

DOROS ALASTOS

APOLOGIES TO ARISTOPHANES

Drama WITHOUT A MORAL

[Aristophanes resolved it - can we?]

BLIND-Folded Address.

- A play -
[With Apologies to Aristophanes -
he resolved his dilemma, can we?]

ACT I

SCENE I

[It is usual to set the scene in ^{some} particular place and within certain time limits. In the case we have to dispense with particular place and substitute ^{it} by any place and we have to take the parentheses ^{away} from time and let it oscillate between periods or jump backwards or forwards from one ^{point} to another. In short, time, stretch out of time.]

Characters are important; and they must be real, enlarged or constricted. The characters we meet in the course of the play are real only to the extent they are not shadows. They are borrowed characters; flat like Byzantine icons but can glow with an unrefined power of awareness and warmth. ^{If they have feelings} At the same time they are those they generate in others.

Things, tools, furniture, implements, objects and what not, are there because they happen to be there. When the scene opens is night - dark, no moon.]

KARPOTIS. [Just half-rising up. Stares in front of him. Still looks very sleepy. After a while] I want a woman! (Loudly, bashes his fish on the ground.) I want a woman. (He throws himself back and coils up. A little later on.) When did you have a woman last? (No answer. Loudly) When did you have a woman last? (No answer. He gets up.) Where are you? (Loudly.) Where are you? (Shouts) Trygeos ... Trygeee ooooo! (A man approaches).

TRYGEOS

Trygeos. Don't shout.

Karpotis. Don't shout. Why?

Trygeos. Quiet. Otherwise ~~you~~ ~~we~~ will wake up. Just put him to sleep.

Karpotis. Don't leave me. Don't ever leave me when I am asleep do you hear. I don't mind being alone when I am awake but I cannot stand it when I am asleep. I dream so much.

Trygeos. I heard you.

Karpotis. (Looks at him with surprise) Dreaming?

Trygeos. You called out Trygeeeeee.

Karpotis. What else, tell me. What else.

Trygeos. He is healthy. He is growing up fast.

Karpotis. What are you talking about? I was asking you ... (Thinks). Have you got a young Spartan hidden somewhere among these rocks? Ha, ha! They are good those Spartans. Trained for everything. Self-sufficient. No camp-followers to clutter them up. Where is he?

Trygeos. (Who walks up and down, ponders his own thoughts) He will do. He has to.

Karpotis. The man I feel anything will do. Where is he? (As Trygeos does not answer he goes near and shakes him). Where is he?

Trygeos. Where is what?

Karpotis. He... the healthy one... who has to do.

Trygeos. You mean my beetle?

Karpotis. Beetle! (He spins and spits). What the hell are you talking about. You must be mad. (He goes and lies down in his original position).

Trygeos Yes: I think this is the only way.
I thought of everything. There is no other way.

Karpoti Trygeos!

Try. What?

Karpoti Do you know...

Trygeos Yes, I think I do.

Karpoti (With an expression of exasperation) What's the use! (Pauses. With some force, just to scare him) We have only three hours! ^{do you know that?} Then we shall all be burnt up. Just like that. I dreamed it. Didn't quite make it out. Someone was daring someone to do or not do something - very confusing - and someone else was saying millions of thunderbolts will fall to burn us.

Trygeos. I know.

Karpoti. It was so vivid, I was scared. I got up and you were not here.

Trygeos You got up and you wanted a woman.

Karpoti. A woman, Yippsee! What wouldn't I give for a woman. It's so hot! I'm hot! When did you have one last.

Trygeos. Spring two years ago. Doesn't worry me that much. I have other things on my mind. But mind you if you need me that bad - whistle! You are awake now; you don't mind me if I go away for while. I like to feed my pet before I take off.

Karpoti. My God! There is something the matter with you. Perhaps it's the heat. Perhaps we have been here too long. No women; only bloody dried-up old men. Warriors... ph! It gets you down. You must see one of those queer fellows - what are they called? - that is: psycho-hippocratism. You must see a psycho-hippocratism. And then who knows. The lunny-bin or he may send you on leave ^{home} to the old woman. You would like that, wouldn't you. (Suddenly he remembers). What did you mean just now, I mean just before... I had the dream, here in my head, I am the one who knows what I've seen, how did you know ~~about~~ You said you know about you.
It came on the wireless.

KARPOTIS

(astounded Wain... (the word is unfamiliar))

Trygees

He's over there. The old boy left it. (Karpotis tries to say something but ~~can't~~ cannot articulate). He comes most nights. Plays the flute - you must have heard him - like this (Trygees gives a couple of ~~blows~~ ^{blows on} the flute) and then sit at that rock over there and ~~just~~ ^{you yodels} his head off. ~~He~~ ^{remember some bits and pieces} (Imitates him)

"Unchanged eternal nature! vast expanse of nothing hurrying to no end."

"I have listened, oh, for how long - to the bridal whispers of life marrying catastrophe. I have watched ^{the stampede of} man stampeding, looking for the hiding place which plays everybody false"

"I was young once. I could see. I watched the shiny creature struggling on, unfeeling, unrelenting. The brutish ape standing up to master the birds."

"His unadaptable feet are failing beneath the weight of his distorted greed... and he is sinking down into primeval beastliness."

"An awful ^{oh} cacophony ^{arises} from this sinking. Rival ^{incantations} curses, ^{ritual} imprecations mingle in a vast cacophony of righteousness ^{with} the air - I cannot breathe"

It's all about us. You ^{remember, damn it} must have heard

Karpotis

I do! I do! You, of course, remember him. Did you ^{actually} speak to him;

Trygees

You spend most of the time asleep. That's your trouble.

Karpotis

Heh! It's hot and close. ^{I think} I will choke... or go berserk.

Trygees

Listen. Can you hear it now? All about that thing. Two men ^{thousands} of furlongs away ~~they~~ are getting ready to obliterate each other's places. They are set on a course of collision.

Karpotis

Why do they want to do that for?

Trygees

Listen, Don't talk. (Karpotis listens - suddenly a voice fills

+ The fool! For he cannot see, fools all who cannot see
that the worse thing after defeat in war is victory in
war. They cannot see but I ^{could} and Xenophon
~~could~~, the last ship, which came in bringing the last
news of the last disaster. The dead and the
living were struck dumb, forgot each other

the stage.

"~~Follows~~ We greet our men everywhere - our sailors on the sea or valiant soldiers defending our ^{bar-flying} frontiers of an Empire. Athens today celebrated her tenth anniversary of the war against Sparta. The city's virgin maiden made their traditional pilgrimage to the Acropolis and thanked the Goddess. It was a glorious and inspiring spectacle - all those white-gowned, flowered ornamented ^{girls} ~~girls~~ marching with martial spirit and chanting hymns, but unfortunately only old people about to advise them

Karpoku

And look their chop:

(the voice) Ten years of glorious victories. We are determined to go on hitting the enemy, hitting him harder and harder with each passing year until Sparta is laid low once and for all.

Trygeos.

That's it: We must go on year after year, killing each other. Our fields are fallow, our wives barren, our vines ruined, we are practically starving but we must go on. Why?

Voice.

~~Voice~~ I am talking to you.

Karpoku.

Me?

Voice

Not you. ~~And stop~~ scratching yourself ^{and stand to attention when you are addressing me. Yes sir.} ~~And~~ ^{that} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~about~~ ^{you.} The ^{lies} ~~lies~~ are not for. I am talking to you.

Try.

Trygeos.

^{Yes, you're} ~~far~~ ^{enough.} Well, what about it?

Voice

I know what you have in mind to do. ^{I cannot stop you.} Don't do it. You are ^{only} ~~wasting~~ ^{wasting} your time. That is all (off).

Karpoku.

^{Arrogant about you.} Who was that is he?

Trygeos.

How should I know. Voice just a voice telling us what to do. That's all they are: disembodied voices ordering us about scolding ^{Barage upon Barage of words} ~~Barage~~ ^{exhorting} ~~Barage~~ ^{informing}. They are incessant ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{reaching} ~~reaching~~ ^{on} ~~on~~ ^{your} ~~your~~ ^{ear-drums} all day long, you cannot hear yourself think. ^{After a pause} ~~After~~ I don't give up.

Karpoku's

(hees and lies down.) I give up, might as well be in bedlam. (Trygeos walks about. Something on his mind. Trygeos stretches

fall out and starts whistling a tune. Suddenly a woman rushes on the stage, laughs, screams and huzzais maniacally. Trygeos sits up. Both men look as if struck by lightning. The woman pirouettes, ^{claps} and ^{utter} quivers and shimmers provocatively before Karpotis.

Woman: I am a bacchant. I want love - love. Vive it's snow. (Dances again fun and frolic madly and ends with a classical-fine can-can. Trygeos. Come on. What are you waiting for?)

Karpotis: who are you.

Woman: There are hundreds of us ^{about} chased by men. Come, chase me.

Karpotis: Not on your life.

Trygeos: A few minutes earlier you were yelling for a woman. Now she is - and you play hard to get. What glorious thing is. I always say that if the thighs of a woman are good the rest of her cannot be bad. Up and get her Karpotis unless you want me to take a hand!

Woman: Chase me?

Karpotis: (To Trygeos) Last time I chased a woman by the time I caught up with her I was not good for anything else for at least an hour. She ran like

Trygeos: ~~fast~~ ^{fast} nobody she could. I bet she can run too

Trygeos } well:
Woman } I like ^{to} take her for a hike to the moon, All the way and back. But ^{to} ^{preserve my} ^{strength} ^{to} be able to give and give (he is obviously become erotic) until I have no more strength left. (He gets up and rushes for the girl. She, cat like, side-steps and runs around.)

Woman: Catch me?

Karpotis: Please sweetheart, ^{let's not} don't turn this into a relay-race. A bid of ^{play} ^{around} ^{is} ^{good} ^{make} ^{me} ^{run} ^{after} ^{you} ^{for} her. She escapes.

Trygeos: Hold it! I thought of something. (He takes the flute and plays a Corybantic tune not unlike the first.)

Woman: That's better. (They both dance.)
Karpotis

- + Jaggas Dahn my dear friend. ^{We are} ~~There is~~ ~~not~~ ~~anything~~ is a mehodama. This is a serious matter and if you care to give me your attention I will let you into the secret but with the proviso: No questions and none should attempt to cross me.
- Karpoti (still holding the sword). ~~Wait~~ I am waiting.

more couples appear; then
 Karpoti. Better than running. The woman wch. The stage is filled
 dust and shimmer about whilst Karpoti and his partner steal away
 hand in hand out of sight. Tryges keeps playing. A chill cry is
 heard from behind the scenes. A a a a a. (Karpoti and the girl get
 back looking scared stiff. ~~Everybody stops in their tracks~~ inarticulate). A mmonster,
 a mmonstrous monster!

Woman. (Trembling) It's horrible. (she takes control of herself) It looked like a ~~big~~
 black crab - but long, and as big as a horse. The eyes looked like hot iron.
 It had its head down to the ground

Karpoti. I never there in the cave just here.
 Tryges. You don't make ^{any} sense Karpoti - there here
 Woman. And the stench - God it stunk

Karpoti. In the cave just here below us (Overhead). What about it Tryges.
 what is it? I am fed up with your bloody tricks - with your ~~scattered~~
 old balloons, your ~~damned~~ ventiloquist's ~~caricatures~~ your ~~sex~~ ~~politicians~~ and your stinky ~~nostalgia~~
 what are you driving at? Make me kill myself or go off my head?
 what are you up to? Tell me (he grows more and more furious) Tell
 me or by all the crooked bastards that ever existed I will slit your
 damned yellow guts open. Well? (There is no reply and Karpoti
 goes and grabs his sword.) ~~You will tell me what all this is~~

3 Men. (materialise out of the darkness and point the ~~spears~~ ^{spears} ~~are pointed~~ (All stop one
 stop where you are. ~~Three spears are pointed~~ (All stop one
 of the 3 men to Karpoti). Drop your sword (It's gone)

Tryges. ~~This is what I call real melodrama~~ ~~though you won't know what I meant to~~
~~just in the nick of time so~~ ~~parabols~~. You couldn't have timed
 it better even if ~~you were in~~ ~~incidentally have heard~~ ~~to you know anything~~
~~about him?~~ He is a big man in my part of the world.

1st man. Shut up Attention.
 Tryges. ~~Of course~~ they are ignorant ~~but~~ ~~they are instructed in two things only~~
~~cate~~ ~~And they are good at both~~ ~~in two things only~~ ~~to fight and fornicate~~
 And ~~they are good at both~~ ~~in two things only~~ ~~to fight and fornicate~~

1st man. You bet we are.

+ has your butchering general Brandos adopted new tactics
Spartan: Brandos died

Tygeos: How? I suppose he had an appointment to sup with
our Cleon in hell. He died just quite recently

Spartan: We danced ^{hijoo} when the news came in
Tygeos: Well allow us to ~~dance~~ ^{dance} ~~celebrate~~ ^{about} Brandos' death
You celebrate Cleon's death we celebrate Brandos's
and then all of us celebrate together the death of both
fine-eating general (The Spartans are not impressed) why
we might attack you haven't told us. I thought

27: Spartan: Yes, yes.

Circle: O.K. Catch me. (She pinches and sup

I flee from sky

I love ^{and my eye} the flowers

But ^{and my feet} ~~love~~ ^{love} him

For he ^{can} satisfy

my every whim.

From him I fly

For him I ~~will~~

was she pushed or did she fall

when she jumped or did she fall

The other birds she was pushed and she did fall

join in she is pushed and she did fall.

Spartan: Enough. I must ~~ask~~ ^{ask} the ~~other~~ ^{other} all up women ~~fly~~

Trygeos. I see you can follow ~~the~~ drift of my thoughts. But tell me my good
He ~~understands~~ ^{many} a night attack is ^{it} ~~unusual~~ ^{unworthy} if
Spartans wanted always to see what you were ^{doing} ~~studying~~.

Spartan. New drill. Just learned it.

KARPOTIS. The Voice! ^{It} warned us about them.

Trygeos. (Aloud) Come my Pet! (A spear is ^{pressed} to his side) Alright Sparta
what do you want with us. We have food, we have drink, we have women,
and ~~some~~ ^{boys} ~~here~~ ~~and~~

Spartan. Shut up. We'll take you with us.

Trygeos. And then.

Spartan. We'll kill you and put them in the army ^{brotherly} ^{to the other side} ^{snatched}
Tie them up. ^{his} ^{first} (The apparition of a monster looms in the background; its
eyes ablaze. It lets off a low ^{shrill} ^{grunt} ^{below} Everybody ^{looks} ^{around} ⁱⁿ ^{panic}.)

Trygeos. Throw away your spears Spartans. (They hesitate). Don't try anything.

Spartan. Your spears will do no harm. ^{It has a tough hole - tough enough}
to resist any ^{penetration} ^{in the form of} ^{knocked men} ^{behind it} and it can wear ^{out} ^{you}
^{for} ^{hours} ^{and} ^{days}. (The monster approaches - we can make out a
giant beetle. It grunts). ^{Don't do anything} ^{else}. Drop them. (The Spartan ^{chops} ^{them} ^{peers}
picks them up, picks also Karpotis sword and throws them down
the precipice.) ^{That's} ^{that} ^{no} ^{more} ^{of} ^{that}. (To the beetle)

Come my pet! (He goes near it and strokes it)
And now ^{that} ^{we} ^{are} ^{all} ^a ^{family} ^{little} ^{community} ^{share} ^a ^{few} ^{words} ^I ^{say} ^{to} ^{you}.

We fight; for what? To die. That will come ^{soon} ^{enough}. No need to ^{hurry}
it. To get rich? ^{hardly} ^{look} ^{at} ^{the} ^{idle} ^{flecks}, ^{the} ^{empty} ^{houses}, ^{the} ^{broken} ^{wine} ^{jars} ^{the} ^{spilt} ^{oil}. There are rich, ^{they} ^{are} ^{what} ^{else}
and ^{miserable} ^{we} ^{are} ^{the} ^{great} ^{and} ^{rich} ^{of} ^{becoming} ^{slaves} ^{ourselves} ^{and} ^{what} ^{can} ^{we} ^{do}
with them? As soon as you turn your back, ^{they} ^{are} ^{gone} ^{like} ^{flies}. And ^{at} ^{the} ^{end} ^{of} ^{it}
you women they go about like ^{unhappy} ^{ghosts} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{big} ^{convent}.

Women? Don't you women ^{they} ^{go} ^{about} ^{like} ^{unhappy} ^{ghosts} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{big} ^{convent}.
get. Some old stinky he-goats who just ^{salivate} ^{and} ^{mess} ^{about}.
we leave our own, and look for others. And what happens? We get riches
That all you do by ^{fighting}. ^{Now} ^{are} ^{you} ^{responsible}
for this? The Athenians. (The Spartans? But the Spartans the Athenians.
As I was saying? if it's no one's fault then
Spartan. It is my fault of the Athenians. ^{Then} ^{what} ^{is} ^{it} ^{that} ^{is} ^{the} ^{fault} ^{of} ^{them}.)
Trygeos. So come come accuse Spartans of procuring men with ^{robust} ^{intellects}. ^{The} ^{Procure}
one thing from you good. They accent ^{everything}, they question ^{nothing}. Fear of ^{death} ^{is} ^{the} ^{mark} ^{of} ^{an} ^{inferior} ^{man}.

whether it is the fault of all or some of them
~~some of them~~ all of them I don't know. I am going to find out

Karpotis. How?

Trygeos By paying them a visit

Karpotis. You have been acting queer all the evening - and what an evening - now I realize that you ^{really} are mad off your head. We are not back in Troy, Trygeos. The gods ^{have} turned up, they don't come down any longer and mix in ^{our} quarrels. ~~come and have a drink - there is a good thing, let all have a drink~~

Trygeos. You don't understand Karpotis - none of you can ~~have~~ ^{you are so dead} I am different. I go round and plough the earth through and through, I ~~you cannot see beyond your nose~~ you do what you are told to do, I am ~~ignorant~~ ^{ignorant} ~~of it~~ ^{of it} ~~and the sun and enjoy it~~ ^{I want to see it} animal which dared to present itself to the immortals. If you don't believe me look up Aerop. (To the Beetle) - ~~Come my sturdy~~ ^{Now my sturdy we must} ~~be off~~ ^{be off}

stone line. I want to look at it ^{make it look pretty to clasp in my arms; I would like to be like} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the sun and enjoy it~~ ^{I want to see it} animal which dared to present itself to the immortals. If you don't believe me look up Aerop. (To the Beetle) - ~~Come my sturdy~~ ^{Now my sturdy we must} ~~be off~~ ^{be off} ~~to heaven~~ (He jumps on its back) off to heaven. (The beetle ^{hovers} ~~flies~~ ^{like a} ~~with~~ ^{with} a hissing noise. Trygeos in stentorian voice) And

there I will ask ~~the~~ ^{my} gods and ~~pray to the gods for~~ ^{all the other gods} peace on earth and ~~understanding among men~~ ^{homage} ~~... or~~ ^{peace in earth} earth ... (he disappears)

Karpotis. (Bemused) ~~Mad~~ ^{Mad} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~mad~~ ^{mad} ~~... Somebody give me a~~ ^{poor} ~~stame~~ ^{stame} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~death~~ ^{death} ~~drink~~ ^{drink}

Curtain

SCENE II.

~~We are~~ In Heavens. Light everywhere except in some corners and when the light fades or goes out. Nothing particularly striking about the place. More ~~like~~ ^{like} a celestial motel than permanent habitat of the gods. This does not mean that the gods could not afford a better place. They could. But ~~concern~~ ^{as} of their ~~importance~~ ^{special} ~~changes to their image~~ ^{changes to their image} ~~they don't feel like building castles and skyscrapers for their~~ ^{schies} ~~schies~~ ^{schies} ~~They left that to those other gods~~ ^{They left that to those other gods} ~~of possession or of image~~ ^{of possession or of image} ~~and to those who put the~~ ^{and to those who put the} ~~concern~~ ^{concern} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~mechanical~~ ^{mechanical}

permanence of the cook. But this is neither here nor there. Heaven is not an attractive place and ~~barack~~ the room we find ourselves in not more attractive than the average stage. When the curtain rises we see man - mature and ageless - dressed impeccably in evening clothes. And a youth. The one is Hermes messenger of the gods, god of trade and of all rascalities. He is a witty, slippery cook. The other is Ganyrion.

Hermes (Looks straight ahead). I am bored! ~~I am so bored~~ ~~in my~~

Ganyrion. Alas Hermes! Do I bore you?

Hermes No. ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~at all~~ ^{at all} my boy, wife bores me. If I were not immortal I would commit suicide here and now.

Ganyrion Shall I order some celestial music?

Hermes. But what? We have all the records from Maryas to Cade ~~plumery~~ and the pops ... and heard them all a thousand times. To those silly folk ~~down~~ there don't know how lucky they are! At least they can ^{before} ~~see~~ ^{see} ~~me~~ ^{me}. ~~non-~~ ^{emitted} go up in smoke, pf - disintegrate. Have we got anything new?

Ganyrion I will have a look shall I bring you slippers?

Hermes No.

Ganyrion (comes nearer to Hermes). Shall I loosen your collar ~~to~~ ^{can} you relax better. (Hermes ~~not~~ ~~shakes~~ ~~his~~ ~~head~~) This suit suits you. ^(Gone) ~~knocks~~ ^{knocks} ~~off~~ ^{off} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~back~~ ^{back} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~striking~~ ^{striking} door.) Shall I see who it is? (More knocks and a shout "Anybody in?") Knocks followed by "Anybody in?")

Hermes. Go and fix me a drink - make it strong. I will see who it is. (Aloud) In moment. (He opens the door. Sees the beetle) What in Hell's name is this.

Trygeos (Seen coming round from behind the beetle). The Egyptian call it Scarab - with them it is holy. I call it beetle.

Hermes. And who the hell are you? Before you say anything Take

Trygeos. This bloody stinking heart away from here. Take it away - quickly, or else.
(To the Beetle) Come my pet. You go down ^{to the cave, stay there} now. I will call you when I need you - (He purles the beetle away and seems in carrying a big sack. He closes the door behind him).

Hermes Well?

Trygeos Surprised?

Hermes Stop being facetious. If you ^{can} show no respect for a god you ^{will soon} know how ~~soon~~ ^{it will} be too late to make amends.

Trygeos I didn't recognise you. Sorry. You are of course the god Hermes, the god whom the Athenians revere above all other gods.

Hermes. I have seen some horrible statues of myself ^{or} (gates-post) usually stand there as a ^{facade} ~~facade~~ ^{Pygmalion} and the house-~~stands~~ ^{stands} hanging their baskets on ^{the extended limb} when they chat ^{with} their friends. Many of them ~~careers~~ ^{careers} it for good luck. You think a lot me alright? And now what?

Trygeos. I come to bring you these. (He hands several bottles and five)

Hermes. Very kind of you. (looks at one bottle) 85 per cent proof! Excellent! At last a change from nectar (loudly). Giam. ^{forget the drink} and bring some glasses. (To Trygeos) ^{what is the purpose of} ~~but why~~ call these:

Trygeos. ~~These~~ offerings. We can never go ^{into} your Temples without bringing you something. We know that you rely on us for your existence, your priests tell us so. You neither ^{sow nor reap} ^{an extraordinary game} and as we were playing a kind of a game down there for some years now and neither sown or reaped much even for ^{our own use} ~~ourselves~~ we realise how badly off you must be. (Giamyides orders bringing glasses) ~~These~~ are just a small ^{in fact} gift.

Hermes Presumably more is to follow. (Trygeos looks at Giamyides)

Trygeos. Hello Spartan! How did you manage to get here before me? What are you up to?

Camponide who are you? I don't know you. (To Hermes) He is so uncouth - And he smells so

Trygeses. Aren't you the Spartan who stuck a spear in my side just a few minutes ago?

Camponide. Tell him Hermes, I never stick spears into people. (Shudders). How horrible

Hermes. Don't upset yourself Camponide, - pour me some of this (hands him ^{a spear} ~~the~~ bottle)

Trygeses. Camponide! (pats his mouth with his hand). He looks the spittin' image of the Spartan. ~~He~~ It appears that I am in the right place. (The drink is poured.)

Hermes. (Takes a long gulp). Excellent. Will you join me in one.

Trygeses. No, thank you. ^{I wish I could. Not that sturdy stuff for me.} (Waves trouble you know. But if I can have a drop of Thasian wine I would love it. (Hermes nods) This. (picks up the bottle. Camponide pours him some). ^{It's expensive you know.} I used to drink a lot of this with my wife ^{on our} ~~at every~~ wedding anniversary. ^{she loved} ~~And then~~ it.

Hermes. The wine?

Trygeses. And ... the wine. ^{To your health} (Camponide makes a grimace). I loved it too. You must try it sometime Camponide. It makes a change. (To Hermes)

Hermes. (Simplifies his glass and he fills it). Cheers. Who are you; You haven't told me.

Trygeses. My name is Trygeses, ^{an Athenian} honest man of the soil. I grow wheat, I grow ~~my wife looks after~~ I have some chickens, two goats and one cow. I grow vegetables and I grow vines. I make regular payments to the temple, I give food to the priests, I do no mischief to anyone I never spy on my neighbors I ^{am not an} ~~am not an~~ informer, ^{for my political club in party} I vote regularly, I have never ^{been a candidate for office} ~~sought political power~~ because I can be neither hospitable nor martinet, my weights are always what the law prescribes my children are legitimate, usually I mind my ^{own} business, I work hard, eat well, read a lot, help my fellow-men as much as I can, I have a good digestion, I can turn somersaults, run up hill, even at my age, with shield and full pack for ^{an} hour.

I can hold my own in a fight or an argument. I have a wife and two daughters I have not seen for years and once won first prize for obscenity at the Isthia. That about all I'd like them you will get in who is who

Hermes: Very, very interesting.

Campyrids: No fine-winy naughtiness at all.

Hermes: (kicks Campyrids lightly on the backside) Inside Campyrids, I think I am going to enjoy this meeting with Mr. Trygeos. So long since I had a chat with a mortal. (Has another sip). This is first class. ~~But~~ what was the "kind of game" were you playing?

Trygeos: Haven't you heard?

Hermes: I no longer see the incoming dispatches. I am now Zeus's principal trouble-shooter - but ^{have} not seat on the Council. I mistook, slightly, and Zeus ~~slapped his hand~~ ^{grappled} me and said "By the unanimous decisions of the Olympian I suspend you from the Council. The Council will approve of ^{it} ~~my~~ ^{go} decision. You see when Zeus decides his decisions is automatically considered to be collective will of us all. ~~This is the~~ ^{is the} modern form of our divine democracy. But please do go on

Trygeos: It is really nothing new. It has been going on for ages. (He ~~heavens~~ ^{heavens})

Hermes: I am listening.

Trygeos: Sparta and Athens are at war, ^{but} ~~they have been at it for a very long time~~ ^{lot of other cities are involved also on one side or the other.}

Hermes: Is that all: More toxicity. What's extraordinary about that?

Trygeos: You mean war?

Hermes: Yes. Is it anything unusual something ^{like a war} ~~like~~ a flood or ^{compulsion} ~~derverial~~ ~~compuls~~ ^{compulsion}?
It's a straight forward stupid war. What of it?

Trygeos: It has been going on for a long time - dreadfully long time.

Hermes: What was the cause? (Trygeos looks thoughtful). Was it started so long ago that you have forgotten the origin. (Pause) ^{How did it come about?} ~~what was it about~~

Trygeos: The Spartans wanted to kill us and we went to war to kill the Spartans.

Hermes: And why did the Spartans want to kill you.
 Tryges: Because they thought we ~~would~~ ^{would} kill them.
 Hermes: And why did they think that.
 Tryges: Because they thought they would kill us. and if they were going to kill us we might as well kill them and if... (Something ^{disturbs} ~~disturbs~~ on him and his voice fade away). ~~It's not discussed on me, how should we are.~~ ~~How good that we go through life like surrealists~~ - we dream and what we dream we believe we imagine and what we imagine we think it ~~is~~ and do one stupid thing ~~after~~ ^{after} another ~~until~~ ^{until} the dream becomes a nightmare and ~~make up~~ ^{make up} ~~early~~ ^{importantly} ~~momentarily~~ ^{By had what I see} ~~how~~ ~~unbelievably~~ ~~bleed~~ ~~stupid~~ ~~we~~ ~~do~~. ~~He~~ ~~comes~~ ~~again~~. Hermes ~~watches~~ ^{satirically} (satirically) yet there is right and wrong ^{there is only} ~~your~~ ~~love~~. The people ^{one} ~~you~~ ~~love~~ ~~the~~ ~~Temple~~; vision spun ~~out~~ of words, ^{voices} ~~which~~ speak like a spirit inside you. One is tangled with images. Oh! I am bewildered. ~~What~~ ^{You think you} ~~suppose~~ see clearly one moment you look again all is twisted, unrecognizable.

Hermes: You are putting forward a tantalizing hypothesis. Philosophers call it the negation of ^{what is} ~~negation~~ which means precisely nothing. But that is philosophy. I'll let you into a secret. When the gods want to amuse themselves and they ~~turn~~ ^{reflect} their ~~eyes~~ ^{eyes} ~~and~~ ~~nomos~~ on a city... Well it is not very interesting anymore. ^{shall} ~~Do you~~ ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~a~~ ~~game~~ ~~of~~ ~~hacqamun~~ or do you prefer ~~cauld~~ ^(1798. Hieronimo) ~~hacqamun~~ ~~or~~ ~~bring~~ ~~me~~ ~~the~~ ~~fac-tac~~.

Tryges: I will give you a game but only on one condition.
 Hermes: You are my guest. You should not impose conditions.
 Tryges: I mean to say if I win may I ~~be~~ ^{ask} a favour of you? (Hacqamun is brought in)
 Hermes: No objection of your asking. (The bring chairs and sit on ^{opposite} ~~either~~ sides of hacqamun) With two or three dice. Win 3 is more complicated but I think it is a better game.
 Tryges: We try with three. Who goes first, or shall we throw for?

Hermes: We throw. You fair (Tryges throw - ^{But even} Hermes does
use box violently) Three axes first throw - ^{it's} ^{very} ^{uncommon} ^{if it}
a bad omen for me. I can't play. (Cock draw). How was your journey.

Tryges: Awful but quite touchy.

Hermes: These kind of journeys always are ~~and~~ what can I do for you. But
remember I have very little time to waste... and please no facetiousness -
no crack, like the "I've never had no time".

Tryges: (Emboldened) I came to see Zeus, the father of the gods to please...

Hermes: (Stopping him) Out of the question.

Tryges: Why?

Compunctus: You dare ask of a god why.

Hermes: I have given him dispensation to talk. Have you got an opportunity?

Tryges: No.

Hermes: In that case nothing can be done. If you had an or even good credential
from ^{one of the high} ^{gods}, something ^{or} could be ^{perhaps} ^{dispatch} to him. I don't
suppose you have been informed - how could you - that the gods have
struck camp and departed.

Tryges: ~~That~~ Very distressing. Where are they now? On earth?

Hermes: You must be living in a fool's paradise Mr. Tryges - what with
all these ironmongery flying all over the place, ^{there} ^{or} ^{spitting} ^{spying}
blinking trailing their ^{smells} ^{and} ^{with} ^{stale} ^{sweats}
and the megatonic candle-flashes popping off around them
consider even the sky unsafe let alone that ⁱⁿ ^{your} ^{feel} ^{and} ^{unstable}
~~pieces of rock~~ ^{pieces of rock} and vapors you call earth. They have gone
away - to the other extremity of limitless heaven. The gods
have fled, Tryges. Can you ^{scarcely} ^{feel} the throbbing feeling of this post-
loun action; The concatenation of its poetry; its Fennois catachisms?
Abundantly no. You have not cultivated ^{an} ^{aesthetic} ^{theory}. You cannot
see beauty in ^{dish-water} ^{and} ^{not} ^{honour} ⁱⁿ ^{scuffle} ^{and} ^{scurry}.
But they are there. You only have to look ~~for~~ ^{at} ^{them}.
You are ^{to} ^{ask} ^{me} ^{why} ^{and} ^I ^{hope}. And why

is Garmynde here. I am the solitary rear-guard - I have to hold on till told to retire and by special favour of Zeus in my P.S. I have still a lot of work to do - issue dispatches, ~~interpret~~ ^{get the} interpret the usually obscure and contradictory ^{views} decisions of the Council into some intelligible English form. I suppose now you have to go.

Tygeos. I failed. I'm so frustrated I want to break something. (He makes for the bottles. Hermes stops in front)

Hermes. No vandalism here. What did you want Zeus for? ^{may I know, or is it} ~~Can you~~ private?

Tygeos. We have been at war such a long time that and we need Peace. I

Hermes. come to intercede with him & restore peace to us before we are ^{ruined} completely ~~we cannot stand in any longer. We are desperate. Lucky are we~~ ^{very} fortunate. ~~Send a coded signal; about this send it quickly and wait for reply.~~

(Hermes goes). That's the man into Sparta you were telling me just now.

Tygeos. Yes. It goes on and on.

Hermes. Which one is it. There are so many going on all the time

Tygeos. The one started by Pericles.

Hermes. The Peloponnesian War? I read about in Thucydides and in others. It lasted if I remember ^{correctly} ~~rightly~~, twenty-seven or twenty-eight years. If that is your way it has been over for ages. Athens lost last time ^{your} ~~your~~ ^{city} ~~city~~ ^{hitting} ~~hitting~~ the head lines was when a Roman called Sulla I believe ^{looted} ~~looted~~ ^{made} ~~made~~ ^{into} ~~into~~ a shambles.

Tygeos. (Anxious) I don't follow you. We lost the war? How! I left Karpoti the three Spartans and the other only this evening we were still ~~fighting~~ ^{fighting}. In fact it appeared that we were getting the better of the Spartans. Please don't ~~make~~ ^{stop} the cruel jokes. Does it mean that my wife and daughter have been killed or sold into slavery. (wails) Does it?

Hermes. Sorry ~~but~~ ^{but} facts must be faced. It ^{must have} ~~took~~ you a long time to come here. What you speak of is not ^{even} ~~even~~ memory, ^{to the} ~~not~~ ^{the} ~~broken~~ ^{broken} ^{among} ~~among~~ ^{these} ~~these~~ ^{who} ~~who~~ ^{live} ~~live~~ ^{near} ~~near~~ ^{it} ~~it~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{far} ~~far~~ ^{far} ~~far~~ ^{clear} ~~clear~~ ^{past} ~~past~~. ^{It} ~~It~~ ^{lives} ~~lives~~ ^{only} ~~only~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{some} ~~some~~ ^{history} ~~history ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{them} ~~them~~.~~~~

books for young boys to learn the great deeds of the past. Your wife and daughters, ~~and~~ all things you knew, the important and the unimportant ones, ~~disappeared~~ ^{vanished} like meteors between two worlds of the night. Like so many before found or ~~more~~ ^{more} after ~~except~~ ^{except} occasionally, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~disappeared~~ ^{disappeared} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing} behind ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~except~~ ^{except} ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~obscure~~ ^{obscure}.

not even a furrow in the void

~~a~~ avoid colour hangs about for while. (Tryges visible shrinks). You long part directed. No need to. There is always an atrocious end to whatever was a beginning. (Harmonides comes in and hands him a piece of paper)

Tryges
Herme

(lost) I better go. (He walks away while Herme reads the message)
Come back. (Tryges returns about) I have a message. I cannot make it all out. ~~Zem~~ ^{Zem} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~front~~ ^{front}. Like all the incumbents of power suffers from ~~foke~~ ^{foke} in ~~quandem~~ ^{quandem} uses a lot of riddles and ~~high~~ ^{pregnant} ~~fantasy~~ ^{fantasy} ~~notings~~ ^{notings}. It appears that your request for interview is refused. Mankind my parish - too many of them ~~after~~ ^{after} one thing and have given him many many headache for omittes. They don't know how to live, how to enjoy themselves or be happy. Their whole life is a treadmill rush from no-point to nowhere. And all the time they built walls and walls within walls around them which forced the nightmares of the individual into ~~probable~~ ^{probable} ~~reality~~ ^{reality} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~them~~ ^{them}. (Breath): ~~They~~ ^{They} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~comprehensible~~ ^{incomprehensible} ~~stunts~~ ^{stunts}. Universe ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~them~~ ^{them}. Complacit. Then do things to themselves themselves and those who do them complain the other want them done. ~~They~~ ^{They} ~~eat~~ ^{eat} ~~each~~ ^{each} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~grow~~ ^{grow} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time}. Know the worst and infallibly do it. I am tired of them. He is in one of his bad moods. He finds by instructing to pack and vacate this place. Polemos is taking over and will be here to-morrow. You know who he is: Polemos is not a god. the power of man

Tryges

I see. ~~There~~ ^{There} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~all~~ ^{all} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~me~~ ^{me}. (After a pause) It is really, ministers of to me. From what you said earlier I am not even alive perhaps I never ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~alive~~ ^{alive}. ~~what~~ ^{what} ~~am~~ ^{am} ~~I~~ ^I ~~a~~ ^a ~~ghost~~ ^{ghost}. Perhaps I am not me - I am ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~another~~ ^{another}.

Herme

No. Only one ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~a~~ ^a ~~wish~~ ^{wish}. Yet you were concerned and took form and you ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~most~~ ^{most} ~~enduring~~ ^{enduring} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~universe~~ ^{universe} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~you~~ ^{you}. You are the most enduring of the ~~universe~~ ^{universe} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~you~~ ^{you}. You were ~~born~~ ^{born} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~sexless~~ ^{sexless} ~~mind~~ ^{mind} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~a~~ ^a ~~kindly~~ ^{kindly} ~~will~~ ^{will}; the same as I was abated by unorganised fear.

Trygges
Herna

Then we have nothing to worry about.
Except that the illusion is real. While we were talking the advance-guard
of Polemas has ^{moved in} taken over the ground-floor. Time we left.

Trygges
Dyane
Herna

'Yes' (The door opens and a woman comes in with a determined stride)
'May I come in?' (laughs) what a silly question. I am in ^{with} it?
(Thank you by surprise) What the hell is this now. ^{What is not common} -
golden market place - this is a palace of the rich (as an after thought) -
you may call it a country-house of the rich.

Romynd
Dyane

We don't want her in here. Women bring bad luck.
Oh shut up ya ^{little bony little} ~~square~~ ^{square} ~~little~~ ^{little} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ <sup>the ~~house~~ ^{house} as I am here don't cross my
path again. Listen you two.</sup>

Trygges

I know you. How is Karpata. Don't you remember me? You saw the
Boetic dancer.

Dyane

Downside if you please. We don't indulge any more in Boetic work. You
mistake me for someone else, perhaps a grandfather so fine remember who
conceived a bastard by a god. Sorry.

Herna

Who are you. Not one of your mistresses. ~~Was~~ that he is getting old and ~~about~~ ^{going to earth} ~~to earth~~ ^{any longer}.
~~He~~ ^{He} calls his ^{mistresses} ~~girls~~ ^{up} home and sees them when there
is out of the way. Are you one of those?

Dyane

Does it matter who I am? Call me what you like. Demeter or
Dryad; mother or mistress; virgin or virago; nymph or wench;
Amazon or harlot; comforter or seducer; maiden or madreg;
harlot or heroine. I am all ~~these~~ ^{these} and everything at the same
time. Satisfied? Now let's go on. I could not help overhear what
you said.

Trygges

But you must be the Boetic dam-damsess. I recognise you. How
how nice you look (He tries to embrace her. She one push ~~her~~ ^{him}).

Dyane

There is a time and a place for everything master Trygges - carnival
Beast. And you are the tribe that formally call us names and

who have made the most expressive words in the vocabulary those that designate us. Up (lies and ~~gives~~ ^{pulls} a ~~line~~ ^{him} up. Put her hand on his shoulder and turn to Hermes.) Well what are you planning to do? Because: where to? You are both tied by a lengthening succession of umbilical cords to your creators. I have heard what you said. You are concerned and you ~~become~~ ^{begin to use the} ~~in the~~ ^{essential} ~~two possible~~ ^{material} ~~being~~ ^{appears} quality is your reaction. No audience - you flee; otherwise you ^{use} bare your sharp teeth and get ready to finish the game one way or another. You react like a rabbit or a bull. You never think.

Trygeer. Do you since when have women started to think?

Dyane. Ever since we became conscious of our launches ^{suggested to us that they are} ~~at the~~ ^{our} ~~key to~~ ^{creation} ~~creation~~. We became conscious of our ~~purpose~~ ^{purpose} and continue to receive our end. We plan, we plot, we think. We use you, yes, but ~~we~~ ^{also} try to make you grow up; but grow your childish illusions your dreams of glory, your senseless striving after what? achievement - you never know what it is and you cannot even define. But you remain mowed to your infantile claims. You refuse to grow. You are, in fact a biological ~~mistake~~ ^{mistake}. Some mathematician jester made out of an ellipse.

Hermes. Do you always bludgeon your men into surrender or do you use other stratagems as well. ^{I cannot possibly} ~~For the~~ ^{imagine} visualize how anyone will fall for you unless you fall on top of him. (Ha! Ha! - but she remains grave). Misplaced joke! Women, or humankind. All the ~~time~~ ^{years} I have known ~~there~~ I have never managed to make her laugh at any of my jokes. She ~~always~~ looked into her big owl-eyes and ~~could~~ ^{could} smile grim at me as if to say: You poor silly ass! You are not one of that type, are you? Well now that you have insulted us what do you want of us?

Dyane. Don't give up ~~ball~~ ^{ball} there to Polemos. Stay put - you commence, you wisdom, your diplomacy, your conciliator. ~~stay~~

Hermes. It is more than my life is worth. I got my instructions.
Trygeer. Nothing can be done.

Peace is a condition - not a matter about to be raped and has to be saved. Unless you mean that horrible image of Lew Polemos buried down in the pit (the tables here to his feet is where Peace is buried. Deep under that

Dyana.
Hermes.

stand and help the same Peace. Orders are orders and must be obeyed (you see! that pit down there heap of stones. But I have to go. Orders are orders.

Dyana.

Well what of it. Nothing can be cleared away, stones can be cleared away. Will you help. (Heavy footsteps and heavy drums are heard). What is this.

Hermes.

Polemos is coming to take possession. He will be here soon.

Dyana

Don't be afraid of Tygeos takes her hand and slaps it.

Tygeos.

Pleased to have met you. ^{Dyana. Every? Tygeos. Yes. I failed. I am going back. I am} ^{of those when one can fit and do his proper work. I have to go to the} ^(To have what?) ^{I cannot understand abstraction.} ^{you go down to the ground}

Hermes. Tygeos

Just a moment. ^{way from below the sky} ^{will you say to you} ^{you will see what they have done. Polemos has a whole army of} ^{- all eyes heads with a villainous look. Tough, security commission as to} ^{and they work in ones and twos sometimes more, in}

subordinate cubicles. Thousands of cubicles miles of labyrinthine corridors. On each door there is a number. ^{I was told, was} ^{dealt, with thought} ^{another with "psychological credibility"} ^{"mutual image coordination"} ^{"seismogenom economics"} ^{"philosophical warfare"}

"fissile technology"
"cosmic navigation"
"cell-observation"

"sexual subversion" "inter-stellar intjection" "ethic perpiration research"
"inter-continental optics" "long-range-^{of liberation} ^{destruction} ^{capabilities"}
"death-life rational computer" "earth-destabilizer research center"

and hundreds more. Also room full of plans, files, document diagrams and ^{general information, diagrams} ^{(I was reliably informed from the "conditioned} ^{ethos of the flea" to the "statistical probability of cosmic collision} ^{affecting the incidence of fertility" and. All these department work like an} ^{organism unit and are all informed by the spirit of Polemos. Once they} ^{really set to work the noise will be infernal. Can you understand now} ^{that added reason why I should go. (He walks off. Tygeos does shrug} ^{heard off through unaware in volume).}

Dyane

Don't leave me

(Commandingly! Stop! Both of you! I am afraid; desperately afraid. Polems
 buried his enemy deep and the bellows in his million mitres are blowing
 I can feel their breath. I can his rancous command escalating downwards
 - cool, precise with their fatal ring of finality. (Noise). ^{is} This ^{the} preamble
 God or the real thing: Oh, God. (Coven has face with her hands)
 Can't you hear? Listen. The deep throated roar of engines revving up.
 The ~~commingling~~ ^{leading} ~~crash~~ ^{crash} of ~~crashing~~ ^{crashing} ~~swords~~ ^{swords} between panicked nations; the many-
 voiced ^{oath} ~~oath~~ from cities bristling with murderous intent; the clashes
 of bodiless words reaching the peaceful air. Unseen havoc hissing
 hideous death... (almost hysterical) fireball embracing fireball
 I cannot stand it. (She staggers about. Hermes and Tyger
 come and support her.) She looks up at them)
 Thank you my friends. There is no escape and there is ^{very} little
^{escape} from it. ~~Thank~~ Tyger, please hurry and bring your friends here - every
 body. Polemos must be contained. Hurry.

Tyger

(Gives a hesitant affirming nod)

Hermes

Resistance is futile

Dyane

I would like you to stay Hermes; You have grown weary - that's all. Once
 you called the gods, or have you forgotten it, against Zeus and established
 the principle of equality at the council table. Omnipotent Zeus became the
 first enemy equal. You have allowed him to regain his former power. You
 fault. You have given in. Don't give in now. This will roll you
 youth, ~~your~~ ^{your} youth back. (She goes and embraces him. Hermes
 softens and converse has lain. With his free hand he tells
 Amyrdes to disappear and ~~to~~ Tyger

Hermes

What are you waiting for Tyger. Hurry. (Works at him)
 Curtain falls

SCENE II

Same as before. ~~Time~~, a few seconds it may have been ^{passed} ~~afterwards~~ ^{or} few millennia. Dyane, is walking ^{about} thoughtfully. Stops and picks

a flower from a bowl by the large window.]
Dyane. [stretching herself] ^{Smells the air (breathes deeply) I barely} ~~How wonderful~~ ^{It does} ~~How good~~ ^{and she} ~~to be alive~~ ^{looks out of} (She looks at the flower) How does it go? How? Hum...

Love - grips - and

From restless limbs tightens at the throat
and before the word comes ~~to~~ ^{the} ~~leaves~~ ^{the} ~~limbs~~ ^{limbs} to ecstasy; I am alone
alone within myself and within you
make illumination dark, I cried,
alone within myself and within you
myself alone.

Love grips - ^{through it}
From restless limbs tightens at the throat
The silent clamor of unworded nerve,
Limbs tense leaped to ecstasy
From limbs that are curved for
wisdom.
I am alone! speechless and
Tread, ^{in the} ~~in the~~ ^{darkness} ~~darkness~~ of my illumination
for I am alone within myself
and within you ~~and~~ ^{and} within you alone

(She forms the last line - Hermes comes in)

Hermes: what are you humming?

Dyane: Did you have a nice bath?

Hermes: Campidolo was wild because I let you rub my back. I told him that for me it was a rare luxury. Goddesses don't know how to use their hands. They are too presumptuous. Where did you learn ^{your exquisite} ~~how~~ art of touch. Don't reply. Mystery even for a god has advantages. You haven't answered my question.

Dyane: where is he really wild?

Hermes: He went off in a huff. He has grown a fabulous beard and he says that from now on he will ~~be~~ ^{be} only the Muses - no one else.

Dyane: ^(thoughtful) And ~~they~~ ^{they} are all female.

Hermes: Nowadays they are some who are hermaphrodites - these bloody poets have bunched my name about so much that they even made me the impotent half of this ~~unstable~~ ^{unstable} uncomfortable mixture. Still -

Dyane: Your question!

Hermes: Yes!

Dyane: Not about ^{my exquisite part of} ~~the~~ ^{truth} of course. What about any other arts?
Hermes: Life-giving. (He embraces her). Now, at last I can understand ~~why~~ ^{why}

house with pull. I used to laugh at ^{the tricks of} old Zeus ^{and his} ~~himself~~ ^{himself} now to a bull to a swan to an old man or a young shepherd, just for an affair. Poor fellow. He wanted to escape from the remorseless maternity body of Hera with his ^{childish} ~~virtue~~ ^{virtue} and inability.

Dyane: Is n't she any good?

Hemer: If you ask me I think that even her moments of ecstasy are calculated

Dyane: (Laughs) Poor Hera. Funny - the same word twice ^{within} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~two~~ ^{two} minutes. I was humming something just now. It was what psychologists describe as feminine post-coitus cooling off reaction. How do we communicate ^{we are alone} when ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~are~~ ^{are} alone? ~~When~~ ^{When} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~are~~ ^{are} alone in love we are still alone. Why? I like to hold you, not only to feel you to be ^{you} ~~you~~ to be you. That how ^{you} ~~you~~ can fulfil ~~the~~ ^{our} ourselves - by breaking down our isolation. ~~It was~~ ^{It was} ~~never~~ ^{never} ~~quite~~ ^{quite} good. It was a mood and has passed.

Hemer: It is a bit too esoteric for me. I have never been one for introspectiveness too long. You like it here!

Dyane: Could n't be better. Central-heating, air conditioning, every comfort ... and you - ageless and timeless! What more can a woman want?

Hemer: Yes I cannot get quite believe it myself. Ever since Polemos installed himself here we have doing unbelievably well. Imagine me, a mere tribal god always under provisioned always scrounging ... and now this, to live like Rockefeller. And all because of Polemos. ~~How~~ ^{He spends enormous sums of money} ~~money~~ ^{money} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~where~~ ^{where} does he get it from?

Dyane: It always baffled me. Everybody is poor. No one has anything to give. Nobody cannot get help. Old men can have no success. The ill, the ~~destitute~~ ^{destitute} and ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~only~~ ^{only} ~~there~~ ^{there} the unknowns cannot be ~~provided~~ ^{provided} - none of these ^{can be adequately} ~~can be~~ ^{adequately} ~~adequately~~ ^{adequately} ~~provided~~ ^{provided} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~speaking~~ ^{speaking} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~privations~~ ^{privations}, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~there~~ ^{there} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~money~~ ^{money} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~had~~ ^{had}. And yet there is always money for Polemos. Never was there a shortage of money for Polemos and never will there be. ~~It is~~ ^{It is} ~~a~~ ^a ~~bottomless~~ ^{bottomless} ~~pit~~ ^{pit} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~a~~ ^a ~~careless~~ ^{careless} ~~stream~~ ^{stream} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~gold~~ ^{gold} ~~flows~~ ^{flows}. It is beyond ~~understanding~~ ^{understanding}.

Hermes: Mind you he is a first class fellow and he will do anything for us. I had a chat with him and he is not at all what Tryges imagines him to be. Brave, cultured, and very, very knowledgeable. He looks after his men well too. They have the best of everything and they are the first everywhere - they have priority in everything even ~~above~~ ^{over} my priest. He asked me if we were comfortable and told me not to hesitate to ask if ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~right~~ ^{right} anything. And ~~it is not~~ ^{his proposals are} ~~not~~ ^{too} valid; they never ~~lounge~~. ^{we have no qualms} (It is the first time I met ~~some~~ ^{someone} honest and the first time I have been treated with genuine deference.

Dyane: They are ^{our} ~~my~~ ^{met}.

Hermes: They have been rather quiet recently. ~~No shouting, the more hazy, no~~ ^{they are obviously afraid} ~~rushing about, or shouting~~. ~~Like just~~ ^{people} ~~slipping down~~ ^{with} ~~their guns cocked~~ ^{waiting}. I ~~readily~~ ^{wait} ~~waited~~, waiting for our game to appear.

Dyane (Shudders) Thunder are going down my spine.

Hermes: Do you feel cold. Shall I put on the heater.

Dyane: No. No! I am scared. This eerie silence makes me ~~scared~~ ^{apprehensive} - ~~scared~~.

Hermes: What are they doing? Why are they such a long time.

Hermes: You mean Tryges and the rest. (Dyane says yes with her eyes). I shouldn't worry about them. They are so many after all and they can do the job. I have been told that no ~~obstacles~~ ^{And he is really quiet, that kept his word. He} will be put in their way - at least by our friends below. ^{Well, it's up to them. ~~They~~ ^{can't} ~~make~~ ^{make} a way.}

Dyane (Smiles with inner smile) It was really funny. And very very touching!

Hermes: My brown is all that agile. One moment terror ... the next giggles.

Dyane: They are ^{aspect} ~~really~~ ^{near} of the same thing. But it had nothing to do with what we were saying. A picture flashed in mind. It happens to me when I am scared. It was funny and made me laugh. You see it in a big city full of people rushing about on foot in cars, taxis, buses, ^{and} bicycles. ~~From~~ ^{And} there in the middle of a busy street amidst all this commotion steps a duck ^{also} ~~looking~~ ^{straight} ahead and followed by nine duckling

A woman's touch is soft, comfortable; the whole of it is attractive
every bit of it is nice. and that suggests an of subcutaneous
fat.

Such dignity. Like a duchess. ²⁴

It was really wonderful (She laughs)

Hermes

What happened?

Dyane

Breaks sneaked ^{people and vehicles stopped} everything in their tracks and they crossed the street, very very proud and very indifferent. They were duels you see. Don't look puzzled there is no pride in it. But we can make one out if he wishes. (She laughs again) Do you like me?

Hermes

Let me see ^{hm hm, I feel} (Statistics - ^{not right} good. Department - ^{good} pit right. Walk - ^{you have a fit} # gives the ^{best} impression ^{which gives me} you are not afraid to face anything, man w god. Breast ^{like} and ^{carver - unceasingly elevated;} ^{your} ^{and} ^{expectant;} and the ^{lines} ^{which} ^{ever} ^{side} ^{or} ^{whichever} ^{way} I look at you are ^{so} fragile they require a constant support. ~~But~~ My favourite? Your expressive nose and the short, curved disdainful upper lip which ^{is} ^{an} ^{association} with the other as ^{investigation} plays havoc with the architecture of my body. How do I like you?

Dyane

You like what you see of me - You don't ^{not the real} love me.

Hermes

Is there another you? I would like to meet her. What I see is good enough for me and what ^{she} can make of it is even better. Shall we go in?

Dyane

(Tearingly) while she dances provocatively. The exact, I suppose, a new variation of the same thing: - The tentative approach (she makes the notion of feeling ^{the} ^{man}); the preparation (notion of being ^{the} ^{careless}); ^{preceding} ^{sensualisation}; (looks innocently incomprehending); the sharp, steady clash; and oh! the lingering abasement. ^{How} ^{do} I get it right? ^{tain} ^{the} ^{trial} ^{and} ^{the} ^{error}

Hermes

You know! But don't turn it into a manual for amateurs - it ^{will} ^{go} ^{right}.

Dyane

You are the one who formulated and applied it not I.

Hermes

Al right. I will bet do all the guiding and leading. Take charge; ^{my} ^{go} ^{what} ^{ever} ^{you} ^{can} ^{compare} ^{the} ^{results}. I will co-operate wholeheartedly

Dyane

O! Yes!

Hermes

Come! (He ^{moves} ^{towards} her and she runs away)

Dyane

I am the wolf - you remember. Stay where you are (Suddenly there is an intrusion of people with placards and banners shouting)

Hermes

People come at the most awkward moment. (This is just heard)

above the noise: "Save the ancient - Monument - destroy the living monument - men." Disarm in order to conquer. "The less you do the more you have". "Be strong - until all are weak". "Hands off Roma". "Save Caesar - men are men when they fight men, not machines." "More - less in economy". "There is such a hallaballo, Herzer bei his (temp.) Stopp! Stop! Now that you are quiet may I know what is the meaning of all this. (They shout again) Shut up. Get out. This is private property. You are trespasser - you are all trespassers.

Cicero: This is Elysium, universal not private property. We have a right to be here (looks at Dyane). She is still here.

Herzer: My bearded Cicero! Have you arranged all this in order to spoil my afternoon? If so you have succeeded, ^{but} is it possible to know the reason why to disturb our privacy and show us before all this crowd as if there is not enough gossip going the rounds already.

Cicero: (ignores her). I didn't arrange it. I started and they followed. Each ^{with} ~~and~~ put their case before the gods and each one represents thousands perhaps millions of like-minded supporters.

Herzer: Tell them I cannot hear complaints. I am not a father confessor and I can do nothing for them either now or hereafter. Tell them... I better tell them myself... I am only a ^{insignificant} ~~small~~ god ^{without any authority} ~~power~~ I transmit orders, I carry out instructions, help to replenish the celestial borders with all kinds of sharp death, subtle fuge and even downright robbery, I help some difficult souls across the stormy Acheron to life Hades, I help an occasional crook to become a tycoon or as soon as he becomes one he discards me, I arrange stock exchange deals to keep money circulating and by circulation grow - have you ever thought of that... go wind and wind cold, lifeless and at the same time multiply - I have seen enough of divine folly and human cupidity to be abounded at nothing and I have become convinced that alarmists are always wrong, there

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always ^{enough} evidence on both sides of every question to enable you in all sincerity and with good conscience to remain ^{completely} uncommitted. Hence I made myself clear;

All together ^{amplify a stentorian} NO, ~~to~~

Campyrah You prevaricate - that's what they think

Polemos (Unseen heard through amplifiers) - Hermes, what's happening there?

Hermes As it noisy -

Polemos Yes. ~~And in consequence~~ ^{And in consequence} as it is I hate noise. Do you want any help?

Hermes No thank you. You can switch off now. It's surprising though that you, ~~should~~ ^{should} hate noise and advertise it ~~so~~. You revealed your Achilles' heel... so buy.

All together Who was that?

Campyrah Polemos - [All together gasp on 'Ah!'] Are you going to listen to us.

Hermes (To Pyane) Sit by me dear and bring me a glass of wine.

One of the demonstrators with long hair.

"Right and wrong confusedly mixed
In a world that's full of war, a world that stinks
with crime, which drives the ploughman
his honour and forces the deer from the
fields of desolation to the wicks and turn the scythe
to murderous steel." (Several together) We are against it

Hermes (To Campyrah) Tell her (he pauses and goes near) it is a her, not to plagiarise Virgil and tell her what is happening here.

The demonstrator. I am a unilateralist

2nd Demonstrator. I am a multilateralist

3rd " I want us to be strong to defend, not strong to offend.

4th Dem I want everybody to mind his business - hands of everybody else.

1st D. whose hands?

2nd D. The other fellows' - We need general and ^{complete} ~~complete~~ ^{that's what we need} ~~complete~~ ^{commitment}.

3rd D. How are you going to enforce it ~~you have not got any strength~~ ^{you have not got any strength}

1st D. By example! we ~~take them off~~ ^{take things off} first ourselves first.

2nd D. Cameras may lurk somewhere. All of us together - then we are safe.

3rd D. No. ~~What~~ we force them nothing happens.

Campyris: Down with all of them. This should be our slogan. Down with all of them - then everybody will be safe. (Hermes - looks bewildered)

Diane (to Hermes) They are obviously better but more multifarious versions of ^{need your help} Kamfobots.

Hermes: if you show them all whom are you going to leave standing?

Campyris: the faith

the others together. And every one else.

Hermes: just a moment. You want to destroy all who are not young or none including ^{young} us.

3rd D. Only those who want to destroy us.

Hermes: I am not going to ask why; I asked that of my friend ^{got a rich cousin} Kappoth 3000 years ago and who are they; Are they many?

2nd D. Only a few. But ~~they have lots of other~~ ^{with}

3rd D. But they are very powerful.

Hermes: To come that far you must be very determined. You are half young. I see no big fat guys flashing gold chains or milk-covered dunes with you. You are little, strong, courageous. Fight them. That is all you have to do. I will tell you what happened ~~me~~ ^{ages} ago. I was returning from a long trip. Zeus sent me to ask Prometheus to repent. He was ~~a~~ stubborn and stupid. Repent? Never. He had an idea. ~~It~~ led him do certain things. You see action is the outcome of thought. Thought leads to action. Correct? (Bowie starts looking puzzled) Well then if thought leads to action and action to further thought and so ~~over~~ you go on doing things. You shape your life. And if others think and do likewise then you shape the story of life. But supposing that your thought lead to belief.

Diane (punches him and whispers in his ear). ^{Get on with the story; don't lecture them} You were ~~telling them a story~~ ^{if they are bored they can}

Hermes: (Not so quietly) Something flashed in my head; ~~and wanted to~~ ^{become} leave as above. If you start or end with belief then your actions ^{are} sacrosanct and your ideas sacred. No one can talk or argue with you. You are a know-all and an infernal nuisance. Well, I was ~~returning~~

lined, upset
 from ~~him~~ and angry. Angry with Prometheus who ^{stood on} ~~was~~ his dignity ^{was}
 his beliefs and suffering his unending martyrdom, and angry at Zeus who
 imposed that martyrdom for no reason except ^{what he could do to} ~~to~~ ^{be an imperator}
 the matter of policy. The Masters and subordinates fell out. And these
 gentlemen you have the whole idiotic drama of human affairs in a nutshell.
 Authority and defiance. And the problem, your problem is how to make
 defiance authoritative without giving it authority. Again (I digressed)

Coming back approaching Olympus - we were still primitive, being Olympians
 I saw all the gods trooping down, long-faced, dejected ^{literally} ~~with~~ their tails between
 their legs. ^{all} These arrogant ^{pleasure like} gods ~~they~~ they looked damned ridiculous. I stopped
 them and asked why they were running away. Zeus said was none of his
 unpredictable mess, accused all of incompetence, dereliction of duty and some
 of treachery and kicked them all out.

I asked: what are you? they answered: Gods and what is Zeus?
 God. Well you are gods he is god what you have to be afraid of. Back
 all of you. Meanwhile Hephaestus arranged for a lightning conductor to ~~be~~
 rise his bolts and we all marched in dreary business. He was tried.
 Started to shout but we cut him short. I told him that if he tried to use
 force we shall use force against him and do to him what he did to his
 father. And we shall start. I continued drawing my sword where
 he stood - and I pointed at his genitals. Zeus yielded and from
 master he planned to be he has remained our chairman. He learns his
 lesson and I must say he has not yet forgiven me. He always calls
 me the ^{non-con-} ~~non-~~formidably brazen little god.

Do likewise.

1st D. Our policy is not to kill people off, but even threaten them but to
 convince them.

3rd D. How can you convince your opponents, you don't even speak their
 language, unless by force or the fear of it.

The megatone glantly lamp

The people want the earth to live
and live as it they like

The people plea for the earth to live
and live nice if they cry.

To plants and trees and birds we give
this solemn, stern reply

Shun the ~~earth~~ ^{all} fear from nerve and soul

~~where we are~~ ^{to reach the goal}

to strike the light which ~~threaten~~ ^{from the land}
from the heart and hand of man

to strike the light from ~~murder~~ hand
the light that ~~strike~~ ^{and} burn we can

strike it from ~~murder~~ ^{how}

strike it from ~~murder~~ ^{how}

Hermes. And mine ^{are} ~~mine~~ you - (he becomes violent and sees and embraces her) the whole of you, every little bit of you, ~~part~~ ^{every} ~~part~~, ~~mine~~, ~~fold~~, ~~carry~~, ~~you~~ ~~sugared~~ ~~breath~~ (sorrow, Shakespearean echo) all ~~the~~ ~~unexplorable~~ ~~mysteries~~ ~~of~~ ~~you~~ ~~and~~ ~~your~~ ~~unexplorable~~ ~~mysteries~~ ~~for~~ ~~hold~~, ... and even your funny little ~~ears~~ ^{eyes}! (He kisses her). You wise to hide them.

Dyane. How you talk - (she puts her finger across his mouth) you talk too much (she takes him by the hand and walks across to the window) Here come Tryges.

Hermes. This is getting bloody monstrous. ^(indicates Tryges) ~~More~~ ~~complaint~~, ~~more~~ ~~feelings~~ ~~and~~ ~~more~~ ~~disgrace~~ her out, we pushed her down, we saved her, we lost her - aren't they ever tired of these palling repetitions. I don't want to see her - help and forget all about Tryges, and let her go to the purple room, it is insulated against noise, ~~and~~ ~~let~~ ~~her~~ ~~be~~ ~~dead~~ ~~gone~~. (They go. Stage empty for a while. Apparition of a figure in the corner. Enter Tryges.)

Tryges. Hermes! (Touches Hermes) where is he. ^(he opens all doors) ~~Still~~ ~~touch~~ ~~Hermes~~.

Polonius. ^(still on apparition) You are disturbing me.

Tryges. (Taken aback by the sound) Ah!

Polonius. I said you are disturbing me.

Tryges. Yes.

Polonius. What answer is this. Have you heard me or have you not?

Tryges. I said I have heard.

Polonius. In that case stop speaking. Our work involves a lot of concentration and planning and ^{we} need to be quiet. ~~Don't~~ ~~touch~~ ~~Hermes~~ and all ~~the~~ ~~guests~~ ~~are~~ ~~here~~ ~~on~~ ~~purpose~~. ^(Consequently no noise)

Tryges. (getting over his fright). May I ask you something? Really I don't want to bother you but I feel I have a right to know. I am a citizen of a democratic country and we usually give some hints about the bad things which are being arranged for us. The others, poor things, don't even have this ~~hint~~ ~~advance~~ ~~notice~~.

Polonius. You are a democrat! How interesting. ^{From one also a democrat} ~~It~~ ~~never~~ ~~do~~ ~~anything~~ ~~before~~ ~~letting~~ ~~everybody~~ know what I am about and then have a vote on it. You of course vote and decide ~~what~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~, ~~before~~ ~~its~~ ~~role~~, ~~reward~~, ~~punish~~ ~~or~~ ~~fight~~ ~~and~~ ~~when~~ ~~is~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~.

It is ^{rather}³⁶ complicated. It goes something like this.

Trygges

Not quite like that, we vote but don't decide because those we vote for decide themselves; and we don't actually decide whom to vote for because that has been already decided by committees which have been advised by leaders who in turn have been elected from lists prepared by leaders. As you see it is rather complicated. But they tell what is to be done. No secret. We always know the difficulties we are up to alright. How much we'll pay for this what will happen to us if we fight and if we don't. and we are always ^{constantly} ^{invasively} ~~promised~~ ~~except~~ told of bad times ahead. Never even have I heard anybody saying that things are alright and getting better, enjoy yourselves. Always we are being warned about something or other. That's democracy.

Polemus

Do you prefer the other kind? ^{the of} ^{If not paranoias they are} ^{the} ^{books and ranters}

Trygges

You mean the dictatorship? Not on your life. We've had some I know. They ^{fold} ^{always} ~~you~~ ~~that~~ ~~they are~~ ~~going~~ ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~you~~ ~~stronger~~ ~~bigger~~ ~~and~~ ~~fatter~~ ~~and~~ ~~don't~~ ~~even~~ ~~allow~~ ~~you~~ ~~enough~~ ~~to~~ ~~eat.~~ You are Polemus: ^{we} ^{have} ^{been} ^{introduced} ^{and} ^{want} ^{you} ^{to} ^{praise} ^{them} ~~but~~ ~~I~~ ~~know~~ ~~may~~ ~~I~~ ~~ask~~ ~~something.~~

Polemus

No ahead.

Trygges

What are you up to now?

Polemus

Surprisingly badly pleased in dear Trygges and clumsily asked. I am not up to anything. I never ^{I am not up to anything} ^{am} ^{being} ^{resorted} ^{to} if you can get my meaning. Now I am simply watching. An ~~amusing~~ ^{amusing} situation is developing between two issues. An anxious one (Dyane enters). Come in Dyane. I am having a tête à tête with Trygges.

Trygges

(Dyane's presence ^{imposes} ~~forces~~ military courage). Why don't you leave us alone. We want to live our lives in peace. (To Dyane) Well, saved her.

Dyane

What are we waiting for - let's celebrate. Will you join us Polemus?

Polemus

Delighted. I ~~will~~ ~~love~~ ~~to~~ ~~drink~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~health~~ ~~of~~ ~~my~~ ~~obverse~~ ~~image.~~ Why is she by the way?

Trygges

She will be along. I guess if ~~she~~ ^{then} ^{near} ^{her} ^{out} ^{with} ^{them} ^{welcomes} (Then

went to a bar in the corner. Pick up glasses - toward one another) ~~at last~~
Dyane. To us - To Peace - To the world... I must invite Hermes (She presses an invisible button. A crowd comes in)

Polemos (memorable) I will drink to that. (When the crowd come in) A celebration night.

Dyane I must have pressed the wrong button. (Presses again. There is a lot of commotion and talk. One ^{catches} occasional word. "We are finished with this barbarism... Once and for all... No one will dare take us on again... We suffered; serves them right... I say you look smashing") This chatter goes on and ~~from~~ ^{becomes} the two mutual understandings of what follows.)

Trygeos. (To Dyane) To your health. (Drinks) I don't know... ^{I don't} I feel comfortably.

Polemos. ~~Success~~ ^{You have achieved} your aim. Are you elated by your success Trygeos?

Trygeos. The price was... unpeatably heavy. If we only knew.

Polemos. It always is. (Hermes comes in) - Take him out)

Trygeos. Yes. Thanks to you and your doings.

Hermes. You two got together at last. Now best see who is going to convince whom or who is going to stick a knife into the other... ~~friend~~.

Dyane. Is there a second Kii fuy?

Hermes. Invariably.

Polemos. Now you have peace. What are you going to do. Pick the grapes, gather the harvest, have ~~or~~ ^{midday} ~~midday~~ sleep under the fig-tree - I know all that. But what are you going to do with them?

Trygeos. I don't know. ~~The only thing I know is~~ ^{But we must abolish} you for ever.

Hermes. Too true, ~~old~~ ^{hey} ~~old~~. You are no longer a distraction. You become ^{an annoyance} a ~~compulsion~~.

Dyane. Can you be persuaded to abolish yourself?

Polemos. I haven't got much time ^{to} but Hermes will read you ^{my answer} ~~that~~ ^{the hand} a paper I have to go soon. But before going I would like to ask Trygeos how he proposes to abolish. I am naturally interested.

Trygeos. Because everybody has rejected you. That's the beginning of the end.

Polemos: Well my Tryges. I wish you every success ~~in the world~~ ^{in the world}. You have a lot of supporters.

Tryges: We have quon million-headed million-headed Polemos, and as I said early we are going to abolish you.

Dyane: Consider yourself as non-existent, ~~as~~ one of the vanished forms ^{of your distorted} ~~which had no coherence~~ ^{of your distorted} the haunting bruise of conscience which had its dying fall.

Polemos: (Sinner but serious) Duty by decree can now prompt a lyrical phrase. No one produces me any longer. Gone the days when I was welcomed as the father of everything and the dispenser of the highest virtues. But you are preposterous (to Tryges). To abolish me you have to abolish yourself. (Turning to Dyane) I cannot say the same about you. You ^{are} the frozen spark ~~of~~ ^{of} the primordial cumulative spasm which spans Time. You are indestructible, you can understand me. And perhaps you can make Tryges understand. You see me. I am the excreted monster, the destroyer, the hot breath of fury which withers creation. You contemplate me and you wish on scraps. You feel my presence and there is martial posture and exultation in you. You live with such a life that ^{makes} ~~reality~~ you truly alive. You cannot deny that (a whistling aerial sound is heard) I am wanted. Sorry, I have to leave you — and... for your sake I won't say on reversion. Hermes will ^{finish} ~~finish~~ this soliloquy for me. Good bye. (All raised)

~~And he of the kind~~ head life. it is nice.

Dyane: As long as he is inactive and stays in the chthonic look he can be nice. Be-
cause really he understands ^{lots of people} ~~life~~ and particularly us women. He takes off our horns.

Tryges: Can we have the rest Hermes. (Hermes takes the paper from his pocket) You mean he had it all prepared — like in a play. I am surprised. Well you never know

Hermes: lets find the place he left off. (moves his lips) You cannot deny that yes here it is. You cannot possibly deny it because as you know I have no existence outside of you. I am really an unsubstantial force which has not ~~exists~~ ^{exists} entity or volition and yet capable of destroying you. This means that you are capable of destroying

Voice of Polonos: Come down here for a little while. I want you to meet some one

Herman: Whom do you want there?

Voice: You, Dyane and Trygve

Herman: (To Trygve) ^{Have you had} ~~heard~~ from ~~answering~~ (To the rest). ^{you have heard -} ~~from home~~

We three are going to visit the "nerve center of power" You ^{have to see go on} ~~mean~~ ^{or you can} ~~show~~ ^{down and} ~~find~~ ^{join} ~~know~~ ^{it} and the rest in all ^{probability} ~~you~~ ^{will} ~~be~~ ^{needed.} ~~(The~~ ~~all~~ ~~depart~~ (Herman, Dyane & Trygve leave)

stay with

Scene IV

(A huge office. Karpotis is there smoking a foulback and talking to a ^{man} ~~woman~~)

KARPOTIS: This United Nations territory - you have no jurisdiction ^{here} ~~over it~~. The other man: We'll see about it. (A ^{man} ~~woman~~ ^{comes} ~~in~~) Would it you give her half Karpotis: Not even a quarter. I buy them for tench of the price I am ^{selling} ~~and~~ I can get as many as I like. My original offer stands!

The other man: My government ~~also~~ ^{won't} ~~stand~~ ^{for} ~~that~~.

Karpotis: Then let your government sit on their ^{hands} ~~and~~ ^{should} ~~they~~ ^{be} ~~involved~~ ^{anyhow}. This is a job for ^{business} ~~business~~. What do ^{you} ~~your~~ ^{want} ~~to~~ ^{get} ~~out~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{Control}?

The other man: You not only destroyed our business - here you are also ^{spying} ~~spying~~ ^{on} ~~us~~. You will spy no more. (pulls a revolver, Karpotis is too quick for him)

Karpotis: Drop it and clean out. Drop it. (He does so and walks away)

The other man: The United Nations will have about it - you are a neo-

Karpotis: Yes? ^{mine} ~~don't~~ ^{are} ~~set~~ ^{are} ~~on~~ ^{not} ~~so~~ ^{dear} ~~as~~ ^{your} (laughs) ^{gather} ~~a~~ ^{couple} ~~of~~ ^{pieces} ~~on~~ ^{my} ~~heap~~ ^{of} ~~trash~~ ^{who} ~~are~~ ^{here} ^{now} ~~did~~ ^{you} ~~blow~~ ⁱⁿ. (embraces him) ^{how} ~~did~~ ^{you} ~~know~~ ^I ~~was~~ ^{here}

Trygve: We have been invited to meet you

KARPOTIS: You are welcome. The place is yours, you can order what you like drink what you like go gambling, skiing, clubbing, whatever you want to do. You see all these are money. (A ^{gesture} ~~gesture~~ ^{takes} ~~in~~ ^{everything}) And ^{my} ~~my~~ ^{name} ~~I~~ ^{have} ~~a~~ ⁶⁰⁰ ~~million~~ ^{commodore} ~~full~~ ^{of} ~~gold~~ ^{marks}

Trygve: I don't understand.

KARPOTIS: Of course you don't. We must all have a drink, (some of us specials, and I will explain it to you (he hands them drinks))

Dyane suggests when I left them everything ⁴¹ was going on fine. If you've loved any violent accident in a welcome change?

KARPOV (Boris in). You look as if ~~what happened?~~

KARPOV (to the others) You didn't stay long enough. ~~What was the idea just to serenade us and come back here to shelter us?~~ ^{What was the idea just to serenade us and come back here to shelter us?} You weren't sheltering for long (to the others) ^{She is who she has always been.} ~~It's all up~~ ^{She is who she has always been.} ~~She is who she has always been.~~ ^{She is who she has always been.} ~~Place buried as deep as ever~~ I cannot understand it. (Continued - some years later. No more)

Herman: He told me (nodding at the direction Polonus disappeared), ~~he gave me this~~ ^{and as a gentleman that} he would not interfere. "Why should I keep her away from them?" he said. "Let them ^{enjoy} the academic thing".

Tryges: It's not his fault.

Dyane: This is unexpected coming from you Tryges. ~~you always said:~~ ^{near in an abstract, which became} ~~power was plus~~ ^{power was plus} ~~isn't it?~~ ^{isn't it?} ~~you said time enough.~~ ^{you said time enough.}

Tryges: I was so certain. It was necessary to be that rather to have the satisfaction that you are more or less right. Now I must look for different standards of principle & fix within me. (He thumps his head sleep. ~~then~~ ^{then} Herman picks a sword and comes on a scimitar-like shaft.)

Dyane: ~~How did it occur this time.~~ ^{How did it occur this time.} ~~I suppose they were bored, and if you are bored any violent acting is a welcome change?~~ ^{I suppose they were bored, and if you are bored any violent acting is a welcome change?}

KARPOV: It's not a long story and so difficult to put it in a few words.

Herman: It's usually a short story and it's invariably the same story.

Dyane: Who then has back this time. You didn't have ^{which was going something like this} the same rowers. "We've worked better than you" "Cleared more stuff away" ^{"we demand nothing - only personal requirements"} as the still other things "We learn to eat bread a ^{better way} ~~new way~~ than you" or "our cocks are louder".

KARPOV: Plenty of noise too. Some said they had a "pattern". The others said they didn't want a "pattern" or a straight jacket. "But we can't see our rivers go backwards" with the pattern, said the first. "we can make our go upwards instead" it answered the other. Then others joined in, loudly calling each other names, but only names. I said to myself, this is not really doing any harm. As long as they talk ^{even} to themselves it is only to insult one another it is something. And none of us bothered to tell them not to be so childish, ~~and~~ ^{and} grow up and talk like men. Really me what to have done something there.

Dyane: Don't wonder all over the place.

KARPOV: Everything was just cloudy. All of a sudden Pam ~~took~~ ^{took} playing his flute women ~~waited~~ ^{waited} and ~~watched~~ ^{watched} after men a group of those, I went and ~~rather~~ ^{rather} grabbed Pease, ~~and~~ ^{and} accused her of being ~~foolish~~ ^{foolish} by the Harpax (71); ~~two~~ ^{two} others will

themselves; then the other rushed to the scene saying that the "Smallmouth" must not have been and what with pushing and fighting they precipitated her into the pit. Then they growled at one another ~~forward~~ and formed closed units.

Dyane: What are they doing now?

Karpoti: Give themselves over to whopping. Some ~~are~~ busy populating the earth with Dionysos; some help others to rob others; and everybody busy selling ^{everything} nationalism, patriotism, liberty, group communism, ~~and~~ ^{and other things} self self self. I cannot comprehend, co-existence, interdependence, co-habitation and texts and more texts. ^{Yes every} ~~Each~~ body is selling something, selling as hard as he can.

Hermes: And who is buying?

Karpoti: The sellers. They really sell to themselves.

Hermes: That solves the problem.

Dyane (Almost simultaneously): I am going to home to look.

Karpoti: He shouldn't. It might be dangerous ^{particularly those long roads} ~~that are in a bad way~~. (A note of music is heard.)

Hermes: More notes.

Dyane: Marching song.

Tryges: Music.

Karpoti: Poem! ^{All hidden} ~~(Silenced)~~ Tryges and Karpoti stiffen, follow the lead of the music, cut turn and watch Dyane. Problem.

Tryges: Whopper (They both rush towards her.)

Karpoti

Dyane: Are you mad? Stop it!

Tryges: (Aggressively) Don't run.

Karpoti: From that side. Don't let her run away. Dyane ... Dyane! They make a conciliatory advance. Herms heads on quizzicalhi.

Dyane: Hermes - Keep them away, please. (She wishes to firm ^{for protection} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~firm~~ ^{firm} her.)

Hermes: ^{The} ~~The~~ ~~omnipotence~~ ~~of~~ you mortals - even your pleasure to turn into martyrdom.

Dyane: Stop. Utter.

Hermes: ~~See~~ Tryges, Karpoti (the more steps they come to).