

A Midsummer Night's Dream

5.2

Enter Robin Goodfellow with a broom

ROBIN

Now the hungry lion roars,
And the wolf howls the moon,
Whilst the heavy ploughman snores,
All with weary task fordone.
Now the wasted brands do glow 5
Whilst the screech-owl, screeching loud,
Puts the wretch that lies in woe
In remembrance of a shroud.
Now it is the time of night
That the graves, all gaping wide, 10
Every one lets forth his sprite
In the churchway paths to glide;
And we fairies that do run
By the triple Hecate's team
From the presence of the sun, 15
Following darkness like a dream,
Now are frolic. Not a mouse
Shall disturb this hallowed house.
I am sent with broom before
To sweep the dust behind the door. 20

*Enter Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of
Fairies, with all their train*

OBERON

Through the house give glimmering light.
By the dead and drowsy fire
Every elf and fairy sprite
Hop as light as bird from brier,
And this ditty after me 25
Sing, and dance it trippingly.

TITANIA

First rehearse your song by rote,
To each word a warbling note.
Hand in hand with fairy grace
Will we sing and bless this place. 30

[The song. The fairies dance]

OBERON

Now until the break of day
Through this house each fairy stray.
To the best bride bed will we,
Which by us shall blesseÁd be,
And the issue there create 35
Ever shall be fortunate.
So shall all the couples three
Ever true in loving be,
And the blots of nature's hand
Shall not in their issue stand. 40
Never mole, harelip, nor scar,
Nor mark prodigious such as are
DespiseÁd in nativity
Shall upon their children be.
With this field-dew consecrate 45
Every fairy take his gait
And each several chamber bless
Through this palace with sweet peace;
And the owner of it blessed
Ever shall in safety rest. 50
Trip away, make no stay,
Meet me all by break of day.
Exeunt all but Robin