

## **"PEACE", by Aristophanes**

(Piramatiko Likio Pan/miou Kritis- GREECE)

**Narrator:** Almost ten years had passed since the beginning of the Peloponnesian War; the Athenians, the Spartans, and their allies kept on fighting incessantly. After the generals of both armies died at the same time, the two rivals started considering a peace treaty. Everyone was anxious to see what would happen next... Up in the sky lived the gods... Down on the earth did the humans... Gods were checking on the humans from above and if they were naughty and they fought each other, they punished them. But if they were nice they sent them gifts. And the most beautiful gift was peace!

**Chorus:** Oh no! Where is Peace? I don't see her. No matter how much you try. We won't reach her! One man though, the vine grower Trygaeus, had grown weary of waiting for peace to come and so decided to try and bring it back to Greece himself. He was, after all, a farmer, and farmers were the ones most affected by this seemingly endless war. Trygaeus wants to fly. He wants to go up to the sky. One day Trygaeus presented a dung beetle to his servants and told them to keep feeding it without stopping. What is this?

**Trygaeus:** It's a beetle!

**Chorus:** He brought a beetle with wings in his yard. He feeds it... he plumps it... and its wings are growing! But what does the beetle eat at last?

**Trygaeus:** Shit.

**Chorus:** Dung, he only eats dung. As soon as it becomes stronger it will take him to the sky, it will fly.....it will fly...it will fly!

**Daughter 1:** Our father Trygaeus dreams of reaching the sky.

**Daughter 2:** He used stairs, he fell down and broke his leg, broke his head,  
But no! He doesn't change his mind.

**Daughter 1:** He is crazy! What is he looking for?

**Trygaeus:** Peace!

**Daughter 1:** Where did she go?

**Trygaeus:** I don't know. That's what I want to ask the gods in the sky.

**Chorus:** Trygaeus is poor,  
his beetle is fool...  
he wants with it to fly...  
over the cloudless sky.

*(In Olympus...)*

**Hermes:** Who are you, o filthy one, and how dare you come up here? What is your name?

**Trygaeus:** Filthy One.

**Hermes:** I think you are making fun of me and it will do you no good.

**Trygaeus:** I am Trygaeus, the farmer, and I have come to see Zeus. I have to speak to him.

**Hermes:** Poor thing, you're late! Zeus and the other gods have left this place and flown elsewhere so they don't have to watch your wars anymore. They're sick of you! They've given you so many chances to stop, but you just won't come to your senses.

**Trygaeus:** And what will war do with us?

**Hermes:** Nobody knows. War has grabbed Peace and keeps her sealed in a cave. He has also acquired a huge mortar and intends to fill it with all the Greek cities and grind them to dust with a pestle. Alas, I think I can hear his footsteps. I'd better go before he sees me.

**War:** There goes Sparta, let's put Sicily in, why not Athens too? Tumult, where are you? Bring me my pestle! I can't wait to start crushing!

**Servant:** We have no pestle, master. We were going to take it from the Athenians or the Spartans, but they have stopped fighting.

**War:** Is that so? Anyway, I'll make one myself.

**Chorus:** He will throw in the mortar houses, trees... you and your neighbors, the school, your mom, your dad, the dessert and the toys... everything. He is going to crush everything.

**Trygaeus:** I have to leave to inform the others!

*(Back to Earth...)*

**Trygaeus:** Come on you Greeks, farmers, tradesmen, merchants! Bring some crowbars and ropes and let's go set Peace free!

**Trygaeus:** People!

**Chorus:** Yes! Yes! Yes!

**Trygaeus:** I come from Olympus. The news are very bad!

**Chorus:** Tell us, tell us, tell it all!

**Trygaeus:** War has trapped Peace in the cave. Take shovels and crows and cords... Let's free her!

**Chorus:** Go! Go! Go... No?

**Trygaeus:** We should all go together.

**Chorus:** You and me forever?

**Chorus:** All together! All together! All together!

**Trygaeus:** It needs great power.

**Chorus:** What? You take a shower?

**Chorus:** We have! We have! We have!

**Trygaeus:** Because otherwise War will arrive!

**Chorus:** No war anymore!!! No war anymore!!! No war anymore!!!

**Trygaeus:** And he will destroy us...

**Chorus:** War kills, War kills!

Trygaeus , come on

and you all go on

stay there

get prepared!

Take off the stone

peace is our own!

One two and three

Peace will be free!

Help us you all

it is our goal

to set her free

that is the key!

Who is not helping me?

Our heart is melting.

War is your mate

that's what we hate!

*( They release Peace...)*

**Trygaeus:** Guys, look at Peace who came out of the cave. Now, she will go to cities and villages, all around the world. Oh great goddess! Welcome back to our lives. Thanks to you war has immediately stopped. My friends the farmers, Peace is now free! Go back to your fields at once and start working!

**Chorus:** Yay!

**Trygaeus:** First, you will come to my yard, I will cook lamp for you and we will drink some wine!

**Chorus:** Trygaeus was visited by people who brought him sickles, carvings, shovels, watering cans to fix their gardens, to grow wheat and make bread. To plant trees that will grow many fruit( lemons, apples, pears). All this time with War, no one had time to care for the earth. All this was useless. Also he was visited by traders who sold weapons and guns for wars and because Peace was back they sold them half the price because they were concerned about their sales. But he kicked them out and they started to sing for the beautiful peace.

*( Music - Song - Dance...)*

To the moon,

to the sun

tell it soon

it' s not fun.

We have achieved  
our goals  
we have arrived  
to the coast.

Take your weapons now away  
It' s not right, make way  
Sweetie peace is here to stay  
she wants us all to dance and play.

For once and for all  
we have to fight for us all  
for once and for all  
we want a world without war!

We have peace!  
Where's war?  
He is crying  
He' s alone.

We don' t mind  
let him hide.  
Peace is here!  
We don' t fear!

- The End -