

The Conflicts of Melpomene

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The French were once again at war with the British. Of course, it wasn't hard to convince the French to fight, especially with a charismatic general such as Melpomene, who was determined to make her name immortal. She came to this position from a rather unlikely background, that of an artistic family that believed she was destined to become a great musician, having made her a 'cultured young lady' by teaching her the arts and the languages, most notably Latin, from an early age. This did not at all suit her authoritative character, leaving her in conflict with her parents when she trained to become a general, a great general, leading the French armies against 'les goddams.'

'The island of Britannia deserves better patrons than the tea-drinking English' Melpomene proclaimed, standing on the stage at a rally, 'we the cultured people of France will enlighten the land. It is our duty to this island to defeat them with the arts of war. However, 'haec ars non silvas et feras, sed criticos, sed horribiles Brittanos tenet!' We soldiers must work hard to secure victory, 'diem aestivum ibi conterimus.' Half the crowd looked around, confused, though still enthused, as 'neque quisquam oratori veniam denegabit.' 'difficile est Latino sermone illustrare,' she persevered, 'especially to those uncultured enough to not understand me. Let us finally confront those British pigs!' The crowd responded with a triumphant clamour. Melpomene had done what she had always wished to do, not only due to her charisma but also the 'patriae suae dulcissimae decus atque delicias,' as she would say.

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In three months Melpomene's military force had already mercilessly advanced to the capital, by way of her shrewd strategy. 'cum Melpomene placido lumine vidisset,' the city of London, she believed it her destiny to take the city for the French. Though the siege was not easy; months of arduous yet petty fighting, against the British commander, a 'vir tenero vegetoque ingenio pollens.' Eventually, shattering the expectations that the English initially held of their enemy, the French stormed into Parliament House and forced surrender from the British, conquering the country, and ending millennia of conflict. Melpomene had won. Immortality; she would be praised in all French history books for eternity; school children would write essays and draw posters of her. But, she was not yet complete.

It was during dinner with her parents that they suggested the idea to her, the idea they'd had in the past, that she was meant to be a great composer. Initially, the idea conflicted with Melpomene's sense of self, though it was her mother who reminded her that 'quin etiam ipse veterum fabellarum modulator,' Beethoven, admired the French generals.