

Appolo – Greek performance in Greece



APOLLO and DIONYSUS

SCENE 1

Set: Apollo is walking alone in the region near Delphi

APOLLO: Oh mon dieu! What big rocks! I'm going to break my leg here! Oh no, all this dust will ruin my new sandals! They told me the sanctuary is here somewhere...It's small and humble but the view is fantastic! It's my dad's Zeus's fault. I didn't want to come here at the first place! And as if my troubles weren't enough, I have this shadow here which won't leave me alone!

SHADOW: You must find a new place for worship, your dad told you in a serious way. You're grown up now, not a teenager anymore to run after your parents. You must be independent, to open your wings! And that is literally because as you might know gods have real wings!

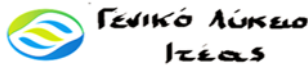
APOLLO: In the beginning I hated the idea. I didn't feel like running up the mountain! You know, ancient Greeks used to build their oracles in really steep places. No, I said, I am not going anywhere! I'm having the time of my life up here on the mount Olympus: I eat and drink all day and watch the mortals from up there. They're so funny, as they run to do everything. It's better than going to the movies. The fight, fall in love, make war...I never got bored!

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SHADOW: no, your mum Lito interrupted you. You must find something useful to do! Don't be lazy all day and stop watching the mortals all day, you will ruin your eyesight, my boy!

APOLLO: ok, I said with hesitation, Ok I'll go! But go where? To Delphi? Isn't there an oracle closer?

SHADOW: Delphi is the centre of the world, said your dad Zeus. And he reminded you of a story he used to tell you when you were young: once upon a time he left two eagles to fly freely and they after touring the whole world met in Delphi although they came from a different direction....

APOLLO: How can you resist such an argument? I didn't want him to get angry at me and throw me a thunderbolt and burn my lovely hair! And here I am! Voila! It's me! The rising star of Olympus! I may not have been a superstar yet but Mum believes in me! One day you will become the second more important god after your dad, Zeus! Popular and loved by everyone! So I decided to make the sacrifice and come here (*almost falls*) oops

SHADOW: You must be careful with mountains!

APOLLO: I hope this is not the sanctuary I have been looking for! It's a mess, it will take much work to become worthy of me! And I can't see anyone around willing to help me!

Apollo approaches the wooden building

APOLLO: Hello! Is there anybody here? Please, speak out!

SHADOW: Nobody! This is both good and bad. It's good because you don't need to fight with anybody to conquer the sanctuary and bad because you are not good at all with doing things with your hands! You use your hands only to play the harp! You must find someone to help you immediately! A real no man's land! Where is everybody?

APOLLO: Oh what can be seen down there in the distance? Isn't it the sea? Oh, Let me fly there! It is usual to see mortals by the sea. He will be fishing, or washing his clothes or carrying things in his boat or washing his feet...

SHADOW: Ew! Quel banalite!

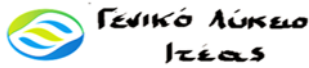
NARRATOR: And now as it is quite difficult to show you a god flying please see it with the eyes of your imagination so that we can go on with our show! Thank you in advance!

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SCENE 2

Three sailors from Crete on a boat! The wind is blowing

PELOPIDAS: hey guys, things are getting harder and harder...The wind is getting stronger!

IONAS: We' re lucky to be near the shore. What do you think? Should we go out and hang anchor?

PELOPIDAS: I'm not sure whether the place is friendly...If it goes on blowing like this, we'll end up at the sea bed!

PELOPIDAS: :Let's wait for a while, the wind might drop....Hey, did you see that?

ACHILES: I didn't see anything!

IONAS: What is it, Pelopidas?

PELOPIDAS: We are being surrounded by a very large sea creature!

IONAS: That's it! Our life has come to an end! Please, God forgive my sins!

The ship turns over and the sailors fall into the sea

PELOPIDAS: Aaaa,

IONAS: Heeeelp!

ACHILES: AT such a young age I leave this vain world! How unfair!

NARRATOR: And now as it is quite difficult to show you a dolphin saving the three sailors, please use the eyes of your imagination ti see them so that we can go on with our show!
Thank you in advance!

The three sailors get out on the shore. Apollo appears before them as God and speaks to them. They fall on the ground and lower their heads

APOLLO: I don't know if you have realized that I just saved your lives!

IONAS: is that certain? I saw a dolphin!

APOLLO: But...it was me! I am amazing at transformations!

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PELOPIDAS: You made us sink and then ...you saved us!?

APOLLO: But why think this way? I helped you get out of the sea safe and sound! All the rest mean nothing at all!

ACHILES: it's OK, let's accept that. We thank you and...goodbye! We're from Crete and we want to go back there!

APOLLO: I'm afraid I don't agree! Now you owe me your life! You must show your gratitude!

PELOPIDAS: eee, a sacrifice, a prayer...What else?

APOLLO: I want you to follow me! I have big dreams and you will be my assistants! You will be rewarded of course!

PELOPIDAS: I'm not staying! My family is back there in Crete!

IONAS: We don't want to work abroad we prefer our own country! We've had enough of this brain drain!

APOLLO (*getting angry*) I haven't made myself clear. I am not asking you to stay! I demand it!

PELOPIDAS: Ok, my god don't get angry...by the way who are you? I haven't seen a statue that looks like you....

APOLLO: You will soon see not only one but many...the humans will make them to honor me as Pythios Apollo, blonde, curly, so handsome playing my harp! I will be the God of music, harmony, light and I will be the protector of arts!

IONAS: And what do you want from us?

APOLLO: Listen I am thinking of founding my sanctuary here in Delphi not a long way from here. I found a hut, some men from Crete had built it a long time ago! It needs renovation! You will be responsible for this renovation!

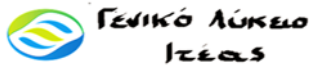
Now let's go! I will give you all the details on the way! Me as a god, I will fly! You will climb up the mountain and stop when you see an opening on the ground with steam coming out from the Earth! I will be waiting for you!

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Apollo flies away

PELOPIDAS: We're cooked, brothers!

IONAS: What a snobbish guy!

ACHILES: And so spoilt! Everything must be done his way. What can we do? We must obey!
Let's follow him and hope for the best!

NARRATOR: And now as it is quite difficult to show you a god flying and three sailors climbing up a mountain, please see it with the eyes of your imagination so that we can go on with our show! Thank you in advance!

SCENE 3

Apollo meets Dionysus

APOLLO: Hey! Be careful you will damage my sandal, you fool! Who are you and what are you doing in my sanctuary?

DIONYSUS: Your....what?

APOLLO: My sanctuary, you jerk. Are you deaf?

DIONYSUS: And why do you believe this sanctuary is yours?

APOLLO: I came here some minutes ago and got this fine idea to become the God of predicting the future and found my oracle here in Delphi!

DIONYSUS: I regret to inform you that you have come here second, or third, or fourth or fifth!

SHADOW: How dare you speak like that? Do you know who he is?

DIONYSUS: Am I supposed to know?

APOLLO: Of course you should, I am Apollo and I will soon be the second more important God of Olympus, according to Mum!

DIONYSUS (*bursting out laughing*) Ah, it's you! And I was thinking that you remind me of someone I know. You have really grown up a lot since I last saw you on Olympus during a banquet that our Father Zeus had organized!

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APOLLO: have you met before then?

DIONYSUS: Yes, it was just when you and your mum had come back from Delos,....

APOLLO: Oh, it's you Dionysus, the son of Semeli that Zeus had to hide inside his leg so that Hera wouldn't see you....Yes, Mum has told me about you...Anyway, what are you doing here?

DIONYSUS: Exactly what you are! I want to dominate on the oracle of Delphi! And to tell you the truth, I strongly believe I am more suitable from you for this position because I am such an outgoing person! I will make a person feel happy while you are going to depress them, that's for sure!

SHADOW: Mortals don't need drunkards like you. They need a serious god whom they can trust! Mortals are very anxious creatures, as they know that someday they are going to die, they need our predictions so that they feel they can control the future!

DIONYSUS: I agree. But if they see this severe and sour face, their stress will get bigger! On the other hand, if they see me smiling and relaxed they will relax as well!

APOLLO: That's an insult!

DIONYSUS: You bet it is! You don't know what I am capable of doing when some snobbish guys like you doubt my power!

APOLLO: Oh come on let's not fight! We are civilized gods, we can talk this out! Why did you say I came fifth? I came here a while ago and saw nobody!

DIONYSUS: The place here is sacred! And has been so since ancient times. The first god worshipped here was Mother Earth. On the slopes of Mount Parnass we spent many evening dancing drinking and having fun!

APOLLO: All this must end! We must stop dancing and having fun, we must stop orgy! Predicting the future must become a great spiritual art and religion must acquire a deep moral meaning!

SATYR: is he bothering you, boss?

DIONYSUS: he is driving me crazy!

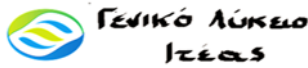
SATYR: Do you want me to take care of him?

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APOLLO: What is this goat like guy saying?

SATYR: What did you call me?

APOLLO: What I see I say! Who are you?

SATYR; I am the Satyr, faithful follower of God Dionysus, mythical creature, a demon of ancient Greek mythology, a spirit of the mountains and forests! My upper body is human, without hair and spiky ears, with the tail and the legs of a male goat. We Satyrs serve Dionysus whom we have raised since he was a child. We love playing the flute and the guitar, grape harvest and drinking alcohol and chasing girls!

APOLLO: Hmm, what a CV! You should be proud of you! Jackstraws, chickenshit, piddly, trashy guys with legs of goat!

SATYR: What's going on here, boss? Is he calling us names?

SHADOW: Shall I make the translation?

SATYR: Hold me, I will beat him up!

APOLLO: ts ts ts what a guy! Has nobody talked to you about dialogue, my dear?

SATYR: What did you say, you morron?

SHADOW: He's not afraid of you, you caveman?

APOLLO: I have my own followers, my faithful priests! Pelopidas, Achilles, Ionas! Come here!

PELOPIDAS: Oh, things are getting out of hand. We'll be beaten up!

IONAS: I'm busy...

ACHILES: I have a meal to cook...

APOLLO: Come here at once! Show them what it means to be Apollo! The power of the new religion that we represent is limitless!

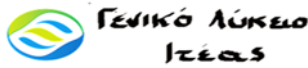
DIONYSUS: Are you sure you want this fight, bro? Your priests are weak, my guys will smash them!

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SHADOW: They are strong enough! Do you want to bet?

Frozen images of the fight

COMMENTATOR: Ancient Greek mythology is full of battles between gods. It seems that it was ancient Greeks' way to show the transition from one religion to the next one!

COMMENTATOR 2: It's true! The transition from one religion to the next one has never been an easy one! Let's think of the transition from idol worshipping to Christianity!

DIONYSUS: I told you. Don't mess up with them! They're unbeatable!

APOLLO: The contest was contrived! I must be done anew!

PELOPIDAS: Don't even think about it, boss!

IONAS: Do you want to lose us?

ACHILES: I haven't been beaten up so much since I was a little boy!

APOLLO: Ok then, I will accept the result! Dionysus, I realize I can't avoid it so...let's make a deal!

DIONYSUS: I'm all ears!

APOLLO: Well, Dionysus, god of wine, having fun and fertility you are recognized as the second official religion of the Sanctuary of Delphi. You will substitute me, during the three winter months when I will be going skiing at the North. A god diametrically opposite from me you will represent everything that I don't. I will represent logic and you will represent senses, I will represent tranquility, you will represent unrest. I will represent wisdom you will represent enthusiasm!

DIONYSUS: I agree! Not even Nietzsche would put so nicely!

SHADOW: So we will share the same temple. And you will be worshipped with wild feasts and orgies and most of your festivals will end up in ecstatic madness!

DIONYSUS: I feel proud of myself! Of course, I agree!

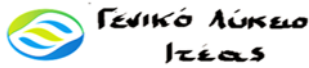
APOLLO: Well, let's celebrate this deal with a great feast! Call your Satyrs and I call my priest. Just for today I will put my principles aside and drink some wine with you! Let the music play!

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COMMENTATOR: So, the two gods decided to share the sanctuary of Delphi and this is what happened. And as it seems people have the need for both logic and emotions, both law and ecstasy! Otherwise, they wouldn't have two diametrically opposite gods be worshipped in the same sanctuary!

DIONYSUS: Something like yin and yan!

APOLLO: Pardon?

DIONYSUS; You don't know everything after all, do you?

Everyone dances and drinks

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