

# The Tempest

## 3.2

*Enter Caliban, Stefano, and Trinculo*

**STEFANO** *(to Caliban)* Tell not me. When the butt is out  
we will drink water, not a drop before. Therefore bear  
up and board 'em. Servant monster, drink to me.

**TRINCULO** Servant monster? The folly of this island! They  
say there's but five upon this isle. We are three of 5  
them; if th'other two be brained like us, the state  
totters.

**STEFANO** Drink, servant monster, when I bid thee. Thy  
eyes are almost set in thy head.

**TRINCULO** Where should they be set else? He were a brave 10  
monster indeed if they were set in his tail.

**STEFANO** My man-monster hath drowned his tongue in  
sack. For my part, the sea cannot drown me. I swam,  
ere I could recover the shore, five and thirty leagues,  
off and on. By this light, thou shalt be my lieutenant, 15  
monster, or my standard.

**TRINCULO** Your lieutenant if you list; he's no standard.

**STEFANO** We'll not run, Monsieur Monster.

**TRINCULO** Nor go neither; but you'll lie like dogs, and yet  
say nothing neither. 20

**STEFANO** Moon-calf, speak once in thy life, if thou beest  
a good moon-calf.

**CALIBAN**

How does thy honour? Let me lick thy shoe.  
I'll not serve him; he is not valiant.

**TRINCULO** Thou liest, most ignorant monster! I am in case 25  
to jostle a constable. Why, thou debauched fish, thou,  
was there ever man a coward that hath drunk so much  
sack as I today? Wilt thou tell a monstrous lie, being  
but half a fish and half a monster?

**CALIBAN** *(to Stefano)* Lo, how he mocks me! Wilt thou let 30  
him, my lord?

**TRINCULO** `Lord' quoth he? That a monster should be  
such a natural!

**CALIBAN** *(to Stefano)*

Lo, lo, again! Bite him to death, I prithee.

**STEFANO** Trinculo, keep a good tongue in your head. If 35  
you prove a mutineer, the next tree. The poor monster's  
my subject, and he shall not suffer indignity.

**CALIBAN**

I thank my noble lord. Wilt thou be pleased  
To hearken once again to the suit I made to thee?

**STEFANO** Marry, will I. Kneel and repeat it. I will stand, 40  
and so shall Trinculo.

*[Caliban kneels.]*

*Enter Ariel, invisible*

**CALIBAN** As I told thee before, I am subject to a tyrant,  
a sorcerer, that by his cunning hath cheated me of the  
island.

**ARIEL** Thou liest. 45

**CALIBAN** *(to Trinculo)*

Thou liest, thou jesting monkey, thou.  
I would my valiant master would destroy thee.  
I do not lie.

**STEFANO** Trinculo, if you trouble him any more in's tale,  
by this hand, I will supplant some of your teeth. 50

**TRINCULO** Why, I said nothing.

**STEFANO** Mum, then, and no more. *(To Caliban)* Proceed.

**CALIBAN**

I say by sorcery he got this isle;  
From me he got it. If thy greatness will  
Revenge it on him±±for I know thou dar'st, 55  
But this thing dare not±±

**STEFANO** That's most certain.

**CALIBAN**

Thou shalt be lord of it, and I'll serve thee.

**STEFANO** How now shall this be compassed? Canst thou  
bring me to the party? 60

**CALIBAN**

Yea, yea, my lord. I'll yield him thee asleep  
Where thou mayst knock a nail into his head.

**ARIEL** Thou liest, thou canst not.

**CALIBAN**

What a pied ninny's this! *(To Trinculo)* Thou scurvy  
patch!

(*To Stefano*) I do beseech thy greatness give him blows, 65  
And take his bottle from him. When that's gone  
He shall drink naught but brine, for I'll not show him  
Where the quick freshes are.

**STEFANO** Trinculo, run into no further danger. Interrupt  
the monster one word further, and, by this hand, I'll 70  
turn my mercy out o'doors and make a stockfish of  
thee.

**TRINCULO** Why, what did I? I did nothing. I'll go farther  
off.

**STEFANO** Didst thou not say he lied? 75

**ARIEL** Thou liest.

**STEFANO** Do I so? (*Striking Trinculo*) Take thou that. As  
you like this, give me the lie another time.

**TRINCULO** I did not give the lie. Out o'your wits and  
hearing too? A pox o'your bottle! This can sack and 80  
drinking do. A murrain on your monster, and the devil  
take your fingers.

**CALIBAN** Ha, ha, ha!

**STEFANO** Now forward with your tale. (*To Trinculo*)  
Prithee, stand further off. 85

**CALIBAN**  
Beat him enough; after a little time  
I'll beat him too.

**STEFANO** (*to Trinculo*) Stand farther. (*To Caliban*) Come, proceed.

**CALIBAN**  
Why, as I told thee, 'tis a custom with him  
I'th' afternoon to sleep. There thou mayst brain him,  
Having first seized his books; or with a log 90  
Batter his skull, or paunch him with a stake,  
Or cut his weasand with thy knife. Remember  
First to possess his books, for without them  
He's but a sot as I am, nor hath not  
One spirit to command±±they all do hate him 95  
As rootedly as I. Burn but his books.  
He has brave utensils, for so he calls them,  
Which when he has a house he'll deck withal.  
And that most deeply to consider is  
The beauty of his daughter. He himself 100  
Calls her a nonpareil. I never saw a woman

But only Sycorax my dam and she,  
But she as far surpasseth Sycorax  
As great'st does least.

**STEFANO** Is it so brave a lass?

**CALIBAN**

Ay, lord. She will become thy bed, I warrant, 105  
And bring thee forth brave brood.

**STEFANO** Monster, I will kill this man. His daughter and  
I will be king and queen±±save our graces!±±and  
Trinculo and thyself shall be viceroys. Dost thou like  
the plot, Trinculo? 110

**TRINCULO** Excellent.

**STEFANO** Give me thy hand. I am sorry I beat thee. But  
while thou liv'st, keep a good tongue in thy head.

**CALIBAN**

Within this half hour will he be asleep.  
Wilt thou destroy him then? 115

**STEFANO** Ay, on mine honour.

**ARIEL** (*aside*) This will I tell my master.

**CALIBAN**

Thou mak'st me merry; I am full of pleasure.  
Let us be jocund. Will you troll the catch  
You taught me but while-ere? 120

**STEFANO** At thy request, monster, I will do reason, any  
reason.±±Come on, Trinculo, let us sing.  
(*Sings*)

Flout 'em and cout 'em,  
And scout 'em and flout 'em.  
Thought is free. 125

**CALIBAN** That's not the tune.

*Ariel plays the tune on a tabor and pipe*

**STEFANO** What is this same?

**TRINCULO** This is the tune of our catch, played by the  
picture of Nobody.

**STEFANO** (*calls towards Ariel*) If thou beest a man, show 130  
thyself in thy likeness. If thou beest a devil, take't as  
thou list.

**TRINCULO** O, forgive me my sins!

**STEFANO** He that dies pays all debts. (*Calls*) I defy thee.±±  
Mercy upon us! 135

**CALIBAN** Art thou afeard?

**STEFANO** No, monster, not I.

**CALIBAN**

Be not afeard. The isle is full of noises,  
Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt  
not.

Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments 140  
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices  
That if I then had waked after long sleep  
Will make me sleep again; and then in dreaming  
The clouds methought would open and show riches  
Ready to drop upon me, that when I waked 145  
I cried to dream again.

**STEFANO** This will prove a brave kingdom to me, where  
I shall have my music for nothing.

**CALIBAN** When Prospero is destroyed.

**STEFANO** That shall be by and by. I remember the story. 150  
*Exit Ariel, playing music*

**TRINCULO** The sound is going away. Let's follow it, and  
after do our work.

**STEFANO** Lead, monster; we'll follow.±±I would I could  
see this taborer. He lays it on.

**TRINCULO** (to Caliban) Wilt come? I'll follow Stefano. 155  
*Exeunt*