Post Medias Res
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Cast of Characters
M1........Myrmidon 1 (a high ranked guard of Agamemnon’s army)
M2........Myrmidon 2 (a high ranked guard of Agamemnon’s army)
Agamemnon.......King of the Republic of Helena
Diomedes........Agamemnon’s champion.
Cressida..........Captured Trojan.

[The entire play takes place in a cave by its entrance. Out over the horizon, lies Troy. –AG]

All lights go out.

M2: Halt! Who goes there?

M1: Not who! I!

M2: Who is I? I is not a Hellenistic name, it sounds Trojan. It sounds communist. Did you come from far off Troy, just over the horizon outside this cave? Points at the horizon.

M1: I am not communist! See my armor you shadowed fool! I am a Myrmidon, one of Agamemnon’s men.

M2: If you truly are, then recite the three parables of Hellenistic pride and what they teach!

M1: Beowulf sir! Of a mighty man against mighty monsters! So great the tale, the communists took it to name their own syndicate of spies! The next we’re taught of is the Dream of the Rood, where a man finds redemption through vision and proclamation. It teaches us how we can all eradicate the sins of the mind through the zeal of passion.

M2: And what is the greatest sin one could think, I?

M1: Communist thoughts.

M2: Very good, though be careful who you share this with, as sharing can be communist. What is the final parable?

M1: A story of our own war against the communist Trojans, written by a man from a far away land who enjoys shaking spears. It tells of two lovers, one of whom is traded to us and makes the wisest of all decisions: to stay. It teaches us, through proper methods, all communists can become capitalists and loyalists to the Republic of Helena! But its name I have forgotten...

Cressida wails.
M2: Silence fool! They come! We as mighty warriors must aid our King and Diomedes in holding Cressida, the one who shall be redeemed. Quick, let us lend a hand!

M1: But wouldn’t lending a hand be communist?

M2: Silence!

They run to help.

Agamemnon and Diomedes enter followed by M2 and M1 who have Cressida in between them.

[Diomedes walks closer to the cave entrance. –AG]

Diomedes: Yells off to the side. Detonate the bomb!

[As he says this he swings his giant sword. –AG]

The bomb goes off.

As the bomb is going off, Cressida throws herself upon the floor screaming and wailing at the loss of her home. [M1 and M2 let go of Cressida and take Diomedes’s heavy sword, which they struggle to bring off stage and then return.-AG] Cressida continues to scream until the lights begin to come back up during which M1 and M2 pull her back up to a kneeling position and stand guard. Cressida then remains quiet looking straight forward with no emotion able to be detected on her face.

Agamemnon: Let it be known that on this day, this year, that the reign of Communist Troy has come to an end! No longer can it rob The Republic of Helena from its ideals and convert our citizens into dreaded communists! What Diomedes started I have allowed him to finish and now not only is Grendel dead, but so is its dreaded red mother!

Diomedes [speaking with arrogance]: Indeed sir it is dead, the thinking tank known as Grendel. Never has the world seen a more wicked scheme. Alas, the people whose minds they corrupted with their communists’ sins, their thoughts gone sour with the words of the red. But we corrected them, through the penance of blood. Many though, could not bear the penance for their sins and died. And still others remained stubborn and only one escaped.

His name was Troilus, a nefarious and enterprising commie rogue who spied among us for many years through the Grendel. After capturing their arm, Antenor, he, their head, was my last target. But alas, as I struck a fatal blow, Troilus escaped by the sea and managed his way back to his mother, Troy-

Agamemnon [interjecting excitedly]: Which now lies in ruins, its people dead. Except its last daughter, the bride to be of Troilus, requested by her righteous father and traded for the Grendel’s arm, the infamous Antenor. She is in our hands now, ready to be purged of communist sin. She will perform penance decreed by capitalism and to be saved from a fate even her father could not stop; a fate now stunted by nuclear ash.
Diomedes: Indeed, and by marrying her I shall save her from her sins. I will fill her with the everlasting message of the Republic whose message shall never die now that none oppose it—and rightfully so! My bride [holds her head, pulling her face upward to look at him] do not resist, I see you a capitalist at heart. I see how the burden of their philosophical sins wrecked you, how weak you were made by red hands. But [pulls her to her feet and takes her from the soldier, pulling her aside] imagine how strong you will be. Look! [points towards the crowd] A new moon shall soon rise over the horizon and with it your new life. Speak as I do: [holds her and looks into her blank eyes] the Republic’s message.

Cressida [from now on speaks with broken voice, almost robotic; no emotion]: The Republic’s Message.

Diomedes: Is the best there can be.

Cressida: Is the best there can be.

Diomedes: I need no other.

Cressida: I need no other.

Diomedes: Beside me.

Cressida: Beside me.

Diomedes: And you Diomedes I shall wed.

Cressida: And you Diomedes I shall wed.

Diomedes: To proclaim capitalism and make communism dead.

Cressida: To proclaim capitalism and make communism dead.

Diomedes: [Lets go of her and walks to the king.] She shall be redeemed! There is hope yet! I see her vigor. Turn Cressida and proclaim the Republic’s message to the world so that you may finally be saved!

[The guards move her to face the crowd then stand on either side of her.]

Cressida: The Republic’s Message is the best there can be. I need no other beside me. And you Diomedes I shall wed, to proclaim capitalism and make communism dead.

Agamemnon: All praise, for the taint of Grendel is gone from her mind and the mother that bred it remains unresurrected. She stands before us in absolution of sin, a modern Eve before Adam’s fall, and without the taint of the snake and its communist jeers! Diomedes take hand of your bride and into the future our Republic and capitalism shall now go! For the republic!

Diomedes: [As Diomedes takes the arm, not the hand of his wife and cajoles her along.] For the republic!

[All leave but the guards who still stand as they were, motionless.]

M2: [Lowers hood.] I of Cassandra,
M1: [Lowers hood.] And I of Dreams,

M2: Profess to all what none have seen,

M1: A message sent to one and all,

M2: Of these actions and atom’s fall,

M1: And of ideals to strong to preach,

M2: We warn you all of cupid’s reach,

M1: The god of war and god of love,

M2: Who professes propaganda sent from above,

M1: To blind the simple,

M2: And uphold the high,

M1: Of which war and love never deny.

M2: Communism and Grendel made Helena sigh.

M1: And Troilus forgotten he did cry.