

Thaïs



In the Egyptian desert Palémon and his monks await Brother Athanaël.
He returns, with news of sinful Alexandria and Thaïs, sensual Priestess of Venus.
After having a seductive dream about her, Athanaël determines to convert her to God.
Wise Palémon warns him away from worldly affairs.



In Alexandria, Athanaël's friend Nicias, learning of his plan, warns
Athanaël not to offend vengeful Venus.



Thaïs arrives, but tells pious Athanaël, that she believes only in love.



Later, Thaïs reflects sadly on losing her beauty, unsure of what will become of her.

Athanaël arrives offering love that never fades - the love of God.



Torn between her erotic past and the prospect of a Holy life, Thaïs collapses anguished.

Meditating through the night, at dawn Thaïs agrees to follow Athanaël to a desert convent.



He demands she destroy all of her former life.

She wishes to keep only a small figure of Eros but learning it is a gift from Nicias,



Athanaël smashes it and sets fire to her palace.



The Alexandrians attack Athanaël- furious that he would take Thaïs away from them.

Nicias throws money distracting the crowd so the pair can escape as the palace burns.



Athanaël leads Thaïs through the desert.



Only when he sees her bleeding feet does he relent, bringing her water at an oasis.



Thaïs thanks him for saving her and bringing her to God.

The White Sisters come to receive her.



As he falls in love with her, Athanaël realizes he will never see her again.



Palémon worries about brother Athanaël who can no longer find peace, haunted by memories of Thaïs.

Seeing a vision of her dying, Athanaël rushes to her-



Denying heaven, he proclaims his love for her,



But Thaïs already hears the sounds of angel harps and wings.



Her sainted soul flies to heaven leaving Athanaël bereft.



Opera Bracelets - A Dyzines Company © Cindy Battisti 2010