

# Atlantropia

A rock-opera written by Guillaume DELAGE

## Act 1

### Scene 1 (Philae): Welcome to Ostania

#### VERSE

Well-tailored three-piece suits,  
Ripped jeans and t-shirts with holes,  
Tidy diversity.  
Private social dinners,  
Contrasting with the food distributions.  
Flying taxis in the streets  
Passing between the giant screens,  
Above the crowds of passers-by.  
Do you understand where we are?  
This man-made country  
Would you be better off anywhere else?

#### CHORUS

Welcome to Ostania!  
Life has become a factory.  
Is there anything more beautiful than Ostania?  
For the best of routines!  
Life has become a factory.  
Is there anything more beautiful than Ostania?  
For the best of routines!

#### VERSE

Sophisticated mega-buildings,  
Dilapidated old districts,  
Forming an unbalanced city.  
Self-lit parks  
For evening strolls  
Nature is not left out.  
The President's central tower,  
Overlooking this modern city,  
And the dull or bright neighborhoods.  
Do you understand where we are?  
This man-made country  
Would you be better off anywhere else than here?

#### VERSE

Welcome to Ostania!  
Life has become a factory.  
Is there anything more beautiful than Ostania?  
For the best of routines!

Life has become a factory.  
Is there anything more beautiful than Ostania?  
For the best of routines!

## **Scene 2 (Hybris): Speech by the President**

HYBRIS

Dear Ostanians, dear Ostanians...  
We have been prospering for almost 200 years,  
On these lands that WE created,  
But we will not stay much longer,  
For this is the news I have been given.  
The dam that created our country,  
Seems doomed to collapse soon,  
But I will not let a second go by  
To take action and show you my strategy.  
Since we must find new lands,  
And our neighbors are closed due to poverty,  
I have decided to build an artificial island,  
More elaborate than our original home.

CHORUS

That makes the news less difficult,  
But what is this island called?

HYBRIS

Let me introduce you to...  
Oooh... Atlanthropia!  
No more bad weather problems,  
We will even control the wind!  
Atlanthropia!  
No more work-sleep routine,  
Let our robots do the work!  
Atlanthropia!  
Unlimited food,  
Thanks to our sophisticated mega-greenhouses!  
Atlanthropia!  
Oooh... Atlanthropia!

## **Scene 3 (Charlie): Citizens Reassured**

Hybris has done well on this one.  
Almost everyone is reassured.  
They say to themselves that, after all,  
this president might not be so bad.  
Those who dream of a family life  
will still be able to raise their kids,  
And those who don't have too many friends  
will at least be able to get on with their lives.

## **Scene 4 (Philae & Flora): Naive Star**

PHILAE

After so many years of going hungry  
And being left behind.  
A glimmer of hope now lights up

Even the most modest homes.

FLORA

I think your fooling yourself.  
Do you honestly think so?  
After so many years of cultivating fear,  
Hybris has his hands covered in blood.

PHILAE

I never thought I'd see you again...

FLORA

I must say that I've done nothing to help you.

PHILAE

When you were my only friend,  
Why did you leave?

FLORA

I was afraid of your success,  
That it would take you away from who you are,  
Not to mention how I felt.

PHILAE

What are you trying to say?

FLORA

I was so afraid to love you,  
That your heart would be closed to me.  
And so much fame and money  
Rarely do any good.

PHILAE

I'm not the only one who's fooled myself.  
If only you had stayed...  
You'd see that in all this time,  
nothing has been different.

FLORA

I have a bad feeling about this,  
And if what I think turns out to be true,  
It's not the end of our torment!

PHILAE

That's why you reappear,  
To inflict all your ideas on me,  
Like when we were in high school!

FLORA

When our rights are taken away  
When their fortunes are sublimated,  
Can we really trust their ideas?

PHILAE

It's true that you're right,  
Even if I was innocent  
We must rebuild trust

FLORA and PHILAE

We must remain united  
So that we do not despair  
And above all, help each other  
In order to save Ostanía  
I'm no longer afraid to love you  
I only see you by my side  
To fight against these people  
Who are far too evil  
I'm no longer afraid...

### **Scene 5 (Charlie): Charlie's narration**

Flora wasn't wrong this time,  
Hybris did indeed announce it.  
The ticket will be paid for  
And the amount... very substantial!  
Just think, people are so desperate  
that they start stealing, robbing...

### **Scene 6 (Charlie): Burlesque**

VERSE

I don't have a particular goal in life,  
My routine and the customers' nonsense are enough for me.  
What do you want me to tell you?  
Anyway, whatever happens, I smile and I laugh!  
For you, it might be weird, but this is where I love to live.  
I don't care about going to that island because this is where I like to laugh.  
I could never set foot there,  
And I don't see why it should bother me!  
In the evening, I watch the news,  
And I imagine an audience.  
To a funky disco tune,  
I tell them our stories.  
I don't want to be an idol,  
Rich in money and fame,  
I might look like a fool,  
But at least I don't make a fuss!

CHORUS

I don't care about anything!  
I don't need much  
You're always complaining  
Yet you're the ones voting  
If they don't want you  
On this island, why go there?  
All this doesn't add up

They won't let you on board.  
So why do this?  
Fight, why?  
Do like me instead!  
Oh, oh, oooh!

#### VERSE

There aren't any rich customers who come here,  
I mostly sell beer and bad whiskey.  
This is my corner of paradise!  
No need to go any further, this is my utopia!  
Why should I be afraid of what's coming?  
Worrying won't save you from drifting anymore.  
You should have thought of that before!  
I love watching you, you're entertaining!  
Why waste your life?  
Fighting over a piece of land.  
If we can't cure it,  
That means we should have prevented it!  
I am the narrator of the world  
Cheerfully waiting for it to flood  
I wouldn't be a fool,  
But casual and hopeless.

#### CHORUS

I don't care about anything!  
I don't need much  
You're always complaining  
Yet you're the ones voting  
They don't want us.  
Too bad, I've already decided  
All this doesn't make sense  
I'm freeing myself from their plans.  
So why do this?  
Fight, why?  
Do like me instead!  
Oh, oh, oooh

### **Scene 7 (Flora): Flora's Call**

If you're watching this video, it's because you're awake.  
Faced with Hybris and his words.  
It's time to act!  
If we don't pay to live,  
Under the pretext that this island delivers us,  
He condemns us all to drowning.  
Hybris speaks, Hybris manipulates,  
he wants to divide us, make us doubt!  
We must put an end to this charade!

#### VERSE

If you watch this video  
You will be, I'm sure  
Aware of the chaos

Weighing on our future.  
But nothing is lost yet  
If we come together  
Faced with these stubborn beings  
Who don't care about our names

#### PRE-CHORUS

We are not strangers  
But citizens of this state!  
We will march in the streets  
To demand our rights!  
So free your voices  
It's high time he hears us  
Let's not accept this dictate  
Because our lives depend on it!

#### CHORUS

So give back  
This island free  
To the inhabitants of Ostania  
Let them  
Live their lives  
Don't be so selfish

#### VERSE

They say that violence and weapons  
Won't save human existence  
But it's then, before our tears  
that they abandon their misdeeds  
Let us not be overwhelmed  
By rancor and hatred  
Pacifism is the key  
To save the human race.

#### PRE-CHORUS

We are not strangers  
But citizens of this state!  
We will march in the streets  
To demand our rights!  
So free your voices  
It's high time we get heard  
Let's not accept this dictate  
Because our lives depend on it!

#### CHORUS

Give back  
This island free  
To the inhabitants of Ostania  
Let them  
Live their lives  
Don't be so selfish

#### BRIDGE

Let's gather for Ostania  
And let's fight for this country!  
Oooh!

Let's unite for Ostania  
And let's fight for this country!  
Oooh!  
And let's fight!

CHORUS  
Give back  
This island free  
To the inhabitants of Ostania  
Let them  
Live their lives  
Don't be so selfish

### **Scene 8 (Hybris): Speech 2 by the President**

HYBRIS  
Dear Ostanians, dear Ostanians.  
Since some smart alecks are rebelling,  
I must act to quell these quarrels.  
I do not intend to let these people, threatening our survival, go unpunished.  
So this is what this has led us to.  
All protest is therefore forbidden!  
And if you notice any mutiny,  
You must, of course, tell me as soon as possible.  
I will offer places to the most loyal of you,  
To reward your loyalty.  
This will allow those of you who are at the bottom of the hole  
To access to this island without negotiation.

### **Scene 9 (Charlie): Citizen under pressure**

This time, people are tense.  
Not many people can trust each other anymore.  
He also wonders,  
Wouldn't it be easier to snitch?  
Because of this stormy weather,  
They're no longer getting along.  
And since people aren't talking to each other anymore,  
Calm has returned to the streets.

### **Scene 10 (Philae): Star-Despair**

VERSE  
Children of Ostania,  
Parents from another country,  
Having fled the waters covering their island.  
It seems like it runs in the family.  
When you have no friends  
To keep yourself busy, you think  
You look for a field you love  
And your place in the system.

I wanted to feel beautiful  
To stop looking so frail  
To be loved for who I truly am  
And for pride to erase my tears, but....

#### CHORUS

I who was like you,  
You to whom I owe everything.  
Should I go away,  
And let you down?  
I who was like you,  
You to whom I owe everything.  
Should I go away,  
And erase my past?

#### VERSE 2

I dreamed of this life so much  
Wanting to be a sign of hope  
I wanted it at all costs  
And all I did was disappoint you  
Is being a star so good?  
If you're no longer here, I'd be nothing.  
Nothing anymore...

#### CHORUS

I who was like you,  
You to whom I owe everything.  
Should I go away,  
And let you down?  
I who was like you,  
You to whom I owe everything.  
Should I go away,  
And erase my past?

#### BRIDGE

If you're no longer here,  
I'll be nothing... Nothing...  
I tried  
To convince them of our cause,  
But their hatred fuels my psychosis.  
I'm scared...

#### CHORUS

I who was like you,  
You to whom I owe everything.  
Should I go away,  
And let you down?  
I who was like you,  
You to whom I owe everything.  
Should I go away,  
And erase my past?