

ARIADNE

You glow with Heroism.

THESEUS

You have keen eyes.

MINOS

We've all heard many stories, Theseus, of your hunts and quests and Heroisms. Your trophy collection must be most impressive.

THESEUS

I suppose it is.

ARIADNE

Father, you've forgotten an introduction.

MINOS

Have I?

(He looks over his entourage. He can't seem to figure out who his daughter doesn't know. DIONYSUS himself is surprised to be noticed. He isn't normally noticed, if he doesn't want to be.)

DIONYSUS

Haven't we met?

ARIADNE

No. I would remember.

(People don't usually.)

DIONYSUS

I am Eleutherios.

ARIADNE

Ariadne.

DIONYSUS

The Princess of the Labyrinth.

ARIADNE

Of Crete. And you are?

DIONYSUS

Just a traveler.

ARIADNE

Where from?

DIONYSUS

Ikaria, originally. But all over now.

ARIADNE

Restless?

DIONYSUS

You could say that.

MINOS

Theseus, would you care to continue on the tour?

THESEUS

Only if you promise to show me the Labyrinth.

MINOS

Why would you want to see a horrible thing like that?

THESEUS

Come, just show me the entrance. Just a peek.

MINOS

Very well. I warn you, it is not as beautiful as the rest of my home.

(THESEUS, MINOS, and the entourage exit. DIONYSUS is going with them until he notices that ARIADNE is

staying back. Then he stops too.)

DIONYSUS

Not going with them? To see the Labyrinth.

ARIADNE

I've seen it before.

DIONYSUS

Then go with them just to spend time with your famed guest.

ARIADNE

I'd rather wait and spend time with him later. I don't like to see the Labyrinth.

DIONYSUS

Why not?

ARIADNE

I don't know. It makes me feel uncomfortable, I suppose.

DIONYSUS

Discomfort is not the same thing as dislike. Do you dislike it or are you uncomfortable with it?

ARIADNE

Are you a philosopher?

DIONYSUS

Do you have something against philosophers?

ARIADNE

My father does.

DIONYSUS

Are you your father?

ARIADNE

I'd like to think I'm slightly prettier.

DIONYSUS

More than slightly.

ARIADNE

Excuse me?

DIONYSUS

I'm sorry; was I not meant to say that? It did somewhat feel like you were fishing for it.

ARIADNE

Rather forward for a philosopher. Aren't you supposed to have a roundabout way of getting to every point? Full of twists and turns and catechisms?

DIONYSUS

I'm not a philosopher. I'm a traveler.

ARIADNE

You must do something worthwhile to fund your travels. What do you do, to convince people to house and feed you?

DIONYSUS

I certainly don't philosophize. Your father would never have let me past his threshold.

ARIADNE

What are you then? I'm starting to think you're a jester.

DIONYSUS

Guess again.

ARIADNE

A storyteller.

DIONYSUS

On occasion.

ARIADNE

A farmworker.

DIONYSUS

In these clothes?

ARIADNE

A repairs laborer.

DIONYSUS

With these soft hands?

ARIADNE

A singer.

DIONYSUS

A poor one.

ARIADNE

A merchant.

DIONYSUS

Closer.

ARIADNE

A merchant of what?

DIONYSUS

A giver of gifts.

ARIADNE

What gifts?

DIONYSUS

Wine.

ARIADNE

Good wine?

DIONYSUS

The best you've ever tasted. It induces the most thrilling madness.

ARIADNE

Madness is a thing to be feared, Eleutherios.

DIONYSUS

Once again you confuse your words, Princess of the Labyrinth. Awe is not the same as fear.

ARIADNE

Don't call me that. Once again you circle back to philosophy, traveler. What we are in awe of we very often fear. I fear the loss of control and self.

DIONYSUS

Is losing control the same thing as losing yourself? Or does losing control allow you to exist as yourself, free from learned societal restraint?

ARIADNE

We are how we control ourselves, traveler.

DIONYSUS

Explain.

ARIADNE

If I feel the urge to kill someone, that does not make me a killer.

DIONYSUS

An interesting first example. Do you feel the urge to kill someone often?

ARIADNE

I'm starting to.

(He laughs.)

DIONYSUS

I find drinking rarely makes me do anything I didn't already want to do.

ARIADNE

If you already wanted to do it, why didn't you do it sober?

DIONYSUS

Fear, usually.

ARIADNE

What are you afraid of?

(He starts to step backward, but ARIADNE sees something.)

Watch out for the scorpion!

(A quick dive from her, a stumble from him, and all is well. ARIADNE, with a cupped hand, guides the scorpion away from the traveler and sends it off stage.)

DIONYSUS *(a little unnerved from the close encounter)*

The Hero was right. You do have keen eyes.

ARIADNE

You don't want to step on one of those. There are only two outcomes and neither is good.

DIONYSUS

What are the two outcomes?

ARIADNE

Either it stings you, which is unfortunate for you, or you crush it, which is unfortunate for it.

DIONYSUS

Does it hurt terribly?

ARIADNE

I imagine being crushed hurts rather terribly, yes.

DIONYSUS
The sting.

ARIADNE
It's bad, but it won't kill you.

DIONYSUS
Are there, ah, many of those little fellows around the place?

ARIADNE
Are you afraid of them?

DIONYSUS
I wouldn't say that I'm afraid, per se, but—

ARIADNE
You are! So that's what you're afraid of! You're afraid of scorpions! I can see it in your eyes!

DIONYSUS
I'm not afraid of them; I just don't enjoy their presence.

ARIADNE
Don't turn philosophical on me again. I will find your bed and put six scorpions at the foot of it if you do that again.

DIONYSUS
Why six?

ARIADNE
It's worse than five.

DIONYSUS
Fair point.

(They come to a mutual realization that they have been talking for far longer than they meant to.)

I should, um...

ARIADNE

Yes. Me as well.

DIONYSUS

Ah. Later, then.

ARIADNE

How long are you staying?

DIONYSUS

Who can tell? A night. A year.

ARIADNE

How long have you been here already? I could swear I'd never seen you before now, but my father seemed to have forgotten you, as if you'd been here for a while.

DIONYSUS

Yes. Curious, isn't it?

ARIADNE

That's not an answer.

DIONYSUS

I've been here a week.

ARIADNE

I don't believe you.

DIONYSUS

It's the truth.

ARIADNE

How is it possible that I feel like I'm going mad when I haven't even tasted any of your exalted wine?

DIONYSUS

I suppose I've had enough of it that it's imbued me with its qualities.

ARIADNE

Or perhaps it's the other way around.

(It's startlingly close to the truth.)

DIONYSUS

What?

ARIADNE

Perhaps it's the other way around. You made it, so you imbued it with your qualities.

DIONYSUS

And what qualities would you ascribe to me?

ARIADNE

You cause confusion. You're an acquired taste. You talk people in circles/

DIONYSUS

/You think my wine talks? I can boast of many wonderful things my wine does, but talk is not as of yet one of them.

ARIADNE

Shush. You cause the most thrilling madness.

DIONYSUS

If you think talking is thrilling, you need to get more thrills, Princess.

ARIADNE *(closed off, shut down)*

There are thrills enough in Crete. You haven't been here long enough to see them, but that will change. Tomorrow is Labyrinth Day.