

# 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

5

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*



Merrily, merrily shall I live now  
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.  
Merrily, merrily shall I live now 95  
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

**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 100  
Under the hatches. The Master and the Boatswain  
Being awake, enforce them to this place,  
And presently, I prithee.

**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 110  
Does now speak to thee, I embrace thy body;  
And to thee and thy company I bid  
A hearty welcome.  
*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 115  
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 120  
Thou pardon me my wrongs. But how should  
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.  
Is she the goddess that hath severed us, 190  
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  
Is daughter to this famous Duke of Milan, 195  
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 tricksy 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]*