

PLATONICS

PILOT  
"WHIP THE TEACHER"

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - LIBRARY - SUNRISE**

A crowded library brimming with books and scrolls. Candles burn low on wooden tables. In the corner, SPEUSIPPUS (20s) sits on a pillow, dozing.

PLATO (60s), in a fine chiton, sits at his desk scrawling on papyrus. He looks tired but possessed by manic energy.

PLATO  
(muttering while writing)  
Yes, yes, concepts divorced from  
any physical being, yes.  
(louder)  
Speusippus, have you my notes on --

Plato turns to see Speusippus drooling.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
(muttering)  
Work ethic doesn't run in the  
family.  
(muttering while writing)  
Truths inherent, ideas and objects  
hidden from mortal sight.

Plato sits back in his chair. He looks out the window. The sun has crept above the horizon. He smiles.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
(proud)  
Truly, it is a great day to be  
Plato.

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - SUNRISE**

Little stalls and shops flank a dirt road stretching through the city. A huge bronze pot sits tipped over in the middle of the road. The pot RUMBLES.

DIOGENES (late 50s) emerges from the pot, filthy, his clothes in tatters. He stretches. He smiles. He grimaces.

A YOUNG BOY stares at Diogenes. Diogenes reaches into his pot to grab a large stick.

DIOGENES  
(waving stick)  
BACK! BACK, YOU SCOUNDREL! BACK TO  
WHATEVER PARENT WISHES THEY HAD  
LEFT YOU ON A MOUNTAIN!

The Boy sprints away crying.

BEAT.

Diogenes smiles.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)  
(proud)  
Truly, it is a great day to be  
Diogenes.

CUT TO BLACK.

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**EXT. ATHENS STREETS - DAY**

The streets are packed. MEN and WOMEN trade various items, argue in corners, converse.

Diogenes shoves PEOPLE aside as he walks through, brandishing a lantern, waving it aggressively in their faces.

DIOGENES  
(calling out)  
A good man? A good man? I am  
searching for a good man! All I  
find are scoundrels and rascals!  
Who can show me a good man?

The Athenians look irritated, but go about their days.

A handsome man, DIONYSUS, smirks and watches Diogenes from beside a shop stall.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)  
Still nothing? You'd think after  
three years Athens could show me a  
single good man.

Dionysus walks to Diogenes.

DIONYSUS  
Having fun?

Diogenes swings towards him and shoves the lantern in his face.

BEAT.

He lowers the lantern.

DIOGENES  
I'm tiring of this. It doesn't  
annoy them like it used to.

DIONYSUS  
That's a shame.

Plato walks through the crowd, beaming, smug. He carries his manuscript. Dionysus spots him.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Wow. He looks smug.

DIOGENES

Yes. My esteemed colleague. His  
magnificence, the king of all  
thinkers.

DIONYSUS

Sounds like an ass.

DIOGENES

Asses have uses.

The wind picks up. Plato's papers go flying. They rustle over to Diogenes and he picks them up. Plato rushes over and puts a hand out, but Diogenes pulls them away.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)

Hello, master philosopher.

PLATO

Diogenes, good morning. My papers,  
please.

DIOGENES

First you must answer these riddles  
three.

PLATO

No. No more of your dirty riddles.

DIOGENES

Only the feeble believe they know  
the answers to questions not yet  
uttered.

PLATO

(counting off on his  
fingers)  
"Genitals," "Anus," "Horse  
Genitals."

Diogenes considers this. He hands back the papers. Dionysus chuckles.

PLATO (CONT'D)

You know, Diogenes, you are stifled  
by these trivial amusements.  
Imagine how your life could be if  
you possessed the work ethic of the  
common man.

Diogenes waves his lantern in Plato's face.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
 (uncomfortable)  
 You could enter my academy,  
 perhaps. Maybe get off the street  
 and into some fine clothes.

Diogenes gives him a terrible look.

A ROOSTER jumps out of nowhere and grabs Plato's papers in his beak.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
 (furious, confused)  
 How did you do that?

The Rooster tears the papers to shreds.

DIOGENES  
 Ah, my dear Plato. I can no more  
 control the minds of roosters than  
 you can your lust for them.

Plato GRUMBLES and storms off. The Rooster is going to town.  
 Dionysus makes eye contact with it and smiles.

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - DAY**

Diogenes pushes his way through the crowd to his pot.  
 Dionysus and the rooster follow.

DIOGENES  
 (muttering, sarcastic)  
 Yes, strange man, follow me home,  
 that is acceptable.

A SWAN sits in the pot. Diogenes plops down next to it.

DIONYSUS  
 Aren't you curious about the swan?

DIOGENES  
 Swans come and go.

SWAN  
 (beautiful woman's voice)  
 I am no ordinary swan, Diogenes.

DIOGENES  
 (disinterested)  
 Okay, swan.

ROOSTER  
 (commanding man's voice)  
 You will show respect to your Gods.

DIOGENES  
 Gods? I see two birds and a  
 perfidious booze-hound.

DIONYSUS  
 I am Dionysus. God of parties and  
 drunkenness. Perfidious booze-  
 hound? Yes.

Diogenes starts to pick at his fingernails.

ROOSTER  
 I am Hermes, god of messengers.  
 Have you no capacity for wonder?

Aphrodite flies onto Diogenes' shoulder.

APHRODITE  
 I am Aphrodite, goddess of beauty.  
 No man or beast can resist my  
 charms.

DIONYSUS  
 (muttering)  
 Easy to resist when you're  
 surrounded by horny swans.

Aphrodite's swan face looks upset. She returns to the ground.

HERMES  
 (commanding)  
 Diogenes, you must apologize to  
 Plato for destroying his work. Do  
 not ask why. This is the will of  
 Hermes.

DIOGENES  
 You're the one who did it.

HERMES  
 I am a God. I do as I please. And  
 you also do as I please.

DIOGENES  
 And if I refuse?

HERMES  
 I will eat your liver, regrow it,  
 and repeat the process until the  
 sun dies.

Diogenes SIGHS and stands up.

**EXT. PLATO'S HOME - DAY**

Diogenes KNOCKS on the door. It opens a crack and Plato pokes his head out.

PLATO  
What do you want?

DIOGENES  
Allow me inside. This is a formal apology and requires more suitable surroundings.

Plato stares at him, wary. He opens the door.

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Diogenes follows Plato inside. The room is filled with fancy rugs and embroidered pillows. It gleams and looks very expensive.

DIOGENES  
I am sure that your work was of the utmost importance.

Plato stares at Diogenes' feet. They are filthy. He is shoeless.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)  
Weeks, perhaps months of work --

Diogenes steps onto the rug. A plume of dust shoots up. He leaves a massive muddy footprint.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)  
Gone in a single moment!

PLATO  
Can you please --

DIOGENES  
(interrupting)  
The toil! Oh, the toil!

Diogenes stomps on a pillow.

PLATO  
Don't --

DIOGENES  
 (interrupting)  
 The life of the thinker, dredging  
 up the thoughts none dare confront.

He stomps on the rest of the pillows.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)  
 (inbetween stomps)  
 Facing. Reality. Against. The.  
 Wishes. Of. The. Gods.

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - DAY**

Rooster Hermes and Swan Aphrodite cockfight as Dionysus  
 watches.

Diogenes enters and sits between them.

DIOGENES  
 He chased me off with a snake.

Dionysus shoots Hermes a look.

DIONYSUS  
 Great plan, mailman. Looks like  
 we've gotta kill him.

HERMES  
 You heard Zeus. Plato has a  
 purpose. He must live.

APHRODITE  
 (whiny)  
 But this is all so boring!

They look to Diogenes.

HERMES  
 Aren't you at all curious what we  
 are talking about?

DIOGENES  
 Not really.

A large WOMAN passes by the pot and looks at Diogenes.

WOMAN  
 Diogenes, you are skin and bone! A  
 great thinker like you must really  
 put some meat on!

Diogenes grabs his lantern from the pot and brandishes it at her.

DIOGENES  
 (to woman)  
 Back, foul beast!

She GIGGLES and picks up Aphrodite and Hermes. Diogenes puts his lantern down.

WOMAN  
 Oh, you! These filthy birds will  
 make a fine stew.

She looks to the birds. Their faces transform into the face of Diogenes. She SCREAMS, throws them to the ground, and sprints away.

Their faces are normal again. Hermes brushes dirt off his head with a wing.

HERMES  
 We need your help.

DIOGENES  
 You handled that pretty well on  
 your own.

Dionysus sits and puts an arm around Diogenes.

DIONYSUS  
 Diogenes. You ever heard of non-  
 interference?

DIOGENES  
 I have heard those words together  
 before, yes.

HERMES  
 Plato is seeking a way to divine  
 universal truths. Humans can not  
 discover these truths. Bad things  
 happen when humans discover --

APHRODITE  
 (interrupting, forceful)  
 Only we may have them. They're  
 ours.

TENSE SILENCE.

DIONYSUS

Sure, whatever. Anyway, Plato is getting close to figuring out how to get them. Not into that, Diogenes.

HERMES

We need you to... distract Plato. Indefinitely.

Diogenes nods his head, half listening.

DIONYSUS

See? I told you he'd do it. He's got the divine party spark in him.

DIOGENES

A divine mission. To irritate that fool Plato.

(claps hands together)

Only a thinker as great as I could achieve such a thing.

The birds and Dionysus smile at each other.

#### **INT. PLATO'S ACADEMY - DAY**

A large marble lecture hall, beautiful and spacious. Light flows in through the glassless windows.

Plato stands before a dozen STUDENTS who sit on a large rug, listening intently. Speusippus sits in the corner, taking notes.

PLATO

Yes, morality could be called a code. But for whom, and for what reason?

STUDENT 1 pushes his shoulder into STUDENT 2 to shut him up.

STUDENT 1

(too eager)

For us all! It is objective!

PLATO

Ah, but what is objectivity? Is your vision of objects objective? Are these objects themselves objective?

MURMURS from the crowd.

Diogenes enters on the far end of the hall. He holds a wooden bowl filled with crunchy looking food. Plato doesn't notice.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
The rug you sit on.

Diogenes CHEWS loudly. Plato spots him and looks annoyed.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
(irritated)  
The light shining through the windows alters the rug as you see it.

Diogenes walks next to Plato and turns to face the class. His chewing intensifies.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
(irritated)  
Your perception of this object is not objective. It must exist divorced from your perception. So where does this objective reality reside?

Diogenes walks in front of Plato, blocking his view of the class. He stares into Plato's face. He CHEWS.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
(extremely irritated)  
Is it some other realm? Perhaps the realm of the Gods?!

A bit of food pops out of Diogenes onto Plato's chiton.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
(yelling)  
That's enough! Diogenes, by the Gods, leave me be!

Diogenes CHEWS.

DIOGENES  
I want to hear the lecture.

PLATO  
OUT! OUT NOW!

Diogenes CHEWS. Plato pushes him.

DIOGENES  
You dare strike your student?

Diogenes turns to the class.

DIOGENES (CONT'D)  
 Is this the man you wish to lead  
 you? Which one of you is next?

PLATO  
 (screaming)  
 OUT! GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW!

The door SLAMS open. Two ROD-BEARERS, Athenian Guards, enter.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
 (screaming to Rod-Bearers)  
 ESCORT THIS MAN FROM THE PREMISES!

The guards, brandishing their rods, flank Plato and Diogenes.

ROD-BEARER 1  
 Calm yourself. We can hear you a  
 mile away. Anymore outbursts and  
 we'll have to arrest you.

ROD-BEARER 2  
 And bruise you with our rods.

ROD-BEARER 1  
 Yes. Now calm down, and hug each  
 other. Or face the rods.

PLATO  
 (baffled)  
 What?

They lift their rods. Plato and Diogenes look at each other,  
 disgusted. They hug. Plato's chiton is covered in filth.  
 Diogenes smiles. Rod-Bearer 1 smiles creepily.

ROD-BEARER 1  
 Good. And remember what happens if  
 we catch you two again.

ROD-BEARER 2  
 (lifts rod)  
 Rods.

CUT TO BLACK.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - DAY**

Aphrodite and Hermes lay in the pot with Dionysus sitting cross legged between them.

APHRODITE

I hate being a swan! I want to seduce and reject all mortals.

DIONYSUS

Swans can do that.

HERMES

Why have you not transformed, Dionysus?

DIONYSUS

Eh, don't feel like it. I might start an orgy later, so...

Aphrodite flutters to her feet.

APHRODITE

Liar! He can't control it because he's a drunk!

DIONYSUS

Nope, it's totally not that.

APHRODITE

Then transform!

Dionysus looks nervous. He grumbles. POOF. The smoke clears. A gasping dolphin lies in the road.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

Ha, I knew it!

DIONYSUS

(gasping for air)  
Shut. Up. You --

Dionysus is cut off by a GASP for air. Hermes sighs.

HERMES

Where is Artemis? She should be here. I must summon her.

APHRODITE

No, don't!

Hermes shuts his eyes and concentrates. POOF. A deer, ARTEMIS, appears beside the pot.

ARTEMIS

(gruff woman's voice,  
matter-of-fact)

What?

HERMES

You were commanded to aid our mission.

ARTEMIS

Is she --

(looks to Aphrodite)

-- going to fix Polyphonte?

APHRODITE

It's irreversible. But she deserved it. Nobody claims beauty greater than that of Aphrodite! The sacrilege would offend even my worst enemies, and --

POOF. Artemis is gone. Hermes SIGHS.

HERMES

Why make her lust for bears, then?  
How is that fitting punishment?

Aphrodite SHRUGS.

Diogenes enters and plops into his pot.

DIOGENES

Almost arrested.

HERMES

What? You must be more careful!

APHRODITE

Can't we just, you know... magic fix it?

HERMES

(sighing)

No. The current magistrate is in the cult of Artemis. Only she may influence his mind as long as he worships her and only her.

DIOGENES

I don't care about the petty drama of the Gods. Just give me something useful. Make my life easier. Bless me divinely.

HERMES

That we can do.

POOF. Hermes disappears.

**INT. TOY SHOP - THE FUTURE - DAY**

Two young BOYS stare at the toys on the wall. A THUNDER CLAP. The boys look through the window to see Hermes pop into existence as a sharply dressed man. JINGLE. He enters the shop.

The boys stare at him. He shoves them out of the way and reaches up to a high shelf.

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - DAY**

Diogenes sits between the animal gods. ROD-BEARER 3 approaches warily.

ROD-BEARER 3

Permit for the dying dolphin?

DIOGENES

You will find my permit far up the anus of the local magistrate.

ROD-BEARER 3

Diogenes. Law is law. You break the law every day and for the most part we let it slide because you're homeless and strange and, frankly, terrifying. But this is too much.

POOF. Aphrodite has transformed into a GORGEOUS woman. The Rod-Bearer is transfixed.

APHRODITE

Why must you pick on this sweet old man?

ROD-BEARER 3

I'm not picking on him, I just --

APHRODITE

(interrupting)

Tell you what. You leave him alone,  
and I'll meet you behind the bath  
house in twenty minutes.

ROD-BEARER 3

(bashful)

I, uh, I'm a eunuch.

APHRODITE

Yes, but you have a rod.

The Rod-Bearer smiles, hypnotized, and wanders off.

POOF. Hermes, a rooster again, appears beside Aphrodite  
holding some sort of black box and remote.

HERMES

This should help.

DIOGENES

What does it do?

HERMES

I do not know. I found it in the  
far future, a land of many  
mysteries. Strange, though. I could  
not sense the presence of the Gods.  
Perhaps, by that time...

Diogenes grabs the box and remote.

DIOGENES

(doesn't care)

Thanks.

**EXT. ARTEMIS' HUNTING FIELDS - DAY**

A gorgeous, green field brimming with wildlife. Artemis  
stands in human form, a slender, tough looking woman with a  
huge bow and quiver.

In front of her stands POLYPHONTE (20s), a beautiful woman  
who looks annoyed.

POLYPHONTE

Well, become a bear then.

ARTEMIS

I forced that form upon Callisto. I  
can no longer take that shape.

POLYPHONTE  
 (sarcastic)  
 Oh, the great virgin huntress  
 Artemis, with such power!

ARTEMIS  
 Shut up.

POLYPHONTE  
 You're feeling the virgin part now,  
 aren't you?

ARTEMIS  
 (angry)  
 That's euphemistic and you know it!

Polyphonte glowers.

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - LIBRARY - DAY**

Plato and Speusippus sit across from one another on fancy pillows.

PLATO  
 I can feel a breakthrough coming.  
 But that damned Diogenes. Whenever  
 I feel confident in my stride, he  
 arrives and destroys my train of  
 thought.

SPEUSIPPUS  
 About Atlantis?

PLATO  
 What? No, about... truth. With a  
 capital T. What if these truths  
 were not mere moral laws? What if  
 they were possessions? Possessions  
 of the gods?

SPEUSIPPUS  
 Did you forget about Atlantis,  
 though? Because that was a cool  
 thing. Where was it again?

PLATO  
 It was an allegory.

SPEUSIPPUS  
 Where is allegory? Are we going  
 there? I'd like to see it, Uncle.

Plato SIGHS.

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - DAY**

The pot rumbles. The gods stare at it.

HERMES

What do you think he's doing in there?

The pot BELCHES.

APHRODITE

I will enter and discover what mysteries Diogenes hides.

DIONYSUS

Don't. You wouldn't like it.

APHRODITE

You presume to know my likes? Humph. I'm more complex than you think, Dionysus!

DIONYSUS

Do you remember when you came into my room without knocking because you heard barking and women screaming and thousands of plates being shattered at once?

APHRODITE

Do not remind me of those trials.

DIONYSUS

Subtract the dogs, women, and plates.

Aphrodite thinks. BEAT. She looks disgusted.

Diogenes emerges from the pot, a new man. He groans with satisfaction.

HERMES

So, uh... Diogenes. You going to make any progress on the Plato thing, or...

DIOGENES

I have quite a lot to attend to.

HERMES

Like what?

DIONYSUS

Probably another viscous offering  
to yours truly.

DIOGENES

(angry)

I don't do it for you.

Diogenes dives back into his pot. He rummages around,  
inspecting his possessions. There aren't many.

HERMES

I don't think you understand the  
gravity of the situation. When a  
human discovers a universal  
truth... terrible things happen.

DIOGENES

Plato knows about your truths. He  
doesn't know how to get them.

HERMES

But he gets closer each day. You  
must understand.

The sky goes dark. SLOW ZOOM on Hermes' face.

HERMES (CONT'D)

There is a process. Items called  
divining rods, scattered about the  
land and planes of reality, unlock  
mathematical, rhetorical, and  
philosophical quandaries. Once  
solved, the truth is revealed,  
forever altering the worlds, both  
profane and divine.

DIONYSUS

Yeah, that. Also, I don't want to  
die.

APHRODITE

We each have our own universal  
truth, Diogenes. Mine is more  
beautiful and great than most.

DIONYSUS

When humans steal a truth, the  
associated god dies.

APHRODITE

Poor, poor Fire-ostenes.

The gods put their hands and wings over their hearts.

HERMES

And there are inconceivable  
consequences for humans as well.  
The day Fire-ostenes died...

The gods take another moment of silence.

HERMES (CONT'D)

Racism was born.

Diogenes YAWNS and chews nothing. Hermes grabs Diogenes' shoulder with his wing.

HERMES (CONT'D)

(irritated)

Alright, fine.

POOF. They disappear.

**EXT. HORRIFYING DESTROYED EARTH**

Fire and blood geysers litter the dead, gray Earth. Skulls piled into mountains flank a river of human urine. The sky is black and on fire. A mountain far away crumbles.

On a high cliff, Diogenes and Hermes pop onto the scene.

HERMES

Behold, Diogenes! The first Earth!  
Led by a man very much like your  
Plato, the humans of this reality  
discovered the secrets of the Gods,  
the items and ideas we call the  
universal truths. The Gods of this  
plane are long gone, destroyed by  
the hubris of man. Our world has  
escaped this fate. Until now. You  
see the destruction wrought by  
stealing from the Gods. The effects  
are unpredictable, catastrophic.  
Play with the instability of the  
Universe and all you may find is  
death.

Diogenes looks around. Hermes grabs his arm and POOF, They are gone.

**EXT. ATHENS MARKET - DIOGENES' POT - DAY**

POOF. They're back.

HERMES

So now you see. There is no time to waste.

DIOGENES

(bored)

Eh.

Diogenes sits down in his pot.

DIONYSUS

Can I offer you pleasures untold?

Diogenes considers this.

DIOGENES

I'm pretty set on pleasure.

DIONYSUS

Mortals know nothing of pleasure.

Diogenes thinks.

DIOGENES

What do you do with the plates?

DIONYSUS

(smiling)

You'll see.

Diogenes pushes himself to his feet.

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - DAY**

Plato stands at the head of the large foyer, giving a speech to a group of students including Speusippus. The rug and pillows still have bits of mud on them, and several students look uncomfortable.

PLATO

(to room)

It is for the good of the mind that we contemplate such things. For the eternal, the objective, these things are of the mind. Or are they of the Gods? It is a...

He spots Diogenes sitting on a pillow.

PLATO (CONT'D)

(to Diogenes)

How did you get in here?

DIOGENES

Back door.

Plato nods to Speusippus.

**EXT. PLATO'S HOME - DAY**

Speusippus and a STUDENT throw Diogenes onto the street. The door slams behind him.

Diogenes smiles. He stands, crouches, and sneaks his way over to a bush beside the house. From inside the bush, he stares through the window. Inside, Plato continues his speech.

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Plato shakes the annoyance off.

PLATO

I have been devising a method of grasping these divine truths. My work, once complete, will be revolutionary, pointing the way forward for all of humanity, illuminating the --

FART. Plato looks shaken.

PLATO (CONT'D)

(apologetic)

Excuse me. It will illuminate the --

FART. Under a plant in the corner, Diogenes' device from the future lights up with the sound.

PLATO (CONT'D)

I don't know what I ate, please excuse me once more.

**EXT. PLATO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Diogenes watches Plato become flustered. He SMILES. He presses the button on the remote. FART.

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Silence. Plato looks around the room.

FART.

PLATO  
 Alright. That is certainly not me.

FART.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
 Who is doing this?

FART.

Speusippus points to the plant.

SPEUSIPPUS  
 Um... I think it's coming from over there.

PLATO  
 Where no man can be seen? Are you implying some disembodied flatulence, Speusippus? That is preposterous!

FART. Plato marches over to the plant.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
 Fine, I will look --

He spots the device. He picks it up.

PLATO (CONT'D)  
 What in the...

He turns it over. FART. On the bottom, a note. "Love you! Diogenes." Plato looks out the window, locking eyes with Diogenes. Diogenes drops into the bush.

**EXT. PLATO'S HOME - DAY**

Plato bursts out of the house and sprints to Diogenes in the bush.

PLATO  
 (yelling and running)  
 You wretched swine, I swear to the gods I will destroy you!

He leaps into the bush and punches at Diogenes. Diogenes jerks to the side, avoiding the punch. Plato falls flat on his face.

He scrambles up and tackles Diogenes. They struggle on the ground.

On the road, the two Rod-Bearers from earlier patrol. They spot the scuffle. Plato throws a weak punch. The Rod-Bearers look at each other and scurry over.

SMACK. Each philosopher gets a rod to the head. They go limp.

CUT TO BLACK.

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**INT. ATHENIAN COURT - NIGHT**

The COURT MAGISTRATE (60s) sits on a high bench, looking down on the court. On his chiton, he wears a small pin in the shape of a fawn.

Plato and Diogenes stand side by side, flanked by the Rod-Bearers, in front of an AUDIENCE.

Speusippus stands before the magistrate with a piece of paper in hand.

SPEUSIPPUS

(reading from paper)

His dedication to charity. His love of all the Gods' creatures. These are just some of the many reasons that Plato --

COURT MAGISTRATE

(interrupting)

Speusippus, this is a hearing, not a trial. There is no need for a character witness.

DIOGENES

Especially not when Plato is controlling the witness with a hand up his anus.

PLATO

(to Diogenes)

Why always with the anus?

DIOGENES

It is a source of great delight to me, both humorously and physically.

SPEUSIPPUS

Plato is a true man of charity, this cannot go to trial!

**INT. DARK CELL - NIGHT**

Speusippus sits in a cell. He shares it with many of Plato's students.

Across the hall in a different cell, Plato sits in the corner, his head in his hands. Diogenes shares the cell, but stares through the bars, monk-like.

DIOGENES

Look students what your fair  
teacher hath wrought! Complicity in  
his crimes! This is what you reap  
when you sow with Plato.

PLATO

Please give it a rest.

STUDENT 1

He's right!

DIOGENES

Of course I'm right, I am Diogenes.

PLATO

Don't feed his ego.

STUDENT 2

Oh, so feed yours instead?

Plato looks hurt. Diogenes smiles.

**EXT. ARTEMIS' HUNTING FIELDS - NIGHT**

The fields are no less beautiful by the moonlight. No sign of life.

POOF. Aphrodite, Hermes, and Dionysus appear in a huddle, all in human form.

APHRODITE

Why. Just why.

HERMES

With Diogenes imprisoned, we have  
no plan. Only Artemis may sway the  
Magistrate. Her cult has this  
power.

(calling out)

Artemis! Show yourself!

WHOOSH. An arrow flies by Aphrodite's head.

APHRODITE

That nearly hit me!

WHOOSH. Another.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)  
You're trying to hit me!

ARTEMIS (O.S.)  
If I was trying to hit you, I'd hit you.

HERMES  
Enough! We've come to make peace.  
It's a message, if you will, of peace.

Dionysus GROANS.

DIONYSUS  
Have to make everything a message,  
don't you?

Artemis appears from the thick of the woods, riding a white horse.

ARTEMIS  
Peace on what terms?

POOF. Two wine glasses appear in Dionysus' hands. He saunters over to Artemis.

DIONYSUS  
Perhaps some fun? I believe in  
Latium they call it a "Bacchanal,"  
for yours truly I might add.

Artemis clocks him on the head. He falls to the ground and rubs his head.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Forget it.

POOF. He's gone.

Artemis raises her bow and aims an arrow at Aphrodite.

HERMES  
Whatever terms you deem necessary.

APHRODITE  
(whining)  
Let's just get this over with! So I  
can't reverse the spell on  
Polyphonte. What can I do for you?  
Just tell me! I'll do anything! I  
hate fighting!

Artemis lowers her bow.

ARTEMIS

There's one thing you could do.

**INT. DARK CELL - NIGHT**

Dionysus enters dressed like a Rod-Bearer. He carries two bottles of alcohol. He stops in front of the cell of followers.

DIONYSUS

Boys, a little token of my respect.  
Who says jail can't be a party?

Speusippus points to scratched graffiti on the wall. It reads "Jail is no party."

Dionysus shakes his head. He hands them a bottle.

STUDENT 1

Wow, thanks!

DIONYSUS

Don't mention it. Now make sure  
everybody gets some.

They pass the bottle around, taking sips. BEAT. They all pass out. Dionysus turns to Plato and Diogenes.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Plato! I am Dionysus, god of sick  
parties.

PLATO

My god! One of my actual gods!

DIONYSUS

Yes. There are things you must  
know.

Dionysus passes through the bars as though they weren't there.

DIOGENES

Traitor.

DIONYSUS

Give this a chance.

PLATO

You know each other?

DIONYSUS

Quiet.

Plato looks ashamed of himself.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
We need to talk about universal  
truth.

**EXT. THE HEAVENS**

The stars shine brightly against the black vacuum of space.  
Nebula swirl and planets orbit in the far, far distance.

Aphrodite glides gracefully through space, serene, avoiding  
comets and debris. She looks from side to side as she goes.

APHRODITE  
(muttering to self)  
She must be around here somewhere.

She spots something.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)  
Aha!

She glides in that direction. She stops.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)  
Callisto! I'm here to talk.

Many stars join together to form the image of Ursa Major.  
This is CALLISTO.

CALLISTO  
What is it you jerk?

APHRODITE  
I need your power. Your  
transformation.

CALLISTO  
Talk to Artemis. She did this to  
me.

APHRODITE  
(impatient)  
Can we just, like, do this?

CALLISTO  
What's in it for me?

APHRODITE  
Freedom?

Callisto's cosmic bear face lights up.

CALLISTO

Freedom? Yes. That will do. But be warned. I will use my freedom, every moment of it, in service to the destruction and suffering of Artemis. She will live in fear, dying a thousand deaths before my liberated hands.

Aphrodite thinks.

APHRODITE

Okay, whatever.

**INT. DARK CELL - NIGHT**

Dionysus sits cross-legged between Plato and Diogenes.

DIONYSUS

So yeah. Don't look for the divining rods.

PLATO

But what if we could avoid the effects?

DIONYSUS

Can't be done.

PLATO

There must be a way.

DIONYSUS

(nervous)  
Little help, Diogenes?

Diogenes YAWNS.

PLATO

Only a thinker as fine as I could grip the private thoughts of Gods and return unscathed. I'll take these diving rods! I'll find the way forward for all of humanity!

Dionysus grimaces. He snaps his fingers. Plato passes out. Dionysus takes a sip of liquor.

DIOGENES

Couldn't do that earlier?

Dionysus passes the bottle.

DIONYSUS  
Let's get drunk.

**INT. COURT MAGISTRATE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

The Court Magistrate sleeps in his bed, grimacing. He SNORES loudly.

GREEN LIGHT erupts out of thin air in the center of the room. Artemis, looking god-like, emerges from the light. The Magistrate opens his eyes and leans up in bed, excited.

ARTEMIS  
(booming voice)  
It is I, Artemis, Goddess of the  
hunt!

The Magistrate jumps out of bed and onto his knees on the floor. He bows to her.

COURT MAGISTRATE  
My Goddess! I have dedicated my  
life to your worship! No other  
receives my alms, as you are held  
above sky, sea, and land.

ARTEMIS  
(booming voice)  
Yes! I appreciate that! Though  
generally it's virginal women who  
revere me in such a manner!

COURT MAGISTRATE  
If only it were that I could be  
your handmaiden.

Artemis thinks.

ARTEMIS  
(booming voice)  
I have a deal for you!

**INT. ATHENIAN COURT - DAY**

The court is back in session. Plato and Diogenes stand before the Magistrate.

COURT MAGISTRATE  
And for those reasons, I have  
decided on leniency.

PLATO  
Thank the gods.

The Magistrate thumbs his Artemis pin.

COURT MAGISTRATE  
There will be no trial.

DIOGENES  
Trials are quite boring.

COURT MAGISTRATE  
But beware. You two can not  
continue your feud in Athens  
unabated. A solution must be found  
for your constant bickering.  
Diogenes, you are hereby ordered to  
live in Plato's home for no less  
than six months so that you two may  
sort out your issues.

PLATO  
(baffled)  
What? In what reality does this  
plan make sense to you?

Diogenes CACKLES like a madman.

COURT MAGISTRATE  
(grumbling, under breath)  
You're lucky I'm turning into a  
beautiful virgin huntress, Plato.

**INT. PLATO'S HOME - DAY**

Diogenes drags his filthy pot into the house. Plato sits in  
the corner, fretting.

PLATO  
Don't put that on the rug. Put it,  
I don't know, maybe outside. You  
should sleep outside too.

DIOGENES  
I will sleep in your bed, beside  
you.

PLATO  
No you will not.

DIOGENES  
We shall see.

**EXT. PLATO'S HOME - DAY**

The four gods, in animal form except Dionysus, sit in the bushes watching through the window.

ARTEMIS

No work will be done in this house. Diogenes' mere presence will assure that. I thought it was a good idea, though only until we can figure out something more long term.

HERMES

Yes. Especially now that Dionysus has assured our destruction.

DIONYSUS

It almost worked.

HERMES

Now he knows of the divining rods. He will surely look for them.

APHRODITE

Yeah, but I did a good job, right? Getting Artemis to help? This was really all because of me. I did great.

Artemis gives her a foul look and disappears.

DIONYSUS

Whatever. Me and Diogenes, we're going to party in Plato's house every night. No work for Plato. Loud music, loud drunken Diogenes, good times. No problem.

HERMES

You have doomed us all.

A piece of china flies through the window.

PLATO (O.S.)

(yelling)

THAT WAS SOCRATES' FAVORITE PLATE!

**EXT. ARTEMIS' HUNTING FIELDS - DAY**

Polyphonte BEAMS. She looks smitten.

POLYPHONTE

This is amazing! I can't believe it!

Artemis stands before her. She is a bear.

POLYPHONTE (CONT'D)

You look great!

ARTEMIS

You're sure it's not too... I don't know, bearish?

POLYPHONTE

No, it's perfect.

ARTEMIS

Damn Aphrodite. Why an irreversible spell? She has no foresight.

POLYPHONTE

There's no use thinking of it now. I lust for bears. Who cares why? You're a bear now. We can make this work.

ARTEMIS

I don't know, I feel weird about this.

Polyphonte puts a hand on Artemis' bear shoulder.

ARTEMIS (CONT'D)

We can make this work.

A deer gallops over to the women.

DEER

(Court Magistrate's voice)  
You promised me the body of a nymph who could ride at your side in the hunt.

ARTEMIS

Umm, I was busy--  
(looks at Polyphonte and bear blushes)  
--so I had Dionysus do it for me.

DEER

Can you fix it?

ARTEMIS  
(sheepish)  
It's irreversible. But good news!

Artemis transforms into her human form, already atop her horse.

ARTEMIS (CONT'D)  
It's time for the hunt!

The Deer runs off, terrified. Artemis follows with bow in hand.

CUT TO BLACK.

**END OF EPISODE**