**FROM UNION TO DIVERSITY**

**Part 1**

***Wiseman:*** *Once upon a time the world was made of islands. There was a king who ruled the worldwide kingdom with respect to all the nations, people and animals.*

**King:** How woderful the world is! The islands are so beautiful! And their inhabitants are mostly good people. But there is one slight problem ... I wish people could easily travel to each and every island to visit one another and to share their good feelings and happiness! This is the world of my dreams!

***Wiseman:*** *The more the king was thinking about it, the stronger his prayers were since he saw that division and indifference were slowly spreading everywhere. He prayed the three Gods of Sincerity, Courage and Kindness to make the world one united place.*

**King:** My beloved Goddess of Sincerity, please make people honest and trustful, make them reliable and open. Listen to my prayer for the world to become a better place!

**Sincerity:** I wish people could never lie, but more and more often they don't speak openly to one another, they hide their true feelings, and they are not honest... My dear king, I can't help you. If people don't want to change by themselves, I'm afraid I can't do anything...

**King:** My beloved God of Courage, please make people brave. Give them the strength to unify the world and don’t let them be afraid of their differences... Listen to my prayer for the world to become a better place!

**Courage:** I wish people were brave, but they started to build walls around their small islands to separate from others. They don't listen to me anymore. My dear king, I can't help you...

**King:** My beloved Goddess of Kindness, please make people respectul and polite to one another. Show them the way to stay together in the spirit of wisdom for the world to become a better place!

**Kindness:** I agree with you, my dear king, but people have started to be jealous and envious. They don't listen to me anymore, taking care of their own possessions, boasting and showing off. I can't help you, my King!

**King:** What shall I do now? I rule such a beautiful world but my people forgot about their Gods and the values they inspired that are so important in our life! I'm afraid something terrible may happen any minute now!

**Part 2**

**The Queen of the Happy Island**: My dear sister of the Wood Island can you hear me from there? I’ve got something to tell you.

**The Queen of the Wood Island**: My gentle sister of the Happy Island, please tell me: I’m always all ears for you.

**QHI**: Recently your fishermen have been fishing closer and closer to our coastline. They are raiding all the fish and destroying the bottom of the sea with their boats their nets.

**QWI**: So what? We need food for our people, and our waters and coastline are always dirty because of the trash you throw into the sea.

**QHI**: Ah really? Well, we need to get rid of our waste but it’s not true we pollute your waters. Actually the sea currents don’t flow in you direction. You just tell lies because our fish is better than yours.

**QWI**: How dare you tell me I’m a liar … You witch!

**QHI**: I a witch? You poisonous snake!

**QWI**: You’ve gone too far … You’ll see …

**QHI**: Are you threatening me? We’ll pay you back in your own coin

*(Enters the Wiseman. The queens stop shouting and stay still)*

***Wiseman:*** *It 's really true that the world is changing! . It seems people have lost any form of kindness and any will to settle problems in harmony. I remember a time when the words were always gentle and sweet as a birdsong, their melody filled the streets and people's lives. Today it seems that everybody’s barking at anybody, furiously and offensively. Even birds are afraid to sing. The sun always seems to wear a blanket … I don’t mean a blanket of grey clouds but a blanket of rags sewn from insults and grievances. The birds are silent and even the flowers have lost their colours and fragrances as if they knew nobody will pick them anymore as a gift of love. In a while they will refuse to grow … I remember there was a time when there was no need to tell fairy tales since fairy tales lived around and inside us ...*

(*While the Wiseman’s voice fades away the two queens start moving again*)

**QHI**: I can’t believe it! I quarrelled with you, my dear sister! That’s so strange. What sense is there in fighting over silly things, most of them lies, when we could talk the matter over.

**QWI:** One thing led to another… And somehow we went too far. We have forgotten Sincerity and Kindness.

**QHI**: Yes my gentle sister. It was so absurd to go shouting lies to each other across the sea. A sea of misunderstanding and indifference.

**QWI:** You are right. We live in separate islands but humans shouldn’t behave like islands. Solidarity, togetherness should never be forgotten.

**QHI**: We live in the same ocean and islands join hands beneath the surface of the sea.

**QWI:** In the past we used to have a different view of life when we mapped our islands not by their perimeter but by their foundation, always being conscious of our roots and connections as human beings.

**QHI**: Iknow exactly what you mean**:** each of us is a link of the same chain of life: me and you and each and every person of these thousands islands should share responsibility, commitment and perseverance: the foundations of a better future.

**QWI:** I can feel the storm is over. I can see a multicoloured rainbow now and all around flowers are blossoming again and songbirds are piping their songs again … But look over there my dear sister, what’s happening over there on the Green Island?

**Part 3**

**Scene 1**

*(On the road)*

**Alex**: This is luck! We, two Blue immigrants, to find a job on the Green Island!

**Kostas**: Do you remember how many miles we walked after we landed here? How many doors we knocked on! How many times they rejected us. What hostility … what disappointment!

**Alex**: It looks like a miracle, Kostas. This is our lucky street. Democracy Street! This is where we first met, this is where we found a job at the «toyland» factory.

**Kostas**: What about going to the park to get some fresh air?

**Alex**: Good idea!

**Scene 2**

*(They hear a woman shouting as they are walking)*

**Rozalia**: Help… Help! Thieves… Police!

**Kostas**: What’s the matter? Let’s go and see.

**Alex**: This way, this is where the voice came from. Come…

*(They reach Rozalia)*

**Kostas**: Are you alright?

**Alex**: Who was that man running away?

**Rozalia**: I don’t know… He attacked me. He wanted to rob me… Thank God! He ran away when you showed up. You saved me!

**Alex**: Calm down. You are safe now. Come, let’s pick up your things.

**Kostas**: Don’t worry! We’ll walk you home.

**Rozalia**: Thank you! I don’t know what would have happened to me if you hadn’t passed by. I am Rozalia, by the way.

**Kostas**: I’m Kostas and this is Alex.

**Rozalia**: I am so glad to meet you… Are you from here? I have never seen you before.

**Alex**: No, we come from the Blue Island.

**Kostas**: We’ve come here to look for a job.

**Rozalia**: So that explains… I’ve heard pretty much… em… about the Blue. But I’ve never met anyone from there. Anyway, I am very glad to have met you.

**Kostas:** We, too. Come, let’s walk on.

**Alex**: It’s a nice neigbourhood. Beautiful houses, gardens…

**Rozalia**: I live over there, at the house with the yellow windows.

**Kostas**: Right, so, here we are! You are ok now.

**Alex**: Good night Rozalia. I hope we meet again.

**Rozalia**: Oh, please, don’t leave yet. Please come to my house. I’d like to introduce you to my parents. I owe you so much.

**Alex**: What do you think, Kostas?

**Kostas**: Ok, let’s go.

**Scene 3**

*(Months later. Kostas and Alex are chatting at a cafe)*

**Kostas**: You know, I’ve been thinking of the first day we met. It’s been 8 months now. Our lives have changed. I have a job, and a friend.

**Alex**: Two friends. Don’t forget Rozalia.

**Kostas**: True, we make a very good company the three of us. Two Blue guys and a Green girl. Not a common company!

**Alex**: Just imagine… just as we became friends…if our islands stopped the hatred and the rivalry…

**Kostas**: It seems like a dream… All of us united together. What a beautiful world it would be!

**Alex**: Kostas, look, there’s Rozalia.

**Rozalia**: Hi! How are you?

**Alex**: Fine. We’re daydreaming! How are you?

**Rozalia**: Not so well! Bad news. My friend, Sara, is very ill. High temperature, coughing, rash on the nose. She’s been ill for two weeks now… She can’t even speak… she’s totally exhausted. The doctors are puzzled. They tried everything, medicine, potions, no success! Not the slightest recovery… I’m really worried!!!

**Kostas**: Look at that on the newspaper. ‘Odd epidemic hits the island. Unknown virus. All the country’s doctors looking for a treatment’.

**Alex**: Wait a second, Rozalia. Can you tell me the symptoms again?

**Rozalia**:, High temperature, coughing, rash , exhaustion.

**Kostas**: Rash on the nose… hold on. Alex, do you remember, 3-4 years ago, an illness had hit our island?

**Alex**: Now that you’re mentioning it… yes ... The same symptoms, especially that rash on the nose.

**Kostas**. Alex, do you remember the doctor who found the medicine for the cure and saved so many people? You could see his face everywhere for months: newspapers, magazines, TV… ‘Theisland’ssaviour’.

**Alex**: Rozalia, there is a medicine for your friends. But it’s on the Blue Island.

**Kostas**: Then, let’s hurry up. Let’s see how we can get it here. If we ask for it, they won’t send it to us. You see, the Blue and the Green have long been in bad terms with each other.

**Alex**: Then we should go and get it ourselves, first thing tomorrow… we’re Blue. They can’t refuse it to us.

**Kostas**: That’s a good idea! We’re catching the first ferry tomorrow.

**Rozalia** : I’m coming with you!

**Scene 4**

(*The three friends travelled to the Blue island and came back with the medicine quickly. So they saved the inhabitants of Green Island of the epidemic. After the epidemic was over, the authorities of the Green decided to honour the three young people who saved the Island at the Town Hall*)

*Attheceremony*

**Kostas**: Who would expect it, Alex? Two Blue boys honoured by the Green Island. Afew days ago, we would only get hostile looks and ironic comments, when we talked about our country.

**Alex**: Things can change!

**Rozalia**: What you did is very important. You have saved my country.

**Alex**: It was the three of us. If you hadn’t opened your house and your heart to us, if we hadn’t become friends… maybe, you never know… what would be the end of it.

**Kostas**: Guys, come, they’re calling us. It’s our turn to say a few words. Let’s take the chance to tell them about our dream. Dear Green, thank you very much for the honour, we are glad to be offering to your country, the country which has also become our homeland, since we live and work here.

**Alex**: Indeed, we are feeling very nice. The affection you are showing us tonight sweetens our souls and helps us forget all the bad moments we felt foreigners and unwanted. We think that this affection can stop all the hatred between the Blue and the Green. Let’s become an example for all the islands to have good relations and co-exist united as they did in the good old days.

**Rozalia**: I am very lucky to have these two Blue friends. My life has changed from the day I met them and I am particularly excited that thanks to them we are safe from the illness. The three of us have a dream and we would like to share it with you. We are asking you that this hatred between the islands stops at last, so that we become an example of fraternity. So we are suggesting that the country’s authorities call for representatives from all the islands to a conference to discuss and find ways to make peace and union. If we work willingly and whole-heartedly for that purpose, I am sure we will make it. Many people from the other islands are also strongly expressing this wish. They just want to reach out and touch the hands of all the inhabitants of our lovely planet. So let us take the initiative and let us open the way for the dream to come true!

**Part 4**

**Puppet 1:** How can we build a bridge that will enable us to join the next island? A strong bridge which will resist everything and which will be built quickly?

**Puppet 2:** I propose a creeper bridge. It’s built rapidly and well hung, it can resist everything!

**Puppet 3:**Nooooo! A creeper bridge… That will never do! I propose a stone bridge!

**Puppet 2:** It’s too heavy! We will never finish, we need wood! A wooden bridge!

**Puppet 1:** It’s a good idea and there’s a lot of it in the forest! Let’s build a wooden bridge!

**Puppet 2:** But, we need help to build it!

**Puppet 3:** Who can help us to collect trunks and branches?

**Puppet 2:** Why not the animals?

**Puppet 1:** Yes! Good idea! Let’s visit them!

(*The animals from Cyprus enter the stage*)

**Puppet 1:** Oh, animals of the jungle, can you help us to collect wood to build a bridge?

**Animals:** Yes, of course!

**Puppet 1, 2 and 3:** Oh! Thank you!

(*Singing*) Heigh Ho! Heigh Ho!

Heigh ho, Heigh ho, we are building a bridge

(*Whistling*) Heigh ho! Heigh ho!

Heigh ho, Heigh ho, Heigh ho, we’re using a hammer!

We work all day, we work all night to build a bridge!

**Puppet 1:**Gimme a hammer!

**Puppet 2:**Gimme a nail!

**Puppet 3:**Gimme a board!

**Puppet 2:** Ouch! I hurt myself!

**Puppet 3:** Come on!

**Puppet 1:** Go on!

(*The bridge is almost finished – Music: Red Hot Chili Peppers – Under the Bridge?*)

**Puppet 2:** Great!

**Puppet 3:** Super!

**Puppet 1:** We’ve finished!

**Puppet 1, 2 and 3:** Fantastic!

**Part 5**

***WISEMAN****: People began to build bridges using timber they took from the forest’s trees. Every day dozens of trees were cut down. The forest’s scenery was changing from day to day. The green colour was diminishing, oxygen was becoming less and less, the forest’s beauty was lost. The landscape was ravaged. The animals were extremely worried.*

**ELEPHANT:**  Our forest has become unrecognizable.

**TIGER:** People cut dozens of trees each day. Greenery is getting narrower and narrow. Oxygen is lost. The environment is polluted with all these machines that people use.

**MONKEY:** Squirrels have lost their dens. Their hollows are disappearing.

**PARROT:** The birds complain that their nests are destroyed and that there are no more tall trees to build their nests.

**ELEPHANT:**   Insects, bees and butterflies do not find flowers anymore.

**MONKEY:**  We risk losing our lives too if we lose the forest.

**TIGER:** Nothing is like it used to be.

**PARROT:**  Something must be done.

**ELEPHANT:**   We cannot allow people to lead us to extinction.
We must force them to leave the forest!

**MONKEY:** But how?  This is not an easy task at all.

**TIGER:** Should we scare them?

**PARROT:**  I suggest that we should find a painless solution. Let's all sit down and think together and lets write a letter to people to convince them that what they do will destroy the forest, killing hundreds of animals and that their catastrophic threat will cause a domino effect that will fall on the humans themselves.

**TIGER:** We should suggest solutions too!

**PARROT:**  Let's do it!

***WISEMAN:****The dove took on the role of the postman and delivered the animal’s letter to the city mayor. The Mayor read the letter loudly in front of the City Council:*

**ELEPHANT:**Dear people from the Islands,With great sadness we found out that our forest is driven to destruction. Dozens of trees are cut down every day and many animal species are in danger of extinction.

**TIGER:**For all these offences you are to be blamed. An immediate solution must be found. We suggest that for every tree you cut you plant a new one each time.

**MONKEY:** If you respect, nurture, love and protect the forest from fires, generously the forest will continue to provide timber, oxygen and beautiful sceneries!

**PARROT:**Everyone will be happy!We are confident that you will work with us so we to have all have a better place to live!

**ALL:**With love, the animals of the forest.

***WISEMAN:****After the letter was read to people, they were puzzled but also worried! So they were finally convinced that this would be the best solution for everyone.Soon the forest began to become green and beautiful again, being filled with trees and colourful flowers.*

**Part 6**

*(The Three Gods: COURAGE, KINDNESS, SINCERITY appear on the stage)*

**COURAGE:** Great Sisters, we should be glad!

**KINDNESS:** Yes, it is time for joy!

**SINCERITY**: It’s time for celebration!

**COURAGE:** We were long forgotten but now people have remembered us.

**KINDNESS:** They have started to help each other again.

**SINCERITY:** Yes! And the environment is protected.

**COURAGE:** We are so happy that people were courageous!

**KINDNESS:** We are pleased that people are kind to one another.

**SINCERITY:** We are satisfied that people are more sincere now!

**COURAGE, KINDNESS, SINCERITY** (*together*): People, you have finally realized that life is not possible without us. Life is beautiful if we are a living presence in your minds!

**COURAGE:** Join your hands like your islands have always joined theirs beneath the surface of the sea!

**SINCERITY:** Let’s enjoy together!

**KINDNESS:** Let’s all celebrate and respect the human values!

*(All characters appear on the stage. They dance and celebrate. They carry cardboards with the following writing: “We respect the human values!”)*