

MY BARBARIAN DOUBLE FUTURE

**Act I: You Were Born Poor and Poor You Will Die
(An Inhuman Sacrifice)**

Dramatis Personae

The High Priestess ... Rich
The Panjandrum ... Middle Class
The Novitiate ... Poor
The Bull God ... Capitalism

Scenes

1. Chant — A Ritual
2. Soliloquy of Woe — Novitiate's Introduction
3. Intrigue in the Temple
4. Gomorra — Ode to Lost Cities
5. Microwave Minotaur — Summoning / Origin Myth
6. The Trial — Class Warfare
7. Human Sacrifice — High Priestess's Manifesto
8. Volcano — Finale

First performed 2005, Revised 2022

Scene 1 Chant

Enter performers, clad in ceremonial regalia. HIGH PRIESTESS enjoys a head-dress & multi-breasted brazier. PANJANDRUM & NOVITIATE sport phalluses.

ALL

You were born poor & poor you will die
You were born poor & poor you will die
You were born middle class & that won't last
You were born middle class & poor you will die
You were born rich & rich you will die
Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah
Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

PANJANDRUM, NOVITIATE and HIGH PRIESTESS dance in a circle.

Scene 2 Soliloquy of Woe

A solo act: NOVITIATE alone, performs a speech in 2 parts.

NOVITIATE

God damn ye gods! I ain't nothing but a priest
Of all ye Gods' priests, I must be least
The Fates have blown my mind
Ms. Fortune's not been kind
Conscripted at nine (soliloquy of woe)
To serve in the army (soliloquy of woe)
By ten I served pleasures (soliloquy of woe)
Both sweaty and smarmy (soliloquy of woe)
When I turned eleven I met my correction (There's more than one way to point an erection)
Indebted to lenders, one labors a lot (woe oh oh)
In the Temple, I toil and that is my plot (woe oh oh)
To answer the call of the Temple is wise (woe oh oh)
The City State crumbles as new Temples rise

Panjandrum pours in from over the land
Prelates and pulpiteers gather at hand
Priestess confers among all the priests high
A conference from which excluded am I
The people are anxious, the sky's gone red
The money was burnt and the treasury bled
Property owners have feverish brains
In court there's a sickness that makes them insane
Oh! What see I from the Temple tower?
As I pound dead hides this dark hour
The sentries desert us for they can't be paid
Our learned scholar has just himself slayed
The King of the City has leapt from the wall
His corpse it was eaten just after the fall
Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah!
A terrible thing
to be born a king
Or is being born
the most terrible thing?

Scene 3 Star Chamber

The temple. HIGH PRIESTESS puts on her regalia with aid from the PANJANDRUM.

THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The star-chamber opens and we emerge.
Torches do tremble from this power surge.
The council of elders has just now adjourned.
Now we must tally all that I have earned.

PANJANDRUM

High Priestess of Gomorra,
eerie visions plague me,
like flies in the summer,
they penetrate my sleep.
Can the prelates not see
the Gods have marked out a doom?
Nay, they are fools, everyone in that room.
Your dead mother, the prioress prior, never suffered them lightly.
Yet you seem to like them, oh ever so slightly.

HIGH PRIESTESS

Bore me not with this intrigue.
Mid-level Panjandrum,
Shall I demote you to the league
Whence you've scarcely come?

PANJANDRUM

You are the sovereign, our King is now dead.
Volcanic forewarnings inspire my dread!

HIGH PRIESTESS

Point not the beak of your cock at me.

PANJANDRUM

You are the sovereign, our King is dead now.
What of your holy sacramental oath-like vow?

HIGH PRIESTESS

It may seem strange
My ancient world religious beliefs
Will never change
The god is the Bull God
Whose head is a bull's head
The god is the Flame God
His legs are flame legs
He is part human
He is part — oxen
He is part — oven!

PANJANDRUM

Microwave minotaur — I worship him from afar.

NOVITIATE (aside)

Our High Priestess is said to be rightful,
Yet I find this religion so graven and frightful.

PANJANDRUM

Poor Novitiate, with maverick views.
Have you the money to pay your Temple dues?

NOVITIATE tries to get some money from the audience.

NOVITIATE

I have these bits the people gave me... Will it save me?

NOVITIATE gives money to PANJANDRUM, who hands it to
HIGH PRIESTESS, who drops it on the floor.

Scene 4 Gomorra

PANJANDRUM and HIGH PRIESTESS meditate. NOVITIATE takes a prayer position.

PANJANDRUM

As we look about us
Things seem worse than ever...
Try not to dwell on the now.
Do you not remember the Rich Days?
I remember.

HIGH PRIESTESS

I remember Gomorra.
A hotter clime, a hotter time.
Was shared by all, in Gomorra.
In Gomorra, I was given the gift of a golden goat.
Why can't we go back? Go back! Go back!

*PANJANDRUM and NOVITIATE, heretofore referred to as
PRIESTS, respond to HIGH PRIESTESS's call.*

HIGH PRIESTESS & PRIESTS

Gomorra, Xanadu, Babylon, Atlantis, Gomorra, Xanadu,
Babylon, Atlantis
You were too beautiful to live — You were too beautiful to live!

HIGH PRIESTESS

In Gomorra — I was given the gift of a golden goat

PRIESTS

I took the golden goat
I slit its golden throat
Gomorra — golden goat!

HIGH PRIESTESS

In Xanadu — I learned to do the secret sacred dance

PRIESTS

I played the pleasure dome
I played at Kubla's home
Xanadu — do a dance!

HIGH PRIESTESS

In Babylon — I lost the true love baby of my heart

PRIESTS

I broke a beating heart
I shattered it like art
Babylon — baby heart

HIGH PRIESTESS

Atlantis, in this city I was taught to swim!

PRIESTS

I swim an ocean race
I swim in sunken space
Atlantis — is the place

ALL

Gomorra, Xanadu, Babylon, Atlantis, Gomorra, Xanadu,
Babylon, Atlantis
You were too beautiful to live — You were too beautiful to live!

HIGH PRIESTESS does a snake dance.

PRIESTS

I took the golden goat
I slit its golden throat
Gomorra — golden goat!
I played the pleasure dome
I played at Kubla's home
Xanadu — do a dance!
I broke a beating heart
I shattered it like art
Babylon — baby heart
I swim an ocean race
I swim in sunken space
Atlantis — is the place

ALL

Gomorra, Xanadu, Babylon, Atlantis
Pompeii, Nineveh, Carthage, Galveston
Ctesiphon, Chaco, Troy, Kumari Kandam
Ys, Koumbi Saleh, Mologa, Dresden
Ancomah, Aztlan, Dwarka, Helike
Therouanne, Tikal, London, Herculanum
Chicago, Tenochtitlan, Dunwich, Kitezh
Sodom, San Francisco, Rungholt, Hiroshima
Newark, Jericho, Napata, Vilcabamba
Ulundi, Stalingrad, New Orleans, Eden

HIGH PRIESTESS

It may seem strange
My ancient world religious beliefs
Will never change

Scene 5 Microwave Minotaur

*The ceremony continues with PANJANDRUM at the
pulpit, summoning.*

PANJANDRUM

The goddess wakes, birth of dawn,

Twisted tight in sweaty sheets
A cosmic chrysalis!

HIGH PRIESTESS & NOVITIATE
Mother earth / single mom

PANJANDRUM
Kids fighting in the living room,
Starving nations, war babies,
Famine and pestilence!

HIGH PRIESTESS & NOVITIATE
mother earth / single mom

PANJANDRUM
She cracks open the refrigerator:
Yawning wasteland, frozen void,
She's feeling paranoid.

HIGH PRIESTESS & NOVITIATE
mother earth / single mom

PANJANDRUM
"Suck on me my many-headed younglings!
Tear your mother's breasts, you beasts —
Devour my body!"

HIGH PRIESTESS & NOVITIATE
mother earth / single mom

PANJANDRUM
Behold the kiln upon the hill the children fill
In Canaan made as Solomon bade
Abomination of the Ammonites
The King of Shame is a God Aflame
Say "Melech Bosheth" (Melech Bosheth)
Moloch!
Microwave Minotaur

Called her ex at setting sun,
"My womb's fruit has eaten me
Infertile valley."

HIGH PRIESTESS & NOVITIATE
Father sky / deadbeat dad

PANJANDRUM
God bade her take the infant throngs
Burn the firstborn on His pyre
A blaze of hellfire

HIGH PRIESTESS & NOVITIATE
Father sky / deadbeat dad

PANJANDRUM
Behold the kiln upon the hill the children fill
In Canaan made as Solomon bade
Abomination of the Ammonites

The King of Shame is a God Aflame
Say "Melech Bosheth" (Melech Bosheth)
Moloch!
Microwave Minotaur

Pass through the fire!
His legs are flame legs!

HIGH PRIESTESS
He is part human!
He is part — oxen!
He is part — oven!

Scene 6 The Trial

The CHORUS is summoned, and delivers an ultimatum.

CHORUS
In order to save the city state
The demon god you satiate
One of three must die for He!
Rich, or poor, or bourgeoisie
Who will it be?

HIGH PRIESTESS
Obviously, it shan't be me
'Tis writ upon the giant stone

CHORUS
Fire shall burn the flesh from bone
Of he who the horrid contest loses
For he it be the demon chooses
Class warfare! Ha ha ha ha ha!

PANJANDRUM and NOVITIATE wrestle.

CHORUS
You got to do the test
It's the test
Can you work hard and beat the rest?
It's the test, it's the test

You got to try the trial
Stay in style
C'mon now babe, show us a smile
It's the trial, it's the trial

You got to do the duel
Duel, you fuel
Alright now!

PANJANDRUM is defeated by NOVITIATE, ready to strike a death blow.

NOVITIATE
It should have never been allowed
That one of whom no one is proud
Should overturn the laws of fate
And garner laurels from the city state.

PANJANDRUM

Yet it is carved on the smaller stone
Extra points if you own your home
And since insurance I possess
I believe I win, correct. Priestess?

HIGH PRIESTESS (calculating.)

True. Twelve bonus points shall be thine.
The novitiate as well will find
That past-due debts his lead shall nix
For his demerits number six

CHORUS

Ha ha ha ha ha!
You can never win.
For you were born poor
And being poor, must die.

NOVITIATE

Why was I born?

Scene 7 Human Sacrifice

NOVITIATE is prepared for sacrifice by PANJANDRUM, with flowers and ablutions, as HIGH PRIESTESS sharpens a knife.

HIGH PRIESTESS

I'm gonna cut off your phallus
Uh-huh that's right
Offer it up to the goddess Astarte
Your lunar cycle ends tonight —
I'm gonna open your chest up
With a bronze-age knife
Embalm your lungs, put your heart in a jar
And you can party in the afterlife, in the afterlife
Human sacrifice (your body)
Do it for me
For the sun to rise
A virgin has to die
Don't know why (It's how it's got to be)
It's called civilization
That's what it is
The city-state requires blood to stay great
Don't you know that's show biz, kid, y'know, that's show biz
Human sacrifice (your body)
Do it for me
For the sun to rise
A virgin has to die
Don't know why (It's how its got to be)
Human sacrifice (your body)
Do it for me
For the corn to grow
You know you got to go
For the sky to be blue
We have to chop up you
For the gods to smile
It's execution-style
For the crops to thrive I got to burn you alive
For the beasts to quell I'll throw you down a well

For the well to flow
Jump in a volcano
Don't know why (It's how it's got to be)
Human sacrifice (your body, my body)

NOVITIATE kneels. HIGH PRIESTESS readies her fatal strike,
when —

Scene 8 Volcano

An explosion — the earth shakes!

PANJANDRUM

As I feared! The volcano erupts!

HIGH PRIESTESS

Great Bull-God, is the dust and fire to destroy our
supple lives?

CHORUS

You were born rich and so you must die.
And having been rich, so you shall die.

NOVITIATE

Take comfort in memories of an easy life.
This poor Novitiate dies after struggle and strife.

HIGH PRIESTESS

It may seem strange
My ancient world religious beliefs
Will never change

CHORUS

And so the Bull-God made the Volcano eat the City State!
And never again was the order of things disturbed.

ALL

You were born poor & poor you will die
An ancient circle, ancient circle, ancient circle
You were born poor & poor you will die You were born middle
class but poor you will die You were born rich & rich you
will die
An ancient circle, ancient circle, ancient circle
Ahahahah...

End Act I

MY BARBARIAN DOUBLE FUTURE

Act II: Silver Minds (Tourists from the Future)

Characters

Vegeta

Animex

Minero

First Pine (Narrator)

Old Man / Demon (masks)

Conservationist

Hiker (mask)

Futurian

Discoverer

Watery Princess (mask)

First performed 2005, Revised 2022

Scene 1 Prolog

The FUTURIANS emerge from the Placenta of Time.

FUTURIAN INTRODUCTION

Gene date: six oxygen yellow nine. Salutations, Futurians, and welcome to Silver Minds Timelines. You have chosen the premiere chrono-vehicle for inter-epoch travel. And why shouldn't you indulge? In the current era, life is full of possibilities, with flexible DNA plans and fresh stem cells offering new lifestyle options every day. But we all miss the ice caps, don't we?

When landscape holograms fall flat,
When surf simulations are all wet,
When virtual ski-programs leave you cold,
Your choice is Silver Minds.

Enter the placenta of time and be reborn in a simpler time with Silver Minds Timelines.

FUTURIANS

Tourists from a future time
Hello from the coming days
We come from a coming time (Time will tell!)
There is no snowfall!
All is temperate, temperate — No, no, no!

Tourists from future time
Hello from the coming days
We come from a coming time (Time will tell!)
There are no mountains
All is moderate, moderate — No, no, no!

In the future
Where the rich are
Able to pay for
Timefare
To travel timelines
Our choice is Silver Minds
Our choice is Silver Minds

Tourists from a future time
Hello from the coming days
We come from a coming time (Time will tell!)
There is no nature
We are desperate, desperate, — No, no, no!

In the future
Where the rich are
Able to pay for
Timefare
To travel timelines
Our choice is Silver Minds
Our choice is Silver Minds
Silver Minds

ANIMEX

Primitive people had primitive thoughts.

MINERO

We've seen them in the museum.

VEGETA

They believed in germs. They believed in purity. They imagined they could keep themselves safe.

ANIMEX

They were binary. They opposed themselves.

MINERO

Animex, we must consider their conditions. They were idealists.

ANIMEX

They were monads, Minero. They had one body and one world — each they polluted. Am I right, Vegeta?

VEGETA

Yes, you're so right. In fact, in the 1800 or 1900, as the story shows, there was one primitive whose thoughts were actually clean. She called herself: Conservationist. It was a thing.

Scene 2 Old Man / Demon

Performers take their places. "FIRST PINE" is the narrator, stage left, center is the masked figure of the OLD MAN, stage right is the protagonist, CONSERVATIONIST.

FIRST PINE (ANIMEX)

She grew up in our village
Nestled deep in the bosom
Of her pastoral mother
And her bucolic friends
She liked it in college
She also liked fieldwork
She planned to be a local hero
She planned to clean up the town

OLD MAN

You grew up in our village?

CONSERVATIONIST

I guess you've forgotten

OLD MAN

Maybe I know your mother
I'm just a wizened old man
You want to stay over?
You also want to dig in my yard
You plan to do a lot of testing
You plan an analysis

CONSERVATIONIST

There is so little beauty
Left in its natural domain
I have just recently

Decided to preserve the remains

Don't you see?
Love is like energy
It can be wasted
It should be treated like gourmet wine to be tasted
But never wasted!
There is so little beauty
Left in its natural domain
I have just recently
Decided to preserve the remains
Don't you see?
Love is like energy
It can be poison
It should be kept locked far away like a king's precious
boy son
For it is poison!

FIRST PINE (ANIMEX)
She slept that night in the village
Nestled deep in a haystack
She had amoral nightmares
Of a demonic fiend

DEMON appears where the OLD MAN stood.

FIRST PINE (ANIMEX)
He wants to poison you
He wants to give your mom cancer
He stands against the mountain
He stands for powerful things

THE DEMON
There is so little beauty
Left in its natural domain
I have just recently
Decided to unnerve the remains
Don't you see?
Love is like entropy
It can't be thwarted
It should be viewed as an undeveloped proto-human form
that nobody wants who because of patriarchal reproductive
law cannot be aborted
And never thwarted!

DEMON dance.
The next morning, CONSERVATIONIST comes across OLD
MAN sweeping.

OLD MAN
But I am just an old man from the village!

CONSERVATIONIST
That is a lie.
I grew up in our village
Nestled deep in the bosom
Of my pastoral mother
And my bucolic friends

FIRST PINE (ANIMEX) & CONSERVATIONIST

She/I liked it in college
She/I also liked fieldwork
She/I became a local hero
She came to clean up the town

Scene 3 Interlude

The FUTURIANS gather center stage.

MINERO
You know why I love them? They were fragile, delicate,
repetitive, needy... inspiring.

ANIMEX
Wow, Minero. That's ultra romantique.

VEGETA
Can we just stop for a second? This is not an
anthrophrenology field studies trip. This is a ski trip. Why else
would I have had my hind legs genetically modified with rabbit
DNA, if I wasn't here to be an actual ski bunny?

MINERO
But Vegeta, you've seen the fossils.

VEGETA
I've seen the fossils.

ANIMEX
We've all seen the fossils.

Scene 4 The Hiker

*Performers take their places. "FIRST PINE" is the narrator,
stage left, center is the masked figure of the HIKER, stage
right is the protagonist, FUTURIAN (MINERO).*

FIRST PINE (VEGETA)
Hard ice under snowshoes
Crush like teeth against gravel
Painful accompaniment
Wind no longer fills the whippoorwills
All the swallows' throats all sewn closed
A lifeless breeze and these dead trees
Birds withhold their melodies
The hiker is weary, weary
No howls or hisses
Break the monotony of breath
Break the monotony of heartbeat

THE HIKER
Hard ice under snowshoes
Crush like teeth against gravel
Painful accompaniment
My true love's hope unraveled like the rope
I reached for the hand as it raked the land.
A lifeless corpse and these dead trees
Birds withhold their melodies
The hiker is weary, weary
Oh cold, cold kisses

Make me a specimen of ice!
Make me a specimen, a frozen man.

FUTURIAN (MINERO)

A million years pass and I have come. I traveled on Silver
Minds to be here. Money well spent. Look! There's a hiker!
He's frozen. He must have followed his fiancé into a fissure. A
dripping stalagmite sealed his fate. I shall take him home as a
souvenir. I hope he travels well.

FUTURIAN (MINERO) takes the HIKER to the Future.

FUTURIAN (MINERO)

Melt ice under heat lamps
Rush rivulets of icicles
Awkward experiments
Is the frozen man a popsicle?
His body melts and flows when he's exposed

FIRST PINE (VEGETA)

The lifeless bones fall like dead trees
Birds withhold their melodies
The sparrow is teary, teary!

FIRST PINE (VEGETA) & FUTURIAN (MINERO)

No howls or hisses
Break the monotony of loss
Break the monotony of silence

The HIKER melts.

Scene 5 Interlude

FUTURIANS gather center stage.

ANIMEX

Their bodily fluids could have been ours if they hadn't
squandered them.

VEGETA

Animex. We have gills. We have multi-faceted eyeballs. We
don't need their fluids.

MINERO

Except when vacationing.

VEGETA

Except when vacationing, of course.

ANIMEX

Vacations. What are they? Vacations. First of all, they're
depressing. They just remind you of what is lost, like visiting a
cemetery, and how hard it is to find the time to even think
about that. And like, resources..! Resource extraction is still a
big problem...

VEGETA

Animex, you're losing it. Take a breath.

MINERO

Perhaps what's lost isn't meant to be found.

Scene 6: The Watery Princess

*Performers take their places. "FIRST PINE" is the narrator,
stage left, center is the masked figure of the WATERY
PRINCESS, stage right is the protagonist, DISCOVERER.*

FIRST PINE (MINERO)

He ties his hair up high like a samurai
He ties his hair up high
Yes, forests of crystals form in the valleys
Yes, crystals not icicles grow on the
Rockies In the sky up high, golden
Pegasi In the sky up high
Yes, violet mornings bloom carpets of peonies
Yes, African daisies and other typologies
The discoverer!
All he wants to do is discover you
There is no other side
No discovery can hide
From the discoverer!

WATERY PRINCESS

And after the uncovering of the magic mountains and the
youthful fountains, comes the denudation, the asphyxiation
The watery princess am I
From the depths of the watery lake
The watery, watery lake
That used to be right where we are standing!
I was discovered — uncovered in the morning light, after
lingering at night. I broke the surface of the water. A
disagreement with my father had left me rather bothered.
My father, the watery king
From the depths of the watery lake
The watery, watery lake
That used to be right where we are standing!
And so, in the morning light after a lingering night, I saw a man.

FIRST PINE (MINERO)

All he wants to do is discover you!

DISCOVERER

As the branches and brambles parted and I saw the vista
I endeavored to enshroud the landscape in the velvet mist of
Legal protections enforced by mortal men
But Lo!
I did not know
They'd build a dam here
And crush the mermaid culture with hopeless fear!

ALL

He ties his hair up high like a samurai
He ties his hair up high
Yes, forests of crystals form in the valleys
Yes, crystals not icicles grow on the
Rockies In the sky up high, golden
Pegasi In the sky up high

Yes, violet mornings bloom carpets of peonies
Yes, African daisies and other typologies

DISCOVERER

All I want to do is get next to you
There is no other side
No discovery can hide
From the discoverer

WATERY PRINCESS

The watery princess am I
From the depths of the watery lake
The watery, watery lake
That used to be right where we are standing
But I am a ghost now! I died!

DISCOVERER

Unspoiled wonders to strip bare of cover!

FIRST PINE

Can the discovered recover from what is uncovered?

WATERY PRINCESS

My ghostly body hovers before you as a portent of your own
death. Yes, even you shall die.

Scene 7 Epilog

FUTURIANS gather stage center.

FUTURIANS

Our trip is ended
Our atoms dissipate
Bug atoms
Bird atoms
Tree atoms
Tomato atoms
Algae atoms
Our atoms dissipate
No no no
There is no snowfall
There are no mountains
There is no nature
Only Futurians

End Act II

Encore: Hot 'Round Here

It's getting hot 'round here
The earth is heating up
It's getting hot 'round here
It's sexier this way

MINERO

I'll give my love to a polar ice cap
Like a scene in a sexy movie

Rub the glacier across my nipple

Let it melt all over me

VEGETA

I'm fired up in a forest breeze
Let it burn in the underbrush
Up in your watchtower hear a hush
'Til it lights up every tree

ANIMEX

Animal attraction
My satisfaction
Don't need no special habitat
To erect a reaction

It's getting hot 'round here
The earth is heating up
It's getting hot 'round here
It's sexier this way x 5