

The Tempest

5.1

Enter Prospero, in his magic robes, and Ariel

PROSPERO

Now does my project gather to a head.
My charms crack not, my spirits obey, and time
Goes upright with his carriage. How's the day?

ARIEL

On the sixth hour; at which time, my lord,
You said our work should cease.

PROSPERO

I did say so

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When first I raised the tempest. Say, my spirit,
How fares the King and's followers?

ARIEL

Confined together

In the same fashion as you gave in charge,
Just as you left them; all prisoners, sir,
In the lime-grove which weather-fends your cell. 10
They cannot budge till your release. The King,
His brother, and yours, abide all three distracted,
And the remainder mourning over them,
Brimful of sorrow and dismay; but chiefly
Him that you termed, sir, the good old lord Gonzalo: 15
His tears run down his beard like winter's drops
From eaves of reeds. Your charm so strongly works 'em
That if you now beheld them your affections
Would become tender.

PROSPERO

Dost thou think so, spirit?

ARIEL

Mine would, sir, were I human.

PROSPERO

And mine shall.

20

Hast thou, which art but air, a touch, a feeling
Of their afflictions, and shall not myself,
One of their kind, that relish all as sharply
Passion as they, be kindlier moved than thou art?
Though with their high wrongs I am struck to th'
quick, 25

Yet with my nobler reason 'gainst my fury
Do I take part. The rarer action is

In virtue than in vengeance. They being penitent,
The sole drift of my purpose doth extend
Not a frown further. Go release them, Ariel. 30
My charms I'll break, their senses I'll restore,
And they shall be themselves.

ARIEL I'll fetch them, sir.

Exit

[Prospero draws a circle with his staff]

PROSPERO

Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes and groves,
And ye that on the sands with printless foot
Do chase the ebbing Neptune, and do fly him 35
When he comes back; you demi-puppets that
By moonshine do the green sour ringlets make
Whereof the ewe not bites; and you whose pastime
Is to make midnight mushrooms, that rejoice
To hear the solemn curfew; by whose aid, 40
Weak masters though ye be, I have bedimmed
The noontide sun, called forth the mutinous winds,
And 'twixt the green sea and the azured vault
Set roaring war±±to the dread rattling thunder
Have I given fire, and rifted Jove's stout oak 45
With his own bolt; the strong-based promontory
Have I made shake, and by the spurs plucked up
The pine and cedar; graves at my command
Have waked their sleepers, oped, and let 'em forth
By my so potent art. But this rough magic 50
I here abjure. And when I have required
Some heavenly music±±which even now I do±±
To work mine end upon their senses that
This airy charm is for, I'll break my staff,
Bury it certain fathoms in the earth, 55
And deeper than did ever plummet sound
I'll drown my book.

*Solemn music. Here enters first Ariel, invisible;
then Alonso, with a frantic gesture, attended by
Gonzalo; Sebastian and Antonio, in like manner,
attended by Adrian and Francisco. They all enter
the circle which Prospero had made, and there stand
charmed; which Prospero observing, speaks*

(To Alonso) A solemn air, and the best comforter
To an unsettled fancy, cure thy brains,
Now useless, boiled within thy skull.

(To Sebastian and Antonio) There stand, 60

For you are spell-stopped.±±
Holy Gonzalo, honourable man,
Mine eyes, ev'n sociable to the show of thine,
Fall fellowly drops. (Aside) The charm dissolves apace,

And as the morning steals upon the night, 65

Melting the darkness, so their rising senses
Begin to chase the ignorant fumes that mantle

Their clearer reason.±±O good Gonzalo,

My true preserver, and a loyal sir

To him thou follow'st, I will pay thy graces 70

Home both in word and deed.±±Most cruelly

Didst thou, Alonso, use me and my daughter.

Thy brother was a furtherer in the act.±±

Thou art pinched for't now, Sebastian.

(To Antonio) Flesh and
blood,

You, brother mine, that entertained ambition, 75

Expelled remorse and nature, whom, with Sebastian±±

Whose inward pinches therefore are most strong,±±

Would here have killed your king, I do forgive thee,

Unnatural though thou art. (Aside) Their understanding

Begins to swell, and the approaching tide 80

Will shortly fill the reasonable shores

That now lie foul and muddy. Not one of them

That yet looks on me, or would know me.±±Ariel,

Fetch me the hat and rapier in my cell.

I will discase me, and myself present 85

As I was sometime Milan. Quickly, spirit!

Thou shalt ere long be free.

Ariel sings and helps to attire him as Duke of Milan

ARIEL

Where the bee sucks, there suck I:

In a cowslip's bell I lie;

There I couch when owls do cry. 90

On the bat's back I do fly

After summer merrily.

Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.
Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

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PROSPERO

Why, that's my dainty Ariel! I shall miss thee,
But yet thou shalt have freedom.±±So, so, so.±±
To the King's ship, invisible as thou art!
There shalt thou find the mariners asleep
Under the hatches. The Master and the Boatswain
Being awake, enforce them to this place,
And presently, I prithee.

100

ARIEL

I drink the air before me, and return
Or ere your pulse twice beat.

105

Exit

GONZALO

All torment, trouble, wonder, and amazement
Inhabits here. Some heavenly power guide us
Out of this fearful country!

PROSPERO

Behold, sir King,
The wronged Duke of Milan, Prospero.
For more assurance that a living prince
Does now speak to thee, I embrace thy body;
And to thee and thy company I bid
A hearty welcome.

110

He embraces Alonso

ALONSO

Whe'er thou beest he or no,
Or some enchanted trifle to abuse me,
As late I have been, I not know. Thy pulse
Beats as of flesh and blood; and since I saw thee
Th'affliction of my mind amends, with which
I fear a madness held me. This must crave±±
An if this be at all±±a most strange story.
Thy dukedom I resign, and do entreat
Thou pardon me my wrongs. But how should

115

120

Prospero

Be living and be here?

PROSPERO

(to Gonzalo) First, noble friend,
Let me embrace thine age, whose honour cannot

Be measured or confined.

He embraces Gonzalo

GONZALO Whether this be
Or be not, I'll not swear.

PROSPERO You do yet taste 125
Some subtleties o'th' isle that will not let you
Believe things certain.±±Welcome, my friends all.
(Aside to Sebastian and Antonio)
But you, my brace of lords, were I so minded,
I here could pluck his highness' frown upon you
And justify you traitors. At this time 130
I will tell no tales.

SEBASTIAN *(to Antonio)* The devil speaks in him.

PROSPERO
No.

(To Antonio) For you, most wicked sir, whom to call
brother

Would even infect my mouth, I do forgive
Thy rankest fault, all of them, and require
My dukedom of thee, which perforce I know 135
Thou must restore.

ALONSO If thou beest Prospero,
Give us particulars of thy preservation,
How thou hast met us here, whom three hours since
Were wrecked upon this shore, where I have lost±±
How sharp the point of this remembrance is!±± 140
My dear son Ferdinand.

PROSPERO I am woe for't, sir.

ALONSO
Irreparable is the loss, and patience
Says it is past her cure.

PROSPERO I rather think
You have not sought her help, of whose soft grace
For the like loss I have her sovereign aid, 145
And rest myself content.

ALONSO You the like loss?

PROSPERO
As great to me as late; and supportable
To make the dear loss have I means much weaker
Than you may call to comfort you, for I

Have lost my daughter.

ALONSO A daughter? 150

O heavens, that they were living both in Naples,
The king and queen there! That they were, I wish
Myself were mudded in that oozy bed
Where my son lies. When did you lose your daughter?

PROSPERO

In this last tempest. I perceive these lords 155

At this encounter do so much admire
That they devour their reason, and scarce think
Their eyes do offices of truth, these words
Are natural breath. But howsoe'er you have
Been jostled from your senses, know for certain 160
That I am Prospero, and that very Duke

Which was thrust forth of Milan, who most strangely,
Upon this shore where you were wrecked, was landed
To be the lord on't. No more yet of this,

For 'tis a chronicle of day by day, 165

Not a relation for a breakfast, nor
Befitting this first meeting. Welcome, sir.

This cell's my court. Here have I few attendants,
And subjects none abroad. Pray you, look in.
My dukedom since you have given me again, 170

I will requite you with as good a thing;
At least bring forth a wonder to content ye
As much as me my dukedom.

*Here Prospero discovers Ferdinand and Miranda,
playing at chess*

MIRANDA

Sweet lord, you play me false.

FERDINAND No, my dearest love, 175

I would not for the world.

MIRANDA

Yes, for a score of kingdoms you should wrangle,
An I would call it fair play.

ALONSO If this prove

A vision of the island, one dear son
Shall I twice lose.

SEBASTIAN A most high miracle. 180

FERDINAND (*coming forward*)

Though the seas threaten, they are merciful.
I have cursed them without cause.

He kneels

ALONSO

Now all the blessings

Of a glad father compass thee about.
Arise and say how thou cam'st here.

Ferdinand rises

MIRANDA (*coming forward*) O wonder!

How many goodly creatures are there here! 185
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world
That has such people in't!

PROSPERO

'Tis new to thee.

ALONSO (*to Ferdinand*)

What is this maid with whom thou wast at play?
Your eld'st acquaintance cannot be three hours. 190
Is she the goddess that hath severed us,
And brought us thus together?

FERDINAND

Sir, she is mortal;

But by immortal providence she's mine.
I chose her when I could not ask my father
For his advice, nor thought I had one. She 195
Is daughter to this famous Duke of Milan,
Of whom so often I have heard renown,
But never saw before; of whom I have
Received a second life; and second father
This lady makes him to me.

ALONSO

I am hers.

But O, how oddly will it sound, that I 200
Must ask my child forgiveness!

PROSPERO

There, sir, stop.

Let us not burden our remembrance with
A heaviness that's gone.

GONZALO

I have inly wept,

Or should have spoke ere this. Look down, you gods,
And on this couple drop a blesseÁd crown, 205
For it is you that have chalked forth the way
Which brought us hither.

ALONSO

I say amen, Gonzalo.

GONZALO

Was Milan thrust from Milan, that his issue

Should become kings of Naples? O rejoice
Beyond a common joy! And set it down 210
With gold on lasting pillars: in one voyage
Did Claribel her husband find at Tunis,
And Ferdinand her brother found a wife
Where he himself was lost; Prospero his dukedom
In a poor isle; and all of us ourselves, 215
When no man was his own.

ALONSO (*to Ferdinand and Miranda*) Give me your hands.
Let grief and sorrow still embrace his heart
That doth not wish you joy.

GONZALO Be it so! Amen!

*Enter Ariel, with the Master and Boatswain
amazedly following*

O look, sir, look, sir, here is more of us!
I prophesied if a gallows were on land 220
This fellow could not drown. (*To the Boatswain*) Now,
blasphemy,
That swear'st grace o'erboard: not an oath on shore?
Hast thou no mouth by land? What is the news?

BOATSWAIN

The best news is that we have safely found
Our King and company. The next, our ship, 225
Which but three glasses since we gave out split,
Is tight and yare and bravely rigged, as when
We first put out to sea.

ARIEL (*aside to Prospero*) Sir, all this service
Have I done since I went.

PROSPERO (*aside to Ariel*) My tricky spirit!

ALONSO

These are not natural events; they strengthen 230
From strange to stranger. Say, how came you hither?

BOATSWAIN

If I did think, sir, I were well awake
I'd strive to tell you. We were dead of sleep,
And±±how we know not±±all clapped under hatches,
Where but even now, with strange and several noises 235
Of roaring, shrieking, howling, jingling chains,
And more diversity of sounds, all horrible,
We were awaked; straightway at liberty;

Where we in all her trim freshly beheld
Our royal, good, and gallant ship, our Master 240
Cap'ring to eye her. On a trice, so please you,
Even in a dream, were we divided from them,
And were brought moping hither.

ARIEL (*aside to Prospero*) Was't well done?

PROSPERO (*aside to Ariel*)
Bravely, my diligence. Thou shalt be free.

ALONSO
This is as strange a maze as e'er men trod, 245
And there is in this business more than nature
Was ever conduct of. Some oracle
Must rectify our knowledge.

PROSPERO Sir, my liege,
Do not infest your mind with beating on
The strangeness of this business. At picked leisure, 250
Which shall be shortly, single I'll resolve you,
Which to you shall seem probable, of every
These happened accidents; till when be cheerful,
And think of each thing well. (*Aside to Ariel*) Come
hither, spirit.

Set Caliban and his companions free. 255
Untie the spell.

Exit Ariel

(*To Alonso*) How fares my gracious sir?
There are yet missing of your company
Some few odd lads that you remember not.

*Enter Ariel, driving in Caliban, Stefano, and
Trinculo, in their stolen apparel*

STEFANO Every man shift for all the rest, and let no man
take care for himself, for all is but fortune. Coragio, 260
bully-monster, coragio!

TRINCULO If these be true spies which I wear in my head,
here's a goodly sight.

CALIBAN
O Setebos, these be brave spirits indeed!
How fine my master is! I am afraid 265
He will chastise me.

SEBASTIAN
Ha, ha! What things are these, my lord Antonio?

Will money buy 'em?

ANTONIO Very like; one of them
Is a plain fish, and no doubt marketable.

PROSPERO
Mark but the badges of these men, my lords, 270
Then say if they be true. This misshapen knave,
His mother was a witch, and one so strong
That could control the moon, make flows and ebbs,
And deal in her command without her power.
These three have robbed me, and this demi-devil, 275
For he's a bastard one, had plotted with them
To take my life. Two of these fellows you
Must know and own. This thing of darkness I
Acknowledge mine.

CALIBAN I shall be pinched to death.

ALONSO
Is not this Stefano, my drunken butler? 280

SEBASTIAN
He is drunk now. Where had he wine?

ALONSO
And Trinculo is reeling ripe. Where should they
Find this grand liquor that hath gilded 'em?
(*To Trinculo*) How cam'st thou in this pickle?

TRINCULO I have been in such a pickle since I saw you 285
last that, I fear me, will never out of my bones. I shall
not fear fly-blowing.

SEBASTIAN Why, how now, Stefano?

STEFANO O, touch me not! I am not Stefano, but a cramp.

PROSPERO You'd be king o'the isle, sirrah? 290

STEFANO I should have been a sore one, then.

ALONSO (*pointing to Caliban*) This is a strange thing as e'er
I looked on.

PROSPERO
He is as disproportioned in his manners
As in his shape. (*To Caliban*) Go, sirrah, to my cell. 295
Take with you your companions. As you look
To have my pardon, trim it handsomely.

CALIBAN
Ay, that I will; and I'll be wise hereafter,
And seek for grace. What a thrice-double ass
Was I to take this drunkard for a god, 300

And worship this dull fool!

PROSPERO

Go to, away!

Exit Caliban

ALONSO *(to Stefano and Trinculo)*

Hence, and bestow your luggage where you found it.

SEBASTIAN Or stole it, rather.

Exeunt Stefano and Trinculo

PROSPERO *(to Alonso)*

Sir, I invite your highness and your train
To my poor cell, where you shall take your rest 305
For this one night; which part of it I'll waste
With such discourse as I not doubt shall make it
Go quick away: the story of my life,
And the particular accidents gone by
Since I came to this isle. And in the morn 310
I'll bring you to your ship, and so to Naples,
Where I have hope to see the nuptial
Of these our dear-beloveÁd solemnized;
And thence retire me to my Milan, where
Every third thought shall be my grave.

ALONSO

I long

315

To hear the story of your life, which must
Take the ear strangely.

PROSPERO

I'll deliver all,

And promise you calm seas, auspicious gales,
And sail so expeditious that shall catch
Your royal fleet far off. *(Aside to Ariel)*
That is thy charge. Then to the elements
Be free, and fare thou well.

My Ariel, chick, 320

Exit Ariel

Please you,

draw near.

Exeunt [all but Prospero]