Pandora’s Box

Cast list: Narrator, Epimetheus, Prometheus, Zeus, Hephaestus, Aphrodite and Pandora.

Epimetheus enters stage left and greets his brother Prometheus. They begin a discussion about humans.

**Narrator**: Our story comes from the time of the ancient Greeks when Zeus was king of the gods. It starts with Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus, who were both gods.

**Epimetheus**: Good day, dear brother Prometheus.

**Prometheus**: Good day, dear brother, Epimetheus.

*Prometheus walks around holding his head, clearly troubled.*

**Epimetheus**: You are clearly troubled dear brother, what is the matter.

**Prometheus**: I have been observing the humans and I feel so sorry for them; they have to suffer in this coldness. What can I do to help them? *(Pause)* I know what!

**Epimetheus**: I know what you are thinking, and it’s not a good idea.

**Prometheus**: Let me give them fire! They will be able to cook warm food and warm their bodies.

**Epimetheus**: Zeus has forbidden us to give the humans fire, Prometheus. The humans will not be able to control themselves and they will use fire to destroy.

**Narrator**: But Prometheus ignored the advice of his brother and he went secretly and stole fire from the gods to give it to the humans. Of course, Zeus came to know what Prometheus did.

**Zeus**: Hephaestus!! (Enter Hephaestus) Go call Prometheus right now! *(Exit Zeus)*

**Hephaestus**: Yes, my Lord, immediately. *(Hephaestus bows)*

*Hephaestus runs around calling for Prometheus. Enter Prometheus.*

**Hephaestus**: Prometheus, come quickly, Zeus has sent for you and he is very angry. I have never seen him so angry before.

**Prometheus**: What did I do now?

**Hephaestus**: I am a bit curious about this myself. *(Enter Zeus)*

**Zeus**: Hephaestus you may leave. *(Hephaestus bows and leaves.)*

**Hephaestus**: Thank you, my Lord

**Zeus**: Prometheus, don’t you know that fire is only for the gods. Why did you dare give it to the humans, they can use it as a weapon.

**Prometheus**: I only wanted to help them – they were feeling so cold.

**Zeus**: Look what they are doing, Prometheus. They are dying, but not from cold. Fire has become a weapon for them. Do you realize your mistake?

**Prometheus**: Yes, I am sorry.

**Zeus**: You are just sorry; you need to be more than that. You and the humans will be punished. Go and call Hephaestus.

*Exit Prometheus. Enter Hephaestus.*

**Zeus**: Hephaestus, I have called you here because I have an important job for you.

**Hephaestus**: Yes, my Lord *(Hephaestus bows)*

**Zeus**: Hephaestus, since you are the God of Craftsmanship, I want you to create a woman using clay.

**Hephaestus**: A woman, my Lord?

**Zeus**: Yes, a woman.

**Hephaestus**: As you wish, my Lord.

(*Exit Zeus)*

**Hephaestus**: Aphrodite! Help! *(Aphrodite comes in running.)*

**Aphrodite**: What is it, my dear? Are you hurt?

**Hephaestus**: Zeus wants me to make a woman, I have never made a woman before, what am I to do?

**Aphrodite**: Calm yourself, dear husband. I know you can do it.

**Hephaestus**: Oh Aphrodite, my wife, you are the most beautiful goddess of all.

**Aphrodite**: Thank you, husband. I’m not the goddess of love and beauty for nothing.

**Hephaestus**: *(Clicking his fingers)* I have it;I will use you as my model!

**Narrator**: Hephaestus made the woman from clay, Zeus breathed life into her and she was named Pandora. The gods gave Pandora many gifts including beauty, charm, eloquence, skill and curiosity.

*Enter Pandora and Zeus*

**Zeus**: Pandora, my lovely daughter. I am sending you to marry Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus. Take this beautiful box as a gift but you are never to open the box. Do you hear me?

**Pandora**: Yes Father, I am never to open the box. Thank you, Father.

**Zeus**: I trust you to obey me but in order to protect you from temptation, I will give the key to your husband.

**Pandora**: Yes, Father. *(Pandora curtsies and exits)*

*Enter Epimetheus.*

**Zeus**: Epimetheus, I have gifted Pandora with a very special box which is never to be opened. Here is the key which I expect you to look after.

**Epimetheus**: Yes, my Lord. The key will be safe with me, have no fear. Thank you, my Lord.

*Exit Zeus. Enter Pandora with the box.*

**Pandora**: Husband, look at this beautiful box that Zeus has given me.

**Epimetheus**: It is indeed a beautiful box but you know that you are not to open it.

**Pandora**: I know Epimetheus but aren’t you a bit curious about what’s inside it? I really want to open it.

**Epimetheus**: NO! Don’t dare open it, Zeus forbade it.

**Pandora**: Oh, you are such a bore. I’m going to bed. *(Exit Pandora and Epimetheus.)*

**Narrator**: Pandora went to bed but she did not go to sleep. She waited until her husband was fast asleep and then she crept out of her bed and took the key.

*Enter Pandora with the box and key*

**Pandora**: Oh Father, please forgive me but I am going to open the box. I can’t bear the suspense any longer.

*Pandora opens the box.*

**Pandora**: Oh no! What is this? Disease, murder, hate are coming out. Help! Epimetheus!

*Epimetheus comes in running.*

**Epimetheus**: What is it? What have you done?

**Pandora**: I opened the box and now terrible, evil things are flying out of it.

**Epimetheus**: Zeus is going to kill me for this. Quickly, close the lid.

**Pandora** (weeping): It’s too late they have all escaped already. The box is empty.

**Epimetheus**: No, it’s not. Look there is one more thing. It is HOPE.

**Pandora**: Oh hope, thank goodness, all is not lost. But still, Zeus will never forgive me for this.

*Enter Zeus*

**Zeus**: Yes, Pandora, you should be punished for disobedience but you won’t be for I knew this would happen. This is the reason I created you in the first place.

**Pandora** (on her knees): Oh, thank you, merciful Father.

**Narrator**: Today we speak about opening up a Pandora’s Box. It can be used in any context where it refers to opening up a large number of problems.