

ACT III

DEATH
Scene 1

THE WAGER IN HEAVEN
THE GODS

- JUPITER: You will see we were right. Those microbes will never surpass us and get to the sun.
- PLUTO: Blinded as you are by staring always into the sun, you do not see you can never be free keeping other beings slaves. Prison walls you have erected around this solar system with your order.
- SATURN: Wanderer, we are maintainers of order and light. We watch and wait. We have seen these glows before. They flare up for a moment and are gone. This one is no different from the others.
- NEPTUNE: Saturn, my friend, do not forget your beginning.
- SATURN: Forget! I am come from the Father. I do His work in my own orbit, according to His will. What do you bring, Mushroom?
- NEPTUNE: That hardly deserves answering, my friend.
- SATURN: Then save your breath.
- URANUS: Tell him, Neptune. He appears lifeless. His spark is fading fast.
- NEPTUNE: I am compassion. My existence depends on my brothers. I fan that glow until all glows.
- SATURN: Stop! What is your sentimentality, Neptune, compared to wisdom--thought?
- JUPITER: Reason.
- SATURN: Steadfastness.
- MERCURY: Radiation.
- MARS: Action.
- VENUS: Sympathy.

JUPITER: Cosmic order.

MERCURY: Light.

PLUTO: Swirling in your narrow circles, you have forgotten the universe has endless possibilities-- not just one.

URANUS: You have forgotten sex and creation, mating and new birth.

MERCURY: I'm too young for sex.

JUPITER: I have twelve children.

SATURN: I'm beyond all that.

URANUS: Oh, it is very beautiful!

SATURN: Up to your old tricks, Uranus?

JUPITER: But Uranus, you cannot release sex energy willy-nilly. Each to his proper structure and function--cell, molecule, electron.

SATURN: You would like to turn him on, Uranus. You would like to turn them all on. And you must know what that would mean.

URANUS: I'd love to turn them on, you old fogey. I think they need it.

MERCURY: Who you you talking to, Uranus? I am the youngest and nearest to the Father.

URANUS: Yes, Mercury, but you are trying to sit pretty and not grow up. Everything must grow old and change.

MERCURY: That takes time.

JUPITER: The fullness of time.

URANUS: Sex is an amazing power and can change anything. Sex is out of time.

MARS: Why should these slugs achieve in one tiny second what has taken us aeons?

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NEPTUNE: Mars, each one has his job to do, you see. That speck down there has his.

MARS: His job is to feed me.

NEPTUNE: Now you're beginning to see it.

SATURN: We're all one happy family, eh, Mushroom? And how do we eat? They are our food--or haven't you noticed? (Pointing to Uranus) This ninny would release them all!

PLUTO: None of you can stop the will of the Father. You can only rebel or be lost. His will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

JUPITER: You shameless liar, Pluto! You who has come to destroy what we have built so magnificently!

SATURN: Liar, Pluto, thief of virtue! Whenever you come, you bring only chaos.

MERCURY: Jealous windbag! You talk to us of light--you who are perpetually in outer darkness. I, who am closest to the Father and shine brilliantly, see that you envy me.

MARS: Enough talk, Pluto, I'll bet that slug does not awaken.

JUPITER: A wager! That will shut them up. Let them put their energy where their fields are.

SATURN: I know the odds against this slug only too well.

JUPITER: What will you stake?

PLUTO: If we win, you must change--turn around and begin to serve the Father by bringing up the microcosms on Earth.

JUPITER: Light and easy terms, it seems to me.

SATURN: Agreed, Jupiter? There's no chance of losing this one.

MERCURY: Yes. And what if we win?

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PLUTO: State your terms.

JUPITER: We will have eternal power over lower cosmoses . . .

MERCURY: (Jumping up and down). Yes! Yes!

JUPITER: And you four will subordinate yourselves to our order, leaving us to do the Father's work, with no interference from you.

PLUTO,
NEPTUNE
and URANUS: Agreed!

JUPITER,
MERCURY, MARS
and SATURN: Agreed!

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