

Angela Bertolio
Peace by Aristophanes
Play Summary

The first scene opens with Trygaeus' servants frantically feeding their master's dung beetle while Trygaeus sleeps. The dung beetle is happily devouring this banquet of prepared poop while the servants comment on wanting noses without holes. Then Trygaeus wakes up, he warns his children not to "fart or shit for three days" (Line 167). He saddles up the beetle and flies to the heavens as if he were on Pegasus. His goal is to find Peace and bring it back to Athens.

When Trygaeus reaches heaven, he finds Hermes who informs him the other gods have gone elsewhere and the Goddess Peace is in a pit. Trygaeus hides when War enters who begins to pound Greek cities into mortar, but he has to stop because he needs ingredients. War goes off to find the ingredients leaving Tygaeus who calls upon Hellas to help rescue Peace. Upon pulling Peace out, they discover Opora, the incarnation of Harvest and Autumn and Madame Ambassador trapped with her. Trygaeus returns to earth with all of them, decides to marry Opora and he takes Madame Ambassador to the council where a Parliamentarian buys her.

When Trygaeus returns home to prepare for the marriage, he and the servants prepare to make a sacrifice to the Peace. One of the servants points out that dead offerings and blood on her altar would not be pleasing to her. Therefore, they decide to take the sheep into the house and cut it up in there and bring the thighs out. They begin with the ritual when Hierocles enters and tries to disrupt the ritual, but is not able to. Then, the people begin coming for the ceremony. Several people, like the sickle-maker, trumpeter, and helmet salesman are unhappy because of peace. Trygaeus tell them to go to Egypt to sell their wares and Opora and Tygaeus get married.