

HELOIS

Amicus Humani Generis

A Four Act Play

*An Adaption from the Greek and
Roman Mythology*

BY

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To
NEWELL MELBOURN SPRATT, Esq.
AS A TOKEN OF DEEP RESPECT

I Dedicate
THIS PLAY TO YOU

—The Author

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no 1

HELOIS



INTRODUCTORY

FROM HOMER down, the poets have sung of High Olympus, where dwelt the Gods among the clouds and there settled the fate of all mankind.

LINES FROM THE ODYSSEY

*Rose to Olympus, the reputed seat
Eternal of the Gods, which never storms
Disturb, rain drench or snow invades, but calm
The expanse, and cloudless shines with purest day,
There the inhabitants divine rejoice
Forever.*

HOMER.

It has always been supposed that Mount Olympus was a creation of ancient mythology and the poet's imagination. The Greeks really worshipped a certain mountain as the dwelling place of the gods, but to the majority of people, Olympus was considered as immaterial as heaven.

By archæological research, it has been discovered that the true Mount Olympus was Mount Rantidi in Cyprus. It is a beautiful site in an exquisite climate. On the Hill Rantidi was found many crypts and altars inscribed with the names of Greek Gods from Zeus

(or Jupiter) to Apollo, and one especially interesting temple, built around a holy water pool, was consecrated to the worship of the ocean born Aphrodite. One of the many shrines has the inscription, "I am consecrated to Zeus," and another to Apollo, the God of Music. A thorough investigation has traced the worship of these Gods as far back as 2000 years B.C.

This Mount Rantidi in Cyprus, with its ruined shrines, temples, and wonderful broken statues, is now thought to be the fabled Home of Thundering Jove, invincible Mars, Winged Mercury, Apollo, Adonis, and the azure-eyed Venus; in fact, the whole family of Gods and Goddesses. On the summit of this mountain, the Gods and Goddesses occasionally met for consultation, it was said.



BIOGRAPHY OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY

GODS

JUPITER. The powerful God Jupiter was said to be the son of the God Saturn and his wife Cybele. He was denominated *The Father of the Gods and King of Men*, as he alone possessed the power of darting thunderbolts and was able to hold the whole world in subjection. He also possessed the power to make himself invisible. For his own purpose, it is stated, he had changed himself into a shower of gold. He could, at will, turn day to night and prolong either or both into double time. He ruled supreme in the Heavens.

MARS. Mars was the God of War and Armies, and was said to have been born in a marvellous fashion. The Goddess Juno, Queen of Heaven, being instructed by the Goddess Flora, touched a certain flower and instantly came into being the invincible God of War and Armies.

VULCAN. Vulcan was the lame God, son of Jupiter and his wife Juno. At his birth, Jupiter, seeing him so ugly and deformed, knocked him out of Heaven. In the fall he broke his leg, and always remained lame. Arriving at manhood, he undertook the office of blacksmith, in which position he labored for the Gods, especially in making the thunderbolts of Jupiter. His workshops were not only in the Islands of Lemnos

and Liparus, but also at Mount Ætna. The giants Cyclops were his companions, who received their name from having an eye in the middle of their foreheads. These smiths helped him in his labors.

PROMETHEUS was the God who made men of clay and water and then stole fire from Heaven to animate them, which act so incensed Jupiter that he had him bound to the rock called Mount Caucasus with iron chains. Then an eagle or vulture daily devoured a part of his liver, which was replaced each night to furnish food for new torments. In this terrible situation Prometheus remained till the Demigod Hercules, by his incomparable strength, released him.

APOLLO, the God of Poetry, Music and Art, who went about with the muses instructing men in goodness and the higher arts. He is a twin brother to Diana the chaste, and a son of Jupiter and the Goddess Latona.

HELOIS, a son of Jupiter and the Goddess Leda. A noble son filled with righteous zeal. A volunteer for reincarnation, sacrificing to assist Humanity to regain their lost paradise.

BACCHUS, a son of Jupiter by the Goddess Semele. He is the God of Wine and was said to be the first God to introduce triumphs, bearing the royal diadem. His chariot was drawn by tigers and he appears always clad in the skin of a stag or goat. His sceptre was a Thyrsus, that is a little lance covered with ivy and vine leaves. He invented the use of wine. At first when introduced it was considered poison because when used it intoxicated men and made them furious. Therefore Bacchus is always represented as being instructed by the Nymphs. He chose women to perform his sacrifices because they followed him in his voyages with songs and dances. They were termed Bacchantes.

Their cry was "Evœ, Evan, Evœ, Bacche," meaning "Good son."

SOLONUS, the God of Fountains and Waters, said to typify purity and innocence, and the fructifying waters that assist to fertilize the land. He is charged to guard all flowing waters and assist men to divine springs and hidden streams.

ADONIS, said to be the God of Beauty and Perfection of Form. Also, at one time, the Darling of Venus. But Adonis then preferred the sport of hunting to love making and disdained all Venus' advances.

MERCURY was ranked among the most illustrious of the Gods, equally on account of his birth as the great variety of his functions. He was the son of Jupiter and the Goddess Maia, daughter of the God Atlas who carries the Heavens upon his shoulders. Mercury was born on Mount Cyclene in Arcadia. The most common of his offices was that of ambassador and interpreter of the Gods, and in this quality he had wings on his head and feet. In his hand he carries his Caduceus, or wand, on which were entwined two serpents as a sign of peace and concord. Hence it is usually asserted that Mercury is the representation of speech which interprets our thoughts, which appear to fly on account of their swiftness. There is nothing more remarkable than speech which has the power of gaining and reuniting the hearts and minds of all mankind. Another of his offices was that of showing the way and conducting the souls of the departed to the infernal regions. The ancient poets declare "That it is impossible to die until Mercury, with his Caduceus, has destroyed the chains which by divine virtue attach the body to the soul." Mercury invented the exercise of the lute and was the author of a kind of lyre, which latter he presented to Apollo. Mercury is the God

of Eloquence, which gift is of essential service to him in his manifold embassies and negotiations. To Mercury was given the credit of being able to endow man with the gift of the skill of architecture. In fact, he was the inventor of many arts which rendered him universally celebrated. He was the father of a number of sons of which Icarus was the favourite. Mercury taught the boy to make wings to fly through the air, but Icarus, in his enthusiasm at its accomplishment, though much against his father's advice, approached too near the sun, which melted the wax he had used to fasten his wings to his shoulders. He met his death by falling into the sea.

GODDESSES

JUNO, wife of Jupiter, called the Queen of the Gods and considered the Goddesses of Kingdoms and Riches. She likewise superintended marriages and births. She was the mother of Hebe, Goddess of Youth, and this child insinuated herself so much in the good graces of Jupiter that she was his attendant at table and poured out the nectar for him, till Gany-mede supplanted her. Juno was noted for her stateliness of form and beautiful eyes. She was notoriously jealous of her husband. At her command, Argus, a dog covered with eyes on every side, was employed in watching the actions of Jupiter. When a part of this dog's eyes were overwhelmed with sleep, the others were awake. Mercury ultimately killed this monster by command of Jupiter, after having lulled it to sleep by the sound of his flute. Juno, to recompense the fidelity of her spy, metamorphosed him into a beautiful peacock, which still represents, in its plumage, his multitude of eyes.

VENUS was considered the Goddess of Love on account of her fascinating powers and her incomparable

beauty. She was the daughter of Jupiter and the Goddess Dione. Her chariot was drawn by swans and doves, both lascivious birds. She was most particularly worshipped in the countries of Amathus, Cythera and Paphos, then the most delightful parts of the world. Besides Hymen, the God of Marriages, she was the mother of the three Charities and Graces, and her usual attendants, the two Cupids, Gods of Love and Passion. Also Priapus, the God of Gardens, of whom mention is made in the Holy Scriptures. Asses were invariably sacrificed to him. Æneas, so celebrated in Virgil, boasted of having her for his mother. Her husband was the lame God Vulcan.

DIANA, the Chaste, is represented as the Goddess of Forests, Mountains, Hunting and Huntsmen. She always appears in hunting costume with a helmet as headgear, armed with a bow and quiver full of arrows. She is said to be the twin sister of Apollo. Her father was Jupiter, her mother Latona. Yet there is another account of her birth claiming that she leaped from the brain of Jupiter, armed Cap-a-pie with a lance or arrow in her hand. She faithfully loved the erring Shepherd Endymoin who, by Jupiter, was condemned to perpetual sleep on account of indignities he had offered to Juno, Jupiter's wife.

UNICE. The Goddess of Unice was the pious wife of the noble Helois; daughter of Phœbus, the Sun God, and his wife Terra, and sister to Prometheus. Phœbus signifies the light of the living. Unice was the mother of the Heavenly twins, Aurora who, with rosy fingers, opens the gates of Day, and Ariel who heralds the dawn of day. Unice is celebrated for her beauty, piety and faithfulness.

HEBE, Goddess of Youth, daughter of Jupiter and his wife Juno. Hebe represents youthful beauty.

DAPHNE, a minor Goddess, who managed to attract the love of Apollo and Adonis. Her affections were secured by the latter.

HYACINE, a minor Goddess, who, in company with Hebe, Dora and Flora, often attended the orgies of Bacchus, the God of Wine.



HELOIS

THE CHOSEN ONE

A FOUR ACT DRAMA

Adaption from Greek Mythology



DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

THE GODS

JUPITER	- - - - -	<i>Father of the Gods</i>
HELOIS	- - - - -	<i>The Chosen One</i>
PROMETHEUS	-	<i>The Creator of Mankind, Who Used Fire from Heaven to Animate His Handiwork</i>
MARS	- - - - -	<i>God of War</i>
BACCHUS	- - - - -	<i>God of Wine</i>
APOLLO	- - - - -	<i>God of Music and Arts</i>
ADONIS	-	<i>God of Beauty and Perfection of Form</i>
VULCAN	-	<i>The Lame God Who Forges Thunder- bolts for Jupiter</i>
SOLONUS	- -	<i>The God of Fountains and Lakes</i>
ENDYMION	- - - - -	<i>The Sleeping Shepherd</i>

GODDESSES

JUNO	- - -	<i>Queen of the Gods: Wife of Jupiter</i>
VENUS	- -	<i>Goddess of Love: Wife of Vulcan</i>
UNICE	-	<i>Wife of Helois: Mother of Heavenly Twins</i>
DIANA	-	<i>Goddess of the Chase: Sister of Apollo</i>
HEBE	- - - - -	<i>Goddess of Youth</i>
DAPHNE, HYACINE, DORA, FLORA	-	<i>Minor Goddesses</i>
CUPIDS	- -	<i>Gods of Love and Passion: Sons of Vulcan and Venus</i>

LOCALITIES

MOUNT OLYMPUS, CYPRUS, *the Sacred Dwelling Place
of the Gods.*

FORUM IN GOLDEN SQUARE, CELESTIAL CITY.

A FOREST ON MOUNT OLYMPUS.

A STREET IN CELESTIAL CITY.

PLATEAU, OUTSKIRTS OF CELESTIAL CITY.

A STREET IN ROME, ITALY.

A ROOM IN A HOTEL, ITALY.

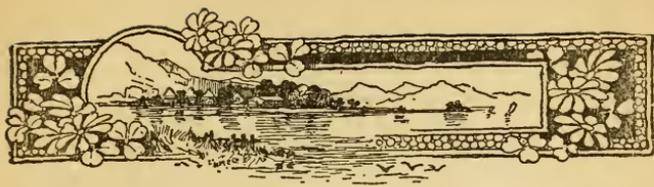
HYDE PARK, ENGLAND.

HELOIS	<i>is pronounced:</i>	He lo' is
UNICE	"	U ne cee
HEBE	"	He be
HYACINE	"	Hy a cen





HELOIS



ACT I



SCENE I

MOUNT OLYMPUS IN CYPRUS.

THE FORUM IN GOLDEN SQUARE, CELESTIAL CITY.

THE GODS IN COUNCIL.

JUPITER (*with scroll*). Am I to understand, Helois, thou hast resolved to undertake the stupendous task here outlined?

HELOIS. With thy consent, O Mighty One, I am prepared to suffer for mortals' redress, and desire to descend to mundane spheres to take up the task as soon as practicable.

JUPITER. What if we withhold our consent?

HELOIS. I pray thee, O Exalted One, oppose me not! Lend a pliant ear to my request and in thy infinite wisdom give thy decision in favour of the execution of my earnest desires. For Humanity's sake, I plead. Human souls endowed with heavenly fire,

yet so benighted, they know not of their divine origin or their glorious heritage. Their multitudinous prayers, petitions and supplications for love, light, liberty and eternal peace thrills my being and compells a response. I know they are heavily laden with sin, sorrow, suffering. Their crimes, no doubt, are myriad; yet I would sacrifice Heavenly bliss to go to raise them and draw them one step nearer my God, to Thee. In thy glorious wisdom and power, say Great King, shall weak and erring mortals appeal to the Gods in vain?

MERCURY. Helois, answer, who made thee omnipotent? Our Mighty Father alone possesses that power. Whenst came thy superior knowledge and ability to deal with this ever vexed question of Humanity's needs? There is not a God with us that does not deplore the present state of the sinning earthly mortals. Yet none but thee hast dared to express themselves willing or able to cope with the perilous situation. For a moment, let me here enquire of thee, hast thou given sufficient thought to the almost insurmountable difficulties that would beset thy pathway if thou assumed habitments of clay, and descended to the earth plane to intimately associate with mortals? I, as a pliant messenger of the Gods, know by experience the horrible conditions existing in the lower world, so often on missions of mercy have I for a brief period descended into the hells of vice and sin and witnessed the unspeakable horrors that abound there. Canst thou, Helois, the chaste, hope for one moment to successfully grapple with the hydra-headed monsters of sin, vice and crime and overcome them? Canst thou expect to handle pitch and yet be undefiled. My brother, halt, consider, by this rash exploit of thine thou mayst not only loose the fruits of thy labour but loose also thy divinity.

HELOIS. Monstrous! Mere sophistry, noble Mercury. I have no intention of working in opposition to the will of the Most High or the desires of my fellow Gods, but from thee, my illustrious brother, I did not expect condemnation or opposition. Thou who hast acknowledged the existence of hells of iniquity. Why should they not be removed? A herculean task, no doubt. I again reiterate, I am willing, for no self-agrandisement, to sacrifice Heavenly power and bliss to aid poor benighted sinning Humanity and endeavour to alter existing evils even to the forfeiture of life everlasting.

JUPITER. Peace, my beloved. Think not thy brother Mercury pitilessly condemns thee. No; he desires to warn thee for love's sake. He, in concert with us all, fully realize the formidable task nobly self-imposed for other's woes, and thus pleads for care and caution in thy venture.

PROMETHEUS. Helois, let me add beware! to all the eminent Mercury has so ably portrayed. Let caution guide thy ardour, brother mine.

HELOIS. Prometheus, thou too hast ventured to add thy quota against my mission. Who better than thyself knows of the crying necessity of a living sacrifice? Erring mortals, thy children, are suffering tortuous woes. Wouldst thou agree they were left to an awful fate?

PROMETHEUS. Ha, Helois, thy arrow has shot home. But acknowledge, did I not pay the full penalty of my rashness in endowing mortal clay with the vital spark of eternal life?

HELOIS. Prometheus, surely thou does not regret thy pangs or wouldst withdraw the gift thou so freely in thy halycon days bestowed? If thou deny thyself, the Gods are then placed on a par with men. If so, I

religious ardour. He desired to leave me, his sorrowing wife, and our precious infants to visit the earth spheres to endeavour to rescue lost human souls and leave us mourning in his absence. Great Jupiter, Noble Mercury, celestials all, help me in my endeavours to keep him with us. What careth the perverse children of the earth for the sacrifice of my beloved? With their dulled senses they would not recognize his noble efforts in their behalf, and his sacrifice would be in vain. My anguish is great. I cannot, oh, I cannot consent to part with him. What could compensate for his absence? (*Kneels to Jupiter.*) I pray thee, Jupiter, the Supreme, forbid this project, command him stay.

HELOIS (*raising her*). My love, my wife, my star of hope, calm thy feelings. If I have caused thy gentle spirit sorrow, I crave thy pardon. Be patient with me, Unice. At present my soul is tempest tossed. I am at times bewildered with deep and burning thoughts of wrongs to be righted. I know our parting means grief to thee, but I must go. I will endeavour to heal thy wounded heart, my beautiful wife. Recall, remember, thy brother, Prometheus, here did by his gift to mortals make us all responsible for their well being. I feel that it is my mission to rekindle the divine spark and by spiritual development draw erring human souls to us. I plead for thy co-operation, my wife. I need thy truest sympathy to enable me to go forth like a brave warrior to fight my earthly conflicts, and in the confidence of thy pledge and favour I shall succeed and in triumph return, like the heroes of old, renewed with vigour in the knowledge of my victory. Sweet-heart mine, I leave thee full of hope of a speedy return and our fellows will help thee raise our fair babies and assist to while away the hours so alluringly that time will seem to fly until I return in love to thee again.

UNICE. My beloved husband, my soul's true mate, thou asketh the impossible! I cannot part from thee! Why should we suffer for my brother's mistake who, to please himself, unauthorized, fashioned rude clay and infused it with the divine afflatus, thus endowing unregenerated mortals with heavenly power and aspirations. Now the far-reaching effects of his rash act falls upon the innocent. Oh! My Helois! Thou art not responsible for another's actions. From time immemorial mankind have shown their inability to understand the efforts of the Gods on their behalf. Their noble examples, their inspired prophets, geniuses, poets, artists, metaphysicians and alchemists have all in their turn in every age been condemned, persecuted, if not tortured or crucified. Leave erring Humanity to work out their own salvation. It would be a useless effort, a bootless errand. Stay here, in Heavenly bliss, with our babies and I.

HELOIS. Unice, my love, pray understand what thy brother did, he did in love. I, therefore, feel in duty bound to respect and cherish that divine spark with which he quickened his handiwork. I must to the terrestrial spheres to endeavour to awaken Humanity's dormant faculties, forces and powers and in love lead them in truth and triumph to God and thee. Now, no further try to dissuade me, love. My purpose is set. I must away.

MERCURY. My noble brother, permit me to interpose. I acknowledge thy desire for mortals' upliftment is highly commendable, and has raised thee in the estimation of thy fellows, but to my thinking the time is not ripe for thy sacrifice. Mortals are unprepared, unpurified. They would resent thy teaching; call them interference. They are strongly prejudiced in favour of their own preconceived notions of repentance and a life hereafter. They worship but one God,

and are insatiable in their lust for wealth and resent any doctrine they consider would work in opposition to their vested interests. They should cry and suffer yet more ere they are ready to realize their full need for loving, pure, self-sacrificing assistance. I beg thee, Helois, content thyself here for awhile, and wait a more propitious period, for thy mission.

UNICE. Great Mercury, for that speech I am thy eternal debtor.

JUPITER. Sister, I am amazed that thou, a daughter of the Gods, should place thyself on a par with these self same selfish mortals, whom thou so mercilessly berate. Show thy divinity by thy forbearance. Encourage Helois to take this journey. Willingly let him depart, and receive our blessings, and the Gods' united aid.

UNICE. Insupportable woe, Mighty Jupiter, I crave thy pardon. Have mercy! Do not chide a poor distracted wife and mother. Is it not said, "Charity begins at home"? I need my husband, and these sweet babes, their father. These beautiful blossoms of our mutual love: they mutely beseech his parental care. See how lovely they appear kneeling with sweet Daphne, and their eyes dimmed with tears. Say thou forgiveth me, and bid my husband stay in peace in Heaven. Oh, command him stay!

JUPITER. I command thee cease thy protesting, Unice. Stern duty calls thy husband forth. The nether world requires his attention and he must go. Say no more in opposition. I forbid thee.

UNICE. Oh! Ye Gods, sustain and comfort me (*sighing deeply*).

HELOIS. Adorable Unice, calm thy feelings; let the pure reflections to thy innermost soul speak to me.

The Mighty Jupiter commands me, and my mind, like a fixed constellation revolving upon its own axis, demands the fulfillment of my sacred vow and plans. I am not insensible of thy great affection. I dearly cherish the memory of thy full bounties. Thy sweet charms are as dear to me as when we first mated, and I, like thee, love to watch the fair unfoldment of our tender babes, but, Unice my treasure: hast thou forgotten that I told thee I was a born warrior, and restless in the time of peace when there are still wrongs to be righted? When thy Brother Prometheus endowed mortals with heavenly fire, each living soul received a spark of divinity. Humanity's cries for help and redress are loud, long and deep, and I feel the part of saviour developing upon me; and to rekindle their divinity and draw them up to us is my task, and until accomplished I cannot rest. Therefore, I pray thee, Unice, stem the tide of thy emotions, and part with me in peace.

UNICE (*flings herself upon her knees*). Oh, Helois, spare me: I never can consent.

HELOIS (*raises her, and bears her fainting away*).

[*Exeunt*, HELOIS, UNICE, DAPHNE and TWINS.]

JUPITER. Brethren, our sister Unice is sorely tried at the proposed separation. I fain she had been more tractable for our brother Helois is admirably fitted for the prodigious task of reincarnation. We must employ some means to reconcile Unice to the parting. If any can devise a plan do so and let me know. For the present, Adieu!

[*Exit* JUPITER.]

MERCURY. I, for one, can see no way to pacify Unice, nor do I altogether favor Helois' plans. I

consider they are too premature. The journey earthward will be full of danger; and mortals, in spite of their many religious beliefs and unceasing demands, are not prepared for the advent of a God, how much they may importune his coming. But of one thing I am quite sure: Prometheus' past rash act has been the inspiration that has fired Helois' zeal; but even more strange to me is Mighty Jupiter's acquiescence to the project. Can it be possible that the exalted one repents him of the punishment he so unmercifully meted out to our Brother Prometheus? Anyway, a vast change has taken place in his outward demeanour in that respect.

PROMETHEUS. Illustrious Mercury, I acknowledge I am at fault. Still I feel justified in the course of action I took. Are not all mortals the handiwork of the Gods? My work really was an imitation of past efforts. I acted rashly, no doubt, in endowing Humanity with immortal life. I did it and bore the consequences. They are not all wicked. Many of them possess beauty, rare gifts and powers, like unto the Divinities. We all know they are in need of divine assistance, and I solemnly declare I have not tried to influence Helois more than drawing his attention to the urgent need of mortals regeneration. I would undertake the task myself rather than Unice be grieved or the Gods disunited.

MERCURY. Brother, thou hast full scope to excuse thy past conduct. I blame thee not. But I reaffirm that the present difficulties are the outcome of that same uncounseled act.

PROMETHEUS. Thou acknowledges by that speech thou holdst me guilty. My past tenderness caused me cruel pangs. They fastened me to the rock and I suffered unexpressable tortures. No thanks to thee, Mercury, that I obtained relief. It was due to the incom-

parable strength of the noble Hercules. But I bear no malice, and if ever thou art found in error or mistaken in thy judgment and have to suffer in consequence, I will willing help thee, yea! and cover up thy faults too.

[*Exit* PROMETHEUS.]

MARS. Oh! Great interpreter, hear me. Our brother has given thee food for thought in that last fleeting speech of his. Digest it well, then join me in wishing Helois "God-speed." It is high time, methinks, the Gods were united and more active in Humanity's cause. I will determinedly fight on the side of right and lend a strong arm to brave Helois' fortune. Come, brothers, fare thee well.

[*Exeunt all but* MERCURY.]

MERCURY (*soliloquising*). Is it possible I am Mercury? I, the erstwhile lauded ambassador of the Gods. Checked, flouted, carped at, because I differ in opinion with my fellows. I know they are mistaken in their judgments. Therefore I have dared to protest against Helois being led like a lamb to the slaughter, or made a peace offering for mortals to devour. Have not Prometheus' children done enough damage, caused the Gods enough distraction? Yea, already in human history have they crucified sixteen saviours. Thinkest thou they will spare Helois? No! O, proud Prometheus, why didst thou deign to filch holy fire from Heaven to animate thy men of clay? I must project a plan to save Helois, even from himself. O, my prophetic soul! Steady! Am I not Mercury, the trusted Messenger and God of Peace and Concord? Lo, it is desired of me I repair to Mount Parnassus, there to dive deeply into the grave problems of human futurity and minuetly report what in the past ages the Gods in their amalgamated wisdom decreed for them. I know it is written that Mankind are Gods in embryo; that



DAPHNE

hidden within the secret recesses of their undying souls are the powers, potentialities, and possibilities of their divine origin. Hence, Mortals are like unto the Gods and can by knowledge gained of the fundamental principles governing their beings, acquire their golden heritage. By diligently seeking truth, treading the straight and narrow path of rectitude and righteousness, they can unfold their spiritual natures and regain their lost paradise, and enter into joy everlasting. For the present, however, Humanity's cause must wait my pleasure: I have a more congenial task on hand.

[*Exit* MERCURY.]

[*Enter* ADONIS and DAPHNE]

ADONIS. Peerless Daphne, I would I could soften thy heavy grief. Thy lovely eyes, like pansies sweet bespangled with melting dewdrops, overwhelming the magic witchery of thy winsome smiles, makes me sad. I could give my very soul to effectively chase from those precious orbs the pearly drops of woe, and with a bold magician's power, restore the rich blushing roses to thy lily cheeks again.

DAPHNE. Adonis, thy honied phrases almost compel me to dry my tears. Flatterer, why professeth thou this sweet concern?

ADONIS. Dainty Daphne, true love prompts me to endeavour to find the fount of thy sorrow and to administer pure sedatives to a nymph so fair. To prove my truth, I will do heroic deeds. Put me to the test. Trust me, saintly one: prove my worth. If I might share thy joys and sorrows, I would pass through a fiery hell, and it would elysium be to obey thy slightest behest: command me, beauty!

DAPHNE. Sweet Adonis, for other's woes I weep. My soul is stirred for gentle Unice's sake.

ADONIS. Lovely Nymph, I understand thy brother Helois has decided to brave Earth's dangers, and the

project is most distasteful to his charming spouse, and she in sorrow bewails her fate. Poor dear! Well, my sweet nun, I am resolved to prove to thee my steadfastness. I am not the fickle Apollo, who anon woe the muses than thee. I'll throw in my lot with Helois: I'll accompany him, assist him in his Earthly exploits and if possible accelerate his return by constant repetition of the names of Daphne and Unice. One word of love from thee will be a rare talisman that shall disarm evil and give me power of quick return. Say the word, Sweet Daphne.

[DAPHNE faints]

ADONIS (*kneels beside her, chaffing her hands, smoothing her brow, and kissing her lips for a sign of returning life*).

DAPHNE (*languidly opens her eyes; slowly rises*).

ADONIS. Fairest one and best, art thou awake? Speak to me, oh my divine darling, speak!

DAPHNE. Adonis, wilt thou embark on so prodigious a mission; leave those that love thee so well, in sorrow and grief? Then must Unice and I both grieve for our absent loved ones.

ADONIS. Adorable Daphne, dost thou confess so much to me? Oh rapture, seal thou this admission with one long Heavenly kiss.

DAPHNE. If I grant thee this favor, Adonis, it is with the understanding that I, unlike poor distracted Unice, am not left to mourn alone.

ADONIS. Graceful Fairy, no power in Heaven or Earth shall keep me from thy side. I am thy devoted lover, henceforth and forever.

[*Exuant*]

CURTAIN



ACT II



SCENE I

A FOREST NEAR CELESTIAL CITY.

[Enter BACCHUS, HEBE, FLORA, HYACINE,
DORA and others.]

BACCHUS. Fair ladies, I swear by my sceptre,
my goat skin and my wine cup, I love you all.
My affections are so rich and deep as a myriad
bunches of the luscious purple grape or a sea of the
choicest ruby wine.

HEBE. Thy metaphors are as delicate yet as strong
as thy favourite beverage, Bacchus.

BACCHUS. Aye, fair Goddess; and what more pure
or lovely could I compare the galaxy of charms with
which I am surrounded? I'll take my oath that a
goblet of rosy wine is as delightful as the first kiss of
love.

HEBE. But wine intoxicates the senses, and lovers
are thus deceived; for love is blind, it is said, and wine

exalts the mind under its spell. The maid will see in the man a noble being when in reality he is a beast. The man full of wine will imagine his sweetheart is a perfect beauty, whereas she is truly plain of face; hence, wine deceives and makes lovers doubly blind.

BACCHUS. Adorable Hebe, hast thou not many times passed to the Mighty Jupiter the flowing goblet filled to the brim with the Gods' ambrosial nectar, the wines? Delightful hue, outrivaling a youthful maiden's rosy blush, more bewitching than tempting Venus' fascinating smile, or Divine Juno's matchless eyes. Wine is more entrancing than early love, and no deceiver. It gives more lasting joy to its faithful devotees.

HEBE. Come, Bacchus, does not thy cherished wine make Gods and men mad? Do they not, under the influence of its joyful treasures, become insanely loquacious, proudly declarative, rashly confident, vehemently assertive, maudlingly mouthy, supinely incapable, supremely oblivious, or in other words, dead drunk?

BACCHUS. Fair Mistress, thy wit too keenly outshines mine own. I would rather take evidence of wine's triumphs than endeavour to reverse by argument a lovely Goddess' opinion. Fair Nymphs, do I not bravely bear the wines' sweet trophies? My tigers are they not as lambs? I love the vine, the fruitful vine, the fount of wine and love's sweet sorcery. I'll recount the magic power of wine. Rich, ruby wine, which quickens life's slow pulses, makes the coward brave, change age to youth and make the young more gay. Its magic power makes the lame to walk, the dumb to talk; will banish care and sorrow. Those that drink red wine will never repine nor care for life's tomorrow.

HYACINE. O, Bacchus, rosy wine makes Gods and Men to be foresworn. Wine makes the false more

foul. I'll never more trust Gods or Men. I'll forswear rich wine forever. For now I know great Bacchus can with his magical wand marshal all joys and woes and blend them into one fascinating cup of delicious wine. I'll not partake of wine, lest I become a prey to charms or fears and under its spell fall into lethe limpid stream and be destroyed forever.

BACCHUS. Sweet Hyacine, be not so unfair to wine or me. Even the most charming maiden may be forsworn. I'll own I can conjure with the minds of Gods and Men. I can and do make royal sport of them. I can kill with wine, i.e., make helpless. Still, fair maiden, I can and do rekindle the vital spark. Yea, I know red wine makes men mad, lascivious, sweet, cruel, kind, quickens their dull wits or makes them senseless, blind.

FLORA. O, wicked Bacchus, I am glad thou hast so confessed thy powers. I'll follow thee no more. I, for one, will abjure the wine cup. I will take to fair pastoral scenes. I'll tend the gentle sheep, or, like a fairy elf in some rare sylvan glade, disport, gather pretty flowers or trip it on the green, then fall asleep and dream mid nature's sweetest charms, forgetful of Bacchus, love or wine forever.

BACCHUS. Ladies, farewell, if you say we must part; but ere you leave, return to me my heart, and from each one a loving kiss I'll claim; or you must taste of my wines' bliss. Hebe, sweet Goddess, pray pass me thy fairy bowl. Let us drink to the vine, the beautiful vine; come, toast it and christen it, in bright red wine.

DORA. If we part, it must be forever. My sisters and I, we four, will now be rovers free, and evermore forsake thee. We are young and happy. We will stray in the woodlands cool, seek the simpler joys of life. I, for one, will never condescend to become a wife.

BACCHUS. Now I find I am out of favour, and if I could only please you all, I would gladly take a weight of care, if assured of the companionship of Nymphs so fair. Do not desert me, ladies! Stay, oh stay! Life would be as naught if thou went all away. Come, taste the red wine; it will cheer you, and be assured it will never deceive you. Men may deceive, but not the full bowl. There's nought to compare with joys divine as a deep, deep draught of the crimson wine. Recall, remember the first kiss of love, then full passion's sigh, reciprocation's dove. Now all these delights be rolled into one, that one intensified twenty times o'er, yet could not convey the pleasure sublime: when you drain to the dregs a cup of rich, sparkling wine.

BACCHUS *sings*:

*O, come and trip it on the green,
Ye fairy nymphs of godly mein;
Come, drink of wine abundantly,
And let your hearts beat merrily:
That I, great Bacchus, king of all
The joys of human kind befall,
May drink of love from sparkling eyes
And smiles that softens lovers sighs.*

*Oh, fill the cup, let's all be gay—
And throw depressing cares away,
Let every voice with jovial sound
Sing blithely to our merry round.
Let Flora, Dora, Hyacine,
And Hebe, toward the grape vine lean.
Then, O, we all will merry be,
In friendship, love and revelry.*

(CHORUS: Evox, evan, evœ, Bacche.)



HEBE

[*Enter attendant Nymphs, Fairies, bearing grapes, vine leaves and garlands of flowers, singing "Evoc, evan, evoc, Bacche." All join in singing and dancing; great enthusiasm and sport. Bacchus decorated with vines, flowers and grapes by the Nymphs.*]

[*Exaunt*]

CURTAIN



SCENE II

ANOTHER PORTION OF FOREST.

[*Enter DIANA, accompanied by six Nymphs attired in hunting costume, equipped with horns, quivers and arrows, prepared for the chase.*]

DIANA. Come, my merry maidens, ahunting we will go. The echoes of the early hunter's horn has died away over the sweet resounding hills. We must not tarry, but hie away to the forest glades, whose wealthy foliage and sombre shade shelters the plaintive hinds and tender fawns. We will follow the trail of the fallow deer, through the woodland dells, in ambush wait for the lusty buck, when he comes to drink at the sparkling brook. Hunting is such merry sport, other loves we will eschew, for Gods and Men may faithless prove. So, my fair Nymphs, of them beware, for naught but sport is true.

FIRST NYMPH. Sweet Diana, we are forever bound to thee. The fleet-footed deer we will follow through sylvan groves and meadows green, or ascend the mountains steep to scent the morning air. To thy favouring fortunes we will adhere, and be led by sport and thee.

NYMPHS (*in chorus*). Aye, Great Goddess, we will follow for love of the sport and thee.

DIANA. Well said, my faithful maidens; and be assured by me, there is more danger in the company of one male than twenty wild boars, or a herd of bucks. A simple maiden's heart may be pierced, by a chance cupid's dart, and a faithless swain will jeer at the pain. I pray you, then, forswear the company of Gods and Men, hold to naught but the merry chase and the trail of the slender deer. Halt! Who comes here, rashly breaking upon our privacy?

[*Enter APOLLO, SOLONUS and MERCURY.*]

APOLLO (*sounding a hunter's horn*). Good day, sweet sister. Nymphs fair: a merry greeting.

DIANA. Thy courtesies are naught to us. Why comest thou here to disturb us?

APOLLO. My friends and I have a matter of importance for thy consideration, sister mine; give us thine ear.

DIANA. I have no desire to parley with thee or thy companions. What matter thou hast must wait a more propitious period. My faithful band and I can no longer tarry. We must away, ere the day grows old. Come, my merry maidens, follow me.

MERCURY. Stay, Diana, less speed, beauty; our needs are pressing and effects thee.

DIANA. What proposition canst thou present that can possibly effect me, Mercury the Volatile? I know

from past experience that thy magical eloquence has turned the heads of the most wise. Hast thou come here to practise they cunning arts upon my Nymphs and I? If so, save thy labour, and go thy way. Permit us to continue our chase.

MERCURY. Fair Goddess, charm thy tongue! Attend thy interests! Endymion sleeps. Shall he awake?

DIANA. I cannot conjure, Mercury, nor thou with thy manifold gifts minister to my unfathomable woe. What canst thou do to awaken from slumber so profound that sleep resembles its twin brother death so completely that thou canst not tell them apart? Why comest thou here to remind me of his terrible fate?

MERCURY. Ha, there's the crux. Thou hast tacitly acknowledged that thy tears, sighs and groans cannot awaken thy lover and restore him to thy arms: but list to my speech. It is not impossible. He may be aroused. The envious Juno has proclaimed herself the queen of beauty, vieing with the graceful Venus for the golden girdle, the prize to be bestowed by the Gods to the one who by acclamation be acknowledged *Nonpareil*. The peerless Venus will pass through this forest on her way to the forum where the council will meet to judge the relative charms of the fair competitors. The lovely Venus has appointed thy brother, Solonus, and myself her ambassadors and we are here to invite thee to the contest and plead for thy support of Venus' claims. Dost understand the request?

DIANA. Perfectly, but why should the fascinating Venus require my support? I am an Amazon and despise the soft impeachments of what she terms love, and I call flattery and sensuality. The witty Venus will never lack adherents of the male order, I warrant thee. I never attend the courts. There is no reason to fear

but that she will be crowned the Queen of Beauty without my intervention. Pray, let me pass.

SOLONUS. Sweet Goddess of the Woodlands, permit me a few words. I beg thee for thy own sake to accede to the Illustrious Mercury's request and enhance the assembly at the coming contest by thy fair presence and vote in favour of Venus. Thy practical ability and thy pastoral freedom proclaims thee a natural beauty without a rival. Come, thy promise to meet us at the Forum.

DIANA. Spare thy compliments, good sir. I require no praise. I am myself and when I make up my mind I am then invincible. I refuse to be a puppet. There! Begone!

APOLLO. Do be reasonable, sister mine. We are here for thy benefit. Solonus means good. He is brave and true and as keen a sportsman as thou could desire. We are not here to parley with thee or doubt thy invincibility, but we need thy presence and vote at the contest, and intend to have it. So come, agree.

DIANA. Apollo, thou are a renegade. I'll not be compelled by thee. Why should I witness bold Venus' victories? She has worked destruction enough in the past with the minds of Gods and men. Her wicked urchins, the Cupids, have ruthlessly pierced the hearts of innocent maidens for fun and laughed in glee to see them squirm and faint in love's wild delirium to their own undoing. Plead with me no more, fair gentlemen. I cannot attend the farce. I'll follow my own devices and inclinations. Eschew enchantments and mockeries, adieu!

SOLONUS. Noble Goddess, in spite of thy indictments and appearing tiresome, I must protest. Thou art really unkind in thy scathing criticism. I know for a fact that the fair Venus worships at thy shrine and prays

that she may be like thee, faithful. This in spite of her seeming frailty and frivolity. Remember, she would never strive to dethrone thee from thy lofty pedestal of chastity, as others have endeavoured to supplant her and deride her exquisite charms and beauty.

DIANA. We waste time, gentlemen. Thou hast all had thy say. Without further parley accept my final no! I decline the honour. I care not who wears beauty's laurels. I am free from such folly. I love the merry chase. Come, my faithful band, let us hasten away. Quick, more speed!

MERCURY. Stay, Diana, I command thee. Hast forgotten Endymion sleeps?

DIANA. Forgotten, O heavy woe! O, my God! If I could not remember, cruel Mercury. Why this torture?

MERCURY. Compose thyself, mistress. Where hast thou hidden him? Reveal to me the spot. Perhaps I can find it. I'll stake my caduceus it's not far away. Ha! Thou turnest pale. I hit the mark. See, a stag? Quick, try thy skill at slaying, Diana. Too late, he has fled. No! A flood; he swims. Thou has him now. beauty: shoot!

(SOLONUS, by striking a rock, has caused a volume of water to flow. Diana draws a bow at venture, let fly the arrow.)

MERCURY. Lo! The heart of the stag is pierced. Thou hast hit the mark, too, fair queen. Thou art a past mistress in the sport of slaying. Come, now, lead me to Endymion's bed. Turn not away in scorn, proud Diana. Thy lover's sleep at present is deep and sound. List! Perchance he can be awakened soon. If thou wilt agree to do my bidding, I can solemnly

Mighty One's susceptibilities. If the fair Venus wins the prize (I swear she shall), she will be crowned Beauty's Queen. Then at that time she can ask and bestow favours. Great Jupiter will deny her nothing. Come, now, lady, who wouldst thou rather gained the coveted girdle? She who by accusation condemned Endymion to perpetual sleep or she who for a word from thee, would free him from the tomb? Now, Diana, thy decision; what sayest thou?

DIANA. Illustrious Mercury, thou knowest well thy magical powers and persuasion. What can I say but that I accept thy dictum and will obey thy slightest behest? From henceforth, I am thy humble servant. Command me! See, who comes here.

MERCURY. Well said Diana. Aye, here comes at this propitious moment the uncrowned Queen of Hearts and Beauty.

[Enter VENUS]

[VENUS, *gracefully reclining in her silver gondola, drawn swiftly through the sparkling water by a pair of snowy white swans, and attended by the renown CUPIDS. Fair NAIDS smile at her and peer at her from among the ferns and lilies.*]

VENUS. O great Diana, Arcadian's Queen, Mercury, Apollo, Solonus, all a merry greeting. This meeting is most opportune. Sweet Diana, I beg to enlist thy services on my behalf. I need thy practical support. List, the jealous Juno has proclaimed herself *Nonpareil* in rivalry to myself and desires to be crowned Beauty's Queen and obtain the exquisite golden girdle woven by the Destinies. The prize is to be awarded the lucky recipient of the largest amount of votes at an assembly of Gods and Goddesses. I desire

thy presence at the council meeting and thy vote in my favour. May I rely?

DIANA. Thou mayest, fair Queen. I am at thy service. I desire, however, to request a favour.

VENUS. Ask anything, Diana. If it is in my power, it is already granted.

DIANA. Admirable Queen, if thou win the laurels, I pray thee importune the Mighty Jupiter to release Endymion, the Shepherd, from the awful thralldom of perpetual sleep to which he was condemned, and be my eternal debtor.

VENUS. Thou needest not humbly crave the boon, sweet Diana. I pledge thee my word, if thou wilt faithfully support me in my claim and I triumph, I will beg the Great Jupiter to restore to thee thy long lost lover.

CURTAIN





ACT III



SCENE I

THE FORUM, MOUNT OLYMPUS, CYPRUS.

[Enter JUPITER, PROMETHEUS, MARS and
SOLONUS.]

(Prometheus believes himself still unforgiven for his act of animating his men of clay with Heavenly flame, and appeals by petition to Jupiter, pleading that if further punishment be meted out to him that mankind be uninjured, so that the innocent may not suffer for the guilty. The scroll was mislaid. Mercury finds it.)

JUPITER. We are here for a solemn purpose, to arrange the practical part appertaining to our noble Brother Helois' reincarnation and his direct descent to the Earthly spheres. It must be at an early date.

MARS. Great Jupiter, my chariot is at our brother's disposal. My mighty car with the noble Pegasus

will speed to the Earth with great velocity. I'll help his swift descent, if that will benefit him.

JUPITER. It will help considerably. He will be quite invisible to mankind until he is on terra firma in his robes of more solid flesh and clothed in orthodox fashion. I have arranged for that.

SOLONUS. O, Mighty King, I have planned the deluge to follow in his wake.

JUPITER. Good! All is well. Mercury! Where is Mercury? We need his valuable assistance.

[*Enter MERCURY ; with open scroll, reading.*]

MERCURY. O, Great Jupiter, God of Gods, King of Kings, Mightiest of the Mighty, whose kingdom and power is from everlasting, whose glorious majesty is supreme in the Universe, I appeal to thee for thy divine forgiveness for all my sins, transgressions and iniquities. If my sin of endowing mortal clay with eternal life is unpardonable, I pray thee, in thy infinite mercy, let the punishment fall alone upon me. Spare my helpless babes, innocent Humanity. Almighty God, let my sufferings, my remorse, and the haunting memory of Caucasus be the atonement. Therefore, I beseech thee, deliver Mortals from evil. Let thy glorious inspiration, like a golden shaft of Heavenly light, penetrate and illuminate the gloom of Earthly ignorance and sin that by its transcendent radiance, Humanity may be guided to Heaven and thee. To thy honour and glory forever more.

PROMETHEUS. The missing petition. I lost it, Mercury.

MERCURY. I found it, Prometheus. Great Jupiter, it is now delivered to thee. (*Presents the scroll.*)

JUPITER. Pray me no more, Prometheus. Thou art long since pardoned. Our solicitude is for thy misguided children.

PROMETHEUS. I humbly thank thee, Heavenly Father.

JUPITER. Mercury, we entrust thee to follow closely the fortunes of our beloved Brother Helois, even after he has descended to the Earth spheres, and keep us well informed concerning his requirements, movements and successes. I desire every God to render Helois service and assist him with their powers. We feel anxious that his important task have the accomplishment it desires, and that Humanity's cause be spiritually, materially and effectually benefitted.

MERCURY. Great Jupiter, I will obey thy commands and after the beauty contest devote my whole time to the furtherance of Humanity's Cause as thou wishes. At present there's a feminine divinity in the case, as thou well knowest everything else gives place.

JUPITER. Ha, the eternal feminine. Thou well reminded me of the contest, my son. There's a sublime charm about female loveliness that enraptures the senses and compells affection. I shall not stay for that important ceremony, however. I would the illustrious assembly decided uninfluenced by my presence. Each one must use his or her judgment and decide which Goddess should receive the honour and the pretty souvenir.

[*Exit* JUPITER]

PROMETHUS. Is it not gratifying to find the Mighty Father so favourably disposed to Helois' venture? I am willing to sacrifice any pleasure to the furtherance of Humanity's Cause. Mercury, my brother, call on me if thou need further assistance.

MERCURY. Fear not, Prometheus, I'll not forget thy offer. But for the coming contest I should now be at Mount Parnassus studying the pros and cons of mankind's wants and woes. I must say thy children are proving very troublesome. Their demands are unceasing. They cry incessantly to the Gods for help, making such a clatter that our peace is seriously menaced. They are never satisfied. They have endless Earthly material. They use nature's marvellous powers for their worldly advancement, and many of nature's forces are made subservient to their wills. They till the land with steam and electric implements, rule the seas and oceans, travelling on them in iron ships. They have made a conquest of the illimitable air and have made machines that fly and go to such an altitude that it would seem they mean to reach us here at high Olympus. Their ambitions are unsatiable, their efforts untiring. They are sighing for other worlds to conquer. They may yet succeed in finding us.

PROMETHEUS. True, O Mercury. Mortals are indeed aspiring. True, they have conquered the viewless winds and with mechanical wings have sped at will through the limped air, sailing at a very high altitude; accomplishing with ease what thy son Icarus failed to do: return intact to terra firma.

MERCURY. Save thy jibes, Prometheus. Thou hast ever a parlous taste for ill-considered speech and action. I need no reminder of my incomparable loss. Alas! My lovely boy, the fairest flower of all, dead, killed, trying to fly, while sinning mortals, thy children, succeed. My sweet babe, my darling boy, failed. O, heavy loss, unsupportable woe. Thy shot has told. Thy arrow went home; thou hast won the point in this encounter. Beware, Prometheus, I may win in the next count. Steady, I forgive. I must away. Am I

not the winsome Venus' trusty friend? She lacks the girdle. I must no longer tarry for she must be crowned Beauty's Queen.

PROMETHUES. Great Mercury, one moment stay. Thou art ever ready to have a tilt at me. I have been compelled many times to wince under the stinging lash of thy merciless eloquence. Now I will speak at any cost. I assert thou art rash and ill advised to so materially assist the wanton Venus to win the coveted prize which should by divine right go to the matchless Juno. Again, I cannot see why a dispute between two jealous Goddesses should for the fraction of a second interfere with the vastly more important work of reports upon Humanity's Cause.

MARS. Hear me, I here interpose. I have waited more or less patiently to speak my mind. Prometheus, who made thee judge? Mortals' affairs are getting a good share of the Gods' attention, and our fellows are unanimous in their opinions and willingness to assist to unravel the tangled web of human fate. The Goddesses are the first consideration and I assert that this coming contest is of vital importance to us all.

PROMETHEUS. Thou enquirest who made me judge. If of beauty, I reply my sight and senses. One moment, Mighty Mars. I have never been flirting Venus' dupe. She has never bewitched me nor mocked me with her wanton wiles as she did thee, and after thy proudest conquests, too.

MERCURY. Permit me, I challenge thee, Prometheus. Thou appears eager to oppose us all. I'll leave my affairs for the nonce. Come now, brother, I'll tell thee why thou hast not succumbed to the winsome Venus' charms and dalliance. Because she never enticed thee. Never cast one melting glance from her lustrous azure eyes at thee. Thou hast never been under the

spell of her witching favours or I here stake my caduceus (insigna of office) had she but faintly smiled and looked at thee, thou wouldst have gladly been in her toils and accounted it bliss to have done her slightest bidding.

MARS. Splendid sentiments. Thou hast well defended the position, Great Mercury. I'll forgive my brother, knowing full well his irreparable loss. I re-assert, however, the Goddess Venus is *Nonpariel*. She should without hesitancy be given the palm and be crowned Empress of Beauty and receive the coveted girdle.

SOLONUS. I readily acknowledge the fair Venus is brightly attractive and her bewildering beauty might well corrupt a saint. She is peerless and incomparable. Let us agree to differ if we cannot see eye to eye. I beg there be no serious quarrel between us.

PROMETHEUS. Pardon me, my beloved brethren, if I have offended I pray thou wilt all have patience with me and overlook my faults. I am not disputing fair Venus' entrancing beauty, nor doubt the perfect symmetry of her form. But I still contend that Royal Juno's majestic and moral beauty outweighs Venus' sensual charms and clearly entitles her to the laurels. The Mighty Jupiter will be pleased and indirectly exalted if his wife wins the prize. I, for one, would rather propitiate and exalt Jupiter and his lovely spouse than for mere fancy tickle the vanity of flirting Venus by giving her the palm.

MARS. I'll hear no more. Each God to his own opinion. But I hereby declare, nay, more, I swear it: Venus shall be crowned Beauty's Queen and wear the golden girdle. There!

[*Exeunt* MARS, MERCURY and SOLONUS.]
[*Enter* BACCHUS and VULCAN.]

PROMETHEUS. All hail, friends: welcome. What news of Helois and Unice?

APOLLO. Good news! In brief, we have accomplished our mission. Hear, Prometheus, how we found the loving, faithful pair. It is quite a story but I'll recount it: After a long journey, Bacchus and myself discovered their Heavenly retreat. What a vision of exquisite beauty met our joyful gaze. The gorgeous palace of glistening white marble—a most magnificent structure—ornamented with massive pillars of chased gold inlaid with jasper, beryl, onyx, mother of pearl and precious stones of every description. This splendid building, with its immense piazza, pergolas, turrets and towers, erected amidst most glorious surroundings. Velvety lawns, leafy bowers, and magnificent woodland. As far as the eye could see there was spread before its vista a vast expanse of exuberant, undulating sward. The nearby scenery was richly enhanced by a profusion of exquisite flowers of every description, consummated in elegant designs. The shady bowers sheltered the stately birds of paradise, snow white turtle doves, queen birds of love, while myriads of brightly hued feathered songsters filled the air in merry choruses of enchanting melody. Graceful deers and tender fawns shyly peeped at us from pretty nooks and woodlands sweet. Upon the bosom of bright crystal lakes, stately swans majestically sailed and dived amongst the lilies pale. The scented fountains gayly shimmered, ascended and lightly tossed their silvery spray and their perfumery into the ambrosial air. The countless exquisite delights created from the celestial flora and fauna made such a glorious retreat that artists could only dream of such a wonderland. That I, for one, was lost in wondrous conjecture. What mighty force, what a holy power it must be that could induce Helois to decide to leave so Heavenly a spot for regions unknown! To per-

fect the picture, in the distance we espied Helois and Unice seated beneath a superb golden laburnum tree, deeply engrossed in each other's society, with the charming twins, Ariel and Aurora, close beside them. Unice was clinging tenderly to her husband, vehemently pleading her and the children's cause. Her sweet countenance wet with tears, yet tender, sweet and womanly withal. Helois' features were firmly set and unresisting and proof against her pleadings. As thou mayest realize, our task was not a light one. At last we prevailed, and Unice consented. So our mission was successfully accomplished.

PROMETHEUS. Ha! That is good news. At last our sweet Unice is appeased. That portends success for Helois.

BACCHUS. Aye, oratory and music has power to charm the senses equally with wine. Believe me, it was a touching scene. Methinks even now I see the fair form of Unice and those Heavenly twins, sweet darlings, clinging in despair to the noble Helois, and assisting Unice in supplication. Unice, entreating for her children's sake, and they for their tender mother's. I stepped aside to wipe away a sympathetic tear and thus espied a glorious vine borne down with luscious fruit. I culled a purple cluster and pressing the juice into a convenient vessel, mixed my nectar and passed it to the babes to drink. They drank and at once, feeling greatly exhilarated, joyously they capered on the green, forgetful of their sorrow. Wine is a sovereign cure for grief.

PROMETHEUS. So far, then, all is well.

APOLLO. Even so. Still, there is much to be done.

VULCAN. The real work now only commences. I must away to my workshops and mightily employ my willing Cylops to make the bolts.

PROMETHEUS. Thou hast much news, my friend. The air is filled with favours.

APOLLO. Aye, more. The Mighty Jupiter, upon receiving the message, gave Helois the divine gift of invisibility, otherwise only possessed by himself. The proud invincible Mars has placed his incomparable strength and war-like car at his disposal so that he may descend to earth in a fiery chariot harnessed to the winged horse Pegasus.

VULCAN. Rare for Helois. I can recount still more favours at the precise moment of descent. The powerful Phœbus will hide his glowing countenance for at least one day behind formidable banks of thunderously lowering clouds, while at a given sign Æolus will at Lipari let loose the mighty winds, causing such an unprecedented hurricane that mortals will quake with abject fear and trembling at the threatening destructive displeasure of the Gods. Under cover of the darkness, Helois will assume his Earthly vestments and invisibly reach the terrestrial spheres.

PROMETHEUS. Ah! Vulcan, canst thou not hurl a few extra bolts to add to the general confusion in that hour?

VULCAN. Can, aye, and will. I have already received permission from Jupiter to use as many thunderbolts as I please on that auspicious occasion.

BACCHUS. I have prepared and given a goblet of the finest ambrosial nectar to Helois. One taste of the sublime essence, if he will partake, will exhilarate, rejuvenate and nerve him for the ordeal so completely that in a blissfully exalted state of mind, free from care as though he had drank deeply from the waters of Lethe, he will ecstatically pass from Heaven to Earth to become a God incarnate.

[*Exeunt.*]

[*Enter ADONIS and DAPHNE.*]

DAPHNE. Poor, dear Unice. So good, so pure, so sweet. Yet, so cruel her fate to lose so brave and noble a mate. Maybe he'll be gone for ages. I would I knew how to comfort her more in her deep sorrow.

ADONIS. My own fair dove, how tenderly sweet thou art, ever sorrowing for other's woes. Your gentle sympathy will help to sooth poor Unice's troubled breast; in that she will be blessed. I would I were in distress. Thou wouldst then take pity upon me and become my loving spouse at once to cheer me.

DAPHNE. Patience, O flatterer. Wait a brighter period. I'll not wed yet.

ADONIS. Cruel maid, my senses ache at thee. See, here comes the grand procession. Shall we wait and see the beauty contest through?

DAPHNE. Art thou in favour of the wanton Venus? Tell me, did she really fascinate thee in days gone by, Adonis?

ADONIS. No, sweetheart. Her wiles were spread in vain. I have loved none but thee, my chaste love. I would that Juno, the swan-like, win the prize and reign in Heaven supreme.

DAPHNE. Then we will stay to see the fun, for if Juno wins the laurels, pert Venus will weep and spoil her pretty face and that would be joy to me, for well I know Venus still loves thee, and would allure thee from me if she could. The Mighty Mars could not resist her, and thou might fall a victim to her wiles.

ADONIS. Believe me, fairy, there is more joy to me in one sweet glance of thine than in all the fulsome flattery, flirting Venus could bring to bear. Brazen

boldness ever spoils even perfect beauty. Hist, love, see, they come.

[Enter MARS, MERCURY, SOLONUS, DIANA, HEBE, FLORA, HYACINE and DORA, followed by MUSICIANS, NYMPHS, HERALDS, PAGES in silken attire of golden hue.]

[Enter the stately JUNO, robed in a gossamer gown of mystic yellow, a deep band of virgin gold ornamented like a diadem with a star cluster of diamonds and rubies encircling her marblelike brow and adorning her wealth of rich dark tresses. She ascended the throne which was draped in cloth of gold, brightly emblazoned with scintillating jewels, gems arranged in heraldic designs. ATTENDANTS, NYMPHS, PAGES, KNIGHTS in bright armour knelt in adoration at her feet. The whole surrounded by a flock of lovely peacocks and birds of paradise.]

[Enter MUSICIANS, TRUMPETERS, HERALDS, the THREE GRACES OF CHARITY, and twenty PAGES attired in azure silk, bearing a silver couch, draped in sky blue. The canopy, which was supported by chased silver rods, was lined with delicate shell pink festooned with braided tassels of silver, sprays of forgetmenots, and huge clusters of sweet blush roses. Reclining upon this superb couch was the captivating VENUS, attended by the kneeling CUPIDS, delicately clothed in pale blue diaphanous attire. Her fair brow encircled by a band of pure silver, embellished with diamonds, turquoise and pearls which negligently confined her blond

luxurious curls. Her PAGES fanned her with silver fans which, when waved, sent forth sprays of delicate, delicious perfume. The whole scene intoxicating to the senses, so bewildering in her fascinating beauty was the fair Venus.]

[The special charms of each lovely contestant made a deep impression upon the Godly spectators and made their decision not only a delicate but a very difficult one. The query: which should be proclaimed Queen of Beauty and bear the palm, Stately JUNO, the Magnificent, or Dainty VENUS, the Exquisite?]

[Finally the votes were taken, MERCURY being delegated spokesman and awarder of the coveted prize. The result of the ballot was almost unanimous in favour of VENUS.]

[Exeunt JUNO and her train.]

[Amid thunderous applause, the God MERCURY presented the golden girdle to the delighted VENUS. Then to the dulcet strains of Heavenly music, the azure couch, bearing the dainty form of the lovely VENUS, was lifted shoulder high and borne in triumph to the vacated Throne amid deafening shouts of victory.]

[Enter JUPITER.]

JUPITER (kneeling in mock adoration, places a crown of roses upon the fair VENUS' head). Accept my heartiest congratulations, fair Queen. Thou hast fairly won the prize and thereby crowned the Queen

of Beauty. Command me, O Queen! Ask any favour. It shall be granted, even to half of my kingdom.

VENUS. Thanks, Great King. One request I beg of thee.

JUPITER. A thousand, fair one. I'll deny thee nothing. Say on.

VENUS. Bid Endymion, the Sleeping Shepherd, awake and restore him to health once more.

JUPITER (*frowning*). Dost love him, beauty?

VENUS. Not I, but another does. For her I plead. The chaste Diana mourns his absence. Hence my request. I pray thee, Mighty King, awake the erring Shepherd and cheer the heart of the faithful Diana, who truly loves him.

JUPITER. No need to plead, fair Queen. My word is given. Endymion shall awake and, more, be brought here to high Olympus restored and endowed with the the gift of divinity.

JUPITER (*to MERCURY*). Here, my trusty friend: I charge thee, bring Endymion, the Sleeping Shepherd, here. Take this warranty (*removes from his forefinger a lustrous jeweled ring*).

MERCURY. As quick as thought, O Mighty King, thy commands shall be obeyed.

[*Exit MERCURY.*]

DIANA (*kneeling to JUPITER*). O, Mighty Jupiter, Great King, I, thy humble handmaiden, thank thee for thy graciousness to me. I cannot find words to adequately express my thankfulness and joy at thy gracious generosity. Receive my lowly adoration. From henceforth I am thy servant and eternal debtor.

JUPITER. Chaste Diana, I claim no service from thee. Be happy with thy chosen lover. Thy felicity will fully repay. Arise!

[Enter MERCURY, bearing in his arms the still drowsy Shepherd Boy, who yawns incessantly, scarcely awake, not fully realizing his lucky position.]

MERCURY. Great Jupiter, Endymion is not yet conscious of thy graciousness. O, speak to him, Mighty One: bid him awake!

JUPITER. Endymion! Awake! Thou art thus restored to health and happiness. Thy trespasses are forgiven thee. For thy fair lover, Diana's sake, go and sin no more.

DIANA (*embracing the SHEPHERD*). Ha! Awake, my beloved. Thou art forgiven and free to roam again with me amid sweet pastoral scenes; tend thy gentle flocks; succour thy innocent lambs, thy merry bounding rams, and bleating pregnant ewes. Come, kneel with me and return thanks to our Father God, and the winsome Venus who has so sweetly interceded for us.

ENDYMION. Most willingly, O Diana, the blessed. (*Kneels to JUPITER*) O Great and Glorious Jupiter, Mighty King, thee I have wronged. I will offend no more; forgive my past iniquities.

(*To VENUS*) O Lovely Queen, thy grace and beauty overpowers my still dulled senses. I beg thee have pity and overlook any lack of courtesy. I humbly thank thee for thy graciousness to me. My deeper feelings I cannot now express.

(*To DIANA*) My own fair love, my bride that is to be: To thee I owe everything. I bow the knee to thee in pure adoration. Thy faithfulness, thy sweetness overwhelms all other feelings. My whole life and being shall be from henceforth devoted to thee.



WINGED HORSE PEGASUS

[*Heavenly music and above all the dulcet tones of a Shepherd's pipe. The NYMPHS, PAGES, CUPIDS and ANGELS burst into song. MERCURY plays the lute.*]

[*CHORUS singing paeans of praise:*

Endymion is free. He is forgiven

And has received his divinity.

Pure and happy will he be

With his loving spouse

In pastoral joys without a care,

They will dwell for evermore.

Hail, all hail, great is our King Jupiter, victorious forever.

Great is pure Diana,

Sweet and kind Venus, Mercury true—

Happy days forever more. Adieu.]

[*Shouts of joy and victory.*]

[*Enter Ten Vesta VIRGINS engaging in graceful modest rhythmical dances with glittering cymbals.*]

CURTAIN



SCENE II

A STREET IN THE CELESTIAL CITY

HELOIS. Farewell, a long farewell, my adorable Queen. Do not, Sweet Love, permit this enforced separation to weigh too heavily upon thy tender spirit. Feel confident, my Beloved, that for no other reason

than this mission of holiness would I leave thy sweet society. My duty is clear: I go to succour those faithful mortals; those whose devoted ancestors were cruelly tortured and done to death for their sublime faith in God's goodness and mercy; the pure innocent martyrs of old, whose faith ne're faltered even in the heat of the fiery furnace. Their children, true devoted souls, to them must I go to reward their blessed faithfulness. I am pledged to go, though it is hard to tear myself from thee.

UNICE. Go forth, my Beloved Mate, and prevail. It is God's will, not mine, be done.

HELOIS. Sweet Love, thy resignation is most touching. Believe me, my wife, knowing as I do full well the tragedy of Human Souls, I leave thee in the full assurance of their true moral regenerancy and my victory. I am confident thy pure affection will devise for me a guardian care; thy glorious eyes, like faithful sentinels, radiant gems of love and light, will scintillate in their perfect beauty, richly embellishing the eastern sky. Toward them, nightly as they shine, through the terrestrial gloom, will I turn during my Earthly pilgrimage for hope and inspiration, my own sweet love, to thee. I must away: time demands. See, the chariot with Mars is here. Fare thee well!

[Enter MARS driving Pegassus, harnessed to a gold and crimson coloured carriage.]

[Exeunt all except UNICE.]

[The swelling tones of an organ are heard, a concord of melodious melody—divine in origin, Heavenly in sweetness. A host of ANGELS sings "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All Men."]



ANGELS

[UNICE kneels and peers earthward for one last glimpse of the vanishing form of her husband.]

UNICE. Farewell, my own sweet dear. For thy noble self, I dry this tear. Patiently I'll bear my woe, watch and guard thee where're thou go. Faithfully my virgils I will keep, and pray for thy safety till again we meet.

[As UNICE finishes speaking, a terrific storm arises. Vivid flashes of brilliant lightning, peals of crashing thunder, mighty rushing winds, tempestuous torrents of rain, indicative of the terrible storm pre-arranged to cover HELOIS' descension to Earth.]

CURTAIN



SCENE III

THE FORUM, GOLDEN SQUARE, CELESTIAL CITY.

[The spirit of rivalry in the air had aroused the martial ardour of the mighty MARS. He thereby issued a warlike challenge to his fellows to try their skill at fencing, spear and quoit throwing, running, leaping, boxing, wrestling and war chariot racing. The contest to take place on the broad plateau outside the Celestial City. That the contest was to be of a magnificent character was seen by the edict.]

[*Enter* MARS.]

MARS. I, Mars, the God of War and Armies, deeming myself invincible, hereby summon my fellow Gods to open combat, and at the appointed time command the attendance of the mighty men of old, the Demi-Gods, Kings, Princes and Nobles, and the nations of the Earth whom these said rulers control, to witness the sports, triumphial pagentry and splendour of the Godly performances. The victors, in each count, will receive their prizes from the hands of fair Goddesses. Each combatant to wear a token from his chosen love. Prometheus will preside. The contest opens at dawn of day by the call of heralds and trumpeters.

[*Enter* JUPITER, MERCURY, APOLLO, ADONIS, PROMETHEUS, BACCHUS, VULCAN and SOLONUS.]

MARS. I challenge all: I fear none. I am mine own trumpeter.

MERCURY. And thy own judge, too, apparently. Thou hast won ere thou hast contested, Mars.

MARS. Nay, not so! I am fair to myself and all competitors. I contend, though, I am a warrior and fear no opponent. Wilt thou all meet me in conflict?

CHORUS. Yea, all with pleasure.

BACCHUS. Thou wilt fear me in the chariot race. My tigers are fleet and dauntless, Mars.

MARS (*scornfully*). I fear nothing. At the appointed time thy tigers may be intoxicated at the sight of me and refuse to do thy bidding.

MERCURY. Thy wit is sharp: thy lance may be; but disagree not, my brethren: opposition breedeth quarrels. I would I could be there to see the sports.

At daybreak I leave for Parnassus. My duty calls me Earthward.

[*Exeunt all but JUPITER and MERCURY.*]

JUPITER. Methinks in Mars I scent warfare. He is anxious for combat. I shall take no part in the contest except in the chariot race: then I shall drive lions.

MERCURY. Four abreast, remember, so it is in the edict, and no charioteer. Thou must stand and direct them thyself.

JUPITER. I'll not forget. Let me know latter thy plans for the benefit of Helois. Adieu!

[*Exit JUPITER.*]

MERCURY (*soliloquising*). I would I could stay and see the fun. Mars is valiant and he has a scheme to overthrow all opponents, I'll warrant me. Tomorrow will tell the tale.

[*Exit MERCURY.*]

CURTAIN



SCENE IV

AN IMMENSE PLATEAU
BELOW THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT OLYMPUS
OUTSKIRTS OF THE CELESTIAL CITY

[*Courts, guards and erections and elegantly draped seats for the GODDESSES. In the distance are barricades and seats for crowds of people.*]

[*The contest is declared open by the heralds and trumpeters, by trumpet calls and the*

announcement of the names of the combatants and the nature of the games.]

[*Enter JUPITER, MARS, PROMETHEUS, APOLLO, ADONIS, VULCAN and SOLONUS.*]

[*The contest opens by spear throwing on horseback, in which all the Gods except JUPITER take part. A draw is ultimately called for they are all equally successful.*]

[*The next item is the wrestling match, in which the Mighty MARS and the Handsome but Slender ADONIS are opposed*]

[*VENUS presents MARS with a silver ring of hers.*]

[*DAPHNE offers ADONIS one of her own fair curls.*]

[*Both recipients receive the gifts with a bow, kiss and place them next to their heart.*]

[*The trumpet calls. They embrace and commence. The wrestling is well done. They are both valiant and well trained but MARS gradually gets superior power and throws ADONIS, who is carried out of the ring.*]

[*APOLLO springs to combat. The challenge is accepted. They close, but MARS soon overthrows him.*]

VULCAN. Wilt thou dare try me? I am strong as iron.

MARS. Come on!

[*The trumpet sounds. They fall to and have a desperate struggle. With supreme effort MARS lifts his antagonist high in the air to demonstrate his victory; then slowly drops him over his head, amid deafening applause.*]

- [MARS is then decorated by the fair VENUS.]
- [In running, leaping, quoit throwing and bareback horse riding, the GODS were equal or nearly so. Then came the supreme test: the war chariot racing. The contestants stood by their chariots ready for the word of command:
- [JUPITER with four handsome lions abreast, harnessed to his superb chariot, dazzling in splendour.
- [MARS in shining helmet and armour, with lance and shield in right hand, holding the bridle of his four untamed white fiery horses in his left.
- [BACCHUS in goat skin, as usual, with his four handsome tigers.
- [ADONIS stood in hunting costume with four wild boars under his control, harnessed to the chariot.
- [VULCAN, from his strong chariot, held firmly the four white horses.
- [APOLLO, in princely attire, held four magnificent dappled greys attached to his chariot.
- [SOLONUS had four noble bays harnessed to his chariot.
- [They all appeared capable of mighty deeds of valour and winning the race.]
- [The prize for the war chariot racing consists of a wreath of wild olive leaves with which the winner is to be crowned and then proclaimed a God to be worshipped forever; altars for sacrificing to his name to be erected in every temple of JUPITER'S, the world over.]

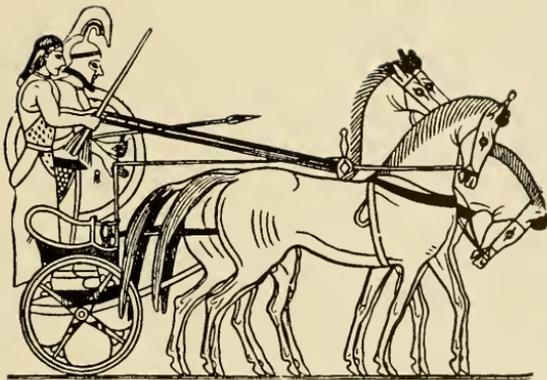
[*The trumpet sounds! The flag drops! The contending Gods leap and stand erect in their cars and start off amid tremendous applause.*]

[*The spectators continue to applaud and encourage their chosen favourite as around the long course the racers speed. The course is two miles long, which they all traverse twelve times, then make for the starting point. On the home run it is observed that JUPITER and MARS are running neck and neck. BACCHUS and APOLLO are good seconds. The boars of ADONIS and the white horses of VULCAN'S car hold each other in perfect pace at the rear. Such an unprecedented scene! Each competitor had his animals under superb control. Such a race was without parallel in history. MARS, still with the left hand guiding his fiery steeds, shoots forward and reaches the goal first! He leaps from his chariot with bridle in one hand and the shield and lance intact in the other. He stands to receive the palm as Venus comes forward to present the crown. He waves with his armoured hand the shield and lance aloft.*]

MARS (*vehemently*). The God of Wars and Armies is invincible and can never be dethroned!

[*Exeunt.*]

CURTAIN



WAR CHARIOT



ACT IV



SCENE I

A STREET IN ROME, MIDNIGHT (*Church Clock
Striking the Hour of Twelve*)

[*Enter HELOIS, garbed in present mundane
attire, in unassuming dress.*]

HELOIS (*soliloquising*). At last on Earth,
alone. Here, on this vast terrestrial sphere,
with its teeming millions of precious souls: yet
I feel alone. The awe of solitude envelops me. O,
desolation, perturbation, alas! alone: silence, still as
death possesses me. Ah! what is solitude? A myth,
a phantom of the brain, cramped, unfoldment, lack of
self control, and yet knowing these things I hunger
for companionship. O, Unice, my wife, my queen,
separated from thee, a fraction of time will seem an
eternity: Yet I must stay for a period necessary for
the accomplishment of my chosen task. Come, come,

Helois, repine not! Am I not here of my own volition? Yea! Maybe the strangeness of the mundane surroundings momentarily affect me. I am here by choice for a divine purpose. I will face all difficulties that present themselves like a—man. Mortals still cry aloud for a saviour. I am on Earth to help them. Hence I will fight the good fight and flinch not. Avaunt and leave me, haunting thoughts of past delights and golden glories. My divine powers shall be henceforth for the alleviation of mortals' woes. For strength and power to fulfill my duty I will appeal to my Father God, Who art in Heaven. O, Jupiter the Mighty, hear me when I call to thee.

HELOIS (*Kneeling in humble supplication, praying*). My God! My God! forsake me not; help and protect me. Oh, great spirit, thou who in Heaven doth dwell and have been from everlasting to everlasting Father of all, to thee I pray for inspiration to guide me on this, my earthly way. Thou are omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, thy ministering angels with love thou hast sent to guard and guide the innocent. Endow me with power, consolation, grace and light: That none may be denied who love the right. The pure in heart need not then despair, nor those who others burdens bear. Hasten the spirit of justice decreed to descend, that truth be exalted before all men. The righteous, moulding their lives to thy eternal will may thus reap the good, and counteract the ill. This, in all thy richest blessings, Father Divine, pour forth on all mankind forevermore. Amen.

[*Enter MERCURY attired as the winged messenger, bearing in his hand his caduceus or wand, symbol of peace and concord.*]

MERCURY. Helois! Helois! Helois!

HELOIS. Who calls?

MERCURY. Even I, Mercury.

HELOIS. The Ilustrious Mercury, welcome! Oh, my beloved brother! Why comest thou here?

MERCURY. In answer to thy prayer. I heard thy fervent supplications whilst resting at Mount Parnassus.

HELOIS. Oh, Great Mercury, did my petitions go no higher?

MERCURY. I know not; but this I know, Helois, thy perplexed vibrations reached me at my study. I hastened to respond. It is now midnight: at day-break I must away. Give me thy undivided attention, I have much to say.

HELOIS. I am at thy command: speak on, Mercury.

MERCURY. I need scarcely remind thee that thou hast set thyself a prodigious task. I know from experience that thy chances of accomplishing it are few. Start not, Helois. I reiterate the fact: Thou hast attempted too much.

HELOIS. Reserve thy judgment, my Brother.

MERCURY. Ha, Helois, I have spent considerable time and given serious attention to the mundane conditions of life. I have made an exhaustive study and critically examined every point of vantage in Humanity's career: their history, past, present and future, placed the whole circumstances juxtaposition, and unwillingly arrived at the conclusion that thy noble efforts for the emancipation of the Human Race will be futile.

HELOIS. I am convinced that I can win in spite of appearances to the contrary, Mercury.

MERCURY. Thou dost not understand thy people, Helois. Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn. Again, in epitome, for I'll endeavour to be brief: Mortals are the world over divided into two classes, the plutocrats and proletariats. The former consider themselves little lower than the Gods and are proud and arrogant in the extreme, treating their unfortunate brethren with stern authority and haughty patronage. Thou will be compelled to understand that a gulf exists like a vast chasm yawning between these aristocrats and plebeians which the latter can never hope to bridge. Thinkest thou, Helois, that such unbrotherliness is fit for the Kingdom of Heaven? No! a thousand times no! It is decreed that the nations that forget their duty to God and man shall surely perish. Leave them to their deserved fate, return to thy fair Unice, and thy natural Godly companions. Come, away with me at dawn.

HELOIS. Great Mercury, why temptest thou me?

MERCURY. I pray thee, do not misinterpret my speech. It is for thy well being I urge thy retreat.

HELOIS. Thy utterances and offer are worthy of Pluto. I treat them with the contempt they deserve.

MERCURY. Thou misapprehend, Helois. I declare thou wilt find degeneracy, profligacy, and hypocrisy, rampant and by thy gentle methods thou canst not overcome it. Vain thy efforts. Hence I beg thee return.

HELOIS. I make no mistake. I understand only too well all thou wouldst convey. But I am proof against it, Mercury. I am true and will not swerve from the right path, nor be influenced by thy sophistry, cajoled from my firm purpose, for any earthly reason. Illustrious one, hear me: thou hast spoken, I will have

my say. Thou hast pointed out Humanity's sins, crimes, the evils that exist. The division in the earthly ranks, the high, the low, the gulf that divides mortals. Answer me, is it not possible to alter these things? Are they not temporal? Am I not here for the very purpose? Have I not of my own free will left Heavenly bliss to sacrifice myself that mankind may be redeemed? Is not my presence here tonight a proof of my sincerity and faith in the accomplishment of my self-imposed task? Well, then, forbear to try to dissuade me. Leave me to my (to thee) uncongenial labours. Let us part in peace and come to me when I call upon thee as arranged.

MERCURY. O, Helois, my beloved brother. It is the fullness of my love that spurred me to endeavour to influence thee. Again, in spite of thy manifest displeasure, I beg thee be cautious. I know from practical experience earthly conditions. Mankind as a body are not tractable. Thou are full of altruism, idealism and delightful theory. Humanity will upset it all. They are perverse, conservative, opposed to new ideas, deeply impressed with the truth of their own convictions and opinions. Thou will find it a difficult task to dissuade the people of any nation from preconceived notions and orthodox teachings; ideas pre-natally begotten and imbibed with their mother's milk. Still I'll plead with thee no more, but as a pliant messenger of the Gods, I will, from time to time, visit thee and inform thee of our brethren's decrees and will ever be ready to assist thee in any emergency.

HELOIS. O, Mercury, pardon my forcible speech. Thy solicitude and goodness disarms me. Forgive my anger. Have a little patience and faith in my ability to carry my projects to a successful issue. By divine love I will unfold Humanity's hidden spiritual natures, forces that will open their inner souls. Lead them

to bliss by kindling the divine fires of knowledge, truth and justice. Teach them tenderly the laws governing good and evil so that by truth they cease to do evil and seek to do good, to regain their divine powers, thus becoming competent to enjoy eternal bliss. Love is a mighty lever, Mercury, and by its potency I will eradicate evil, and readjust the wrongly organized states of society. Yea, not desiring to appear tedious, I reiterate, pure love will find the way to remove all obstacles and barriers and bridge the gulf that now divides mankind into such cruel extremities. See, O, Illustrious One, even as I speak, my Unice, her radiant eyes enhancing the eastern sky. Her beautiful orbs shine through the misty gloom of earthly doubts and fears, and give me consolation and renewed vigour. My sweet, faithful Queen. I hereby solemnly dedicate my promise to Humanity to thee. I will, my darling, succeed, and in triumph lead regenerated mortals onward and upward to God and thee. My answer to all thy objections, Mercury, are written in the stars. Fare thee well!

[*Exit* HELOIS]

MERCURY. Stay! One word! Alas! He's gone—and to his doom, I fear. He will not be advised. No, he flouts my council, and scorns my experience bought at a bitter price; ridicules my judgment; scoffs at my good intentions: My philosophy he terms "sophistry." Ha! my confident friend, maybe I'll get even yet. To thy piety I'll play the very devil. Ha, ha ha!

[*Exit* MERCURY.]

[*Enter two* CITIZENS.]

FIRST CITIZEN. A dreadful storm this last night, neighbour?

SECOND CITIZEN. I never witnessed a worse. It must be a warning to the wicked. The Gods mean to punish them, no doubt.

FIRST CITIZEN. True, it was an awful downpour. Methought the Heavens opened to let the rain through. The thunder and lightning was awesome. It alarms us.

SECOND CITIZEN. Yes, the thunder shook the whole city like an earthquake. It's proof the Gods are displeased, and mean to destroy the sinners.

FIRST CITIZEN. I firmly believe there was a warning in that terrible deluge, for when the lightning flashed the Heavens really opened and voices like lamentations and prayers were heard. As I live, I heard confused sounds like angels singing, intermingled with cries for mercy.

SECOND CITIZEN. Why, I heard angels singing, too. My wife declares when the storm was at its height she saw the shape of a fiery chariot in the sky. She felt very frightened. I begged her not to be nervous for only the wicked need be afraid of the wrath of the Gods.

FIRST CITIZEN. You are right. My wife and I were not afraid, only surprised and alarmed at the length and severity of the storm. A day and a night it lasted, you remember.

SECOND CITIZEN. Ah, it seemed a month, so dark was it and the terrible winds that blew houses and churches a complete wreck. Lots of people were killed, I heard.

FIRST CITIZEN. Yes, friend, I heard there were awful catastrophes. Our young daughter, Magdaline, awoke in the middle of the night, when the storm was at its height, startled. She declared she heard a voice

above the winds telling her to pray because God's Son had come from Heaven to dwell on Earth with men. She arose and together the whole family of us knelt in prayer. Magdaline aloud petitioned the Holy Virgin to protect us all. I declare as she prayed a halo of light shone around her head and we heard sounds of music like the "Maiden's Prayer" being played in the air.

SECOND CITIZEN. Thy child must by the Saints be blessed. I have heard it said that those who hear angel voices and see visions are the chosen of the Gods.

FIRST CITIZEN. Yes, I agree with you, neighbour, and we feel certain our daughter Magdaline is one of the elect. She has become a novitiate and intends to give her young life to God's service. See, my Magdaline, she is there with them!

[Enter procession of MONKS, PRIESTS, etc., with elevated cross, a choir of white-robed BOYS, and a bevy of veiled MAIDENS, chanting devotedly "Ora pro Nobis, Ave, Marie." They cross the street on their way to the church.]

[Exeunt CITIZENS, reverently crossing themselves and muttering their paternoster.]





MAGDALINE

SCENE II

A ROOM IN A HOTEL IN ROME.

[Enter HELOIS.]

HELOIS (*soliloquising*). I am resolved I will at once commence my self-imposed task of Mortals' reformation. My brain throbs with burning thoughts of forceful actions. My mind is pregnant with new and wondrous ideas appertaining to the benefits and gifts I mean to bestow upon the Human Race. I will form a practical plan of campaign. How to assail with love and power all Earthly citadels, I am absorbing Human ideas. For the nonce I'll assume a Mercurian strain of reasoning. Assuming that mankind generally are gross, in nature fallacious, worshipping wealth, temporal power and all earthly authority more than their God. To counteract these things I must facilitate Humanity; invest myself with untold gold; of all great magnates become one of greater magnitude; to ambitious men appear truly Napoleonic; to those who desire authority, I must possess the power and influence of unlimited opportunities and possibilities; by genius and stratagem, gain absolute control of the financial world, ruling and manipulating the wealth of the whole universe. Then establish an impregnable Kingdom of Earthly Power, and by acquiring knowledge of all languages have free intercommunion with the people of all nations. Truly a Herculean task! My gigantic schemes and worldly magnificence should appeal to Human vanity and pride, but out of this Earthly splendour having won them, I could create a new Heaven and a new Earth. By my God-like ability gradually purge their minds of ancient fallacies; impress them with new ideas; inspire them with pure thoughts, and spiritual yearnings, until

at length, gold would be counted dross and mundane power become valueless. Then shall they desire pure and lasting treasures, good health; sweetly, fair and happy children; loving, tender and virtuous women. Noble, valiant and strong men, scorning to indulge in weakness, vice, temper, bloody conflicts, or needless slaughter. Their whole being revolting against and striving to conquer evil, crime, cruelty and disease. Then shall trouble cease, mankind's terrible battles change to war of roses and carnivals of bliss; selfish desires, to preferment of others; cold parsimony, to warm generosity; licentiousness to purity; wickedness to goodness; wise regeneration, culminating in happiness, love and perfect peace. If my fellow Gods concur, after awaiting the result of their amalgamated wisdom, I will endeavour to put my plans into execution. Who comes here?

[*Enter MERCURY in authorized attire, with open scroll.*]

MERCURY. All hail, Noble Prince, hail. I have a message for thee from the Gods. I have hastened to deliver it.

HELOIS. Thrice welcome, Great Mercury. I am thirsting for that knowledge.

MERCURY (*Reading from scroll*). It is written that God shall pour out his spirit of righteousness upon the nations of the earth. That Angels shall walk and talk with men. It is thus decreed that thou establish thy Holy Kingdom before the whole world so that mankind realize fully that thou art the Son of God and full of wisdom. To eliminate evil, prepare for emergencies and test the character of the Earth people. Thou art first to make known thy holy mission in London, England. There in that great metropolis, with its homogeneous race, teeming millions of anxious

waiting souls, there to find a welcome and lay thy foundations of a new people, a new Heaven and a new Earth. Hie thee then to London and in Hyde Park, before the waiting assembly, proclaim thyself the Son of God and explain thy mission, unfold thy plans and appeal to the heads of the many religious bodies to co-operate with thee. If thou art well received and the multitude applaud thee, return again to ancient Rome to purge, cleanse and purify her many religious errors overthrown in accordance with the priests' daily prayers. The reign of pomp, vanity and pretentiousness, replace with piety, purity and peace. To effectually accomplish these worldly matters, it has been deemed expedient that thou makest an Earthly alliance. Marry a pious princess so that a royal house of true religious beliefs and a pure court will have far-reaching results that will help to effectually eradicate both spiritual and material corruptions and by example set all nations free to the lasting glory of the Almighty God.

HELOIS. Halt! One word, Mercury. Answer me. Is it possible it is decreed I make an Earthly marriage tie?

MERCURY. It is here written, Helois (*tapping the scroll with his caduceus*).

HELOIS (*aside*). May the Gods preserve me.

MERCURY. Dost object to the marriage, Helois?

HELOIS. I am amazed at the Gods' decision, Great Mercury.

MERCURY. Be not astonished, Helois. Here's the precedent, from Holy Scripture: "The Sons of Gods saw the daughters of men that they were fair and they took unto themselves wives, all of which they choose."

HELOIS (*aside*). I do not choose.

MERCURY. Attend, I will discover to thee the image of the fair Virgin predestined to be thy Earthly spouse.

[*There appears a vision of a lovely young MAIDEN kneeling in rapturous prayer.*]

HELOIS (*aside*). Ha! May the Gods guard and guide me in this remarkable venture.

MERCURY. The lady is a devout Christian, very pious. The true descendant of a family of martyrs.

HELOIS. O, Eminent Mercury, the marriage clause is the hardest task of all. My love for Unice is as a fixed star. To be united to an Earthly wife would be most uncongenial, be she ever so good and fair.

MERCURY. Hast forgotten thy purpose, thy momentous labour, the task thou hast set thyself to fulfill? What if it cannot be accomplished in no other way?

HELOIS. I have not forgotten my great purpose, Mercury. I am ready and willing to obey the Gods' instructions. Marriage, it seems to me, would impede my progress, be a heavy yoke. I marvel at that proposition. They know best, no doubt. Tell me, my Brother, does my Unice know of this intended alliance?

MERCURY. To thy question I can give an unqualified no! Nor will she be told it has been decreed.

HELOIS (*aside*). For that I am devoutly thankful.

MERCURY. I will hasten my return and report thy objections to Earthly marriage.

HELOIS. I pray thee, Brother, have patience with me. I am perplexed, but I have no intention of shirking a duty. I thank thee, Great Mercury, for thy message and information. Tell thy fellows I will obey, like a true son and brother. To thee alone, my

Noble Brother, I confess I relish not the idea of Earthly wedlock. I know many of the women are beautiful, pure and good and endowed with rare gifts, but I desire no closer ties, no intimacies. But, fear not, I'll not recant, I'll follow the Gods' instructions to the letter.

MERCURY. I commend thy wise resolutions, Helois. I would, however, thou didst not resent so bitterly the proposed Earthly nuptial. See, again I give thee a glimpse of thy intended spouse. Have not the Gods chosen well for thee? Is she not as fair as a Goddess? Fortunate Helois! I must away. Good luck to all thy projects! Remember, London first. Adieu!

[*Exit* MERCURY.]

HELOIS. One moment, stay! Ha, he is gone! True, my mission on earth is a holy one, consequently will be full of Earthly obstacles and trials. I must be prepared for such. This coming marriage will be of all trials the greatest. Oh, my sweet Unice! May thou never know I have been compelled even for righteousness sake to take to my bosom as wife another. My love for thee is sincere for no other in my soul's soul can surpland thee. It is imperative. I obey divine commands. To London, then, without delay.

[*Exit* HELOIS.]



SCENE III

HYDE PARK, LONDON, ENGLAND — A CROWD
GATHERED

[*Enter* HELOIS, garbed in ancient Romanish attire, toga and sandals. He mounts a raised platform and at once commenced to harrangue the assembly.]

HELOIS. Brethren, Englishmen, fellow citizens, friends all, I desire undivided attention for a short time. I am here for a wise purpose. What I am about to say is for your benefit, for your present and future good, for the benefit of generations to come. Listen, attentively! I have descended from Heaven to help you, to teach you, inspire you, show you the righteous way to live to gain present happiness and future bliss. To inform you I am he who was promised to you, God's Son. The one who chose to leave Heaven so that those who are in doubt, those who are lost, those who are seeking the right way, may receive divine help and strength and ultimately obtain Godly power, Human Souls' rightful heritage. Verily, I say to you all, have faith in me, feel confident of my power and you may all dwell with me in paradise forever more.

[*Loud commotion, deafening yells, noises, queries and rude comments.*]

FROM THE CROWD. What does he say? He's a God? Why he's crazy. He's just escaped from the mad house. Boo! Pull him down. Bah! Yah! He's loney! Boo!

[*HELOIS strives in vain to stem the torrent of abuse and pacify the angry people. The din becomes tremendous, the throng momentarily getting stronger and more menacing. The rougher element giving each other moral support.*]

THE CROWD (*shouting*). A God, indeed! Yah! The fool, the blighter, the bloomin' 'ound. Like his infernal cheek. Let's introduce him to Old Nick. Ha! Show him the quick way to hell. Lynch him! Hang him! Duck the fool! Drowning is too good. Crucify him! That's the short remedy for Gods. Look at his togery. (*Laughter, mocking crys and ear-splitting*

noises. *Above all, shouts of: The Serpentine! Duck him, chuck 'im in!*

[Ere the police can interfere, a number of ruffians, with vile oaths, seize HELOIS, lift him bodily shoulder high and make a dash, though much impeded by the swaying, surging crowd, for the lake, with the fierce determination of hurling him head first into the stream. Amid howls, jeers, blood curling curses, taunts, yells, foul maledictions and disgusting imprecations, they reach the water edge. Just as they raise him above their heads, for the final dash—

[Enter MERCURY.]

[MERCURY is unseen by the excited rabble. He snatches the fainting and all most exhausted HELOIS from their murderous hands. With a swift wave of his caduceus, Ha, presto! he makes his fellow God invisible and the mob see double. He tosses HELOIS' outer raiment to them. They shout, tear, pull, and drag the garments in frenzy.]

[With these madmen's curses still ringing in their ears, MERCURY, supporting the helpless HELOIS in his arms, ascends from the Earth, leaving behind the din, wild confusion and disorder, and sped with the solemn flight of angel wings through clouds of Earthly gloom into the pure atmosphere of Heavenly calm on their way to reach High Olympus.]

CURTAIN

SCENE IV

THE FORUM, GOLDEN SQUARE, CELESTIAL CITY.

HIGH OLYMPUS.

[An assembly of GODS and GODDESSES. The great commotion on the terrestrial sphere being distinctly audible to the august assembly. Unice, with her weeping babes is kneeling in devotion and prayer for her husband's safety, when lo!

[Enter MERCURY, bearing in his arms the limp form of the Noble HELOIS.]

MERCURY. Safe at last! Attend to Helois. He has passed through a terrible ordeal. The infuriated mob of so-called Christians would have killed him but for my intervention. They mocked and jeered him unmercifully and believe not he is a God.

*[A shout from all in chorus:
Hail, all hail, great Helois, noble,
Husband, brave brother, good son—
Welcome, welcome home!]*

[UNICE clasps HELOIS in loving embrace with true wifely solicitude showering caresses upon him; his children clinging and clamoring for a kiss.]

HELOIS. Illustrious Mercury, I thank thee, sweet brother, for thy timely aid. How fared the multitude? Did they injure themselves most or us?

MERCURY. Themselves. The police, their guardians of peace, broke up the rabble by breaking their heads. I noticed as we flew from their unkind attention.

HELOIS. Poor creatures! They know not what they do. We must forgive them and have mercy upon them.

MERCURY. Good Helois, ever considerate for others. But it's my opinion that if from the days of Great Constantine, Christians have not learned how to behave themselves, it is time they were taught lessons, and by drastic measures, too. I forgive them. I know I got the better of them in the last encounter. They were at a loss to understand what had become of their intended victim, when they had him so tightly fixed, as they thought. And it turned out to be only his raiment; his physical form had vanished into thin air.

[*Chorus of voices:*

Hail, all hail, thrice welcome,

Helois, the brave, the true,

And the Illustrious Mercury, too!]

JUPITER. Welcome, thrice welcome, my son. Feel not dismayed or discouraged at what on the surface may appear to be failure. Thou hast acted thy part nobly and well; I commend thee.

ALL IN CHORUS. Helois, the brave, thou art one of the most noble and gallant of Gods.

MARS. Thou are truly welcome home, Helois.

APOLLO. Welcome, valiant Helois. I wish I had been by thy side to have soothed the fractious crowd with my lute. Music hath charms to sooth savages, it is said. I would have tried its effects upon them.

BACCHUS. A thousand welcomes. I'll toast thee both, the intrepid Helois and Mercury, the bold rescuer. Yea, toast thee in wine, five fathoms deep. Drink to thy future wellbeing and this merry meeting.

CHORUS. All hail, all hail.

PROMETHEUS. Welcome friends, I am delighted at Helois' escape from ferocious foes and physical disaster. I have a few questions to ask. I have discovered this document and cannot thoroughly understand its contents. It purports to come from an assembly of the Gods. I never remember assisting to authorize such decrees as I find written here. Here is an extract: "It is written that Helois proclaims himself the Son of God to the populace in Hyde Park, London, England. The English speaking people are considered the leading lights of the religious world, and must first hear of the advent of a God and so forth. Then solemnly advises an earthly mar——"

MERCURY. Hold, Prometheus, read no more. I forbid thee. Have a care! Think what wouldst thou do! On no account mention in public anything thou mayst have read that is written in that scroll. I confess I forged that document. I acknowledge no such fiats were issued by the Gods. I did it. I take the responsibility and consequences. I was moved solely by the desire to save Helois from violence and error. I tried ineffectually to persuade him to reconsider his decision. I was aware thy noble brother did not understand Humanity's nature or requirements. I felt it incumbent upon me to enlighten him the best way I could.

CHORUS OF VOICES. Wise Mercury, clever Mercury, versatile Mercury!

MERCURY. I tried to make the brave Helois understand that mankind are predestined to work out their own salvation. There is no royal road to redemption. All advancement, purification, and happiness comes from within. Man is a universe within himself. Humanity is not fully aware of their God-like powers. Their dormant faculties in that direction are not yet unfolded. Hence it often takes sharp lessons, trials,

cruel experiences to compel attention, to endeavour to attain knowledge and wisdom to help themselves. Mortals must realize their redeemer has come to them in the shape of science. When that lesson is well assimilated and applied, it will save them from suffering, sin and sorrow. Come, then, let us combine to assist mankind to help themselves, while protecting the innocent, weak and trusting. Inspire with wisdom all earthly teachers, preachers, popes, prelates, priests, poets, artists, sculptures, seers, singers, writers and true legislators. And strengthen their gifts. Then, maybe, in a few thousand years or so, Humanity may be prepared for the advent of a God. The trick, brethren, to get Helois back to heaven I admit doing. My judgment and freedom of action I adhere to. Forgive me, if you can.

JUPITER. Mercury, my beloved son, thou art fully forgiven by me.

UNICE. O, Mercury! More than forgiven, my true friend, by me.

HELOIS. Great Mercury, why didst thou fool me so completely?

MERCURY. As I told thee: to teach thee a most needed lesson and emphasize the fact that I object to being preached at, my grave Helois.

UNICE. O, my beloved, chide Great Mercury no more. I cannot thank him enough. I would I could coin honied phrases to praise him and tell my bliss. It's elysium to have thee in these arms again.

HELOIS. My star, by own wife, thy faithfulness and joy disarms all resentment. What Mercury did, he did in love. I am confident of that. I'll rebuke him no more.

PROMETHEUS. Thinkest thou we have had fair play, Mercury?

MERCURY. Proud Prometheus, if in doubt, take my caduceus and office. Serve the Gods in my capacity thyself.

PROMETHEUS. Ah! Illustrious One, full well thou knowest thy power, thy versatile gifts, and that I, or any other could never hope to surplant thee. There is no need for quarrel. I pray thee, forgive my rash speeches. I know full well all thou hast done was done by thee for the best. Let us be friends for aye.

MERCURY. My hand and heart on that. I love thee even if thou reproach me, Prometheus.

ADONIS. Helois, my noble friend, let me welcome thee. Thrice welcome home!

DAPHNE. I welcome thee, Brave Helois, for sweet Unice's sake, as well as mine own. (*Embraces him.*)

ADONIS (*aside to DAPHNE*). Fair Nymph, now may I hope for pure reciprocation? There is no need for delay. Marry me today!

DAPHNE. Have patience, sweet Adonis. I fear me if I too readily agree to wedlock thou wilt swiftly ravish my maiden charms which now so enrapture thee, then tire and give to captivating Venus the tender bliss I alone should enjoy forever.

ADONIS. Dainty Daphne, no need for further dalliance. Thou knowest full well my deep affection. Come, consent, while reunion and joy reverbrate in the air. I have been of great patience, sweet one.

DAPHNE. O fie this haste, I'll not promise yet. O, love, be not cast down. I'll be kind anon.

ADONIS. One kiss to seal the compact. Ah! Pretty one! I have thee now! Thou art mine forever! (*They embrace and kiss.*)

[*Enter procession of MUSICIANS, HERALDS, PAGES, NYMPHS and attendants.*]

[*JUNO and JUPITER are enthroned and lovingly watch the proceedings.*]

JUPITER. Friends, I take great pleasure on this auspicious occasion to offer congratulations to all concerned in this happy reunion. My Queen and I desire there be full forgiveness for wrongs and mistakes and that love, joy, peace and concord rule among us all. Let everyone thoroughly enjoy the present pleasure.

[*Great applause.*]

[*VENUS presents choice bouquets to the Mighty JUPITER and the Stately JUNO.*]

[*DIANA, HEBE, HYACINE, DORA and FLORA deck the brows of HELOIS and UNICE with huge garlands of snow-white blossoms. The lovely spotlessness of the flowers typifying the purity of their mutual love.*]

[*A chorus of NYMPHS, etc., chant praises to the power, might and victories of the unconquered JUPITER. Alternately extolling the heroism of the noble HELOIS.*]

[*APOLLO charms the ears of the assembly with the sweet cadence of his divine lute, while BACCHUS, with attendant maidens, passes the loving cups filled to the brim with ambrosial nectar.*]

[VENUS at length challenges the valiant MARS to a terpsichorean combat which is readily accepted, and dancing proceeds with great enthusiasm.]

[Cheers, laughter, songs, music, and dancing fills the time, and all goes merrily as marriage bells. Care is banished: joy reigns supreme on HIGH OLYMPUS, the sacred dwelling place of the Gods.]

Finis



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