

Courtyard of Miracles

From Act 2

Jordannis: You know what is this world?

1st Engineer: You tell me.

Jordannis: I tell you. God make another world, beautiful world, high up, on moon. You see the moon with gardens, orchards, pears big as babies. God make happy villages, clean as newly-minted coins, with sound of lutes, and women, food, drink, all free, no money needed. And God say to Man “Eat, drink, it is all for you. Live well” say God “and I shower more and more on you”. But Man too treacherous and stupid to appreciate this paradise. Man steal, is not honest. “Well”, says our crafty God. “I make another world. Half a world. World which know hunger. Where to eat cost much”. You understand? So world is made. Now when anyone in first world no good, God grab him by sole of his feet and throw him into second world. “You bloody fool”, says God as he throw him into lower world. This is lower world. This is lower world.

From Act 3

(Stelios on the right and Stratos on the left)

Stratos: Then why do you play?

Stelios: How else will I lay my hands on any money? I’ve opened three shops of my own, and closed them. Now I’m a petty clerk at the Board of Trade. When the government changes tomorrow out I go, to make room for their new friends. I play for hope. I play because there’s always a hope of winning. I need 12,000 drachmas to get out of here. It’s the only hope I have of finding the money.

Stratos: But you always lose.

Stelios: Yes, I always lose, but I play when I play, because I hope. If I don’t play, I haven’t a chance.

Stratos: You’ll have to cut it right out, forget about it when you go there.

Stelios: I’ll cut it out all right, I’ll cut it out.

Asta: (She comes in from outside). Good evening... (She is drawn to the background)

Stratos: Good evening.

Stelios: Just you see, Stratos, I’ll cut it all out. You know it’s a strange thing but...

Stratos: But?

Stelios: Sometimes I sit and think, I really do. You may not believe me, but I really do. If you promise not to laugh at me, I’ll tell you my thoughts.

Stratos: I don’t laugh easily.

Stelios: I think I’m an intelligent man, an able man, with a certain experience and great possibilities. I’m a very positive character, honest, straightforward, an exceptional man. Yes, you could ask me where I keep these qualities hidden, that you can’t see any evidence of them, and you’d be right. Even I can’t find any traces now. But when I set foot in Australia, when I set foot in Australia it’ll be different.