

Psalm 120

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

Soprano
Cantus
Alto

Tenor
Bass
Bassus

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1 Distressed, and in my mind dismayed,
When destitute of human aid,
To thee successfully I prayed.
Lord, shield me from the fraudulent;
From those that are on malice bent;
Who envious calumnies invent.

2 O thou false tongue, steeped in the gall
Of serpents what reward, for all
Thy mischief, shall to thee befall!
Like arrows shot from Parthian strings,
Fired juniper, and scorpions' stings;
Such art thou, O thou worst of things!

3 Woe's me, that I from Israel
Exilèd, must in Mesech dwell;
And in the tents of Ishmael!
O how long shall I live with those,
Whose savage minds sweet peace oppose;
Where fury by dissuasion grows.

George Sandys (1578–1644)