

# Pericles, Prince of Tyre

## Sc.6

*[Sennet.] Enter King Simonides and Thaisa, with  
Lords in attendance, [and sit on two thrones]*

**KING SIMONIDES**

Are the knights ready to begin the triumph?

**FIRST LORD** They are, my liege,

And stay your coming to present themselves.

**KING SIMONIDES**

Return them we are ready; and our daughter,  
In honour of whose birth these triumphs are,  
Sits here like beauty's child, whom nature gat  
For men to see and, seeing, wonder at.

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*[Exit one]*

**THAISA**

It pleaseth you, my father, to express  
My commendations great, whose merit's less.

**KING SIMONIDES**

It's fit it should be so, for princes are  
A model which heav'n makes like to itself.  
As jewels lose their glory if neglected,  
So princes their renown, if not respected.  
'Tis now your office, daughter, to entertain  
The labour of each knight in his device.

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**THAISA**

Which, to preserve mine honour, I'll perform.

*[Flourish.] The first knight passes by [richly armed,  
and his page before him, bearing his device on his  
shield, delivers it to the Lady Thaisa]*

**KING SIMONIDES**

Who is the first that doth prefer himself?

**THAISA**

A knight of Sparta, my renowne's father,  
And the device he bears upon his shield  
Is a black Ethiop reaching at the sun.  
The word, *Lux tua vita mihi*.

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*[She presents it to the King]*

**KING SIMONIDES**

He loves you well that holds his life of you.

*[He returns it to the page, who exits with the first knight.]*

*[Flourish.] The second knight passes by [richly armed, and his page before him, bearing his device on his shield, delivers it to the Lady Thaisa]*

Who is the second that presents himself?

**THAISA**

A prince of Macedon, my royal father,  
And the device he bears upon his shield  
An armeÁd knight that's conquered by a lady.  
The motto thus: *PiuÁe per dolcezza che per forza.*  
*[She presents it to the King]*

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**KING SIMONIDES**

You win him more by lenity than force.  
*[He returns it to the page, who exits with the second knight.]*  
*[Flourish.] The third knight passes by [richly armed, and his page before him, bearing his device on his shield, delivers it to the Lady Thaisa]*

And what's the third?

**THAISA**

The third of Antioch,  
And his device a wreath of chivalry.  
The word, *Me pompae provexit apex.*  
*[She presents it to the King]*

30

**KING SIMONIDES**

Desire of renown he doth devise,  
The which hath drawn him to this enterprise.  
*[He returns it to the page, who exits with the third knight.]*  
*[Flourish.] The fourth knight passes by [richly armed, and his page before him, bearing his device on his shield, delivers it to the Lady Thaisa]*

What is the fourth?

**THAISA**

A knight of Athens bearing  
A burning torch that's turneÁd upside down.  
The word, *Qui me alit me extinguit.*  
*[She presents it to the King]*

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**KING SIMONIDES**

Which shows that beauty hath this power and will,  
Which can as well inflame as it can kill.

*[He returns it to the page, who exits with the fourth knight.]*

*[Flourish.] The fifth Knight passes by [richly armed, and his page before him, bearing his device on his shield, delivers it to the Lady Thaisa]*

And who the fifth?

**THAISA**                   The fifth, a prince of Corinth,  
Presents an hand environed with clouds,                   40  
Holding out gold that's by the touchstone tried.  
The motto thus: *Sic spectanda fides*.

*[She presents it to the King]*

**KING SIMONIDES**

So faith is to be looked into.

*[He returns it to the page, who exits with the fifth knight.]*

*[Flourish.] The sixth knight, Pericles, in a rusty armour, who, having neither page to deliver his shield nor shield to deliver, presents his device unto the Lady Thaisa*

And what's the sixth and last, the which the knight  
himself

With such a graceful courtesy delivereth?                   45

**THAISA**

He seems to be a stranger, but his present is  
A withered branch that's only green at top.  
The motto, *In hac spe vivo*.

**KING SIMONIDES**

From the dejected state wherein he is  
He hopes by you his fortunes yet may flourish.                   50

**FIRST LORD**

He had need mean better than his outward show  
Can any way speak in his just commend,  
For by his rusty outside he appears  
T'have practised more the whipstock than the lance.

**SECOND LORD**

He well may be a stranger, for he comes                   55  
Unto an honoured triumph strangely furnished.

**THIRD LORD**

And on set purpose let his armour rust  
Until this day, to scour it in the dust.

**KING SIMONIDES**

Opinion's but a fool, that makes us scan  
The outward habit for the inward man.

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*[Cornetts]*

But stay, the knights are coming. We will withdraw  
Into the gallery.

*[Exeunt]*

*[Cornetts and] great shouts [within], and all cry  
`The mean knight!'*