

THE GREAT WALL OF ASGARD An Audio Play

By

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A story from Norse mythology

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Scene: 1

MUSIC: INTRO MUSIC. TEN SECONDS. FADES OUT.

ODIN  
Ahh, another glorious morning in Asgard.

THOR  
Morning Father.

ODIN  
Morning Thor.

LOKI  
Good morning Father... Thor.

ODIN  
Morning Loki.

THOR  
Bro.

FREYA  
Hi Dad... Loki... Thor.

ODIN  
Morning Freya my dear.

LOKI  
Good morning Freya.

THOR  
Sis.

FREYA  
Hey, look, a stranger on a horse.

SOUND: CLIP CLOP OF HORSES HOOVES. GET NEAR THEN STOP.

GUNTHAR  
I seek audience with Odin the All-Father.

ODIN  
That is I. Who may you be?

GUNTHAR  
I am Gunthar the mason. I have a proposition for you.

ODIN  
Speak on.

(CONTINUED)

GUNTHAR

You have a fine and prosperous city.

ODIN

Agreed.

GUNTHAR

However, it is lacking in one thing - a defensive wall, with which to protect you against your enemies; the giants.

ODIN

Alas, you are correct again, Gunthar the mason.

THOR

I've been saying that for years, but did he listen? Oh no, it takes some stranger from out of town to--

FREYA

Shh!

ODIN

Hrumph, quite. So what's your proposition Gunthar?

GUNTHAR

I will build you a great wall that will rise above the head of the tallest giant and which none shall breach.

ODIN

An impressive boast. How long would it take you?

GUNTHAR

Twelve months, no more.

THOR

Twelve months? Pah.

ODIN

And what is your price for such a wall, master builder?

GUNTHAR

The sun, the moon and your beautiful daughter Freya as my wife.

THOR

Hah, he's a mad-man.

FREYA

No way! I'm too young to be married - especially to him! ... His horse is better looking than he is...

(CONTINUED)

ODIN

Your demands are quite preposterous tradesman! Thor, throw him out!

THOR

Oh, it will be my pleasure.

LOKI

Wait! One moment. He seems a confident and capable fellow.

GUNTHAR

I am.

LOKI

If you are to undertake this task, Gunthar, the wall must be your greatest creation ever.

GUNTHAR

Of course, I use only the finest stone from local quarries, the sharpest of tools and the sturdiest of jointing techniques.

LOKI

Excellent. And you will work alone.

GUNTHAR

I work best when alone.

LOKI

And furthermore, you will complete the work in six months, not twelve.

GUNTHAR

Ah, hmm. It could be done, but I would require my horse and some hauling tackle.

LOKI

That would be acceptable. We have a deal.

GUNTHAR

Good.

ODIN

But--

LOKI

Trust me.

FREYA

Trust? You? (sobs) I don't want to be a mason's wife! (sobs). I'm going to my room...

SOUND: RAPID FOOTSTEPS AND SOBS FADE AWAY.

(CONTINUED)

GUNTHAR

I too bid you farewell, for now. I will see you in six months for payment.

SOUND: HORSE HOOVES FADE.

THOR

You had better explain yourself Loki, you scheming little--

ODIN

Yes, do explain, I think you may have gone too far this time, my lad.

LOKI

Father, brother, it is I, Loki you speak to.

THOR

Yeah, exactly.

LOKI

My plan is simple; No man - even assisted by a horse - can complete such a wall in six months. His contract will be void and so we will have half a wall for free!

ODIN

I sincerely hope you are correct. However, we will meet again to review the work in four months from now.

THOR

Good idea. We can draw up a contingency plan in case something goes wrong.

LOKI

What could possibly go wrong?

MUSIC: INTRO MUSIC. FADE IN. FIVE SECONDS. FADES OUT.

Scene 2

SOUND: STONEMASON AT WORK.

LOKI

Hello father.

THOR

Father. That was a quick four months.

ODIN

Yes, hello boys. As you can see, Loki, Gunthar is well on schedule to complete in time!

(CONTINUED)

LOKI

Hmm, that is mildly irritating.

THOR

Let me slay him. Problem solved in one thunder-clap.

ODIN

That is the path I am considering.

LOKI

There must be another path. Let me think...

THOR

You are the one who got us in this mess.

LOKI

And I can get us out of it.

THOR

Not another ploy? Man, you're as mad as Gunthar.

LOKI

I shall ignore that slanderous remark - for now.

THOR

You do that.

LOKI

It seems to me that without his horse, he could not retrieve stone from the quarry.

THOR

Aha, so I slay his horse instead!?

LOKI

Er, no. We get Freya to distract him while I, in the guise of a handsome stallion, lure his horse away.

THOR

Your ability to transform into animals is impressive, I admit, if rather unhealthy.

ODIN

I like it! Good plan Loki! Gunthar will fail in his task! Ha-ha! Send for Freya immediately...

MUSIC: INTRO MUSIC. FADE IN. FIVE SECONDS. FADES OUT.

Scene 3

SOUND: STONEMASON AT WORK.

LOKI

So, Freya, you know what to do?

FREYA

Suppose so.

LOKI

Good. Give me a moment to transform and then go talk to him.

FREYA

Yeah, whatever.

SOUND: TRANSFORMATION.

FREYA

Er, hi Gunthar.

GUNTHAR

Hello, my sweet golden-haired maiden.

FREYA

So, how's it going? The wall and stuff... looks pretty cool... for a wall...

GUNTHAR

I am well ahead of schedule. Were it not for the aid of my horse I may not finish in time and we would not be wed.

FREYA

Oh, now that would be a shame.

SOUND: HORSE NEIGHS, ANOTHER ANSWERS. HORSESS GALLOP AWAY.

GUNTHAR

Hey! What's going on? Someone stop that horse!

FREYA

Oh dear,. your horse appears to have galloped away in after that handsome stallion.

GUNTHAR

You... you... tricked me... GRAAAR!

SOUND: FREYA SCREAMS.

(CONTINUED)

GUNTHAR (TRANSFORMED)

Come here, my pretty goddess, if I cannot wed thee, I shall eat thee.

FREYA

Help, help! Gunthar is a giant in disguise!

GUNTHAR

GRAAAR!

ODIN

Quick Thor, do the hammer-thing!

THOR

At last! By the mighty hammer Miollnir, I strike thee down, foul giant!

SOUND: THUNDERCLAP.

GUNTHAR

AAAARGH!--

SOUND: ECHO OF THUNDER TO SILENCE.

ODIN

Good shot son.

THOR

Thanks father.

ODIN

And so, we have a near complete wall. I shall have my regular masons complete it.

THOR

And Loki has a new conquest I see.

SOUND: HORSE WHINNEYS.

FREYA

Eew, that's disgusting!

SOUND: ODIN AND THOR LAUGH.

MUSIC: INTRO MUSIC. FIVE SECONDS. FADES OUT.