

Reconciliation from The Gifts of the Furies
Glenda Cloughley, 2009

Introduction

Our story begins with The Furies of Earth. We hear the dilemma of the poet, Mr Mythos. The Cantor introduces himself and the audience sings with the Chorus.

Cantor:

Hard times looming
Black dread blooming

Audience and The Citizens' Chorus:

Hard times looming
Black dread blooming (repeat two times)

We hear about the Trial and meet Ethos, the divinity of Civilised Wisdom, who introduces herself:

I am Ethos
I am the spirit of this place
I am the spirit of its people
I am the original spirit
I am the spirit of now

The Eyes of Love

Mr Mythos remembers the threats of Earth's Furies during the Trial.

The Furies:

If I lose this trial I will break the land and rage against the cities!

He doubts that Nature will abide by a verdict in the city court house.

Storyteller:

Winter sets in He can cry but not write
The temple of Gaia is silent and cold
His fear won't thaw Black dread blooms
round the threats of the spirits of Earth

He despairs about the future of democracy, and even mankind. The Chorus and audience echo his fears.

Cantor:

Sounding resounding
The Fury of Earth

Audience:
Sounding resounding
The Fury of Earth (repeat two more times)

But and experience of love for his little grand-daughter opens his ears to the Songs of Life — and the right end of his play.

Reconciliation

Back in the mythic drama, the Furies hurl the bloody tide of their grievances at Ethos. With great dignity and respect, she defers them. She tells them that she will never tire of telling them their gifts. More and more of the citizens sing with her. Eventually she asks —

Ethos:
If you heard the voice of the people's love
Would you open the doors of your kindly heart?
Receive their longing? Trust their promise?
Would you plant the Songs of Life in their souls?

The people revere and fear your vast powers

Cantor:
We love our children

Audience and Chorus:
We love our children

Cantor:
We will care for the land

Audience and Chorus:
We will care for the land

Cantor:
Please come and dwell in our most sacred places

Audience and Chorus:
Please come and dwell in our most sacred places

Cantor:
Your loving gaze is our source

Audience and Chorus:
Your loving gaze is our source

Cantor:
We are held by the songs in your beautiful eyes

Audience and Chorus:
We are held by the songs in your beautiful eyes

Cantor:
Sweet golden eyes Sweet olive eyes

Audience and Chorus:
Sweet golden eyes Sweet olive eyes

Cantor:
Sweet and terrible mystery of Life
You see us We sing back our love.

Audience and Chorus:
Sweet and terrible mystery of Life
You see us We sing back our love.

When the green songs grow, the people sing the Hymn to Gaia, written by an unknown poet in c500BC.

The Hymn to Gaia

Gaia, I will sing to the mother of all
Gaia, I will praise the source of all
Whoever is of the land and sea
The many who fly in the sky
Gaia, all are nourished from your wealth

Gaia, out of your treasures come children and fruit
You grant birth and death, the law of life
Food-giving lands, thriving herds
Houses filled with good things
Gaia, your kindly blessings bring happiness

Gaia, order and beauty spring from you
The city you honour enjoys good laws
The children play merry with fresh-budding joy
The maidens dance in the flowering fields

Greetings! Mother of gods and wife of the starry sky
Gaia, I will remember you in another song