

TEXT FROM  
THE STORY IN MUSIC: DAVID  
BY © STEPHEN MELILLO IGNA 2ND & 3RD MILLENNIUM

PSALM 30 VERSE 5  
MUSIC & LYRIC BY STEPHEN MELILLO IGNA 19 AUGUST 1994

In the Evening  
a spell of Tears...  
In the Morning  
Shouts, yes,  
Shouts of Joy...

*The Story as told to David by a Hindu Emissary:*

Once there was a man who searched for a single stone on the seemingly endless shores of a pebble-laden beach. A young man, he began his search with great faith and hope. With each and every stone, he bent to his knee, clutched his possible prize, and touched it to a simple chain he wore around his neck. When the chain turned to gold, his search would be over... for he would have found "*The Touchstone*". Days passed, then weeks, then months, then years... until finally he had reached the end of his life. Old and worn he looked back over the many miles. Tired and defeated, he looked down at the chain around his neck. It had become gold! He had found The Touchstone... but caught in the persistence of his action... *he had thrown it away.*

THE TOUCHSTONE  
MUSIC & LYRIC BY STEPHEN MELILLO IGNA 19 AUGUST 1994

In the morning Light I see You... and then  
At Dusk, I pray for strength from You.

In the Twi-Light of the Star-Night  
I am awed by the Sight of the Lights in the Sky that  
Praise You...

Work awaits me in the morning, the  
Search for something that will save my heart.  
So I pick up every stone and then I  
Touch it to my Soul and then I

Wait to see if You have blessed this  
Moment...  
Why, oh God is Life but just a  
Moment?

Then I start again to search for You.

In the Twi-Light of the Star-Light  
Night is fighting, filled with  
Might to stamp out every  
Hope of morning's  
Light...

So I start again to search for You.

In the twinkling, fleeting, glistening of  
Sun on the Sand  
I can look in my Hand and  
Find in its grasp the chance to  
Give with every fiber  
Even if my Life is just a  
Moment...

Even if my Life is just a  
Moment...

### ***DAVID, Composers Program Notes***

What is the connection between the movements and why is this piece called **DAVID**? In this telling of the classic confrontation of the small standing against the insurmountable, David sings a prayer... perhaps another of his psalms. The prayer is inspired after hearing the tale of *The Touchstone*, delivered to David by an emissary from a distant land. (*The story is printed above.*) Realizing his own mortality, David continues to search for The Touchstone while offering his life in unyielding Faith.

As Fate would have it, David **finds** The Touchstone! It is then that Goliath so unrelentingly approaches. With no sword, no armor, no lance, David holds The Touchstone in his hand as if weighing his find. Then, without hesitation, he loads it into the sling and hurls it at the head of his enemy.

David's Faith saved his people. For that Faith, for that noble cause, even *The Touchstone* was worth throwing away...

**DAVID** is dedicated to the "Davids" of our world and to the memory of those who, despite untimely passings, have spent their lives for noble causes often considered small... or perhaps not noticed at all. These people are like "Touchstones", rare and precious... *but their lives have not been in vain.*