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DUNSANY, Edward J.
Queen's enemies.



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**THE QUEEN'S
ENEMIES**
LORD DUNSANY



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PLAYS OF GODS AND MEN

By Lord Dunsany

THE LAUGHTER OF THE GODS

THE QUEEN'S ENEMIES

THE TENTS OF THE ARABS

A NIGHT AT AN INN

Published separately

IF

By Lord Dunsany

(A Play in Four Acts)

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, LTD.

The Queen's Enemies

BY

(LORD) DUNSANY, *Edward J.*

LONDON

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, LTD.

24 BEDFORD STREET, STRAND, W.C.2

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First published 1918
Reprinted 1922

THE QUEEN'S ENEMIES

Dramatis Personæ.

THE QUEEN

ACKAZÁRPSSES (*her handmaid*)

PRINCE RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

PRINCE ZOPHÉRNES

THE PRIEST OF HORUS

THE KING OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES

THE TWIN DUKES OF ETHIOPIA

THARNI

THARRABAS

HARLEE

SLAVES

} *Slaves*

THE QUEEN'S ENEMIES.

SCENE : *An underground Temple in Egypt.*

TIME : *The Sixth Dynasty.*

(The curtain rises on darkness in both parts of the stage. Two slaves appear with tapers on the steps. As they go down the steps they light the torches that are clamped against the wall, with their tapers. Afterwards when they come to the temple they light the torches there till they are all lit. The two slaves are THARNI and THARRABAS)

THARRABAS

Is it much further, Tharni ?

THARNI

I think not, Tharrabas.

THARRABAS

A dank and terrible place.

THARNI

It is not much further.

THARRABAS

Why does the Queen banquet in so fearful a place ?

THARNI

I know not. She banquets with her enemies.

THARRABAS

In the land from which I was taken we do not banquet with our enemies.

THARNI

No ? The Queen will banquet with her enemies.

THARRABAS

Why ? Know you why ?

THARNI

It is the way of the Queen.
(*Silence.*)

THARRABAS

The door, Tharni, we have come to the door !

THARNI

Yes, that's the Temple.

THARRABAS

Surely a grim place.

THARNI

The banquet is prepared. We light these torches, that is all.

THARRABAS

Unto whom is it holy ?

THARNI

They say to the Nile once. I know not unto whom it is holy now.

THARRABAS

So Nile has left it ?

THARNI

They say they worship him in this place no longer.

THARRABAS

And if I were holy Nile I also would stay up there (*pointing*) in the sunlight.

(*He suddenly sees the huge misshapen bulk of HARLEE.*) *another slave*

Oh-h-h !

~~HARLEE~~

~~Urh.~~

THARNI

Why. It's Harlee.

THARRABAS

I thought you were some fearful, evil god.

(HARLEE *laughs*. *He remains leaning on his great iron bar.*)

THARNI

He waits here for the Queen.

THARRABAS

What sinister need could she have of Harlee.

THARNI

I know not. You wait for the Queen, Harlee?

(HARLEE *nods*.)

THARRABAS

I would not banquet here. Not with a Queen.

(HARLEE *laughs long*.)

THARRABAS

Our work is done. Come. Let us leave this place.

(*Exeunt* THARRABAS *and* THARNI *up the steps*.)

(*The* QUEEN *appears with her handmaid, ACKAZÁRPSSES, coming down the steps. Her*

handmaid holds her train. They enter the temple.)

QUEEN

Ah. All is ready.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

No, no, Illustrious Lady. Nothing is ready. Your raiment, we must fasten it here (*shoulder*) and then the bow in your hair.

(She begins to tittivate the QUEEN.)

QUEEN

Ackazárpses, Ackazárpses, I cannot bear to have enemies.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

Indeed, Illustrious Lady, it is most wrong that you should have enemies. One so delicate, so slender and withal so beautiful should never have a foe.

QUEEN

If the gods could understand they would never permit it.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

I have poured out dark wine to them, I have offered them fat, indeed I have often offered them savoury things. I

have said : The Queen should not have enemies, she is too delicate, too fair. But they will not understand.

QUEEN

If they could see my tears they would never permit such woes to be borne by one small woman. But they only look at men and their horrible wars. Why must men slay one another and make horrible war ?

ACKAZÁRPSES

I blame your enemies, Illustrious Lady, more than the gods. Why should they trouble you who are so fair and so easily hurt by their anger ? It is but a little territory you took from them. How much better to lose a little territory than to be unmannerly and unkind.

QUEEN

O speak not of the territory. I know naught of these things. They say my Captains took it. How should I know ? O why will they be my enemies ?

ACKAZÁRPSES

You are most fair to-night, Illustrious Lady.

QUEEN

I must needs be fair to-night.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

Indeed you are most fair.

QUEEN

A little more perfume, Ackazárpses.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

I will tie the coloured bow more evenly.

QUEEN

O they will never look at it. They will not know if it is orange or blue. I shall weep if they do not look at it. It is a pretty bow.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

Calm yourself, lady! They will be here soon.

QUEEN

Indeed I think they are very close to me now, for I feel myself trembling.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

You must not tremble, Illustrious Lady, you must not tremble.

QUEEN

They are such terrible men. Ackazárpses.

ACKAZÁRPSES

But you must not tremble, for your raiment is now perfect, yet if you tremble alas ! who may say how it will hang ?

QUEEN

They are such huge, terrible men.

ACKAZÁRPSES

O the raiment, the raiment, you must not, you must not !

QUEEN

O I cannot bear it. I cannot bear it. There is Rhádamandáspes that huge, fierce soldier, and the terrible Priest of Horus and . . . and . . . O, I cannot see them, I cannot see them.

ACKAZÁRPSES

Lady, you have invited them.

QUEEN

O, say I am ill, say I am sick of a fever Quick, quick, say I have some swift fever and cannot see them.

ACKAZÁRPSES

Illustrious Lady—

QUEEN

Quick, for I cannot bear it.

(Exit ACKAZÁRPSSES.)

QUEEN

O, I cannot bear to have enemies.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

Lady, they are here.

QUEEN

O what shall we do? . . . Set this bow higher upon my head so that it must be seen. *(ACKAZÁRPSSES does so.)*
The pretty bow.

(She continues to look in a hand mirror. A SLAVE descends the stairs. Then RHÁDAMANDÁSPES and ZOPHÉRNES. RHÁDAMANDÁSPES and ZOPHÉRNES stop; the SLAVE stops lower down.)

ZOPHÉRNES

For the last time, RHÁDAMANDÁSPES, consider. Even yet we may turn back.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

She had no guards outside, nor was there any hiding place for them. There was the empty plain and the Nile only.

ZOPHÉRNES

Who knows what she may have in this dark temple?

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

It is small and the stairway narrow, our friends are close behind us, we could hold these steps with our swords against all her men.

ZOPHÉRNES

True. They are narrow steps. Yet . . . Rhádamandáspes, I do not fear man, or god, or even woman; yet when I saw the letter this woman sent, bidding us banquet with her, I felt that it was not well that we should come.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

She said that she would love us though we were her enemies.

ZOPHÉRNES

It is not natural to love one's enemies.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

She is much swayed by whims. They sway her as the winds in spring sway flowers—this way and that. This is one of her whims.

ZOPHÉRNES

I do not trust her whims.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

They name you, Zophérnes, giver of good counsel, therefore I will turn back because you counsel it, though I would fain go down and banquet with this little playful lady.

(They turn and mount.)

ZOPHÉRNES

Believe me, Rhádamandáspes, it is better. I think that if you had gone down these steps we scarcely should have seen the sky again.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Well, well, we turn back, though I would fain have humoured the Queen's whim. But look, the others come. We cannot turn back. There comes the Priest of Horus; we must go to the banquet now.

ZOPHÉRNES

So be it.

(They descend.)

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

We will be circumspect. If she has men in there we return at once.

ZOPHÉRNES

So be it.

(The SLAVE opens the door.)

SLAVE

The Princes Rhádamandáspes and Zophérnes.

QUEEN

Welcome, illustrious Princes.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Greeting.

QUEEN

O! you have brought your sword!

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

I have brought my sword.

QUEEN

O but it is so terrible, your great sword

ZOPHÉRNES

We always carry our swords.

QUEEN

O but you do not need them. If you have come to kill me your great hands

are enough. But why do you bring your swords ?

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Illustrious Lady, we do not come to kill you.

QUEEN

To your post, Harlee.

ZOPHÉRNES

What are this Harlee and his post ?

ACKAZÁRPSES

Do not tremble, Illustrious Lady, indeed you must not tremble.

QUEEN

He is but a fisherman : he lives upon the Nile. He nets fish : indeed he is nothing.

ZOPHÉRNES

For what is your great bar of iron, Slave ?

(HARLEE opens his mouth wide showing that he is tongueless. Exit.)

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Ugh ! They have burned out his tongue.

ZOPHÈRNES

He goes on secret errands.

(Enter SECOND SLAVE.)

SECOND SLAVE

The Priest of Horus.

QUEEN

Welcome, holy companion of the gods

PRIEST OF HORUS

Greeting.

THIRD SLAVE

The King of the Four Countries.

(She and he make obeisance.)

FOURTH SLAVE

The twin Dukes of Ethiopia.

THE KING OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES

We are all met.

PRIEST OF HORUS

All that have warred against her
Captains.

QUEEN

O speak not of my Captains. It troubles me to hear of violent men. But you have been my enemies, and I cannot bear to have enemies. Therefore I have asked you to banquet with me.

PRIEST OF HORUS

And we have come.

QUEEN

O look not so sternly at me. I cannot bear to have enemies. When I have enemies I do not sleep. Is it not so, Ackazárpses ?

ACKAZÁRPSSES

Indeed the Illustrious Lady has suffered much.

QUEEN

O Ackazárpses, why should I have enemies ?

ACKAZÁRPSSES

After to-night you will sleep, Illustrious Lady.

QUEEN

Why, yes, for we shall all be friends, shall we not, princes ? Let us be seated.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES (to ZOPHÉRNES)

There is no other doorway. That is well.

ZOPHÉRNES

Why no, there is not. Yet, what is that great hole that is full of darkness ?

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Only one man at a time could come that way. We are safe from man or beast. Nothing could enter that way for our swords.

QUEEN

I pray you to be seated.

(They seat themselves cautiously, she standing watching them.)

ZOPHÉRNES

There are no servitors.

QUEEN

Are there not viands before you, Prince Zophérnes, or are there too few fruits that you should blame me?

ZOPHÉRNES

I do not blame you.

QUEEN

I fear you blame me with your fierce eyes.

ZOPHÉRNES

I do not blame you.

QUEEN

O my enemies, I would have you kind to me. And indeed there are no ser-

vitors, for I know what evil things you think of me——

A DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

No, Queen, indeed we think no evil of you.

QUEEN

Ah, but you think terrible things.

THE PRIEST OF HORUS

We think no evil of you, Illustrious Lady.

QUEEN

I feared that if I had servitors you would think . . . you would say, "This wicked Queen, our enemy, will bid them attack us while we feast."

(FIRST DUKE OF ETHIOPIA *furtively hands food to his SLAVE standing behind him, who tastes it.*)

Though you do not know how I dread the sight of blood, and indeed I would never bid them do such a thing. The sight of blood is shocking.

PRIEST OF HORUS

We trust you, Illustrious Lady.

(*He does the same with his SLAVE.*)——

QUEEN

And for miles round this temple and all along the river I have said, "Let there be no man." I have commanded and there are not. Will you not trust me now?

(ZOPHÉRNES does the same and all the guests, one by one.)

PRIEST OF HORUS

Indeed, we trust you.

QUEEN

And you, Prince Zophérnes, with your fierce eyes that so frighten me, will you not trust me?

ZOPHÉRNES

O Queen it is a part of the art of war to be well prepared when in an enemy's country, and we have been so long at war with your Captains that we perforce remember some of the art. It is not that we do not trust you.

QUEEN

I am all alone with my handmaid and none will trust me! O Ackazárpses, I am frightened: what if my enemies

should slay me and carry me up, and cast my body into the lonely Nile.

ACKAZÁRPSSES

No, no, Illustrious Lady. They will not harm you. They do not know how their fierce looks distress you. They do not know how delicate you are.

PRIEST OF HORUS (*to* ACKAZÁRPSSES)

Indeed we trust the Queen and none would harm her.

(ACKAZÁRPSSES *soothes the* QUEEN.)

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES (*to* ZOPHÉRNES)

I think we do wrong to doubt her, seeing she is alone.

ZOPHÉRNES (*to* RHÁDAMANDÁSPES)

Yet I would that the banquet were over.

THE QUEEN (*to* ACKAZÁRPSSES *and the* PRIEST OF HORUS, *but audible to all*)

Yet they do not eat the food that I set before them.

DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia when we feast with Queens it is our custom not to eat at once; but to await the Queen till she has eaten.

QUEEN (*eats*)

Behold then I have eaten.

(*She looks at* PRIEST OF HORUS.)

PRIEST OF HORUS

It has been the custom of all that held my office, from the time when there went on earth the children of the Moon, never to eat till the food is dedicate, by our sacred signs to the gods. (*He begins to wave his hands over the food.*)

QUEEN

The King of the Four Countries does not eat. And you, Prince Rhádamándáspes, you have given royal wine unto your slave.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

O Queen, it is the custom of our dynasty, . . . and has indeed long been so, . . . as many say, . . . that the noble should not feast till the base have feasted, reminding us that our bodies even as the humble bodies of the base——

QUEEN

Why do you thus watch your slave, Prince Rhádamándáspes?

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Even to remind myself that I have done as our dynasty doth.

QUEEN

Alas for me, Ackazárpses, they will not feast with me, but mock me because I am little and alone. O I shall not sleep to-night, I shall not sleep. (*She weeps.*)

ACKAZÁRPSSES

Yes, yes, Illustrious Lady, you shall sleep. Be patient and all shall be well and you will sleep.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

But Queen, Queen, we are about to eat.

DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

Yes, yes, indeed we do not mock you

KING OF FOUR COUNTRIES

We do not mock you, Queen.

PRIEST OF HORUS

They do not mean to mock you.

QUEEN

They give my food to slaves.

PRIEST OF HORUS

That was a mistake.

QUEEN

It was no mistake.

PRIEST OF HORUS

The slaves were hungry.

QUEEN (*still weeping*)

They believe I would poison them.

PRIEST OF HORUS

No, no, Illustrious Lady, they do not believe *that*.

QUEEN

They believe I would poison them.

ACKAZÁRPSES (*comforting her*)

O hush, hush. They do not mean to be so cruel.

PRIEST OF HORUS

They do not believe you would poison them. But they do not know if the meat was killed with a poisonous arrow or if an asp may have inadvertently bitten the fruit. These things may happen, but they do not believe you would poison them.

QUEEN

They believe I would poison them.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

No, Queen ; see, we eat.

(*They hastily whisper to SLAVES.*)

1ST DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

We eat your viands, Queen.

2ND DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

We drink your wine.

KING OF FOUR COUNTRIES

We eat your good pomegranates and Egyptian grapes.

ZOPHÉRNES

We eat.

(*They all eat.*)

PRIEST OF HORUS (*smiling affably*)

I too eat of your excellent banquet,
O Queen.

(*He peels a fruit slowly, glancing constantly at the others. Meanwhile the catches in the QUEEN'S breath grow fewer, she begins to dry her eyes.*)

ACKAZÁRPSES (*in her ear*)

They eat.

(*ACKAZÁRPSES lifts her head and watches them.*)

QUEEN

Perhaps the wine is poisoned.

PRIEST OF HORUS

No, no, Illustrious Lady.

QUEEN

Perhaps the grape was cut by a poisoned arrow.

PRIEST OF HORUS

But indeed . . . indeed . . .

(QUEEN *drinks from his cup.*)

QUEEN

Will you not drink my wine?

PRIEST OF HORUS

I drink to our continued friendship.

(*He drinks.*)

A DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

Our continued friendship!

PRIEST OF HORUS

There has been no true enmity. We misunderstood the Queen's armies.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES (*to ZOPHÉRNES*)

We have wronged the Queen. The wine's not poisoned. Let us drink to her.

ZOPHÉRNES

So be it.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

We drink to you, Queen.

ZOPHÉRNES

We drink.

QUEEN

The flagon, Ackazárpes.

(ACKAZÁRPSSES *brings it. The QUEEN pours it into her cup.*)

Fill up your goblets from the flagon, princes. (*She drinks.*)

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

We wronged you, Queen. It is a blessed wine.

QUEEN

It is an ancient wine and grew in Lesbos, looking from Mytelene to the South. Ships brought it overseas and up this river to gladden the hearts of men in holy Egypt. But to me it brings no joy.

DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

It is a happy wine, Queen.

QUEEN

I have been thought a prisoner.

PRIEST OF HORUS

Indeed none has thought that, Illustrious Lady.

QUEEN

You have all thought it.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

We ask your pardon, Queen.

KING OF FOUR COUNTRIES

We ask your pardon.

DUKE OF ETHIOPIA.

Indeed we erred.

ZOPHÉRNES (*rising*)

We have eaten your fruits and drunk your wine; and we have asked your pardon. Let us now depart in amity.

QUEEN

No, no! No, no! You must not go! I shall say . . . "They are my enemies still": and I shall not sleep. I that cannot bear to have enemies.

ZOPHÉRNES

Let us depart in all amity.

QUEEN

O will you not feast with me ?

ZOPHÉRNES

We have feasted.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

No, no, Zophérnes. Do you not see ?
The Queen takes it to heart.

(ZOPHÉRNES *sits down.*)

QUEEN

O feast with me a little longer and
make merry and be my enemies no more.
Rhádamandáspes, there is some country
eastwards towards Assyria, is there not ?
I do not know its name—a country which
your dynasty claims of me . . .

ZOPHÉRNES

Ha !

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES (*resignedly*)

We have lost it.

QUEEN

. . . . and for whose sake you are
my enemy and your fierce uncle Prince
Zophérnes.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

We fought somewhat with your armies, Queen. But indeed it was but to practise the military art.

QUEEN

I will call my Captains to me. I will call them down from their high places and reprove them, and bid them give the country back to you that lies eastward towards Assyria. Only you shall tarry here at the feast and forget you ever were my enemies forget . . .

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

Queen . . . ! Queen . . . ! it was my mother's country as a child.

QUEEN

You will not leave me alone then here to-night.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

No, most royal lady.

QUEEN (*to KING OF FOUR COUNTRIES, who appears about to depart*)

And in the matter of the merchant men that trade amongst the isles, they shall offer spices at *your* feet not at mine, and

the men of the isles shall offer goats to
your gods.

KING OF FOUR COUNTRIES

Most generous Queen, . . . indeed . . .

QUEEN

But you will not leave my banquet
and go unfriendly away.

KING OF FOUR COUNTRIES

No, Queen . . . (*He drinks.*)

QUEEN (*she looks at the TWO DUKES
amiably*)

All Ethiopia shall be yours, down to
the unknown kingdoms of the beasts.

1ST DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

Queen.

2ND DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

Queen. We drink to the glory of your
throne.

QUEEN

Stay then and feast with me. For
not to have enemies is the beggar's
joy; and I have looked from windows
long and long envying those that go their
ways in rags. Stay with me, dukes and
princes.

PRIEST OF HORUS

1129
Illustrious Lady, the generosity of your royal heart has given the gods much joy.

QUEEN (*smiles at him*)

Thank you.

PRIEST OF HORUS

Er . . . in the matter of the tribute due to Horus from all the people of Egypt

QUEEN

It is yours.

PRIEST OF HORUS

Illustrious Lady.

QUEEN

I will take none of it. Use it how you will.

PRIEST OF HORUS

The gratitude of Horus shall shine on you. My little Ackazárpses, how happy you are in having so royal a mistress.

HM
(*His arm is round ACKAZÁRPSSES' waist : she smiles at him.*)

QUEEN (*rising*)

Princes and gentlemen, let us drink to the future.

PRIEST OF HORUS (*starting suddenly*)

Ah-h-h !

QUEEN

Something has troubled you, holy companion of the gods ?

PRIEST OF HORUS

No, nothing. Sometimes the spirit of prophecy comes on me. It comes not often. It seemed to come then. I thought that one of the gods spoke to me clearly.

QUEEN

What said he ?

PRIEST OF HORUS

I thought he said . . . speaking here (*right ear*) or just behind me . . . Drink not to the Future. But it was nothing.

QUEEN

Will you drink then to the past ?

PRIEST OF HORUS

O no, Illustrious Lady, for we forget the past, your good wine has made us forget the past and its quarrels.

ACKAZÁRPSES

Will you not drink to the present ?

PRIEST OF HORUS

Ah, the present! The present that places me by so lovely a lady. I drink to the present.

QUEEN (*to the others*)

And we, we will drink to the future and to forgetting—to the forgetting of our enemies.

(*ALL drink, good temper comes on all. The banquet begins "to go well."*)

QUEEN

Ackazárpses, they are all merry now.

ACKAZÁRPSES

They are all merry.

QUEEN

They are telling Ethiopian tales.

1ST DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

. . . for when Winter comes the pigmies at once put themselves in readiness for war, and having chosen a place for battle wait there for some days, so that the cranes when they arrive find their enemy already arrayed. And at first they preen themselves and do not give battle, but when they are fully rested

after their great journey they attack the pigmies with indescribable fury, so that many are slain ; but the pigmies.

QUEEN (*taking her by wrist*)
Ackazárpses ! Come !

(*The QUEEN rises.*)

ZOPHÉRNES
Queen, you do not leave us ?

QUEEN
For a little while Prince Zophérnes.

ZOPHÉRNES
For what purpose ?

QUEEN
I go to pray to a very secret god.

ZOPHÉRNES
What is his name ?

QUEEN
His name is secret like his deeds.

(*She goes to the door. Silence falls. ALL watch her. She and ACKAZÁRPSSES slip out. For a moment silence. Then all draw their wide swords and lay them before them on the table.*)

ZOPHÉRNES

To the door, slaves. Let no man enter.

1ST DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

She cannot mean harm to us.

(A SLAVE comes back from door, and abases himself. Loq.)

SLAVE

The door is bolted.

RHÁDAMANDÁSPES

It is easily broken with our swords.

ZOPHÉRNES

No harm can come to us while we guard the entrance.

(Meanwhile the QUEEN has gone up the stairs. She beats with a fan on the wall thrice. The great grating lifts outwards and upwards very slowly.)

ZOPHÉRNES (to the Two DUKES)

Quick, to the great hole.

Stand on each side of it with your swords.

(They lift their swords over the hole.)

Slay whatever enters.

QUEEN (*on the step, kneeling, her two arms stretched upwards*)

O holy Nile ! Ancient Egyptian river !
O blessed Nile !

When I was a little child I played beside you, picking mauve flowers. I threw you down the sweet Egyptian flowers. It is the little Queen that calls to you, Nile. The little Queen that cannot bear to have enemies.

Hear me, O Nile.

Men speak of other rivers. But I do not hearken to fools. There is only Nile. It is the little child that prays to you, who used to pick mauve flowers.

Hear me, O Nile.

I have prepared a sacrifice to god. Men speak of other gods : there is only Nile. I have prepared a sacrifice of wine—the Lesbian wine from fairy Mitylene—to mingle with your waters till you are drunken and go singing to the sea from the Abyssinian hills.

O Nile, hear me.

Fruits also have I made ready, all the sweet juices of the earth ; and the meat of beasts also.

Hear me, O Nile: for it is not the meat of beasts only. I have slaves for you and princes and a King. There has been no such sacrifice. Come down, O Nile, from the sunlight. O ancient Egyptian river.

The sacrifice is ready. O Nile, hear me.

DUKE OF ETHIOPIA

No one comes.

QUEEN (*beats again with her fan*)

Harlee, Harlee. Let in the water upon the princes and gentlemen.

(A green torrent descends from the great hole. Green gauzes rise up from the floor, the torches hiss out. The temple is flooded. The water from under the doors rises up the steps, the torches hiss out one by one. The water, finding its own level, just touches the end of the QUEEN'S skirt and stops. She withdraws the skirt with cat-like haste from the water.)

QUEEN

O, Ackazárpses, are all my enemies gone?

ACKAZÁRPSES

Illustrious Lady, the Nile has taken them all.

QUEEN (*with intense devotion*)

That holy river.

ACKAZÁRPSES

Illustrious Lady, you will sleep to-night ?

QUEEN

Yes. I shall sleep sweetly.

CURTAIN.



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