

For all who dearly love the musical settings of the Improperia for Good Friday, but are troubled by their anti-semitic tone, consider the following amendment which applies the accusation of sin to humankind rather than one nation:

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My people, what have I done to thee?
Or in what have I grieved thee? Answer me!

I created thee in mine own image
yet thou hast disfigured my face.

I set thee in a garden
yet thou hast squandered thine inheritance.

I brought thee out of the land of Egypt:
And thou hast prepared a cross for thy Savior.

For thy sake I scourged Egypt and its firstborn:
And thou didst scourge me and deliver me to death.

I gathered thee in love, Jew and Gentile, slave and free:
but thou hast held me in captivity.

I made thee a new creation
yet thou hast turned again to thy sin.

OR in Modern Language:

My people, what have I done to you?
Or in what have I grieved you? Answer me!

I created you in my own image
yet you have disfigured my face.

I set you in a garden
yet you have squandered your inheritance.

I brought you out of the land of Egypt:
And you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

For your sake I scourged Egypt and its firstborn:
And you scourged me and delivered me to death.

I gathered you in love, Jew and Gentile, slave and free:
but you have held me in captivity.

I made you a new creation
yet you have turned again to your sin.