

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Translated and adapted by Frank J. Morlock C 2002

Table of Contents

<u>PANDORA By VOLTAIRE</u>	1
<u>Translated and adapted by Frank J. Morlock C 2002</u>	2
<u>ACT I</u>	3
<u>ACT II</u>	6
<u>ACT III</u>	9
<u>ACT IV</u>	13
<u>ACT V</u>	15

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Translated and adapted by Frank J. Morlock C 2002

- ACT I
- ACT II
- ACT III
- ACT IV
- ACT V.

This Etext is for private use only. No republication for profit in print or other media may be made without the express consent of the Copyright Holder. The Copyright Holder is especially concerned about performance rights in any media on stage, cinema, or television, or audio or any other media, including readings for which an entrance fee or the like is charge. Permissions should be addressed to: Frank Morlock, 6006 Greenbelt Rd, #312, Greenbelt, MD 20770, USA or frankmorlock@msn.com. Other works by this author may be found at <http://www.cadytech.com/dumas/personnage.asp?key=130>

Etext by Dagny

+++++

CHARACTERS

PROMETHEUS, son of Heaven and Earth, a demi-god

PANDORA

JUPITER

MERCURY

NEMESIS

NYMPHS

TITANS

CELESTIAL DIVINITIES

INFERNAL DIVINITIES

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

ACT I

The stage represents a country side with mountains in the distance.

PROMETHEUS: Product of my hands, charm that I caused to be born

I call you in vain, you don't hear me:
Pandora, you cannot know
Either my love or your allure.
What! I formed your heart and you are not sensitive!
Your beautiful eyes cannot see me!
A pitiless power
Opposes all my wishes with an invincible strength;
Your beauty causes my despair.
What! all nature around you breathes!
Birds, tender birds, you sing, you love
And I see her allures languishing inanimate
Death holds them under its sway.

(Enter Enceladus, Typhon and Titans.)

ENCELADUS AND TYPHON: Child of the earth and the heavens

Your wails and screams have moved this grove.
Speak, which one of these gods
Has dared to do you some outrage?

PROMETHEUS: (pointing to Pandora)

Jupiter is jealous of my divine work;
He fears that this object will be worshiped one day;
He cannot without wrath see the earth embellished;
Jupiter has refused life to Pandora!
He causes me eternal pain.

TYPHON: Jupiter? what! It's he who would form our souls?

The usurper of the heavens may be our support?
No, I feel that life and its divine flames
Don't come from him.

ENCELADUS: (pointing to Typhon and his brothers)

Our ancestors are Night and Tartary.
Let's invoke eternal Night:
She comes before shining Day.
Let Olympus give in to Tenare.

TYPHON: May Hell, may my gods, spread among us

The eternal seed of life:
Let Jupiter, shiver with envy,
And be vainly jealous of it.

PROMETHEUS AND THE TWO TITANS: Hear us, gods of profound night,

From our new stars, contemplate the light;
Rush from the world's core:
Render fertile
The earth that bore me;
Give life to beauty,
Let your power
Second my happy boldness!

PROMETHEUS: In the abode of the night your voices burst out,

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Day pales, earth trembles,
The world totters, Erebus assembles.

(The scene changes and represents Chaos. All the gods of Hell come on stage.)

CHORUS OF INFERNAL GODS: We detest

The eternal light.
We await
In our deep chasms
That weak and criminal race
Yet to be born, but that we hate.

NEMESIS: The oceans of Lethe, the flames of Tartarus

Must ravage all things.
Speak, who do you want to plunge
Into the depths of Tenare?

PROMETHEUS: I want to serve the earth, and not to oppress it.

Alas! I gave birth to this object
And I request in vain that it be vivified, that it think,
That it be happy, and that it experience love.

THE THREE PARCAE: Our glory is to destroy,

Our power is to injure.
Such is the decree of fate
Heaven gives life and we give death.

PROMETHEUS: In that case, flee forever this fine day that lightens me.

You are malefactors, you are not my gods.
Flee, odious destroyers
Of all the good I want to do;
Gods of malefactors, gods of crimes,
Funereal enemies,
Dive back into your shadows,
Leave the world in peace.

NEMESIS: Tremble, tremble for yourself;

Fear our return,
Fear Pandora and Love.
The supreme moment
Flies on your heels.
We are going to unchain the demon of battles.
We will open the gates of death.
Tremble, tremble for yourself.

(The gods of Hell vanish. The countryside can be seen illuminated and pleasant. The wood and field nymphs are on both sides of the stage.)

PROMETHEUS: Ah! too cruel friends! why are you unchaining

From the depths of this dark night,
In these lucky fields, and under a sky so sweet,
These enemies of nature?
Let eternal Chaos raise between them and us
An impenetrable barrier!
Implacable hell,
Must it vivify
This lovely wonder
That I knew how to create?
A favorable god
Must enflame it.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

ENCELADUS: Because you put the grandeur of your being this way
To pour boons on this new abode,
You deserve to be its sole master.
Rise to heaven, whose day you hold,
Go steal the celestial flame,
Dare create a soul
And be creator in your turn.

PROMETHEUS: Love is in the skies; it's there I must go;
Love reigns there over the gods.
I will hurl its features, I will light its fires.
Love's the god of my heart, and I must expect all of it.
I fly to its eternal throne
On the wings of the winds.
Love carries me off to heaven.

(PROMETHEUS flies off.)

CHORUS OF NYMPHS: Fly, cleave the breeze, and penetrate the precincts
Of eternal palaces;
Bring back the pleasures of the abode of fear,
By spreading bounties, deserve altars.

CURTAIN

ACT II

The stage represents the same countryside. Pandora, inanimate is on a platform. A brilliantly lit chariot descends from heaven.

A DRYAD: Sing, wood nymphs, sing the happy return
Of the demi-god who commands the earth;
He's bringing you a new day;
He's coming back to this sweet abode
From a dwelling shining with thunder.
He's flying back to these parts in Love's chariot.

CHORUS OF NYMPHS: What sweet aurora
Is dawning on us!
Earth, still young,
Embellish yourself.
Brilliant flowers which adorn our fields,
Summits of superb mountains
That divide the breezes, and that bear the heavens;
O burgeoning nature
Become more charming,
More worthy of her eyes!

PROMETHEUS: (alighting from the chariot, torch in hand)
I stole it from the gods, I am bringing it to earth,
This sacred fire of tender Love,
A thousand times more powerful than that of thunder
And the fires of the day god.

CHORUS OF NYMPHS: Daughter of heaven, soul of the world,
Enter all hearts:
The air, the earth, and the ocean
Await your favors.

PROMETHEUS: (approaching the platform on which Pandora lies)
May this precious fire, star of nature,
May this pure flame
Number you amongst the living.
Earth, be attentive to these lucky moments.
Arise, dear thing, it's Love that commands it;
Always be obedient to her voice.
Arise, Love gives you
Life, a heart, and beautiful eyes.

(Pandora rises and walks about the stage.)

CHORUS: Heaven! O heaven! she's breathing!
God of love, such is your sway!

PANDORA: Where am I? And what do I see?
I never was; what power has given birth to me?
I went from nothingness to being.
What ravishing things seem to have been born with me! (a symphony is heard)
These harmonious sounds enchant my ears.
My eyes are dazzled by the accumulation of marvels
That the author of my life squanders on my heels.
Ah! where's this come from, that didn't appear before?

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Moment by moment I think and I inform myself.
Earth, though you bear me, you are not my mother;
No question, a god is my author.
I feel him, he's talking to me, he's breathing in my heart.
Heaven! Is this me that I envisage?
The crystal of this ocean is the mirror of heaven;
Nature is painting itself; the more I see my image
The more I ought to give thanks to the gods.

NYMPHS AND TITANS: (dancing around her)

Pandora, daughter of Love,
Burgeoning charms, novel beauty,
Be inspired forever, feel in your turn
This immortal flame
Whose life you prize. (they dance)

PANDORA: (noticing Prometheus in the midst of the nymphs)

What object attracts my eyes!
Of all that I see in these pleasant parts
It's you, it's you, no question, to whom I owe life.
My soul is filled with the fire from your glances;
You seem still to vivify me.

PROMETHEUS: Your beautiful eyes knew how to enflame me

Before they'd even opened;
You couldn't respond, and I dared to love you.
You speak and I adore you.

PANDORA: You love me, dear author of my life commenced;

You love me, and I owe you my existence.
The earth enchants me: how you embellish it!
My heart flies to yours, it surrenders to its master;
And I cannot know
If my mouth has said too much or not said enough.

PROMETHEUS: You couldn't know how to say too much, and simple nature

Speaks without sham and without deviousness.
May the future race always
Thus pronounce the name of Love. (together)
Charming Love, eternal power,
First God of my heart,
Love, your sway begins,
It's the empire of happiness.

PROMETHEUS: Heaven! what heavy night, what bursts of thunder

Destroy the first moments
Of innocent pleasures that possess the earth!
What horror troubles my senses! (together)
Earth shakes, heaven roars,
Threatening lightning flashes
Have pierced the profound vault
Of burgeoning stars.
What power shakes the world
To its very foundations?

(A chariot can be seen descending with Mercury, Discord, Nemesis, etc.)

MERCURY: A reckless hero has taken the celestial fire
To expiate this audacious theft.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Rise, Pandora to the breast of the gods.

PROMETHEUS: Cruel tyrants!

PANDORA: Funereal order!

Tears I never knew about,
You run from my eyes.

MERCURY: Obey, rise to heaven.

PANDORA: Ah! I was in heaven as I saw the one I loved.

PROMETHEUS: Cruel ones! Have pity on my extreme sorrow.

PANDORA AND PROMETHEUS: Barbarians, stop.

MERCURY: Come, climb to the heavens, leave:

Jupiter orders,
You must surrender
To his will.
Come, rise to the heavens, leave.
Winds, obey us and deploy your wings.
Winds, escort Pandora to the eternal vault.

(The chariot disappears.)

PROMETHEUS: They've carried her away, jealous tyrants,

Gods, you snatch my share from me.
It was more divine than you:
You were wretched, you were enraged
By the happiness which made my work:
I'm not obliged to anyone but myself
For this precious happiness.
I made her more than Jupiter even,
I made myself loved. I vivified those beautiful eyes:
Opening, they said to me: You love me, I love you.
She lived through me, I was living in her heart.
Jealous gods, respect our chains.
O Jupiter! O inhuman furors!
Eternal persecutor
Of the unlucky creator.
You will feel all my pains,
I will brave your power.
Your appalling lightning
Will be less formidable
Than my despairing love.

CURTAIN

ACT III

The stage represents the Palace of Jupiter, shining with gold and with light.

JUPITER: I've seen this object on the living earth.

I've seen it and I've experienced
Transports that astonish me:
Heaven is in her eyes, the graces surround her
I feel that love has formed her.

MERCURY: You reign, you please and you make her tender;
You will dazzle her just-opened eyes.

JUPITER: I was never anything but powerful and terrible:
I command in Olympus, on earth, in hell;
But hearts belong to Love.
Ah! how fate outrages me!
Though it gave me the heavens,
Though it gave me the seas,
When it divided the universe,
Love received the best share.

MERCURY: What are you afraid of? Pandora has hardly seen the day,
And of herself, still hardly has knowledge:
Would she have felt love
From the moment of her birth?

JUPITER: Love instructs very easily
What is Pandora incapable of?
She's a woman, she's beautiful.
There she is: let's play with her astonishment.
Let's withdraw for a moment,
Under the luminous arches of the eternal vault.
Heavens, enchant her eyes, and speak to her heart.
You will deploy my grandeur and my splendor in vain.
You have nothing of the beauty she has. (he withdraws)

PANDORA: (entering) Hardly had I experienced the dawn of life;
My eyes were opening to the day, my heart to my lover;
I had only breathed a moment.
Sweet happiness why were you taken away?
They made me fear death:
Alas, I knew it, this threatening death:
Isn't it dying, when fates
Robs us of that which enchants us?
Gods, return me to earth and my obscurity,
That abode where I saw the lover who created me.
He twice gave me being;
I breathed, I loved: what happiness!
Hardly had I experienced the dawn of life, etc.

(All the gods with all their attributes come on stage.)

CHORUS OF GODS: Let the stars rejoice!
Let all the gods applaud
The god of the universe!
Before him all suns blanche.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

NEPTUNE: Like the breast of the seas.

PLUTO: The depth of hell

CHORUS OF GODS: Diverse worlds

Echo

With eternal concerts.

Let the stars rejoice, etc.

PANDORA: How all that I hear conspires to terrify me!

I fear, I hate, I am fleeing from this supreme grandeur;

How hard it is to hear praise

For another god than the one I love!

THE THREE GRACES: Daughter of charming Love,

Reign in his empire;

Earth desires you,

Heaven is your court.

PANDORA: My eyes are offended by day which surrounds me:

Nothing pleases me, and all astonishes me.

My deserts had more attractions.

Disappear, O infinite splendor,

My lover doesn't see you. (A symphony is heard.)

Cease, useless harmony!

He doesn't hear you.

(The chorus resumes, Jupiter steps off a cloud.)

JUPITER: New charm of nature,

Worthy of being eternal

You cling to an earthly body, weak and mortal.

And you owe this pure and unalterable soul

To the sacred fire of heaven.

It was for the gods you were just born.

Begin to play the divinity:

Experience near your master

Happy immortality.

PANDORA: Nothingness, from which I hardly escaped.

Is a hundred times preferable to this cruel present:

Your immortality, without the object that enchains me,

Is nothing but an immortal torture.

JUPITER: What! you fail to recognize me as the god of thunder?

In the palace of the gods you regret the earth?

PANDORA: Earth was my true abode

It's there I experienced love.

JUPITER: No, you know nothing of it but an unfaithful image

In a world unworthy of it.

May love in all its entirety, may its eternal flame,

Of which you've experienced only a spark,

With all its fiery aspects embrace us today.

PANDORA: I've experienced them all, at least I dare think so;

They equaled my tortures.

Ah! you have for yourself grandeur and glory,

Leave pleasure to lovers.

You are a god; incense must suffice for you.

You are a god, satisfy my wishes,

Console all who breath.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

A god must create happiness.

JUPITER: I intend to make you happy, and through you, I will be.

Pleasures who follow your master,
Ministers more powerful than all the other gods,
Deploy your attractions, enchant her gorgeous eyes;
Pleasures you triumph as soon as you are known.

(The pleasures dance around Pandora and sing.)

CHORUS OF PLEASURES: Love, love and reign with us,

The god of gods is alone worthy of you.

A VOICE: On earth you pursue with difficulty

Pleasures flight and vain shadow;
It escapes and disgust follows.
If Zephyr pleases Flora for a moment
He withers the flowers that he blossoms;
A single day creates them and destroys them.

CHORUS: Love, love and reign with us,

The god of gods alone is worthy of you.

A VOICE: Immortal flowers

Are nowhere but in our fields.
Love and time
Lack wings here.

CHORUS: Love, love, and reign with us.

The god of gods alone is worthy of you.

PANDORA: Yes, I love, yes, sweet pleasures, you increase my flame;

But you increase my sorrow,
Charming gods, it's you who create happiness,
Go to the master of my soul.

JUPITER: Heaven! o heaven! what!

My attentions have this fatal success?
What! I softened her soul and it's for my rival!

MERCURY: (coming on stage) Jupiter, arm your lightning;

Take your fires, go reduce to ashes
Your audacious enemies.
Prometheus is armed, the furious Titans
Threaten the vaults of heaven.
They are heaping mountains of appalling masses:
Already their pitiless crowd
Is approaching these parts.

JUPITER: I will punish them all. Alone, I will suffice against them.

PANDORA: What! You will punish him, you who cause his pain?

You are nothing but an all powerful jealous tyrant.
Love me with a love even more violent,
I will punish you with my hate.

JUPITER: Let's march and let thunder burst before me.

PANDORA: Cruel! have pity of my mortal terror:

Judge of my heart, since I implore you.

JUPITER: (to Mercury) Take care to escort Pandora.

Gods, how my heart is desolated!
I am experiencing the horrors which threaten the world.
The universe rests in a profound peace;
A beauty appears and the universe is troubled.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

(Jupiter leaves.)

PANDORA: O days of my birth! o too funereal charms!

Burgeoning desires, how you were deceived.

What! beauty, love, and celestial favors;

All these treasures have caused my misfortunes!

Love, who caused my birth, appease all these alarms;

Aren't you sovereign of the gods?

Come dry my tears,

Enchain and disarm

Heaven and earth.

CURTAIN

ACT IV

The stage represents the Titans armed, and mountains in the background. Several giants are on the mountains and piling up rocks .

ENCELADUS: Yes, we and our brothers, and all nature

Have felt your cruel injury.

Terrible vengeance is already in our hands.

Do you see these mountains hanging in precipices?

Do you see these rocks piled up?

They will soon be cast down

On the barbarous gods who have offended us.

We will punish the injustices

Of our jealous tyrants with our own downbeaten hands.

PROMETHEUS: Earth, learn to defend yourself against heaven.

Drums and trumpets, organs of battles,

For the first time your sounds will make themselves heard;

Blare out, guide our steps. (they leave to the sound of trumpets)

Heaven will be the prize of your lucky courage.

Friends, I only pretend to Pandora and her faith.

Leave me this just share.

March, Titans, and follow me.

CHORUS OF TITANS: Let's run to arms

Against these cruel gods.

Let's spread alarm

In immortal hearts.

Let's run to battles

Against these cruel gods.

PROMETHEUS: Thunder responds in bursts to our trumpets.

(A chariot bearing the gods descends onto the mountains in the roar of thunder. Pandora is by Jupiter. Prometheus continues.)

PROMETHEUS: Jupiter is leaving his shelter

Lightning has given the signal:

Let's begin the fatal battle.

(The giants climb.)

CHORUS OF NYMPHS: (who border the stage)

Drums, trumpets and thunder,

Gods and Titans, what are you doing?

With your terrible blows, you confound

Heaven, hell and earth.

(Uproar of thunder and trumpets.)

TITANS: Give up, tyrants of the universe,

Be punished for your cruel furors;

Fall, tyrants.

GODS: Die, rebels.

TITANS: Fall, come into our chains.

GODS: Rush on to Hell.

PANDORA: Earth, heaven, o profound sorrow!

Gods, Titans, calm my terror.

I have caused the misfortunes of the world:

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Earth, heaven, all are perishing because of me.

TITANS: Fling our spears.

GODS: Strike, thunder.

TITANS: Let's overthrow the gods.

GODS: Let's destroy the earth (together)

Fall, come in to our chains

Rush on to hell.

(A great silence. A brilliant cloud descends. Destiny appears in the midst of the clouds.)

DESTINY: Halt! Destiny who commands you all

Wills that you suspend your blows.

(Another silence.)

PROMETHEUS: Unalterable being,

Sovereign of time,

Dictate to our tyrants

Your irrevocable order.

CHORUS: O Destiny, speak, explain yourself;

The gods will stoop under your law.

DESTINY: (in the midst of the gods who have assembled around him)

Cease, cease, funeral war.

This day create another universe.

Sovereigns of the celestial abode,

Return Pandora to her deserts.

Gods, heap on this object all your diverse gifts.

Titans, who right up to heaven have carried the war,

Unlucky be your lands,

Forever groan

Under these upturned mountains

That are going to fall back to the earth.

(The rocks detach themselves and fall back. The chariot of the gods descends to earth. They deliver Pandora back to Prometheus.)

JUPITER: O Destiny! the master of the gods

Is the slave of your power.

Well! be obeyed; but let this day begin

The eternal divorce between earth and the heavens.

Nemesis, leave these somber parts.

(Nemesis leaves by the back of the stage and Jupiter continues .)

JUPITER: Seduce the heart, deceive the eyes,

Of the beauty that offends me.

Pandora, know my vengeance

Right in my precious gifts.

Let this moment begin

The eternal divorce between earth and the heavens.

CURTAIN

ACT V.

The stage represents a thicket through which debris of rocks are visible.

PANDORA: (holding the box)

Eh what! are you leaving me, dear lover that I adore?
Are you beaten or victor?

PROMETHEUS: Victory is mine, if you still love me.

Love and destiny speak in my favor.

PANDORA: Eh what! are you leaving me dear lover that I adore?

PROMETHEUS: The Titans have fallen; pity their terrible fate.

I must ease their imprisonment.

Let's teach the human race

To succor the unfortunate.

PANDORA: Stay for a minute. Look at your victory.

Let's open this charming gift

From the sovereign of the gods.

Let's open it.

PROMETHEUS: What are you doing? Alas, deign to believe me

I fear everything from a rival; and these curious attentions

Are new snares with which the gods will entrap you.

PANDORA: What! you think?

PROMETHEUS: Think at my prayer,

Think of the interest of all of nature,

And at least await my return in these parts.

PANDORA: Well! you wish it! You must be satisfied.

I submit my reason; I only wish to please you.

I swear, I promise by my tender love,

To always believe you.

PROMETHEUS: You promise me?

PANDORA: I swear by you yourself.

One obeys only that which one loves.

PROMETHEUS: Enough of that, I am leaving, and I am reassured.

Wood nymphs, increase your zeal;

Sing of this universe destroyed and reconstructed.

Let all be embellished to her taste,

Since it was all made for her.

(PROMETHEUS leaves.)

A NYMPH: Here's the golden age; here's the time of pleasure

Sweet leisure, pure heaven, happy days,

Tender loves,

Nature is your mother.

How it will last forever.

ANOTHER NYMPH: No longer will discord and miserable war

Come to afflict us;

Happiness is born on earth

Misfortune is a stranger.

Flowers are beginning to appear;

What hand could blast them?

Pleasures rush to be born;

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

What tyrants would make them perish?

CHORUS: (repeating) Here's the golden age, etc.

A NYMPH: You see the eloquent Mercury;

He is with Pandora, he confirms in these parts

On behalf of the master of the gods,

The peace of nature.

(The nymphs withdraw; Pandora comes forward with Nemesis who appears under the shape of Mercury.)

NEMESIS: I already told you. Prometheus is jealous.

He's abusing his power.

PANDORA: He is the author of my birth,

My king, my lover, my spouse.

NEMESIS: He carries to excess the rights he has over you.

Ought he to forbid you forever

From seeing this charming gift that you have from the gods?

PANDORA: He fears everything. His love is tender,

And I love to comply with his wishes.

NEMESIS: He exacts too much, adorable Pandora;

He hasn't done for you all that you deserve.

In creating you, he could have given you beauties

That, perhaps, you still are lacking.

PANDORA: He gave me a tender heart, he charms me, he adores me:

Could he have embellished me better?

NEMESIS: Your charms will perish.

PANDORA: You make me shiver!

NEMESIS: This mysterious box

Immortalizes beauty.

By opening this enchanted treasure,

You will always be beautiful; always happy.

You will reign over your spouse;

He will be submissive and clever.

Beware of a jealous tyrant;

Create a docile subject.

PANDORA: No, he is my lover, he must be forever.

He is my king, my god, provided he is faithful.

It's to love forever that he must be immortal.

It's to charm him better that I want more attractions.

NEMESIS: Ah! it's too much to forbid you;

I am serving your tender loves.

I only want you to learn

How to please, to be longed for forever.

PANDORA: But aren't you abusing my feeble innocence?

Could you have so much cruelty?

NEMESIS: Ah, who could deceive so much beauty?

All take your defense.

PANDORA: Alas, I would die of sorrow

If I deserved his wrath,

If I were able to displease

The master of my heart.

NEMESIS: In the name of the whole of nature

In the name of your spouse, give me your confidence.

PANDORA: That name does it and I believe you.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Let's open. (she opens and night spreads over the stage, and a subterranean noise is heard)
What a thick, terrifying vapor
Steals the day from me and disturbs all my senses?
Deceitful God, implacable minister!
Ah! what frightful evils I am experiencing.
I see I am guilty and punished.

NEMESIS: Let's flee from the earth and its airs.

Jupiter is avenged, let's return to hell.

(Nemesis vanishes into the abyss; Pandora faints on a bed of grass.)

PROMETHEUS: (arriving from the back of the stage.) O shock!

O profound sorrow!
Fatal absence! Horrible changes,
What malevolent stars
Have blasted the face of the world?
I don't see Pandora; she doesn't
Respond to the plaintive accents
Of my voice.
Pandora! why, alas!
From the infernal shore
Unchained monsters fly through
These regions.

FURIES AND DEMONS: (running across the stage)

The times are full;
Here's our sway;
All that breathes
Will submit to us.
Sad coldness
Freezes nature
In the northern climbs.
Trembling fear,
Arrogant insult,
Somber remorse,
Bloody war,
Arbiters of fate,
All the furies,
Go with delight
In these impious regions
To bring death.

PROMETHEUS: What! death has made its passage into these parts !

What! earth has lost its eternal spring
And its wretched inhabitants
Have fallen as shares
To the fury of the gods, to hell, and to time!
These nymphs with their tears water this shore.
Pandora, dear object, my life and my image,
Masterpiece of my hands, idol of my heart,
Answer my sorrow.
I see; she lost the use of her senses.

PANDORA: Ah! I am unworthy of you;

I've ruined the universe; I've betrayed my spouse.
Punish me: our ills are my work.

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE

Strike.

PROMETHEUS: Me, punish you?

PANDORA: Strike, snatch from me

This odious life
That you made happy
That day I first saw you.

CHORUS OF NYMPHS: Tender spouse, dry her tears.

Grant mercy to her beauty.
The excess of her frailty
Doesn't equal her charms.

PROMETHEUS: What! despite my prayer and despite your oaths

You opened this odious box?

PANDORA: A cruel god, with his enchantments

Seduced my weak and overcurious reason.
O fatal credulity!
All evils came out of this detested box.
All evils come from sad Pandora.

LOVE: (descending from heaven)

All the treasures are yours.
Love still remains to you.

(The scene changes and represents the palace of love.)

LOVE: (continuing) For you I will battle rigorous destiny.

To humans I've given Being.
They will not be unhappy
If they have only me for Master.

PANDORA: Charming comforter, god worthy of my wishes,

You who live in me, you, the soul of my soul,
Punish Jupiter by increasing the flame
With which you inflame the two of us.

PROMETHEUS AND PANDORA: Vainly heaven musters on us

Evils, fear and horror of death.
We will endure together
And that is not suffering.

LOVE: Descend, sweet Hope,

Come, flattering desires
Dwell in all hearts
You will be their delight.
You are deceitful,
It's you they implore;
Through you they are joyful
At the moment which passes and flees
From the moment that is not yet.

PANDORA: By destiny's formidable chains

We are enmeshed with eternal misfortunes:
But Hope, forever helpful
With her hands will come to dry our tears.
In our ills will be our delights.
We will have charming errors,
We will be on the edge of precipices,
But love will cover them with flowers.

CURTAIN

PANDORA By VOLTAIRE