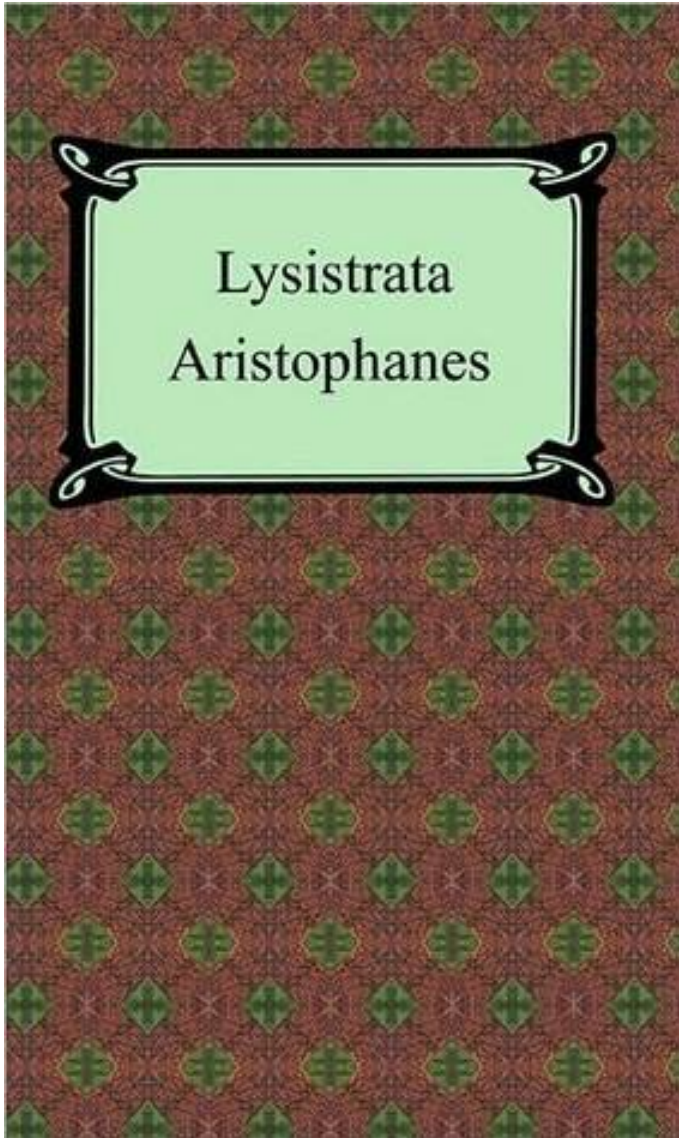

Aristophanes

Lysistrata



Title: Lysistrata

Author: Aristophanes

Format: Kindle Edition

Language:

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Description

This rollicking new translation of Aristophanes' comic masterpiece is rendered in blank verse for dialogue and in lyric meters and free verse for the songs. Appended commentary essays--on ancient warfare, classical Greek rationalism, Athenian women, Athenian democracy and the Athenian festivals--offer lively and informative discussions not only of Aristophanes, but of the broader fifth-century social, political, and cultural context as well.

Insightful reviews

yoko: MIRINA:

O, Lakonko mi draga, zdravo Lampita!

Oh, lepa li si, slatka li si, na pogled!

Da svežih obraza, da bujna tela tvog!

I bika bi zadavila!

LAMPITA:

Bih, boga mi!

Vežbam se, ?ipam, nogom o guz udaram.

11: NOTE: This book contains four plays, but this review only pertains to Lysistrata

Guys: if you ever want to be the life of the party (or maybe get yourself arrested), consider borrowing this 2500 year old bit from Aristophanes' play Lysistrata:

KINESIAS: (entering the peace negotiation)I've come as a delegate to the Sexual Congress. (opens cloak to reveal massive, throbbing erection) Here are my credentials.

AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA! I'm just dying to use that one. Now you might understand how Lysistrata got to be one of the [five most frequently banned plays of all time](#), but that makes it all the more fun, doesn't it? In it, the titular Lysistrata --a matron of Athens-- laments at the needless destruction wrought by a twenty year long ongoing war between Athens and Sparta. She hits on a novel solution: organize a strike amongst all the women of Greece, refusing sex to their partners until the war is ended.

Beautiful in its simplicity, no? It not only delivers a serious anti-war message, but sets the stage for a LOT of great double entendres... Here's Koryphaios and Kinesias having a discussion about blueballs:

KORYPHAIOS: It's a dreadful disease. When the crisis reaches its height, what do you take for it?

KINESIAS: Whatever comes to hand.

Here's another one, which takes place right after the peace treaty is signed, and the women of

Greece are again willing to fornicate:

ATHENIAN FARMER: (Hastily) Now that the war's over, I wanna rush home and, uh, plow a few furrows.

SPARTAN FARMER: (Just as hasty) Yeah! I have to be going! Gotta work a few loads of fertilizer in, myself!

Those are some highlights, and there are a lot of other laughs too, but let's get to the substance. The Athenian women are so sick of the war, they decide to abstain from sex. The obvious result, which the play spends a good deal of time exploring, is the affect this has on the men- who walk around with erections and complain about how horny and sex-starved they are. Ultimately the men break down and sign a peace treaty, to get back into their partners' good graces (i.e. pants). So that's like organized labor holding a strike, if you're comfortable making that comparison, and that's all good. But the more interesting angle is how the self-imposed strike affects the women: they miss the sex too, and amongst themselves grouse and complain, and consider abandoning the whole scheme.

LYSISTRATA: (to the lamenting women) If we can just hold out a little bit longer, we'll come out on top.

SPARTAN WOMAN: Oh, how I love being on top!

And that's good for some jokes, but it's an interesting thought experiment too, isn't it? If a nation is considering going to war, it might be useful to contemplate whether they would still declare war, if it meant that every adult had to abstain from sex until the fighting ends. I'm not just talking about the soldiers... if you think about it, that's really the deal many of them get anyway. We have soldiers in the military who've been on 4, 5, even 6 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan –each deployment generally being between 1 to 2 years. Obviously spouses (or partners otherwise) don't accompany them, so these guys [I'm using the generic male, but let's be clear: this applies to military women as well] are not only putting their lives on the line, they're also going without sex for long stretches.

But what about the rest of the population? In World War II, the homefront made sacrifices for the war effort. There was rationing and shortages, and almost every family had loved ones drafted into service. Lately, we've kind of gotten away from that. Economics drive a lot of kids from impoverished areas to volunteer for military service, but there's no draft, so more (but certainly not all) middle class and upper class families have avoided putting loved ones in harm's way. Likewise, we haven't had any rationing or shortages related to our wars since World War II. After 9/11, George W. Bush didn't tell Americans to prepare for sacrifices; he essentially told them to go shopping. How times change!

But what if every adult man and woman in the country had to abstain from sex for the duration of our wars- as a sign of support and personal sacrifice? Would we still be in Afghanistan, ten years after the first boots hit the ground? Would we be beating the war drum against Iran, at every opportunity? I don't think so.

The more I think about it, the more reasonable this yardstick sounds. It really forces an assessment of priorities, doesn't it? To be sure, there still would be wars we choose to fight.

World War II was a just war, and we fought it to protect our children from a life under fascism. Most of us would abstain from sex for four years, to prevent our kids from growing up under fascism, so **The Lysistrata Test** (as I'm going to start calling it) successfully identifies this as an appropriate war.

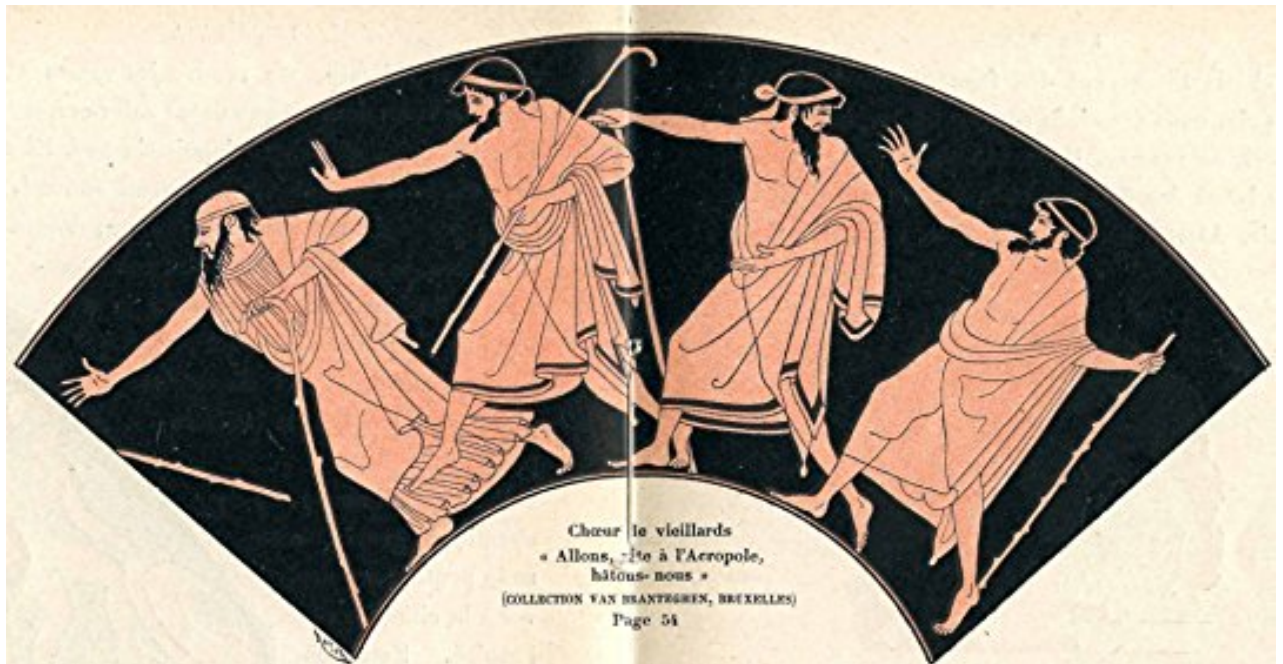
Now take The Spanish American War... a neocolonial adventure fought at the behest of yellow journalists, in response to a false flag operation. Give up sex for that? No way! Another point for The Lysistrata Test.

Then there are a whole slew of wars in that gray area... the Korean War? Well... you can make the humanitarian arguments, and you can make a case that our long-term security depended on preventing the famous "falling dominoes", but on the other hand, our national security was not immediately threatened. Some people would forego the sex for that, and some people wouldn't... But you know what? In every one of those gray area cases, you can bet that there would be vigorous debate in the public square about it. People would give a fuck. They would try to inform themselves about the issues, and they'd contact their elected representatives with their opinions. The war debate would be front page news, not celebrity gossip.

Another benefit of the Lysistrata Test is that it would keep us out of unnecessary alliances. Do we really want to sign an agreement with some other country, if it means we might have to go without sex for a few years? Let's sit back and think about this some more... It's genius! I really think Aristophanes was onto something.

Best line of the play: "It ain't the heat; it's the tumidity."

Yann:



Lysistrata est l'une des plus célèbres pièces d'Aristophane. A l'époque où il l'écrivit, la cité Athénienne est dans une situation critique, le désastre de l'invasion de la Sicile ayant précipité la défection de nombres d'alliés, et enhardi les Spartiates à s'approcher toujours plus de l'Attique. Toujours partisan de la paix et fustigeant les va-t-en guerre, Aristophane imagine un scénario rocambolesque digne de l'ambiance Dionysiaque des fêtes pendant lesquelles la pièce était jouée: Lysistrata (en grec, celle qui délie l'armée) fomenté une cabale avec les femmes de Grèce: se retrancher dans l'Acropole, et faire la grève du sexe jusqu'à ce que les hommes acceptent enfin de déposer les armes. Outre les extravagances obscènes et comiques qu'ouvrent un tel scénario, Aristophane en profite pour glisser quelques messages politiques, appelant les hommes de bonne volonté à mettre leurs différends de côté, et à s'unir contre les méchants qui les séduisent au service de leurs ambitions. Une pièce très amusante, servie par la grande inventivité d'Aristophane pour forger de nouveaux mots. Cette édition est bilingue, fournie avec un bon appareil critique, une introduction et un lexique.

Illustrations de **Aubrey Beardsley**

[\(view spoiler\)](#)["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

Mike: i would not be stunned if Lysistrata used to be the 1st intercourse comedy (that's a genre, right?). intercourse (or lack there of) drives the plot and innuendos abound:Lysistrata: yet I inform you, here is a way more weighty object.Calonice: what's all of it about, expensive Lystrata, that you've got known as the ladies hither in a troop? what sort of item is it?Lysistrata: a huge one!Calonice: And long?Lysistrata: Indeed, it can be very lengthy.Calonice: Then why are not they here?Lysistrata: No Man's attached with it; if that used to be the case, they might quickly come fluttering along. No, no. It issues an item i have felt over and became this manner and that for sleepless nights.Calonice: i have to be effective to face such lengthy attention.On its floor this play is ready the ladies of Greece withholding intercourse from the boys to strength them to make peace throughout the damaging Peloponnesian War. honestly i'm beautiful yes Aristophanes simply sought after an excuse to make as many sexual innuendoes and gender

stereotypes as possibly. Lysistrata: We needs to chorus from each intensity of love... Why do you switch your backs? the place are you going? Why do you chew your lips and shake your heads? Why are your faces blanched? Why do you weep? Will you or will not you [join me within the intercourse strike]... Myrrhine: No I won't. permit the struggle proceed.~~~Cinesias: do not go, please do not go, Myrrhine [his spouse and a intercourse striker]. at the very least listen our child... do not you're feeling pity for the child? he isn't been fed or washed now for 6 days. Myrrhine: I definitely pity him with so heartless a father.....Cinesias: you like me! Then expensive girl, allow me additionally love you. Myrrhine: you need to be joking. The boy's taking a look on. Cinesias: Here, Manes, take the kid home!... There, he is gone. there is not anything within the method now. the ladies worry approximately their houses going to break whereas they're away. One even attempts to faux a pregnancy: Lysistrata: What nonsense is this? Woman: i will drop any minute Lysistrata: the day before today you were not with child. Woman: yet i'm today. O enable me discover a midwife Lysistrata. O Quickly! Lysistrata: Now what tale is that this you tell? what's this difficult lump here? Woman: it is a male child. Lysistrata: through Aphrodite, it isn't. Your belly's hollow, and it has the texture of metal... Well, I quickly can see. You hussy, it is Athene's scared helm, and also you stated you have been with child. Some, however, are beautiful rattling strong at messing with the mind's in their men: Myrrhine: yet how am i able to holiday my oath? Cinesias: depart that to me, i'm going to take all of the risk Myrrhine: Well, i will make you comfortable Cinesias: do not worry. i would as quickly lie at the grass Myrrhine: No, via Apollo, even with your whole faults I shouldn't have you mendacity at the nasty earth... leisure the following at the bench, whereas I set up my clothes. O what a nuisance, i have to locate a few cushions first. Cinesias: Why a few cushions? Please do not get them! Myrrhine: What? Plain, not easy wood? Never, through Artemis! that will be too vulgar Cinesias: Open your arms! Myrrhine:... Here the cushions are. Lie down whereas I - O dear! yet what a shame, you would like extra pillows. Cinesias: i do not wish them dear. Myrrhine: yet I do... Why, you have no blanket. Cinesias: it is not the foolish blanket's heat yet yours I want. Myrrhine: by no means mind. you will soon have both. i will come correct back,,, do you want me to fragrance you? Cinesias: via Apollo, no! Myrrhine: by means of Aphrodite, i'm going to do it anyway! etc and so forth and so forth (Sufficed to say, the oath was once now not broken, notwithstanding i feel the bad man's will was) Aristophanes additionally takes lots of possibilities to insert sexual innuendo simply because he can: [after peace has been agreed upon] Athenians: i need to strip instantly and plow my land. Spartans: And mine i need to fertilize at once.~~~ Men's chorus: We needs to take a stand and continue to it, for if we yield the smallest bit to their importunity then nowhere from their inroads can be left to us immunity... And in the event that they mount, the Knights they will rob of a job, for everybody understands how proficient all of them are within the saddle, having lengthy practiced the way to straddle... In spite of all the intercourse and joking, the play does have a couple of reliable messages: Lysistrata: You [men] wrack hellenic cities, bloody Hellas with deaths of her personal sons, whereas yonder clangs the collection threat of barbarians.~~~ Lysistrata: it may now not prejudice my voice that i am no longer born a man, If I say anything constructive to the current situation. For i am taxed too, and as a toll offer males for the state while, depressing greybeards... give a contribution not anything of any value no matter what to our needs. But ordinarily this used to be a play approximately intercourse and intercourse jokes that have been shockingly smooth of their conference (might have simply been the translation). This used to be a short and relaxing read, simply bear in mind this was once intended to be a bit an absurdist satire so do not take the activities and judgements of the characters very seriously.

Sarah: Aristophanes was once rather sooner than his time, and that I imagine that *Lysistrata* is evidence of that. During this play, a bunch of ladies all comply with abstain from any sexual touch until eventually their husbands cease going off to war. In general, this plan turns out to be paintings okay within the end. First of all, to have a women-centric play is nice, simply because many performers from this time fascinated with the common hero or manly guy figure. I get pleasure from a play that assaults this cliché, specifically by means of proposing it from the perspective of the ladies who continuously need to take the brunt for his or her "manly man" husbands. Furthermore, Aristophanes could make this humorous!

Bruce: *Lysistrata* is one in all Aristophanes' anti-war plays, written in the course of Athens' involvement within the doubtless interminable Peloponnesian War. Within the years considering then it has proved one in all his so much enduringly popular, occasionally interpreted and provided nowa days as a pacifist work, occasionally as a feminist play. The identify personality is a girl of robust convictions who, uninterested in the war, its cost, and the continuous absence of guys on the front, organizes the ladies of all of the combatant urban states to withhold intercourse from their companions and to confiscate and keep an eye on the cash getting used within the battle effort. The presentation is predictably ribald and unique whilst it increases attention-grabbing matters to ponder. The position of ladies within the Athens of the time was once subservient and fully domestic. They'd no political strength and have been anticipated to don't have any political opinions, either. During this portrayal they have been intercourse items anticipated to be ornamental and seductive, tending to their husbands' actual wishes and operating their households. *Lysistrata's* function and personality are essentially out of the ordinary, and she or he is portrayed as a strong, determined, and vivid chief during this specific crisis. The play isn't really more often than not pacifist. Even if the ladies are made up our minds to finish the scuffling with in the wider Greek community, they fairly truly aid army efforts opposed to foreigners reminiscent of the Persians. It isn't even transparent that the ladies have political aspirations in the country past their desire to terminate the current conflict, and on the end, peace having been negotiated and achieved, they appear content material to come back to their traditional roles. The play, a made from Aristophanes' center period, exhibits his preliminary circulation clear of the conventions of outdated Comedy. During this paintings there are choruses, one in every of outdated males and considered one of previous Women, rather than the typical unmarried chorus, even if on the finish of the play the 2 have merged, in step with the message of the plot. In addition, the conventional Parabasis during which the refrain at once addresses the viewers (in fact, Aristophanes occasionally incorporated of these, one within the play's heart and one other close to the end) is absent. Aristophanes is therefore commencing to loosen the normal dramatic conventions attribute of previous Comedy. Besides supplying a glimpse into the sexual politics of old Athens and the Greek global generally, *Lysistrata* holds a reflect as much as our personal society. Our personal tendency to sexually objectify ladies has probably in simple terms modestly changed, and present society's trend of proscribing the general public roles of girls is a controversy now not but absolutely resolved. One of many reasons that performers of this nature suffer is their skill to be interpreted in contemporaneously correct ways. This play will be simply learn in an evening, and it's fun and exciting in addition to thought-provoking.

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