

# Pericles, Prince of Tyre

## Sc.21

*Enter Helicanus [above; below, enter] to him at the first door two Sailors, [one of Tyre, the other of Mytilene]*

**SAILOR OF TYRE** (to Sailor of Mytilene)

Lord Helicanus can resolve you, sir.

(To Helicanus) There is a barge put off from Mytilene.

In it, Lysimachus, the governor,

Who craves to come aboard. What is your will?

**HELICANUS**

That he have his.

*[Exit Sailor of Mytilene at first door]*

Call up some gentlemen.

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*[Exit Helicanus above]*

**[SAILOR OF TYRE]**

Ho, my lord calls!

*Enter [from below the stage] two or three*

*Gentlemen; [to them, enter Helicanus]*

**FIRST GENTLEMAN** What is your lordship's pleasure?

**HELICANUS**

Gentlemen, some of worth would come aboard.

I pray you, greet him fairly.

*Enter Lysimachus [at first door, with the Sailor and Lords of Mytilene]*

**[SAILOR OF MYTILENE]** (to Lysimachus)

This is the man that can in aught resolve you.

**LYSIMACHUS** (to Helicanus)

Hail, reverend sir; the gods preserve you!

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**HELICANUS**

And you, sir, to outlive the age I am,

And die as I would do.

**LYSIMACHUS** You wish me well.

I am the governor of Mytilene;

Being on shore, honouring of Neptune's triumphs,

Seeing this goodly vessel ride before us, 15

I made to it to know of whence you are.

**HELICANUS**

Our vessel is of Tyre, in it our king,  
A man who for this three months hath not spoken  
To anyone, nor taken sustenance  
But to prorogue his grief. 20

**LYSIMACHUS**

Upon what ground grew his distemp'rature?

**HELICANUS**

'Twould be too tedious to tell it over,  
But the main grief springs from the precious loss  
Of a beloveÁd daughter and a wife.

**LYSIMACHUS**

May we not see him?

**HELICANUS** See him, sir, you may, 25  
But bootless is your sight. He will not speak  
To any.

**LYSIMACHUS** Let me yet obtain my wish.

**HELICANUS**

Behold him.

*[Helicanus draws a curtain, revealing Pericles lying  
upon a couch with a long overgrown beard, diffused  
hair, undecent nails on his fingers, and attired in  
sack-cloth]*

This was a goodly person  
Till the disaster of one mortal night  
Drove him to this. 30

**LYSIMACHUS** (to Pericles)

Sir, King, all hail. Hail, royal sir.

*[Pericles shrinks himself down upon his pillow]*

**HELICANUS**

It is in vain. He will not speak to you.

**LORD OF MYTILENE**

Sir, we have a maid in Mytilene I durst wager  
Would win some words of him.

**LYSIMACHUS** 'Tis well bethought. 35

She questionless, with her sweet harmony  
And other choice attractions, would alarum  
And make a batt'ry through his deafened ports,  
Which now are midway stopped. She in all happy,  
As the fair'st of all, among her fellow maids  
Dwells now i'th' leafy shelter that abuts 40

Against the island's side. Go fetch her hither.

*[Exit Lord]*

**HELICANUS**

Sure, all effectless; yet nothing we'll omit  
That bears recov'ry's name. But since your kindness  
We have stretched thus far, let us beseech you  
That for our gold we may provision have, 45  
Wherein we are not destitute for want,  
But weary for the staleness.

**LYSIMACHUS**

O sir, a courtesy

Which if we should deny, the most just gods  
For every graft would send a caterpillar,  
And so inflict our province. Yet once more 50  
Let me entreat to know at large the cause  
Of your king's sorrow.

**HELICANUS**

Sit, sir. I will recount it.

*[Enter Lord with Marina and another maid]*

But see, I am prevented.

**LYSIMACHUS**

O, here's the lady that I sent for.±±  
Welcome, fair one.±±Is't not a goodly presence? 55

**HELICANUS**

She's a gallant lady.

**LYSIMACHUS**

She's such a one that, were I well assured  
Came of gentle kind or noble stock, I'd wish  
No better choice to think me rarely wed.±±  
Fair one, all goodness that consists in bounty 60  
Expect e'en here, where is a kingly patient;  
If that thy prosperous and artificial feat  
Can draw him but to answer thee in aught,  
Thy sacred physic shall receive such pay  
As thy desires can wish.

**MARINA**

Sir, I will use

65

My utmost skill in his recure, provided  
That none but I and my companion maid  
Be suffered to come near him.

**LYSIMACHUS**

*(to the others)*

Let us leave her,

And the gods prosper her.

*[The men stand aside]*

*The Song*

LYSIMACHUS *[coming forward]* Marked he your music?

[MAID]

No, nor looked on us.

LYSIMACHUS *(to the others)* See, she will speak to him. 70

MARINA *(to Pericles)*

Hail, sir; my lord, lend ear.

PERICLES Hmh, ha!

*[He roughly repulses her]*

MARINA I am a maid,

My lord, that ne'er before invited eyes,

But have been gazed on like a comet. She speaks, 75

My lord, that maybe hath endured a grief

Might equal yours, if both were justly weighed.

Though wayward fortune did malign my state,

My derivation was from ancestors

Who stood equivalent with mighty kings, 80

But time hath rooted out my parentage,

And to the world and awkward casualties

Bound me in servitude. *(Aside)* I will desist.

But there is something glows upon my cheek,

And whispers in mine ear 'Stay till he speak.' 85

PERICLES

My fortunes, parentage, good parentage,

To equal mine? Was it not thus? What say you?

MARINA

I said if you did know my parentage,

My lord, you would not do me violence.

PERICLES

I do think so. Pray you, turn your eyes upon me. 90

You're like something that±±what countrywoman?

Here of these shores?

MARINA No, nor of any shores,

Yet I was mortally brought forth, and am

No other than I seem.

PERICLES *[aside]*

I am great with woe, and shall deliver weeping. 95

My dearest wife was like this maid, and such

My daughter might have been. My queen's square

brows,

Her stature to an inch, as wand-like straight,

As silver-voiced, her eyes as jewel-like,  
And cased as richly, in pace another Juno, 100  
Who starves the ears she feeds, and makes them  
hungry

The more she gives them speech.±±Where do you live?

**MARINA**

Where I am but a stranger. From the deck  
You may discern the place.

**PERICLES**

Where were you bred,  
And how achieved you these endowments which 105  
You make more rich to owe?

**MARINA**

If I should tell  
My history, it would seem like lies  
Disdained in the reporting.

**PERICLES**

Prithee speak.  
Falseness cannot come from thee, for thou look'st  
Modest as justice, and thou seem'st a palace 110  
For the crowned truth to dwell in. I will believe thee,  
And make my senses credit thy relation  
To points that seem impossible. Thou show'st  
Like one I loved indeed. What were thy friends?  
Didst thou not say, when I did push thee back±± 115  
Which was when I perceived thee±±that thou cam'st  
From good descending?

**MARINA**

So indeed I did.

**PERICLES**

Report thy parentage. I think thou said'st  
Thou hadst been tossed from wrong to injury,  
And that thou thought'st thy griefs might equal mine, 120  
If both were opened.

**MARINA**

Some such thing I said,  
And said no more but what my circumstance  
Did warrant me was likely.

**PERICLES**

Tell thy story.  
If thine considered prove the thousandth part  
Of my endurance, thou art a man, and I 125  
Have suffered like a girl. Yet thou dost look  
Like patience gazing on kings' graves, and smiling  
Extremity out of act. What were thy friends?  
How lost thou them? Thy name, my most kind virgin?

Recount, I do beseech thee. Come, sit by me. 130

*She sits*

**MARINA**

My name, sir, is Marina.

**PERICLES**

O, I am mocked,  
And thou by some incenseÁd god sent hither  
To make the world to laugh at me.

**MARINA**

Patience, good sir,

Or here I'll cease.

**PERICLES**

Nay, I'll be patient.  
Thou little know'st how thou dost startle me 135  
To call thyself Marina.

**MARINA**

The name  
Was given me by one that had some power:  
My father, and a king.

**PERICLES**

How, a king's daughter,  
And called Marina?

**MARINA**

You said you would believe me,  
But not to be a troubler of your peace 140  
I will end here.

**PERICLES**

But are you flesh and blood?  
Have you a working pulse and are no fairy?  
Motion as well? Speak on. Where were you born,  
And wherefore called Marina?

**MARINA**

Called Marina  
For I was born at sea.

**PERICLES**

At sea? What mother? 145

**MARINA**

My mother was the daughter of a king,  
Who died when I was born, as my good nurse  
Lychorida hath oft recounted weeping.

**PERICLES**

O, stop there a little! *[Aside]* This is the rarest dream  
That e'er dulled sleep did mock sad fools withal. 150  
This cannot be my daughter, buried. Well.  
(*To Marina*) Where were you bred? I'll hear you more  
to th' bottom  
Of your story, and never interrupt you.

**MARINA**

You will scarce believe me. 'Twere best I did give o'er.

**PERICLES**

I will believe you by the syllable 155  
Of what you shall deliver. Yet give me leave.  
How came you in these parts? Where were you bred?

**MARINA**

The King my father did in Tarsus leave me,  
Till cruel Cleon, with his wicked wife,  
Did seek to murder me, and wooed a villain 160  
To attempt the deed; who having drawn to do't,  
A crew of pirates came and rescued me.  
To Mytilene they brought me. But, good sir,  
What will you of me? Why do you weep? It may be  
You think me an impostor. No, good faith, 165  
I am the daughter to King Pericles,  
If good King Pericles be.

**PERICLES** *[rising]* Ho, Helicanus!

**HELICANUS** *(coming forward)* Calls my lord?

**PERICLES**

Thou art a grave and noble counsellor, 170  
Most wise in gen'ral. Tell me if thou canst  
What this maid is, or what is like to be,  
That thus hath made me weep.

**HELICANUS** I know not.

But here's the regent, sir, of Mytilene  
Speaks nobly of her.

**LYSIMACHUS** She would never tell 175

Her parentage. Being demanded that,  
She would sit still and weep.

**PERICLES**

O Helicanus, strike me, honoured sir,  
Give me a gash, put me to present pain,  
Lest this great sea of joys rushing upon me 180  
O'erbear the shores of my mortality  
And drown me with their sweetness! *(To Marina)* O,  
come hither,  
*[Marina stands]*

Thou that begett'st him that did thee beget,  
Thou that wast born at sea, buried at Tarsus,  
And found at sea again!±±O Helicanus, 185  
Down on thy knees, thank the holy gods as loud

As thunder threatens us, this is Marina!  
(*To Marina*) What was thy mother's name? Tell me  
but that,  
For truth can never be confirmed enough,  
Though doubts did ever sleep.

**MARINA** First, sir, I pray, 190  
What is your title?

**PERICLES** I am Pericles  
Of Tyre. But tell me now my drowned queen's name.  
As in the rest thou hast been godlike perfect,  
So prove but true in that, thou art my daughter,  
The heir of kingdoms, and another life 195  
To Pericles thy father.

**MARINA** [*kneeling*] Is it no more  
To be your daughter than to say my mother's name?  
Thaisa was my mother, who did end  
The minute I began.

**PERICLES**  
Now blessing on thee! Rise. Thou art my child. 200  
[*Marina stands. He kisses her*]  
[*To attendants*] Give me fresh garments.±±Mine own,  
Helicanus!

Not dead at Tarsus, as she should have been  
By savage Cleon. She shall tell thee all,  
When thou shalt kneel and justify in knowledge  
She is thy very princess. Who is this? 205

**HELICANUS**  
Sir, 'tis the governor of Mytilene,  
Who, hearing of your melancholy state,  
Did come to see you.

**PERICLES** (*to Lysimachus*) I embrace you, sir.±±  
Give me my robes.  
[*He is attired in fresh robes*]

I am wild in my beholding.

O heavens, bless my girl!  
[*Celestial music*]

But hark, what

music? 210

Tell Helicanus, my Marina, tell him  
O'er point by point, for yet he seems to doubt,



How sure you are my daughter. But what music?

**HELICANUS** My lord, I hear none.

**PERICLES**

None? The music of the spheres! List, my Marina. 215

**LYSIMACHUS** (*aside to the others*)

It is not good to cross him. Give him way.

**PERICLES** Rar'st sounds. Do ye not hear?

**LYSIMACHUS** Music, my lord?

**PERICLES** I hear most heav'nly music.

It raps me unto list'ning, and thick slumber 220

Hangs upon mine eyelids. Let me rest.

*He sleeps*

**LYSIMACHUS**

A pillow for his head.

[*To Marina and others*] Companion friends,

If this but answer to my just belief

I'll well remember you. So leave him all.

*Exeunt all but Pericles*

*Diana [descends from the heavens]*

**DIANA**

My temple stands in Ephesus. Hie thee thither, 225

And do upon mine altar sacrifice.

There when my maiden priests are met together,

At large discourse thy fortunes in this wise:

With a full voice before the people all,

Reveal how thou at sea didst lose thy wife. 230

To mourn thy crosses, with thy daughter's, call

And give them repetition to the life.

Perform my bidding, or thou liv'st in woe;

Do't, and rest happy, by my silver bow.

Awake, and tell thy dream. 235

*[Diana ascends into the heavens]*

**PERICLES**

Celestial Dian, goddess argentine,

I will obey thee. (*Calling*) Helicanus!

*Enter Helicanus, Lysimachus, and Marina*

**HELICANUS**

Sir?

**PERICLES**

My purpose was for Tarsus, there to strike

Th'inhospitable Cleon, but I am  
For other service first. Toward Ephesus  
Turn our blown sails. Eftsoons I'll tell thee why.

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*[Exit Helicanus]*

Shall we refresh us, sir, upon your shore,  
And give you gold for such provision  
As our intents will need?

**LYSIMACHUS** With all my heart, sir,  
And when you come ashore I have a suit.

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**PERICLES**  
You shall prevail, were it to woo my daughter,  
For it seems you have been noble towards her.

**LYSIMACHUS**  
Sir, lend me your arm.

**PERICLES** Come, my Marina.  
*[Exit Pericles with Lysimachus at one arm,  
Marina at the other]*