

Killing of Humbaba Scene

Gilgamesh and Enkidu start on stage, looking around the forest

Enkidu: Dear Gilgamesh, marvelling at the forest

Gazing at lofty cedars,
Gazing at the forest's entrance-
As you might see
Where Humbaba comes and goes there is a track
But don't fret
Even a mighty lion two cubs can overcome

Gilgamesh: Ferocious Humbaba

Let us slay him so his power is no more!
In the forest of Humbaba, where Humbaba dwells,
Let us frighten him in his lair!

*Humbaba appears from the forest (behind the stairwell)

Humbaba: Let fools take counsel, Gilgamesh, with the rude and brutish!

Why have you come here in my presence?

Come, Enkidu, you spawn of a fish, who knew no father,
Hatchling of terrapin and turtle, who sucked no mother's milk!
In your youth I watched you, but near you I went not,
Would you have filled my belly?

Now in treachery you bring before me Gilgamesh,
And stand there, Enkidu, like a warlike stranger!
I will slit the throat and gullet of Gilgamesh,
I will feed his flesh to the locust bird, ravaging eagle and vulture!

*stances structured as a stand off between Humbaba and Enkidu talking, with Gilgamesh being

*addressed as a go between

Humbaba confronts Gilgamesh

Gilgamesh: My friend, Humbaba's features have changed!...

*Gilgamesh begins to flee (away from Humbaba)

Enkidu pulls Gilgamesh back

Enkidu: Why, my friend, do you speak like a weakling?

With your spineless words you make me despondent.

Now, my friend, but one is our task,
The copper is already pouring into the mould!

To stoke the furnace for an hour? To feed in the coals for an hour?
To send the Deluge is to crack the whip!

Don't draw back, don't make a retreat!
Gilgamesh.... Make your blow mighty!

Gilgamesh and Humbaba have a bit of a struggle

Humbaba staggers a bit

Shamash: Behold the power of the law as it restrains the wild! Behold the power of I, Shamash,
as I surpass my ancestor Enlil! (cue evil laughter)

*play wind sound effect as Shamash gestures

*Humbaba moves to his knees

Humbaba: You are so young, Gilgamesh, your mother just bore you,
But indeed you are the offspring of Wild-Cow Ninsun!
By Shamash's command the mountains you **flattened**,
O offshoot sprung from Uruk's midst, Gilgamesh the king!

Gilgamesh, a dead man cannot praise his king,
He cannot serve his lord
Spare my life, O Gilgamesh, and I'll protect your kingdom
Just let me dwell here for you in the Forest of Cedar!

Enkidu: Do not listen, my friend, to Humbaba's words,
Ignore his supplications
You came here to leave a legacy
But who would remember mere mercy?

Humbaba: Now, Enkidu, my release lies with you:
Tell Gilgamesh to spare me my life!

Enkidu: My friend, Humbaba who guards the forest of Cedar:
Finish him, slay him, do away with his power,
Before Enlil the foremost hears what we do!

*Humbaba rises

Humbaba: May the pair of them not grow old
Besides Gilgamesh, his friend, none shall bury Enkidu!

Enkidu: Gilgamesh, why do you let Humbaba curse me?
 I speak to you but you do not hear me
 Slay Humbaba before his verse completes
 Let those curses return to his mouth.

*rain effect

*Gilgamesh slays Humbaba (makes a single hit)

Light dims on Gilgamesh, Humbaba, and Enkidu, light focuses off to the side where the gods are discussing.

(Everyone stays frozen below the gods for the next scene)

God Commentary #1 (after 1st Cedar Forest Scene)

Enlil: My fellow gods, how has this happened? How could these men dare to defile the sanctity of the sacred forest of I, Enlil? Why would they dare to face Humbaba--he whose lot it is to terrify men, so to keep safe the cedars (II)?

Aruru: Yes, Enkidu is a son of the wild, of me, Aruru. How is it that he did not know to fear Humbaba? How could he dare this affront?

Shamash: Well, I think--

Enlil: (Interrupting) And you, Shamash! Why did you aid them!?

Ishtar: Enkidu feared Humbaba once, but no longer. Now friendship with Gilgamesh has emboldened him.

Aruru: I had made Enkidu in order to tame Gilgamesh. But we did not consider how Gilgamesh would tame Enkidu. Let us look upon the past, such that we may understand our error (perhaps say this last line in a louder voice, as if invoking some spell that allows the gods to replay the past).

Lights fade out, stage clears.

Show on the projector a visual of a rewinding clock.

Birth of Enkidu

Gods reappear on center stage, light focused on them.

(Anu, Enlil, and Ishtar are standing together, in discussion. Aruru stands off to the side, doing her own thing.)

Ishtar: The humans have been suffering. The one they call Gilgamesh – his tyranny grows harsher, by day and by night. He lets no son go free to his father, no daughter go free to her mother. He has become a savage wild bull, with no equal in all of Uruk. The city that I, Ishtar, protect is suffering!

Anu: Yes, they pray to me for help. It was Aruru who created them, mankind so numerous. Let her create the equal of Gilgamesh, one mighty in strength, and let him vie with Gilgamesh, so Uruk may be rested!

Enlil: (Turns toward Aruru and calls to her). Aruru! (Waits until Aruru approaches) You, Aruru, created mankind. Now fashion what Anu has thought of!

Anu: Gilgamesh must be tamed. Create a match for the storm of his heart, and let them vie with each other, so Uruk may be rested!

Aruru: (Picks up a piece of clay and throws it into the stage area, and out jumps Enkidu in his wild animal costume. He runs over to a body of water and starts lapping it up.)

Clock spins forward a little to represent fast forward in time

Fast Forward to civilization of Enkidu w/ prostitute

(Start with Gilgamesh ordering hunter to take Shamhat to lure Enkidu?)

Hunter: There he is, Shamhat! The wild and mighty man, Enkidu. Take off your clothes and show him your body. Do not turn away from his putrid, animal smell, no matter how much you want to. When he sees you, he won't be able to resist coming over. Do for him what women are supposed to do for men, sleep with him! And trust me, his herd will leave him even though he grew up amongst them

(Shamhat takes off shirt - or some article of clothing (boots?) - humor

(Enkidu looks up from the watering hole and sees Shamhat - he is wide-eyed and his mouth is wide open. He slowly walks over to Shamhat, perhaps hunched over or on all fours - **They embrace and the lights go off**) -

Enkidu: Oh my goodness. Seven days? I've had enough. I must return to my herd (Enkidu walks back to his herd, upright. The herd runs away, Enkidu tries to run with him but his legs won't move - He can walk as if his legs are in quicksand) Falls down mid-stride

Enkidu: My body is no longer pure! But my mind is so clear.

(He walks back to Shamhat, sits down “criss cross applesauce” and begins to examine her and stare at her)

Shamhat: Enkidu! You’re handsome and mighty, why do you roam with wild animals like a barbarian instead of living in the city like a god? Come with me and I’ll take you to civilization, where Gilgamesh reigns.

Enkidu: Your words make no sense to me, but my instinct tells me that I need to befriend someone, so I will come with you.

Shamhat: Here take some of my clothing, for you are utterly naked.
(She takes on boot and gives it to him)

Enkidu: Take me to where Gilgamesh is, show me this person that reigns with strength. I will challenge him, because I am mighty. I want to be the mightiest!

God Commentary #2 (after birth scene and prostitute scene?)

Enlil: See! Changed is he, no longer wild is Enkidu! He has become human, he has become of Uruk.

No longer wild is Enkidu. His fall began with Shamhat.

Ishtar: Yes.....another fine specimen...ah...another virile man who adds his might to my glorious city of Uruk, may its walls stand mighty!

Enlil: (sighs) Nay, my dear grand-daughter, it matters not! He has been corrupted, no longer is he the arrow we did aim! An arrow that does not fly true is an arrow that should be broken!

Shamash: An arrow that does not fly how you intend it may be led astray by the will of the gods! These men did gain glory in my name, and bring glory to the city of Uruk, may its walls stand mighty!

Aruru: He has left the wild, I don’t care about him any more!

Ishtar: (exaggerated whisper) Aruru, your facade is slipping. We are in assembly before the lesser gods, remember your speech!

Aruru: (coughs) How dare he spurn the blessings which I have given him at birth! He is a great man, but no longer is he a great man of mine. Enlil, you may punish him as you see fit!

Shamash: Punish him for what? For fighting off Humbaba! Their sins do not require any punishment! They have subdued the beast, and bring the great cedar to the lands of Uruk, may its walls stand mighty.

Show clock again to represent fast forwarding to present

Cut back to cedar forest, Gilgamesh kills Humbaba

(Lights are down and come back up; they are in the same position as they left off in the scene before)

*gilgamesh beats Humbaba

Enkidu: Smite him again x2 (Humbaba falls over) ~~slay his servant alongside him~~

*pause alongside death

We've slew the ogre, the Cedar's guardian!
But what of the Gods?
Gilgamesh, you tumble the trees,
Whilst I collect the timber

*cutting

My friend, we have felled a lofty cedar
Whose top thrust up to the sky

I will make a door, six rods in height, two rods in breadth, one cubit in thickness
Whose pole and pivots, top and bottom will be all of a piece

To the house of Enlil the Euphrates shall bear it,
Let the folk of Nippur rejoice over it!
Let the god Enlil delight in it!

*bind together a raft, and sail away, Gilgamesh holding the head of Humbaba

Gilgamesh: Let us now return gloriously,
Head in hands
Oh how the gods must delight!

God Commentary #3 (after killing of Humbaba)

(Gods react to the killing of Humbaba; possible comedic opportunities, if that's something we want to do (Oh no he didn't!). More reflection on how Enkidu has been changed by his contact with humanity--emphasis on themes of humanity vs. nature)

Shamash: They...what??? Those little twerps, how much political capital am I going to have to spend to rescue them from this...ahem....how much work will I have to put in to see justice be meted correctly?

Enlil: Behold, O Gods, what has been done! My lands have been defiled, my champion slain needlessly. I come before you for justice! They wish to perform evil deeds before we can hear of them, now we shall deliberate and deliver consequences before they hear of them!

Ishtar (exaggerated whisper): Yea, yea, they did "evil" but isn't Gilgamesh so good-looking, Aruru my dear?

Aruru whispers back: I think Enkidu's much better looking. After all, I made him!

Ishtar: I thought you said he left the wild and you didn't care about him any more! He's one of mine now dear.

Aruru: But Gilgamesh is already yours!

Shamash (interrupts): O Enlil, father of Gods, mightiest of heroes, your guardian of the cedar forests has been felled, but the two heroes who slew him were my champions! Yes, they acted in arrogance, yes they went too far, but not too far that it cannot be overlooked!

Enlil: I don't care about that! They destroyed MY chosen one. And MY chosen one is more important than yours!

Shamash: Sure, it may have been, but you are old and irrelevant! The natural world will eventually fall to civilization as we spread our might and glory! Law shall rule the world! After all, Enkidu is of the wild, and this murder is the wild thing to do! You are complaining of the very laws of nature you have established!

Ishtar: Put your ego away for a moment Shamash. I'll stand up for that fine specimen of a man...ahem...Gilgamesh and his companion Enkidu. After all, they are sons of my city! Enkidu himself was adopted into the household, thus we can call him mine. Enlil, you may have grievance, but you do not have the right to exclusively pass judgment upon their sins. Enkidu was the advisor to the King, and he did indeed advise ruthlessness where he had before urged mercy. This is the right of an advisor in our world, is it not? (Maybe an interjection of agreement from another god, to break up the monologue?) We, the gods, made Enkidu, so we see him as our possession. The fact is, he has truly left the wild world, as we can see here. He no longer thinks of himself as one in a role similar to Humbaba. If he was of the wild, he would know of savage behavior but he'd also respect the behavior of the animals like the deer who were his companions! If Enkidu is truly now a human, an aide to Gilgamesh the King, then indeed he has acted for the glory of his King. That is his true motivation!

Enlil: Even a man acting for the glory of his King must consider good and evil, right and wrong! He knew full well he was acting against the will of the gods, against me, Enlil! The fact they wish to place these cedars at the gates of my own temple is not honor, it is an affront! It is arrogance at its finest!

Shamash: Arrogance is in the soul of the hero. They break away from the fabric of civilization.

Ishtar: If they have broken away, then let me mend it. I will take Gilgamesh as my husband, and bring him back into the family. No longer will he wander wantonly! Enkidu, I declare, is of civilization. He chose to break against the will of the gods, against the fabric of normalcy. That makes him unnatural, unnatural as the King he serves! By bringing them back into the fabric we do what is right and restore the proper order of things.

Enlil: If you take him as husband, there is nought I can do. But, I will remember this. *We* will remember this.