

The Tempest

3.3

*Enter Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Gonzalo, Adrian,
and Francisco*

GONZALO *(to Alonso)*

By'r la'kin, I can go no further, sir.
My old bones ache. Here's a maze trod indeed
Through forthrights and meanders. By your patience,
I needs must rest me.

ALONSO Old lord, I cannot blame thee,
Who am myself attached with weariness 5
To th' dulling of my spirits. Sit down and rest.
Even here I will put off my hope, and keep it
No longer for my flatterer. He is drowned
Whom thus we stray to find, and the sea mocks
Our frustrate search on land. Well, let him go. 10

[They sit]

ANTONIO *(aside to Sebastian)*

I am right glad that he's so out of hope.
Do not for one repulse forgo the purpose
That you resolved t'effect.

SEBASTIAN *(aside to Antonio)* The next advantage
Will we take throughly.

ANTONIO *(aside to Sebastian)* Let it be tonight,
For now they are oppressed with travel. They 15
Will not nor cannot use such vigilance
As when they are fresh.

SEBASTIAN *(aside to Antonio)* I say tonight. No more.
*Solemn and strange music. Enter Prospero on the
top, invisible*

ALONSO

What harmony is this? My good friends, hark.

GONZALO Marvellous sweet music.

*Enter spirits, in several strange shapes, bringing in
a table and a banquet, and dance about it with
gentle actions of salutations, and, inviting the King
and his companions to eat, they depart*

ALONSO

Give us kind keepers, heavens! What were these?

20

SEBASTIAN

A living drollery. Now I will believe
That there are unicorns; that in Arabia
There is one tree, the phoenix' throne, one phoenix
At this hour reigning there.

ANTONIO

I'll believe both;

And what does else want credit come to me, 25
And I'll be sworn 'tis true. Travellers ne'er did lie,
Though fools at home condemn 'em.

GONZALO

If in Naples

I should report this now, would they believe me±±
If I should say I saw such islanders?
For certes these are people of the island, 30
Who though they are of monstrous shape, yet note
Their manners are more gentle-kind than of
Our human generation you shall find
Many, nay, almost any.

PROSPERO (*aside*) Honest lord,

Thou hast said well, for some of you there present 35
Are worse than devils.

ALONSO

I cannot too much muse.

Such shapes, such gesture, and such sound,
expressing±±

Although they want the use of tongue±±a kind
Of excellent dumb discourse.

PROSPERO (*aside*) Praise in departing.

FRANCISCO

They vanished strangely.

SEBASTIAN

No matter, since 40

They have left their viands behind, for we have
stomachs.

Will't please you taste of what is here?

ALONSO

Not I.

GONZALO

Faith, sir, you need not fear. When we were boys,
Who would believe that there were mountaineers
Dewlapped like bulls, whose throats had hanging at 'em 45
Wallets of flesh? Or that there were such men
Whose heads stood in their breasts? Which now we

find

Each putter-out of five for one will bring us
Good warrant of.

ALONSO *[rising]* I will stand to and feed,
Although my last±±no matter, since I feel 50
The best is past. Brother, my lord the Duke,
Stand to, and do as we.

*[Alonso, Sebastian, and Antonio approach the table.]
Thunder and lightning. Ariel [descends] like a harpy,
claps his wings upon the table, and, with a quaint
device, the banquet vanishes*

ARIEL

You are three men of sin, whom destiny±±
That hath to instrument this lower world
And what is in't±±the never-surfeited sea 55
Hath caused to belch up you, and on this island
Where man doth not inhabit, you 'mongst men
Being most unfit to live. I have made you mad,
And even with suchlike valour men hang and drown
Their proper selves.

Alonso, Sebastian, and Antonio draw

You fools! I and my fellows

60

Are ministers of fate. The elements
Of whom your swords are tempered may as well
Wound the loud winds, or with bemocked-at stabs
Kill the still-closing waters, as diminish
One dowl that's in my plume. My fellow ministers 65
Are like invulnerable. If you could hurt,
Your swords are now too massy for your strengths
And will not be uplifted.

Alonso, Sebastian, and Antonio stand amazed

But remember,

For that's my business to you, that you three
From Milan did supplant good Prospero; 70
Exposed unto the sea, which hath requit it,
Him and his innocent child; for which foul deed,
The powers, delaying not forgetting, have
Incensed the seas and shores, yea, all the creatures,
Against your peace. Thee of thy son, Alonso, 75

They have bereft, and do pronounce by me
Ling'ring perdition±±worse than any death
Can be at once±±shall step by step attend
You and your ways; whose wraths to guard you
from±±

Which here in this most desolate isle else falls 80
Upon your heads±±is nothing but heart's sorrow
And a clear life ensuing.

*He [ascends and] vanishes in thunder. Then, to soft
music, enter the spirits again, and dance with mocks
and mows, and they depart, carrying out the table*

PROSPERO

Bravely the figure of this harpy hast thou
Performed, my Ariel; a grace it had devouring.
Of my instruction hast thou nothing bated 85
In what thou hadst to say. So with good life
And observation strange my meaner ministers
Their several kinds have done. My high charms work,
And these mine enemies are all knit up
In their distractions. They now are in my power; 90
And in these fits I leave them, while I visit
Young Ferdinand, whom they suppose is drowned,
And his and mine loved darling.

Exit

[Gonzalo, Adrian, and Francisco go towards the others]

GONZALO

I'th' name of something holy, sir, why stand you
In this strange stare?

ALONSO

O, it is monstrous, monstrous! 95

Methought the billows spoke and told me of it,
The winds did sing it to me, and the thunder,
That deep and dreadful organ-pipe, pronounced
The name of Prosper. It did bass my trespass.
Therefor my son i'th' ooze is bedded, and 100
I'll seek him deeper than e'er plummet sounded,
And with him there lie mudded.

Exit

SEBASTIAN

But one fiend at a time,

I'll fight their legions o'er.

ANTONIO

I'll be thy second.

Exeunt Sebastian and Antonio

GONZALO

All three of them are desperate. Their great guilt,
Like poison given to work a great time after,
Now 'gins to bite the spirits. I do beseech you
That are of suppler joints, follow them swiftly,
And hinder them from what this ecstasy
May now provoke them to.

105

ADRIAN

Follow, I pray you.

Exeunt