

SYNOPSIS

In the imaginary country of Breughelland, Nekrotzar, the title-giving Grand Macabre, rises from his grave to proclaim the end of time and the final apocalypse. He meets Piet the Pot, a drunkard, and a pair of lovers, Amanda and Amando, who hide in the tomb to make love.

The second scene takes place in a house: the court astrologer Astradamors (dressed in women's clothes) is being whipped by his wife Mescalina. Mescalina asks the goddess Venus to send her a better lover; she is fulfilled by the arrival of Nekrotzar, but the Grand Macabre bites her and she dies, leaving Astradamors finally free. But the astrologer has seen a comet nearing the Earth: soon everything will be destroyed.

In the third scene, the prince Go-Go, infantile and irresolute, is dominated by his two ministers, the Black and the White, who hurl insults to each other. The Gepopo Chief, head of the secret police, whispers incomprehensible words to the prince: the people of Breughelland, alarmed by the approaching comet, is coming to the palace. In vain the two ministers try to placate them: they only want the "great leader". Astradamors, Piet and Nekrotzar arrive to the palace; the latter is ready to destroy the world, but the two friends offer him wine. Drunken, confused, Nekrotzar has no more the power to provoke apocalypse and disappears; everything goes on like it always has, and the two exhausted lovers, Amanda and Amando, emerge from the tomb where they have been all this time.