

# FORGOTTEN HERITAGE

by Sandra Merimo

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# FORGOTTEN HERITAGE

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Place: The Earth, a room in The Mother's Temple of Creation.  
(The stage directions are suggestions.)

Time: The present (The play was written in 1999.)

Characters:

(These gods have been invented. The author apologises if this offends anyone's religious beliefs.)

**ONLY**

- a god and a "hero"; he wants to be powerful and he upholds the traditions

**TARA**

- a goddess and a "temptress"; she sees her worth in her beauty

**WIZ**

- a god and a "wizard"; he wants to be admired and he upholds the culture

**NONE**

- a goddess and a "nun"; she wants to be appreciated and she upholds the religion

**HELEN**

- a newly created human being and a part of Lenny, about 20 years old

**GEROME**

- a newly created human being and a part of Romina, about 20 years old

**THE MOTHER**

- the Mother to all gods and human beings

**LOVE**

- a god and a "healer"; he is in touch with his feelings, but is still very much a man

**GEM**

- a goddess and a "virgin"; a beautiful woman with no betrayal in her heart

**PAPA**

- a god and a "father"; a good leader who is leading from "underneath", i.e. lifting others

**WISE**

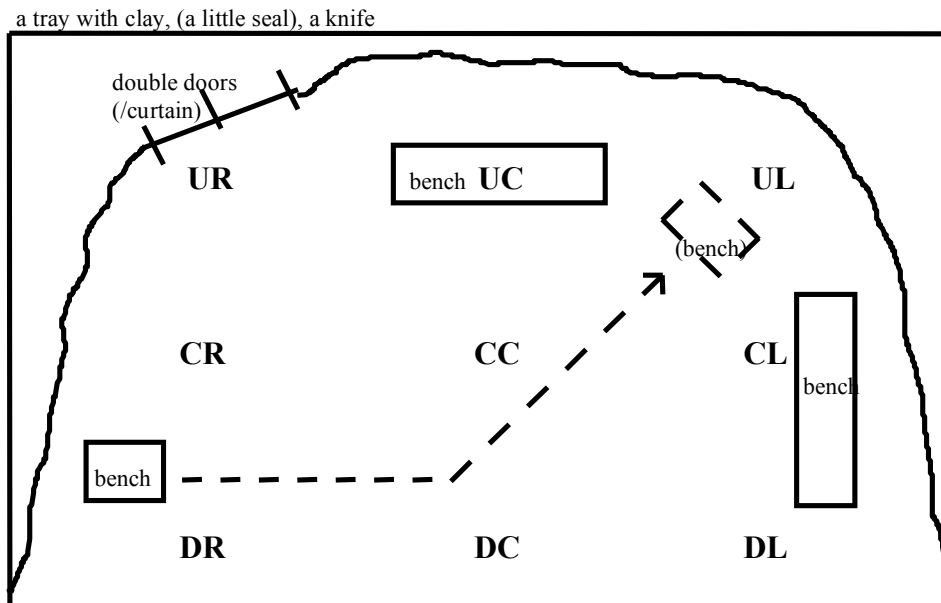
- a goddess and a "child"; completely fearless, an esoteric priestess telling her truth

**LENNY**

- a newly created human being and a part of Helen, about 20; he is thrown into a black hole

**ROMINA**

- a newly created human being and a part of Gerome, about 20; she is thrown into a black hole



*Wiz, None, Only and Tara are in one of the rooms of the Temple of Creation, which is a large cave of sandstone with a stamped earthen floor. The sound of an underground brook can vaguely be heard in the background. The room is lit up with a warm light, with no apparent source (i. e. no hard shadows). The Temple is not ornamented, so the only lavishness is the clothes of Wiz, None, Only and Tara. (They can be wearing long robes.) All the gods are spiritual brothers and sisters. These gods are paired up: Wiz with None and Only with Tara. They are now creating four human beings. During the last few years they have been creating grown-ups. First they have been using clay to model two bodies and while they have been taking a break, the two bodies have each divided into a female and a male body. They have been dressed in simple off-white clothes and are now lying on the two bigger benches, two on each bench. Their heads are towards one of the "corners" of the room (UL). Wiz and None are standing by the bench, DL, doing the finishing touches to Helen and Lenny. Only and Tara are by the bench, UC, finishing the work on Gerome and Romina. None goes to fetch some clay from the tray on the bench (standing close to DR). Wiz comes up to his wife None to take out the tray with the clay:*

WIZ to None

Are you done?

NONE

Yes, dear.

WIZ to Only

Are you done with the clay?

ONLY takes some clay

Let me take a bit more... Thank you, brother...

*Wiz carries the tray with him and walks out through the two doors (UR, which can be a curtain instead, but if so, there are imagined doors behind the curtain). None works on Lenny's feet and Only works on Romina's face:*

TARA disappointed

You're making her too beautiful...

ONLY

She's going into the black hole... what does it matter?

TARA

All the same...

*Wiz has put the tray back in its place (in another room of the Temple) and comes back in (UR). Wiz goes to look at Only's and Tara's work:*

WIZ to Only

My dear Only... That time when you suggested that we'd make grown-up bodies, I never thought they would divide so easily into men and women... but... I must admit I was wrong. This has turned out very well.

ONLY

I love it when you say you're wrong...

WIZ

Enjoy, dear brother... Enjoy...

*He walks over to None to see if she has finished her work:*

Well, I would say they're done now. Shall we take a break while they come to life?

TARA

Good idea. Come, Only...

*None goes up to Wiz and they leave together (UR). Tara stands irritated by the doors until her husband Only joins her and they leave. There are a few moments of silence. Then, from the roof two lights shine on the two benches. It is the light of the Mother and in these lights Helen/Lenny and Gerome/Romina come to life. Each couple have evolved from one shared body and when they now "wake up" in the light, they only have eyes for each other. They sit up, but stay on the benches in the light. They love each other and talk to one another by looking into each other's eyes, without saying anything. They don't kiss, but might hug and touch each other in a caring way.*

*None comes in (UR) and stays there watching them. She thinks that they are very beautiful together and for a very long time she has not experienced that kind of love with Wiz. After a while Tara comes in too. She wants to lure None out of the room.*

TARA

Why are you here alone?

*Tara is hushed up by None. None wants to keep watching the human beings (Helen/Lenny and Gerome/Romina), who don't pay any attention to None and Tara. Only comes in (UR) and for a moment the three of them watch the humans in silence:*

NONE *pleading to Only*

Do we have to separate them? Look how beautiful they are together...

ONLY

Well, it was one of Tara's ideas, a long time ago... and a very good one, I must say... They're so much easier to control when they're separated...

*Tara makes a new effort to withdraw None's attention from the humans. She puts her arm around None and walks with her across the floor (to DR), while Only walks closer to the humans:*

TARA

It's not only that... You see, after they've lost contact with their true partners, the females lose their beauty!

NONE

I can see why it's your idea...

TARA

Brilliant, isn't it?

NONE

This is so typical, Tara... What does it matter if someone is more beautiful than you?

TARA

No one, god or human, can be more beautiful than I am!

*Only has a little seal in his hand and with it he stamps on Gerome's and Romina's foreheads (UC). It doesn't hurt them and they hardly notice it. The seal leaves invisible marks. Only is "branding" the humans as if they are his property. None turns around:*

NONE to Only

What are you doing?

ONLY

Nothing.

*Only walks over to Helen and Lenny. He knows the danger of None possibly seeing what he is doing, but he doesn't want to stop stamping them.*

NONE to Tara

I just don't understand how you can want to separate them for that reason...

TARA

Well... you've never had any beauty to speak of, so what do you know?

NONE upset

I won't be insulted by you!...

*Only thinks that they will argue for a while and takes his chance. When he stamps Helen and Lenny on their foreheads, None can see in the corner of her eyes what he is doing and she turns towards him:*

I can be beautiful when I want to... Now, what are you doing? You're stamping them... with what?...

*None goes up to Only, who hides his seal.*

What's that in your hand, Only?

TARA

It's nothing... Nothing at all... Only is just putting some holy cream on their foreheads...

NONE

Holy cream?!... Oh, no... you don't fool me.

*Only shows her the little seal:*

ONLY

Dear None... This is nothing... It's only protecting them from diseases... Trust me.

NONE

I know what you're doing... You're branding them, aren't you?

*Only and Tara say nothing, hiding the truth:*

I knew it. Wiz has wondered why so many have began to worship and obey you... Now I know... and I'm going to tell him.

*None is heading for the doors (UR) and Only stops her:*

ONLY

No, you're not.

NONE *screaming*

Wiz!... Come here, Wiz!...

*Both Tara and Only "jump" on her. Only puts his hand on her mouth to stop her from attracting Wiz's attention:*

ONLY

I said you're not! Now... Dear None... you're my sister, I really don't want to hurt you... so don't make me... You *can't* tell Wiz.

TARA

That's right... You can't.

*None realises that they mean what they say. Only lets go of her, but remains standing by the doors with Tara, stopping None from leaving the room:*

NONE

Why?

TARA  
Do you remember when Ace fought Jack?...

NONE  
Yes...

TARA  
...and Jack won.

NONE  
Yes?...

TARA  
What do you think would happen if Wiz challenged Only?...

*None says nothing. She knows that Wiz would lose.*

Exactly... So... are you really going to tell Wiz?

*None gives up.*

I didn't think you were.

*Wiz comes in (UR), energetically:*

WIZ  
Did you call me, dear?

NONE  
No, I didn't. I mean, yes... I did... but... well... it was nothing.

WIZ  
Are you all right?

NONE  
Yes... of course.

*Wiz thinks about their coming "duties":*

WIZ  
Well, these love-birds seem to have come to life... Shall we separate them? I've opened the tunnel to the black hole...

NONE  
We need to give them names first.

WIZ

All right...

*Wiz goes to Gerome and Romina:*

So... what did we call these two?

TARA

Gerome and Romina.

WIZ *casually*

Right... You're now officially named Gerome and Romina.

*Wiz walks over to Helen and Lenny. None intervenes:*

NONE

I'll do it. You don't care for them...

WIZ

Why should I?

NONE

Because you can.

*None walks up to them and strokes their cheeks when she names them:*

I now officially name you Helen and Lenny.

*This ceremony is followed by a short silence, broken by Only:*

ONLY

Good... Well, that was that.

WIZ

Yes...

*Another few seconds of silence.*

TARA

Let's just get it over with, shall we?

ONLY *dryly*

Right... Dear Lenny and Romina!... We, your Creators, wish you a happy life on the other side of the universe.

*Tara walks over to Helen and Lenny. She asks None for help to carry out Lenny:*

TARA  
Will you help me?

NONE  
No.

*None is used to obeying Wiz and this is the first time she has questioned why they separate the humans. She walks away (and doesn't want to look when they do it.)*

WIZ  
I'll help you.

*Tara and Wiz take hold of Lenny, while Only goes to separate Romina from Gerome. When they separate the humans from their partners, they scream as if their hearts are cut in half. Helen and Gerome are powerless to do anything about it (and they keep screaming/weeping until None puts them to sleep.) Tara and Wiz are busy carrying Lenny, when Tara sees Only looking lovingly at Romina who he is carrying in his arms. (These three lines might not be heard clearly because of the screaming):*

TARA to Only  
Stop staring at her!

ONLY  
Give it up, will you. I'm not doing anything.

WIZ to None  
Will you put them to sleep, dear?

*Lenny and Romina are carried out (and outside this room they are thrown into the tunnel that leads to the black hole. They will end up on the other side of the universe, where they will live on a planet similar to Earth.) Without touching Helen and Gerome, None walks up to each one of them and makes a downwards gesture with her palm in front of their faces. They fall asleep.*

*Only, Tara and Wiz are involved in a conversation about parenthood as they walk back into the room (UR):*

TARA  
I hate being a parent... It used to be fun, but it's lost its charm... It seems as if we're always working nowadays...

ONLY  
I thought you found it easier now... when there are no small humans to take care of any more?...

TARA  
I agree our work is more efficient now... but they're so disobedient... they always get ideas in their heads and challenge us... I hate it when we have to punish them...

ONLY

What are you worried about? Humans wanting freedom  
are easy to crush...

TARA

I'm not worried... I'm just bored with it...

WIZ

I don't mind being a parent... They're trying, that's true,  
but we can't let them out until we've worked on them...  
On the other hand, once they're ours, they'll do anything  
we want them to... What would we do without them?

TARA

Okay... I guess you're right... what would we do without  
those little devils...

WIZ *to None*

I see you've put them to sleep... Good.

TARA

So... Mrs "Mother Almighty"... what do you think?

NONE

I care for them... that's more than I can say for you...

TARA

Woops... there went my halo... Don't you ever get  
tired of being so holy?...

NONE

Are we going to wake them up?... or are we following  
Tara's example of not bothering?

ONLY

Yes, yes... we'll wake them up. The show must go on...  
Will you do the introduction?

WIZ

Certainly.

*Wiz snaps his finger and Helen and Gerome wake up. They don't remember being  
separated from their partners. They sit up on their benches and listen to the charming  
and entertaining gods and accept what they are saying. (Tara and None are waiting  
for their turn to speak):*

Dear human beings. You've come today into our world  
and we bid you welcome. We are your Creators...I'm  
Wiz.

ONLY  
I'm Only.

TARA  
Tara.

NONE  
I'm None.

WIZ  
We are gods... you are human beings. Your name is  
Gerome and yours is.....?

NONE  
Helen.

WIZ  
Right... Helen. We are your parents and we love you very  
much. We're going to release you into the world as soon  
as possible, but first you'll be spending some time here,  
where we can monitor your progress...

ONLY  
Maybe I can say a few words...

WIZ  
Of course, dear brother... Go ahead.

ONLY  
As Wiz was saying: we've created you, which means that  
we *own* you. You'll answer to us at all times, otherwise  
you'll die. Now... dying means ceasing to exist. You'll  
simply disappear as if you've never been here. Eventually  
you'll die anyway, but that's another story...

*Only thinks he has made a very funny joke and laughs out loud, when he thinks of  
the unfortunate lives of the humans. (Gerome and Helen might be affected by the  
laughter; they might start laughing, too.)*

Hi, hi, hi... Ha, ha... Oh, well... You can't have everything...  
Ha, ha, ha...

WIZ  
What Only is trying to stress is how important it is that  
you always obey us. You're nobodies and there's never  
any point in arguing with us. We're right. You're wrong.

*Only has another fit of laughter.*

Dear brother, pull yourself together.

ONLY

Ha, ha, ha... Oh, I'm so sorry...

*Only is walking a bit to the side to stop his laughter.*

WIZ

We'll teach you everything you need to know and you'll also be given some exercises, so that we can see that you've understood. Now... you, Gerome, are a man and you, Helen, are a woman, and you rule over her. We've found that men are much better at obeying and giving orders. Dear Helen, no offence, please...

ONLY (*the question is for Gerome*)

I'm okay now... What I wanted to say is that there are great rewards waiting if you'll learn to behave properly... but also severe punishments if you don't. We're your parents and we always know what is best for you... so if we decide to punish you, it would only be for your own good... But I'm sure we'll get along... Any questions?...

*Gerome is not given any time to think about it:*

No, of course not. So... what have we forgotten to talk about?...

TARA

The wars...

ONLY

Not yet, Tara! It's not your turn yet.

TARA

I was just helping you!...

WIZ

Shall we talk about the wars?...

ONLY (*to Gerome*)

That's a good idea, Wiz... As you'll soon discover, there are lots of wars going on between different territories... Now... Wiz and I hold a territory together, it's called Site... some people worship Wiz and some people are mine...

WIZ (*to Gerome*)

My people are mainly businessmen, while Only's people are politicians or soldiers in the army... You'll be given a chance to choose a career, but we'll tell you more about it later... Unfortunately, there have been a few uprisings within our territory...

ONLY

Only minor ones, though... My people have them under control... and as long as you and I get along, there'll be peace...

WIZ

Of course, dear brother... After all, the real threat is coming from other territories... There are some fierce wars going on out there... Jack's people are very aggressive, but they haven't dared to attack us yet...

ONLY

I don't think they will... Not now... They have their own problems to solve...

WIZ

Let's hope you're right...

ONLY

I'm always right.

WIZ *joking*

Ooo... Touchy, aren't we?...

ONLY

I'm very touchy and I'm proud of it! Dear Wiz, let's not argue in front of our new beings... Shall we be gentlemen and let the women speak?... for once?!...

*Only and Wiz laugh heartily at the joke.*

I believe you had something to say, Tara...

TARA

Yes, dear... How did you guess?...

*Tara is used to being denigrated by her husband. She turns towards Helen:*

My sweet little darling... As you've understood, this is a man's world... so you wonder what you are doing here?... Well... you can cook and wash their filthy socks... None will tell you more about it... I don't do that... You see: I'm beautiful!...

*She wants Helen to be impressed by her beauty.*

Beauty is a woman's only merit in this world... without it, she's nothing!... I would advise you to make yourself beautiful at all times. If you do, there are numerous benefits... for instance: you don't have to work so hard and you'll still earn lots of money...

ONLY

You miss those days, don't you darling?...

*Only and Wiz laugh. Tara is beautiful, but they know that she worries about losing her beauty. Tara ignores them:*

TARA

Well, you can see for yourself what we have to put up with... Just ignore them... they're sad sods really, wanting everything handed to them on golden plates...

ONLY

Don't forget to polish them...

TARA

I'll polish your head in a minute!... any remaining hair will come right off!...

ONLY

Ooo... I like it... Show us some real temper!...

TARA

Will you just let me get on with it...

*Only is amused, but he backs out a bit. Tara continues talking to Helen:*

Thank you... It's their job to serve us... not the other way around... You'll soon learn how you can use your looks to get anything you want... It's easy... look at me... I take care of my beauty and I'm completely irresistible!... Many have fought in battles to win me...

ONLY

And I won... don't forget it!...

TARA

How could I?... Well, dear... this is all I have to say for now. We'll talk again, later. Take it away, None!

*It's None's turn to teach Helen about womanhood:*

NONE

My dear, sweet little one... What I have to say is nothing, really...

TARA

So don't...

WIZ

Please, ladies...

TARA

Sorry...

NONE

You've listened to Tara talking about beauty... It might seem to be the most important thing for a woman to strive for... But don't do that... it would only give you an empty life and you would always be judged by your appearance...

*Tara has an urge to interrupt, but clears her throat instead.*

It would also trigger off a lot of competition between you and other women... and frankly, we've seen enough of that in this world... No... a woman's true merit lies in how much she's sacrificing herself for her man... You must do everything Gerome tells you to do.

ONLY

Did you hear that, Gerome?...

*Gerome is beginning to like the part he will play in this life.*

NONE

There is great satisfaction in living a life in the shadow of a prominent man...

WIZ *encouraging*

This is the part I like...

NONE

You know that you've become a part of something greater than you... and that you could never have reached this state of being on your own... We can look down on men if we want to... as Tara does...

*Tara hates this part of None's speech:*

but if we're honest, we know in our hearts that men are so much greater than we are... and I would say it's better to comply with this truth than to fight it... A woman never achieves anything on her own.

*Wiz and Only applaud None's speech:*

WIZ

Bravo!

ONLY

Good. Very good, None! Well... you've heard us all now... and I suppose you have a lot to think about... We're going to leave you alone for a while... so that you'll have a chance to get to know each other *much* better...

*Only enjoys this situation and walks up to Gerome to speak more directly to him:*

I believe you have some business to take care of...

*Gerome doesn't understand. Wiz joins Only:*

WIZ

Oh, dear... I believe you do...

*Tara and None hurry to Helen to support her. Helen doesn't understand either:*

TARA

It might hurt the first time... but don't pay any attention to it...

NONE (*stroking Helen's hair*)

You'll learn to endure it.

WIZ (*to Gerome*)

Don't worry... it'll be fine...

ONLY

If she resists you, you have my permission to take her with force... A man stops at nothing!

TARA

We know!...

ONLY *irritated*

Now what!?!...

TARA

Nothing.

ONLY

Stop interfering, then!...

TARA

You don't understand this... She'll get scared...

ONLY

Because she's weak...

TARA

No.

ONLY (*snaps suddenly*)

I'm warning you, Tara! One more word out of you and I'll not be responsible for my actions...

TARA

Are you ever?...

*Only could kill her, if it wasn't for the fact that gods can't die. So instead he storms out of the room (UR). Wiz realises that this argument might seem frightening to Gerome and Helen, so he does his best to neutralise the tense atmosphere:*

WIZ

Oh, dear... Look at us... Don't be frightened, little ones... You might think that since we're gods, we would know how to behave... but... as you can see, we have our good and our bad days...

*None holds her palm for a few seconds on Helen's throat. Then she walks towards Gerome:*

NONE *to Helen and Gerome*

We'll be leaving now...

*She holds her palm on Gerome's throat for a few seconds:*

When we've left, you'll be able to speak to each other...

*She and Wiz walk towards the doors (UR). Tara joins them.*

Take all the time you need... there's no hurry...

WIZ

You might want some music?...

*Some kind of bland, undistinctive music can softly be heard in the background:*

TARA

Turn it off, Wiz! I hate that music.

*The music stops.*

WIZ (*to Gerome and Helen*)

And then again, you might not... Some wine, maybe?...

*Gerome and Helen are not sure of what it is and say nothing.*

No... Oh, well... see you in a little while.

*Wiz, None and Tara (might wave and they) walk out of the room (UR), leaving Gerome and Helen on their own. They are quiet for a while, sneaking looks at each other:*

HELEN  
What did they call you?

GEROME  
Gerome.

HELEN  
I don't remember my name?...

GEROME  
You're Helen.

HELEN (*repeating to remember*)  
Helen...

*She stands up on the floor and walks a bit. Then she examines her body. Gerome does the same. Helen finds her breast:*

HELEN  
What are these?

GEROME (*looking, no touching*)  
I don't know?

*Gerome finds something between his legs and Helen sees his curiosity:*

HELEN  
What?...

GEROME  
Nothing.

*He quickly stops examining his newly found body part, but keeps wondering what it is.*

HELEN  
Do we have to obey them?

GEROME  
Yes.

HELEN  
What if we don't want to?

GEROME  
I do. Don't you want to?

HELEN  
No.

GEROME  
Why?

HELEN  
I don't like them. They're not nice.

GEROME  
What could we do on our own?... We can't go anywhere...

HELEN  
Not now, but maybe later...

GEROME  
Didn't you hear what they said would happen to us if we didn't obey them?... Besides, I'm a man and you have to do everything I ask you to do...

HELEN  
I don't want to be a woman!...

GEROME  
Well, you are... and you can't do anything about it.

HELEN  
They said you would hurt me if I didn't obey you...

GEROME  
So then I will.

HELEN  
Why?

GEROME  
Because I have to obey *them*. They created us. They *own* us.

HELEN  
What does that mean?

GEROME  
I'm not sure... but I'll do what they'll tell me to do. I don't want to be punished.

*There is a short silence. Helen is not happy.*

HELEN  
Tara said that men should do things for women...

GEROME  
Only if they're beautiful...

HELEN  
Am I beautiful?

GEROME  
Yes, I think so?...

HELEN  
Then you have to do things for me...

GEROME  
No, I don't...

HELEN  
Yes, you do...

GEROME  
No!

HELEN  
Yes!

GEROME  
We have to ask them when they come back...

HELEN  
What are we going to do now?

GEROME  
There's nothing to do... we just have to wait...

HELEN  
For what?

GEROME  
For them to come back... what else?

HELEN  
Can't we do something while we're waiting?

GEROME  
All right...

HELEN  
Can I look at your body?

GEROME  
What for?

HELEN  
You found something. I want to see it.

GEROME  
I don't know what it is?...

HELEN  
What does it look like?

GEROME  
Like... like... something?...

HELEN  
Is that why you're a man?

GEROME  
I suppose so...

HELEN  
Why is my heart hurting?

GEROME  
How do I know? Maybe there's something wrong with it?

HELEN  
It's aching... I feel lonely...

GEROME  
I'm here.

HELEN  
I know... but...

*Gerome comes up close to Helen and hugs her.*

I miss someone... Where is he?

GEROME  
Who?

HELEN  
I don't know?...

GEROME

Just relax...

*He strokes her hair and she relaxes. Helen's feelings are "transferred" to him.*

I feel it too?... I know I miss someone, but why?...

HELEN

There's something I should remember?... it's just out of my reach...

GEROME

That's what it is... *Loneliness!* It hurts!... I can't stand this feeling!...

*They hug and cling on to each other to stop their hearts from aching.*

HELEN

Can we leave? Now! I don't want to be here anymore...

GEROME

No, we can't leave... I'm scared of them... They would find us...

HELEN

We can hide...

GEROME

Where?

HELEN

When we get out of here...

GEROME

You know they would find us... and then they'd kill us...

HELEN

I don't care...

GEROME

We have to stay alive!...

HELEN

For what?

GEROME

Because... because... I don't know why... but I know  
I want to live!

HELEN

Didn't he say that we would die anyway?...

GEROME

Yes, he did...

HELEN

So, then... why are we here?

GEROME

Don't you want to live?

HELEN

Yes, I do.

GEROME

Then we have to stay... Don't worry... we'll get through  
this together...

*Gerome wants to comfort Helen, but she doesn't want to be comforted.*

HELEN

I want to leave!... I'm not scared of them... they're stupid!

GEROME

How can you say that? What if they'd hear us?...

HELEN (*verifying*)

You're scared of them.

GEROME

Yes, I am! They're so overwhelming. We have no power  
against them...

HELEN

Yes, we do... I think so... if we're not scared of them...

*Gerome thinks about this for a moment:*

GEROME

Maybe you're right... If I'm not scared of them, what can  
they do?...

HELEN

Exactly.

GEROME

That's clever.

*Gerome feels stronger and stronger. He can see himself taking on a fight with the gods:*

I can do it. I can fight the gods!

HELEN

Yes! Let's leave!

*Gerome is scared of a direct confrontation with the gods, but he doesn't want to admit it:*

GEROME

No. I have a better plan. Let's stay and *pretend* to obey...

HELEN

Pretend?...

GEROME

Yes. I'll pretend to obey them and you'll pretend to obey me!...

HELEN

Why?

GEROME

We'll still plan to leave... but it'll be our secret... and we'll have more time to figure out how we can do that...

HELEN

Then I'd rather leave on my own.

GEROME

No, don't do that! We need each other. I need you. Say that you'll stay here with me...

*Helen's feeling tells her to leave, but since he is saying that he needs her, he somehow gets a hold over her:*

HELEN *reluctant*

Okay.

GEROME

Good. You won't regret it. We'll have lots of fun when they're not here...

*Helen is not convinced that she has made the right decision. Gerome is mocking the gods:*

Look, Helen: "We're your *parents* and we *always* know what's *best* for you"...

*Helen lightens up a bit. She plays along:*

HELEN

"We're *right*. You're *wrong*"...

GEROME

What about this one: "There are great *rewards* waiting if you'll learn to *behave*"...

HELEN

Or this one: "A woman's *merit* lies in *sacrificing* herself for her man"...

*Gerome laughs with Helen to keep her happy, although he is not sure that there was anything wrong with the last statement...*

GEROME

See!... We'll have lots of fun!...

*Gerome comes close to Helen. He begins to feel something he hasn't felt before. At first Helen likes the attention he gives her:*

I like you, Helen...

HELEN

I like you, too...

GEROME

You have beautiful hair...

*He touches or strokes her hair. She likes that. Gerome wants to be even closer and Helen is beginning to feel a bit uncomfortable. Gerome doesn't want to hurt her, but he is giving in to the urge he feels inside of him:*

I want to be close to you...

HELEN

Don't hold me so tight...

GEROME *surprised at her reaction*

I don't want to hurt you...

*Helen relaxes a bit:*

Good... I just want to...

*Gerome starts breathing heavily and tries to lay Helen down and to lie on top of her. Helen isn't amused any more. They struggle:*

HELEN

Stop it! Get off me!... Gerome! Get off me!

*Her fear makes her strong and she manages to get away from Gerome:*

What are you doing?!...

*Gerome doesn't have an answer. He was just following a strong impulse:*

GEROME

I said I wasn't going to hurt you!

HELEN

You frightened me!...

GEROME

I'm sorry!...

*Helen is hurt because he didn't stop when she said "no", and Gerome is hurt because she rejected him. The gods were clever to put the idea in his head that he has the right to force Helen into doing what he wants. Now he was partly acting on it without realising it. He thinks he did nothing wrong and doesn't understand why it got out of hand. After all, she agreed to be close to him, so then she must have herself to blame. He didn't want to hurt her and he is angry that she thought he would:*

It's your own fault, anyway...

HELEN

What?

GEROME

Maybe they're right... Maybe men should rule over women...

You're stupid!... Besides, you're ugly!

HELEN

I'm not!

GEROME

Yes, you are!

HELEN *close to tears*

You're mean!

*She feels desolate and starts crying. She might curl up on the floor or by a wall to comfort herself. Gerome keeps away from her and he is still angry.*

*Gem, Love, Wise and Papa walk quietly into the room (UR). These gods are also paired up: Gem with Love and Wise with Papa. Their clothes can be beautiful, but much less extravagant than the clothes of Only & company. They sense the tense atmosphere and they see Helen crying. Wise and Gem come up to Helen to comfort her. She is not scared of them and she feels in her heart that they love her. Papa walks up to Gerome and looks him straight in the eyes. Gerome gives in to his hurt feelings and starts to weep. Papa hugs him.*

HELEN *(still crying)*

He says I'm ugly!...

GEM

You're beautiful.

HELEN *to Gerome*

I hate you!

GEROME

...I hate you!

WISE *caring for Helen*

Now, there... What's your name?

HELEN

Helen.

LOVE

I think our brothers and sisters have been here...

PAPA *(comforting Gerome)*

Look at them. I've been told about this: they're making grown-ups... so that they're ready to work...

LOVE

Must be Only's idea...

PAPA

Then they keep them here and brainwash them before they're let out...

GEROME

Who are you?

PAPA

We're gods, just like None, Wiz, Tara and Only.

GEM

Sorry... we didn't present ourselves... I'm Gem.

WISE

My name is Wise...

LOVE

I'm Love.

PAPA

...and I'm Papa. ...and what's your name?

GEROME

Gerome.

LOVE

Now, please tell us... what have they told you?...

HELEN

They said that they have created us and that we must obey them. If we don't, we'll die.

GEROME

...and they said *you* had to obey *me*!

PAPA (*still caring for Gerome*)

It's okay, Gerome... We know...

LOVE

It's true that they are your creators, but you're not their property... I mean, they don't own you... and you, Helen, are *not* inferior to Gerome... you're worth just as much...

*Helen is happy to hear this. (She might look at Gerome to see how he takes this news.)*

WISE

We all have the same origin... The difference between us is that you can dream and we can't... You're our dreamers from the future... you weave the web of Life... Another difference is that we can't die... We were never born, so we can't die...

HELEN

But... if you can't die... why do you want us to die?

GEM

We don't want you to die... it's just part of your evolution... it's just a stepping stone on your way to becoming gods...

HELEN

Gods?!...

GEM

Yes, of course... I bet they didn't tell you about that...

GEROME

Why do you and the other gods say different things?...  
I'm confused now... I don't know what to believe...

LOVE

We understand that... but we have to confuse you, before  
you fully believe what they're telling you... then it might  
be too late...

HELEN

I believe you. They didn't tell us the truth, but I know  
you are...

LOVE

Yes, we are... but you still shouldn't believe what we're  
saying... Test it to see if it holds... then you'll know  
for sure...

HELEN (*promising*)

I will.

PAPA

Only and the other gods have a lot of influence over the  
humans... We can always tell when they've been here...  
First they break you down and then we have to come  
along to pick up the pieces... If you'll let them, they'll  
make you into robots...

WISE

I know it's not much of a consolation, but... you're  
not alone... There's a whole world out there... and it's  
a world of illusions!... They train you to believe that  
you're inferior to the gods... and what you *think* is true  
will *be* true... They give you a world of illusions. We  
help you to see through it.

GEROME

How do I know if you're telling the truth?

LOVE

You don't. As I said to Helen... you have to test it to see  
if it holds.

GEROME

How can I do that?

LOVE

First of all, you can look into your heart... and listen to what it says... Usually it'll tell you the truth you need to hear... not necessarily what you *want* to hear... and then you act on it... When you do, that's when you see that it holds together...

HELEN

How did it get like this?

GEM

How do you mean?

HELEN

Well... I'm here now and those gods want to own me... so I'll have to learn to see through those illusions... but how did I get here? What has happened, leading to me being here now?...

LOVE

That's a very good question... Do we have time?... Yes, we do... They're not here just now... Do you want to hear the tale of the creation?...

HELEN

Yes.

*Helen sits down close to Love. They all listen when Love tells the tale:*

LOVE

Let's start from the beginning... There's a source to all life... our Mother... She gives Life and without Her all creations would cease to exist... there would be no movement, no consciousness, only darkness... She's the Mother to all gods and human beings... Now, how has this world come into being?... Well, first there's Nought... but for Nought to exist it needs an opposite pole... that is, the Reflection of Nought... Now, this is interesting... what happens is that Nought looks at its own Reflection and wonders what it is... and starts a movement to find out... this movement is the Creation... and it goes on until it touches the Reflection and Nought realises it's looking at itself... then the longing for the source gets stronger and the Creation finds its way back to Nought... The gods, we and our brothers and sisters have already seen one of those Creations or universes come to an end... and we have brought with us all our wisdom into this Creation, which you are now living in... Here comes our problem: some of the gods have rejected or forgotten their true calling to take care of and teach you... and they are now seeking total power for themselves...

HELEN

Like Only?...

LOVE

Like Only and many other gods... They're not honouring our Mother... and they're using the humans as tools in their wars against each other. Many of them are scared that you'll find out about your true heritage, because when you do, you'll surpass them in knowledge... so they do everything they can to control you and stop your growth...

GEROME

Can't you stop them?

LOVE

No... they have their parental rights and we can't take that away from them. We talk to them as often as possible, but they don't listen to us...

HELEN

But the Mother... can't she stop them?

GEM

She loves all her children... even the ones that are straying... She could stop them, but she'd rather see that they change on their own accord.

PAPA

What we can do and what we do is to teach you about your heritage, so that you'll learn to see through their lies...

WISE

You're not meant to be enslaved. One day you will go beyond them, regardless of their efforts.

*Gerome thinks he hears the other gods coming and he reacts with fear:*

PAPA

What's the matter?

GEROME

They're coming! Please don't leave me!

*(Gerome might hold on to Papa.) All the gods listen to hear if the other gods are coming:*

PAPA, WISE, LOVE, GEM

Naah...

LOVE

...it's not them.

PAPA *to Gerome*

Don't be scared. That's what they want you to be...

GEROME

I try not to be scared, but I am anyway...

HELEN

What happens if they kill us?

WISE

They might kill you, yes... but don't be frightened... it's only an illusion... There's something beyond death... you don't really die... it's just a transformation to another life...

GEM

The spark of Life that our Mother gave you can never die... it'll always live on... You will die, as Helen and Gerome, but then you'll be a part of another life in the future...

WISE

There's nothing to worry about... You've been given egos... you're Helen, you're Gerome... and your egos tell you to be frightened of death... That's how the gods can trap you... They threaten you with death, because they know it'll make you do anything they want...

GEROME

I don't understand... will I die or not?

PAPA

Yes, you will, but don't worry about that now... When you die we'll be there to welcome you...

HELEN

I'm glad you came here...

GEM

We're glad to have got to know you...

HELEN

Can't you always be here?

GEM

There are many humans to take care of... but you can always call for any one of us if you need help...

Let's have some fun!

LOVE

Yes!

GEM

Fun?

GEROME

Don't you want to?

LOVE

Yes, but...

GEROME

...but we're gods and we have to be serious?...

LOVE

Well...

GEROME

We love to have fun!... let's play "catch"... I'm "it"!

PAPA

*All the gods and Helen run away from Papa, who is trying to catch them. Gerome hesitates a bit, but then he has as much fun as the others. They play this for a short while and the one who is "it" changes one or more times:*

Oh, oh... I hear them coming...

LOVE

*They stop playing and look at the doors (UR). In come Only, Tara, Wiz and None. They stay by the doors. Only is angry, but he doesn't show it:*

And what do we have here? Aren't these our dear brothers and sisters... I believe you're trespassing.

ONLY

*Gerome and Helen feel small compared to the gods and they might sit down at one side by the wall (DL). Love, Gem, Papa and Wise are used to the other gods' way of speaking and they play along:*

My dear brother... How could we be trespassing?... This is our Mother's Temple of Creation... it belongs to all of us...

LOVE

Nevertheless... oh, you know what I mean... These human beings are ours... you have no right to talk to them.

ONLY

PAPA

Dear Only... we would never dream of interfering... We were just taking a walk and we happened to find them here...

ONLY

Ah... Will you leave now.

PAPA

Leave?

ONLY

Yes. L.E.A.V.E. Now!

PAPA

Ooo... leave. Are we leaving, Love?

LOVE (*question to Gem*)

No, I don't think so. Are we leaving?

GEM

No.

ONLY

Oh, but I think you are.

WIZ

Let's not argue...

LOVE

No, let's not...

WIZ

Only are simply asking you to leave in a nice manner.

LOVE (*question to Papa*)

...in a *very* nice manner. Don't you think Only has nice manners?

PAPA

*Remarkably* nice manners...

WIZ

We would like some *peace* so that we may perform our parental duties.

LOVE

Hallelujah... let's sing to that...

*Love starts "the choir" with his hand and he conducts the following:*

WISE, PAPA, GEM, LOVE *sing in harmony*  
Peace... Peace... Peace.

TARA (*question to Gem*)  
Let's stop this charade... We know why you're here...  
And you, my dear... are you here to seduce my man?...

GEM  
What?

TARA  
How can you act as if you're innocent?... I can see  
straight through you...

WISE  
You're blinded by your own jealousy.

GEM  
Honestly, Tara... I would never do anything like that...

TARA  
Really...

ONLY *to Tara*  
Now, dear... I'm sure we can handle our marital problems  
elsewhere...

TARA *to Gem*  
I've got my eyes on you. I hate you. You've got nothing!

*None knows that Only desires Gem and that Tara is suffering due to knowing that,  
so she comes up to Tara to soothe her.*

ONLY  
Now... is there any way we could settle our differences?...  
forever!...

LOVE  
Can I be frank?

ONLY  
Yes... why not.

LOVE  
You're using the humans as slaves... You know you can  
never own people.

ONLY

Do I know that?

LOVE

Please!... do you ever think twice about it?

ONLY

I've thought about it many times... and every time I've come to the conclusion that it's a brilliant idea!...

LOVE

Like the idea to make them grown-ups... that's your idea, isn't it?

ONLY

Yes... don't you like it?...

PAPA

We really need to settle our differences... the question is: can we?

ONLY

Well, as I see it... We're parents and we have our rights... and you can't interfere with that!

WISE

You are limiting the human's rights...

ONLY

Who gave you permission to speak?

WISE

I don't need permission to speak. Whether you listen or not, that's another story...

ONLY

You should know your place.

WISE

And where is that?

ONLY

Maybe Papa can tell you...

WISE

I know where my place is... Right now it's here, talking some sense into you...

ONLY

You're wasting your time.

WISE

I guess I am...

GEM

Why are you working against the humans?...

ONLY (*desires Gem, but has some respect for Love*)

Oh, you sweet little thing... Did you say something?

TARA

Don't even dare to talk to her!...

ONLY

Yah, yah, yah, yah...

WIZ

Why do we what?... Are you saying they have a free will?...

GEM

Are you saying they haven't?

WIZ

Okay... they have a free will if we *give* them that... but we don't...

GEM

What about the spark of Life that Mother gives them?

WIZ

What?... She's got nothing to do with it... These are *our* creations!...

WISE

Do you want to bet?

PAPA *to Only and Wiz*

What I want to know is why you and the others keep dividing the Earth into territories...

ONLY

Yes?...

PAPA

You can't own the Earth!... or anything on it...

ONLY

But we do!... Are you blind?...

PAPA

You can't claim any territories for yourself...

WIZ

He's just sorry he wasn't there when we divided them up...

ONLY

Oh, I see... you want in on it?...

PAPA

No!...

WIZ

Ah... Come on... Admit it...

GEM *to Only and Wiz*

You've completely misunderstood *everything!*

WIZ

I don't think so...

LOVE *to Only and Wiz*

Now, tell us... What are your plans?... to get total power over the Earth?... Now, if you could, what would you do then? Take over other planets? Where would it stop? What do you need? Why do you need power at all? Are you so starved of love?

TARA

Hey!... Watch what you're saying!...

LOVE

Sorry, Tara... it's not an attack on you...

ONLY (*reference to Wiz*)

Well, we're all different... I happen to like conquering things... or people... I'm good at it. We're good at it.

NONE

I have to say that I think you're being very unfair... We're good parents!... we take our duties seriously and we give them everything they need...

GEM

You conceal their true heritage...

NONE

We do?

GEM

You don't tell them that they are gods as well.

NONE

But they're not!... We're their parents, yes, but just because we're gods doesn't make them gods...

GEM

Well, they are...

NONE

How do you know?... I think this is where we misunderstand one another... I've heard others talk about this and maybe the early humans were partly gods... but nowadays?... No, I wouldn't say so...

*None walks towards Helen and Gerome (DL), who don't want her to come close. She talks to them as she would talk to dogs. (The sentence "It's a good thing..." is to Wiz):*

Dear little ones... are you hungry?... This must be so confusing for you... we gods standing here talking and talking... It's a good thing they're not intelligent enough to understand everything... Now, don't be frightened... these ladies and gentlemen will leave us soon and then...

*Helen and Gerome run to the other side (DR).*

...we'll have time to...

*None feels foolish. Only thinks they are reacting like animals and doesn't think that they understand more than he wants them to:*

ONLY

It's true, we've had some problems in the past, with humans thinking they're gods like us... I've sometimes suspected another power to be behind this, but I've never been able to prove it... But I'd say that we've overcome those problems...

WIZ

Of course we have... We have full control!

ONLY

We inspect them...

*Only walks up to Helen and Gerome, who don't dare to move away from him.*

...and if we see something that shouldn't be there, then we get rid of them... oh!... I meant of course that we relocate them...

*Only looks straight into them and he can vaguely sense the spark of Life that conquers death:*

Now... this is not good... I don't understand how this could have happened?... This must be *your* doing!

LOVE

What?...

ONLY

I can vaguely see the spark of Life inside them...

LOVE

And?...

ONLY

Don't act so innocent... The humans we make don't have it...

*Wiz, None and Tara go up to Helen and Gerome to check for themselves. (The humans sit still and don't know what else to do):*

GEM

The Mother gave them life, that's why they have it... so what can you do about it?...

ONLY

I hate the mother!...

PAPA

She's your own Mother, Only...

ONLY

So she claims...

WIZ

What have you done to them?!...

LOVE

Nothing! We've only been telling them the facts, nothing else...

ONLY

They say it's the mother's doing...

WIZ

I don't believe that!... I think you've done something to them!

*Wiz joins Only and is shocked because of what he has seen. (Tara and None might follow him to join Only.)*

PAPA

We've done nothing! We've simply talked to them and cared about them...

ONLY

You've *caaaared* about them... Oh, please...

WISE

Too good to be true, isn't it?...

ONLY (*ignores Wise's remark*)

You show them some care and they think they can have anything!... Seriously though, why do you honour the mother?... why do you all run her errands?... This is very dangerous what you're doing, don't you realise that? Have you ever thought of what the consequences might be?!... These little bastards could take over the Earth!... and threaten us in the process!...

PAPA

They're *supposed* to go beyond us... You can't keep them ignorant forever... The spark of Life that lives within them pushes them on and there is nothing you can do about it... Why don't you just walk with them?

ONLY

Walk *with* them?... Don't make me laugh!... They're no better than animals... Look at them!...

*Only makes a gesture with his arm towards where Helen and Gerome are sitting (DR). Wiz, None and Tara look at them too and might start laughing at them. Gerome and Helen feel humiliated, but they don't dare to say anything:*

LOVE

In the future they will be our teachers...

ONLY *ironically*

That'll be the day...

*Wiz laughs out loud at "the impossible scenario" that humans would ever have something to teach the gods. Tara and None laugh with him:*

WIZ

Ha, ha, ha... Yeah, that'll be the day...

ONLY

Anyway... you can't say that the Earth belongs to them...  
We have as much right to be here as they have!...

PAPA

If we don't influence their lives, yes...

LOVE

Your influence is way too strong!

ONLY

We're gods!... being strong is part of our nature...

PAPA

For example, you're making the humans dig up more and more radioactive elements...

ONLY

Yes, and?...

LOVE

...they get sick from being exposed to all that radioactivity...

TARA

Isn't that their problem?...

*(These gods live very well in radioactive environments and Only wouldn't mind if the whole surface of the Earth became radioactive.) Only feels that Tara is interrupting. He warns her:*

ONLY

Tara...

TARA *reluctant*

All right...

ONLY

I can fight my own battles, thank you... This conversation is too complicated for you, anyway...

TARA

But?...

NONE

Dear Only, she... she was just...

ONLY

Shut up, both of you!!...

NONE

Yes, of course...

*Love, Gem, Papa and Wise feel uneasy watching how Only treats the women. Wiz doesn't defend None, because he thinks she should know her place (and that "place" depends on the moods of Wiz or Only.)*

WIZ

Why don't we just agree that we probably won't be able to agree on anything?...

PAPA

We have to... We can't go on like this...

WIZ

But what can we do?... Our views are poles apart...

PAPA

I know...

ONLY

Well, in any case, I think it's fair to say that we won't settle any differences for now... Let's call it a day.

WISE

Let's not...

ONLY

Not you again... What now?...

WISE

You know you'll lose your power one day, don't you?...

ONLY *ironically*

You don't say...

WISE

We know you're afraid of that...

ONLY to Papa  
Why don't you just make her shut up?... What's the matter with you!?!...

PAPA  
Listen to her!... She's telling you the truth!...

ONLY  
The truth!... The truth?!... How dare you!... I'm not afraid of anything!...

TARA  
Well, dear... you *are* a bit afraid of Jack...

ONLY  
You, shut up!

*Only is about to hit Tara, but Gem intervenes:*

GEM  
Don't you dare!...

*Only stops himself, since he doesn't want to hit Gem. Tara is grateful but surprised that Gem took her part. She doesn't know how to react. Love walks up to Only:*

LOVE  
If you're going to hit someone, why don't you hit me?...

*Only is confused because of his own reaction. He is angry, but doesn't know with whom. Wiz tries to calm the situation down...*

WIZ  
Oh, dear... let's all calm down now...

*...but when he sees the desperation in Only's eyes, he backs off:*

ONLY  
I hate you all!... Don't mess with me, I'm warning you!...

*Only could hit anyone of them right now. Love gets his attention:*

LOVE  
Why are you so angry, Only?... Did she say something that was true?...

*Now Only focuses his anger on Love:*

ONLY  
Watch it!... You must really watch it!...

*Only and Love face each other and walk around in a circle. Only wants to hit Love, but doesn't dare to. He knows that Love is in contact with the Mother and he is not sure how much power She has. Love doesn't threaten him, but instead he wants Only to look into himself for the truth:*

LOVE *challenging, but with love*  
So?... what will it be, Only?...

*(If the audience needs an intermission, this might be a good time.)*

what will it be?...

*Only and Love stand still for a while, facing each other.*

You know you'll lose, don't you?... There's no love  
in your heart...

*Only realises that Love has the upper hand. He is not exactly sure why and he is still angry, but he gives up and walks away. Everybody relaxes. The doors open (UR, by themselves?) and in walks The Mother.*

*She is the source of Life and as such She is present in everyone of them. They are all part of Her light. The sound of Her voice is mild and sometimes sad, but never angry or insipidly sweet. (It might be a good idea for the actress to wear a microphone, so that she can sometimes speak softly and still be heard. If possible, The Mother's voice can be heard in the whole theatre.) Her voice is not the dominant voice of a queen or any other powerful figure. She is most of all a Mother and She speaks from a heart full of love for all Her creations. (Her dress can be beautiful, long and in some light colour/s, to resemble the light that She is.) When She walks in, there is silence. Gem, Love, Wise and Papa love Her and are honoured by Her visit, while Only, Tara, Wiz and None are bothered by it. She stands for a short while by the doors (UR):*

#### THE MOTHER

Dear children... your fighting can be heard all the way  
to the other side of the universe...

*She walks into the room...*

Let's hear it... tell me what has happened?...

*...She looks for something to sit on, and one of Gem, Love, Wise and Papa pre-empts Her efforts and fetches the bench (standing close to DR) for Her. The bench is put down (close to UL) and She sits down. The bench (CL/DL) might be pulled so that it stands parallel to the wall, so that they sit down in a half circle. Only, Tara, Wiz and None sit on one bench (UC) and Gem, Love, Wise and Papa sit on the other bench (CL/DL) and Helen and Gerome stay sitting on the floor (DR) by the wall.*

(Thank you...) Well?...

*Only is still angry, so Wiz starts. (The gods might sit, stand up and/or walk about when they are talking during this meeting):*

WIZ

Our *dear* brothers are interfering with our parental rights.  
We found them here, talking to these newly made humans...

*Wiz refers to Gerome and Helen, sitting by the wall (DR).*

THE MOTHER

Are they newly made?... they're grown-ups...

WIZ (*covering up*)

Oh, that's only an experiment, a recent one...

ONLY

The point is, they have turned them against us. Look at them... they are now afraid to sit with us.

THE MOTHER *turns to Gem, Love, Wise and Papa*

Well?...

WISE

Dear Mother, we've talked to these humans and they've told us what our brothers and sisters have taught them to believe...

THE MOTHER

...yes?...

WISE

They're told that they've been created and that they'll die if they won't obey their creators... We've talked to many other humans and they say the same thing...

GEM

...and the women are always told that they'll have to obey the men... now, *even* if they're beautiful...

THE MOTHER *smiling (She's heard this before)*

I see...

ONLY

Now, I have to protest! It's up to us how we raise them... There's nothing wrong with teaching them some respect...

THE MOTHER

Do you think they wouldn't respect you, Only?

ONLY

Oh... I'm not worried for my sake... but for the ladies...  
well...

THE MOTHER (*senses that Wise wants to say something*)

Did you have something more to say?

WISE

Yes... you see, the worst thing is that they're not told  
about You giving them Life!...

THE MOTHER

Ah... so when were you going to tell them about that?...

ONLY

Now, this is open for debate...

THE MOTHER

It is?...

ONLY

Well, we didn't know that you had given them life...  
Maybe in the future you'll be so kind as to tell us when  
you give your spark of life to our little creatures...

THE MOTHER

You mean there is a time when I don't?

ONLY

I give up... can you please take over, Wiz?...

WIZ

Oh?... certainly.

THE MOTHER *to Wiz*

Yes?...

WIZ

What?... Oh... well... Hm... Yes, well, we were all  
a bit surprised just now... you see, we usually don't  
produce humans with that beautiful little spark of yours...  
so... we didn't know they had it...

THE MOTHER

All humans have it... otherwise they're not humans...

WIZ

Oh... Right... Of course... Hm?...

THE MOTHER

So you will tell them the truth in the future?... about me being their Mother, giving them Life?...

WIZ

Ah... I suppose... Hm... help me out here, Only...

ONLY

I admit we've been a bit careless... We should have checked them more carefully... It won't happen again...

THE MOTHER

Good. Now... I don't understand why you would have to threaten them with death in case they won't obey you?... Is that because you might want them to do things which go against what their hearts tell them to do?

*Only feels that this is a tricky question:*

ONLY

Against their hearts?... against their hearts?... Hmm...

THE MOTHER

Yes?...

ONLY

Ahm... I wouldn't say that...

THE MOTHER

And what would you say?...

ONLY

Well...

NONE (*jumping in*)

Dear Mother, don't judge us too harshly... It may seem that we're asking too much of them... and maybe they even think that what we want them to do, goes against what their hearts tell them?... but I can assure you that whatever we do, we do it for their own good... We want to be good parents and we have all the respect in the world for you, Mother...

ONLY (*pretending*)

Yes... yes, we do...

*The Mother knows that None has no backbone and that Only is lying. She still loves them, just as She loves all Her children:*

THE MOTHER

I love you all.

*(Gem, Love, Wise and Papa receive the love She gives and love Her back.) She looks at Gerome and Helen:*

Now... let me look at you... Please, come forward...

*Only, Tara, Wiz and None feel a bit worried about this, but they don't dare to stop Her. Helen is happy to meet The Mother and runs up to Her:*

HELEN

Are you my Mother?

THE MOTHER

Yes, my dear...

HELEN

I'm Helen.

THE MOTHER

I know. Do you know that you're beautiful?

*Helen now feels in her heart that she is beautiful and her smile stretches from one ear to the other. She gets a big hug from The Mother. Gerome stays watching by the wall (DR), a bit frightened, and The Mother sees this:*

There's nothing to be frightened of... I won't hurt you...

*Gerome comes forward and stays standing beside Helen. The Mother takes his hand. She looks into his eyes very carefully and then into Helen's eyes. She knows that some of the humans have been deliberately separated from their partners and She wants to check that this hasn't happened to Helen and Gerome. (She says this "as a matter of fact", without being angry):*

These two don't belong! Where are their partners?

*Only, Tara, Wiz and None get very nervous. They know they have been doing something they shouldn't, and they behave like children when they now try to put the blame on someone else. (Gem, Love, Wise and Papa are upset to hear about this and they don't understand why they didn't see it themselves):*

TARA

Unfortunately, their partners died, so we put these two together instead...

THE MOTHER *sadly*

You're lying, Tara.

TARA  
Me?... I'm not lying!

NONE (*giving back for being called "ugly"*)  
It was your idea!

ONLY (*giving back for being called "scared"*)  
Yeah, it was, Tara, have you forgotten?

TARA  
You said it was a *good* idea!

ONLY  
Did I?

THE MOTHER  
Where are their partners?

TARA *to Only*  
Now, *that* wasn't my idea!!... Admit it!...

ONLY (*tries to act innocent*)  
What?...

TARA  
I thought we were just going to put them at different places on the Earth...

THE MOTHER *assertive but mild*  
Dear children... Tell me now, what have you done with their partners?... Wiz!...

WIZ *admits*  
We usually throw them in the tunnel leading to the black hole... unless we think they can be of some use to us...

THE MOTHER  
How long have you been doing this?

WIZ  
How long?... I'm not sure... Hm...

TARA  
Two thousand years?...

*No one is shocked by this, because it is not a very long time for gods:*

ONLY  
No. Longer...

NONE (*to Wiz*)

I think Only's right... I remember the first time you *forced* me to go and open the tunnel...

WIZ

Forced you?... I've never forced you!...

NONE (*pretending to be close to tears*) *pleading to The Mother*

Well, you *did*... I never wanted to do this, believe me!...

TARA

Don't be stupid! You've been in on it... She's *faking* it, Mother!...

THE MOTHER

Relax, everyone... Now, this procedure of throwing away their other halves has to stop immediately. It's interfering too much with their lives.

ONLY (*pretending letting The Mother have Her way*)

All right. Whatever you say...

THE MOTHER *to Only, Tara, Wiz and None*

You're Gods and creators... It hurts me that you seem to think you need to rob or manipulate the humans to get what you want... Power is an illusion... It'll always elude you... You think now that you're very powerful, but you are clutching at straws...

*Only (sees The Mother as weak and) feels superior to Her, but he doesn't say anything.*

I wish you could see the joy in walking *with* the humans... as we're all supposed to do...

*She hugs Helen and Gerome (and now Gerome isn't scared anymore). They sit beside Her, one on each side:*

They need our support and care... You can give them that. Why don't you?... You'll have to improve, or else your parental rights will be withdrawn.

ONLY (*plays along*)

We'll improve. I promise, mother.

THE MOTHER

You'll have to. Do you realise that, Only?

ONLY (*lying*)

I do.

THE MOTHER

Do you know that I love you?

*This is too sensitive for Only, who doesn't feel loved by anyone. Tara, Wiz and None have never before seen Only embarrassed. They think it is a bit funny, but wouldn't dare to show him that. Gem, Love, Wise and Papa feel love for Only in their hearts. They know that it is what he needs:*

ONLY *embarrassed*

I don't know...

THE MOTHER

Well, I do.

ONLY *(rejecting Her love)*

Okay...

*The Mother turns to Gem, Love, Wise and Papa:*

THE MOTHER

Don't you love him?

LOVE *honestly*

Of course we do.

*Gem, Wise and Papa look at Only so that he can see that they love him. This is much too much for Only:*

ONLY

Okay, okay... We all love each other!... Wonderful!...

*Tara, Wiz and None laugh. They don't think they are loved either.*

THE MOTHER *(knows why they are laughing)*

Why are you laughing?

*They stop laughing.*

You're loved, too. Don't you realise that?

*Tara, Wiz and None say nothing, but they reject Her love. They don't love themselves and they don't believe that anyone else can love them. They also think it is a sign of weakness to admit wanting to be loved.*

PAPA

Mother... Could you please help us stop quarrelling with each other?...

THE MOTHER

I wish I could, believe me... The universe trembles every time you fight... and the angels stop singing...

ONLY (*hates singing*)

Thank us gods for that!...

*Tara laughs. (She hates singing, too)*

PAPA *ignoring the joke*

In the meantime, the humans are suffering... They're used as slaves or soldiers in the different wars between us gods... It's been going on for far too long and it has to come to an end!

THE MOTHER *to all the gods*

I agree. You'll have to make peace with one another, and this goes for all of you... Do it here and now... make peace with your sisters and brothers. There's nothing dividing you.

*Gem, Love, Wise and Papa stand up and since Only, Tara, Wiz and None make no sign of moving, they walk over to their side and offer them their hands, which the others reluctantly accept. They shake hands and might even exchange some stiff hugs.*

I'll leave you now, but I'll be watching you more closely from now on.

*The Mother rises. All the gods nod their heads slightly forward as to say goodbye. She walks out through the doors (UR) and they watch Her leave. There are a few seconds of stillness. Only wants Gem, Love, Wise and Papa to leave as soon as possible, while they would like to spend some time improving their relationships:*

LOVE

I hope we can be friends now.

ONLY

Oh... sure... why not?... I mean, yes... of course...

*Only puts his arm around Love and Papa. (He wants to lead them out of the room):*

You know, this was a very good meeting... I realise now how stupid it is for us to go on fighting... you're absolutely right... Things will change, I'm certain... What do you say, Wiz?

WIZ

A very good meeting... very good...

PAPA *testing (through offering help)*  
We can stay for a while if you like?...

ONLY  
Thank you, but you really don't have to... after all, we're  
their parents so they're our responsibility...

*Papa and Love realise that Only wants to get rid of them:*

PAPA  
I believe we're all responsible for them...

ONLY *(confusing himself)*  
Yes, that's what I meant...? Ahm... you know, I think  
I'm a bit tired...

TARA *plays along*  
You are, aren't you?..... I'm so sorry... Would you mind  
leaving?... I think my husband needs a rest.

*Love realises that they haven't changed a bit, but he decides to play along and leave:*

LOVE (*"Let us leave" to Gem and Wise*)  
Naturally... We understand... Let us leave. Only needs  
to rest.

*Helen feels frightened at being left with Only, Tara, Wiz and None:*

HELEN *to Gem*  
I don't want you to leave.

GEM  
We'll meet again, don't worry.

*Gem hugs Helen. Papa hugs Gerome:*

PAPA  
You'll be fine, now, won't you?

GEROME  
Yes, I will.

GEM, LOVE, WISE, PAPA (*to Gerome and Helen*)  
Bye.

GEROME, HELEN  
Bye.

*Gem, Love, Wise and Papa walk towards the doors (UR). Love turns around:*

LOVE (to Only, Tara, Wiz and None)

Dear sisters and brothers, I hope we'll meet again very soon...

ONLY (charming)

Of course we will... Take care now...

*Gem, Love, Wise and Papa leave through the doors:*

WIZ (shouts after them)

Good meeting... a very good meeting...

*Only, Tara, Wiz and None relax once the other gods are gone. Gerome and Helen go and sit somewhere away from the gods. (During the following discussion the gods get so involved in their quarrel that they temporarily forget to watch them):*

ONLY

I never thought they'd leave...

WIZ

Can you tell me how we could have missed the sparks?

I thought you were supposed to check for that...

*About two thousand years ago Only came up with his brilliant idea of stamping the newly made humans with his seal, so that they would choose him in case of a conflict between him and Wiz. To be able to do this he needed to be alone with the humans. He persuaded the other gods to take a break after they had modelled the humans. To have an excuse to go into the room alone, he volunteered to check them after they had come alive, to see whether they had the spark of Life or not. They had created so many humans without those sparks, so no one was really worried that they would have them. Still, everyone thought it was a good idea that Only would check it, just to be sure. Since then, he has stamped as many human foreheads as possible with his seal. Tara has known about this and her job has been to distract Wiz and/or None in case they would go into the room when Only is there:*

ONLY

I did!... but you see... she must have planted her sparks very deep inside them... You saw for yourself how difficult it was to see them...

WIZ

Yes, but it wasn't impossible!

ONLY

I know, I've been a bit careless...

WIZ

A bit careless!?!...

ONLY

After all, we *did* create humans who lived *without* those sparks!...

WIZ

Well, I wonder... you heard her: she said that *all* humans have the spark of Life, otherwise they're not humans!...

ONLY

How can you listen to her!!? We're Creators! I know what we did. If you choose to doubt it, well, that's your problem... What I'm saying is, I wasn't that worried!... I thought they didn't have it!... You didn't either!...

*Helen sees their chance to leave while the gods are quarrelling. She tells Gerome and they slowly start moving towards the doors (UR).*

WIZ

I still can't understand how you could miss it, time after time!...

ONLY

Okay, enough said... I take the blame. But what about you lot? You never checked for yourselves?

TARA

No, I thought you did.

WIZ

I *assumed* you did!

ONLY *to None*

What about you, then?

NONE

Me?

ONLY

Yes... You.

NONE

Oh... I...

ONLY

You knew it?!

NONE

No! No, I didn't! I... I suspected...

WIZ

You suspected and didn't tell us?!...

NONE

But... you would have killed them!

ONLY

Yes... and?...

*None breaks down crying and no one comforts her.*

WIZ

Don't cry, woman! I can't stand it when you're crying!...  
So, how do we solve this? We can't kill all the humans  
now... It's too late...

ONLY

Then we'll just do what we always do!... We take care of  
the ones who apply themselves... and for the rest, well...  
we'll suppress their will to live... keep them occupied with  
meaningless tasks... isolate them from nature... give them  
drugs, kicks, tempt them with money, sex, whatever turns  
them on... eventually they'll do what we want or they'll  
stay out of our way... We'll just do the same as we've  
always done!... This doesn't change much...

*Only suddenly remembers the presence of Gerome and Helen. He realises that he might have given too much away, so he quickly turns around to check where they are and what they are doing. They are now very close to the doors (UR) and Only realises that they are trying to escape. When they see that Only has discovered them, they stop immediately and freeze:*

Oh, I don't believe it... How sweet...

*The other gods turn around and see them, too. (None has stopped crying.)*

I believe they were about to abandon us... Ah, ah, ah...  
No can do.

*Only wags his finger towards Helen and Gerome. The gods have great experience in capturing and punishing obstinate humans. Only and Wiz enjoy doing this. The gods walk towards Helen and Gerome, take hold of them and "drag" them away from the doors. They "drop" them down on the floor. The humans are frightened, but try to hide it. Tara takes hold of Helen's hair and "pulls it straight up":*

TARA

And where did you think you were going?

*Tara releases her grip. She and None guard Helen, while Wiz and Only start "working on" Gerome:*

WIZ

Oh, dear...

ONLY *(slowly and insipidly sweet) to Gerome*

Don't you like me any more?

*Only hugs Gerome, who tenses up.*

What's the matter?

*Only stops the hugging and laughs, but he stays close to Gerome:*

Now, what did we say before?...do you remember?.....

I can't hear you...

GEROME

I must obey.

ONLY *(still slowly and insipidly sweet)*

Exactly. You must obey us. Good. Now... why were you trying to escape?...

GEROME

I...

ONLY

Yes?...

*Gerome panics and doesn't know what to say.*

WIZ

You know this is serious, don't you?

GEROME

I, I... didn't mean to...

WIZ

You didn't mean to... what?

GEROME

It was *her* idea!...

HELEN

You didn't have to come with me!

ONLY  
Is that true, Gerome?

GEROME  
Yes.

ONLY  
So why did you?

GEROME  
I...?

WIZ  
Did she tempt you?

GEROME  
No. I...

ONLY  
Are you sure? She might have tempted you...

*Gerome senses that Only wants him to say that she tempted him:*

GEROME  
Yes, she did.

HELEN  
What? You wanted to escape, too!

ONLY  
Now, Helen... This is not good. Why did you tempt him to escape with you?

HELEN  
I didn't! We had talked about this before and...

*Helen stops suddenly. She realises that she shouldn't admit that they had been plotting to escape.*

ahm... I mean...

NONE  
Oh, dear... Now you've really put yourself on the spot...

WIZ  
I think we just heard a confession.

HELEN

But you don't understand... he wanted to escape, too!...  
We both did.

ONLY

I don't think so, you see, a woman can always tempt a  
man to do anything... That's why men should always rule  
over women... You need to be kept in place.

TARA *to Helen*

We have too much power over them and men can't stand  
that!...

ONLY *warning*

Tara, dear...

TARA *sarcastically*

I love you, too.

WIZ *to Helen*

You know we're going to have to punish you, don't you?

HELEN

I don't want to be here! Let me out!

*None laughs and hugs Helen to soothe her:*

NONE

No, dear... It'll only be worse if you protest...

*Helen doesn't want None to be close to her, so she wriggles to get out of None's  
strong grip:*

HELEN

Let me go! Let me go!!

NONE *(releases her grip)*

Suit yourself... you'll soon learn it's not a good idea to  
refuse my help...

TARA *to Helen*

You don't know what's waiting for you, do you?

*Tara smiles wryly and Helen doesn't understand what she means.*

WIZ *(to Helen)*

Now, if you could choose - and I'm not saying that you  
can, but... what punishment would you choose?

HELEN

I haven't done anything to be punished for.

WIZ

Oh, dear, I think we can leave that discussion behind...

*Wiz turns to Gerome:*

What punishment do you think she deserves?

GEROME

I... I don't think she should be punished.

WIZ

How gallant of you to say that... Too late, though... Only and I are always looking forward to these particular punishments... But don't worry... you see, Helen, we're going to be very kind to you... You might not even regard it as a punishment... as for you, dear Gerome... for you, oh, well...

ONLY

We sense that you didn't do it... or did you? Tell us.

GEROME

What?

*Helen begins to understand and wants to run, but Tara stops her and Helen can't get out of her grip.*

ONLY

"The business"... Did you take care of it?

GEROME *embarrassed*

No... She didn't want to...

ONLY

That's what we thought... So, Helen, what will it be? Will you volunteer or does he have to force you?

*Helen knows that they will violate her and she is angry and scared. She cries and fights Tara to get out of her grip, but Tara is too strong:*

TARA

Sorry, dear... you're not getting out of this one...

WIZ *(encouraging) to Gerome*

So... what do you say?

GEROME (*feels that it is wrong*)

I don't want to do it.

WIZ *surprised*

You don't? Why not?

GEROME

Why don't you let her go? I'll stay here and take any punishment...

WIZ (*getting angry after "the gentleman"*)

Ah... The gentleman... Now, you'd better learn the rules of this game or you'll be completely lost! You do what we say, when we say it. You don't protest! Do you understand?!

*Gerome doesn't answer. Wiz continues, a bit kinder:*

Don't you realise that we're preparing you for a life in the outside world. How are you going to do well out there if you don't apply yourself? Listen and learn! We're giving you a chance to prove that you're a man...

ONLY (*"understanding"*)

You don't want to hurt her, do you?

GEROME

No.

ONLY

But sooner or later you'll have to... If you don't, she'll drive you mad...

GEROME *standing his ground*

I won't do it!

ONLY

Don't be so weak!...

*Only brings out a "sharp" knife and holds it to Gerome's throat:*

You will, okay... You will!

*Gerome thinks he is going to die any second now. Helen is still held by Tara. She has stopped crying and screaming and she is completely calm. (Only to Helen):*

You can always pretend to enjoy it... Women are good at that, what do you say, Tara?...

TARA *warning*

Do you want me to hold her, or what!?

ONLY

Of course I do... That's part of the entertainment...  
seeing you hold down the women...

TARA

Only!...

*Tara lets go of Helen deliberately, who quicker than the others runs for the doors (UR) and out of the room. She runs for help. Gerome can't run after her. Even if Only would let him go, Wiz would still be there to guard him:*

ONLY *(to Tara)*

Oh, come on!... Was that necessary?...

TARA

I'm sick of you treating me like dirt!

ONLY *sarcastically*

I thought you enjoyed that...

TARA *angry (but speechless)*

Ahh!...

NONE

Aren't we going after her? She'll run and tell the others...

ONLY *(to None and then to Tara)*

Go if you like, but I think it's too late... We're not alone  
in this temple... This is all *your* fault!...

TARA

It's always someone else's fault, is it?

NONE *to Only and Wiz*

What do we do?...

ONLY *(joking, to None)*

Look innocent. You can do it.

WIZ *(question to Gerome)*

There's no need for panic. We can explain this... and  
you won't say anything, will you?

GEROME

No.

WIZ *to Only*

There...

*Only approaches Gerome and gives him another "hug":*

ONLY *(to Wiz and then to Gerome)*

Do you believe that?... What if Papa gives you a big hug?... you'll start crying, spilling the beans, won't you? But why don't you like my hugs? What's wrong with them?...

GEROME

Let go of me!!

*Gerome fights Only and manages to get free. Only is surprised as he regains his lost balance:*

ONLY

Oh, my... aren't we strong today?... Don't take everything so seriously... I was only joking, you stupid little shrimp!...

*The Mother comes in (UR), closely followed by Gem and Helen, Love, Wise and Papa. Gerome quickly joins Love and Papa. (What happens now is between The Mother and Only, Tara, Wiz and None, so the other gods and the humans stay in the background by the doors, UR. They are witnesses to this scene.) She doesn't sit down and She starts speaking immediately:*

THE MOTHER

What's going on here?

ONLY *(to The Mother, then to Helen)*

Nothing?... Oh, there you are... We've been so worried for you...

NONE

Why did you run off like that?... Come here...

THE MOTHER *kindly, but assertively*

Don't touch her. I'm withdrawing your parental rights.

WIZ

What!!!?

*Only, Tara and None are as puzzled as Wiz:*

ONLY

You can't do that!... Now, really... there's only been a minor misunderstanding... We can clear this up.

THE MOTHER

Try.

ONLY

Right. Well, first of all, they were both trying to escape from us!...

THE MOTHER

Yes?...

ONLY

Now, this is not good... We were engaged in a very valuable conversation about their futures... and there they were, trying to sneak out like two thieves... We caught them just in time...

THE MOTHER

Maybe they had a reason wanting to escape from you?

ONLY

And what would that be?

THE MOTHER (*about Helen*)

She came to me, very frightened. What have you done to her?

ONLY

Nothing! Honestly! What has she said?

THE MOTHER

Enough.

WIZ

Dear Mother, you can't believe everything she says... I'm sure she has misunderstood what was about to happen...

THE MOTHER

And what was about to happen, according to you?

WIZ

Nothing at all!...

ONLY (*looking innocent*)

Nothing!

TARA

Okay, she was going to get raped, so what?

ONLY, WIZ

Tara!!!

*(Rape has been a common punishment sentenced by Only and Wiz to humans seeking their freedom.) Helen seeks protection with Wise and Gem and they hug her. Love and Papa comfort Gerome, who also needs support.*

TARA *(to Only, Wiz and then to None)*

You don't dare to say it? What's more, you both enjoy watching it!... I even think *you* enjoy watching...

NONE

How can you say that!... I don't enjoy watching it at all... I just think that women should learn about *sacrifice*, that's all... you're twisting everything! What about yourself?...

TARA

All right, I might have enjoyed watching it a long time ago, especially if the women were beautiful... I knew they would lose their beauty once they'd been raped...

NONE

There you go!...

TARA

I just think we can call it by its name: rape! We're raping the women, okay!

THE MOTHER *(looking at Only)*

I agree. Let's call it by its right name. Rape. Now, why have you done that?

ONLY

Don't look at me!?... We've done this together...

THE MOTHER

Yes... but why have *you* done it?

ONLY

I don't know?... For fun?...

THE MOTHER

What is funny about it?

ONLY *(smirking)*

When the women cry... when they're pretending to hate it, but you know they enjoy it...

THE MOTHER

How do you know that?

ONLY *(defensive)*

You're asking too many questions...

THE MOTHER

Why do you say they enjoy it?

TARA

Yes, why, Only?...

ONLY

Because that's what women do!... they pretend one thing and do another... How do I know why?...

THE MOTHER

If we would ask the raped women, I'm sure they would disagree with you...

ONLY (*sneering*)

They'd be lying...

WIZ

Dear Mother, I think you're making too much of this... We've just been preparing them for the outside world... we've given them a taste of what they can expect when they get out there... and rape happens to be something that women have to expect to go through... and forcing women to have sex happens to be something that is expected of real men...

THE MOTHER

Who creates the world they live in?...

WIZ

They do... they're the dreamers.

THE MOTHER

So if you would inspire them to create a more caring world, then they could do that?...

WIZ

I suppose so?...

THE MOTHER

My dear Wiz, why don't you?

*Wiz doesn't know what to answer. (He hasn't thought about him having responsibility before):*

WIZ

Ahm...?

THE MOTHER *sadly*

I don't like what I've been hearing. You've been very irresponsible. I'm very sad to know that you've been humiliating the humans. How can you break them down for your own pleasure, I don't understand that?... There was a time when gods and humans could mix... These unions could sometimes be very painful for the women... Is that what you've been trying to recreate?... You've been separating them from their true partners, and then forcing them to be with men they don't want to be with... Your influence has to stop so that the humans can find their own ways. You're desecrating sex! It's supposed to be a union between people who love each other, where no one is forced to do anything.

*None realises that The Mother is serious about withdrawing their parental rights, which would be a catastrophe for the gods. They would also lose their "property" on Earth and they would be degraded among other gods:*

NONE

Mother, I realise that you think this is very serious... I'm asking you to give us one more chance... We can improve, I promise...

THE MOTHER *sadly*

I'm afraid it's too late, None. You're not allowed to be parents anymore... but of course you're free to help your sisters and brothers in their work...

ONLY

Of course... Our dear brothers and sisters who can't do anything wrong!...

THE MOTHER

I'm sorry I've had to take this decision, but it's really your own fault... You've been violating the essence of Life and this falls back onto yourselves... With more power comes more responsibility, but you've refused to see that... You've been striving for total power, which only leads to limitation... If you think about all the people and things that you think you own, you'll realise that they actually own *you*...

ONLY *(sarcastically)*

I'm sure they do... I've never heard this much rubbish before... We're Gods! I'm God! Now, how are you going to stop me?... Do you really think that you can make me renounce my parental rights, just because you say so?... If I don't, and I won't!... how could you make me?...

THE MOTHER

There are ways...

ONLY

Ooo... I'm frightened...

*Wiz laughs.*

I think you're bluffing! You call yourself The Mother of all gods and humans, but you're not my mother!

THE MOTHER

Yes I am, Only.

ONLY

Prove it!

THE MOTHER

You rejected me a long time ago, but I've never stopped loving you.

ONLY (*contemptuously*)

Oh, really?! Well, I don't need a mother's love!...

*Tara and Wiz laugh quietly. (The impossible image of Only wanting a mother's love is hilarious to them.) The Mother might go and sit down on one of the benches (CL/DL).*

THE MOTHER

What do you need, Only?

ONLY

What I need?

THE MOTHER

Yes.

ONLY

Why are you asking? Have you got a present for me?

*(The Mother has seen the invisible marks from Only's seal on the foreheads of the humans):*

THE MOTHER

You don't trust anyone, do you?

ONLY (*laughs and then remembers Wiz*)

Trust?!... Well, I trust Wiz, of course...

THE MOTHER

You trust Wiz?...

ONLY

Yes... of course I do...

*Only walks up to Wiz and puts his arm around his shoulders.*

We trust each other, don't we?

WIZ

Certainly...

THE MOTHER

What would happen if you two started fighting?

ONLY

Well, we have fought, but we have always managed to make up...

THE MOTHER

And if you couldn't make up?...

ONLY

Let's hope that will never happen... right, Wiz?...

WIZ

Yes... right...

THE MOTHER

But you're not sure of your friendship?... none of you are?...

ONLY

How can you be sure what's going to happen?...

THE MOTHER

Has anyone of you ever taken any precautions, in case you wouldn't be able to sort out your differences?

*Only is beginning to feel a bit worried. He wonders if The Mother might have a hold on him: could She know anything about him marking the humans with his seal, and if so, would she reveal that to Wiz?*

ONLY

What do you mean?

THE MOTHER

You heard my question?...

ONLY

Yes, I did. I... I just don't see what Wiz or I could possibly do?... as a precaution?... and as I said, I trust him...

THE MOTHER

You said that, yes...

WIZ (*to The Mother*)

Now... no disrespect, but... if you have something to say, why don't you just say it?

THE MOTHER

Do you trust Only?

WIZ (*doesn't trust Only*)

Yes?...

THE MOTHER

Are you sure, now?

ONLY (*to The Mother, then to Wiz*)

Now, stop this! What are you doing? Don't listen to her... She's messing with us...

THE MOTHER

What I want to say is that neither of you trusts the other one and that one of you will deceive the other...

ONLY

Of course... and if not, we'll live happily ever after, you've made your point now...

THE MOTHER

Do you think that I've abandoned you?

ONLY

What?... Abandoned!??...

THE MOTHER

Yes... You behave as if you think that others have abandoned you... you move around like a hurricane blaming others when you don't get what you want, as if you think they owe you something...

ONLY

Maybe they do?...

TARA

Hey! What could we possibly owe *you*?...

ONLY

I was *joking*, okay...

THE MOTHER *to Tara, Wiz and None*

You behave very much in the same way... I haven't abandoned any one of you... I'm here. I've always been here.

ONLY

And we're here... longing for your love, aren't we?...

*Tara, Wiz and None laugh. They would never admit longing for Her love.*

THE MOTHER *(to Only, Tara, Wiz and None)*

We're not separate... You're all a part of me... Do you love yourselves?...

*Wiz, None and Tara know that they don't love themselves, but they don't want to answer:*

Only?...

ONLY

Yeah. I love myself.

THE MOTHER

Do you love all sides of yourself?..... Why do you need so much?

*Only has a moment of honesty and realises that he doesn't love himself:*

ONLY

Okay, so maybe I *don't* love myself. Do I have to?

THE MOTHER

If you'll return to yourself, you'll realise that no one has abandoned you... You've abandoned yourself!...

ONLY *doesn't understand*

I have!?!...

THE MOTHER

What makes this serious is that you've made the humans do the same thing... many have abandoned themselves and now they feel unloved and think that they're always lacking something... and you've been using their feelings to manipulate them into doing what you want, to fill your needs... You're not lacking anything, Only... you just think you do...

*This conversation touches Only too deeply. He realises that there is something in what She is saying, but he doesn't want to admit it or deal with it. (After a few seconds of silence):*

ONLY

All right... I think I've listened enough to your fairy tales...  
Come on, it's time to leave!... We're still parents and we  
have a lot of work to get back to and she can't stop us...  
Frankly, I'd like to see you try...

THE MOTHER

The withdrawal of your parental rights stands.

ONLY *(to The Mother)*

Now, I don't want to quarrel more than necessary...

LOVE

That's a new one!...

ONLY *(questions to Wiz, None and Tara)*

Ha, ha, ha... very funny... If you think that I'm going to  
work together with that lot... Forget it! What about you?  
Will you go with them?...

*Wiz, None and Tara don't want to give up their parental rights and they don't think that The Mother can do anything if they refuse to do so:*

WIZ

I won't!

TARA

Me neither.

NONE

I'll go with you, Wiz.

ONLY

You see!... We won't give up!... What are you going  
to do about it?

THE MOTHER *sadly, caring for them*

Don't challenge me, Only.

ONLY

I just did!

*The Mother rises and walks to stand in front of the doors (UR). Only likes this challenge and he is confident that he will win. The other gods (Gem, Love, Wise and Papa) with Helen and Gerome walk to the side (UC/UL), so as not to be in the way:*

THE MOTHER

Are you sure you want to do this?

ONLY *cocky*

Are you ready to lose?

THE MOTHER

I won't.

ONLY

Oh yes, you will!

*Only throws himself forwards with a scream to fight The Mother, but he gets nowhere. He knows that She can't die, so he is not using his knife. Instead he is aiming to wrestle Her down and thereby to win the fight. The Mother's strength (from Her light, which might be seen shining from behind Her) keeps him away from Her:*

Help me!!...

*Wiz, None and Tara throw themselves forwards as well, but can't get anywhere either. They are caught in Her light and the more they fight it, the more exhausted they get. It is as if there would be a strong wind holding them back and they scream out of anger since they can't beat it. After a while they get very sleepy and one by one they sink down onto the floor (UC/CC), where they become unconscious.*

*The other gods and the humans are stunned. Gem, Love, Wise and Papa have never seen anything like this before. The Mother is their source and She has always been known to be gentle and caring. They know that this has been an act of love and that She would never have done this, had She not been challenged. They all walk slowly forwards and look at Only, Tara, Wiz and None lying motionless on the floor:*

GEROME

Are they dead?

THE MOTHER

No, gods can't die. They're just in retreat, where they'll hopefully accept that they have to co-operate with you and all other beings in this universe...

*The Mother might go and sit down on the end of one of the benches (DL):*

PAPA

Are you all right?

THE MOTHER

Yes, thank you.

GEM

Mother, we know that you didn't want to do this...

WISE

They gave you no choice.

THE MOTHER

I know... I just wish it hadn't been necessary...

LOVE

Don't be sad... We love you so much...

THE MOTHER *contemplating*

All my children...

LOVE

This buys us some *time*, which is something that has been stolen from the humans... Now they'll finally have their chance to learn the truth about themselves...

HELEN

Can we be with you now?

LOVE *smiling*

Yes, now you can be with us... Come here...

*Love puts his arms around Helen and Gerome:*

We'll take care of you until you're ready to leave us...

GEROME

Do I still have to die?

LOVE

Yes... there's no way around that... but there's no need to be frightened... It's only your body that dies...

WISE

It's like turning day into night or like breathing in and breathing out... Both are needed... You can't have life without death... Eventually you won't need to die any more... You'll have learnt to see through it and you won't need that experience again...

HELEN

But if we know now that we're not dying, then we've already seen through it?...

GEM

You know it now, yes, but once you're living in the world, you might forget about it... Many humans do... There's so much distracting you... and you might get lost on your way... So then you'll die and remember again...

PAPA (*notices at the end of the speech: Helen doesn't understand*)

One part of you is limited... that's the one connected to your body... It mirrors the unlimited part of yourself... Once you've learnt to see through the world, while still living in it, that's when the unlimited part of you will mirror the divine part of you... Then you can die consciously and you'll know that you won't have to die again..... We'll talk more about this later...

THE MOTHER *smiling (to Helen and Gerome)*

Listen, I've got a surprise for you two...

HELEN

For us?

GEROME

What is it?

THE MOTHER

I think you'll like it...

*In come Lenny and Romina (UR). They stop some distance apart from them. Lenny and Helen look at each other and Romina and Gerome do the same. They recognise each other, but don't understand why. (Gem, Love, Papa and Wise watch the humans during this and are very happy for their sake):*

Don't be frightened... Come over here, please...

*Lenny and Romina walk over to The Mother:*

You're name is Lenny, right?...

LENNY

Yes.

THE MOTHER

This is Helen...

*Lenny and Helen look at each other, but don't know what to say.*

...and you are Romina?

ROMINA

Yes.

THE MOTHER

This is Gerome.

*Romina and Gerome look at each other, too.*

...and now you wonder why you're here?...

HELEN (to Lenny)

You're the one I've been missing?...

LENNY

I've dreamed about you...

ROMINA

I knew I was going to meet you...

GEROME

I know I love you...

THE MOTHER *smiling*

I think you've understood...

*The humans "drown" for a moment in their partners' eyes and the gods enjoy watching this:*

Now, if you can take your eyes off each other, I'll explain something to you...

*Lenny and Helen plus Gerome and Romina don't want to stop looking at each other:*

...I can always choose another time, of course...

HELEN *smiling (keeps sneaking looks at Lenny)*

No! I want to listen... Please...

THE MOTHER (*smiling*)

All right...

*The atmosphere in the room is now very good. There is a sense of a new beginning, both for the humans and the gods:*

I don't know how much you know, but you... Helen and Lenny, and you... Gerome and Romina... you come from the same seed and that's why you feel so attached to one another... You'll live here on Earth, but you won't always be together... Sometimes you'll be worlds apart, but even then, you'll always find your way back to each other...

GEROME (*about Romina*)

Why can't we always be together?

THE MOTHER

You *are* always together... but depending on the experiences you need for your own learning, you might need to be apart and then you'll temporarily lose contact... I've let you come together now, because I don't like what Only and the others have been doing... They've separated you for their own purposes... They've noticed that when two partners lose contact with each other, they're easier to rule, easier to manipulate...

*The two human couples have again lost themselves in each other's eyes. The Mother starts laughing, a warm and hearty laugh. They look at Her, suddenly remembering that She is talking to them:*

You're beautiful!..... Your lives will still include great challenges, but at least you'll have greater freedom now, since your creators will spend their time in retreat...

PAPA

I hope they'll take a long vacation...

THE MOTHER

I'll see what I can do... Now... you all have both female and male aspects within you and you'll need to learn how to balance them... Your feeling will often tell you what you need to do, while your logic will find all the reasons in the world why you shouldn't take any action... it'll tell you to postpone everything to another day, with the result that nothing changes... Don't be scared of change... of moving to a new position... It's sometimes painful and chaotic, but you'll always learn a lot from it... This doesn't mean that your reasoning has no place... You need information to make decisions in your life, I'm just saying that when your feeling has told you the truth, then trust it and follow it... If you don't, you can get lost in a huge labyrinth... it can take years before you'll find a way back to yourself again...

LENNY

A labyrinth?... I think I've just been in one...

THE MOTHER

I believe you... I found you and Romina wandering in a vast forest... You wouldn't have survived there for very long...

ROMINA

We kept on walking, but it looked the same everywhere...

THE MOTHER

They sent you there on purpose... you were supposed to get lost...

ROMINA

I don't remember being sent there...

THE MOTHER

Gerome and Helen will tell you more about what's been happening here... I just wanted to say this: you're about to travel on the road of Life... you'll have many unique experiences and there's so much to discover... in fact, there's something new around every corner... What I want you to know is that I'm always with you... you're never alone and there's nothing to be frightened of... Sometimes you'll forget it and end up feeling desperate... I'm with you even then... Once you've learnt to see through your own illusions, you can help others to see through theirs... and one day when the humans have become gods, then this whole Creation will be reborn on a higher level...

*The gods and the humans think about this in silence for a short moment:*

Do you know that I love you?

*They know that and feel it deep in their hearts:*

WISE

We know that, Mother... We love you, too.

*They smile and know that they all care for each other.*

THE MOTHER

It's time to move along... They might wake up any minute now...

PAPA

Are they waking up here?

THE MOTHER

Yes, and I suggest we leave before that...

PAPA

I agree... I'm certainly not going to stay here... What do you say? Are we leaving?

GEM, LOVE, WISE, HELEN, LENNY, GEROME, ROMINA  
**YEES !!!**

PAPA

Great! Let's go.

*They all walk towards the doors (UR) and out through them. The Mother walks after them:*

THE MOTHER

I'm closing down this room.

*She walks out and the doors close behind Her. This time you can hear the sound of great iron bars, when the doors are locked from the outside. At the same time as the doors are closing, the light goes out (and the rest of this scene is played in darkness). Only "wakes up" when he hears the doors closing. He stands up:*

ONLY

Where am I? What's happened?

*He walks towards the place where he heard the sound (UR) and realises he is still in the room. The others wake up, too:*

I don't believe it... She won!

WIZ

What are you talking about?

ONLY

We're still in the room... and I think we're locked in?...

TARA

So, open it!

ONLY

I can't. It must be locked from the outside...

TARA

Let me try... Where are you?

ONLY

Over here.

*Tara walks towards Only, where she tries to open the doors.*

NONE

Why is it so dark?

WIZ

How should I know?

TARA

You're right... We're locked in.

ONLY

Damn it!! There goes my golden empire...

WIZ

Excuse me, brother, I think you mean *our* golden empire...

NONE

Oh, no, you heard him... He's been stamping the humans with his seal...

ONLY, TARA

None!!...

NONE

...so that he'd win the humans over to his side...

WIZ (*to Only and then to None*)

You've been doing what!?!... Wait a minute... since when have you known this?

TARA

She's known it for years...

NONE

I haven't! She's lying!

WIZ

This can't be true... I'm surrounded by traitors!... How could you do this to me?!... Only!... we're brothers!...

ONLY

Sorry... Nothing personal...

WIZ

If I could, I'd kill you!!

ONLY

Do you think I don't know that...

*There are a few seconds of silence:*

TARA

So how long are we going to be here?

ONLY, WIZ, NONE

Shut up!!!...

*(The actors leave the stage and the lights go up.)*

**the end**