

Myrtis, Elizabeth, Alexandros: Three Paths, One Story



Myrtis (Athens, 430 B.C.) Elizabeth (London, 1665) Alexandros (Chalkida, 2020)

Script

Title: *Myrtis, Elizabeth, Alexandros: Three Paths, One Story*

Myrtis, Elizabeth, and Alexandros are three teenagers who lived through pandemics in different times: the Plague of Athens (430 BC), the Great Plague of London (1665), and the Coronavirus Pandemic in Chalkida, Greece (2020-2021). They meet in a mystical library, where they share their stories, compare their experiences, and reflect on how these events shaped their lives and the world around them.

Scene 1: The Characters meet

The three characters, Myrtis, Elizabeth, and Alexandros, meet in a surreal animated setting—a mystical library with books floating around.

Myrtis: *[Looking at Elizabeth and Alexandros]* Who are you? And why are we here?

Elizabeth: I am Elizabeth, from London in the year 1665. My family fled to the countryside because of the plague. But who are you?

Myrtis: I am Myrtis, from Athens, and I lived during the plague of 430 BC. And you?
[Turning to Alex]

Alexandros: I'm Alexandros, from Chalkida, from 2021. We faced a pandemic caused by a virus called coronavirus.

Myrtis: So, three plagues, thousands of years apart. Tell me, Elizabeth, what caused yours?

Scene 2: Causes of the Disease

Elizabeth: In London, it was the *Great Plague*, caused by something we called "miasma," or bad air. But now I've learned it was fleas carrying a disease from rats.

Myrtis: Our plague in Athens spread during the Peloponnesian War. Historians say it might have been typhoid fever, but we just knew it killed many, including my whole family. And you, Alexandros?

Alexandros: Ours was a virus, something tiny you can't see. It spread from person to person, starting in faraway countries. Scientists called it COVID-19.

Scene 3: Measures Taken by Authorities

Myrtis: In my time, there were no doctors who could stop it. People prayed to the gods. They burned incense and made sacrifices.

Elizabeth: In London, they shut down theaters, burned fires in the streets to "clean the air," and marked houses with a red cross if someone inside was sick. My father said it didn't help much.

Alexandros: We wore masks, stayed at home, and even went to school online. Vaccines came, but it took time for everyone to trust them.

Scene 4: What Their Families Did

Elizabeth: My father moved us to the countryside in Windsor, away from the crowds. He brought food, books, and everything we needed.

Myrtis: My family couldn't escape. We lived in a cramped part of Athens with others fleeing the war. There was nowhere to run.

Alexandros: We stayed home too. My mom worked from home, and my dad only went out to get groceries. We even stopped seeing friends.

Scene 5: How Teenagers Spent Their Time

Alexandros: I spent hours on my mobile phone and playing video games. Sometimes I did online schoolwork. It was boring but safe. Our classes were virtual, and we had to watch the screen while the teacher spoke. I missed seeing my friends.

Elizabeth: We prayed, read the Bible, and played card games. I also helped my mother sew clothes.

Myrtis: We did chores, shared stories, and prayed to the gods. But when we got sick, there wasn't much to do but hope.

Scene 6: What Changed in Their Lives

Elizabeth: After the plague, I noticed fewer people in the city. The poor became even poorer. My father says the plague made us fear God more.

Myrtis: Athens became weaker. The war didn't go well, and the people lost trust in the gods and leaders.

Alexandros: We had to wear masks for a long time, and life still feels uncertain. But the pandemic showed us how important science is.

Scene 7: Political, Social, and Religious Consequences

Myrtis: In Athens, people stopped believing in justice and kindness. The city fell into chaos.

Elizabeth: In London, it felt like God was punishing us. But after the plague, there was a great fire that rebuilt the city.

Alexandros: In 2021, people fought over rules and vaccines. But it also brought us closer in some ways, reminding us to care for each other.

Scene 8: Additional Reflections

Elizabeth: Do you think there will be another time like ours, with people suffering from another disease?

Alexandros: It's possible. New diseases can emerge, and the world is more connected than ever. But we've learned so much from the past—and even from our time now.

Myrtis: I wonder if the future will be ready for such a challenge. Will they remember what we've learned?

Elizabeth: Maybe they'll find a way to prevent such things altogether. Or maybe they'll face struggles we can't even imagine.

Alexandros: Whatever happens, I hope they'll know how important it is to listen to science and work together.

Myrtis: Then, perhaps our meeting here wasn't just for us. Perhaps it's for the future, too.

Elizabeth: To remind people that we've endured before—and we can endure again.

[They exchange hopeful glances, the mystical library swirling around them as a symbol of shared wisdom and resilience.]