Enemy Synopsis – scene by scene

This play is a Jigsaw puzzle of personal stories of young Palestinian men and women that connect to each other through the myth of Medusa.

In the myth, some are Medusa and some are Perseus. Everyone plays Athena.

Medusa speaks to you
Medusa: “I want to talk to you about life. I am Medusa: the monster, the enemy, the powerful. Do you want to know about the truth? Really?”

Medusa’s story – at the temple
Medusa explains her story before she became a monster; she had been a priestess in the Temple of Athena, she was a beautiful young woman dedicated to Athena’s service.
She condemns the people for not wanting to see that she had been a girl before becoming a monster.

Medusa: “The worst blind is the one who refuses to see.”
You can call me Medusa.
If my body were a country I’d be Palestine.
I am you.
Today, the world knows me as a monster.
Do you know you are also a monster to the world?
I’ll tell you my story, and I’ll tell you your story.
You will see that there is no difference between you and me.”

Athena and Poseidon – the punishment of the victim
Poseidon watches beautiful Medusa and decides to rape her – as a consequence of the disrespect of the purity of the Temple, Athena punishes Medusa by transforming her into a monster that can never be looked at – her terrifying glance will transform anyone into stone.

[Athena: “I’ll never forgive you for what you made me do to you!
I’ll transform you into the monster that you are!”]

Raneen’s story – “I am Medusa”, the strong takes the weak
Raneen speaks to the character who punishes her for being herself.

“You made me play a role that is not mine. I hate you! I don’t want to be my mother and I don’t want to be your weakness. I don’t know what to do, but I know exactly what to do!”

Samah’s story – “Medusa’s cage”, speaking to the prisoner who is trying to keep me in prison
Samah/Medusa: “I want to speak to you with honesty. Do you want me to be a human being or a robot? A robot! A robot who wakes up, cooks, does the washing and sleeps! Wakes up, cooks, does the washing and sleeps! You are fake! You
think you are free but you are a prisoner in your own cage and by putting me in prison, you compensate your freedom.”

A Male Society and PERSEUS – the birth of the hero
Athena – “Humanity needs a hero!” (Perseus is born)

PERSEUS: “I am Perseus. My mother and father died. They want me to be a hero, so I can kill Medusa! I don’t know what she has done but I must kill her – she is a monster. I’ll do it for the children, the women, civil society and humanity!”

Being Perseus/Ibrahim’s story – Palestine from the eyes of a child
“I want to play, but where? How? When? Every time I decide to play, I start to be happy, flying!, at the same time my fear is growing. Until it becomes bigger than my hope. I’m afraid from home, street, society, occupation, school... from everything that represents authority. The only thing that people ask me to be is a Hero.”

Being Perseus/Ahmad and Ihab’s story
Two enemies who live oppressing each other, they say absurd words, we feel for them both and we disagree with them both. They keep interrogating each other:
“Who am I and what am I doing here?”

Medusa’s nightmare
Again another hero comes to try to cut her head off: “Medusa! You are an ugly monster and I have come to cut your head off in the name of humanity!”

Medusa transforms him into stone with a glance.
Medusa: “Empty words! This is what we are good at – to present excuses and to say “poetry”. They asked him: “Are you with us or with the enemy?” He said: “I’M WITH YOU!” They said: “WE ARE THE ENEMY. Until when are we going to wait for a hero? What about us? Can’t we be the hero?”

Perseus/Medusa Ismael – who should I be, so I can please the others?
“Am I needed? Why did I come to this life? What character should I PLAY?
After trying to be a cult or wise person, maybe it’s better to become a controller: You see these people? I saved them. From losing control. They thought they were in an Intifada! I saved them with money and power!”

Perseus/Medusa/Amir – Who am I? Perseus or Medusa?
“Let me be myself. Let me decide who I am! We always judge each other. If you are different, you are not accepted. I have decided to be myself, to free myself from mental occupation and slavery.”
PERSEUS JOURNEY/Osama – I have decided to live another life, I am going to confront Medusa

Osama talks to his image in the mirror saying goodbye to his old self – he is now ready to take his journey to the next level, he is going to face Medusa.

On the island, Perseus chases Medusa, he uses the shield of Athena to reflect Medusa’s image so he won’t be turned into stone.

In the moment right before he strikes Medusa, she speaks:

“Before you cut my head off or I transform you into stone – I was never a monster. When I knew that I was going to be a monster, I had no control over that. I have never hurt anyone.

Look at me, Perseus, don’t be afraid. Look at my eyes to see yourself.

We are in a very fragile situation: if we will not care about each other, we will end up executing each other, closing each other, extinguishing each other.

If this is what you want, I am then ready to die.”