Were You There

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

O!

Sometimes it causes me to

tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you

Few hymns from any culture have captured the pathos of Jesus’ crucifixion as movingly as this African American spiritual. Its emotional climax (and highest pitch) comes in the great “O!” at the center of each stanza, a moment that moves beyond anything words can convey.