not then have read the text more clear;
Never indeed hath Youth her whimsies flashed
Brightly enough to blind me. All my life
Has superstition fouled the bubbling fount
Of Thought; and black Fear essayed
To beat me back into the trodden paths
Millions have followed blindly. Did they leave
A fitting answer to the soul's demands
For reason, reason for the souls sojourning here
Through tears and trials, through wars and pesti-
lence;
And last, not least, through the winding ways of
love
Alluring, maddening, stripping the soul of strength
But satisfying never, like the poppy's song
Whose ultimate sweetness no mortal ever hears?
Aye! had they answered any one of these
My treasonable questions, I had not here been found
Way-worn, weary, but still as the lover flies
To love's first trysting, seeking solitude.

TAMMEN

If then thou seekest solitude
Thou hast no need for me. I will away.

PROLOGUE

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DEGEN

Stay, father! stay! you seem to be
Solitude articulate, the soul of what I sought.
If you are not the voice of wisdom clothed
In terrestrial garments, you do seem to be,
Call yourself Solitude and further speak with me.

TAMMEN

What wouldst thou then of Solitude
My son, hast thou not learned of life that all is
mystery?
And were I solitude indeed, could I have gaged
Those soundless depths the walls of centuries
guard?
Where hast thou learned that Solitude could speak?

DEGEN

Father, I am not satisfied with Science's devious
way,
Her multiplied divisions. Have we found
The fountain head of Life's tremendous urge;
The answer to those questions that go thundering
down
Through generations, dying out at last
In each sad heart, only as that heart ceases trou-
bling,

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Sinking unsatisfied, into the past profound?
Why was I given vision of myself complete,
Only to seek in vain for my completed self?
You know 'tis written, seek and thou shalt find,
Knock, it shall be opened unto you; these words
are not

Empty of meaning. I have dwelt apart
Much of my youth, being called a dreamer, aye and
idler, too,

But I have had, and it has paid for all,
Glimpses of life as though it had not here
Begun its stormy passage. Why I should
Say stormy, when my life has sheltered been,
And grief has not come nigh me, I know not; but
I know

The words are truth and I would prove them here.
Have you no message for me, graybearded Soli-
tude?

TAMMEN

Thou hast believed that unto him who knocked
It should be opened, and it shall be. Solitude
Hath forced the gates of wisdom; at that pass-
word Faith,
They open for thy eager feet to pass. But when
thou comest hence
Thou canst no longer be the child of Circumstance.