

The Eyes of Stone

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Poseidon-----Karthik

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Time and scene: Athens temple of Athena. It is morning and flooding and earthquakes have shaken the land and its people.

(Enter Medusa and Friend who strike conversation after their prayers.)

Prologue

Medusa:

Oh Pity! God of the Sea! His fury
Will affect us all. Why such conflict between
powers! The clashing of authority,
Athena and Poseidon's tempers rage.
Poor Gods I respect, in reverence I
bow and hope it is resolved only for
the benefit of them and their command
of supremacy and honor of their
rule.

Friend:

Do you know the root of the dilemma?
I am curious to know what angers
him so, the wrath is overwhelming, yet
his motives elude my sight.

Medusa:

The Earthshaker is offended by
the contempt Athena shows him. He feels
that she looks down upon him and his pride
is insulted. She calls to him on his
ignorance and he is shaken with fury
by her affronts. He decides to take it

out upon Athens, her sacred city
of where her temple lies. I do anticipate
the harmony to come, the Gods can handle
it all, just have faith my friend.

Friend:

I concur, but such flooding I have seen.
The terrors of the city, Gods, help us
now. The destruction grows as the wrath of
both authorities swell. The disasters
reoccur, save our existence we pray.
I fear the worst.

Medusa:

Be calm, the Gods watch over us, we have to have
conviction of their power. Just pray, offer
up yourself, devote your life to them, a
living sacrifice. Follow my example
for I am worthy, my piety is
to be observed and duplicated. They
are the supreme beings and we must follow
blindly.

Friend:

Dear friend, is there any knowledge you have
attained that would be of assistance in
this horrendous predicament now faced?
You are the priestess, have you received all
or any enlightenment from the Gods?

Medusa:

I was blinded by my anxiety!
I can now recall a vision come to
me in the night, Apollo! Such a great

generous God, has bestowed on me a
revelation, the grand answer to our
quandary!

(Choir marches in, interrupting Medusa. Comes in between Medusa
and friend.)

Chorus:

Oh dear Gods please hear our cries!
There is no song as woeful as ours.
We praise you with honest admiration
and also the hopes of
worshiping the savior of our city.
Athena, help guide us with your pure
wisdom to give us the awareness to
identify what you intend and the
conviction and force to take action now.
You know where our troubles lie and possess
the answers to help us prosper. Cease the
never-ending war. Resisting the floods,
we cry out as we struggle to float. Our
homeland-drowning with not only water,
but the pandemonium of our fears
and sorrows. Oh mighty ones on the sky!
Hear our cry, without you, we are as useless
as a new-born lamb. Rescue us,
oh eagle of Zeus, deliver us from the
havoc and chaos. Athens is Dying!
There is not a single blade of grass,
nor a single man of this land
who hasn't been touched by this curse!
We wail this prayer as we

suffer. Send someone here to guide
us, comfort us, and to show the way.
Send someone to us so that we can stand
through the storm, unmoving and
unbending! Please, show mercy!
(loudness builds towards the end)

1ST SCENE

Medusa:

(facing the crowd and chorus)
Chorus, your prayers are answered today.
I, a priestess, have received a vision.
A vision directly from Apollo.
The sun that shows us light throughout our day,
has shown me light to the cause of the problems.
The floods which flooded our houses, and the
Land that shook and split.

Chorus:

Tell us, tell us all.
What is the cause that nearly killed us,
Us, the people of Athens.

Medusa:

(emphasize each he)
Poseidon is in rage. He is the cause.
Of the problems.
He flooded our houses. He split the land.
It is Poseidon who is the problem.

Chorus:

How can this be?

What wrong have we done to the waters of this world?
We have not poisoned this water.
We have not done any bad.
We have used it wisely.
Is there no solution to stop this fury?

Medusa:

There is one.
Poseidon is in search of a lady.
A lady beautiful enough
To be the wife of a god.
A lady of goodwill and good thought.
Only then shall his rage end.
As the priestess of Athena's temple, I,
A lady of goodness and sacrifice
For the wellness of this city,
The beautiful city of Athena,
I shall volunteer myself
To wed the god of the deep waters.

Chorus:

Do you not know the competition that
goes on? Between Poseidon and Athena?
Are you sure this is what Poseidon really wants?
Does he really want a priestess of Athena to become his

wife?

And does Athena really want one of her own to join
the enemy in marriage?
She will not agree in this marriage,
will she?

Medusa:

Of course. Don't treat me like a fool,

you stone sculptures! Anyone would be content with me!
Your blind eyes and stubborn minds refuse to acknowledge
the best of all women.
Athena wants the best for all.
If I need join her enemy to save her people,
sacrifice myself for the best,
none would be prouder.
Athena will be the final judge, and even your
hearts of stone will learn to appreciate.

Friend:

(Slowly crosses stage, approaching choir)
No, Medusa, this is not right.
I shall volunteer myself for this task.
I do not see right that priestess,
A priestess such as you go away from this temple.
I shall wed Poseidon instead.

Medusa:

(cuts through choir and abruptly confronts friend)
How dare you?
Do you think I am not fit for a god?
(mocking)
Are you jealous of me, do you want the
pride and power of the wife of a god?

Friend:

(Startled, backs away)
That was not my intention.
I was looking out for your welfare,
trying to save your peaceful soul
from the fury and chaos of Poseidon.
Trying to save the purity of the temple

of the goddess of our city.
I did not mean to imply that
I was any more beautiful than you.

Medusa:

Of course!
How would you be as beautiful as I am?
How is any girl in this city,
Or on Earth or Heavens
As beautiful as I am?
Not one mortal nor immortal is.
No man, let it be married or single,
Not stand still as rock
The moment he had meet my gaze.
Is there anyone as worthy as me?
Is there anyone as beautiful as me?
Is there anyone as fit as me,
to be the wife of a god?
No, my friend, there is not. No one
Has ever frozen at your sight,
But at me, there are men still standing as statues,
Never to move another step at the sight of my beauty,
Have seen all of life in me and ended life.
I am the only one fit to marry a god,
Me, the only worthy to marry,
Not you, No one else is, no one.

ODE 1:

Chorus:

What is man without his one companion?
What is even a god without a wife?
What can anyone do without their companion?

For Medusa will save us all from the
fury of the hopeless Poseidon
Even in the god's court, the master of all,
Zeus has a loving wife to watch and help.
Zeus watches all without his fury.
Why would Poseidon,
master of the waters,
not have his loving wife?
But, why shouldn't Poseidon
be upset at a lack of his own wife?
Amphitrite, you say? One is not enough, when you can have

two.

Two heads are better than one,
Two hands are better than one, they say.
Why should this not apply to women too?
Why shouldn't Poseidon have two?
but now Poseidon shall receive
Receive the ultimate gift! He will bless
our city now and thank Athens for this woman.
A woman, the best of the beautiful, will aid you,
be the companion you long for,
help in anything that may trouble you.
Thank you, Medusa, for sacrificing yourself
for our city! Your name will be etched in stone,
there will be statues made.
What a lady to sacrifice herself for her people.
You shall be remembered for the rest of eternity

2ND SCENE

(The Chorus stands with Medusa, praying for the safety,
when a messenger runs into the temple.)

Messenger:

Beware, oh citizens of Athens! The
Earthshaker is coming in his fury to
Wreak havoc on our city, flood our streets,
Destroy our harvest, and bring ruin down.
Quick! Flee from this doomed city Athens! The
Earthshaker will come in his fury to
Repay the ancient grudge Athena owes.

Chorus:

Beware! Oh pity our poor souls! Like a
Great hurricane, the mighty Poseidon
Comes! Quick! Medusa, hail the wise words
Of this god-gifted messenger and flee.
This palace, this land, city Athens will
Be nothing but a ruin when He is done.
His iron will, deceptive rule, and his
Almighty strength cannot be overcome.

Medusa:

Men, silence! I'm Medusa, priestess of
This sacred temple of Athena, and
I praise you men to stand your ground. The gods
Are ones to worship, not to flee from. If
We subjects observe our maker to
Experience distraught, it is our duty
To gather with our heads in worship and
Sacrifice; we owe more than we could fathom.
I will stop Poseidon before he gets
through with our city. He will not destroy.

Chorus:

Such charisma; thank you for calming words—
Wise words to come from such a beautiful
And graceful lady. Such great qualities.

Medusa:

Yes, such true words. Yet perhaps... Look at me,
Stare at this face I am blessed with. What does
It remind you humble citizens of?

Chorus:

It is like no earthly thing, priestess Medusa.
Your wisdom and selflessness in itself
Is a gleaming suit of armor, protecting
Our blessed city of Athena.

Medusa:

Yes, true.
But, for now, do not think of the city.
Think of me. What do you see in my eyes,
My complexion, this face that stares at you now?

Chorus:

Surely it is the face of our savior.
Medusa, if appreciation is
What you seek with ambiguous questions,
Know that your name will forever be
Remembered in history for the good
You have done. That in itself is its own
Beauty, graceful priestess Medusa.

Medusa:

I am no longer a priestess. Do not
Refer to me as such. Tell me messenger,

What do you think when you see this face?

Messenger:

(becoming desperate)

Beautiful Medusa, surely it is
The closest to that of godly perfection
That I have seen among any mortal.
But please, I implore you, either leave this
Temple, save yourself, and leave Poseidon
To himself, or make the ultimate
Sacrifice, and offer yourself to him
Now. Now is not a time for reflection;
Do not waste time. Please, decide on action!

Medusa:

I once thought of myself in such fashion
As well. Since pondering the question though,
I have come to realize that my beauty
Is inhuman. It reaches out beyond
The grasps of a mere mortal's vision; my
Beauty in itself will never fade. Just
As those gods and goddesses are permanent
And immortal, so is my beauty.

Chorus:

It is true that you have the entire
City's respect and gratitude, but
Be careful with what you say child. Men
Do not dare temper with the pride of gods,
No matter how good their intentions are.

Medusa:

Am I not a god myself? You old fools;
Respect me for what I am: a goddess.

Feel gratitude that you so get the chance
To look upon my heaven-like complexion.
I am the one who has the will and the
One who has the god-given blessing to
Save our City—

Chorus:

(hastily)

Medusa, yes you are right.
People are forever in your debt of soul.
We just warn you that, when gods are involved,
It is wisest to—

Medusa:

Do you not understand?
No man or temple is worthy of me.
It is my destiny to betroth the
Great Poseidon; only gods can compare
To that which outshines the beauty of
All women, all earthly things, even
Athena herself; Medusa. Come
In Poseidon now! Here is the only woman
That you can call yourself worthy of.

(Poseidon bursts in)

Poseidon:

What is this talk of Gods that I hear in
This putrid temple of Athena?
Soon it, along with all of her retched
Worshippers will become feed to Hades.
But, more importantly what is this talk
That I hear; a woman I am worthy of?
Please amuse me more. I always hear of

Women who find themselves worthy of me,
But the other way around? Humorous.

Medusa:

Stop! Oh mighty Earthshaker, listen here.

Poseidon:

And who might you be, contrasting so
Heavily with the foul air of this
Temple? Tell me your name.
Are you the maiden I am worthy of?

Medusa:

Medusa, oh
Great Poseidon. I have come to witness
Your distraught and, seeing as no mortal
Is fit for you otherwise, I offer
This hand in marriage. Lord Poseidon, may you
Take it and accept?

Poseidon:

Your face is like none
I've seen before. Ah, Medusa, what a
Beautiful name that has been reserved for
You over the goddesses. I accept
Under the impossible beam of your
Stunning gleam. Why hesitate? Let us be
married here, in this very temple.

ODE 2

Chorus:

Oh woe, glory and whist have struck again.
Such a noble action on the surface;
Consummated by an arrogance,
Is the sacred act still selfless? Pride brings

Confidence to men, woman equally
Deserving. But when that pride manifests
Into something else—vanity, hubris,
And greed—can the blessed claim rights to desire?
Can their actions go unchecked, sacrifice
Be looked upon with appreciation?

Heroism comes with its paradox.
Sweet victory and selflessness are the
Great boons to the worthy men and women.
Yet, at the same time, a complex occurs
That renders no action entirely
Selfless; there is always personal gain.

Arrogance and egotism are the
Great banes to the worthy men and women.
With every good deed there comes its poison;
With every good hero there comes a point
Of temptation. To act out of true
Dedication, or to fake motivation.
The choice between self and respect defines
The difference between the true and fake,
The good and great within those destined men.

I fear most for our own heroine.
Now is the point of decision, the test
Of perseverance to resist temptation.
Will we fall into the bottomless pit
Of narcissism? Or will vanities
Recede, and a choice be made with clear mind,

Free of the grips of lure, enticement,
And those forces which so cloud common sense.

The personal affairs of gods should not
Be interfered with by human mortals.
We are forever their subjects; control
Resides in their hands. Immortality
Is never a gift destined for women
Or men. Nothing can come good from this ripe
Pride which heroes drown themselves with.
Pray, hear our prayers Athena, Poseidon,
Zeus. Calm and bring sense to the minds of those
Young souls who have become engulfed and
Fallen astray from the path respectable.

May the beam of fate prove merciful in
Its treatment of our city, and in
The punishment of those who threaten it.

Medusa:

Oh choir, is your memory that short?
Have you already forgotten my sacrifice?
Come, rejoice with me, on this great day!
Rejoice that our city is safe!
Bring out the wine, bring out the songs,
Remember this as a happy day,
Or a great price you will all pay...

PAEAN:

Chorus:

Yes, of course Medusa!

Oh Dionysus, with your glowing eyes
You break the heart of one and bring to thrive
Another.
Your wine, forgiving to all souls
The warrior's pride you raise to the sky
With feasts and celebration which you bring.
The soldier in pain who sees death hover
is brought back to life with a new glory.
The lone man never is forgotten; he
Prays someday that his dreams may come true.
In moments of despair, your light shows him
the way to safety and your voice beckons him
to see your benevolent pity's strength.
May we forever remember your kind
Hand which blessed Athens and made our low lives
bright with joy and knowledge. Who could forget
the faithful savior of our town: that woman
Medusa who, for us, gave herself to
the tyrant who ravaged our lands.
The god of the seas was no match for your
bright intentions, the gift of great marriage
sent in Medusa; may you always please
watch and protect us; hold us first in mind
as we are the ones who honor you and
your high divine court of humanity.
We beg you with almighty power to
grant us the prize of worshipping you; and
how we value your generosity.
Oh! Great One! Let us celebrate your
gift to mankind and let the wine flow

freely into every man's home!
For today is the day that our city is saved!

Scene 3

Medusa:

Come here, priest, and marry us here.
Poseidon would be very much honored,
And you'll be the one to seal the deal.
Come!

Priest:

Oh, okay...
Does anyone here, in this sacred place, object
To this marriage here, and to calm his rage?

Medusa:

Oh my, I know that no one would object.
Who else could possibly compete with me?
Get on with it, oh mighty priest, and make
Our wedding secure in the eyes of gods.
Nothing shall go wrong between me and my husband,
not even the gods would dare to interfere.

Priest:

If you insist, and no one protests, then...
(in comes Athena, wearing a cloak)
but wait, we have a newcomer. Perhaps she
would like to share her opinion?

Medusa:

Who, who are you to interrupt this holy marriage!

Don't you know who I am? Can't you tell that
it is my destiny to become a goddess myself?
Who are you, this lowly woman, to march on in
and disturb all of us?

Athena:

Oh, I'm sure you know who I am.
After all, have you not served me for all your life?
Have I not always watched and helped you
in times of problem and despair?
Have I not blessed you with all your
wisdom and beauty, even if you have thrown away both?

Medusa:

Lady Athena? Oh, lady Athena!
Oh, even you have come here to celebrate
our wedding! I knew that the gods would celebrate
this wonderful day! Tell me, what kind of blessing
will you bestow on me? Will you turn me into a goddess,
too?

Choir:

Medusa, beware, Lady Athena doesn't look too happy.
Remember this she is far more wise
than you could ever be. You would
do good to treat her with respect.

Medusa:

(turning to chorus, back to Athena)
Nonsense! Even though Athena is a goddess,
even she should recognize that I
am the most beautiful maiden in all the land
and all the heavens.

Athena:

(Now fuming)

Stop! Stop this heathenness talk of goddesses and beauty, for you were never one and you will now lose the other.

However, it is not only you who is at fault.

Oh, Poseidon! You may be my nemesis, but

how dare you try to take one of my priests away from me? Is it because you have grown jealous of this city, my own namesake?

Or have you grown so foolish that you can't

Tell right from wrong? Whichever way, you won't

Do this again if you fear for the oceans.

Poseidon:

But sister, look at this wonderful maiden of yours.

How could I ever resist this wonderful woman!

Athena:

You will resist, if you value your honor.

Now you, Medusa! Oh,

how I wept when I discovered your fate.

I begged Apollo to not whisper the

Prophecy into your ears. But now, you,

You have destroyed your own innocence! You...

Medusa:

but Wait! I know that I didn't do anything

wrong! Wasn't I right in saving your

city from doom and death, by calming

this god beside me? Shouldn't you be thanking me for saving this place of yours?

Athena:

You may have saved the town, but you threw

yourself away! Now you are but an empty shell of your former self, once so wise and beautiful

Medusa:

So what? Even if I lost everything now,

and my mind as empty as a new born baby,

I would be happier, and prouder than anyone

standing here. Oh yes! what more could you ask for,

with a face like mine and a god for marriage?

Athena:

Oh yes, you've lost your wisdom, now you're going

To lose your beauty too. I call a curse

on you! Let all who see your face be turned

to stone! Let all who see your face now freeze!

Reflect on these words of mine, and

Let's see if you now care for your wisdom.

Medusa:

(snake hat appears on Medusa)

Wait, what is happening to me? I feel...

a huge weight on my head? It's moving!

Oh god! There are creatures on my head! Snakes!

Priest:

Oh no! You have been cursed with the petrifying

And deadly glance! Please, don't look at me! Oh!

(Priest starts to run away, but turns around at the last minute)

Medusa:

Oh no! what ... what have I done!

Athena:

You prize your power to freeze all men in admiration?
Well, I have now bestowed that upon you!
From now on, let all who see your face
be frozen in time and locked in stone.
Let this serve as a lesson for all
who choose beauty over wisdom.

(Athena leaves)

Poseidon:

Me...medusa! I knew it!
You were but a trap, a trap
to freeze me! Oh, I see through your cunning plan,
I know that you were working with Athena to capture me!
Never again will I trust a priestess of Athena!
Never again will I be lulled by their false words!
Athena may have prevented me from destroying this city,
but the sea will never show kindness
here, ever again!

(Poseidon leaves, pushing aside people in the choir)

Chorus:

Oh Medusa! We see clearly now,
through your piercing glance and through
your tricking words! Athena was right,
you are a monster, at heart if not in appearance.
You've not turned two gods against us,
Both Poseidon and Athena.
How will we ever prosper again?
Is our city doomed?
Are our best days behind us?
Leave us now, Medusa, go from this city,

Never to come to this city again.

Leave now as the monster who brought doom.

Medusa:

No, no! Don't do this to me! You know that
it was but my best intent
to help this city, to save your lives!
If I could turn myself into a statue, I would do it,
for this great city! But now, but now...
I am the doomed one, cursed by my goddess,
left with no one to listen to me,
no one to look at me. I am.. I am...

Chorus:

Go on, go on...

Medusa:

a MONSTER!

Oh, how I wish I never got the prophecy,
never had the seeds of envy planted in my mind.
But now, there is nothing for me.
Not here, nor in death, for not even death
would want a mutant like me.
Kill me, oh kill me, chorus! I do not deserve to live.

Chorus:

Oh Medusa! How we tried to warn you,
how we loved and adored you! But now...
now, you have no hope, you have no future.
We will not shed your blood here,
but will banish you away.
Oh, may the gods curse your every step,
May you never breathe another breath
without remembering the horrors

you have caused this city.

Go now, go.

(Medusa leaves the stage in tears)

EXODUS:

Decisions we make every day will
Choose destiny. Fate's hand always guides, but
we must learn to choose the best to survive.
Why must that putrid and vile-smelling smoke
Of arrogance always cloud our vision?
May we learn from what others have begun,
if not what is right, at least what is wrong.