

1 1/2 - MR
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PROLOGUE TO AUDIENCE

If self-knowledge is the aim of man,
There is no meaning in the life we live.
For man, lawful master of the earth,
Has given up his birthright.
Learned men of high repute,
Philosophers, kings and sages,
All agree we live a life of hollow pretence.
Having touched the length, the width, the height,
Man at last is out of breath,
Flailing in the depth.
Ten thousand years of seeking the answer to the same dilemma,
Brings no greater wisdom than we had before.
We know the bee, the rat, the snail;
But man's the riddle we can't unravel.
We are assailed by treasonous voices,
Mystified, polluted and bewildered,
The issue's still unsolved.
No papal oath promising ablution,
No presidential commission
Can illuminate this strange enigma, Man.
Is he monkey, God or devil?
Is he dust or spirit, flesh or vapor?
Lover, hater, God forsaker?
Or compound vegetable, animal, mineral?
A starry hoax, an absurd joke?
Or God's impossible ultimate hope?
The greatest mystery on the earth,
The king of apes, the status seeker.
Something must be done, we know,
With this menace who's refused
To be his brother's keeper.
The age of royalty is dead.
Monarchy and priesthood have failed us.
Now dawns the day of ordinary man.
On him we place our final hope.
Ladies and gentlemen, help us if you can.
Usher in the long-awaited era of the brotherhood of man!

PROLOGUE IN HEAVEN

JUPITER: It's time to launch the new age!

SATURN: Are you ready?

ALL THE GODS: Ready, ready, ready . . .

MARS: Let's go!

SATURN: Wait!

MERCURY: What's the matter?

ASTEROIDS: Something's gone wrong.

MOON: The earth . . . the earth's in trouble.

ALL THE GODS: Oh, no! Not again. Everytime we're ready for our next step in evolution she jams it up.

MERCURY: Well, tell her to get a move on.

MARS: We can't wait forever. A new age is beginning.

SATURN: His Majesty will be here any moment.

MOON: The earth's always in trouble.

JUPITER: First she wouldn't settle on her axis properly.

SATURN: Then she wouldn't cool properly.

MARS: Then she wouldn't orbit properly.

VENUS: Then she wouldn't harmonize with us.

MERCURY: What is it this time?

MOON: I don't know; everything on earth is in a terrible mess.

MERCURY: Thanks to you, Moon.

MOON: It's not my fault. I can't help it if she gives me all her attention.

VENUS: As if you didn't love it!

ASTEROIDS: Sucking the life out of her.

MOON: I have to live (the others turn away).
She owes it to me. I'm her child.

SATURN: Premature birth . . .

JUPITER: You have no right. You're not even born yet.

MERCURY: You don't even have your own atmosphere.

MOON: Neither do you, Mercury.

MERCURY: I'm working on it. It's only a question of time.

JUPITER: Stop acting like a baby. Just because you're still in your mother's womb.

MOON: I will have a temper tantrum if I want to.

MERCURY: Suit yourself, Lunatic.

ASTEROIDS: Now you're behaving hysterically.

VENUS: She's having one of her moods.

JUPITER: It's just a phase she's going through.

MARS: Don't make goo-goo eyes at me, Moon.

SATURN: She doesn't even have her own light.

ASTEROIDS: Hear that; you're in outer darkness, Moon.

MOON: I do so.

JUPITER: Nonsense. You live by the reflected glory of His Majesty. I should know. I have twelve children myself. But why he puts up with you, I'll never know.

VENUS: It's because he loves our sister, your Mother.

SATURN: All right. Stop squabbling, all of you. Do you call this a family an angel can be proud of? You're not behaving exactly like angels.

ASTEROIDS: Angels!! Tsk, tsk. Hah!
 SATURN: You angels are as vain as any devils.
 MOON: You're worse. I'm not responsible for my Mother's indiscretions. It's her fault if she was stupid enough to take up with . . . with . . .
 MERCURY: With what? What actually happened?
 JUPITER: It was before your time, Mercury. It was a long time ago. You see . . . there was this comet, a wanderer from outer space.
 SATURN: A conceited, cocksure ne'er-do-well, circling around our sister, flashing his tail. A complete showoff. I knew that he was up to no good.
 JUPITER: I never did trust these comets. We tried to warn your Mother, Moon, but she wouldn't listen. She was completely taken with him. It was a case of irresistible attraction. Well, after that comet had his fling with her, she just went to pieces. He broke her heart in two.
 SATURN: You're the other piece, Moon.
 JUPITER: There were three pieces actually.
 SATURN: When she found a third piece missing, she lost her mind as well.
 JUPITER: Her mind's still wandering around our solar system.
 SATURN: For a while there, she went completely hysterical.
 JUPITER: She's been in great difficulty ever since.
 ASTEROIDS: She's the disgrace of our solar system.
 SATURN: That's why those crackpots living on her can't face reality. They don't even believe we're alive.
 MARS: No, really?
 MERCURY: What? Do they think the whole universe is empty except for themselves?

JUPITER: Yes, they think all the planets, as they call us, are dead.

VENUS: No! They think the entire universe is dead.

JUPITER: Yes, they call it accident.

ALL PLANETS: (Laugh)

VENUS: They must feel very lonely all by themselves in a barren universe.

MARS: And they don't participate in the creative passion of God?

JUPITER: No, they suffer instead.

VENUS: But who do they think made it all?

JUPITER: Oh, they think it just happened.

SATURN: But we Gods . . . How can they fail to see us, our celestial bodies?

JUPITER: They're not even aware they exist on their own earth.

VENUS: And the All One, the Supreme One--the Maker creator God. What do they think of him?

JUPITER: Oh, they never think of Him. They're too busy with themselves.

ALL PLANETS: (Groans of horror)

MERCURY: And how do they pass existence?

JUPITER: They lie; they cheat; they steal; they murder; they fantasize; they invent and follow one fantastic craze after another. Recently they invented war.

MERCURY: War? What is that?

JUPITER: The destruction of life.

MARS: What on earth for?

JUPITER: To take what belongs to another to satisfy their greed and gluttony.

SATURN: Mad little fellows, aren't they?

JUPITER: Yes, but all together they can do a lot of damage. Right now they're breaking up earth's crust.

MARS: What on earth for?

JUPITER: To steal earth's blood.

SATURN: What do they use it for?

JUPITER: To wheel around in little thingamajigs at ever faster and faster speeds.

VENUS: But that's criminal!

JUPITER: Yes, His Majesty is thinking of replacing them on the grounds that they're too stupid to live.

MARS: But don't they have leaders that can stop them?

JUPITER: Yes, but everytime an intelligent leader tells them to stop, they shoot him.

VENUS: Why did The Life invent these microbes anyway?

MERCURY AND MARS: That's a good question.

JUPITER: You'll have to ask Him.

ASTEROIDS: Slimey little slugs, aren't they? Hah, hah.

ALL PLANETS: Ugh, repulsive--ghastly . . .

SATURN: Asteroids, you're a serpent in paradise. I wish I could understand what possible use the Creator has for you. You bring nothing but crime in your wake. Why do you ride earthlings so hard. You set a bad example. You taught them to steal and break away from our common cosmic Father.

ASTEROIDS: I have my reasons. You'll have to ask the all-knowing One, Saturn. Hah, hah.

VENUS: When will his Presence draw near? Where is he?

JUPITER: In the Solar Laboratory, working on his new invention--Higher Man--with which to launch the new age.

SATURN: Higher Man!

JUPITER: Yes. If these microcosms don't wake up in time, they'll be replaced.

SATURN: How?

JUPITER: Probably they will suffer the same fate as the ants and bees.

VENUS: Perhaps another flood?

JUPITER: No, not strong enough.

VENUS: Oh, that's so harsh.

JUPITER: They've had plenty of warnings. If in a certain amount of time something isn't done, then it's too late forever. They can't be allowed to interfere with the earth's militant ascent to the sun. Already they are becoming a danger to cosmic processes. If they refuse to work and live becoming lives, they will be reduced in size and bypassed--their danger neutralized.

VENUS: Poor little creatures!

SATURN: Don't waste your sympathy on them, Venus.

VENUS: But they're so pathetic. Oh, where is His Holiness? Surely he can find another way.

JUPITER: He just left the Solar Laboratory. He's now in the Heavenly Observatory praying to his Endlessness.

SATURN: To the Boundless One . . .

JUPITER: Yes.

MARS: Perhaps He will send another Sacred Messenger to help them.

JUPITER: No, Mohammed was the last.

SATURN: Yes, there was Jesus Christ . . .

MERCURY: Oh, he was so beautiful. I saw him as he ascended toward the light of our sun. I wanted to reach out and go with him . . . His garment of white fire.

VENUS: I remember he was in his radiant body of fire.

SATURN: Yes, pure spirit.

JUPITER: They say he passed right through the sun and traveled on to Sirius--his original home.

SATURN: Farther, some say. To the center of our Galaxy, all Suns. Right to the heart of God, the Absolute, where he burns with inextinguishable fire . . . a particle of the Pure Passion of God.

JUPITER: Yes, he attained objective reason and became a particle of supreme intelligence.

MOON: Oh, how glorious!

MERCURY: You mean Father works for him now, Jupiter?

JUPITER: That's right, little brother.

MERCURY: Wow! What a strange universe.

ASTEROIDS: It has its ups and downs. Hah, hah.

MERCURY: And can I be like him one day?

JUPITER: Yes, if you work hard enough. But now you must develop your own atmosphere--a soul of your own.

MERCURY: I'm working on my atmosphere now. Will that give me a soul?

JUPITER: Yes, your own principle of life.

MERCURY: And then I can be like you, Jupiter.

JUPITER: First, you must learn to love like your Sister Venus while she goes to Mars, you to earth. Then you to Mars, and then to Jupiter and then Saturn. This is the cosmic pattern. All are interrelated. All depends on All. In our family of angels one success is all our success. One serious mistake, and we all are destroyed. We're all in the same boat, Unity. In our Solar School we learn to work in unison.

MERCURY: I won't fail, Jupiter.

JUPITER: I know you won't.

SATURN: Jupiter is studying to become a sun. Did you know that Mercury?

MOON: Is that true?

JUPITER: It is my objective hope.

MERCURY: When will it happen?

JUPITER: At my death.

SATURN: And then if all goes well . . .

JUPITER: I'll be reborn.

MERCURY: You'll take Father's place?

SATURN: Precisely.

VENUS: What will Father do?

JUPITER: With any luck and with permission from above, he will become a Galaxy.

ASTEROIDS: One chance in a billion. Every solar deity is bucking for that. At the rate the earth is degenerating, he'll never make it.

JUPITER: It would take a miracle. But I have no doubt our Father will regenerate even you, slanderer.

MERCURY: Is that why he's so absorbed in himself?

VENUS: And why we so rarely see him?

SATURN: Yes, he's studying.

JUPITER: And working night and day.

VENUS AND MERCURY: Our Father will make it.

VENUS: Is that why He is radiating such strong electronic bombardments?

SATURN: Yes, he is casting off his impurities.

JUPITER: His outer shell . . .

SATURN: His ancient Karma . . .

JUPITER: He is purifying Himself from his age-old weakness.

VENUS: Weakness? What weakness?

ASTEROIDS: Why don't you tell her, Jupiter? It's an open secret.

JUPITER: Keep quiet, you scandalmonger.

ASTEROIDS: He loves those slimey little slugs down there. It's the scandal of the Galaxy. Hah, hah, hah.

MARS: How long has this been going on?

ASTEROIDS: Since time began. Hah, hah.

VENUS: Oh, no!

MERCURY: Those slugs down there?
MARS: Those horrible creatures!
SATURN: Those miserable nonexistent entities!
MERCURY: They don't even know who we are!
MARS: They're blind.
SATURN: They're all asleep.
MARS: Wait, I see a glow.
MERCURY: There's one, Mars.
SATURN: Believe it or not . . .
MERCURY: I think he's trying to wake up.
MARS: Let's wake him up.
SATURN: Seek power from above.
MERCURY: Wake up, little man.
SATURN: Wake up, little man.
MARS: Wake up, little man.
ALL: Wake up; wake up; wake up.