THE MOST FORTUNATE ONE

Written by

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Based on the works of Xenophon, Plato and Diogenes Laertius

For reference:

SOCRATES 470 B.C. to 399 B.C. He was 70 years old when he died.

CRITIAS 460 B.C. to 404 B.C.

XENOPHON 430 B.C. to 350ish. He was 30 years old when

Socrates died and 40 years younger.
PLATO 428-3 B.C. He's visibly younger than Xenophon. ALCIBIADES 450 B.C. to 404 B.C.. He was about 50 years old when Socrates died.

ARISTOPHANES 446 B.C. to 386 B.C.. He's old enough to stand up to Socrates's brash behavior. He wrote the Clouds in 423 before Socrates got married to Xanthippe.

AGATHON 450 B.C. to 400 B.C.. Same age as Alcibiades. He's pretty vain and reported to be quite effeminate according to Aristophanes.

XANTHIPPE is quite young, probably born around 440 B.C. and married to Socrates after 423 B.C., so about 40 when Socrates dies. They have three kids Lamprocles (a musician), Sophroniscus, and Menexenus. There's a famous story about her pouring water over Socrates head.

EURIPIDES 480 B.C. to 406 B.C. Might use him to ghost write some poetry for Critias.

The war scenes are the Peloponnessian war, but probably the Ionian war from 413-405 with Socrates in his 50s, Alcibiades in his late 30s and Xenophon barely 20. I chose Corinth as the location because that's the space between Sparta and Athens, but that's open to interpretation. Historically, Sparta was supported by the Persians for this portion of the war, so that can be a consideration. In reality Socrates fought in Potidaea, Delium and Amphipolis. Amphipolis was fought in 422 B.C., ending with defeat to the Spartans, but Xenophon was only about 8 years old at the time. Alcibiades changes his allegiance prior to the Ionian war, however, so it might be worth showing two different heroic scenes of Socrates saving both Xenophon and Alcibiades.

Summary:

XENOPHON believes that SOCRATES was unfairly accused of impiety and corrupting the youth.

THEREFORE, he shows that SOCRATES was a hero in battle and a friend to many. In the process of showing SOCRATES as a hero, he shows that many of SOCRATES behaviors, such as attitudes towards women, and his believe in the Daeimenon were misunderstood.

BUT the evidence does not really show that SOCRATES was innocent of the charges. Instead, PLATO demonstrates that the problem may be the ATHENIAN society itself.

BUT that puts XENOPHON in the league of the SPARTANS who unfairly oppressed the ATHENIANS, and puts him in conflict with the society he fought so hard for.

THEREFORE, XENOPHON argues that SOCRATES wanted to die for virtue, not for the charges against him.

BUT, SOCRATES was a philosopher who was struggling with his memory, and his execution may have been a suicide to avoid living with dementia,

THEREFORE, XENOPHON explores the nature of his relationship with SOCRATES and love, and argues with PLATO about the kind of person SOCRATES was.

BUT XENOPHON's and PLATO's words lead to the death of MELETUS, who he admires despite his role in the trial of SOCRATES. His guilt leads him to reject SOCRATES.

THEREFORE, he becomes an academic and writes about miliary strategy, training animals, history and political life.

BUT PLATO recognizes the value of XENOPHON's thought and invites him to his Academy to discuss his works and philosophy,

THEREFORE, XENOPHON meets PLATO's young student, ARISTOTLE, advising him to keep learning about truth from what is real. He suggests that he visit the Lyceum.

PLATO becomes a famorite of the ALEXANDER and the ATHENIAN world. ARISTOTLE begins to influence Judaeo thought.

1 EXT. ANCIENT ATHENS, THE AGORA XENOPHON

Before he died, you accused my friend Socrates of two, but really three things. You said he did not recognize the gods approved by the state, namely, the gods of the pantheon of Athens. You also accused him of introducing new gods, claiming this an act of impiety. And you accused him of corrupting the youth, citing Alcibiades and Critias as examples. You managed to convince the 280 members of the jury out of 501, based on this frivolous accusation put forth by Meletus who seems to have wanted to blame someone for the years of the Thirty Tyrants, Critias among them, where so many of our citizens were robbed, exiled, or killed. Puppets of Sparta, these tyrants ended the countless lives without trial. It is true that Socrates stayed during these years and that Critias was one of his students. But even after the fate of Theramenes...

To the shock of his associates, CRITIAS calls for the arrest and execution of Theramenes, after Thereamenes calls for moderation as enemies of the tyrants are sentenced to death.

1

Socrates continued to mock Critias for his tyrannical orders. Had the rebellion not occurred, Critias would have had Socrates executed himself eventually, I am sure. At least you allowed Socrates a defense, which despite my best efforts, was not particularly forthcoming. Socrates believed that his whole life and the way he lived it was defence enough. There are those who speak confidently about things they do not understand, and we believe them in their confidence rather than through the merits of their ideas.

Orators in the agora put forth early versions of Greek natural philosophy.

ORATOR1 (Based on Thales

of Miletus)
We know the earth can
float, because it rests
inside the oceans. It does
not float in air, of
course. Watch how this
stone falls when
encountering the air. Nor
does the earth float in
fire, as you see how the
flame is smothered by the
dust I drop here.

XENOPHON

Socra**XENOREO**Nnot want to be Thenqqoble poatorsimHehat Sentedesoihtvedhiedwwadsnot andobeateaslinbuheabestcway he boslbewdthetbelledtbe Dademstanding weshad about thesworlde Ehatfgemebhinga hmpcbushahesbælthing what the gode.hadsgitenchammed thisciesditainewabusoonly shsofiar thadaheddidtnbtde mindelstandmieveHihis enembempor Moniesowe et alebyin thelbdbthisftheeing gods in themsellvesonsowellew gods, buthoughasewotlaimed not to understand what they were saying.

SOCRATES enters with scene with questions for the orator. Most stay but a few leave, annoyed with Socrates approach.

ORATOR2 (Based on Anaximenes)
Hot and cold are the opposites that present the most in our lives and are world which is always in motion. The sun in our sky, as flat as a leaf, emerged (MORE)

Anaximenes) (CONT'D) from the earth many years ago, which must be obvious to all of us because doesn't mist rise up into the sky and form into clouds? It is the cold and heat that allow us to see the Air elements, as frozen air turns to snow, and hot air shows itself in the heavenly bodies.

XENOPHON

That the gods must exist is obvious, and Socrates knew that. The wise and talented all know this or eventually come to understand. Great athletes and warriors cannot know that they will win their bouts with others. They can only prepare themselves for the competition. It is the gods who decide their fate in the end.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. PHRYGIA (NOW TURKEY)

ALCIBIADES and his mistress TIMANDRA escape a burning home and encounter a group of Spartans in the mountains. They are holding spears and arrows in their hands. TIMANDRA escapes while ALCIBIADES, recognizing his fate, charges the Spartans with his dagger in hand.

SOCRATES AT WAR

XENOPHON

Despite endless experience, fishers do not know when they will catch a fish. They only cast their nets in hopes that the gods favor them on the day, or return to do it again. Artists and poets have no idea when their art will reach the hearts of their audience, or if at all. And juries are mostly ignorant about what their decisions mean for justice in the future. It is the gods who bring justice in the end. Not even the wisest of all men can take that power away from the pantheon. They say that Socrates was barely a philosopher in his youth. His father was a stone mason and his mother a midwife. Barely a soldier, Socrates had little time for wisdom and love. But he did learn the mathematics of Pythagoras from his father.

3

3 EXT. ATHENS COUNTRYSIDE, HOME OF SOPHRANISCUS AND PHAENARETE

SOCRATES, a young child, watches his father, SOPHRANISCUS, work on a doric column. A horse and cart stop with a large column of stone.

SOPHRANISCUS (to Socrates) How much do we need to carve out of this stone, Socrates?

Socrates shrugs his shoulders. He touches the stone and looks at this father, saying nothing.

SOPHRANISCUS

If the gods are numbers, as Pythagoras said, then stand erect Socrates. You are about a Bema tall. Stand next to the column, so I can see how many more stones we need. May the gods keep this column steady against the winds of the Aegean. Your mother is at the temple of Aphrodite that her son may marry together our neighbours and make new business for her.

SOPHRANISCUS and SOCRATES move the stone into place. SOPHRRANISCUS looks at his son, who is staring at the stone.

SOPHRANISCUS

A new doctor, Heraclitis, has offered to be the symposiarche this evening at our home. He has travelled this way with his son, who is a bit below your age. I expect you to be a good host and not under foot. I am looking forward to our quests tonight.

SOCRATES

Yes, father. To finish the column, you need eight more stones and another fifty stones to finish complete the supports.

SOPHRANISCUS

Well done Socrates. Careful now, or we will need many more.

SOCRATES watches some children throwing stones at the horses of the cart. The horses buck and launch the cart into the air. A small pot of black olives falls from the cart and sprays the black juice on the children who run away.

SOPHRANISCUS What does Hesiod tell us?

SOCRATES

The one who plays tricks, plays himself.

SOPHRANISCUS

And when a trick is planned, it harms the planner the most. Zeus and his daughter Justice will see to that. Keep that always in mind. Mediocrity can be found in droves, and the road is always easy to traverse. The road to good can only be found when we have sweat on our brows. It's a long hard road, with many rough spots to start. But once you get going, it will smooth out soon enough. That's what Hesiod said to Perses.

SOCRATES

Why would Perses need to know that?

SOPHRANISCUS

Perses was foolish, I think. It's been a while since I heard Hesiod recited in town.

SOPHRANISCUS and SOCRATES walk through a vinyard.

SOPHRANISCUS

When Orion and Sirius are in the middle of the sky, and the Dawn sees Arcturus, that is the time to harvest the grapes. Let them sit out for 10 days and 10 nights and then cover them over for five and press them into wine for your carafes. Around 30 is the best time to find a wife. She should be four or five years from her first period. Teach her well everything that you know, but be sure to keep her from embarrassing you in public. You do not want to be a joke to your neighbours, and a bad wife will make you old by 35 years old.

4 INT. HOME OF SOPHRANISCUS AND PHAENARETE, ATHENS

The symposium is in full swing. The guests are drinking wine and discussing the nature of the gods.

XENOPHON (V.O.)

Dionysius, son of Zeus and the god of wine, is the god of the symposium. As a foreigner to Olympus, he is pretty fond of those who invite strangers into their home. On the other hand, he also has strict rules for the distribution of wine. First, it is uncivilized to drink pure wine. One must always include some water. Second, wine must be delivered by servants in the carafes of the village. The first carafe is for health. The second for love and pleasure. The third is for sleep. The sensible ones all understand that going beyond that is asking for trouble as Dionysus no longer accepts responsibility for the effect that the wine will have. Four is for bad behavior. Five is for shouting. The sixth is for rudeness and insults and the seventh is for fighting. The eight coincides with breaking furniture, and one more from that charges towards melancholy. The tenth is pure madness until you finally pass out into your own vomit.

SOPHRRANISCUS offers SOCRATES a cup of wine. SOCRATES refuses to his father's disappointment. A flute girl nudges into Socrates in a flirtateous manner, but he shies away from her advances. The speeches of each follower gets progressively louder and the speakers begin to interrupt and argue with each other. Socrates and Hippocrates draw figures in the sand and discuss various mathematical and philosophical points.

XENOPHON (V.O)

I came to rely on Socrates for his wisdom in all things.

XENOPHON

I have a letter from Proxenus who says he will introduce me to Cyrus of Persia for a campaign against the Pisidians. What do you think of this, Socrates? I asked you before.

SOCRATES

It's a long way to Sardis, Xenophon. Cyrus helped the Lacedaemonians against Athens, it may not be looked upon favorably. Did you go to the Oracle at Delphi as I suggested?

I asked the Oracle which of the gods I should pray to in order to return safely with great fortune.

SOCRATES

And what did the Oracle say?

XENOPHON

She said told me to pray to Athena, Justice, Aether and Cronos so that I would return safely with great fortune.

SOCRATES (laughing)

It's what you get for leading the witness, Xenophon. You should have inquired more directly. You should have asked whether you should go or not. But if the oracle advised you as such, then I suppose that's what you should do. Go ahead and meet with Cyrus. But remember, the gods are fickle. They may not be so kind to you as they were to me.

This version of Socrates is from Xenophon's perspective who will see him as a disciplined war hero and a friend who has been unfairly persecuted. Xenophon will meet his penance as his words to defend Socrates will spur on Antisthenes and eventually

lead to the death of Melatus. Xenophon and Plato will realize the danger of their words and the power of the

gods to bring justice to the world.

XENOPHON (V.O.)

There is barely a member of the youth you claim to have been corrupted who did not owe their lives to Socrates. He was a hero in war and fought bravely against the Spartans who you so despise.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD, SOMEWHERE NEAR CORINTH 5

5

XENOPHON and ALCIBIADES stand mounted on horses in the battlefield as a Spartan hoplite Phalanx approaches. SOCRATES, a seasoned Hoplite soldier follows among the other hoplite soldiers. ALCIBIADES charges the Spartans with his horse, and XENOPHON follows with the intention of breaking the phalanx and opening up a hole in the formation so the remaining warrior can break through. Due to a shift in the terrain, XENOPHON's horse stumbles and he is thrown from his horse. Without realizing he is alone, ALCIBIADES continues the charge thinking the phalanx to be surprised and disorganized. The Spartans, however, are well trained and quickly close the gap.

SOCRATES recognizes the danger for both of them and quickly calls the phalanx to surround and protect XENOPHON until he can return to his horse. SOCRATES calls out to ALCIBIADES about the danger, but ALCIBIADES is too far away to hear. SOCRATES, seeing the danger, charges the Spartans with his shield and spear. ALCIBIADES takes an arrow to his arm and falls from his horse. An approaching spartan soldier runs to finish him off, but SOCRATES launches a sling stone hitting his neck and injuring him. The spartan soldier is overtaken by another hoplite, but SOCRATES arrives in time to thrust a spearhead into the soldier's face. XENOPHON, returned to his horse charges the group of spartans with two other calvarymen (hippeis). Socrates picks up Alcibiades and carries him to safety. However, the Athenian forces, now disorganized from the mishap are routed by the Spartans. Socrates and Alcibiades hide from the Spartans in a crevice in the rocks. Two Spartans following behind approach the crevice and notice Socrates and Alcibiades. Socrates meets them with his sword and spear and using the tactics of an experienced soldier, defeats them both while protecting Alcibiades. As the Athenians flee into the mountains with the Spartans behind them, Socrates helps XENOPHON overtake several talented Spartan soldiers. They escape into the mountains and eventually reach some trireme ships that take them back to Athens.

SOCRATES IN LOVE

6 INT. A ROOM IN THE HOME OF PLATO. PLATO AND XENOPHON ENTERS.

XENOPHON

But why have you portrayed Alcibiades as his lover? Just to create a scandal? Socrates barely loved his wife in that way. A lover? Socrates? The Socrates who obsessed over drinking too much wine and who avoided almost any vice? Did you think he was guilty of the charges? What are you thinking?

PLATO

Xenophon, I am not like Socrates,
and I cannot pepper you with
questions like he did. I can only
write what I know.

XENOPHON

You know betrayal?

PLATO

I am not betraying Socrates. But Socrates now is dead. You were not there when he died, like I was. 6

I heard from Crito. You weren't there either.

PLATO

I felt ill that day. I could not bear to see him die. Except that was a mistake, yes.

XENOPHON

So what you are about to tell me is also a fiction, then.

PLATO

A fiction is not a lie, and a lie is not a fiction. I cannot be all places at once and I am not as disciplined as Socrates. I just work to listen and tell stories that have a ring of truth to them.

XENOPHON

How can you tell us what is truth, when you impute things of Socrates that aren't true?

PLATO

I am not so sure what I said was not true. It was at least partially true, although who am I to say? I do not sleep in their beds or hang out with them in the gymnasium. I only know what I have heard and seen. But even so, I am not writing about Socrates you knew for the most...

XENOPHON

Well, you use his name and his likeness. I admit his personality comes through, although you make him act like a barbarian half the time. He was our teacher. You should show him some respect.

PLATO

How do you respect the dead? What alms do you wish me to serve him? What wine to drink? Grapes do him no real good now. Socrates loved Alcibiades and his body may have desired him in the way that I wrote. Or maybe not. I cannot say. But what Socrates did think about love in a way quite different from your friend, and that's what I was trying to explore.

You are not exploring anything. You are making a mockery of him. You are making him out to be a fool.

PLATO

He was a fool unto his death. But now he is braver than us all. He's got a soul that's passed on to the world, with a future that will outlast us all, maybe even longer than the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus and that's made out of marble. Cebes mentioned to me that Socrates argued that the living come from the dead. I am saying that Socrates has a new life now. Maybe many lives for all I know. One life is that life that I am writing for him. If something turns out to be wrong or inconsistent, that's not my concern. My concern is that there is this new life that he has, and that he is living it now. The life of philosophy, of finding good, and making a better polis. That's what I am writing about. That's what I am exploring.

XENOPHON

You are not exploring anything. This is a libel! It's a violation of our teacher and friend.

PLATO

Xenophon, we can ask ourselves what is good. You want Socrates to be innocent of the charges.

XENOPHON

He was innocent of the charges. He did not corrupt Alcibiades, who is a great general. Critias corrupted himself when the Spartans gave him power over Athens. Socrates tried to help him.

PLATO

You cannot accept his new life is all. You want your old friend. Except he wasn't your old friend by the time he took the poison.

XENOPHON

What are you saying?

PLATO

Just what I said. He was losing himself.

XENOPHON

So his execution was just him being cowardly. The Socrates I knew was not a coward.

PLATO

It wasn't cowardly, but Socrates was trying to live in a new way. Socrates last days shook everyone to their core. They didn't know what to believe by the time he was done with them, and himself. The rest of us won't say the nonsense in our heads because we don't want to end up like him. Somehow, Socrates spoke his soul one hundred percent in those final days. I am trying to do the same, but it probably will not work because somewhere in the future I am going to need food and a home and safety from the tyrants that we will no doubt meet in the future. I have bills to pay, Xenophon. Socrates has no more debts. He even paid Ascelepius back the chicken he owed.

XENOPHON

I won't hear more of this, Plato. You have betrayed our teacher. Fuck your bills. Perhaps you can ask Alcibiades to shove them up your ass and you can use the pleasure you get from that to write your next great book.

PLATO

He spent his last hours consoling his friends, Xenophon. He would not want your defense.

XENOPHON

Says you.

PLATO

His legs gave way from the poison and he was still telling Apollodorus to stop blubbering over him.

XENOPHON

This is not a blubber. This is justice and I will make it... You say Socrates has many lives now. Well maybe I will add one more.

PLATO

That sounds like a good plan if it means you will finally leave me to my work.

XENOPHON

Indeed.

7 INT. HOME OF SOCRATES, ATHENS

7

Need a scene here that shows Socrates relationship with his wife Xanthippe. She is demanding and difficult, but Socrates is a patient and kind husband. He is willing to learn from her and is not afraid to show his vulnerability.

8 INT. HOME OF CALLIUS, ATHENS

8

Socrates discusses shows himself willing to be up to learning anything, including dancing. This is based in Xenophon's account of a dinner party. Themes need to include:

- Xanthippe who is demanding and difficult. Socrates claims to be man enough to handle her.
- Socrates sees women as equal to men, except in physical strength.
- Phillipus tries a comedy sketch and bombs. He is devastated and cries until Critobulus laughs at him. This makes him feel better, confusing everyone.
- Socrates asks to learn to dance from expert dancers to the shock of the other guests. He is a terrible dancer, but he is willing to learn. He ends up convincing the others to dance too. Phillipus parodies their dance, making everyone laugh hysterically until they are all exhausted from dancing and laughing. It would be possible to hint that Socrates did the dance to show everyone that comedy is a good thing for the very fact that it's impossible to fail.
- Socrates convinces everyone not to drink too much wine, following the rules of Dionysus.

9 INT. THE HOME OF AGATHON, THE ATHENIAN POET

9

Various members of a party are together sharing a meal and wine. Agathon stands up to start the symposium. Socrates is on the edge of his seat, pretty excited about what is to transpire. They have all had the equivalent of two drinks, so they are happy but not noticably tipsy.

AGATHON

Are we all together to speak on Love? Aritstodemus, where's Socrates?

ARISTODEMUS
He was just here behind me!

AGATHON

Socrates! Get in here! We are about to start the speech in celebration of love.

SOCRATES

I think I am going to stay out of this one, folks. It always seems that I get myself in trouble whenever I pretend to know what I am talking about.

AGATHON

I see. Anyone else want to pull out? No? Ok. I would like to propose an order. Pausanius, you can go first and then if anyone says something wrong we can blame you before you try to send us to a jury. Then ARISTOPHANES, ERIXIMACHUS . I will go last.

SOCRATES enters and sits next to AGATHON.

SOCRATES

I am going to take the prize spot next to Agathon, our theatre champion. I definitely do not want to miss out on his speech!

AGATHON

Oh great. So I get to put up with your shit the whole time, oh wisest of the Athenians.

SOCRATES

I assure you I am not so wise, but I am happy to hear what transpires today.

PAUSANIAS (speaks as if he were a modern day American lawyer)

I may still be hung over from yesterday, but I am so happy that the subject of our symposium tonight is Eros.

AGATHON

I'm definitely not up for another big night of drinking. My body can't take it.

PAUSANIUS

There can be no other subject that is more important to the gods than Love, of course. But first we must (MORE)

PAUSANIUS (CONT'D)

admit that we are speaking of that divine love and romance, the kind that inspires great deeds and has artists crafting statues like gods. I wouldn't want out discussion to break down into a rude conversation about the kind of love that comes up whenever Socrates gets talking. No Socrates. No questions allowed during my speech! I won't have you proving me a pervert until I had a full chance to speak about true love in real time.

Socrates laughs at the joke, but the other guests listen intently.

PAUSANIUS

Of course, what counts as a acceptable love is a matter of opinion. In Persia, I would never be seen with another man as it would be strictly prohibited, while in Sparta it is a matter of pride to have a young man at your side keeping you young with his new ideas and energy. In return, the highest and best form of love favored by the gods would be to share my wisdom with him, as I am the older and wiser of the two. But in Athens, we have a different kind of love, one that is more about the mind and the soul. In this city, we are encouraged to keep to the more appropriate forms of love and our democratic laws are designed to keep us from straying too far from the path of the gods.

There is polite applause from the guests. Aristophanes stands up and begins to speak, but comes up with a bout of hiccups.

ARISTOPHANES

My turn to spe...hic...speak. Just a moment (he struggles to speak). This speech may be seem a bit...hic...silly, but I assure you it is not. Just a moment.

ERIXIMACHUS stands up and offers a cure for the hiccups. Aristophanes drinks the potion but still cannot. He begins to speak.

ERIXIMACHUS

Here, Aristophanes, drink this. It contains some warm water with laurel leaves and a bit of honey. You should have your voice back in a few minutes. But meanwhile, I may as well start my speech or we'll be talking all night. I love your speech, Pausanius, but we cannot think of love as just about people. We need to remember that love is in everything we see. (Aristophanes gargles the potion, interrupting the speak periodically with his hiccups as Eriximachus gets increasingly annoyed and self-conscious). Love is in the stars and the moon and in nature. Love can be seen as the god Helios carries the sun across the sky with his chariot. We see love in the seasons and the harvest. When we see love among two people, it's a reflection of the love we see all around us. The gods keep the world together with love, and we must keep that in mind when we are with our wives and raise our children. (Aristophanes continues to interrupt with his hiccups, but Eriximachus continues to speak, ignoring him. Eventually, SOCRATES blows pepper in his face and Aristophanes sneezes, ending the hiccups).

ARISTOPHANES

Look at me now, Eriximachus. I am cleared of the hiccups no thanks to your concoction. Just a little pepper and a sneeze and we are back in action. Good thing too or you might have bored us to death.

ERIXIMACHUS

Ok Aristophanes. I can let you take over, but it better be good or I might have to make a fool of you later. And then you will have to admit to being out-told by a simple doctor.

ARISTOPHANES

The irony of all this is that you give good advice, but your ideas fail on execution. Socrate's pepper succeeded in its function even though Socrates is full of bad (MORE)

ARISTOPHANES (CONT'D) advice. But just make sure to keep the wine to a safe limit. I am still hung over like Agathon and don't have near the same success in writing plays! I am also not very good at speeches, so I am going to make my tribute by telling a story.

ERIXIMACHUS

It's hardly my fault what you did last week. I will keep you sober unless you start drinking from Socrates drink.

ARISTOPHANES

First, we must know where people came from. A long time ago, people were bigger. They consisted of a woman, a man and a non-binary in a threesome.

PAUSANIUS

There goes my idea of avoiding perverted conversations. He beat you to it Socrates!

ARISTOPHANES

The three parts were combined together. Two hands. Two feet. A head with two faces so they can look both backwards and forwards. These proto-humans could run faster than Achilles and carry entire columns on their own. They were so devastatingly strong that they eventually gathered together to form an attack on Mount Olympus. They gathered huge stones and collected them into pyramids like those in Egypt to help them reach the heights of the mountain. The gods on the other hand were in a quandry. On the one hand, they could easily destroy these monsters with lightning bolts, fire and arrows. On the other, destroying them would mean the end of the sacrifices that the gods enjoyed so much. So all the gods Aphrodite, Athena, Hera, Zeus, Hermes and all the others held a large meeting to debate the merits of destroying versus placating the humans. Eventually, Zeus, frustrated by the lack of action, took it upon himself to teach these upstarts a (MORE)

ARISTOPHANES (CONT'D)

lesson in decorum and manners. He launched his lightning bolt directly between the men and the women and split them in half.

ERIXIMACHUS

I think that sneeze hurt your brain and made you forget that we are speaking in praise of Eros, not dismemberment of some uppity giants.

ARISTOPHANES

I haven't forgotten, although not all of us have forgotten how to be uppity. Isn't that right Socrates?

SOCRATES

I am just happy to learn from you all. Continue your story!

ARISTOPHANES

No questions at all, Socrates? The wine must be very good.

AGATHON