

**THE FROGS OF  
ARISTOPHANES.  
TRANSLATED INTO  
ENGLISH RHYMING VERSE**

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The frogs of Aristophanes. Translated into English rhyming verse by Gilbert Murray

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**GILBERT MURRAY**

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THE FROGS  
OF  
ARISTOPHANES

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~~Let~~  
~~Aristo~~  
Em

Aristophanes.

THE FROGS  
OF  
ARISTOPHANES

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH RHYMING VERSE BY

GILBERT MURRAY, M.A., LL.D.

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THE FROGS  
OF  
ARISTOPHANES

## CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

THE GOD DIONYSUS.

XANTHIAS, *his slave.*

AESCHYLUS.

EURIPIDES.

HERACLES.

PLUTO.

CHARON.

AEACUS, *house porter to Pluto.*

A CORPSE.

A MAIDSERVANT OF PERSEPHONE.

A LANDLADY *in Hades.*

PLATHANE, *her servant.*

A CHORUS OF FROGS.

A CHORUS OF INITIATED PERSONS.

*Attendants at a Funeral; Women worshipping Iacchus;*

*Servants of Pluto, &c.*

*"The play was first produced in Athens at the Feast of the Lenaen in the year 405 B.C. It obtained the first prize. Phrynichus was second with 'The Muses,' Plato third with 'The Cleophon.'"*

## THE FROGS

*At the back of the scene is the house of HERACLES. Enter DIONYSUS, disguised as HERACLES, with lion-skin and club, but with the high boots of tragedy and a tunic of saffron silk. He is followed by XANTHIAS, seated on a donkey and carrying an immense bale of luggage on a porter's pole. They advance for a while in silence.*

XANTHIAS

*(looking round at his burden with a groan).*

Sir, shall I say one of the regular things  
That people in a theatre always laugh at?

DIONYSUS.

Say what you like, except "I'm overloaded."  
But mind, not that. That's simply wormwood to me.

XANTHIAS *(disappointed).*

Not anything funny?

DIONYSUS.

Not "Oh, my poor blisters!"

XANTHIAS.

Suppose I made the great joke?

DIONYSUS.

Why, by all means.