**Catherine Greenwich:** Hello and welcome back to Time Travel Radio. I’m your host Catherine Greenwich from the Royal Armouries. I am filling in for Tina the time traveller as it seems she got a bit stuck in Viking England. No worries I’m sure she will get back with us soon and my word she will be jealous of where I’ve found myself. Today I’m at a place where people would travel miles and miles to be. I am in Delphi, Greece and it is 480 BC. Now listeners, I wish you could see this, because it is truly stunning. Bright blue sky, the sun is beaming down and rocky mountains completely surrounding us! Oh and the food, the olives. Yum. I feel truly blessed to be in such a wonderfully beautiful place and with such a special guest. I mean it listeners, my guest today is nothing short of a celebrity here. Please welcome the Pythian Priestess, otherwise known as the Oracle of Delphi!

[Applause]

**The Oracle of Delphi:** Welcome my child, to the sanctuary of Apollo. The monuments around you are living, breathing. The gods see all. Apollo hears, he sees. Please leave your donation in the bowl.

**Catherine:** Ummm thank you. I know you have a hectic schedule, only being available a few select days of the year.

**Oracle:** Yes yes, always busy, always needed. Donation please dear.

**Catherine:** Oh gosh sorry, of course of course. [dink of coin in bowl]

**Oracle:** Thank you, Apollo will be most pleased.

**Catherine:** Err great. So I know my listeners are just dying to know. What is it that people come to see you about?

**Oracle:** Well many things dear lady. But before I divulge that information, did you make a goat shiver before you arrived in this place?

**Catherine:** Did I what?

**Oracle:** Did you pour water over a goat to see if it shivered?

**Catherine:** No, no I didn’t, sorry you’ve lost me. Why on earth would I do that?

**Oracle:** Well, if the goat shivers when you sprinkle it with cold water, then it is an auspicious day to see me. You know a good day, a good sign. No? Tourists. What can you do? Look, as you have come such a long way to see me, on this occasion, I shall forget this mishap.

**Catherine: Oh w**ell thank you. I most certainly did not mean to offend.

**Oracle:** No matter, no matter. Now why do people come to see me? Well for many reasons. I interpret dreams, I tell prophecies. Will the Spartans conquer the Persian army? Will Athens thrive? Who will win this battle, who will win that battle? Blah blah blah. The gods, they speak through me. I can see all of space and time you see. I sense you are a little bit like that yourself. Although different in some way. You are not from this time, this place. But you, the host of this ‘radio show’ and I, priestess of the temple of Apollo, we are linked.

**Catherine:** Oh really, you and I? Please tell me some more about that!

**Oracle:** I inform my custom… err visitors, visitors yes on their futures, I serve Apollo, son of Zeus. Olympian, god of many things; Music, light, prophecy, healing and archery. Among much else. Whilst you… you advise those on the past, of the stories and objects of times gone by, of wars and battles already fought, of armour once worn and beaten.

**Catherine:** Oh wow. you are good.

**Oracle:** Indeed.

**Catherine:** Do you know what, that is good. Because I’m here today on behalf of the Royal Armouries. [Voice changes into a loud echo] They care for weapons and armour of all kinds, including archery equipment from all over the world and Ancient Greek Armour. Visit the collection in the 21st century at one of the three sites. The Royal Armouries Museum Leeds, Fort Nelson in Hampshire or the White Tower, London. [Back to normal voice] Oooo sorry. Not quite sure where that came from, what came over me there.

**Oracle:** Not a problem my dear. In fact it happens to me too. When I consult with the gods, I sometimes enter a trance, I am taken over, speaking in tongues, in a language unbeknown to me. I shake all over- like like the goat. Sometimes it takes quite some time to come back to myself again.

**Catherine:** Wait, so you don’t even understand what you’re saying sometimes? Then how do your erm clientele get the answers they’re looking for?

**Oracle:** Oh well the priests of the temple, they interpret it, they translate it.

**Catherine:** So the priests speak the language of the gods? But how do you know they’re not making it up? I mean they could be saying anything.

**Oracle:** Haha, no no no. They would never do such a thing. No. not when people have so generously donated coins to the temple. You’re not one of those conspiracy theorists are you? The knowledge I impart is divinely inspired. It is beyond the range of mere mortals.

**Catherine:** Wow. But you must have your own opinions though. People coming to ask your advice about all sorts like politics and war. Did you never use your position to influence people to do things that you wanted?

**Oracle:** I... I... well. Absolutely not! I mean sure, they didn’t always get the answer they were looking for. Zeus knows the Spartans were upset when I told them either Sparta or the Spartan king must fall. They were convinced that all their training, and armour, and weapons, their Corinthian helmets for Apollo's sake would be all they needed to conquer the Persians. You know, don’t shoot the messenger, the gods have their own plans.

**Catherine:** Ah ha. But I have here an anonymous source here that has some quite scathing words about their visit to see you. They said you didn’t answer the questions that they asked, and that you just spoke in riddles? What have you got to say about that?

**Oracle:** The gods must have seen that their question was not important. That something else was more important for them to know.

**Catherine:** Ah but what about the bribery accusations, what do you have to say about those?

**Oracle**: Outrageous. People travel far and wide to see me. How dare you suggest I would lower myself to such things. Anyway, it seems our time is up. My next customer, sorry truth seeker, is waiting. So may the gods be with you. Off you go.

**Catherine:** Oh well thank you for your time. Well, that looks like the end of the show for today. What do you think listeners? Can the gods speak to us mere mortals through oracles? Can they predict what is the outcome of the next war? Is this somewhere you would like come on holiday? Would you travel miles and miles on foot, over rocky mountains and overgrown land to meet this Oracle? Join us next time where we have no idea where we might end up! Farewell for now, I’ve been Catherine Greenwich for Time Travel Radio.

[Time travel radio jingle]