

Dragon Awakens:
The Tail of the Dragon

*A fable emerging from the town of Jelsa, on the island of Hvar, in Croatia,
compiled by the residents of OHH,
led by Edina Husanovic, Ben Rattenbury & johnmichael rossi*

[A WORKING PLAYSRIPT / PERFORMANCE SCORE]

Characters (to be performed by people, puppets and props)

NARRATOR(S), (possibly several, possibly just one) (text to be down cut in workshops/rehearsal)

PHAROS, the dragon; whose tail, is one of the settings for our play (represented by the puppet and other scenographic elements; when speaking, perhaps one person is the voice, or the voice could be recorded?)

THE SCHOLARS, (2 or more, could also be funny puppets)

THE HUMANS, who reside on the tail of Pharos, and set out on a journey to his heart (Human 1, 2 & 3... possibly more or less or all)

THE COUNCIL OF DRAGONS AND MYTHICAL CREATURES, who reside in the sky, a variety of Creatures who can share the lines, or have one chief speak.

DRAGON-GRAMS (3 times); could be a (rod)puppet with a speaker; could be more than one as 3 get sent.

THE TICKING CLOCK, could be a scenographic, or prop element; or a person

Plot Structure

Pre-Show (song and dance set up of space)

PART 1: A Beginning

Interlude (song and dance of togetherness)

PART 2: A Middle

Interlude (song and dance break; climax of play)

PART 3: An Ending

Finale (parade, procession, party)

Locales

- The Village of Pharos, on the Dragon's Tail
- The Tip of the Dragon's Tail
- The Dragon's Body, and the Journey to the Heart of the Dragon
- The Sky, where the Council meets
- The Sky, where Pharos confronts the Council and the Humans

PART I: A BEGINNING

*[The company sets the space, with music and dancing.
A horn blows, we are ready to begin the tale...]*

NARRATOR

This, is a tale that goes back many many more
than a many million years ago.

It is, 'The Tail of the Dragon.'

This tale reaches way way back when, long before the Humans ever even
began to think about leaving their overpopulated home of Paros, and coming
to inhabit the 'barbarian' island to their North,
which they eventually came to name
Pharos.

[PHAROS, the dragon enters]

NARRATOR

But Pharos was no land.

Pharos was the dragon, a beautiful beast! Today, some Scholars say, that

SCHOLARS

the dragon creeped and crawled up and out of the monstrous Sea.

NARRATOR

Some Scholars scrutinize that,

SCHOLARS

with his wild wings, he flew in from the far Eastern Sky.

NARRATOR

But these are just tales. For the Humans did not step a foot, neither left nor
right, onto Pharos until many many moons after Pharos first came here, to this
very place. So, how could such Scholars claim to really know for sure, about
the beginnings of this tale?

*[The Humans enter the space
and set up their homes on the back of PHAROS]*

NARRATOR

The body of Pharos, the dragon, was the design of the beautiful landscape
that the Humans crafted as their new home. Pharos stretched across two
great king-sized beds of rock, two islands,
and from his scaly green back grew deep emerald green pines and white lime
rocks. Underneath his rocky belly, underwater caves formed,
deep blue caves with only a glimmer of light trickling in from outside, the cool

salt water lapping on his belly.
All around and on top of his scaly back,
the sinuous mountain ridge
cut high up into the Sky.
And on the other side,
where his fiery breath simmered
in the glare of the ruthless Sun,
the dragon's long neck sprawled
and curled itself into the pine forest
that gave the Humans a magnificent shade. And there, on his long tail, is
where the first Human inhabitants of Pharos settled themselves.

In the generosity of that great green shade, a small miracle was formed – a
circle of friends, who embodied a spirit of togetherness;
A harmony like the world had never seen. Each year, the Humans would
return to the tip of the tail, what they called the edge of the Earth, to celebrate
life and togetherness. This celebration was a great festival with dancing,
singing and smiling. Returning to the tip of the tail each year, was a ritual to
renew their friendship and harmony, which was under the protection of the
dragon, Pharos, who they knew not of, and who they mistakenly thought was
mere land.

[The Company takes part in a dance of togetherness, with PHAROS]

PART II. A MIDDLE

[The Company returns to the village on the tail]

NARRATOR

One day, there was an earthquake,
or so the Humans of Pharos had thought.

*[An earthquake;
The Humans became frenzied with panic;]*

HUMAN 1

What's happening to our beautiful harmonious life?

HUMAN 2

We are being threatened by an unknown and unstoppable force.

HUMAN 3

We need to form a task force,

HUMANS

YES!

HUMAN 3

and set out to the edge of Pharos to decide what we should do.

[The Humans start marching to the edge of Pharos]

NARRATOR

The Humans were determined to find out where the earthquake was coming from. Little did they know what that the earthquake was neither of Earth nor a quake.

*[The Council appears in The Sky, with a banner that reads:
'Council of Dragons and Mythical Creatures']*

NARRATOR

Pharos was called upon by the Council of Dragons and Mythical Creatures to

COUNCIL

Dragon Pharos! We are summoning you to the Sky,
to speak at our conference about Creaturely Co-Existence.

NARRATOR

Pharos' displacement into the Sea, where he settled, was part of a social experiment funded by the Council. The funding had now run out, and

COUNCIL

It is Time! We want the findings that you gathered from our fundings.
As promised, it is Time, Pharos, to come back up to the Sky, and rejoin your fellow Creatures, to give a full report.

[PHAROS begins shivering and quivering, eventually quaking]

NARRATOR

Pharos was conflicted. He knew it was his duty to the Council and to his fellow Creatures, to share his new knowledge; to tell tale of his experience with the Humans, who lived harmoniously on his tail. But, leaving his post, he knew, would cause a great disruption to Human life. He was scared that the journey to the conference, which was way up high in the Sky, would displace and destroy the Humans. As Pharos became scared, he shivered and quivered with worry, causing the tremors that the Humans called an earthquake.

[The Humans enter]

As the Humans met at the tip of the tail,
the quakes quickened, as did their temperament,
straight to fear.

HUMAN 3

We must embark on a quest to find the epicenter of the earthquake.

[they set forth]

NARRATOR

They would set forth,
up the tail and inland. They began
marching through the streets,
gathering more and more Humans
to rally behind their cause.

[More Humans join in]

Meanwhile, Pharos sent a dragon-gram to the Council,

[Dragon-Gram flies in, and appears before the Council]

DRAGON-GRAM

Pharos sends his regrets
that he will not be able to attend the conference.
He offers to send a written report in gusts of smoke from his nostrils,
that would signal to you his loyalty to all Creatures.

NARRATOR

The Council responded with great anger and little understanding of the situation. They sent a dragon-gram in response,

[DRAGON-GRAM flies to PHAROS]

COUNCIL

Pharos! We insist that you appear at the conference, or we will we have you removed and will drag you here to appear at the conference.

NARRATOR

This put Pharos at even more of an uneven unease, and thus the 'earthquakes' only intensified, feeding and fueling the fervor of the Humans in their quest to find the cause of the this disruption to their once comfortable lives.

[quakes intensify, The Humans struggle]

NARRATOR

Pharos had to make a decision:
Disrupt the harmonious Human life,
and attend the conference as requested;
displacing the Humans. Or,
stay put and refuse to attend the conference,
thus inciting a cataclysmic creature conflict,
thus risking an even more violent and
destructive disruption of Human life.
To him, both paths seemed disastrous.

(to audience)

What would you do, if you were Pharos?

(audience may or may not respond with their suggestions)

[A music and dance break?]

PART III. An Ending

[The Company re-sets Pharos]

NARRATOR

Pharos, in his indecision, was only growing more and more nervous and unsettled. The Humans grew more and more fearful, yet more determined to solve this otherworldly riddle. The Humans doubled down on their mission, doubling in size, as the tremors of Pharos tripled in strength. As his tail twisted and turned, some Human lives were torn apart from the world they once knew. They traveled up his tail, over his spine, up and around his belly, right through his shaky and quaky gut, bubbling with bad feelings for the future. This was when and where the Humans came to realize that their existence was not what they had always thought to know to be true.

HUMAN 1

Oh my, what is this? Not our beloved land...

HUMAN 2

Can it be? Pharos is no mass of land!

HUMAN 1

No utopian island.

HUMAN 3

No! Pharos, is a living, breathing...

HUMANS

Beast!

HUMAN 3

And this beast is disrupting the life we once knew to be true!

HUMAN 1

We must destroy this beastly beast!

HUMAN 2

We must go to the heart of the beast,

HUMAN 3

Where we will unleash a Heart Attack!

HUMAN 1

We will put down this beast once and for all!

NARRATOR

They returned to their homes to re-up on supplies, and set out to attack the heart of the dragon.

Pharos could feel a turn in the spirit and energy of the villagers, from harmonious to hostile.

The air around his entire beastly being was becoming violent.

[A clock appears; ticking]

NARRATOR

And Time,
was ticking. The creature conference
was just days away.

It was now too late
for Pharos to decide
to attend the conference.

Carrying the Humans across the celestial skies
would only pierce their pride
and incite their panic.

The Humans were plagued with aggression.

The once safer seeming option

was now the far riskier route.

Pharos made his decision.

PHAROS

I will stay put.

I must stay put. I have to.

I have no choice. Or, do I?

NARRATOR

(to the audience)

Or, does he?

(the audience may or may not respond with suggestions)

[Dragon-Gram flies in before the Council]

NARRATOR

Pharos sent another dragon-gram to the Council, in the form of an invitation,

DRAGON-GRAM

Pharos will not be able to make it to the conference, and he suggests that the conference should come to him.

NARRATOR

This cheeky chess move played by Pharos only angered the Council, boiling them up up up close to a volcanic eruption.

COUNCIL

How dare he?!

What disrespect!

Pharos' is disobedient!

This is a disgusting display of disdain for the divine law of the code of Creature.

[The Council gathers their suits of armor]

NARRATOR

The Council set out with their Army of Creatures, to go and get the traitorous and treasonous Pharos,

COUNCIL

We must bring Pharos to justice!

[The Humans move closer to the heart of PHAROS]

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, the Humans were getting closer and closer to the heart of the dragon. Pharos could feel their angry pointy marching feet stomping and jabbing him, up and down his back, under his belly and just over his heart.

[The Humans play the drums as they march forward]

NARRATOR

Their determined drumroll was driving a piercing pain straight to the center of his heart. He was overcome with pain and sorrow. He could not see a way out of this disastrous dilemma.

[The drumming intensifies and then becomes slow and static]

NARRATOR

The depleted and drained dragon dragged his head forward, deeper into the Sea, desiring to discover its deepest depth, when suddenly,

HUMAN 3

We made it! The heart of the dragon.

*[the Company spins and spins,
as PHAROS rises up high in the air]*

NARRATOR

They stepped in,
entering the heart of the dragon,
sending Pharos into a razor-sharp upright stance,
his body and the Sun

forming a shadow,
his silhouette
darting into the pathway
of the Council
and their Army of Creatures
who were marching to declare war,
ready to wage their attacks.
But, the Creatures stopped in their tracks.
The heart-wrenching wrestling
of Pharos' body caused the waves
and the winds to wash over the entire world,
becoming a tailspin of a whirlwind of wonder.
And the entire spinning world
suddenly had a moment of pause.

[a long pause]

NARRATOR

Pharos then spoke,
on the topic of Creaturely Co-Existence:

PHAROS

*"My fellow dragons. Creatures. The Council.
Humans. The Inhabitants of Pharos, Me.
To All Citizens of the World!
I have been asked, here, to speak with you,
on the topic of Creaturely Co-Existence.
As many of you know, I, myself, was an experiment created and funded by
the Council of Dragons and Mythical Creatures.
I was intentionally displaced.
Put here. In this place.
And I defied all odds.
I became one with the Sun, the Sea, the Land below, and the Sky above.
I completed a picture that no one had ever imagined.
The Humans came and settled on my tail,
and throughout my scaly exterior, they made me their home.
Despite their ignorance to my true nature,
we created harmony. Creaturely Co-Existence was achieved. But, like all
things treasured, we all,
Creatures and Humans alike,
so often take the blessings of the world for granted,
and we fail to see that Harmony is delicate;
precarious in nature;
yet strong in its struggle to hold on, together.
Peace may feel temporary, and togetherness fleeting.
I was here, in this place, protecting the Humans,
unbeknownst to them.
And the Council was protecting me, supporting me in this*

*social experiment. So, what happened?
In our comfort,
we forgot to communicate.
As communication broke down, suspicions emerged,
and fears led to demands and orders.
You, Creatures who now wish to drag me from this here place, where you
placed me, to tout some tall tale of my
treasonous ways.
You, Humans who wish to pierce my heart,
with the barbaric belief that a beastly slaughter
will return you to the life you once knew.
Creaturely Co-Existence, some may say, is impossible.
No, it is possible! But, it is not eternal.
It requires work. Time. Effort. Listening.
Togetherring.
Perhaps now, the experiment on Creaturely Co-Existence,
can truly begin.”*

NARRATOR

And that was that. Pharos managed to bring the conference to him.
In an act of ‘Togetherring,’ his words put a pause on all the paranoia and
panic, derailing all unnecessarily violent and aggressive intentions and
actions, of both the Creatures and the Humans,
and a culture of creaturely co-existence was once again possible.

[The Procession of dancing, singing and smiling takes shape]

NARRATOR

Pharos led a procession, with the Humans on his back,
and the Creatures following behind,
forming a great parade
through and around the Land, the Sea and the Sky;
dancing in harmony
as fellow dragons, fellow Creatures and fellow Humans,
making offerings to us:
offerings of dance,
offerings of song,
offerings of smiles,
smiles for miles and miles
for many many million more
years of many...

*[the procession
continues
into a
party;]
the
beginning*