

This piece documents the last hours of a sick, old man. Four mystical chords lead into the first theme. The violin plays a melancholic melody depicting the old man lying on his bed alone. The increasingly intense music signifies the man struggling with death. His experience of the anguish of the chaotic and hectic world is flooded by instability and selfishness.

The old man's unconsciousness is symbolised by a sweeping pentatonic glissando that leads into the second theme -- an imaginary realm. He sees mirages of a calm and carefree place, which is illustrated by the *erhu* melody loosely based on the pentatonic scale. The old man feels comforted and longs to stay there forever. Yet the four mystical chords return in the form of a piano cadenza, bringing back a reiteration of the first melancholic theme. The old man is in a bleak and dire situation. The violin plays pizzicato and the *erhu* plays stuttering syncopation suggesting his heavy and faltering heartbeat. Despite his critical condition, the mirages provide him with lucidity illuminating a glimmer of hope in the troubled world. As the mystical chords return for the last time, the music resolves into a major chord and fades into oblivion, symbolising the old man's transcendental tranquillity and experiencing spiritual transfiguration, and leaving the world in peace.