

## **ACT I – Mount Olympus**

*All enter.*

Nestor: Long ago in ancient Greece, a wedding was taking place. It was a wedding between Thetis, a sea nymph, and Pelius, a mortal prince. Zeus himself has arranged the marriage.

Odysseus: All of the gods and goddesses were invited except Eris, the goddess of discord. Her presence was not wanted at the wedding.

Hermes: Special delivery, Aphrodite! There is a wedding tomorrow between the sea nymph, Thetis, and Prince Pelius.

Aphrodite: I can't wait to wear my new gown. I will look so beautiful! After all, I am the goddess of love and beauty.

Zeus: I can't wait to go down to the wedding and sit at the head of the table and feast on grand food.

Apollo: My gift to Thetis and Pelius is a beautiful piece of music I composed for them.

Hestia: When they get married I'll bless their house for good luck.

Dionysus: Of course no celebration would be complete without my jovial presence. The god of wine is a necessary ingredient at any feast!

Poseidon: As God of the sea and host of this celebration I look forward to welcoming you all to my underwater kingdom.

*He leads them off. All exit but Odysseus.*

*Enter Eris.*

Eris: What is all this talk of weddings? How could there be a wedding without me? I didn't get an invitation!

Odysseus: Eris was angry that she hadn't been invited to the biggest wedding in Greece. She decided she would get back at the other gods and goddesses.

Eris: What should I do? What should I do? I know what I'll do!

### **ACT II – Hephaestus's workshop**

*Enter Nestor and Hephaestus.*

Nestor: While Eris was planning to ruin the party, the gods and goddesses were traveling down Mount Olympus to the wedding under the sea. Swiftly Eris went to visit Hephaestus, who had been invited to the wedding but whose legs were too weak to walk there.

Hephaestus: Eris, what brings you to my home?

Eris: I need a wedding present. Will you please make me a beautiful golden apple? In your very best handwriting write "For the Fairest."

Hephaestus: I'd be happy to. That way I'll feel like I'm part of the wedding, too.

### **ACT III – Poseidon's Undersea Kingdom**

*Enter wedding guests.*

Odysseus: Hephaestus made a beautiful golden apple and gave it to Eris. Once Eris had the fruit she raced down Mount Olympus on a rainbow path to the sea. She hid behind a column of coral and watched the wedding party feasting. The tables were piled with food and an orchestra of sea

nymphs and fauns played music on lyres and panpipes.

Eris: So, they think they can have a party without inviting me! I'll show them!

Nestor: Raising her arm, Eris threw the golden apple into the crowd. It landed right in front of Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite.

Hera: Oh, this must be for me. It says "For the Fairest," and I'm the fairest. I'm married to Zeus.

Athena: Oh, no, Hera. It must be for me. I'm the wise and beautiful Athena. Zeus, my father, has often said I'm the fairest.

Aphrodite: Everyone knows that I am the goddess of beauty and love. Surely that apple is for me. I'm one of Zeus's wives.

Pelias: Hmm. This must be the crafty work of Eris, goddess of discord.

Thetis: How did she find out about our wedding? She didn't get an invitation.

Nestor: The apple caused quite a fight. It turned into a huge food fight. Everybody at the part disagreed.

Eris: Perfect! I've ruined their festivities. Next time they'll think twice before they leave me out of their fun.

Zeus: SILENCE! This is supposed to be a wedding, not a fight!

Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite: Zeus, will you please decide?

Hera: Zeus, I am your wife. I'm the fairest.

Athena: But I'm the wisest, and I'm also very athletic. Shouldn't the apple be for me?

Aphrodite: But I am the most beautiful.

Zeus: I will let Paris decide.

Odysseus: So all the gods and goddesses left the wedding and went in search of Paris.

*All exit through audience to search.*

#### **ACT IV – A hillside near Troy**

*Enter Paris; gods reconvene on stage.*

Paris: What brings all of you here?

Zeus: I ask you to decide between these three goddesses who is the fairest.

Paris: What a difficult task.

Hera: Paris, if you give the apple to me, I will give you power. You will rule over vast lands.

Athena: I will help you win every war.

Aphrodite: I will give you love. I will give you the most beautiful wife. I will give you Helen.

#### **ACT V – The kingdom of Sparta**

*Paris sleeps in a boat, Helen on a bench across the stage.*

Nestor: The next day they set sail to Sparta to fulfill Aphrodite's promise. While they were sleeping, Aphrodite asked Eros to shoot love arrows at Helen and Paris.

*Enter Eros.*

Eros: Once they get hit with my arrows they'll have no choice. Paris and Helen will fall hopelessly in love!

Odysseus: The first person that Helen saw was Paris. She fell in love with him right away. Paris also fell in love with Helen. But there was one problem: Helen was married.

Hermes: Just look at those two! They're so happy together. Don't they make a lovely couple?

Apollo: You can't be serious! Helen and Paris are making a dreadful mistake!

Hermes: A mistake? What could be wrong with such love?

Apollo: Don't you know? Helen is already married!

Hermes: No!

Apollo: Her husband is Menelaus, the king of Sparta.

Hermes: You're right. Only tragedy can come of this.

Paris: Will you come sail away to Troy and be my wife?

Helen: Of course I will!

**THE END**