

# Ian Assersohn's Ionian Mass

## Text

### 1. Mercy

A small blue rock,  
Spinning through infinity,  
One of countless millions  
Dancing to gravity's  
Stern, steady, unrelenting beat.

And yet this rock hears another music too,  
Vibrates to life's quick pulse,  
Sings life's  
Joyful, tender, fleeting song.

If mercy, kindness and compassion can be  
found  
In all the dark infinity,  
Search for them here,  
Upon this small, blue, spinning rock.

### 2. Glory

All through the limitless reaches of space  
Right the uttermost pinpricks of light  
We can look up;

Into the crystals and minerals and rocks  
Into the layers and depths of the earth  
We can look down.

We can observe, we can measure,  
We can calculate and we can speculate  
And it's amazing.

Through countless ages and aeons of time,  
And to the birth of the cosmos itself  
We can look back;

Across the astounding assortment of life on  
the earth,  
And to the mountains and rivers  
And forests and cities  
And oceans and deserts and plains  
We can look round.

Into the chemical secrets of life,  
Into the genes that make up who we are,  
Into the tiniest fragments of dust,  
Into a singular quantum of light  
We can look in.

So much is understood,  
So much is yet to be learned,  
But all of it is amazing.

### 3. Truth

Thales, Archimedes, Galileo Galilei,  
Johannes Kepler, Isaac Newton,  
Edward Jenner Michael Faraday,  
Charles Darwin, Louis Pasteur,  
James Clerk Maxwell, Nikola Tesla,  
Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Otto Hahn,  
Niels Bohr, Edwin Hubble, Paul Dirac,  
Alan Turing, Ernest Rutherford,  
James Watson, Rosalind Franklin,  
Francis Crick, Stephen Hawking.

These are the names of some of the people  
Who taught us to understand our Universe,  
And each of them believed

That light is better than darkness,  
That truth is better than falsehood,  
That knowledge is better than ignorance,

I believe that too.

### 4. Sun

O Sun!

Light-Sender, Heat-Giver, Food-Grower,  
Life-Kindler, Seed-Warmer, Fire-Starter,  
Planet-Spinner, Storm-Blower, Cloud-Painter,  
Shadow-Maker, Time-Teller, Night-Chaser,  
Flare-Thrower, Sea-Stirrer, Bud-Waker,  
Snow-Melter, Stone-Splitter, Fog-Lifter.

Ordinary star though you are,  
A rather small glowing ball  
In the universal scheme,  
Without your life-giving glow  
We would not be here at all  
To dream.

O Sun!

### 5. Peace

A small ship slides through the silence of  
space,  
When will the uncertain, disunited crew  
Finally come to terms with their  
responsibilities?

To tend the ship,  
To help each other,  
And to enjoy the journey  
In peace.