PROMETHEUS

Short movie. Written and directed by Zoltan Demme. For the DVD of the elaborated movie you can check internet or nearby retail stores.

An icy stream appears on screen.

NARRATOR 1

In December 1981, Spacecraft Pioneer 10 took the ID card of mankind into the cosmos. A steel plate that indicates where humankind is located in the Universe presents the outlook of the man and woman, and contains some other information. Eighteen years later, on the shore of the Malaqui Island, a steel plate was found, quite similar to the one we sent into the cosmos but containing new marks on it! It was carried into a safe place and put under examination. ... Hard to believe that we received an answer of any civilization may exist in the cosmos. However, the original illustration of the Universe, of our solar system, of man and woman were cancelled on the plate and substituted with abstract new illustrations! Made by anyone, the meaning of these changes was evident: our Universe in the reality is not the Universe, but rather something else. Our solar system is not a solar system, but rather somewhat else. Man is not man, but instead some sort of other creature. ... Until this time nothing was verified about the origination of the plate, about the changes on it, and the strange statement placed on it. Universe, in the reality, is not the Universe; the solar system is not a solar system, and man is not man, but something else. (IN UNDERTONES) Anyhow! What does this statement more precisely mean? We have to turn back to ancient centuries if we want to understand it...

The mark N.W. appears on screen.

NARRATOR 1

N.W. Initials of a painter. Lived in the 13th century. His pictures probably orientate us...

Flaming stakes, people tortured by Inquiition appear on the screen.

NARRATOR 2

Through wild and horrible centuries squalor and muck reach the sky! From black and fumy battlefield flesh, blood, and bowels steam up high. Scab is chewing puny breast of girls who eat rat, skunk, and dead birds. At nights they dig in heaps of corpses for gold and copper they search.

Pictures demonstrate the content of the above poem from the ancient centuries of Europe.

NARRATOR 2

Fat grows on stomachs of headmen, lepers swarm with rags over the mugs Flaming stakes are everywhere, burning and burning the demigods.

Title graphic. PROMETHEUS. Then lots and lots of dirty and melting snowmen appear on the screen.

NARRATOR 2

Europe was continually fighting during the twelfth century. Wars caused an infernal epidemic, white leprosy, from which twenty million people died. With the disease a terrible superstition was also spread. Leprosy will move into the snowman that was built by the sick person himself! This idea was fully believed by millions and millions of people. Huge crowds

of snowmen appeared in the northern and western countries of the continent at that time. Snowmen became dirty, full with garbage while they were melting among people in squalor.

Old and damaged pictures of N.W. with dirty snowmen on canvas.

NARRATOR 2

Parallel with the spreading white epidemic, scientists rebelled. The Church did not allow any medical operation on people. Confronting God, to desecrate his creatures, as it was said. The Church commenced a war of extermination against resisters while it strengthened its rule over all sciences with cruel procedures. Thousands and thousands of scientists were executed. By torturing, by burning, by beheading.

Pictures from daily life of a prison in Dover, England. Between two guards Prometheus Crystallus appears.

NARRATOR 2

...Prometheus Crystallus of Greek origin was considered a young phenomenon in mathematics and astrology. In his nineteenth year of age, the Church killed him by freezing him to death.

Court in Dover, England.

JUDGE 1

- So? You're holding further your satanic ideas?

PROMETHEUS

- Yes. I do, sir!

JUDGE 2

- Stating that no mountains, trees, grasses exist?! That what our eyes show is not true?

PROMETHEUS

- All the reasons I have for this statement! Because the grass, in the reality, is not grass! The tree is rather not a tree, but something else! We see something else, we examine something other than the real existence of things. We see what our eyes show, we examine what our mind reaches! But the true face, the real appearance of the world, we never spot or sense! Up there, the stars in the reality are not stars. Even they don't have light. Up there, the sun, in the reality, is not sun. It doesn't even shine.

JUDGE 1

- Madness!

JUDGE 2

- But then what are the stars? And what is the sun in the reality?

PROMETHEUS

- Something that we cannot perceive. Because we do not have senses or instruments for perception! Its light, its warmth we perceive! But they're hundredth-rate, thousandth-rate characteristics of the sun. As Greeks tell, the sun consists of small components, called atoms. But they too are hundredth-rate characteristics of the sun. Same thing with the mountains, trees, grasses! We sense only very, very insignificant elements of them! Color!

Smell! Vital functions, and some other nullity! These very insignificant elements we regard as the world! But the true face of the world is fully different from what we sense!!

...What we consider as forest fully differs of what the forest is in the reality! What we consider as cloud isn't even similar to what the cloud is in the reality! What we regard as fog is absolutely something other than the fog is in the reality! We would be very surprised if once as pictures we would see what the people, the animals, the plants are in the reality! We would be fully taken aback if once converting into colors and lines the real world, we would see with own eyes what surrounds us!

Pictures illustrate the statement of Prometheus Crystallus.

JUDGE 1

- Satanic crook! I see the essence of what you are stating and stating! That the Church, the huge institutions of it, the great scientists of it, all are stupid and misled. By them not a the real world is investigated!

PROMETHEUS

That part we can reach and sense of the real world--that is investigated! Even with certain achievements, with some modest ones. Age of humans from fifty years will increase up to eighty years as centuries and centuries will pass. Later probably we can step onto the moon or another planet of our minute and wee solar system. And the rest? And the essence? What is this entire Universe? Why is it here?? The essential questions!! These always stayed unanswered! Or answered with no proof! ...How you can believe that the gigantic Universe just simply opens for our piteous and shoddy five senses? For our instruments that should be repaired, repaired, and corrected all the time! For such a weak and unreliable thing as the human thinking is? How do you suppose such nonsense?

In the cemetery of Dover, England. Heavy snowfall. The naked body of Prometheus is tightened to a tree with chains. Old women are singing and praying.

PROMETHEUS

- Be silent! Silent! Am I a pitiful swindler for you? A crook? That is the crook who overestimates sciences! That is the crook who convinces people about the enormous power of thinking! That is the cheater who proclaims as Universe the smells, sounds, pictures, and other nullity that the human being spots and senses! That is the cheater, who is not even willing to think that behind the things we see and hear each minute could exist something else, something absolutely else!

Old and damaged pictures of N.W. related to the execution of Prometheus Crystallus.

Snowfall. The exhausted young scientist now squirms on the ground in the snow. The old women are still singing and praying around him.

PROMETHEUS

- Cut it out somehow! Up there nothing!

He turns to the judges and priests who are also present.

PROMETHEUS

...Brazen animals! You rammed into our mind that we wear the feature of the face of God! That the top of the creation we are! They conceal, conceal the truth!! Misinformed, minute

strays--we are nothing else! We'll know never what the plants, animals, humans are in the reality! Nor what the Universe is around us!

Music. Lots of clean, white snowmen appear on the screen.

NARRATOR 1

Centuries and centuries pass, human knowledge grows more and more!

Our serfs will be soon the wind, the light, the steam, the coal!

Then comes the time when in the cosmos we will make more and more flight
And the glory of the science will shine brighter, brighter than bright!

But about essential questions, though the all achievements grow,
Even that time we will not know more than the snowmen know!

The end.