

## VENGEANCE AWAITS ORESTES

### *short synopsis*

Nowan, the goat shepherd, has just met his great love Mara, when he is almost killed in his own village by an unknown traveler. The boy begins to understand that he has enemies and therefore cannot be the child of the simple peasants who raised him. When his foster father confesses to him that he was a foundling, Nowan decides to leave his home and village to find out who he is.

After a dangerous journey he ends up in terror-stricken Argos, where the population's only hope is that Prince Orestes, son of the murdered King Agamemnon, will return and free them from the tyrant who is now ruling the country. When it turns out that Nowan himself is this long-awaited royal prince, he swears justice will be done. *Blood for blood*, that is the law. Nowan will avenge the murder of his father and so become who he really is: Orestes, the king of Argos.

The suffering people of Argos welcome Nowan as their savior. But then the nature of our hero's terrible ordeal becomes clear: the murderer of the king is the queen, Nowan's own mother. Nowan refuses to kill her. Instinctively, the goat shepherd appeals to the centuries old taboo which should never be violated: no one shall raise a hand to the person who gave him life. But even stronger than this taboo is the command of the gods, who threaten Nowan with hell and damnation if he does not obey the almighty law that demands from him that blood will be revenged with blood.

Torn by this devilish dilemma, Nowan is about to return to his village. But then, during a terrible vision, it is predicted that horrible things will happen to Mara if he does not do his duty as son of the murdered king. Nowan yields to superior powers.

However, he is not just fulfilling an obligation. There is more, and driven by a deep longing to see his mother, the shepherd boy Nowan finds himself face to face with the queen.

Consumed by rancor, she now directs her hatred of the murdered king towards his son. She laughs at him, humiliates him and refuses to display any of the motherly tenderness Nowan had hoped for. Hurt, bewildered and furious, he wants to silence her. Fighting, mother and son roll over the bed in which he was fathered and born. In almost sexual ecstasy he holds her by the throat. She continues to provoke him, like an angry demon, and ultimately Nowan has to strangle her.

Who will now take revenge on Nowan, in this endless chain of bloodshed and retaliation? It turns out the pointless chain can be called to a halt. Moral arguments replace the ruthless law of *blood for blood*... A jury is formed to judge the crime. This is the dawn of civilization.

Nowan is redeemed. He can go back to Mara.

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