Asterix and the Soothsayer

by Goscinny and Uderzo
The only thing that the Gauls are afraid of is the sky falling on their heads, an event which seems imminent as a terrible storm batters the little village we know so well.

Brrraaomm!

All the top people in the village have gathered together in the house of Chief Vitalstatistix...

If only Getafix wasn't away at the Druids' annual conference in the forest of the Carnutes. He'd look after us...

There's nothing to be afraid of! We've had storms before. This is quite a bad one, I agree, but...

Suppose I sing something to boost our morale?

Brrraaomm!

Taranis, the god of thunder doesn't think much of that suggestion!

That's one god with his head screwed on right!
Huh! Our Druid may be away, but Tutanac, the God of the Tribe, is protecting us.

Maybe, but Taranis, might wake up Sucellus, the God of the Dead.

Belenos, the God of Healing, keeps Sucellus under control.

And don't forget that Epona, the Goddess of War, has made trouble among them?

As you can see, the Gauls are certainly not short of gods. More than four hundred Rub Sholders in their Pantheon! There are gods for everything: trees, gods, rivers. In fact, there are so many that worshippers sometimes address them by code numbers to facilitate delivery of their prayers. For instance, Intertemporal, a goddess whose services were often held in secret, may be found under Mi5.

I could sing you something jolly...

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
WELL, CHIEF VITALSTATIX, AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK OUR VISITOR IN?

ER... EH... YES.

JUST HOLD THAT A MINUTE. EH?

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

A TRAVELLER CAUGHT IN THE STORM, GRANT ME THE SHELTER OF YOUR ROOF UNTIL THE WRATH OF THE GODS HAS BEEN APPEASED.

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE GODS HAVE HAD A BRAINSTORM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE GODDESS MANIA...

EVER HEARD OF HER?

NO, SHE MUST BE ONE OF THE LUNATIC FRINGE.

COME IN, TRAVELLER. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME. WHAT CAN WE GET FOR YOU?

HE MUST BE VERY HUNGRY.

I'VE GOT SOME BOAR LEFT AND A LITTLE GOAT'S MILK.

BRING IT ALL IN. I'LL KEEP HIM COMPANY WHILE HE DRINKS HIS GOAT'S MILK.
... Even if certain people do have a strange way of sharing milk and boar... But I knew that too.

H-how did you know all that?

I am a soothsayer!

My name is Frolix. I wander around the country stopping where I know I shall be well received. I knew that the storm was going to break, so I hurried to your home, where I knew I could count on your hospitality...

Someone in this room is sceptical, and Taranis doesn't like that!

Of course not! It must be this idiot who was going to sing! All he does is annoy Taranis!

Really... I assure you!

Please forgive my men, soothsayer. They spend all their time quarrelling.

I know.
A PARENTHESIS WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SOOTHSAVERS, ORACLES, PROPHETS, AUGURS, HARuspices, AND OTHER INTERPRETERS OF THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS.

O SOOTHSAVER, WILL THE GODS LOOK KINDLY ON THE HARVEST?

SOOTHSAVERS READ THE FUTURE IN THE WAY BIRDS FLY...

YES, FARMER, THE GODS WILL SEND RAIN FOR YOUR FIELDS.

... IN THE APPETITE OF THE SACRED GEESE...

THE GOOSE LIVER PÂTÉ WILL BE GOOD THIS YEAR! THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN!

... AND ABOVE ALL IN THE ENTRAILS OF SACRIFICAL ANIMALS...

YOU CAN SET SAIL, THE GODS WILL BE KIND. THERE'S NOT THE LEAST LITTLE STORM IN THE OFFING.

... AND AS LONG AS BRUTUS IS NEAR YOU, TO CAESAR, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR...

IF CERTAIN VISIONARIES HAVE A REASONABLE IDEA OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

... GENERALLY THEY SAY ANY OLD THING!

IN SHORT, THEY ARE CHARLATANS WHO THRIVE ON CREDULITY, FEAR AND HUMAN SUPERSTITION. HERE WE CLOSE THE PARENTHESIS.
Soothsayer, Soothsayer! Is the sky about to fall on our heads?

I should need to read the entrails of an animal.

You could try a roast boar.

Obelix, there's no more boar!

And not much reading matter left in that one either.

That dog would do... I read dogs very well.

Yelllp!

Watch it! Obelix's predictions often work out.

Too bad! I shan't be able to tell you what the gods intend.

The storm is getting worse!

Yes, that would do. We soothsayers often go to the fishmonger to get something to read.

Soon afterwards...

A tradition that survives to this day. Modern fishmongers wrap their goods in newspapers so that customers can have some reading matter.
BY BORVU, GOD OF SPRINGS, AND BY DAMON THE HEIFER, AND NO MATTER WHAT THE SCEPTICS THINK, I SEE THAT THE SKY WILL NOT FALL ON YOUR HEADS, AND THAT WHEN THE STORM IS OVER THE WEATHER WILL IMPROVE... 

OH! WHAT A RELIEF...

I ALSO SEE THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT.

IF GETAFIX WAS HERE HE'D TELL YOU NOT TO BELIEVE THIS IMPOSTER. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!

BUT ASTERIX, THE FISH HAS SPOKEN...

THE ONLY THING YOU CAN PREDICT FROM EXAMINING THAT FISH IS THAT ANYONE WHO EATS IT WILL BE ILL!

AND WHY DO YOU THINK THAT MAY I ASK?

BECAUSE YOUR FISH IS NOT VERY FRESH!

PERHAPS IT WAS A BIT STALE... BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT IF I READ THIS DOG I SHOULD GET CONFIRMATION OF...

NO ONE HAS EVER READ US, AND NO ONE IS EVER GOING TO !!!!

SO YOU THINK MY FISH ISN'T VERY FRESH DO YOU?

WELL NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT... NOW IT'S BEEN READ YOU SHOULD CLOSE IT UP AND PUT IT BACK ON THE SLAB...

SPLATCH!
IT'S JUST AS I PREDICTED: NOW THE
STORM IS OVER THE WEATHER HAS
IMPROVED... NOW I'M LEAVING YOU;
OTHERS NEED MY SKILL.

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR DELIGHTFUL
WELCOME.

GOOD RIDDANCE!
I HOPE YOU'LL STOP
ACTING LIKE IDIOTS
NOW!

BUT, ASTERIX,
HE SAID THAT WHEN
THE STORM WAS OVER
THE WEATHER WOULD
IMPROVE...

HE MUST BE
CLEVER!

WHAT ABOUT THE
FIGHT? HE FORE-
TOLD THE FIGHT!

HE SOON REALISED
THAT FIGHTS ARE TWO
AESTERTIUS HERE...
ANYWAY, WHENEVER WE
DISCUSS YOUR FISH
THERE'S BOUND TO BE
A FIGHT!

THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE!

ANYWAY, IT WOULDN'T HAP
IF THEY WERE FRESH.

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE FORESEEN THAT
THEY WERE SO SIMPLE-MINDED... WELL,
CHANCE IS A FINE THING, AND I WAS LUCKY!
JUST AS I WAS CURSEING MYSELF FOR
GETTING CAUGHT IN A STORM IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE!
GET OUT! EVERYBODY OUT!

I SAID: EVERYBODY OUT!

BUT DEAREST, THIS IS MY HOME...

OUT!

PHEW! SHE'S HANDY WITH HER BROOM.

ARE WE OUT OF THE DOOR?

YES CHIEF!

TOSHING!

SOothsayer! Soothsayer! Just wait a minute!

I MUST PLAY THIS CAREFULLY. IN THE LAST VILLAGE, THEY LITERALLY KICKED ME OUT... I MUST ADMIT, THAT LOT WEREN'T STUPID!
Soothsayer, don't leave! I want to consult you about my future.

No, no, no. There are sceptics in your village.

That little man with the yellow moustache, and the fat monster who won't let anyone read his dog. They're just barbarians. You mustn't take any notice of them. Please stay!

I foresee difficulties with your barbarians if I go back to the village. Can't you get those two thrown out?

Throw out asterix and obelix? We couldn't do that.

Of course, I could always camp in this clearing for the time being...

Oh, yes! And I'll make sure Asterix and Obelix don't come into the forest any more.

I'll bring everything you need... things to eat...

Oh, no! We soothsayers lead a life of meditation.

Just bring me something to read: boars, ducks, chickens, cakes, beer...

Can you read beer too?

If it's well kept, it becomes very legible.

You can have all that, but just tell me what the gods have in store for me...

Hmmm...

The flight of those swallows tells me that you will not spend all your life in this wretched village.

But my husband is the chief!

He will be called to higher things... I shall need cushions as well...

Will my rich brother homedepathik take him on as a business partner in Lutetia?

I was just going to say so! Now leave yer yer, me, I must meditate unless I get gyped.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR WILD BOARS; A BIT OF READING WON'T DO US ANY HARM.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'M A VORACIOUS READER!

YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO THE FOREST FOR THAT?

WILD BOAR ARE LIKE FUNGI; THEY GROW IN THE FOREST.

BUT THEY'RE ALL GOOD TO EAT, NOT LIKE STUPID OLD FUNGI!

COME ALONG! YOU'RE BOTH INVITED TO DINNER AT MY HOUSE!

?!

I'VE BROUGHT SOME GUESTS HOME, PIGGYWIGGY!

PIGGYWIGGY?... YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME THAT SINCE WE WERE FIRST MARRIED!

I'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT YOU, PIGGYWIGGY. I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY. GET YOUR FRIENDS A BEER WHILE I GET DINNER READY, PIGGYWIGGY.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TWO?

HAHAHAHA HIIIIIIHOOOO!

PLEASE FORGIVE US...

HEEEHEEEEHOOOO! PIGGYWIGGY, OUR CH... HAHAHA!
HAVE YOU QUITE FINISHED?

MAY I ASK YOU WHY YOU INVITED THESE TWO CLOWNS?

BECAUSE THEY'RE THE BEST WARRIORS IN THE VILLAGE, PIGGYWIGGY!

OH, SO YOU LIKE GOING INTO THE FOREST, DO YOU? WELL, YOU CAN JUST STAY AND GUARD THE VILLAGE! THAT'S AN ORDER!

HOUHOUHOU!

LIKE THESE IDIOTS ARE GOING TO COME HERE EVERY DAY, THEY'LL HAVE TO CUT OUT THE LAUGHTER!

LATER...
O SOOTHSAVER, I'VE Brought YOU SOMETHING TO READ ABOUT MY FUTURE IN LUTETIA...

HOW SILLY OF ME! THIS GOOSE IS STUFFED, IT HASN'T GOT ANY ENTRAILS!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! I GET TIRED OF READING TRIPES...

YOU WILL HAVE BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES, THE FINEST HOUSE IN TOWN, AND YOU'LL MIX WITH THE CREAM OF SOCIETY...

SOME TIME LATER...

WHATSOEVER ARE YOU DOING HERE, IMPEDIMENTA?

ER... UM... I WAS PICKING MUSHROOMS.

YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HAD MUCH LUCK... WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP YOU?

OH, MYODA! I'VE JUST BEEN CONSULTING THE SOOTHSAVER WHO IS CAMPING IN THE FOREST OVER THERE, BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!

LATER STILL...

AND DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT HE TOLD ME THAT GERIATRIX WOULD BECOME VERY RICH, AND I'D HAVE HEAPS OF JEWELS...

AND STILL LATER...

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

ER... FOR A WALK IN THE FOREST.

WITH THOSE FISH?

OF COURSE, THE POOR CREATURES HAVE A RIGHT TO FRESH AIR, DON'T THEY? YOU MUST ADMIT THEY DON'T OFTEN GO TO THE FOREST.
SHORT DAD...

APPARENTLY YOU
READ MY MISH AND TOLD
MY WIFE IT WOULD HAVE
A WIDE CIRCULATION.
SHALL I HAVE A CHAIN
OF FISHMONGERS
SHOPS?

THAT'S RIGHT,
FOR MORE DETAILS,
I SHALL HAVE TO
READ GOLD.

WOULD
SESTERTII DO?
YES, BUT DON'T
FORGET THE
OFFICIAL RATE OF
EXCHANGE: ONE
HUNDRED
SESTERTII
TO THE AURUS!

HALLO! TAKING
YOUR CHICKENS
FOR A WALK?

YES...

WELL, YOUR
WIFE TAKES HER
FISHES FOR A WALK.
IDIOT!

ER... I'M JUST
GOING FOR A DRINK
IN THE FOREST...

THERE ARE
SOME FUNNY
GOINGS-ON
HERE...

WHAT'S GOING ON
IS THEY'RE ALL MAKING
FOR THE FOREST, AND
THEY'RE HAPPY, AND HERE'S
ME BORED TO TEARS WITH
NOTHING TO DO!

IT'S THE CLOSE SEASON FOR
MENHIRS, AND DOGMATIX IS PINING
FOR SOME TREES!...

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

SOME PEOPLE TAKE THEIR FISHES
OR THEIR CHICKENS FOR A WALK, I
TAKE MY DOG! SO SUCKS TO
PIGGYWIGGY!
\begin{quote}
THIS MAKES A NICE CHANGE FROM THE VILLAGE, DOESN'T IT, DOGMATIX?
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
LET'S LOOK FOR SOME BOARS. THEY MUST BE WORRIED, NOT SEEING US FOR SO LONG...
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
ATTABOY, DOGMATIX! ATTABOY!
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
?!!?
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
YELPPP!
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
SWEET SNIFF SNIFF.
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
THERE, THERE, DON'T BE AFRAID... WHAT DID YOU SEE OVER THERE? WE'RE THE ONES WHO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE!
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
SURE ENOUGH...
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
?!!?
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
THE MONSTER!
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
THE DOG READER!
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
YOU KNOW ASTERIX TOLD YOU NOT TO STAY HERE! COME DOWN, OR I'LL PULL THE TREE UP!
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\begin{quote}
I SEE A BLONDE GIRL... A VERY PRETTY, YOUNG, BLONDE GIRL... WHO LOVES GREAT WARRIORS WITH RED PIGTAILS...
\end{quote}
\begin{quote}
PIGTAILS?
\end{quote}
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD WALK IN THE FOREST? GET ANY BOARS?

YEAH... NO...
ER... I DON'T KNOW...

THEY ALL COME BACK FROM THE FOREST COMPLETELY MAD! I MUST GO AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE!

ANYONE AT HOME?
WHERE IS HE?
WHERE IS WHO?
YOU'VE FRIGHTENED HIM AWAY! WHEN YOUR CHIEF TOLD YOU NOT TO COME INTO THE FOREST!

THIS WILL BRING US GREAT MISFORTUNE! THE SOOTHSAYER FORETOLD IT!

THE SOOTHSAYER? IMPEDIMENTA! WAIT FOR ME!

YOU HAVE DONE A VERY FOOLISH THING, ASTERIX. THE SOOTHSAYER WARNED ME TOO...

OH, SO YOU WENT TO SEE HIM AS WELL...

WELL... ER... ONLY ONCE! Foresight is one of the attributes of a chieftain, and...

HE MUST BE MAD! THE SOOTHSAYER FORETOLD GREAT MISFORTUNES IF HE WAS DRIVEN AWAY.

HE TOLD ME THE MAN I LOVE WOULD BECOME STRONG AND HANDSOME!

WELL, HE WAS RIGHT THERE, ANYWAY!

NOW LISTEN: IF I'D KNOWN THE SOOTHSAYER WAS IN THE FOREST, I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE DRIVEN HIM OFF! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW AND I HAVEN'T THE Faintest idea WHAT'S GOING ON!

UNHYGIENIX KUSHMONGER
ON PROCEEDING ON PATROL, FOR WHICH YOU GAVE THE ORDERS TO PROCEED WITH, WE FOUND THIS SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUAL IN A CLEARING, AND AFTER A CAUTION HE MADE A STATEMENT WHAT WE WERE NOT VERY SATISFIED WITH.

ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE CRAZY GAULS WHO STILL HOLD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS?

ME? OH, NO, NO! I DON’T HOLD OUT AGAINST ANYONE!

I’M JUST A SOOTHSAVER.

A SOOTHSAVER? ARE YOU A REAL GAULISH SOOTHSAVER?

OF COURSE... WAIT... I FORESEE THAT YOU WILL BE PROMOTED.

YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, SOOTHSAVER. WE'VE GOT ORDERS FROM ROME TO ARREST ALL GAULISH SOOTHSAVERS. OUR AUGURS HAVE WARNED CAESAR THAT GAULISH SOOTHSAVERS ARE A THREAT TO SECURITY...

SO YOU’LL BE SHIPPED OFF TO A MINE IN...

NO, NO, NO! I WAS ONLY JOKING. I'M NOT A REAL SOOTHSAVER, I'M A FAKE.

I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE’S CREDULITY TO LIVE WITHOUT WORKING...

BUT YOU JUST FORETOLD THAT I WOULD BE PROMOTED, ALL THE SAME...

NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT. DON'T BE ABSURD...

JUST WHAT I WAS SAYING...

WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION I'LL ASK FOR IT, IDIOT! THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT CONVINCED ME! HE IS A SUSPECT!

YES SIR!
I'm going to try you out to see if you are a real soothsayer...

Say a number between I and XII

Er... VII

Phew! I'm quite safe. I've never been lucky at gambling.

I'm an impostor! I flattered the people of that village to make them believe me! They're so simple-minded they believe anything I tell them, and...

... the believe anything you tell them? Well now, could you frighten them? Persuade them to leave their village?

As sure as V and II make VII!

You win. Chain him up! I knew he was a real soothsayer when he said I'd get promotion.

No! If I were a real soothsayer, I should have known that the dice would make VII, so I would have said VIII, and then you wouldn't have believed I was a real soothsayer because the dice said VII and not VIII!

O centurion, I didn't understand a word he just said. Do we lock him up?

Very well, if you succeed in driving these women away from their village, I will set you free. If not, the mines!

Off you go, and don't try to run away!

He's a fraud, then, is he? That bloke you was arguing with?

No, no! He's a real soothsayer, but he's going to work for us!
A ghastly hue...
And your faces will turn
as if to scream.

"But..."

"Yes, you!"

"The only chance!
Your only chance!
Rash people! It is
Flee! Flee!
"
SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
I'M NOT STAYING IN THIS ACCURSED VILLAGE A MOMENT LONGER! LET'S SET OFF FOR LUTETIA, PIGGYWIGGY! I'M SURE THAT A GREAT FUTURE AWAITS...

YOU'RE ALL MAD! YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE ON ACCOUNT OF THAT FRAUD!

HE IS NOT A FRAUD! I AM THE LIVING PROOF OF IT!

DO YOU SAY LIVING...?

YES, SIR! I'M GETTING YOUNGER AND STRONGER EVERY DAY!

WHERE CAN WE GO?
THE SOothsayer told me I'D HAVE A CHAIN OF FISH-MONGERS' SHOPS IN THIS AREA! I'LL HAVE TO STAY SOMEWHERE NEAR!

LET'S GO AND CAMP ON THE LITTLE ISLAND JUST OFF THE COAST!

But, Piggywiggy, Lutetia is where...

THEN, WHEN THE ANGER OF THE GODS IS APPEASED, WE CAN COME BACK TO THE VILLAGE... AGREED?

I'M STAYING.

EVERYONE TO THE BEACH!

ARE YOU GOING TOO, OBELIX?

WELL... ER...

OH, VERY WELL, I'LL STAY!
LAUNCH THE BOATS!

COME ON, BOYS! WE'RE GOING ON BOARD!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GERIATRIN, MY LOVE?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THE SOOTHSAYER IS HAVING US ON?

I'M SURE OF IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE TOLD YOU, BUT THE BEST THING TO DO WOULD BE TO LAUGHS IT OFF.

I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE LAUGHING.

LET'S GO AND HIDE IN THE FOREST AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

MEANWHILE...

THERE YOU ARE! THEY'VE LEFT, JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU THEY WOULD.

I NEVER DOUBTED IT. YOU SOOTHSAYERS HAVE GREAT POWERS.

RIGHT, DO WE LOCK HIM UP?

YOU PROMISED ME MY LIBERTY! I'M NOT A SOOTHSAYER. I'M A CON MAN, THAT'S ALL.
I CAN'T MAKE ANY GENUINE PREDICTIONS! IF I COULD HAVE FORESEEN HOW THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT I'D HAVE STAYED AT HOME NEXT DOOR TO THAT TANNERY!

SSH... WE'RE NEAR THE VILLAGE... ALL SEEMS QUIET, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THOSE GAELS!

WE NEED A SCOUT TO GO ON AHEAD. I WANT A VOLUNTEER, SIR!

AND YOU CAN TAKE THE SOOTHSAWER WITH YOU. I KNEW IT.

I KNOW. NO, YOU DON'T! NO YOU DON'T! DO WE LOCK HIM UP THEN?
LOOK, ASTERIX! TWO OF THEM HAVE GONE IN. WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY ROMANS TAKE OVER OUR VILLAGE, ARE WE?

THEY'RE ONLY PASSING THROUGH. THAT'S A PROMISE, OBELIX!

OH? AND WHY NOT? HAVE THE GODS SHOWN YOU SOMETHING NASTY IN MY FUTURE THEN?

EMPTY, DESERTED AND UNINHABITED, AS YOU MIGHT SAY, O CENTURION!

YOU ARE TO START FOR ROME, BEARING A MESSAGE FOR CAESAR. YOU WILL TELL HIM: ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED, HE WILL ASK "ALL?" YOU WILL REPLY: "ALL!" HE WILL UNDERSTAND.

YOU'LL BE SURE TO GET PROMOTION, SIR, THE SAME AS THIS ERE SOOTHSAVER WAS SOOTHSAVING!

OF COURSE NO! NEVER! I NEVER SAID ANY SUCH THING!

TELL YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT...
We can't leave them in our village, Asterix. Let's get there, all three of us, and throw them out!

No! We are going to teach them all a lesson: the Romans, the soothsayer, and even our own people.

Don't you worry, Obelix. There'll be another banquet in our village, yet! You mark my words!

Hullo, boys! Hunting boars?

Our Druid, Getafix!

Look at that, boys! I won the golden cauldron for the Druid of the Year at our annual conference in the forest of the Carnutes!

A very interesting conference it was. The Druid Statistix has been figuring out the future trends in our profession...

Is something wrong, boys?

I'll tell you all about it, o Druid...

I brought a few rather dubious little ingredients one with me... pass me down that beautiful cauldron!

Splendid, splendid... the wind's just about to change. There is not a moment to lose.
A SOOTHSAYER MIGHT ALWAYS COME IN USEFUL...

WHAT I ALWAYS SAY IS, ORDERS IS ORDERS, AND IF THIS IS ONE OF THEM SOOTHSAYERS, 'S GOT TO BE LOCKED UP, SIR.

LISTEN, I WARNED THEM ABOUT THE FOUL AIR IN THE VILLAGE NOW, CAN YOU SMELL ANYTHING NASTY?

MEANWHILE...

CAN I HAVE A TASTE?

NO, OBELIX, YOU CANNOT!

OUT OF THE WAY, BOYS! GET ROUND TO THE WINDWARD SIDE, QUICK!

NO! OBELIX, DON'T!

YOU KNOW WE NEVER STOOD TO WORD-PLAY, ASTERIX, BUT IF WE DID I MIGHT VENTURE TO SAY THAT THIS IS THE POLLUTION TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS!
SAY, DO YOU SMELL A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL?

YES, A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL.

IT'S A BIT LIKE WHERE I LIVE IN ROME.

YOU LIVE NEAR A TANNERY, I SUPPOSE?

YES! HE GOT IT RIGHT! HE IS A SOOTHSAKER!

COOOOCH... CENTURION!

THE AIR IN THIS VILLAGE ISN'T FIT TO BREATHE... IT'S PESTILENTIAL, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

YES... PESTILENTIAL?

YOU TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. I'M A VETERAN, I AM. I'VE KNOWN PLENTY OF CAMPS AND BARRACKS, BUT I NEVER SMELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
AMAZING! IT'S LIKE MAGIC! EVEN THE GODS OBEY YOU!

TRUMPETER! SOUND THE ASSEMBLY! WE'RE GOING TO EVACUATE THE DAMNED VILLAGE. THE GODS HAVE CURSED IT!

OH NO! IF I GO BLOWING THIS SOMETHING HORRIBLE MIGHT HAPPEN!

TANTAN TARAUGHUGHUGHUGHUGH

THE PROPHECY HAS COME TRUE! HE REALLY IS A SOOTHSAyer!

THERE! WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
I forgot my lyre, so I went back to the village to get it, and I found myself breathing foul air... air from the depths of hell! Even the Romans had to run for it!

Well, I'll just have to do without my lyre...

O, I do like # to be beside the litus...

I'd rather breathe foul air than listen to that! What are you singing for? Anyway?

The soothsayer told me voices like mine were going to be very popular in the future. I'm practising.

Well, all we have to do now is wait for fresh air to disperse the bad smell in the village, and then we'll go and look for our friends...

And as for the Romans, I'm counting on you. You're sure to think of something.

I've thought of something already. We go to their camp and bash the whole place up.

Wherever do you get all these original ideas?

A handsome warrior with red pigtails, yes, but I'm not just a pretty face.
MEANWHILE...

PHEW! THAT’S BETTER... IN FACT, I’D SAY ALL WAS GOING WELL!

NOTWITHSTANDING WHICH, WE’VE HAD TO CLEAR OUT THE VILLAGE WHAT WE OCCUPIED...

H U H / THANKS TO THE SOOTHSAYER, WE HAVE PUT THE REBEL GALLS TO FLIGHT, AND THAT’S THE MAIN THING.

RIGHT, DO WE LOCK HIM UP THIS TIME, THEN?

NO!

BUT ORDERS IS...

THIS MAN IS A FRAUD! THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO IMPRISON HIM.

EXCUSING THE LIBERTY, SIR, BUT I DON’T QUITE GET YOUR MEANING...

OF COURSE YOU DON’T. THAT’S THE KIND OF THING THAT MAKES ME A CENTURION WHILE YOU’RE JUST AN OPTIONER.

ARDITANT.

HE’S RIGHT THERE...

COME TO MY TENT. I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.

WELL, YOU’VE PROVED IT NOW! YOU REALLY ARE A SOOTHSAYER. THE GODS ARE ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO DOUBTED YOU, AND THEY HAVE CURSED THE GALLISH VILLAGE...

WELL... I MUST CONFESSION...

I OUGHT TO HAVE YOU ARRESTED, BUT YOU MIGHT COME IN USEFUL TO ME IN MY FUTURE CAREER... WITH THE HELP OF YOUR PREDICTIONS AND ADVICE I COULD GO FAR! I MIGHT EVEN RISE TO THE POSITION OF...

I D O U T H E R E.

AND YOU WILL NOT FIND ME UNGRATEFUL...

BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU ARE NOT A REAL SOOTHSAYER, IF YOU’VE BEEN HAVING ME ON, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!

CAESAR!!
I just can't make head or tail of it... have I turned into a real soothsayer?

And anyway, I do wish they'd all give up grabbing me by the front of my...

Say a number from I to X II!

Er... all right.

VIII

What I ask myself is, now where am I?

Can I help you?

No. You don't know, even less than what I do, because I'm an optio and you're just a common legionary.

... I feel a bit weak...

Meanwhile...

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH!
GETAFIX! YOU'RE BACK AT LAST!

MAYBE YOU CAN APPEASE THE ANGER OF THE GODS, WHICH HAS FALLEN UPON OUR POOR VILLAGE...

NONSENSE! YOU'RE VICTIM OF YOUR OWN CREDULITY, THAT'S ALL!

OH, WAIT A MINUTE! GETAFIX! I'VE SEEN THE VILLAGERS! I'VE BREATHED THE FOUL AIR STRAIGHT FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! I'VE SEEN THE ROMANS GO GREEN!

THAT'S RIGHT! OUR BARD MAY HAVE A VOICE LIKE A SISTRUM® BUT HE DOESN'T TELL LIES.

A KIND OF METAL RATTLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BARD HAS TO SAY TO YOU IN HIS VOICE LIKE A SISTRUM?

CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN! I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE ANGER OF THE GODS.

...BRING IT OVER HERE. THERE YOU ARE.

OBEIX! EMPTY THAT CAULDRON AND...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

VERY GOOD! NOW, ALL OF YOU GO OVER THERE, THE WAY THE WIND'S BLOWING.
HOLD IT!

BY TOUTATIS! I CAN'T STAND THIS!

STOP IT, BY BELENOS! STOP IT!

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?

CHIEF, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LOWER YOURSELF TO THE LEVEL OF OUR PROBLEMS FOR A MOMENT?

OHHH!

THERE YOU ARE, THAT'S THE ANGER OF THE GODS. A CONCOCTION IN A CAULDRON.

THE SMELL DOESN'T SEEM TO BOther YOU AT ALL THAT MUCH.

Huh, well, what with his fish...

SPLATCH!
I expect you know what to do now?

I think so, Getafix...

We go back to the village tonight. In peace and quiet!

And that very night...

Drop anchor!

Don't you think it's a bit dangerous to anchor in between the Gaulish coast and this unknown island, Cap'n?

Shiver me timbers, no! We consulted the entrails of a mackerel, and the oracle was absolutely positive. It's safe as houses to anchor here overnight.

Next morning...

This is terrible! A shoal of Gauls has crossed our path!

I've had a bellyful of entrails!

Stop bellyaching! I thought you had more guts!
I must say, it's nice to be home!

Well, I must say I think we'd have been better off in Lutetia like the soothsayer said.

But he wasn't really a soothsayer!

What makes you so sure?

I've been talking to Geriatrix's wife and to Bacteria, and they're not convinced. That's why I thought Lutetia might be the place...

Getafix, the women aren't convinced that he's a fraud...

Of course they're not. He only foretold pleasant things for them, such as their husbands becoming handsome and intelligent...

Suppose we gave that soothsayer a surprise?

Asterix, I'm proud of you! If we give the soothsayer a surprise, that will prove that he's not really a soothsayer!

Oh, so you think I need to become handsome and intelligent, do you?

You arrange a little surprise, Asterix! I'm off to make some magic potion!

Soon afterwards...

Well, are we all agreed? If the soothsayer doesn't guess what's in store for him, will you believe that he isn't a real soothsayer?
INCLUDING US GIRLS?
Specially you girls!

OH, I LOVE SURPRISES!

I'VE NEVER TASTED YOUR FAMOUS MAGIC POTION...

MM... NOT BAD... MYSELF, I'D HAVE ADDED ANOTHER PINCH OF SALT...

AND DOES IT REALLY WORK?

HAVE A GO!

BIFF!

I AM NOT IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S LIB!

COME ON, ALL! WE'RE OFF TO THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF COMPENDIUM!

AND LET'S HOPE THE GODS ARE NOT PROTECTING POUX THE SOothsAYER!
YOU, GAUL! THE CENTURION WANTS YOU IN HIS TENT. NOT AGAIN!

AH, SOothsayer! Tell me about my future!

But I've told it all already: the gods will protect you, you'll get promotion, you'll...

I know, I know, but tell me what it will be like when I'm Caesar.

Well, you'll be very powerful and the common people will fear you...

Excellent, excellent... and how about Cleopatra?

Cleopatra? What do you mean, Cleopatra?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF CLEOPATRA?

Cleopatra will forget Julius Caesar in no time, and she'll fall madly in love with you...

Great! And will she invite me on board her barge? And will there be dancing girls? And will they give me exotic dishes to eat?

Yes, yes, they'll give you... they'll give you preserved pigs' ears.

AND WHILE THE UNSUSPECTING ROMANS ARE LIVING IN A FOOL'S PARADISE, NEAR THE CAMP...

Wait here, and don't make any noise. Obelix and I will see to the sentries.

Sssh!
Hey, Asterix, he said it wasn't surprising. Do you think the soothsayer had warned them?

Don't make matters more complicated. Go and tell the others they can come in.

...and after the preserved pigs' ears, Cleopatra will dance for you, and...

That noise, what's that noise?

Surprise, surprise!
THE GAULS!!!

GAULS INSIDE THE CAMP, AND YOU DIDN'T WARN ME?!!

LEAVE HIM TO ME!

HOW WERE YOU TO KNOW? YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU MADE UP ALL THAT ABOUT LUTETIA AND PIGGYWIGGY GOING INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH MY BROTHER?

GOOD SHOT MADAM!

BUT HOW WAS I TO KNOW?

NO WOMEN ALLOWED IN CAMP!

NO WOMEN ALLOWED IN CAMP!

 CHARGE!

THAT WAS MY LITTLE PEDIMENTA THAT WAS.

BUT, MY DEAR MADAM, WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
YOU'RE... YOU'RE JUST WONDERFUL... WE HAVE HEAPS OF THINGS IN COMMON...

TOC! PAF!

COME ALONG, OBEIIX! THIS IS NO TIME FOR A ROMULUS AND REMUS ACT.

WE CAN GO HOME NOW. I THINK OUR LITTLE DEMONSTRATION WAS QUITE A SUCCESS.

OH, SO THAT WAS A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION? WAS IT?

YOU WERE RIGHT, ASTERIX. THAT FRAUD OF A SOOTHSAVER WAS PLAYING ON OUR CREDULITY, BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

I WONDER IF MAGIC POTION IS FASTENING?

!??!
WHO ARE YOU ROMAN? AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING IN MY VILLAGE?

WELL... ER...
THAT IS TO SAY...

WHO ARE YOU ROMAN? AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING IN MY VILLAGE?

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH ROMANS FOR ONE DAY. THROW THESE TWO OUT FOR ME!

OH, SO YOU WEREN'T TO KNOW, EH? SO YOU'RE NOT A REAL SOOTHSAYER AFTER ALL! SO YOU'VE BEEN HAVING ME ON!

ARE WE DISTURBING YOU?

AND WHO ARE YOU?

AND LOOK WHAT YOUR CONQUERED GAULS DID TO US, BY JUPITER!
SILENCE! YOU'RE DEMOTED TO THE RANKS!

YOU'RE NOT A CENTURION ANY MORE, YOU'RE A COMMON LEGIONARY, AND EVEN THAT'S TOO GOOD FOR YOU!

IF THIS 'ARE PERSON IS NOT A SOOTHSAVER, I GOT NO REASON TO ARREST HIM!

OH, SO I'M GOING TO GET PROMOTION, AM I? OPTIO, ARREST THIS IMPOSTOR!

BUT OF COURSE HE'S A SOOTHSAVER! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! A GREAT GAULISH SOOTHSAVER, PROTECTED BY THE GODS, AND...

I DON'T TAKE NO ORDERS FROM A COMMON LEGIONARY! YOU GO AND SWEEP OUT THE CAMP! ON YOUR OWN! AND NO COMPLAINTS!

AND JUST SPEAK PROPER TO A SUPERIOR OFFICER!

ER... AND... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
THE GODS KNOW WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING, BUT I'M THROUGH WITH SOOTHSAVING!

AND IF EVER I CHANGE MY MIND, MAY TANARIIS MAKE THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD!

BRAOU!

HOWEVER, THE ANGER OF TANARIS IS SHORT-LIVED...

...AND SOON TOUTATIS IS MAKING THE SUN SHINE DOWN ON THE VILLAGE, AT PEACE ONCE AGAIN.

WELL, OBELIX, OLD FRIEND, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOOTHSAVER SAID TO YOU, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY!

YOU'RE NOT A SOOTHSAVER, ASTERIX!

OH, AREN'T I? DIDN'T I TELL YOU THERE'S ANOTHER BANQUET IN THIS VILLAGE... WELL, SO THERE WILL BE THIS VERY EVENING!

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE! YOU DID FORETELL IT!
OF COURSE, I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT NONSENSE, BUT... DO YOU THINK WE'LL SOON BE GOING TO LUTETIA WITH PIGGY... WITH VITAL STATISTIX?


THE END

LUDERZO.

GOSCINNY