

BY THE GODS
Animated Pilot

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EXT. SPACE

The dark, peaceful expanse, quickly interrupted by a flaming alien mothership hurtling through frame.

INT. MOTHERSHIP ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS

Establishing shot. Complete mayhem. Panicked humanoid aliens run aimlessly around, screaming.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

An alien rushes by a closet door. Activated by the motion, the door slides open, revealing DIONYSUS lying in the wreckage of a collapsed shelf he drunkenly ran into earlier.

He's slightly scrawny and still drunk. The flashing emergency lights rouse him from his sleep.

DIONYSUS

...What the fuck?

He rolls out into the hallway, taking in the hectic scene. A soothing robotic VOICE calls out throughout the ship.

VOICE

Warning. Warning. The ship is about to explode. Please proceed to the nearest escape pod or you will be unceremoniously incinerated.

Worry flashes across Dionysus' face. He takes off against the stream of bodies, pushing his way through the crowd.

Rounding a corner, he bumps into his friend ZEUS, a bit larger and a bit dumber, who grabs him by the shoulders.

ZEUS

Are you crazy? The escape pods are *this* way! Whatever it is, it can't be that important!

DIONYSUS

She's the most important thing in my life, man! I can't leave her!

Dionysus wriggles out of the grip and keeps running.

INT. DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The door slides open. He looms heroically in the doorframe.

A single bottle of alien wine sits on one of the tables.

DIONYSUS

If I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die
with you inside of me.

He rushes over, grabs the bottle, sprints out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Slo-mo. Dionysus is going full tilt through the now empty hallway as it explodes behind him, sparks showering his path.

He raises the wine bottle to his lips and starts chugging. Another soothing announcement runs throughout.

VOICE

Please proceed to the nearest
escape pod or your existence will
be extinguished in a fiery ball of
dazzling anguish.

INT. ESCAPE POD BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Dionysus leaps into an escape pod packed with aliens and lands next to Zeus just as the doors are closing.

ZEUS

Dionysus! What could you have
possibly gone back for?

Dionysus holds up the bottle with a drunken smile.

DIONYSUS

My sweet lady love, Zeus. My
sweet... lady...

VOICE

(interrupting)

Ejecting escape pods to save
occupants from having their
fleeting yet passionate souls
snuffed out in one searing and
everlasting instant... Alright,
then.

The escape pod gets sucked out through the floor.

EXT. SPACE - MOMENTS LATER

Escape pods jettison from the exploding mothership.

PAN DOWN to show the pods headed for Earth.

MAIN TITLE: BY THE GODS

EXT. MT. OLYMPUS - MOMENTS LATER

The flat peak of Mt. Olympus. A solid ring of gray clouds surrounds it, blocking the view of Earth below.

An escape pod hurtles into frame and crashes into the rock surface. The busted door hisses open, then falls off as Dionysus and Zeus step out, followed by a small crowd of aliens. Everyone looks around for a beat.

ZEUS

Well, this place sucks.

ATHENA steps forward, immediately taking command.

ATHENA

Let's take a minute to get our bearings. We don't know what this planet is like.

ZEUS

It's a pile of gassy shit, Athena.

Athena inspects the wrecked pod.

ATHENA

Well, it looks like we're stranded for the time being...

(then)

And it may seem like a simple gaseous planet, but we don't know for sure. We should assemble a scouting party.

APOLLO steps forward with a heroic smile.

APOLLO

An uncharted planet? Danger? Most likely near? Good thing I'm here. I'll volunteer.

The alien crowd claps.

CROWD MEMBERS

(over each other)

"Apollo!" "He'll save us!"
 "Apollo's so strong and smart!" "He came to my birthday party when I was ten!"

Dionysus and Zeus are having none of it.

DIONYSUS
(mumbling)
Dude, Apollo was on our escape pod?

ZEUS
(mumbling)
Stupid tall-ass, strong-ass, more
of a man than me-ass Apollo...

DIONYSUS
(mumbling)
Probably doesn't even realize he's
rhyming...

ATHENA
OK, Apollo will take point. Artemis
and Hermes, you'll run recon. And
Ares will provide martial support.

The named aliens step forward and form up. ARTEMIS is a brooding survivalist. HERMES is dressed lightly, built for speed. ARES is hulking, wearing a Spartan-esque helmet.

APOLLO
Wait, who's going to carry the
gear? It certainly won't be these
buttery shoulders.

ATHENA
How about...

She scans the crowd. Her eyes land on Zeus.

ATHENA (CONT'D)
Zeus.

ZEUS
Fuck you! I'm not even strong!

ATHENA
We'll travel light. I don't want to
compromise our speed in this thick
cloud layer.

ZEUS
Well, I'm not going anywhere
without Dionysus.

DIONYSUS
What?

ATHENA

(sighs)

Fine. He can come too. Let's go.

DIONYSUS

Or just pick someone else!

The team leaves as Zeus start picking up their gear.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You always drag me into the biggest bullshit.

ZEUS

There's no way I was getting stuck with those pompous butt bags alone. I would've spent the whole time wishing it would turn into a suicide mission.

He throws a pack to Dionysus and the two run off.

EXT. PEAK EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Dionysus and Zeus catch up to the team, now gathered at the thick cloud layer on the edge of the mountain peak.

APOLLO

Alright, brave members of Operation Thick Cloud Layer, this is it. We don't know what we'll face on the other side of our operation's namesake, but we do know that we'll face it together. As a team. Led by me. You guys are here too, but it's mostly me... OK, weapons ready.

The group pulls out various weaponry.

DIONYSUS

Weapons?

ZEUS

No one said anything about weapons. I'm only a threat in kicking range.

The team dives into the cloud layer. Dionysus and Zeus reluctantly lug their gear through after them.

EXT. VIEW OF EARTH - CONTINUOUS

The clouds majestically part to reveal the gorgeous, idyllic view from the top of the mountain. Sprawling fields, lush forests, rays of light illuminating the landscape, etc.

Turns out Earth's a paradise.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - CONTINUOUS

The aliens take in the view. Apollo's visibly disappointed.

APOLLO

Oh...it's a paradise...

ATHENA

Let's not jump to conclusions, Apollo. Artemis and Hermes, go on ahead. We'll wait for your report.

HERMES

(to Artemis)

Race you down there!

ARTEMIS

What is it with higher beings and their petty competitions? The natural world only has one: the competition for survival.

(clenches fist)

The one that lasts until our final breaths.

HERMES

Um, OK... go!

He races off. Artemis sulks after him.

Dionysus and Zeus stand next to Ares, who's holding an enormous alien gun. After a beat, Dionysus glances at it.

DIONYSUS

So... the Z76 Thunder Blaster huh? Heard those babies really purr.

Ares raises the gun and fires it. A beam of electricity screams out of the barrel and hits a clump of trees, instantly scorching it to a pile of dust.

Ares looks back to Dionysus, silent.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Cool... Cool...

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - LATER

Hermes and Artemis weave through the mountainside woods.

HERMES

The race isn't fun if you're not even going to try.

ARTEMIS

I'd rather conserve my energy for when it's needed. The wilderness robs us of the luxury of running just for the thrill of running. We must stay vigilant.

HERMES

Wow, you're really hard to talk to.

Artemis stops and holds up a hand for Hermes to do the same.

ARTEMIS

Look. Through those clusters of thin green shapes.

They peel back some bushes to reveal a simple wooden hut near the edge of the forest at the bottom of the mountain.

HERMES

Whoa! Intelligent life! I mean, not super intelligent - that thing's a cute little piece of shit - but still. It tried.

ARTEMIS

Report back to Athena.
(eyes narrowed)
I'll stake out the hut.

HERMES

Because I'm faster, right? You can just say it's because I'm faster.

ARTEMIS

(eyes still narrowed)
It's not because you're faster.

HERMES

Just try to *conserve* your jealousy.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - LATER

Athena's sitting bored as Ares stands motionless and Apollo practices aiming his gun. Zeus is pointing to random things.

ZEUS

What do you think that is?

DIONYSUS

I don't know.

ZEUS

What do you think that is?

DIONYSUS

I don't know.

Hermes speeds up to the group.

HERMES

Guys, you're not gonna believe this. We found a pathetic wooden hut down the mountain!

APOLLO

Now we're talkin'. I hope whatever made it is dangerous.

DIONYSUS

It has a pathetic wooden hut, how dangerous could it be?

ATHENA

So, this planet does have intelligent life. We'll have to proceed carefully.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

The aliens cautiously pick their way down the mountainside. Athena and Apollo have their weapons drawn and are scanning every bit of flora and fauna on their way down.

ATHENA, APOLLO

(over each other)

..."Scanning!" "What's that?"
 "Scanning!" "Hold on... clear."
 "Whoa... Whoa!" "Scanning!"...

Apollo scans a curious squirrel.

APOLLO

This thing has eyes!

He blasts the squirrel, splattering it over a rock face.

ATHENA

Hey! Don't explode the locals until we know what's a threat!

APOLLO

(to himself)

The first kill of Operation Thick Cloud Layer, recorded by famed hero Apollo. They'll sing about today.

Dionysus and Zeus look on in disgust.

ZEUS

(mumbling)

When did we vote on Operation Thick Cloud Layer?

DIONYSUS

(mumbling)

Should be Operation Apollo is a Thick Cloud *Loser*.

(off Zeus' look)

Whatever, we'll nail down the insult later...

Hermes beckons the group into the bushes.

HERMES

Come on, it's over here.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

The aliens join Artemis behind the bushes. She's now covered in a camouflage of mud and twigs.

ARTEMIS

I've swept the perimeter. No signs of life outside the structure.

APOLLO

Time to move in. Weapons frosty.

He cocks his blaster.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - AFTERNOON

We follow CASSANDRA, a human woman, as she makes her way back home through her village, carrying a basket of apples. We catch bits of conversation between other humans in the background as she passes:

A BAKER holding baskets of bread:

BAKER

Fresh warm wheat here! I'm calling
it bread! Who wants a slice? I'm
serving it in slices!

A VENDOR holding handfuls of berries.

VENDOR

We just figured out we can eat
these round things and they're
really tasty! How lucky is that?

Another HUMAN walks up and pops a berry in their mouth as
Cassandra passes.

HUMAN

(trailing off)
Raspberries, that's good! Oh! You
should call them--

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Cassandra walks on into the village square. A group of
singing CHILDREN almost seems to greet her as she enters.

CHILDREN

Roses and daffodils! Green grass
and sunshine! I like to spin around
and hang out with my friends! See
the rainbows and feel the
butterflies!

A person confidently struts past the group.

HUMAN #2

Man, life is perfect!

Another person stops them.

HUMAN #3

You got *that* right! But do you ever
wonder why we're here or what
created us?

HUMAN #2

...Of course not!

HUMAN #3

Me neither!

They share a hearty laugh as Cassandra scurries past.

INT. HUT - LATER

The aliens are rifling through the primitive belongings of the hut. Hermes is grabbing wooden trinkets off small wooden shelves and inspecting them.

HERMES

Is this what they do for fun? These things clearly don't have a lot going on upstairs.

Athena swats the trinkets out of Hermes' hands.

ATHENA

Be careful, Hermes. Those could be dangerous.

HERMES

Pretty sure we're dealing with beings that only *just* learned to carve stuff into smaller stuff.

He flicks one of the trinkets at Athena with a smirk.

Apollo's absentmindedly cleaning his blaster.

APOLLO

Maybe that's what they want us to think. This boring old shit shack might be lined with hidden weaponry.

(checks his gun's sights)

I say Operation Thick Cloud Layer tracks down whoever built this thing and we get to blasting.

ATHENA

We're already at risk of retaliation from the species you slaughtered earlier. I say we stay here until we know what we're dealing with. Dionysus and Zeus, what do you think?

Dionysus and Zeus are taking turns slapping each other with wooden spoons. They freeze and look to the group.

DIONYSUS

Uh... I'll be honest with you guys, I've got a wicked hangover that's just catching up to me, so we're gonna do, uh... another perimeter sweep to see if there's anything we can hyper-ferment.

ZEUS

Yeah, so you guys just keep on, you know, investigating the interior.

Awkward beat as the other aliens watch them leave.

APOLLO

Are they, like, hooking up or something?

EXT. HUT - MOMENTS LATER

Dionysus and Zeus are poking around the outside of the hut, examining everything in sight.

DIONYSUS

(smelling a leaf)
Can't smoke that.
(squeezes a stick)
Rich in fiber. Not helpful.
(knocks on a rock)
Not even hollow enough for a pipe... This place sucks.

ZEUS

How are you doing this?

A twig snaps behind them, and the two spin around, wide-eyed.

Cassandra stands terrified and motionless on a dirt trail leading to the hut. She drops her basket of apples.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

We... come in peace...

Cassandra bolts back down the trail.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Well *that* thing's definitely not intelligent...

DIONYSUS

Hey! Check it out.

Dionysus rushes over to the dropped apples.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

It brought spheres that are *bursting* with fructose. We could drink the *shit* outta these.

Zeus rushes over, holding a wild alien contraption.

ZEUS

Let's fermentize these bad boys.

INT. HUT - AFTERNOON

The other aliens are gathered around Cassandra's crude cot.

APOLLO

What is this thing?

Hermes presses into it.

HERMES

Well, it's definitely not a bed.

He gets on it and jumps up and down a bit.

HERMES (CONT'D)

I mean, who would sleep on this thing? It's somehow both too lumpy and, like, not lumpy enough.

They all nod in agreement.

ATHENA

But it's in the middle of the room, so it must be important.

ARTEMIS

It's clearly a sexual torture device.

(narrowed eyes)

Those are all too common in the wilderness.

Athena picks up a strand of hair from the pillow.

ATHENA

Look. This must be one of the organism's hairs. It's very dry.

APOLLO

Stand back! I've got this!

He aims his blaster at it. Ares draws his cannon and points it as well.

ATHENA

Weapons down! We can scan it and see what it belongs to.

They reluctantly put their blasters away as Athena takes out her scanner and shines it over the hair.

Dionysus and Zeus walk into the hut, both sipping cider cocktails with extravagant garnishes and curly straws.

DIONYSUS

Guys, you're not gonna believe what we just saw--

He's cut off by a projection that pops out of Athena's scanner, showing the image of a human. The scanner speaks with an AI VOICE.

AI VOICE

Homo sapiens. Colloquially known as "humans." Recently evolved from a species that flings its own feces. And even then, not by much.

The projection shows a short clip of two monkeys throwing their feces at each other.

AI VOICE (CONT'D)

Highly susceptible to the influence of more intelligent beings.

The projection shows a humanoid alien zookeeper coming into frame and scolding the monkeys, who drop their feces, dejected.

AI VOICE (CONT'D)

They are social creatures, short-sighted, lazy, and have no natural defenses. Their existence in the universe continues to baffle scientists.

The projection shows a group of humans walking through a field and rough housing with each other. Happy idiots.

AI VOICE (CONT'D)

Suggested uses: entertainment and resource collection.

HERMES

Maybe we could use them to fix our escape pod! We need raw materials to make the replacement parts.

AI VOICE

Suggested means of control: God Protocol. Do not engage before God Protocol. Repeat: *do not engage before God Protocol.*

Dionysus and Zeus exchange a worried glance.

ATHENA

Alright, all in favor of using God Protocol to get the humans to fix our ship?

The aliens all raise their hands.

APOLLO

I've always wanted to do a God Protocol! Operation Thick Cloud Layer just got interesting!

Athena turns to Dionysus and Zeus.

ATHENA

What were you going to say, Dionysus?

ZEUS

We actually just ran into--

Dionysus thrusts his drink in front of Zeus to cut him off.

DIONYSUS

Booze! We ran into booze spheres.

ATHENA

Oh... typical.

ARTEMIS

This planet has naturally-occurring alcoholic spheres? Nature is truly a coy mistress...

APOLLO

Guys, God Protocol awaits! Let's get back up the mountain and figure out what gods we'll be!

He starts leading the group out of the hut.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(trailing off)

I wanna be the god of the sun, and light, and music, maybe prophecy, that'd be cool. Oh! And knowledge - I know stuff - and...

EXT. PATH - CONTINUOUS

Cassandra is almost hysterical as she runs back down the trail to the human village.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - MOMENTS LATER

She rushes into the middle of the village square, getting the attention of the other HUMANS milling about.

CASSANDRA

Talking creatures! I just saw talking creatures! Out in the woods!

HUMAN #4

Calm down, Cassandra. Us humans are the only things that can talk. We thought that one bird could for a second, but nope.

CASSANDRA

They stood on two legs and spoke, but they were not human, I swear!

HUMAN #5

Well, that can't be right.

CASSANDRA

What? Why not?

HUMAN #5

(cheerfully)

I don't know! It just sounds wrong!

HUMAN #6

Did you eat any of that funky fungus Atticus is always harvesting?

ATTICUS (O.C.)

The sun's *talking* to me right now!

HUMAN #6

OK, Atticus!

CASSANDRA

No! I didn't eat any fungus! You have to believe me! There are... things out there!

HUMAN #7

I do believe in one thing... how great of a day it is right now!

HUMAN #4

It is a great day, isn't it?

CASSANDRA

Argh! You guys! We don't know what all's out there! We barely leave the village! Do you really not think it's possible that there's other things on - whatever we're calling all of *this* - that can talk?

The group looks quizzically at each other for a beat.

HUMAN #5

...Of course not!

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - EVENING

We rejoin the aliens as they're trekking back up the mountain. Dionysus and Zeus are drunk, sipping fresh drinks.

APOLLO

...and poetry and justice, and--

DIONYSUS

We get it! You're the god of all the cool stuff.

APOLLO

Fine, what about the rest of you?

ARTEMIS

Wild animals. Moons. *The hunt*.

APOLLO

(under his breath)
And never getting laid...

(then)

Very moody choices, Artemis.
Athena? What about you?

ATHENA

I don't care.

APOLLO

Well, even though I'm the uncontested leader of Operation Thick Cloud Layer, I'll admit that you helped me organize the team... I dub thee goddess of wisdom and strategy!

ATHENA

How flattering.

The aliens reach the cloud layer. Hermes holds up a hand to stop the group.

HERMES

Hold on... something doesn't feel right.

He cautiously climbs into the cloud layer.

HERMES (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Agh! Holy shit! Something's got me!

ATHENA

Hermes!

HERMES (O.C.)

Fine! Fine! I'll tell them! Just let me go!

He pokes his head back out.

HERMES (CONT'D)

The clouds told me to tell you that Apollo's a pretentious ass.

Dionysus and Zeus guffaw.

APOLLO

Very funny. Just for that, I'm making you the god of insubordinate pranksters.

HERMES

(smirking)

Oh no, my reputation will be ruined...

Dionysus and Zeus stay behind as the other aliens climb through the cloud layer.

ZEUS

Should we tell them that one of those poop monkeys saw us?

Dionysus sloshes more cider into Zeus' glass.

DIONYSUS

What's done is done, buddy. Have another drink. We'll figure it out... probably. Who knows.

The two of them enter the cloud layer.

EXT. MT. OLYMPUS - CONTINUOUS

The other aliens run over to meet the members of Operation Thick Cloud Layer as they emerge back on the mountaintop.

ATHENA

We found intelligent life. Based on the data, the recommended course of action is God Protocol. This could be the key to rebuilding our pod.

APOLLO

And I killed a small, furry creature!

The crowd cheers.

CROWD MEMBERS

(over each other)

"We're saved!" "Apollo's the best!"
"We love you Apollo!" "Seriously, you made that birthday party!"

While Apollo struts around basking in his undeserved glory, Athena walks over and enters the escape pod, followed by the rest of Operation Thick Cloud Layer.

INT. COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

The group files in.

ATHENA

Pull up the manual for God Protocol.

Hermes hops in a chair, hits a few buttons, and a database appears on one of the cockpit's screens. He starts scanning through digital files.

HERMES

Alien Invasion Protocol... Anal Probe Protocol...

Dionysus elbows Zeus in the ribs

DIONYSUS

Your favorite.

HERMES

UFO Protocol... 5G Protocol...
Release a Legion of Fake Bird Spies That Tell Us All Their Weaknesses Protocol... OK, here we go:

The words "God Protocol" pop up on screen. The aliens analyze the plan as Apollo swaggers into the cockpit.

APOLLO
Ah, you've found it!

ATHENA
(reading the screen)
"Recommended one main deity with 5
to 7 core supporting figures."

APOLLO
Dibs on top god! Dibs!

ZEUS
Should we vote, or...?

ATHENA
"Disguises to match the subjects is
encouraged to substantiate creation
myth." Do we have disguises?

ARTEMIS
I can capture and skin seven humans
for us.

APOLLO
I can help!

HERMES
...I'll check storage. Escape pods
usually carry supplies for each
protocol. We probably have a couple
plastic masks or something.

ATHENA
"Establish goodwill by granting
subjects tools to aid them, then
convince them to use the tools to
help you instead, the idiots." This
sounds pretty devious and reads a
bit rude.

HERMES
I like it.

ATHENA
Alright, looks like phase one
starts with setting up the
introduction vessel. Zeus and
Dionysus, that sounds like a good
use of your skills.

ZEUS

Oh come on! We barely got all the gear back up the mountain!

DIONYSUS

(still drunk)

You got it, boss lady! Do we present ourselves on something sick like a storm cloud or a huge flaming fucking staircase?

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

The empty human village square in the middle of the night. A large, flimsy box has been erected in the center.

INT. BOX - CONTINUOUS

The aliens are crammed together in the box, all wearing basic, unconvincing human disguises. Strap-on beards, bad wigs, cheap robes, etc. Dionysus is still drunk.

DIONYSUS

Guys, even though it's just a box, this is gonna be, like, so great! My cousin Tront has done God Protocol like a million times and he says it's always a big hit.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. UNVEILING #1 - MORNING

A similar box to the one the aliens are in falls open in the town square of a primitive alien bug race. TRONT and his crew of aliens are dressed in crude bug costumes. Tront is very drunk and very into it. No one else shares his excitement.

TRONT

(drunk)

What's up? We're your gods!

He throws his hands in the air and starts swaying back and forth. There's a smattering of unenthusiastic clapping from the crowd of BUG ALIENS in the audience.

BUG ALIEN

(to its friend)

Let's eat them.

EXT. UNVEILING #2 - MORNING

Another box falls open, revealing Tront and his crew covered in jelly as a race of goo aliens watches.

TRONT
(drunk)
What up, my fellow goos? We're the
goo overlords! Yeah!

The GOO ALIENS are even less impressed than the bug aliens were. Tront doesn't care. He still has his hands in the air, swaying around. His crew looks more beleaguered than before.

GOO ALIEN
(to its friend)
Let's goo them.

EXT. UNVEILING #3 - MORNING

This time, Tront and his crew are dressed as monkeys as a crowd of intelligent primates in human clothes watches.

TRONT
(drunk)
Haha! What's good? Bow down to your
new masters!

Tront throws his hands up as one of the monkeys in the audience throws a handful of feces at the alien crew. Tront dodges it and keeps partying. His crew would rather be anywhere else.

TRONT (CONT'D)
Whoa! Nice toss, chief!
(to his crew)
They love us!

END FLASHBACK.**INT. BOX - CONTINUOUS**

Dionysus has a drunken smile on his face.

ATHENA
Sounds like all those other times
sucked.

DIONYSUS
Not the way Tront told it!

HERMES

We're crammed into a stupid box
dressed like idiots! Why is this
even a protocol? We're so screwed!

APOLLO

Hey! Hey! Those other times were
missing one key ingredient: me. If
anyone can make these "humans"
worship us, it's Apollo.

Zeus raises his hand.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(sighs)

What, Zeus?

ZEUS

Dionysus and I didn't get to pick
gods yet.

ATHENA

What do you want to be?

ZEUS

What's been taken?

APOLLO

Do you ever pay attention? I'm the
god of the sun, music, poetry, and
everything good in the world.
Athena is the goddess of wisdom and
tactics. Artemis is the goddess of
hunting and... *moons*. Hermes is the
trickster god, and Ares is the god
of weapons and war and shit. That
one went without saying.

ZEUS

OK, that doesn't leave a whole lot
of cool stuff...

DIONYSUS

I wanna be the party god! And wine!
The god of lots of wine!

APOLLO

Fine. We can't all be important
gods anyways.

ATHENA

Why don't you pick something small,
Zeus?

(MORE)

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Being one of the main deities will take work and responsibility and other things you're not the best at.

APOLLO

Why don't we just make him the god of trash and constipation? You can be the patron saint of big, hard dumps.

ZEUS

Fuck you! I want something cool!

ATHENA

Just pick fast, I don't know how much time we have until the humans find us. It's impossible to tell what time it is in this thing. We need to be ready.

ARTEMIS

Agreed. Readiness dulls the razor's edge we walk.

ZEUS

What about the god of dance? I've got a couple choice moves.

APOLLO

That's already one of mine!

ZEUS

That's all I have!

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - SUNRISE

A huge crowd of humans have gathered around the box listening to muffled sounds of bickering.

HUMAN #8

What is it?

HUMAN #9

I don't know.

HUMAN #8

Should we check it out?

HUMAN #9

Nah.

The human crowd starts to disperse as a giggling child runs out towards the box with a hand outstretched.

HUMAN #9 (CONT'D)

Pandora, wait!

PANDORA touches the box, causing the walls to fall down and revealing the aliens. They're a tangle of limbs as Apollo and Zeus are trying to slap at each other.

APOLLO

How about the god of getting your
ass kicked?!

The aliens freeze as they realize the box has been opened, then quickly straighten themselves.

Apollo hastily steps forward.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Uh... greetings, humans! We are
your gods, and we created you! They
call me Apollo, and, not to brag,
but I do a lot of cool stuff. I'm
the god of the sun, music, poetry,
(glares at Zeus)
dancing,
(then)
and everything good in the world!

Silent beat, then the humans burst into applause. Dionysus lights up.

DIONYSUS

Yes! They love it! Just like Tront
said they would!

Cassandra's in the crowd. She squints at Dionysus and Zeus in their disguises.

Apollo basks in the applause and turns to the rest of the aliens with a smug smile.

Athena steps up next.

ATHENA

I am Athena, goddess of - what was
it? - wisdom, courage, strategy
and... what do primitive creatures
like... arts and crafts.

The humans burst into another round of applause.

HUMAN #2
What's "arts and crafts?"

Artemis step forward.

ARTEMIS
And I am the goddess Artemis. Queen
of the wilds. The huntress in the
night. Champion of moons!

She thrusts a fit in the air to scattered applause.

HUMAN #5
The moon is cool I guess.

ARTEMIS
(muttering)
Feeble one-moon planet...

Ares steps forward and fires his blaster cannon into the sky.
A scared beat, then the humans burst into applause again.

Cassandra spots Dionysus slyly pull an apple out of his
pocket, stick a space straw into it, and start drinking.

CASSANDRA
(eyes narrowed)
My apples...

HUMAN #8
Shut up and clap! That one seems
really strong!

Hermes steps forward with a flourish.

HERMES
And I'm Hermes! God of tricks,
trade, and being faster than
Artemis!

Apollo nudges Dionysius forward. He stumbles and looks around
before taking a swig from his drink.

DIONYSUS
I'm Dionysus! God of wine and
partying and... you know, pleasure
and things.

He winks and snaps a finger gun at a human, who's disgusted.

ATTICUS (O.C.)
Wooo! Pleasure and things!

Zeus starts to step forward and is stopped by Apollo.

APOLLO
 (quietly)
 They're eating out of our hands.
 Just don't fuck it up.

Zeus angrily pushes Apollo aside and puffs himself up.

ZEUS
 (attempted gravitas)
 I'm Zeus! And I'm... uh...
 (considers, then)
 their dad!

There's an awkward pause, then the humans start cheering louder than ever. Zeus starts warming to his role.

ATHENA
 (quietly)
 Zeus, maybe--

ZEUS
 (feeding off the energy)
 Yeah! And... I'm all of your dads too! For I am your creator, and the creator of all things! And-- holy shit, what if I threw *lightning bolts*? Yeah, that's what I do! Hail Zeus, King of All Gods!

The rest of the aliens look at Zeus in stunned silence as the humans start chanting his name.

HUMAN #3
 Man, I thought Apollo was pretty great, but you can't compete with being my dad!

HUMAN #4
 And you can't fake a beard like that.

CASSANDRA
 What? Yes you can! Those aren't *gods*! They're the creatures I saw in the woods yesterday! I recognize that one's voice!

HUMAN #2
 You saw people in robes yesterday?

CASSANDRA
 They're not people! They're just dressed up like us!

HUMAN #3

But they look just like us!

The humans start bickering. Dionysus puts an arm around Zeus.

DIONYSUS

Dude... they freaking love you.

Apollo grabs Zeus by the shoulders.

APOLLO

What have you done? I was supposed to be top god! Me! The golden boy! The sultry savior! Tell them you're the god of shit! *Tell them!*

Dionysus pulls Apollo's hands off of Zeus.

DIONYSUS

Easy there, god of poetry. That's the king of the gods you're touching with your poetry hands.

APOLLO

Athena! Do something! He told them we were all his children! *Children, Athena!*

ATHENA

I don't like it any more than you do, but we can't compromise the mission. We need to move into phase two. Zeus... I guess you're the main deity now.

APOLLO

What??

Zeus steps forward once more with a cocky grin.

ZEUS

Kids! Please, be quiet.

The humans immediately obey, some even shushing each other.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

You've made papa proud building such a beautiful life here, and your efforts shall be rewarded! We, the gods - of which I am most powerful - will bestow a gift upon you! Apollo, my sweet boy. Bring forth the gift!

Apollo steps forward, holding a hammer, giving Zeus a withering gaze.

APOLLO

I, Apollo, god of everything good and basically the king of the gods when Zeus is busy, grant you a hammer!

He hands the hammer to a human as the crowd oohs and ahhs.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

It's used to build things! Like houses and fences and maybe escape pod parts, who knows?

ZEUS

OK, shut up, son. We hope you cherish this gift! In return, we only ask you to honor us by doing us a favor or two every once in a while. Nothing big! So, you know, don't worry too much about it. Totally fair trade.

Cassandra finally steps forward and speaks up.

CASSANDRA

Alright, that's it! Don't believe a word they're saying! They aren't who they say they are! I saw the drunk one and the dad one yesterday and they didn't even have beards! They were just rummaging through my hut! They didn't create us!

The humans start murmuring. Athena grabs Zeus' arm.

ATHENA

(whispering)

You let one of them see you? Why didn't you say anything earlier?

ZEUS

I don't know! I didn't think it was a big deal.

ATHENA

You're going to have to handle this quick. We need to make an exit. I'm moving us into phase three.

Zeus points at Cassandra.

ZEUS

A non-believer! This angers me big time!

Zeus motions toward Ares, who looks back at him blankly.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

(gesturing)

I said this angers me *big time*.

He frantically motions until Ares realizes what he needs to do and fires his blaster off, startling the humans.

Athena pushes a button hidden in her sleeve. The stage begins to hover. Zeus points to Cassandra again.

CASSANDA

Wait, no! Get back here!

ZEUS

Don't listen to this heretic or there will be consequences!

HUMAN #3

What's a consequence?

ZEUS

Also, remember to honor us. Me most of all. We'll be back to ask some favors of you. Again, nothing big, so stay cool everyone. Daddy loves you. Kisses!

The box shoots off into the sky back towards Mount Olympus, leaving the humans looking stunned. Cassandra turns to them.

CASSANDRA

OK, for starters, why would they need to create us if they can already do that?

HUMAN #2

...Entertainment value?

CASSANDRA

(gesturing around)

Who'd want to watch this?

HUMAN #3

Look, the creators just gave us this super cool hammer. I'm going to blindly trust them off of that.

The crowd murmurs in agreement.

HUMAN #3 (CONT'D)
So stop acting crazy, Cassandra.

CASSANDRA
I'M NOT CRAZY!

EXT. MOUNT OLYMPUS - DAY

The box lands next to the rest of the aliens, who've set up various screens showing video footage of the village.

ALIEN #1
We just got the hidden camera footage up. Those humans are fucking *gross*!

ALIEN #2
How'd God Protocol go?

DIONYSUS
Pretty textbook, I'd say.

Apollo grabs Zeus and pushes him up against the escape pod.

APOLLO
This idiot named himself king of the gods and everyone's dad, even when we all decided he should be the god of trash and fat turds!

Athena pulls Apollo away.

ATHENA
Calm down, Apollo. We can still get the humans to help fix our pod, even with Zeus as the main deity.

ZEUS
Yeah, they just think I'm the creator of everything. What could go wrong with that?

APOLLO
EVERYTHING!

ZEUS
(to the group)
Look, we just gave them a hammer as a gift to help get their civilization rolling a bit. The hammer leads to other tools.

(MORE)

ZEUS (CONT'D)

We'll start gaining their trust,
start getting them to harvest the
planet for materials we can use to
fix the pod and *bam!* We'll be off.
Smooth sailing. I promise. Now.
Dionysus and I found some booze
spheres down there earlier. Let's
get fucked up!

The crowd cheers. Dionysus pats his outfit.

DIONYSUS

Fuck, what did I do with the
fermentizer?

EXT. VILLAGE - EVENING

A human's using the hammer to build a statue of Zeus as
another watches on.

HUMAN #3

You're not honoring dad enough.
Here, give me the hammer.

HUMAN #4

Just give me a second. You wouldn't
know the first thing about how to
honor dad.

They struggle for the hammer until #4 lashes out with it,
hitting #3 in the head. They both look stunned.

HUMAN #3

Wh-- what did you just do?

HUMAN #4

(breathing heavily)
I... don't know. But it felt...
exhilarating. I shall call it...
fighting!

HUMAN #3

(reaching for the hammer)
It's my turn to fight!

Human #4 hits him again on the head.

HUMAN #4

Such power...

Beat as the surrounding group of humans consider the new
concept of fighting, then all hell breaks loose as they punch
and tear at each other.

INT. HUT - CONTINUOUS

Cassandra's storming back to her hut, the fight raging in the background, when her foot hits something metal. It's the fermentizer Dionysus and Zeus used earlier.

As she bends to pick it up, she notices a footprint near a bush.

She pushes the bush aside to reveal tracks leading up the mountainside.

CASSANDRA

...These aliens are going down.

(beat)

I mean, that's what I'll call them.
There's not really a word for this
yet...

END OF EPISODE