

# Pericles, Prince of Tyre

## Sc.7

*[A stately banquet is brought in.] Enter King Simonides, Thaisa [and their train at one door], and [at another door] a Marshal [conducting] Pericles and the other knights from tilting*

**KING SIMONIDES** *(to the knights)*

To say you're welcome were superfluous.  
To place upon the volume of your deeds  
As in a title page your worth in arms  
Were more than you expect, or more than's fit,  
Since every worth in show commends itself. 5  
Prepare for mirth, for mirth becomes a feast.  
You're princes, and my guests.

**THAISA** *(to Pericles)* But you, my knight and guest;  
To whom this wreath of victory I give,  
And crown you king of this day's happiness.

**PERICLES**

'Tis more by fortune, lady, than my merit. 10

**KING SIMONIDES**

Call it by what you will, the day is yours,  
And here I hope is none that envies it.  
In framing artists art hath thus decreed,  
To make some good, but others to exceed.  
You are her laboured scholar. *(To Thaisa)* Come,  
queen o'th' feast±± 15  
For, daughter, so you are±±here take your place.  
*(To Marshal)* Marshal the rest as they deserve their  
grace.

**KNIGHTS**

We are honoured much by good Simonides.

**KING SIMONIDES**

Your presence glads our days; honour we love,  
For who hates honour hates the gods above. 20

**MARSHAL** *(to Pericles)*

Sir, yonder is your place.

**PERICLES**

Some other is more fit.

**FIRST KNIGHT**

Contend not, sir, for we are gentlemen  
Have neither in our hearts nor outward eyes  
Envied the great, nor shall the low despise.

**PERICLES**

You are right courteous knights.

**KING SIMONIDES**

Sit, sir, sit. 25

*[Pericles sits directly over against the King and  
Thaisa. The guests feed apace. Pericles sits still and  
eats nothing]*

*[Aside]* By Jove I wonder, that is king of thoughts,  
These cates distaste me, he but thought upon.

**THAISA** *[aside]*

By Juno, that is queen of marriage,  
I am amazed all viands that I eat  
Do seem unsavoury, wishing him my meat. 30

*[To the King]* Sure he's a gallant gentleman.

**KING SIMONIDES**

He's but a country gentleman.  
He's done no more than other knights have done.  
He's broke a staff or so, so let it pass.

**THAISA** *[aside]*

To me he seems like diamond to glass. 35

**PERICLES** *[aside]*

Yon king's to me like to my father's picture,  
Which tells me in what glory once he was±±  
Had princes sit like stars about his throne,  
And he the sun for them to reverence.  
None that beheld him but like lesser lights 40  
Did veil their crowns to his supremacy;  
Where now his son's a glow-worm in the night,  
The which hath fire in darkness, none in light;  
Whereby I see that time's the king of men;  
He's both their parent and he is their grave, 45  
And gives them what he will, not what they crave.

**KING SIMONIDES** What, are you merry, knights?

**[THE OTHER KNIGHTS]**

Who can be other in this royal presence?

**KING SIMONIDES**

Here with a cup that's stored unto the brim,  
As you do love, full to your mistress' lips, 50

**[THE OTHER KNIGHTS]**  
**KING SIMONIDES**

**THAISA** What is't to me, my father?

## KING SIMONIDES

60

Alas, my father, it befits not me  
Unto a stranger knight to be so bold.  
He may my proffer take for an offence,  
Since men take women's gifts for impudence.

## KING SIMONIDES

**THAISA** (*aside*)

## KING SIMONIDES

70

The King my father, sir, has drunk to you,  
Wishing it so much blood unto your life.

I thank both him and you, and pledge him freely.  
*He pledges the King*

And further he desires to know of you  
Of whence you are, your name and parentage. 75

## PERICLES

A gentleman of Tyre, my name Pericles,

My education been in arts and arms,  
Who, looking for adventures in the world,  
Was by the rough unconstant seas bereft  
Unfortunately both of ships and men, 80  
And after shipwreck driven upon this shore.

*[Thaisa returns to the King]*

**THAISA**

He thanks your grace, names himself Pericles,  
A gentleman of Tyre, who, seeking adventures,  
Was solely by misfortune of the seas  
Bereft of ships and men, cast on this shore. 85

**KING SIMONIDES**

Now by the gods I pity his mishaps,  
And will awake him from his melancholy.  
*[Simonides, rising from his state, goes forthwith and  
embraces Pericles]*

Be cheered, for what misfortune hath impaired you of,  
Fortune by my help can repair to you.  
My self and country both shall be your friends, 90  
And presently a goodly milk-white steed  
And golden spurs I first bestow upon you,  
The prizes due your merit, and ordained  
For this day's enterprise.

**PERICLES**

Your kingly courtesy I thankfully accept. 95

**KING SIMONIDES**

Come, gentlemen, we sit too long on trifles,  
And waste the time which looks for other revels.  
Ev'n in your armours, as you are addressed,  
Your limbs will well become a soldier's dance.  
I will not have excuse with saying this, 100  
'Loud music is too harsh for ladies' heads',  
Since they love men in arms as well as beds.

*The knights dance*

So this was well asked, 'twas so well performed.  
Come, here's a lady that wants breathing too.  
(To Pericles) And I have heard, sir, that the knights of

Tyre 105

Are excellent in making ladies trip,  
And that their measures are as excellent.

**PERICLES**

In those that practise them they are, my lord.

**KING SIMONIDES**

O, that's as much as you would be denied  
Of your fair courtesy. Unclassp, unclassp. 110

*They dance*

Thanks, gentlemen, to all. All have done well,  
(*To Pericles*) But you the best.±±Lights, pages, to  
conduct

These knights unto their sev'ral lodgings.±±Yours, sir,  
We have giv'n order should be next our own.

**PERICLES** I am at your grace's pleasure. 115

**KING SIMONIDES**

Princes, it is too late to talk of love,  
And that's the mark I know you level at.  
Therefore each one betake him to his rest;  
Tomorrow all for speeding do their best.

*Exeunt [severally]*