

Toils of Tedium by Dylan Germann

Cast of Characters:

Decadus

Fithos

Iodeces

Lusec

At curtain: In the castle abbey the funeral for the past king is being held. A large crowd of his followers line the pews and balconies. His two sons and closest advisors and friends stand overlooking the body.

Iodeces: Today is such an odious day. We gather here today to mourn the death of our beloved king. He was a most benevolent ruler and kind man. Although this occasion brings such sorrow to our hearts we can rest at ease knowing our king is the land of the gods and our kingdom is in good hands.

(Iodeces gestures towards Fithos and Lusec to come forward)

Lusec: (now standing next to Iodeces. Clears his throat) It is a day filled with sorrow, I cannot put into words how I feel but I am confident in saying that he would not want us obsessing over him. We must move onward and live our lives, if not for us but for him.

(Lusec steps backwards welcoming Fithos)

Fithos: To all here today, I would like to first say that I am deeply sorry for the loss of your king. My fathers death is a tragedy indeed, he was known for being a most generous and benevolent king. Once again you all have my condolences.

(Fithos steps back into line with Lusec and the other advisors)

Iodeces: And with the closing ceremonies, may the gods be as kind to our late king as he was to us. May he rest in peace.

BLACK OUT

(Iodeces, Decadus, Lusec and Fithos enter the the room, an antechamber of sorts)

Fithos: Ahhh...such a dreadful service...

Iodeces: You aren't blameless in that matter, anybody could see through your facade of sadness.

Fithos: (Moves towards him) Is that so?

Iodeces: (Steps closer) Blatantly so

Decadus: Enough of this. We have urgent matters to discuss. We don't have time to bicker amongst ourselves.

Iodeces: Ahh yes, the matter of who will be king.

(the room goes silent...a beat)

Lusec: We should change the topic of discussion.

Iodeces: Agreed

Decadus: Well then, I feel that the death of our king is rather convenient for our enemies and some of us here as well.

Lusec: Would you be implying that one of us killed him?

Fithos: It's not an outrageous thought; in fact, it's quite plausible.

Lusec: And why would you say that?

Fithos: Both you (points towards Lusec) and I are in line to inherit the throne after our father's death. Decadus wanted a new king desperately, even to the point of becoming king himself. Lastly Iodeces has been known to have been quite hostile towards the king in the past months.

Iodeces: And, what of these accusations?

Fithos: I am saying we are all equally guilty as of right now. We all very well could have killed him, because his death benefits all of us.

Lusec: What if none of us killed him?

Fithos: We would be fine and life could go on.

Decadus: We must decide who it is at once.

Lusec: I assure it was not me or my brother, as much as my brother hated our father he would never kill him.

Decadus: We all know of your desires to be king, your lust for power.

Lusec: So you would say that I killed my own father?

Decadus: I think you did! You may call yourself a knight but you are no more than a savage! I've seen you on the battlefield.

Lusec:(reaches for sword) Would you want to duel here and now to prove that point. Are those words worth your life?

Decadus: (reaches for sword) With a temper like that I've no doubt you killed the king.

Iodeces: Calm down the both of you! We can't make any rash decisions as of yet. But we need to discuss which one of you will be king.

Lusec: The answer is obvious-- is it not.

Fithos: I would agree with Lusec, the answer is very obvious.

Iodeces: Well then which one of you is going to be king?

Fithos: I would think this is strictly a family matter as of now.

Lusec: (As Lusec and Fithos move to exit) Yes, let us discuss this on our own. (They exit)

Iodeces: We are doomed.

Decadus: I assure you only one will come out of that room, let's hope that it's the right one.

Iodeces: May the gods have mercy on us

BLACKOUT

(Fithos and Lusec enter the royal chambers)

Fithos: this is a terrible predicament we are in. (Rifles through a cabinet looking at different wines)
ooo I didn't know we had this one! (He pulls out 2 wine bottles and then sets them on the table)

Lusec: So what's your stance on who should be king.

Fithos: (pouring wine into cups) I believe that I would be a good king.

Lusec: A commoner would make a poor king

Fithos: As would a tyrant

Lusec: My views are no more tyrannical than those of our enemy.

Fithos: Think what you want but even father knew you weren't fit to be king

Lusec: And what of it? He's dead.

Fithos: (sips wine) I thought you were smarter than this.

Lusec: Harsh as always.

Fithos: Listen one of us has to be king. From the perspective of nearly everyone I am the better choice of the two of us. I have the wits and the common sense to know what to do. So if we go about this lawfully I would win. But there's a problem as always, I don't want to be king, not in the slightest. You can have it. I want to live a lavish, carefree life, one where my only worries are if my favourite girl is in at the brothel at the moment. So what I'm saying here is (takes a large sip of wine from his glass) you can be king I don't care. Going with my better judgement I choose not to do the right thing.

Lusec: (chuckles) Really? (Fithos nods)

Lusec: I didn't even have to kill you. (Pours wine into his glass). This went easier than expected.

Fithos: A brotherly drink in our father's memory? (raises the glass upwards)

Lusec: Yes, a drink for our father! (raises glass upwards as well)

Fithos: To our father whose death is a requiem to greed and malevolence! May he burn in hell!

Lusec: I must tell you a secret-

(Lusec begins stuttering and convulsing rapidly, then he falls to the floor and dies)

Fithos:(in shock) that bastard tried to poison me! (He violently throws the wine glass at the wall)

That idiot. I have to be king now...(kneels down next to Lusec) I hope father is in a rather forgiving mood.