

# 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

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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.

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**ADRIAN**

Follow, I pray you.

*Exeunt*