

**ARELIS**

**HELIOGABALUS**

## The Characters

**Heliogabalus**

**Julia Soaemias**

**Julia Maesa**

**Hierocles**

**Antiochian**

**Soldier**

## The Plot

The play takes place at the palace of Heliogabalus in Rome, during his rule (219-222 AD). Act One will take place in the autumn of 219 AD, Act Two in the autumn of 220 AD, Act Three in the summer of 221 AD and Act Four in the last days of his rule until both his and his mother's assassination on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 222 AD. This play is about the philosophical and religious ideology of an emperor who unsettled the habits of the Roman society with his scandals and his revolutionary and rebellious personality, causing many reactions. Spectators will become aware of his personality. The play has conversations of Heliogabalus with his mother Julia Soaemias, his grandmother Julia Maesa and his lover Hierocles which deal with state governance, history and files of little stars.

## SUMMARY OF HELIOGABALUS

### [GREEK VERSION]

Το θεατρικό έργο μας μεταφέρει τις ημέρες και τα έργα του Ρωμαίου αυτοκράτορα Ηλιογάβαλου [Έμμεσα, Συρία, 8 ή 20-3-203 μ. Χ - Ρώμη, Ιταλία, 11-3 -222 μ. Χ] που σκανδάλισε την ρωμαϊκή κοινωνία με τ' ανατολίζοντα ήθη και έθιμα δυσαρεστώντας την ταυτοχρόνως απ' την ενεργό συμμετοχή στην Σύγκλητο των γυναικείων συγγενικών του προσώπων, όπως της μητρός του Ιουλίας Σοαιμιάδος [Απάμεια, Συρία, 180 μ. Χ - Ρώμη, Ιταλία, 11 - 3 - 222 μ. Χ] και της γιαγιάς του Ιουλίας Μαΐσας [Έμμεσα, Συρία, 7- 5 -165 μ. Χ - ; , 3 - 8- 224 μ. Χ]. Η δυσαρέσκεια του στρατού έγινε εντονότερη με τους εφήμερους εραστές τους όπως ο Ιεροκλής [που φημολογείται ότι τον είχε υπανδρευθεί] αλλά και με τον ερμαφροδιτισμό του έχοντας ως άμεση συνέπεια την προτίμηση προς το πρόσωπο του εξαδέλφου του Αλέξανδρου Σεβήρου [Area Caesarea, Akkar, Συρία, 1 - 10 -208 μ. Χ - Moguntiacum, Germania Superior, 18/19 – 3 - 235 μ.

X], υιού της αδελφής της μητέρας του, Ιουλίας Αβίτας Μαμαίας. [; , 14 ή 29 – 8 - 180 μ. X - Moguntiacum, Germania Superior, 21 - 3 -235 μ. X] Οι τέσσερις πράξεις του έργου διαδραματίζονται σε τέσσερις διαφορετικές χρονικές περιόδους της βασιλείας του: η πρώτη πράξη το φθινόπωρο του 219 μ. X, η δεύτερη το φθινόπωρο του 220 μ. X, η τρίτη το θέρος του 221 μ. X και η τέταρτη τις τελευταίες ημέρες της ζωής του ως και τη δολοφονία του την 11 - 3 - 222 μ. X, μετά από στρατιωτικό πραξικόπημα που εκδηλώθηκε στις τάξεις του στρατού. Ο Ηλιογάβαλος σ' αυτά τα στιγμιότυπα φιλοσοφεί για την πολιτική, τον έρωτα, τους γάμους του, τις σεξουαλικές σχέσεις του και με τα δύο φύλα, την θρησκεία, τα έθιμα που έφερε στην Ρώμη, ενώ δεν διστάζει ν' ασκήσει κριτική στον εαυτό του λίγο πριν απ' το τέλος του ίδιου και της μητέρας του.

**Πηγές: Historia Augusta, Η ζωή του Ηλιογάβαλου.**

**Δίων Κάσσιος, Ρωμαϊκή ιστορία.**

**Ηρωδιανός, Βιβλίο V.**

**Καθολική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια, λήμμα Ηλιογάβαλος.**

**Wikipedia the free encyclopedia.**

## **[ENGLISH VERSION]**

**The play transfers us to the works and days of the Roman emperor**

**Heliogabalus [Emmesa/Hobs, Syria, 8 or 20 March 203 a. D- Rome, Italy 11 March 222 a. D] that scandalized Roman society with the eastern manners and costumes, displeasing the Senate with the active participation on this by his feminine relatives such as his mother Julia Soamias [Apameia, Syria, 180 a. D- Rome, Italy 11 March 222 a. D] and his grandmother Julia Maesa [Emmesa/Hobs, Syria, 7 May 165 a. D – 3 August 224 a. D]. The displeasure of the army become more intensive due to his relationships with ephemeral lovers such as Hierokles [ some rumors claimed that got married] but also with his hermaphroditism, having as a direct consequence the preference of the army to the face of his cousin, Alexander Severus [Area Caesarea, Akkar, Syria, 1 October 208 a. D - Moguntiacum, Germania Superior, 18/19 March 235 a. D]. The four acts of the play take place in four different periods of his reign: the first act takes place in the autumn of 219 a. D, the second in the autumn of 220 a. D, the third in the summer of 221 a. D and the fourth the last days of his life until his assassination. Heliogabalus in these snapshots philosophizes about topics such as politics, love, his marriages, the sexual relations that he had with both sexes, religion and the customs of the East that he brought in Rome and he doesn't hesitate to make a criticism on him self just little before the assassination of him and his mother by the revolt.**

### **SOURCES:**

**Historia Augusta, The life of Heliogabalus**

**Dion Cassius, Roman History**

**Herodianus, Book V**

**Catholic Encyclopedia, lemma Heliogabalus**

**Wikipedia the free encyclopedia**

## ACT ONE

### Scene 1

[A few months after Heliogabalus was self-declared emperor, we are in Elagabalium, a luxurious temple which has been built on the east face of Rome's Palatine Hill. Heliogabalus will stand still in front of an epic plutonian conical meteorite, named El Gabal, which is on a chariot adorned with gold and jewels while he will be talking with Julia Soaemias]

**Heliogabalus:** I have been forged in the God of the Eternal Sun...

**J.Soaemias:** Haven't you been hammered in God Kotar? [Heliogabalus covers his earlobes with his hands]

**Heliogabalus:** This stone has been transferred from Syria. [His hands have a feel of fish and are detained]

**J.Soaemias:** Will he marry Astarte? [She touches the stone of Tanit that has been brought from Africa]

**Heliogabalus:** The sun of Emesa will marry the moon of Carthage...

**J.Soaemias:** Each face will pray to the right and left eye... Athor says so...

**Heliogabalus:** A dove with an olive branch and Isis will come to this universe right after Belus is replaced by El Gabal... And I will be Gideon the judge...

**J.Soaemias:** And I will be your Aserah! Will you pray like Abessalom for your imperial brother to sleep for the sake of El Gabal?

[Heliogabalus will leave El Gabal so as to touch the stone of Astarte with his rational palm]

**Heliogabalus:** Urania, Astarte, Minerva... It has been embellished with all Three... [Julia Soaemias abandons the stone of Astarte and the conical stone will fly away from her]

**J.Soaemias:** It has been sent from Iris or Eden! [She will scrutinize it with the nursing of her hands]. Do its indelible and cryptic marks depict the sun's faience?

**Heliogabalus:** Don't be afraid of it! It is the sun's mobile curve that hasn't been honed...

**J.Soaemias:** This protuberance seems so feathered! [She looks amazed as he grabs her like a dwarf child]

**Heliogabalus:** It's you and I that have jumped from here to there... [With his right index earth will change to its chasm]

**J.Soaemias:** You are the description of the tangled bones of Bacchus... [She touches his crown of rare gems which gleams different colours]

**Heliogabalus:** With this Asian uniform, my Sephiroth appearance will look like a magnetic compass to soldiers... [He will raise his tunic and show her his legs]

**J.Soaemias:** Maybe it is because the tips of your toes had been covered by red and golden garments... Kou will be mounted on the clouds by you!

**Heliogabalus:** Mot will prevail over the king of gods! Who prefers seven years of drought and hunger to an Apollo of euphoria?

**J.Soaemias:** The land of Canaan has been annexed... [She will move away from the stone]. You provoke the Senate by dancing around the immortal altar to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals...

**Heliogabalus:** Whoever gets circumcised has been purified... [He will move away from the stone too]. Energy magnifies everything...

**J.Soaemias:** This chariot has been led by six glowing horses...

**Heliogabalus:** Since no slave leads it and it has no reins...

**J.Soaemias:** You were the leader... Every side of the escort is like a strut for your protection...

**Heliogabalus:** I have dreamt of wreaths and violets... [He picks up an anemone and smells it]

**J.Soaemias:** Do you remember when you were bedewing the crowd with silver and gold cups while you were climbing up the enormous walls which had been built for this melody?

**Heliogabalus: Various kinds of linen garments...**

**J.Soaemias: How many people had been captured in soldiers' spears at the festival or had been downtrodden...**

**Heliogabalus: Astarte will be more harmful with the cypress...**

**J.Soaemias: Without her, Macrinus wouldn't have been defeated at the borders of Syria and Phoenicia... [She grits her teeth since she hated that person a lot].**

**Heliogabalus: The Roman Senate rushed to be with the winner's tendency! [He observes the necklace of pearls on his neck].**

**J.Soaemias: Your cheeks' makeup will supersede the planets' positions of the women of Arabia... [Heliogabalus kneels, kisses his mother's feet and exclaims]**

**Heliogabalus: Mater Castrorum! All gods are servants of my own god!**

**J.Soaemias: Even the icon of the Great Mother and her holy containers...**

**Heliogabalus: Oh, how I would like the emblem of Artemis in Laodicea to be dedicated to the altar of El Gabal... [With his female hand he will cover the gap].**

**J.Soaemias: Orestes has multiplied...**

**Heliogabalus: Hadrian from Anoster was healed in Oresteia!**

**J.Soaemias: He would have confessed to Marmaraon... How many men with azurite arteries from all the empire had been sacrificed for our god... [With a voice refractive from remorse].**

**Heliogabalus: I was searching and tormenting their genitals in the way of the local rituals. [He will touch his mother's pubic area. Julia Soaemias pushes him away due to this heinous action and she anchors in Astarte].**

**J.Soaemias: There are no lions, monkeys or snakes in the temple... [With a voice of Enceladus].**

**Heliogabalus: I do not have men's genitals in the pouch at the moment... Thus, she will not take a dowry from her marriage to me. Astarte will be worshipped in the praying position. Maybe only two golden lions which have been melt like the snow... [He touches his chin with his finger and it seems like he will think of something].**

**J.Soaemias: You were self-declared Great Mother when you were on the chariot with the lion once...**

**Heliogabalus: I had indulged into Dionysian acts with the tiger outside of the cage... [He is out of control].**

**J.Soaemias:** I imagine it was not made of silver, ivory or brass... [Heliogabalus kisses her mouth with a cane. She will push him away in a way of irrigation].

**Heliogabalus:** My onyx-sun appreciates these things... Cinnabar has come to the top... [Julia Soaemias is in a trench of alertness].

**J.Soaemias:** This is why El Gabal hasn't been inaugurated on a column in a Theban area...

**Heliogabalus:** The fire of Vesta, Palladium and the Shields of the Salii are nomads here! [He fumes].

**J.Soaemias:** The cults of Jews, of the Samaritans and the fishermen's purifications have been encased here...

**Heliogabalus:** Do you know what I wish to happen? [He is amok] The Eternal flame to be desalinated on the altar of Vestales...

**J.Soaemias:** But the original hasn't gained strength...

**Heliogabalus:** The illegitimate one has been scattered everywhere... [Julia Maesa enters the temple with a slight bent].

## Scene 2

**Julia Maesa:** I was informed that at eleven o'clock at night you would go out of the temple and sacrifice a hecatomb of cattle and a great number of lambs with a variety of spices to El Gabal... [In a taunting tone. Julia Soaemias is going up and down while contemplating].

**Heliogabalus:** Where are the sordid ones? [He smiles]

**J.Maesa:** Many senators have been giving you their word of advice for months since you decided to place your idol higher than the statue of the Arc de Triomphe... [Heliogabalus will pretend that he doesn't observe her]

**Heliogabalus:** The feather of my eyes does not care. Only my garments are silky... [Julia Soaemias whispers something into Julia Maesa's ear].

**J.Soaemias:** He says that because the attire of the Italians has been made of a degenerative material like wool...

**J.Maesa:** Does he think he has become a god due to the bright garments of the Phoenicians and the sparkling ones of the Persians? [She mocks him]

**Heliogabalus:** The necklaces, the earrings and the gold tiara haven't been annotated... [He smiles devilishly. Julia Soaemias will hug the floor].



**J.Maesa:** In Byzantium, Macrinus wasn't dubbed by benign Sciron... Nicomedia was the recourse of your apex... [She taps his back like an associate and a teacher].

**Heliogabalus:** The Achaeans did not spell the Phoenician alphabet but reconstructed my primal god!

**J.Maesa:** I have heard that Christ is Alpha and Omega... [With a voice of Aeolus]

**Heliogabalus:** Not for me; I am a Gentile for them...

**J.Maesa:** Why do you water the holy things with rivers of wine?

**Heliogabalus:** To marry Dionysus with Christ...

**J.Soaemias:** Officers with long-sleeved garments and linen shoes put the intestines of the sacrificed dead into gold cups like the hierophants of the holy temple of Phoenicia.

**Heliogabalus:** Chain reactions were not caused only by this but due to the fact that my mother gained power with a woman's fashion and arrangements... Don't forget that in the past you lived in luxurious palaces and that I successfully ascended the throne based on lies! [He will move away from the women and his hands like wax behind his back]. We are here because we gave wealth to the Legions... I never preach like you do...

**J.Soaemias:** Let Mater Castrarum et Senatus meditate... [In a state of sleeping pills]. My immobile sister is a peacock and a miser... [Julia Maesa touches the head of Soaemias and speaks like an owl].

**J.Maesa:** Why did you place your glorious inscription over the statue of ivy?

**Heliogabalus:** Gods are above words!

**J.Soaemias:** He fights the Marcomanni with a dinosaur's candle... [With embroidered eyes].

**J.Maesa:** You see the astrologers, the wizards and the supernatural ceremony... [She helps her daughter to get up].

**Heliogabalus:** I didn't learn from them, though, what kind of altar is supposed to be ensured... [Julia Soaemias whispers something in Maesa's ear].

**J.Soaemias:** He is referring to these due to Zoticus' wedding... [Daughter and mother leave the temple while Hierocles greets them and visits Heliogabalus].

### Scene 3

**Hierocles:** I see that your relatives have taken care of you... [He sensually brings his blond hair closer to him].

**Heliogabalus:** Don't talk to me... [His hand prevents him from speaking]. I am upset, my lover... [He touches the chest of Hierocles].

**Hierocles:** My blankets are made of eagle's beams... Have you ever wondered why?

**Heliogabalus:** Even though my rod is without immunity, it lasts; it hasn't been corrupted...

**Hierocles:** Green, iridescent and blue were interchangeable at the summer symposia you had organised...

**Heliogabalus:** When someone is hot in the spring, he gets green and he muses...

**Hierocles:** You had given camels and donkeys to the people...

**Heliogabalus:** Let the heat of Arabia and the man who mounts the bull be personified...

**Hierocles:** Can't you rest on pillows that aren't made of rabbit's skin? [Heliogabalus will yawn].

**Heliogabalus:** They presuppose humility and obedience to the Great Spirit... I want to get pregnant from Thot... [He speaks defiantly].

**Hierocles:** Will you scatter yourself at the baths you give birth?

**Heliogabalus:** No, unless they have been scented with saffron! [He closes his eyes pretending he wants to dream].

**Hierocles:** Why roses, hyacinths and evening primroses were baptized from you in the chambers of the symposia?

**Heliogabalus:** I scatter everything that blooms over my graves...

**Hierocles:** Your wine is so sweet since you have mixed pine cone with dust... [He pretends to peer into the air]. Why, though, all the urns and vases are made of mastika and pennyroyal?

**Heliogabalus:** Gold in frugality...

**Hierocles:** Why were you eating camel's heel like a monkey of Apicius? [He folds his hands].

**Heliogabalus:** To become Hercules and an Alexandrian poet...

**Hierocles:** And the tongues of peacocks and nightingales? [He will spin around Heliogabalus].

**Heliogabalus:** Let me not be shrouded from plague and let me be advertised from Phaon in Andromeda's stardom...

**Hierocles:** Oh, how I would love to get drenched with parrots' heads and pheasants... [He will act as if his saliva is camels].

**Heliogabalus:** With repetition I will be loved maternally... [He kissed Hierocles' forehead]. Red snappers from cardamom, trigonella and parsley...

**Hierocles:** You always fed the dogs with the liver of geese... [His right ear is like north wind].

**Heliogabalus:** I always wanted to forearm with Persuasion and talk with old friends at the Island of the Blissful like I do now...

**Hierocles:** For now, there are leopards and lions cooked on your sofas...

**Heliogabalus:** They are raised for dinner...

**Hierocles:** Why were split peas with onyx, beans with amber, rice with pearls and peas with gold combined with pig's breasts? [With a jealous inquisitorial lover's look].

**Heliogabalus:** To have a vicissitude of equinoxes and everyone be transformed into Midas like me...

**Hierocles:** How many dead people with Jupiter in Capricorn and violets were in your appetizers in order to reach the peak of Sinai from the reversible roof...?

**Heliogabalus:** Few people have climbed the Tree of Life like me... [He will stand like a cedar].

**Hierocles:** And why do you put pearls on fish?

**Heliogabalus:** I was searching the ocean for scorpiurus and stipe... [Hierocles will stand and kiss El Gabal's stone like a crane].

**Hierocles:** You drunk so much once that everyone thought you had had sexual intercourse with the swimming pool... The lazurite of the many had been written on your spoons... Ten lettuces and ten bears... [He counts his fingers and toes].

**Heliogabalus:** Ten so as the carp will attach to the onion... Three triads: the female, the male and the unifying principle...

**Hierocles:** Sephira!

**Heliogabalus:** Where is the mob so as his cloak will be sprinkled with the grail?  
[He looks around but there is no one there].

**Hierocles:** Maybe because next to a chariot with four elephants there were  
ruined memorial stones...

**Heliogabalus:** The deference and reminder of yeast was always of cedar. [He  
kisses his mouth with his spear].

**Hierocles:** Why didn't you eat fish when you were at the islands?

**Heliogabalus:** With my tooth as an axe, when you are away from subversive love  
you need Atargatis...

**Hierocles:** The fish you ate had been boiled in blue sauce...

**Heliogabalus:** Because Zeus and Hera travel in the sky like little kids which have  
been lauded by mouth...

**Hierocles:** And in the summer when Vesuvius of the snows lives in the Garden of  
Pleasures?

**Heliogabalus:** Ejaculation is the Temple of God and no one curves it; while its  
iceberg curves in August... [His heart seems to be discharged with a Zephyr].  
You never sin twice with the same woman apart from your lawful wife...

**Hierocles:** With the same man?

**Heliogabalus:** Numerous times because it is an apostolic proposition... Even  
this... [He scratches his head to remember].

**Hierocles:** Christ?

**Heliogabalus:** Yes... This Christ... [It seems that neither his thought nor he  
himself can come back to his rosemary]. Was anything about adultery between  
boys mentioned by Him?

**Hierocles:** If he had said anything, it would have been written somewhere... [He  
looks puzzled].

**Heliogabalus:** It is time to have dinner because my stomach is about to complain!  
[He claps his hands].

**Hierocles:** Like the desserts from wood, marble, stone and clay?

**Heliogabalus:** I wanted everyone to see the food... In the end, they laved their  
hands because of the hippalectryon...

**Hierocles:** Thank God they hadn't drunk ivory or wax... [He laughs].

**Heliogabalus:** How many, though, of my wolves hadn't consorted with lion cubs, leopards and bears before Dawn's reveille? [He seems to think of the past].

**Hierocles:** How many didn't become fish due to diving and emerging at sea otter's wheel?

**Heliogabalus:** From the Lacaedemonian stone and the porphyry my Palace's emptiness... [Immersed in his private universe]. I accomplished, though, a mix of classes when I bought and liberated courtesans from their procurer...

**Hierocles:** You gave each prostitute and homosexual of all sizes three aurei... (He laughs sensually).

**Heliogabalus:** In order to bring them to Kabbalah...

**Hierocles:** Your garment isn't linen anymore... [A piece of it will be touched by him].

**Heliogabalus:** I am not used to beg but at dinners I wear Dalmatian silky garments... [Arrogantly].

**Hierocles:** You gave a prize to any Spartacus who would gather a thousand kilos of webs... [He laughs].

**Heliogabalus:** I am Hor and Ra and with my ears of corn I radiate Klytia towards all directions! [A fly on his forehead annoys him. It travels to his finger, though, after he grabs it]. One more from the cloned number of pet bees...

**Hierocles:** Maybe it is the master of flies! [He whistles].

**Heliogabalus:** I am a fly pursuer that weakens Seth... [They leave the imperial temple after they have hugged each other].

**CURTAIN**

## **ACT TWO**

### **Scene 1**

[Heliogabalus will come to his baths with a garment of cherries. Hierocles laves his back with a sponge].

**Heliogabalus:** Do you know what I want Hierocles? Doctors to make an excision in that spot on my body... [He immerses his left hand in the water and Priapus is detected].

**Hierocles: Orchid and pole together in one coin? The fake Seven Heavens of the Cherubim do not have a gender...**

**Heliogabalus: Sealed Amity of a rosary...**

**Hierocles: Would the Roman citizens tolerate your bat-like nature?**

**Heliogabalus: Nemo me impune lacessit. [He clenches his right hand and grabs the sponge from the hands of Hierocles. It will be thrown away from this bath]. Reigns know not of law...**

**Hierocles: This is why at nights you become a Mother-Earth of the free arts?**

**Heliogabalus: I enchant Ceraste and the forge when I have Tahran with me! [He observes him]. I do not see red cheeks on you! [Heliogabalus will slap the water of the baths to wet Hierocles]. Since you are attracted to Sytry, you are not decent! How you outclass my court who were men in need of rain!**

**Hierocles: The Neo-platonic old men had taken pride in their brides! Eureka! You were married to Zoticus once... [Like a duck in the water].**

**Heliogabalus: Cynics and men with the morality of Noah had definitely not experimented sexually like me at their peak... [Heliogabalus comes out of the bath dressed as a newborn baby]. You haven't weaned yourself from me yet; that's why we have our catharsis together... [He wears a cloak while Hierocles is in the bath]. Scipio and I are one and the same!**

**Hierocles: You never wear a linen garment of purification...**

**Heliogabalus: It would be degrading for a beggar! [He is slightly upset]. My partners, though, gained something since they prayed to the god of Emesa!**

**Hierocles: Lewd teenagers and homosexuals of all kinds escort you...**

**Heliogabalus: I cannot resist Militta... [He admires himself in front of a mirror].**

**Hierocles: And Narcissus? [He pretends to be ignorant when he really doesn't care].**

**Heliogabalus: He hanged himself in his own river... Like Zoticus who didn't rise to eat my thin sky. [He will put his right middle finger in his mouth].**

**Hierocles: Why is your body waxed? [Heliogabalus will observe his legs].**

**Heliogabalus: An emperor should have worn the unobtainable so as to form an animal with the compasses...**

**Hierocles: Why men with the sizes of Euripos had been carved at your palace?**

**Heliogabalus:** Constellations need their stardom! [He has this look on his face like the one of Galinea. Hierocles will come out of the bath too. He quickly wears his trousers. Heliogabalus meets him at his crotch]. This is how Flora's festival will be celebrated! [He removes the wig from his head so he can apply make-up to his eyes]. The queen of Hierocles will soon go to taverns and brothels...

**Hierocles:** My fall from the chariot once gave credentials to your prayer... [Heliogabalus gave a rope of limestone to Hierocles].

**Heliogabalus:** I want my arms and legs to be tied instantly! [Hierocles does so immediately]. A plank from your hands to make a bridge with my legs! [And so it happened]. I want the left and right eye to be punched! [Hierocles will obey immediately]. This womb is exhilarating...

**Hierocles:** And not burning slowly? I hated the cooking art of Zoticus...

**Heliogabalus:** He had the poise of Menorah and of the Olympians. [Hierocles hits his back with the fury of Typhoon]. He was awarded with wreaths at the festival! [The same]. He was brightened by the light of torches! [The same].

**Hierocles:** My master's lady inscribes a din that doesn't flow!

**Heliogabalus:** I had lain on Zoticus' chest...

**Hierocles:** His foreskin was unsound...

**Heliogabalus:** He who drinks with pythons is to blame for Zoticus' night of shame! [With boxer's voice].

**Hierocles:** All his titles were taken from him and he had help in order to escape from the palace and Rome silently... [Sensually].

**Heliogabalus:** This may save his life...

**Hierocles:** Your body and mine will be mutilated... Why, though, charioteers, jesters and actors have positions of responsibility?

**Heliogabalus:** Because I presume they have been easily given to them.

**Hierocles:** Overall, Alexander has been adopted...

**Heliogabalus:** El Gabal had told me that my house will never be melancholy again... [Like a god].

## Scene 2

[Julia Soaemias raids the stage. Hierocles bows and leaves the baths].

**J.Soaemias: Is the tulip to your lover greater than your mother's pouch?**

**Heliogabalus: In his eyes I see your wing, the Cherubs and the maternal slit...**

**J.Soaemias: My child, we cannot have a consanguineous umbilical cord...**

**Heliogabalus: For the gods there wasn't a revocation of the prohibitive. [He goes to a corner and mourns].**

**J.Soaemias: Don't you want to pit with El Gabal?**

**Heliogabalus: I do not know if I am worthy of him or I can become one with him...**

**J.Soaemias: You cannot give birth...**

**Heliogabalus: I will have the horn of plenty when I have a son from my other half...**

**J.Soaemias: The Praetorian Guard says you are a clay plate with no slugs...**

**Heliogabalus: The Guard! The Guard! [He has tied his hands on his chest].**

**J.Soaemias: Many people criticize you because you have spent lots of money from the imperial treasure to bribe cavaliers, the Senate and Senators...**

**Heliogabalus: With money everything can be bought... This is proven with my accession to the throne...**

**J.Soaemias: Which solemn speeches are true?**

**Heliogabalus: If there was a truth, all men would be almighty gods...**

**J.Soaemias: What is there beyond truth? Fifty-one tigers and one elephant were slaughtered by you...**

**Heliogabalus: Opal's hand... We would never die if we were gods...**

**J.Soaemias: And if we are but we do not know it?**

**Heliogabalus: This can be true too... This is why gods are worshipped by people...**

**J.Soaemias: So many busts of young men were perforated by your hand... [With a loud voice]. Why were you feeding the snakes with obelisks of flesh and seashells?**



**Heliogabalus:** I gave food to the waterfall and the gloves of jasmine with centrality's lightning and with the halter that is on the alert. [With messenger's look].

**J.Soaemias:** The snakes?

**Heliogabalus:** Ouroboros guards my Secular Birch so as my rat self will plummet... [His mother will be fondled like a koala by him].

**J.Soaemias:** In Rome, on a temple's gable, there was an Immortal with an Ankh who led a Devourer...

**Heliogabalus:** Maybe because she was a messenger of Anubis to Khepri...

**J.Soaemias:** If you remember, Gannys was slaughtered because he supported your establishing with a contract in chrysolite and olivine...

**Heliogabalus:** The sinners are in the seven grades of Levi...

**J.Soaemias:** Which will be the eighth? [She bends when she asks him].

**Heliogabalus:** To find techniques and ways so as a man will be connected with them...

**J.Soaemias:** This is not Paul the Apostle's teaching...

**Heliogabalus:** It is pagan though... [He laughs]. The point is to live according to a pathway so as everything is enclosed in your ring... [He looks at his ring arrogantly]. This has been given to me by God so as people around me will worship...

**J.Soaemias:** Like Aurelius Helix, the well-known athlete?

**Heliogabalus:** Exactly like her! [He will hit his chest hard].

**J.Soaemias:** Ilia's hadn't invited anyone to their stadium for fear of being stronger than Hercules...

**Heliogabalus:** It's the hedgehog's path that is dichotomized and not Jophiel's... [J.Soaemias will kiss the ring on his hand].

**J.Soaemias:** Why are you a beggar for hot coins?

**Heliogabalus:** I'm waiting like a charioteer for the zirconium of lead and zenith... [He looks at the ground and then at the nebula].

**J.Soaemias:** Will Macrinus be vindicated with his letter to the Senate after the head of Julian has been returned to him?

**Heliogabalus:** I wasn't, though, a carrier pigeon nor my alter ego will be executed in Cappadocia...

**J.Soaemias:** For the Vestal Virgin torches of boars' hurricanes arrested the Roman society... [With a square morality].

**Heliogabalus:** I thought that gods would be born with flutes from her and me or ashes...

**J.Soaemias:** Do you know that according to the law she must be buried alive if she has sexual intercourse without being married? [She looks like she is warning him].

**Heliogabalus:** Deus Sol Invictus would bring a child with a wreath of garlands to the almond wedding ceremony...

**J.Soaemias:** I will be a lover of strangers in the court so as a wreath of fennel will be dedicated to Sobazios... Will you be added to my juniper?

**Heliogabalus:** I agree with my parent's order. [They both leave the stage].

## CURTAIN

### ACT 3

#### Scene 1

[Heliogabalus is on his bed. He eats fish and oyster. Julia Maesa enters his room spitefully].

**J.Maesa:** Due to your homosexual carnivals the Praetorians have been infected! [She scrutinizes the top of her hair].

**Heliogabalus:** Like everyone else, she too is an acrobat at the Herculean Pillars! [He continues eating like Atlas].

**J.Maesa:** January's solstice is the almond men's drain. If the periaktos of your world goes on like this, your pyramid will be dethroned...

**Heliogabalus:** The flywheels of my spindle have not trembled yet. Each boy is abstract art and not disintoxicating at all.

**J.Maesa:** Maybe unholy... [She will sit on his bed].

**Heliogabalus:** Don't think that the sovereign priests of El Gabal come from god. My hammer won't be abstracted...

**J.Maesa: So many emperors had followed Seth's ending... Don't you know anything about the mythology of Pharaohs?**

**Heliogabalus: Nero was a poet with no jade... Caligula had two thoughts... [The plate will couple with the ground].**

**J.Maesa: With you, every border now has been trespassed... All of your favourite people had entailed the volcanic grace of the domineering scale...**

**Heliogabalus: Because they have humble and different upbringing...**

**J.Maesa: Aquilia Severa was definitely not looted for her ruby by you... There were rumors that she used Helen of Troy as an excuse...**

**Heliogabalus: It is not true that I had united with her rhombus violently... [With reproach].**

**J.Maesa: You betray every religious oath! Any Vestal Virgin, who breaks the law and stops being a virgin, must be smacked at Forum and go to prison...**

**Heliogabalus: Laws were made for people; not the opposite... [He will rise from his bed].**

**J.Maesa: Although you honour idols, you use dead arguments...**

**Heliogabalus: I will try to become Severus Alexander's baboon whose mother has been crowned by Chalcenterus... [The head will moor at his manly ulna]. Stop chanting! You annoy me!**

**J.Maesa: Without my girder you wouldn't have ascended to the throne! [With a low voice. Heliogabalus shows her the ring with which he moves everything].**

**Heliogabalus: This alone is enough to achieve your impalement...**

**J.Maesa: You have forbidden Faustina to mourn for her husband whom you tore apart...**

**Heliogabalus: You aren't more Christian than me... [With lazurite's serendipity his hand swims].**

**J.Maesa: Julia Cornelia?**

**Heliogabalus: She was indeed a plane and a glorious myrtle even though we were together because you proposed it...**

**J.Maesa: That ceremony was like the palm tree firefly.**

**Heliogabalus: I sent her away because I saw that her valley had been blotched. But from Aquilia Severa I wanted god-like children...**

**J.Maesa: After what I hear, I believe that your cousin Alexander Severus should have been dubbed Caesar by you so you should have your priestly duties...**

**Heliogabalus: If he concentrates on Agriculture and May Day... [With fox's look].**

**J.Maesa: As Pythia let nothing be said by you...**

**Heliogabalus: Alexander is a flashlight and lives in mallows... Do not argue... He may pass from the army to the sacred Lares... [He talks to himself]. Maybe humanity benefits from Orpheus, Abraham and Christ...**

**J.Maesa: I think you begin to rave...**

**Heliogabalus: If he takes part in twenty-eight dances of pickets, your edict may be fulfilled... [He hits his chin with his little hand].**

**J.Maesa: Julia Avita Mamaea will give him a helmet from this kind of activities so as not to be crucified...**

**Heliogabalus: Such indecent tactics for Antoninus? [He whistles and lands to a wall with his one leg in a triangle].**

**J.Maesa: Yes, because he has become callous with self-discipline...**

**Heliogabalus: I covet him because he has the circular of Seneca and Pherecydes... [His eyes closed].**

**J.Maesa: His muscles have been sculpted in arenas and gymnastics...**

**Heliogabalus: Mamaea... Mamaea... [With a poisonous fury]. Because of her, Alexander Severus uses cooks and cupbearers from a collection of foundations... [He takes a cup with no wine in it, which had been left on his bed and with facetious texture tries to drink it]. I am furious with his tolerance and his menial arts... But Heliogabalus will compete and be examined with him... Let it be since he has been chosen by Adonai...**

**J.Maesa: Yes... [Like a jackal which lurks].**

**Heliogabalus: He will become Caesar... Tell Avita Mamaea that I know the army has been bribed by her... My chin will have to be shaved soon though...**

**J.Maesa: A woman is begging you to turn your barbarian garment into Roman... It suits your mother better than you... [Heliogabalus goes ballistic].**

**Heliogabalus: I will be filled with a mosaic of spices since at dawn there will be a desolation of lambs and cattle. [He takes a dagger out of his shoe and he plays with it].**

**J.Maesa:** You do not repent... The number of the sixty emigrant wagons is in sharp... All our fortune is about to end and pass in the tongues of palates and procurers...

**Heliogabalus:** My royal palm will hug the people... [Julia Maesa will leave the stage sensually while Heliogabalus plays with an apple he found on the floor]. The donation of Hesperides brought me to Earth... [He soliloquizes]. Ivy... The birthday suit... The spirit will become bay if it impersonates another, in order to become an experimental school... [Julia Soaemias will enter the room with open arms and she will lead Heliogabalus to the balcony at this summer night. They will both look at the sky].

## Scene 2

**Heliogabalus:** Under the sound of the toads with hematite the night becomes moon's twin sister!

**J.Soaemias:** There are three torches in the garden...

**Heliogabalus:** I have been dragged by Achernar...

**J.Soaemias:** And Fomalhaut from Shu kisses you...

**Heliogabalus:** My body degenerates with Canopus on my head...

**J.Soaemias:** The star of Osiris... [She will show it to him].

**Heliogabalus:** The cuckoo that burns executes everything and removes the milk from the camels...

**J.Soaemias:** Rigil Kentaurus serves you, your white guardian angel will pray and your pure-evil self will be protected from him...

**Heliogabalus:** Do you know that Canopus was dead and there was a monument for him in Egypt?

**J.Soaemias:** With you, everything about the hexagonal star is known...

**Heliogabalus:** It has been seen in Crete... [He touches his hair]. Where is Coma Berenices going to be presented?

**J.Soaemias:** You have been blessed by goddess-valerian like her... Her ornate hair was dedicated from Ptolemaeus Koinopheles...

**Heliogabalus:** Maybe I come from Aquamarine... Aurora Borealis... My head's cover causes me to be a bright star in the Sky and on Earth... [He is amazed].

**J.Soaemias:** Can you see her from here?

**Heliogabalus:** No, but this is how I had imagined her... Persecutive dominance of demons...

**J.Soaemias:** Maybe because she is of mercury...

**Heliogabalus:** This is my figurative shade. Reflective of dead goats and deep arcades of Nut...

**J.Soaemias:** Corona Borealis?

**Heliogabalus:** A gift-wreath from Dionysus to Ariadne.

**J.Soaemias:** And not a tiara on Esther's head?

**Heliogabalus:** This is a vertical interpretation as well...

**J.Soaemias:** In hoc signo... [Her third eye will be underlined in him]. A spirit like Alexander the Great's became distinct in Mysia and Thrace...

**Heliogabalus:** He was saluted son of Zeus from the priests of Egypt. [He cries].

**J.Soaemias:** Bacchus with four hundred followers and deer's offspring with representatives, but he didn't sow thistle...

**Heliogabalus:** Then he would have come with a flaming rod... [She gives him her hand and he kisses it].

**J.Soaemias:** You should know that the houses and the supplies for this Spirit were charged to state expenses and this was acceptable... [With poppy's voice].

**Heliogabalus:** He dropped anchor in Byzantium with a troop transport...

**J.Soaemias:** He committed a holy deed in one night and then disappeared in a wooden horse...

**Heliogabalus:** This is why I'm a rue and devout. My sight does not want titles from Carchedonians and intestines with ebonite's veins... At least I have moved past the dragons on my head... The oar of the North Star has become tangible... [He tries to warm his uncovered parts with his hands]. Let our body enter the palace so it gets healed by the sun... [They both leave the balcony and enter Heliogabalus' chamber while the stage lights are dimmed].

**CURTAIN**

**ACT FOUR**

**Scene 1**

**[Heliogabalus is on the alert holding a red, silky rope while a naked Hierocles sits comfortably on a couch].**

**Heliogabalus: Alexander has been chosen by the soldiers... [With a hissing voice].**

**Hierocles: Syrian priests have prophesized that you will die prematurely...**

**Heliogabalus: Nemesis is well embedded inside you... I feel my Omega will melt... [He observes his ring and puts a rope on his head like a tape]. My eye of the tiger defines what the future holds for me...**

**Hierocles: The pylon with the golden boards was Babel although it was made by a hand for your suicide! [He feels himself up from his chest to his groin].**

**Heliogabalus: Your pine cone has always been a gold spear! [He sensually touches the whimsical spot].**

**Hierocles: Since the “Book of Wisdom” by Apollonius of Tyana demands abstention from women. [Like the rain].**

**Heliogabalus: You should know that during the menstrual cycle, the first a woman approaches dries out. [He takes a thunder with hemlock from an emerald in his hands].**

**Hierocles: Why must Alexander Severus be the pastoral rod of Vritomartis? Why the Senate, the soldiers and the cavaliers love him and everyone accepts him? [He makes sighs of pleasure].**

**Heliogabalus: I ordered the Guard to kill him in Siloam or with Ureus' donation or with Damocles. I demanded the name Caesar to withdraw from Alexander Severus! [He screams].**

**Hierocles: And what good will it do if they smear mud on his statues' inscription? [Terror will spread out with his sweaty hands so as he is absorbed by his burden while his self-satisfactory ecstasy is fulfilled].**

**Heliogabalus: We have contracted Katanikotael but Spes Vetus with her gardens is Menhir. Oh, how I would like to do the practical exercise of Pelops!**

## **Scene 2**

**[There will be chaos outside the emperor's chambers. There is a raid of soldiers at his gardens. Heliogabalus will find himself at a drape on his knees. At the same time Antiochian will enter the chambers].**

**Antiochian: Ave Caesar! [He makes the well-known salutation]. I told the Guard that they must obey the Emperor! [Observing only Hierocles. Heliogabalus will slowly appear].**

**Heliogabalus:** Prop... Properly... You sp... Speak... [He is like a petrified bark with a string of dissonance].

**Antiochian:** You will keep your life as an emperor if Hierocles leaves you along with all the charioteers and actors... The Guard demands your reversion to the female transpiration which is pregnant with sword, thrall and blindfold eyes. [Heliogabalus looks at Hierocles with tears in his eyes while his sobbing is obvious].

**Heliogabalus:** The emperor must promise something else... [Looks as if he is humiliated].

**Antiochian:** Alexander Severus must be away from your friends so as not to affiliate your Sodom and Gomorrah... [Heliogabalus approaches Hierocles and sears his mouth with a kiss. He leaves the stage with Antiochian].

### Scene 3

[The night of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 222 AD will transpire. Heliogabalus talks to his mother in an empty Senate].

**J.Soaemias:** Do you believe that the order you gave to the Senate to abandon the city was a woman with three heads who has Solomon in her hands and holds a reflector?

**Heliogabalus:** They never forgave you for taking part in this...

**J.Soaemias:** Why did you refuse to attend the Capitol where they received the state's oblations and manage the ceremony?

**Heliogabalus:** The city's praetorian has a twisted and redundant ladder. [With his hands behind his back he observes his mother]. If I had killed Alexander, the Senate would have chosen someone else...

**J.Soaemias:** My son, yourself will kill you. You deny your Olympian parentage by making the decision of cancelling your cousin's nomination for co-emperor... You will sink in the sewer... [She stops his marching shoulder with her hand].

**Heliogabalus:** You start talking like Julia Maesa... [His souls seems peaceful].

**J.Soaemias:** Your ending will also be mine. You were the meteorite El Gabal which fell and scattered death on Earth...

**Heliogabalus:** Many senators were transferred outside of the city with slaves, carriages and porters! [He smiles].



**J.Soaemias: Ulpian was saved from columns' scythes due to your salamander's libations! Centurion was deaf and he thought you told him to leave the city. But after all, Silvinus was dead...**

**Heliogabalus: I do not rest on my lutes! One of the Praetorians is conspiring against me.**

**J.Soaemias: An astrologer told me that your toga will be stained with wine from Tyros. Your body and mine will be dragged around the city and thrown into Tiber!**

**Heliogabalus: This is why Julia Maesa is no longer there? [His hand will touch the empty seats of the Senate].**

**J.Soaemias: No one can hide from the Eye of the Sun! [Heliogabalus will hug his mother].**

**Heliogabalus: My name was Varius because my classmates said my magnolia had been taken by many men's flints!**

**J.Soaemias: True miracles of nature! Now, though, Antoninus you cannot find shelter in El Gabal's temple in order to be saved! It got dark, my son and this place will be characterized by snowflakes! [She kisses his left red cheek but he will withdraw despite her warmth].**

**Heliogabalus: The curses I gave Macrinus and his seed have fallen upon us and have multiplied... [He will apologise this way].**

**J.Soaemias: They haven't dissolved from salt... [Heliogabalus observes his hands and soliloquizes].**

**Heliogabalus: Attalus... Trikianus... Castinus... Sillas... Carus... Paetus... Messalla... Bassus... Gannys... Verus... All dead...**

**J.Soaemias: All your fingers have been cut and the blood of sea will flow...**

**Heliogabalus: We are the only ones left... [He realizes his imminent death and his voice becomes a broken line]. I abandoned my friend Hierocles for a while to trick the Guard! I do not betray Hierocles for a throne's pouch! I had put him up in my palace and no one from the people knew!**

**J.Soaemias: Alpha and Omega prisoned Autothith! The spirits I gave you inside the bronze canister are not in prison anymore! And I'm not able to beat the heron and the pelican anymore...**

**Heliogabalus: The cockerel I had was not a jet; the scroll was not an emerald... My imperial stamp has not been incensed with alum, raisins, dates and wood of cedar and aloe... [He is exhausted from camellia's ending].**

**J.Soaemias: You hadn't fasted pork or prayed so as to be ready to recite David's Jubilee psalm!**

**Heliogabalus: I had Tiferet and Hod on my head. Where has Hesus been excavated? [A lizard enters the place and Heliogabalus takes it in his hand].**

**J.Soaemias: Where is the charitable wheel and the wisdom of Urim and Thummim?**

**Heliogabalus: Silence... [He pretends he listens to something. Lizard will leave his hand. Julia Soaemias will rest on an empty seat]. Do you know what I had dreamt of once? A jackal leading me to a path at the end of which there was you...**

**J.Soaemias: Had I invoked Bes for the lever of Odyssey?**

**Heliogabalus: Yes... Let me be a mushroom for the lambs that were sacrificed... [Soldiers marching out of the Senate. Julia Soaemias falls on the floor and kisses it while Heliogabalus, with the same technique Macrinus left the Battle of Antioch in 218 A, will leave her. Julia Soaemias weeps on stage for five minutes. One of the soldiers comes in and helps her get up].**

#### **Scene 4**

**Soldier: Your leaf has found the Reaper in a lavatory. Children must not leave Yggdrasil before their parents... Adulteress of the Senate, I am ordered to arrest you!**

**J.Soaemias: Hierocles?**

**Soldier: He will have the same fate as you!**

**J.Soaemias: Without a trial?**

**Soldier: Gods do not need trials...**

**J.Soaemias: My mother?**

**Soldier: She is circled by soldiers with helmets like Alexander Severus and your sister... Alexander Severus will soon be an emperor and the legionaries have arranged for your corpse to be dragged in the streets of Rome...**

**J.Soaemias: The court of El Gabal? [With a voice that hasn't fluttered about].**

**Soldier: They are drawing away... They are all dead... [Julia Soaemias looks at the empty seats and talks to the absent Senators].**

**J.Soaemias: This is the end of anyone who serves the Invincible Sun with his quadriga... Who would have thought that the Sun of Spring was meant to meet his partner? Osiris has united with the stage like me and he will never see Oros again... Every end, though, has a new beginning... [They both leave the Senate to move on with her execution while the stage lights flicker].**

**CURTAIN**