



## SCENE SYNOPSIS

*An opera by Donald Knaack  
Words and music by Donald Knaack*

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### ACT I

#### Prologue – TV Weatherperson

*Reports on the day's activities and predicts the future*

#### Introduction and Scene 1 – Odin

*Odin hangs from The Tree of Life. As the music finds rhythm, he cuts the rope, drops to the ground, and tells us of his dual life as the God of War and the God of Knowledge.*

#### Scene 2 – The Giants, Loko, and Odin

*The Giants, Odin's arch enemies, are on patrol. They spot Odin and corner him. They are ready to kill him in retaliation for his recent killing of one of their own. Loko, leader of the Giants interrupts and stops the killing. He orders The Giants home and informs Odin he will pay for the killing at Ragnarok, the war to end all wars. All go separate ways, and Loko, Odin's arch enemy, transforms into Loki, Odin's girlfriend.*

#### Scene 3 – Odin, Loki, Berserks and the Dwarf

*Odin and Loki meet for a romantic encounter in the love garden. Loki attempts to convince Odin to allow her to take control of Odin's aimless souls, The Strays. And she will prepare them to fight The Giants at Ragnarok. In reality, her counterpart, Loko, will train them to turn on Odin. The Berserks, Odin's army enters and passes through the scene. Odin and Loki return to their romantic encounter.*

#### Scene 4 – Baldar and Frigg

*Frigg, wife of Odin, meets their son, Baldar sfter he returns from a lengthy journey. Frigg is overbearingly protective of her son's well being. Baldar, as the son of Odin, is a God who has been given the voice of reason and civility in the crude and heathen world. He is obsessed with turning Odin from his violent/warrior ways towards acts of peace and civility.*

#### Scene 5 – TV Weatherperson

*More reporting and predictions*

#### Scene 6 – Dance of the Valkyries

*The Valkyries were maidens who scoured the countryside looking for fallen war heroes to take back to Odin's Valhalla to become immortalized members of Odin's Army.*

#### Scene 7 – Loko, The Giants, and The Ravens

*Loko meets with The Giants to inform them of his plot to secure The Strays from Odin and use them to defeat Odin at Ragnarok. From their perch above the world, The Ravens hear the details of Loko's evil plan.*

#### Scene 8 – Odin, Baldar and The Ravens

*Baldar tries to convince Odin to embrace knowledge and civility. Their discussion is interrupted by The Ravens, who inform Odin of Loko/Loki's plan of deception. Odin views this as a prelude to Ragnarok.*

#### Scene 9 – Odin and his Armies

*Odin visits his Armies to prepare for Ragnarok.*

#### Scene –10 – Old Woman (Loki) and Frigg

*With a steadfast desire to kill Baldar, Loki dresses as an Old Woman who engages Frigg in a conversation to reveal Baldar's weakness.*

#### Scene 11 – Complete Cast

*At the party at Asgard many things happen: Odin and the Gods meet to discuss the impending Ragnarok. Baldar attempts once again to communicate the need for civility to Odin. A Stray is sacrificed, a general orgy follows, Loki kills Baldar with a poison dart, and the orgy continues.*

#### Scene –12 Weatherperson

*Reporting, commentary, and predictions.*

### ACT II

#### Scene 1 –Weatherperson

*Reporting and predicting.*

#### Scene 2 – Lok/Loko

*Fresh from killing Baldar at Asgard, Loki transforms herself into Loko.*

#### Scene 3 – Loko, The Giants and The Ravens

*From their perch, The Ravens observe Loko explain to The Giants how he and Loki murdered Baldar.*

#### Scene 4 – Odin, The Ravens and Baldar's Ghost

*Odin sits beneath the Tree of Life, seeking the tree's wisdom as he contemplates his dual personalities: warrior incivility versus thinker civility. Baldar's Ghost speaks to him from the tree, but that conversation is interrupted by The Ravens who inform Odin of Baldar's death. Odin orders The Berserks to find Loko/Loki and kill him/her.*

### Scene 5 – Weatherperson

*Commentary and insights.*

### Scene 6 – Loko/Loki

*Dealing with dual sexes, personalities and lust for power takes its toll as the character has a psychological breakdown.*

### Scene 7 – Berserks and Loko/Loki

*The Berserks have captured Loko/Loki but the knowledge of Odin & Baldar has crept into their psyche. Some want to carry out Odin's orders to kill while others now realize the difference between killing someone on the battlefield and killing them because someone has ordered it. As all The Berserks are gaining knowledge, eventually, the majority realizes that it is not appropriate to kill Loko/Loki. So they free him/her.*

### Scene 8 – The Ravens, Frigg, Odin, and Baldar's Ghost

*The Ravens find Frigg to tell her of the death of Baldar. Odin arrives to console her, but the pain is too great and she has nervous breakdown. Baldar's Ghost then pleads with an angry Odin to let civility guide his actions.*

### Scene 9 - Baldar's Funeral

*Glythia leads a service of rituals and traditions prior to the burial.*

### Scene 10 – Odin

*The confusion in Odin's mind over the issue of giving civility the opportunity to replace heathenism, drives Odin to near madness. In the end, the warrior side prevails and he vows to fight to the death at Ragnarok.*

### Scene 11 – Weatherperson

*Reports and predicts.*

### Scene 12 – Complete Cast

*Ragnarok has arrived. As all the main characters have had a personal apocalypse before arriving at Ragnarok, the war is actually anti-climatic. Nevertheless, The Ravens meet their demise on the battlefield, then Odin kills Loko/Loki, Frigg loses her life as Baldar's Ghost watches from afar, Odin is then mauled to death by the wolf Fenrir and all becomes quiet.*

### Scene 13 – Epilogue

*A new day dawns. In the distance, we see a male and a female. They begin to dance and move into view. It's a young Odin and Loki. Will history repeat itself?*

### Scene 14 – Weatherperson

*Final thoughts*

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