

# The Tempest

## 4.1

*Enter Prospero, Ferdinand, and Miranda*

**PROSPERO** *(to Ferdinand)*

If I have too austerely punished you,  
Your compensation makes amends, for I  
Have given you here a third of mine own life±±  
Or that for which I live±±who once again  
I tender to thy hand. All thy vexations 5  
Were but my trials of thy love, and thou  
Hast strangely stood the test. Here, afore heaven,  
I ratify this my rich gift. O Ferdinand,  
Do not smile at me that I boast of her,  
For thou shalt find she will outstrip all praise, 10  
And make it halt behind her.

**FERDINAND** I do believe it  
Against an oracle.

**PROSPERO**

Then, as my gift and thine own acquisition  
Worthily purchased, take my daughter. But  
If thou dost break her virgin-knot before 15  
All sanctimonious ceremonies may  
With full and holy rite be ministered,  
No sweet aspersion shall the heavens let fall  
To make this contract grow; but barren hate,  
Sour-eyed disdain, and discord, shall bestrew 20  
The union of your bed with weeds so loathly  
That you shall hate it both. Therefore take heed,  
As Hymen's lamps shall light you.

**FERDINAND** As I hope  
For quiet days, fair issue, and long life  
With such love as 'tis now, the murkiest den, 25  
The most opportune place, the strong'st suggestion  
Our worser genius can, shall never melt  
Mine honour into lust to take away  
The edge of that day's celebration;  
When I shall think or Phoebus' steeds are foundered 30  
Or night kept chained below.

**PROSPERO** Fairly spoke.  
Sit, then, and talk with her. She is thine own.  
*Ferdinand and Miranda sit and talk together*  
What, Ariel, my industrious servant Ariel!  
*Enter Ariel*

**ARIEL**  
What would my potent master? Here I am.

**PROSPERO**  
Thou and thy meaner fellows your last service 35  
Did worthily perform, and I must use you  
In such another trick. Go bring the rabble,  
O'er whom I give thee power, here to this place.  
Incite them to quick motion, for I must  
Bestow upon the eyes of this young couple 40  
Some vanity of mine art. It is my promise,  
And they expect it from me.

**ARIEL** Presently?

**PROSPERO** Ay, with a twink.

**ARIEL**  
Before you can say `Come' and `Go',  
And breathe twice, and cry `So, so', 45  
Each one tripping on his toe  
Will be here with mop and mow.  
Do you love me, master? No?

**PROSPERO**  
Dearly, my delicate Ariel. Do not approach  
Till thou dost hear me call.

**ARIEL** Well; I conceive. 50

*Exit*

**PROSPERO** *(to Ferdinand)*  
Look thou be true. Do not give dalliance  
Too much the rein. The strongest oaths are straw  
To th' fire i'th' blood. Be more abstemious,  
Or else, good night your vow.

**FERDINAND** I warrant you, sir,  
The white cold virgin snow upon my heart 55  
Abates the ardour of my liver.

**PROSPERO** Well.±±  
Now come, my Ariel! Bring a corollary  
Rather than want a spirit. Appear, and pertly.

*Soft music*

*(To Ferdinand and Miranda)* No tongue, all eyes! Be silent.

*Enter Iris*

**IRIS**

Ceres, most bounteous lady, thy rich leas 60  
Of wheat, rye, barley, vetches, oats, and peas;  
Thy turfy mountains where live nibbling sheep,  
And flat meads thatched with stover, them to keep;  
Thy banks with peonied and twilleÁd brims  
Which spongy April at thy hest betrimms 65  
To make cold nymphs chaste crowns; and thy broom-  
groves,  
Whose shadow the dismisseeÁd bachelor loves,  
Being lass-lorn; thy pole-clipped vineyard,  
And thy sea-marge, sterile and rocky-hard,  
Where thou thyself dost air: the Queen o'th' Sky, 70  
Whose wat'ry arch and messenger am I,  
Bids thee leave these, and with her sovereign grace

*Juno [appears in the air]*

Here on this grass-plot, in this very place,  
To come and sport.±±Her peacocks fly amain.  
Approach, rich Ceres, her to entertain. 75

*Enter [Ariel as] Ceres*

**CERES**

Hail, many-coloured messenger, that ne'er  
Dost disobey the wife of Jupiter;  
Who with thy saffron wings upon my flowers  
Diffusest honey-drops, refreshing showers,  
And with each end of thy blue bow dost crown 80  
My bosky acres and my unshrubbed down,  
Rich scarf to my proud earth. Why hath thy queen  
Summoned me hither to this short-grassed green?

**IRIS**

A contract of true love to celebrate,  
And some donation freely to estate 85  
On the blest lovers.

**CERES**

Tell me, heavenly bow,  
If Venus or her son, as thou dost know,  
Do now attend the Queen. Since they did plot  
The means that dusky Dis my daughter got,

Her and her blind boy's scandalled company 90  
I have forsworn.

**IRIS** Of her society  
Be not afraid. I met her deity  
Cutting the clouds towards Paphos, and her son  
Dove-drawn with her. Here thought they to have  
done  
Some wanton charm upon this man and maid, 95  
Whose vows are that no bed-right shall be paid  
Till Hymen's torch be lighted±±but in vain.  
Mars's hot minion is returned again.  
Her waspish-headed son has broke his arrows,  
Swears he will shoot no more, but play with  
sparrows, 100  
And be a boy right out.  
*[Music. Juno descends to the stage]*

**CERES** Highest queen of state,  
Great Juno, comes; I know her by her gait.

**JUNO**  
How does my bounteous sister? Go with me  
To bless this twain, that they may prosperous be,  
And honoured in their issue. 105  
*[Ceres joins Juno, and] they sing*

**JUNO**  
Honour, riches, marriage-blessing,  
Long continuance and increasing,  
Hourly joys be still upon you!  
Juno sings her blessings on you.

**[CERES]**  
Earth's increase, and foison plenty, 110  
Barns and garner's never empty,  
Vines with clust'ring bunches growing,  
Plants with goodly burden bowing;  
Spring come to you at the farthest,  
In the very end of harvest. 115  
Scarcity and want shall shun you,  
Ceres' blessing so is on you.

**FERDINAND**  
This is a most majestic vision, and  
Harmonious charmingly. May I be bold

To think these spirits?

**PROSPERO** Spirits, which by mine art 120  
I have from their confines called to enact  
My present fancies.

**FERDINAND** Let me live here ever!  
So rare a wondered father and a wise  
Makes this place paradise.

*Juno and Ceres whisper, and send Iris on  
employment*

**PROSPERO** Sweet now, silence.  
Juno and Ceres whisper seriously. 125  
There's something else to do. Hush, and be mute,  
Or else our spell is marred.

**IRIS**  
You nymphs called naiads of the wind'ring brooks,  
With your sedged crowns and ever-harmless looks,  
Leave your crisp channels, and on this green land 130  
Answer your summons; Juno does command.  
Come, temperate nymphs, and help to celebrate  
A contract of true love. Be not too late.

*Enter certain nymphs*

You sunburned sicklemen, of August weary,  
Come hither from the furrow and be merry; 135  
Make holiday, your rye-straw hats put on,  
And these fresh nymphs encounter every one  
In country footing.

*Enter certain reapers, properly habited. They join  
with the nymphs in a graceful dance; towards the  
end whereof Prospero starts suddenly, and speaks*

**PROSPERO** *(aside)*  
I had forgot that foul conspiracy  
Of the beast Caliban and his confederates 140  
Against my life. The minute of their plot  
Is almost come. *(To the spirits)* Well done! Avoid; no  
more!

*To a strange, hollow, and confused noise, the spirits  
in the pageant heavily vanish.*

*[Ferdinand and Miranda rise]*

**FERDINAND** *(to Miranda)*  
This is strange. Your father's in some passion

That works him strongly.

**MIRANDA** Never till this day  
Saw I him touched with anger so distempered. 145

**PROSPERO**  
You do look, my son, in a moved sort,  
As if you were dismayed. Be cheerful, sir.  
Our revels now are ended. These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and  
Are melted into air, into thin air; 150  
And like the baseless fabric of this vision,  
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve;  
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded, 155  
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff  
As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep. Sir, I am vexed.  
Bear with my weakness. My old brain is troubled.  
Be not disturbed with my infirmity. 160  
If you be pleased, retire into my cell,  
And there repose. A turn or two I'll walk  
To still my beating mind.

**FERDINAND AND MIRANDA** We wish your peace.  
*Exeunt Ferdinand and Miranda*

**PROSPERO**  
Come with a thought! I thank thee, Ariel. Come!  
*Enter Ariel*

**ARIEL**  
Thy thoughts I cleave to. What's thy pleasure?

**PROSPERO**  
Spirit,<sup>165</sup>  
We must prepare to meet with Caliban.

**ARIEL**  
Ay, my commander. When I presented Ceres  
I thought to have told thee of it, but I feared  
Lest I might anger thee.

**PROSPERO**  
Say again: where didst thou leave these varlets? 170

**ARIEL**  
I told you, sir, they were red-hot with drinking;  
So full of valour that they smote the air



take a displeasure against you, look you±±

**TRINCULO** Thou wert but a lost monster.

**CALIBAN**  
 Good my lord, give me thy favour still.  
 Be patient, for the prize I'll bring thee to 205  
 Shall hoodwink this mischance. Therefore speak softly.  
 All's hushed as midnight yet.

**TRINCULO** Ay, but to lose our bottles in the pool!

**STEFANO** There is not only disgrace and dishonour in that,  
 monster, but an infinite loss. 210

**TRINCULO** That's more to me than my wetting. Yet this is  
 your harmless fairy, monster.

**STEFANO** I will fetch off my bottle, though I be o'er ears  
 for my labour.

**CALIBAN**  
 Prithee, my king, be quiet. Seest thou here; 215  
 This is the mouth o'th' cell. No noise, and enter.  
 Do that good mischief which may make this island  
 Thine own for ever, and I thy Caliban  
 For aye thy foot-licker.

**STEFANO** Give me thy hand.  
 I do begin to have bloody thoughts. 220

**TRINCULO** (*seeing the apparel*) O King Stefano, O peer! O  
 worthy Stefano, look what a wardrobe here is for thee!

**CALIBAN**  
 Let it alone, thou fool, it is but trash.

**TRINCULO** (*putting on a gown*) O ho, monster, we know  
 what belongs to a frippery! O King Stefano! 225

**STEFANO** Put off that gown, Trinculo. By this hand, I'll  
 have that gown.

**TRINCULO** Thy grace shall have it.

**CALIBAN**  
 The dropsy drown this fool! What do you mean  
 To dote thus on such luggage? Let't alone, 230  
 And do the murder first. If he awake,  
 From toe to crown he'll fill our skins with pinches,  
 Make us strange stuff.

**STEFANO** Be you quiet, monster.±±Mistress lime, is not  
 this my jerkin? Now is the jerkin under the line. Now, 235  
 jerkin, you are like to lose your hair and prove a bald

jerkin.

*Stefano and Trinculo take garments*

**TRINCULO** Do, do! We steal by line and level, an't like  
your grace.

**STEFANO** I thank thee for that jest. Here's a garment for't. 240  
Wit shall not go unrewarded while I am king of this  
country. `Steal by line and level' is an excellent pass  
of pate. There's another garment for't.

**TRINCULO** Monster, come, put some lime upon your  
fingers, and away with the rest. 245

**CALIBAN**

I will have none on't. We shall lose our time,  
And all be turned to barnacles, or to apes  
With foreheads villainous low.

**STEFANO** Monster, lay to your fingers. Help to bear this  
away where my hogshead of wine is, or I'll turn you 250  
out of my kingdom. Go to, carry this.

**TRINCULO** And this.

**STEFANO** Ay, and this.

*They load Caliban with apparel.*

*A noise of hunters heard. Enter divers spirits in  
shape of dogs and hounds, hunting them about;  
Prospero and Ariel setting them on*

**PROSPERO**

Hey, Mountain, hey!

**ARIEL** Silver! There it goes, Silver!

**PROSPERO**

Fury, Fury! There, Tyrant, there! Hark, hark! 255

*Exeunt Stefano, Trinculo, and Caliban, pursued  
by spirits*

*(To Ariel)* Go, charge my goblins that they grind their  
joints

With dry convulsions, shorten up their sinews  
With age's cramps, and more pinch-spotted make  
them

Than pard or cat o'mountain.

*Cries within*

**ARIEL**

Hark, they roar!

**PROSPERO**

Let them be hunted soundly. At this hour 260

Lies at my mercy all mine enemies.  
Shortly shall all my labours end, and thou  
Shalt have the air at freedom. For a little,  
Follow, and do me service.

*Exeunt*