

The Relative Helplessness of Chronos

A One Act Play
by K Williams

(Players A and B sit at table at one side of stage. Gaia is seated at other side of stage, hands bound. Chronos roams the audience when he speaks. Chronos and Gaia speak monologues without hearing or seeing each other. Youth enters the scene during the play.

If there are spotlights, players are lit only when speaking. Otherwise, all players freeze except during speaking parts.)

Play Chronos with broad gestures and exaggerated anxiety.

Announcer:

Here find Gaia, goddess in distress;
Chronos at a distance, put to the test;
Earthly economics make a tragic mockery
For all who play the Game of Dollarocracy.

Chronos:

I remember the early days. I waved my hand and an ocean sprang into being. I spoke my word and the seed of life was born. All of the celestial bodies were my testament and creation, every one singing the song of joy, harmonious with one another.

From the tiniest ring of atoms to the deep and vibrant boom of my planets, every minute movement of matter was my hymn and legacy. Life was joy. Joy was life. There

was no thing that I could not do. I am Chronos, father of movement and time.

Player A:

Damn, I wish I had gotten an even number when we started this game. Here I am stuck on this Path of never ending failure. (rolls dice, moves his marker around on the gameboard) A lousy five bucks is all I get to spend today. I might as well put it all in this one category. (places money)

Player B:

(rolls dice) Ah, a twelve again. (triumphantly moves his game marker) That means I get to spend twelve thousand dollars. (Gleefully) Here I'll spread it out evenly in every category. (places money)

Chronos:

The early days are no more. It all changed when my nephew spoke those dark words in my innermost chamber of rule.

"I can show you, Chronos." said Nemesis. "There is something more powerful than you." All my angels were listening and were struck silent. Even the song carried by celestial winds stopped.

"You shall show me something more powerful than Love, Nemesis?" I said to him. "And how shall this remarkable thing be done?"

He said to me and to all that could hear, and scarcely did I then believe him. "I shall destroy what is most precious to

you, and you shall be powerless to intervene. I shall take Gaia.” I believe him now. He has imprisoned Gaia.

Gaia:

(tied to a pole, hands behind her, facing away from Chronos) Where has my father gone? Doesn't he know that I am imprisoned by Nemesis? Why has he not come to lift me out of my bondage? Can't he see that I am laden with chains?

Chronos:

(Head in hands, facing away in despair.) My beloved Gaia. There is nothing I can do.

Player A:

(rolling dice) All right dice. Do it for me. Give me the magic number I need. Ah shit. Maybe that magic number doesn't even exist. Here I am again, on the street. At least I can spend two dollars for a burger and fries. (places money)

Player B:

(Obviously gloating) Boy I love winning. (Rolls dice) Got a ten this time. Here is ten thousand dollars to use to impress all my friends. I guess I'll buy some new stuff. I am bored with that old stuff. (places bills)

(Youth enters and walks to game players)

Youth:

What are you two guys doing? Playing a game? I like games! Which one of you is winning?

Chronos:

I cannot go to her. I cannot even give her the comfort of my presence. For what comfort would it be?

What would I say? Here I am, I see you imprisoned and defiled with this crime. I am the all powerful, yet I do nothing to help you. And, (ironicly) Gaia, I love you? I make myself a liar, if I say I love but I do not heal her condition. She knows that Love is King. But I am nothing.

For I have lost my position as ruler. Nemesis was right, there is something that is more powerful than me. It is the human power to choose.

Gaia:

Why has my father not come? He told me He is Love, and that Love is all powerful. But here I sit, still in pain

Chronos:

Human beings have discovered my secrets of creation. Now they create with as much scope and much impact as I, with machines and knowledge of engineering. But what they create... it appalls me.

I made the human being to complete my whole kingdom. I made the human heart to be my very throne. There in the heart are the listeners who guide hands, voice and feet.

These all are my extensions and my agents. For I had planned human intelligence to complete creation in full harmony with every great majesty of Love.

Gaia:

Does he not love me? Has he forgotten me?

Chronos:

Nemesis stood in my light and cast a shadow in the hearts of people. He whispered trickeries and deceits and my people have become confused.

My throne is usurped and there in the hearts of human sits the twisted beast of Greed. He has his imp, Dominance, and court jester, Tyranny. And all three, they together do abominable things to my Gaia, my beloved Gaia, who is their prisoner in my darkest hour.

Gaia:

Where is my remedy from pain? Perhaps this Nemesis has been speaking the truth all along. Perhaps Death truly is king. Nemesis says he will release me from my bondage of pain if only I adopt his way.

Chronos:

Their hideous pleasure and glee... how can I go to my Gaia?

I cannot enter the court of Nemesis where she is bound, just to demonstrate my helplessness before that demon

king. Shall I disguise myself as a serving girl, just to be close to her?

But that would only further the lie, for Love that serves Greed is not Love. What gift do I have to give her, if it is not my essence and identity? Without my throne I am nothing.

I see all. I know all. She knows that I know. And I fail her.

Gaia:

I have been resisting Nemesis because I remembered something beautiful, but it is now fading. I am weary. I can no longer remember joy. My powers of creation are leaving me. I only know I need a way out of this pain.

Player A:

I wish I could just skip my turn.

Player B:

Good. I'll take an extra turn. (rolls dice and moves piece.) There. Seven thousand dollars on this first category. Now we have enough to buy another piece of the puzzle.

Youth:

Oh, I see! Here is the object of the game. You are buying pieces of this puzzle. You already had three. Now you just bought the fourth piece. Let me see what the puzzle is going to be...

Player A:

Oh don't bother with looking at that. Who cares anyway? A picture of this or a picture of that, what is the difference to me? I don't count.

Player B:

I wouldn't advise you to look too closely at that. It kind of takes the fun out of the game. I don't look at all of the puzzle, ever, I just enjoy my winning role in the game.

Youth:

What are you talking about? How can you mean that we shouldn't look at it? And what do you mean, you don't count?

Player B:

This is just to pass the time anyway. I am a big money player. It isn't up to me to pay attention to the outcome of the game

Youth:

If it isn't up to you, then... I see this whole puzzle now, how it all fits together. When you finally are finished our whole planet will be dead. This is a wretched game, stop playing it now! Can't you see that my whole world is dying and you are making it happen, you are doing it right now!

There has to be another way. Look at this game, here I see it. You just haven't opened the board all the way. Look.

Look at this.

(He/she opens game board)

(Youth holds center stage. For the first time all players move in unison or whole stage is lit. Chronos turns his head to look at him/her. Gaia turns her head to look at the Youth. Players A and B turn and look at him/her. A measured space of silence.)

Player A:

(to Youth) You mean that I do make a difference? I matter? I can do something important?

Youth:

I know that I matter. That means that you matter.

Gaia:

(hopefully, incredulously) I think I hear a song in the distance that I haven't heard since my earliest days. Can it be? Yes, I hear it now.

Player B:

You mean it is safe to really take a look?

Youth:

I know that it is safe for me to see. That means it is safe for you to see.

Chronos:

(excited, a little stunned, jumps on stage on the other side from Gaia) I am in! I have found one throne of heart in which to reign. If there is one there will be more !

Player B:

Ok. Let's play another way. I didn't always like that other game anyway. It was so... well, lonely.

Youth:

This game isn't so hard. Look, this is going to be fun. That is one of the rules, only play when it is fun.

(Youth assembles the new puzzle picture on the game board)

Youth:

And look at this new picture. I like this. I like to live in this world, beautiful like this.

(Youth crosses to Gaia. Unties hands)

Youth:

Here, Gaia, get up. There is someone I need you to see. He speaks to me in my dreams. He told me I could find you here.

(Youth takes Gaia by the hand and leads her to center stage. Looks to Chronos.)

Youth:

Will you come home now Chronos? Here, I am inviting you. You told me that was all that you need.

(Youth reaches to Chronos and take him by the hand, puts his hand in Gaia's hand.)

Youth:

There. That looks better.

(Chronos and Gaia stand facing each other and embrace)

Chronos:

I am sorry that it took so long.

Gaia:

Waiting was hard. But now I understand. I am so happy you are here.

Player B:

(to player A) So you were saying? You've always wished you could work in a store that sells only recycled and eco-friendly products? It just so happens that I've been secretly hoping I'd set up something like that, myself! Maybe we have more in common than I thought!

Player A:

Yeah, I've always hoped I could be part of a neighborhood project to solve really big problems. I've got a lot of friends with plenty of time of their hands. We'd all like to do something important, something more fun than what we have been doing.

Player B:

Well, you can sure start the inventory by helping me clean out my garage. My wife has been bugging me for years to get all that stuff out of there. We can't even fit our car in there anymore.

Both Players:

It's a deal. (they shake hands)

Narrator:

Witness Earth in Healthy Splendor
Gaia Blessed with Chronos True
Human Kind in Worthy Measure
Play the Game, the Way of Nature
Bloom Thereby, In All You Do.

