

## **The Trial of Zeus**

### *Prosecution (Denis):*

The distinguished Members of the jury, your Honour, it is my utmost responsibility to bring before the critical eyes of justice the case atrocious crimes of Zeus, the father of the gods. In the following statements I will outline the most significant episodes from the long list of crimes that he committed over millennia of domination.

I'll start with the case of abduction, rape and further millennia-long appropriation of Europa, the Phoenician maiden. Dear jury, I stand here before you to make the case against what may well be one of the gravest crimes committed against our common imaginary. Before I proceed, let me take an oath of truthfulness in the eyes of Themis, her great daughter Dike, the goddess of Justice, and unforgivable punishing Furies, - so shall I overstep the boundaries of truth, let them condemn me to the misery.

### *Defence (Michael):*

**Your Honour, dear Members of the jury! This is a pivotal day for us all. The accusations brought in here by the reckless servant of Athena and Dionysus are grave, and the consequences of your decision can't be overestimated.**

**For thousands of years we have successfully relied upon our father, in name of Zeus, as well as in his countless other his manifestations such as 'God' or 'Allah'; for protection, guidance and inspiration in the many successes our civilisation have enjoyed.**

**We have conquered the land, the sea, the skies and in the last century make our breakthrough towards the conquest of the cosmos. I beg you to remember: none of this would have been possible without the norms and guideline he provided to us. Thanks to these we always achieved the seemingly impossible. Dismissal and condemnation are easy but gratitude and respect require the capacity for forgiveness and compassion, fand or understanding of the mistakes and sacrifices - and our dear father endured many of these for our sake.**

**I too take an oath of truthfulness under the watchful eyes of Themis, Dike and the Furies.**

### *Prosecution:*

Allow me to build the case before you for Europa, a fair maiden from Phoenicia, the land that had now become known as Lebanon. The accused disguised himself in the form of the bull from the flock of Europa's father and using the maiden's trust to the animals, suggestively led her to climb his back. He then hastily run towards the bay with Europa on his back and commenced his swimming route towards the island of Crete. Bringing the shocked maiden to the new environment, he put on her neck the shackle, marking his ownership of the captive, and raped her.

***Defence:***

**I protest! Zeus offered her a beautiful necklace, which signified his admiration and love to Europa.**

***Prosecution:***

Shackles often come in a form of the precious gifts, and one has little choice to take them differently when deprived from all they know and placed in the condition of the complete dependancy. He further installed next her Talos (calling it 'a gift'), a robot that was circling the island of Crete that had become Europa's prison, obstructing the attempts of Europa's relatives and friends to approach the island, as well as effectively preventing her from having any thoughts towards the escape. The accused also chained the maiden to Laelaps, the dog that had never failed to catch something that it was hunting. He also left javelin, the spear that had never missed its target, for shooting those who might outwit even those impassable prison instalments of his. The abducted Europa spent long years in captivity. In fact,

dear members of the jury, you sitting on the top of the aestheticised evidence of this event covered with the black cloth - the mosaic depicting the maiden being abducted by the accused in the form of the bull.

This episode of abduction brought about immeasurable consequences inflicted on what is to become European imaginary. Just as the maiden, the whole continent found itself trapped in the island mentality, subsequently forgetting its cosmopolitan, trans-geographical, and global roots.

***Defence:***

**The distinguished jury, allow me to plead the case of defence in here. First of all, Europa, although she had been indeed initially abducted by our father against her immediate will, embraced later Zeus in love and gave him beautiful children; children that later created the concert of European nations that we know today.**

***Prosecution:***

There is a clear case of the 'Stockholm syndrome' in here - the maiden had no choice beyond submission or death.

***Defence:***

**Allow me to continue please. Father Zeus cared for the maiden's well-being and made sure she wouldn't need to be burdened by worries and uncertainties in the future. He set her up for a great role in the history of humanity.**

**All I want to say, dear members of the jury, is that from what is phere resented as crimes, a great love story emerged. A story that led our continent to creation of the first omni-powerful imaginary of civilization. A story that will go on to capture the imagination of peoples of other continents and cultures, as soon as they got a chance to experience it.**

***Prosecution:***

The imaginary you are talking about is that of a patriarchy and election of what is the best for the woman by the omni-powerful and always ready to 'mansplan' usurper, which effectively decapitated any alternative to its oppressive forms. But allow me continue, as the abduction of the maiden from Phoenicia is just opening the list of the crimes committed by the accused. Secondly, I want to bring your attention to our great mother - Gaia/Earth, the primordial deity of life that gave us ecology and nature which we happily inhabit for millions of years together with other living things. After the alleged abduction of Europa, the attack and appropriation as 'property' and 'resource' of the feminine presence in imaginary mounted by the accused only accelerated. The erasure from the memory of the true nature of the Omphalos, the navel of the mother of everything, is the second crime the accused strategically committed in his quest of erasure of the potentiality and alternative future of the another possible leadership, effectively usurping the power by setting up 'there is no alternative' context.

The famous navel of Gaia had been the place of connection to mother Earth for thousands years before the accused and his alfa men-followers descended in sacred Delphi with the plan to erase this story from the annals and re-appropriate its history and function in the world. The accused fabricated the works of so-called 'history', written by loyal to his plan counterparts, in which navel had been re-written and re-appropriated as the stone signifying his domination over the world, at which supposedly the meeting of two eagles that he sent to identify the centre of the world (what less!) had happened. This atrocity towards the memory of the great mother created a shameless rupture that had a very particular goal - to write off non-patriarchal strong story from the face of the world into the oblivion.

***Defence:***

**Dear members of the jury, allow me to step in here again against this vicious attack on our glorious father. First of all, the very event of the member of this court being able to attack our great father here, shows his enormous mercy towards those disrespecting him.**

***Prosecution:***

That shows the progress in our critical thinking, not someone's divine mercy.

***Defence:***

**Please, I didn't interrupt.**

**Secondly, dear members of the jury, the re-writing of the story of the world, especially in its mythological form, is an event that has been happening since the dawn of times and will continue to happen. That is our nature: the conquest of imaginary is an important step in world-making of any kind.**

**I don't think that the Prosecution is honestly that naïve, that he is open to ignore the simple truth of how things are meant to work here. Our great father performed a power-flip by renaming the navel AND appropriating it to the new story, in order to establish a pathway towards a new and more powerful imaginary for all of us. Without having an idea about the center of the world (as our father established it) how could we move towards the discovery of new continents, new lands, new horizons. Discoveries that allowed us to explore the potentiality and richness of our characters, our capacities; enrich ourselves and our perspectives and share our achievements with the world?**

**We have to be thankful to our father for showing us this way of beautiful re-appropriation for the sake of the common good of all humanity. And for driving us towards progress from the central point that he has identified for us. We've learnt from this gesture of his what does it mean to make the world. Without that, I claim, we would not be standing here now ,and be able to critically examine him and his actions, as the world-builders ourselves.**

***Prosecution:***

Laughable. It is as to say that without a constant whipping one can't have an idea of freedom, without regular rape one can't have an idea of love. I urge you, the distinguished member of the jury, not to fall into the trap of talks about destiny and the only possible way of how the things could have gone. There are infinite worlds that are possible for us - from the most cruel and destructive to the kindest and heavenly.

But let me carry on the next crime of the accused, against the true-born right of his two children. Here I refer to unconquerable, wide-eyed Athena and life-loving, normality-trembling Dionysus. Let me start with the famous daughter of the tyrant, whose mother was mercilessly murdered by him.

Athena had been born from the head of Zeus, as we well know. But that happened as the accused consumed the mother of Athena, the great titaness of Metis. He later had been presenting this act of violence as 'unification' or sort of 'a merger'. Imagine, dear jury, a cannibal who is presenting consumption of their victim as an agreed act of 'reunification'. After this outrageous act, the accused gave a birth to Athena from his head following the splitting headache which is well-documented by Hesiod. But what is also important here, dear jury, is the motivation of the accused - what qualifies this act as pre-mediated, strategic murder. Zeus heard a prophecy that the child of Metis would become the lord (or the mistress) of heaven. In order to prevent that future from happening, the accused was ready to kill both the mother and the child - as he swallowed Metis while she was pregnant with Athena, attempting therefore to kill both the mother and the child. This act was the intention of the accused to cancel our possible future and institute his domination as eternal and everlasting. Therefore, dear jury, I bring to your

attention another crime of the accused, colossal in the impact on our political imaginary.

Zeus didn't anticipate that neither mother nor child she had in her womb to survive. However Athena marched out of his head in full armour, with a roar trembling earth and skies. Being terrified that his scheme didn't work, the accused immediately claimed her to be his favourite daughter. The intention of the accused was not a fatherly care but a cancellation of the potential of the child whom he couldn't otherwise immediately defeat (as Athena came out of his head fully grown, clothed in armour and armed with the promachos, her never missing the target spear).

#### ***Defence:***

**Allow me to respond here. I simply say that the narrative, presented by the prosecution here, is purely speculative and can't be backed by any material evidence. Why, I would ask, was the supposedly deprived-from-power Athena entrusted by her heavenly father with his utmost sacred weapons – the thunderbolts - if he didn't trust or love her? Why did she never oppose her father's judgement and raised the issue of her mother, if that had been injustice?**

#### ***Prosecution:***

Entrusting her weaponry was a smart, cunning, strategic move of the accused who is well aware that Athena is the promised child capable of challenging his tyranny. This act was a desperate attempt to create the bond of trust and pressurise Athena, a goddess of fairness, not to rebel against him after such deep and profound trust was demonstrated to her. But allow me to continue.

Dionysus' treatment is another disgrace of the accused. Since he, the queerest being on Olympus to be, was conceived, the principal wife of the accused, Hera, waged a number of attempts of his murder. Being reportedly aware of all the attempts of murder (two of which were successful), Zeus covered up his wife's actions and had never initiated her prosecution. After two cases of murder, first in the unborn from when Hera tricked the mother of Dionysus Semele to inflict suicidal action, and in infancy, when she sent the titans to first kill and then consume the flesh of the child, Hera wasn't called out. Later on, after Dionysus was resurrected the second time, he was subjected to a memory loss through poisoning by her design. In here, Zeus is complicit in passive collaboration via inaction with the criminal.

***Defence:***

Dear jury, it is perfectly known that Zeus had nurtured and provided care for the child Dionysus on both occasions of his wife's rage. And her rage was justified. Semele, the mother of the child in question, seduced the father with her female charms and used the kind-heartedness of our father to pour scorn on the great institution of the nuclear family which was epitomized by the sacred union of Zeus and Hera. The child that Semele had produced was assessed as a dangerous deviation from the norm which has allowed us to build our civilization.

Allow me to remind you, dear jury, that without the defense of the sanctity of this marriage we wouldn't be sitting in this very room thinking about coming back later to our loving spouses and children. Without the protection of that very union, the institution of the family wouldn't have been established, and we would have lived in the chaos and moral disgrace. Therefore, the actions of our father were directed to the protection of the overall good, while his outstanding mercy was extended on those posing the danger to it - by saving eventually BOTH the mother and the child while not jeopardising the institution of the family.

It was a truly ingenious compromise! Semele was made immortal and brought up to the heavens, and Dionysus was saved only thanks to our great father's wisdom and cunning. Thereby our father managed to achieve two contradictory things: both to preserve the order and respect his wife, AND protect the lives of those who were working to disrupt it, preserving their PRIVATE right to be different.

***Prosecution:***

The claims of defence are tremendously paternalistic, just in line with the defence of the patriarchy of Zeus at any cost. They don't have anything to do with justice - but solemnly presented for justification of the current state of things in order to prevent changes at any cost.

But let me carry on, for I am to bring still another crime of the accused which had been a culmination of his prior crimes - the abduction of Europa, the obstruction of visibility of the true story of Gaia, the murder of Metis, attempt of the murder of Athena and further her deprivation from potentiality to provide us alternative future (and this is the crime against us all, dear jury) and further covering up the murders and infliction of oblivion on queer Dionysus.

But allow me now to bring to your attention the case of gregarious violence of the civilisational proportion. I accuse Zeus of the genocide.

***Defence:***

**Outrageous! Choose your words wisely!**

***Prosecution:***

Truth is hard to face certainly. In this last statement, I want to bring to your attention the crimes of Zeus against all of us. After raping and abducting Europa, finishing off Metis, subjugating to obedience Athena through sweet-toothed inflicted by the fear lies, dumping his grandmother Gaia into oblivion - Zeus staged the conflict between Achaeans and Amazons in order to make sure that female leadership and

power in military and governance exercised would never have the ground for opposing the male, which was designed by him to become a default. On numerous occasions, Zeus designed the contexts in which Greeks commenced the attack on Amazons and motivated his male children from various raping excursions, such as Hercules, to wage the wars against the state of Amazons - the female-ruled civilisation. The combination of the actions and narratives, produced under the control of Zeus, were made sure cancel out Amazons from the memory. I would say, dear jury, that this is genocide of the unimaginable proportions that can be compared with the Nazi's attempt to wipe out the Jews from the face of Earth and historical annals. And Zeus, the architect of the heteronormative male and masculine domination, progressed very effectively in the overall task of annihilation of the alternative interpretation of structure in society, presented by the non-male dominant state of Amazons.

In this sense, dear jury, the genocide is not only physical, but also ideological. "Naturalisation" of male dominance had become possible after repeatedly recreated structures of male exclusivity and idea of 'natural hierarchy' being instilled in the public's unconscious for the millennia to come. To unwoven and undo this damage, inflicted on the multiplicity and richness of our thinking and understanding of possible, we will need centuries. And I am not sure that violent limitation, that the accused imposed on our imaginary through this act, is even possible to break through.

Zeus had damaged all of us, probably beyond repair. For the sake of distant hope, we are ought to make an effort to try to undo all the walls, cages, whip lashes we have been and continue receiving as natural. And doing this first of all requires justice: towards those who had been violated, limited,

annihilated, raped, abducted, made perish, forgotten, murdered, - some many times all over again.

(performance of Lihn)

### ***Defence:***

**My final response, dear members of the jury, will be focused on debunking all the prosecution's nonsense about genocide. What the prosecutor calls 'genocide' is an instalment of the very natural order in the most humane way by our gracious father. He had never instilled any specific stratagies on humans in devising their wars - but instead offered them choices, and created platforms where they, in their natural struggle, would find the best ways to govern themselves, reproduce, protect their off-springs, love and be loved. If this is a genocide, then I don't know what we can call 'civilisation' or 'culture'.**

**Distinguished members of the jury. I call to your attention, consciousness and logic thought once again. Our great father is not ideal. No one is. But he has, over millennia of human history, provided us with multiple instances of choice and possibilities of choosing our own course in deciding the best way of coexistence and of achieving our common goals. He showed us what 'norm' means and why it is important to build ANYTHING. All the prosecution wants is chaos.**

### Closing

It is the time for the jury to cast their votes in open. The distinguished members of the jury, dear citizens, I call upon your judgement to claim the definition of justice, taking it up into your own hands. The godliness of gods is up to us to be determined. Please raise your thumbs up if you consider the accused guilty to the charges brought.

Please lower your thumbs down if you consider the accused not guilty of any crimes.

#### If found innocent:

As the accused is cleared up of the charges brought, allow me to announce the restitution of our Father in his godly right of the leader of the all divine. No one is able to go through the life, especially eternal one, without an accusation against them. What is important, however, is that we keep the power on its toes and always remind its archetype that we are closely watching and ready to bring the charges forward when we deem that necessary. Thank you all for performing your duty duly and well!

#### If found guilty:

As the accused is found guilty, we must suspend the references to him and his power-imitating descendants as fatherly figures and authority. The political trial of several millennia of significance allows us to open up the potentiality for different futures. We must admit the necessity to turn the generational page and look for the council and model of justice at the gods that were condemned to eternal youth and inexperience, such as Athena, Dionysus, and other children of Zeus and his sisters and brothers. It is the time for the young to take their turn. The other world is possible and to start building it we first need to imagine it.