

A Midsummer Night's Dream

1  
2  
3

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Cast of Characters

- 4
- 5     Theseus
- 6     Egeus
- 7     Lysander
- 8     Demetrius
- 9     Philostrate
- 10    Quince
- 11    Snug
- 12    Bottom
- 13    Flute
- 14    Snout
- 15    Starveling
- 16    Hippolyta
- 17    Hermia
- 18    Helena
- 19    Oberon
- 20    Titania
- 21    Puck

22

ACT I. SCENE I.

23

[Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Philostrate, and  
24 attendants.]

25

THESEUS

26

^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
27 Now fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour

28

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
29 Draws on apace<sup>1</sup>: Four happy days bring in

30

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
31 Another moon: but oh, methinks, how slow

32

- - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - -  
33 This old moon wanes; She lingers<sup>2</sup> my desires

34

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
35 Like to a step-dame, or a dowager,

36

- - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - -  
37 Long withering out a young man's revenue.

38

HIPPOLYTA

39

- - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
40 Four days will quickly steep themselves in nights;

41

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - -  
42 Four nights will quickly dream away the time;

43

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - -  
44 And then the moon, like to a silver bow,

45

- - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - -  
46 New bent in heaven, shall behold the night

47

- - - - ^ - - - -  
48 Of our solemnities<sup>3</sup>.

49

THESEUS

50

^ - - - - ^  
51 Go Philostrate,

52

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
53 Stir up the Athenian youth to merriments,

54

- - - - ^ - - - - - - - - ^ - - - -  
55 Awake the pert<sup>4</sup> and nimble spirit of mirth,

56

- - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - -  
57 Turn melancholy forth to funerals:

---

<sup>1</sup> "apace": quickly<sup>2</sup> "lingers": delays<sup>3</sup> "solemnities": festivities<sup>4</sup> "pert": lively



100           -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^       ^       -       ^  
 101       With bracelets of thy hair, rings, gauds, conceits,  
 102           ^               -       ^       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 103       Knacks, trifles, nosegays, sweetmeats,— messengers  
 104       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 105       Of strong prevailment in unhardened youth:  
 106       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 107       With cunning hast thou filched my daughter's heart;  
 108       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 109       Turned her obedience, which is due to me,  
 110       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 111       To stubborn harshness:— And, my gracious Duke,  
 112       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 113       Be it so she will not here before your Grace,  
 114       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 115       Consent to marry with Demetrius,  
 116       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 117       I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,—  
 118       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 119       As she is mine, I may dispose of her,  
 120       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 121       Which shall be either to this gentleman,  
 122       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 123       Or to her death; according to our Law,  
 124       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 125       Immediately provided in that case.

126   THESEUS  
 127       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^       ^  
 128       What say you Hermia? Be advised fair maid:  
 129       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
 130       To you your Father should be as a God;  
 131       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       ^       ^       ^  
 132       One that composed your beauties; yea and one  
 133       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
 134       To whom you are but as a form in wax,  
 135       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 136       By him imprinted: and within his power  
 137       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 138       To leave the figure, or disfigure it.  
 139       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
 140       Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

141   HERMIA  
 142       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 143       So is Lysander.

144 THESEUS  
 145 - - ^ - - ^  
 146 In himself he is.  
 147 - - ^ ^ - - - - ^ ^  
 148 But in this kind, wanting your father's voice,  
 149 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 150 The other must be held the worthier.

151 HERMIA  
 152 - ^ - - ^ ^ - - ^ ^  
 153 I would my father looked but with my eyes.

154 THESEUS  
 155 - ^ ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
 156 Rather your eyes must with his judgment look.

157 HERMIA  
 158 - ^ - ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
 159 I do entreat your Grace to pardon me.  
 160 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 161 I know not by what power I am made bold,  
 162 - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 163 Nor how it may concern my modesty  
 164 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 165 In such a presence here to plead my thoughts,  
 166 - - ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
 167 But I beseech your Grace, that I may know  
 168 - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 169 The worst that may befall me in this case,  
 170 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 171 If I refuse to wed Demetrius?

172 THESEUS  
 173 - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 174 Either to die the death, or to abjure  
 175 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 176 Forever the society of men.  
 177 - ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 178 Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires,  
 179 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 180 Know of your youth, examine well your blood.  
 181 - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 182 Whether, if you yield not to your father's choice,  
 183 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 184 You can endure the livery of a nun;  
 185 ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 186 For, aye, to be in shady cloister mew'd,

187  
 188 To live a barren sister all your life,  
 189 Chanting faint hymns to the cold fruitless moon.  
 190 Thrice blessed<sup>5</sup> they that master so their blood,  
 191 To undergo such maiden pilgrimage;  
 192 But earthlier happy is the rose distilled,  
 193 Than that which withering on the virgin thorn,  
 194 Grows, lives, and dies in single blessedness.

201 HERMIA

202 So will I grow, so live, so die, my Lord,  
 203 Ere I will yield my virgin patent up  
 204 Unto his Lordship, whose unwishéd yoke  
 205 My soul consents not to give sovereignty.

210 THESEUS

211 Take time to pause; and by the next new moon,  
 212 (The sealing day betwixt my love and me,  
 213 For everlasting bond of fellowship,) Upon that day either prepare to die,  
 214 For disobedience to your father's will;  
 215 Or else, to wed Demetrius, as he would;  
 216 Or on Diana's altar to protest,  
 217 For aye, austerity and single life.

<sup>5</sup> "thrice blessed": a possible reference to Hecate as triple-moon goddess, or another aspect of Artemis or Diana as having three moon phases: waxing, full, and waning, as portrayed on much pre-Christian statuary.

227 DEMETRIUS  
 228 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 229 Relent sweet Hermia;— And Lysander, yield  
 230 - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 231 Thy crazéd title to my certain right.

232 LYSANDER  
 233 ^ - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 234 You have her father's love, Demetrius;  
 235 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 236 Let me have Hermia's: do you marry him!

237 EGEUS  
 238 - ^ - - ^ ^ - ^ - ^  
 239 Scornful Lysander! true, he hath my love,  
 240 ^ - - ^ - ^ - - ^ ^  
 241 And what is mine, my love shall render him.  
 242 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 243 And she is mine, and all my right of her,  
 244 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 245 I do estate unto Demetrius.

246 LYSANDER  
 247 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 248 I am, my Lord, as well derived as he,  
 249 - - - ^ ^ - - - ^  
 250 As well possessed: my love is more than his,  
 251 ^ - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 252 My fortunes every way as fairly ranked,  
 253 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 254 If not with vantage, as Demetrius.  
 255 ^ - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 256 And, which is more than all these boasts can be,  
 257 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - ^ - ^  
 258 I am beloved of beauteous Hermia.  
 259 - - - ^ ^ - - - ^  
 260 Why should not I then prosecute my right?  
 261 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 262 Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head,  
 263 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 264 Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,  
 265 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 266 And won her soul: and she, sweet lady, dotes,  
 267 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 268 Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry  
 269 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 270 Upon this spotted and inconstant man.



271

THESEUS

272

273 I must confess that I have heard so much,

274

275 And, with Demetrius, thought to have spoke thereof;

276

277 But, being overfull of self-affairs,

278

279 My mind did lose it.— But Demetrius come,

280

281 And come Egeus, you shall go with me.

282

283 I have some private schooling for you both.

284

285 For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself

286

287 To fit your fancies to your father's will;

288

289 Or else the law of Athens yields you up

290

291 (Which by no means we may extenuate)

292

293 To death, or to a vow of single life.

294

295 Come my Hippolyta: What cheer, my love?

296

297 I must employ you in some business

298

299 Against our nuptial, and confer with you

300

301 Of something, nearly that concerns yourselves.

302

EGEUS

303

304 With duty and desire we follow you.

305

[Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus, Demetrius, and

306

Attendants exit. Lysander and Hermia

307

remain.]

308

LYSANDER

309

310 How now my love? Why is your cheek so pale?

311

312 How chance the roses there do fade so fast?

313 HERMIA  
 314 - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ -  
 315 Belike for want of rain; which I could well  
 316 - - ^ - - - ^ - ^ - ^  
 317 Beteem<sup>6</sup> them from the tempest of mine eyes.

318 LYSANDER  
 319 ^ ^ - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 320 Ay me! for ought that ever I could read,  
 321 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 322 Could ever hear by tale or history,  
 323 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
 324 The course of true love never did run smooth,  
 325 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 326 But, either it was different in blood;—

327 HERMIA  
 328 ^ ^ - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 329 O cross! too high to be enthralled to love!

330 LYSANDER  
 331 - ^ - - ^ - - - - ^  
 332 Or else misgrafféd, in respect of years;—

333 HERMIA  
 334 ^ ^ - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 335 O spite! too old to be engaged to young!

336 LYSANDER  
 337 - ^ - - - - ^ - ^  
 338 Or else it stood upon the choice of friends—

339 HERMIA  
 340 - ^ - - - - ^  
 341 O hell! to choose love by another's eye!

342 LYSANDER  
 343 - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 344 Or, if there were a sympathy in choice,  
 345 ^ ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 346 War, death, or sickness did lay siege to it;  
 347 - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 348 Making it momentary as a sound,

<sup>6</sup> "Beteem": Bestow upon

349                 ^   -   -   -   ^             ^   -   -   -   ^  
 350                 Swift as a shadow, short as any dream,  
 351                 ^                   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^  
 352                 Brief as the lightning in the collied<sup>7</sup> night,  
 353                 ^                   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   ^  
 354                 That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven and earth,  
 355                 ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^  
 356                 And ere a man hath power to say,— Behold!  
 357                 -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^  
 358                 The jaws of darkness do devour it up:  
 359                 ^   ^             -             ^             -   -   -   ^  
 360                 So quick bright things come to confusion.

361

HERMIA

362                 -             ^   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^  
 363                 If then true lovers have been ever crossed,  
 364                 -             ^             -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   ^  
 365                 It stands as an edict in destiny:  
 366                 -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 367                 Then let us teach our trial patience,  
 368                 -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 369                 Because it is a customary cross;  
 370                 -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   ^  
 371                 As due to love, as thoughts, and dreams, and sighs,  
 372                 -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   ^  
 373                 Wishes and tears, poor fancy's followers.

374

LYSANDER

375                 -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   ^  
 376                 A good persuasion; therefore, hear me, Hermia.  
 377                 -   -   -   -   ^   ^             -   -   -   -   -  
 378                 I have a widow aunt, a dowager  
 379                 -             ^   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 380                 Of great revenue, and she hath no child:  
 381                 -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   ^  
 382                 From Athens is her house removed seven leagues;  
 383                 -             ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 384                 And she respects me as her only son.  
 385                 ^             -   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 386                 There gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;  
 387                 ^   -   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^  
 388                 And to that place, the sharp Athenian law  
 389                 -   ^   -   -   ^             -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 390                 Cannot pursue us. If thou lov'st me, then,

---

<sup>7</sup> "collied": coal, black.



431

HELENA

432

Call you me fair? That fair again un-  
say.

434

Demetrius loves your fair: O happy fair!

436

Your eyes are lode-stars;<sup>9</sup> and your tongue's sweet air,<sup>10</sup>

438

More tunable than lark to shepherd's ear,

440

When wheat is green, when hawthorn buds appear,

442

Sickness is catching. O, were favor so,

444

Your words I catch, fair Hermia, ere I go;

446

My ear should catch your voice, my eye your eye,

448

My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet melody.

450

Were the world mine, Demetrius being bated,

452

The rest I'll give to be to you translated.

454

O, teach me how to look; and with what art

456

You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart.

457

458

HERMIA

459

I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

460

461

HELENA

462

O, that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!

463

464

HERMIA

465

I give him curses, yet he gives me love.

466

<sup>9</sup> *lodestars*: Navigational stars used by sailors; also metaphorical of the star *Polaris* in her aspect as goddess.

<sup>10</sup> "tongue's sweet air": double meaning for words and a tune.

467 HELENA  
 468 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - -  
 469 O, that my prayers could such affection move!

470 HERMIA  
 471 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 472 The more I hate, the more he follows me.

473 HELENA  
 474 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 475 The more I love, the more he hateth me!

476 HERMIA  
 477 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 478 His folly, Helena, is none of mine.

479 HELENA  
 480 ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 481 None; but your beauty; would that fault were mine.

482 HERMIA  
 483 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 484 Take comfort; he no more shall see my face;  
 485 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 486 Lysander and myself will fly this place.  
 487 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 488 Before the time I did Lysander see,  
 489 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 490 Seemed Athens like a paradise to me.  
 491 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 492 O then, what graces in my love do dwell,  
 493 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 494 That he hath turned a heaven into hell!

495 LYSANDER  
 496 - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 497 Helen, to you our minds we will unfold:  
 498 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 499 Tomorrow night, when Phoebe doth behold  
 500 - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 501 Her silver visage in the watery glass,  
 502 - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 503 Decking with liquid pearl the bladed grass,  
 504 - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - - ^ - - -  
 505 (A time that lovers' flights doth still conceal,)

506  
507 Through Athens' gates, have we devised to steal.

508 HERMIA

509  
510 And in the wood, where often you and I  
511  
512 Upon faint primrose beds, were wont to lie,  
513  
514 Emptying our bosoms of their counsel sweet,  
515  
516 There my Lysander and myself shall meet:  
517  
518 And thence, from Athens, turn away our eyes,  
519  
520 To seek new friends and stranger companies.  
521  
522 Farewell, sweet playfellow; pray thou for us,  
523  
524 And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius!—  
525  
526 Keep word, Lysander: we must starve our sight  
527  
528 From lovers' food, till morrow deep midnight.

529 *[Hermia exits.]*

530 LYSANDER

531  
532 I will my Hermia.— Helena adieu:  
533  
534 As you on him, Demetrius dote on you!

535 *[Lysander exits.]*

536 HELENA

537  
538 How happy some, o'er othersome can be!  
539  
540 Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.  
541  
542 But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;  
543  
544 He will not know what all but he doth know.  
545  
546 And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,  
547  
548 So I, admiring of his qualities.

549  
 550 Things base and vild,<sup>11</sup> holding no quantity,  
 551  
 552 Love can transpose to form and dignity.  
 553  
 554 Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;  
 555  
 556 And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.  
 557  
 558 Nor hath Love's mind of any judgment taste;  
 559  
 560 Wings and no eyes, figure, unheedy haste;  
 561  
 562 And therefore is Love said to be a child,  
 563  
 564 Because in choice he is so oft beguiled.  
 565  
 566 As waggish boys in game themselves forswear;  
 567  
 568 So the boy Love is perjured everywhere:  
 569  
 570 For ere Demetrius looked on Hermia's eyne,<sup>12</sup>  
 571  
 572 He hailed down oaths that he was only mine;  
 573  
 574 And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,  
 575  
 576 So he dissolved, and showers of oaths did melt.  
 577  
 578 I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:  
 579  
 580 Then to the wood will he, tomorrow night,  
 581  
 582 Pursue her; and for this intelligence  
 583  
 584 If I have thanks, it is a dear expense:  
 585  
 586 But herein mean I to enrich my pain,  
 587  
 588 To have his sight thither, and back again.

589

[Helena exits.]

---

<sup>11</sup> *vild*: vile.

<sup>12</sup> "eyne": eyes.



590

## ACT I. SCENE II.

591

592

593

594

*{Enter Quince the Carpenter, Snug the Joiner, Bottom the Weaver, Flute the bellows-mender, Snout the Tinker, and Starveling the Tailor.}*

595

QUINCE

596

Is all our company here?

597

BOTTOM

598

599

You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip.

600

QUINCE

601

602

603

Here is the scroll of every man's name, which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our interlude before the Duke and the Duchess, on his wedding day at night.

604

BOTTOM

605

606

First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on; then read the names of the actors; and so grow on to a point.

607

QUINCE

608

609

Marry our play is "The most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisby."

610

BOTTOM

611

612

613

A very good piece of work, I assure you, and a merry.— Now, good Peter Quince, call forth your actors by the scroll. Masters, spread yourselves.

614

QUINCE

615

Answer as I call you.— Nick Bottom, the weaver.

616

BOTTOM

617

Ready! Name what part I am for, and proceed.

618

QUINCE

619

You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

620

BOTTOM

621

What is Pyramus? A lover, or a tyrant?

622  
623  
624  
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654

QUINCE

A lover, that kills himself most gallantly for love.

BOTTOM

That will ask some tears in the true performing of it: If I do it, let the audience look to their eyes; I will move storms; I will condole in some measure. To the rest:— Yet, my chief humor is for a tyrant. I could play Ercles<sup>13</sup> rarely, or a part to tear a cat in, to make all split.

— — — ^  
"The raging rocks,  
— — — ^  
And shivering shocks,  
— — — ^  
Shall break the locks  
— — — ^  
Of prison gates;  
— — — ^  
And Phibbus' car<sup>14</sup>  
— — — ^  
Shall shine from far,  
— — — ^  
And make and mar  
— — — ^  
the foolish Fates."<sup>15</sup>

This was lofty!— Now name the rest of the players.— This is Ercles<sup>16</sup> vein, a tyrant's vein; A lover is more condoling.

QUINCE

Francis Flute, the bellows mender.

FLUTE

Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE

You must take Thisby on you.

<sup>13</sup> "Ercles": Heracles.

<sup>14</sup> "Phibbus' car": Phœbus Apollo, the sun god, in his aspect as rider of the sun chariot across the sky.

<sup>15</sup> "The raging rocks...": A reference to the ancient Greek drama of the Labors of Heracles.

<sup>16</sup> "Ercles vein": bombastic.

655 FLUTE  
656 What is Thisby? a wand'ring knight?

657 QUINCE  
658 It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

659 FLUTE  
660 Nay, faith, let not me play a woman; I have a beard coming!

661 QUINCE  
662 That's all one; you shall play it in a mask, and you may  
663 speak as small as you will.

664 BOTTOM  
665 An I may hide my face, let me play Thisby too: I'll speak  
666 in a monstrous little voice:— "Thisne, Thisne,—Ah, Pyramus,  
667 my lover dear; thy Thisby dear! and lady dear!"

668 QUINCE  
669 No, no, you must play Pyramus; and, Flute, you Thisby!

670 BOTTOM  
671 Well, proceed.

672 QUINCE  
673 Robin Starveling, the tailor.

674 STARVELING  
675 Here, Peter Quince.

676 QUINCE  
677 Robin Starveling, you must play Thisby's mother.— Tom  
678 Snout, the tinker.

679 SNOUT  
680 Here, Peter Quince.

681 QUINCE  
 682 You, Pyramus's father. Myself, Thisby's father; Snug, the  
 683 joiner, you the Lion's part:<sup>17</sup> And I hope here is a play  
 684 fitted.

685 SNUG  
 686 Have you the Lion's part written? Pray you, if it be, give  
 687 it me, for I am slow of study.

688 QUINCE  
 689 You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but roaring.

690 BOTTOM  
 691 Let me play the Lion too. I will roar that I will do any  
 692 man's heart good to hear me; I will roar, that I will make  
 693 the Duke say, "Let him roar again; Let him roar again."

694 QUINCE  
 695 An you should do it too terribly, you would fright the  
 696 Duchess and the Ladies, that they would shriek;<sup>18</sup> and that  
 697 were enough to hang us all.

698 ALL  
 699 That would hang us, every mother's son.

700 BOTTOM  
 701 I grant you, friends, if that you should fright the Ladies  
 702 out of their wits, they would have no more discretion but  
 703 to hang us; But I will aggravate my voice so, that I will  
 704 roar you as gently as any sucking dove; I will roar an  
 705 'twere any nightingale.

706 QUINCE  
 707 You can play no part but Pyramus: for Pyramus is a sweet-  
 708 faced man; a proper man as one shall see in a summer's day;  
 709 a most lovely gentleman-like man; therefore you must needs  
 710 play Pyramus.

---

<sup>17</sup> "the lion's part": Double meaning of both the role of the Lion, and the remainder of all minor characters.

<sup>18</sup> "shriek": Original text is "shrike," a songbird with a hooked beak that impales its prey, also known as the butcherbird.

711   BOTTOM  
712         Well, I will undertake it. What beard were I best to play  
713         it in?

714   QUINCE  
715         Why, what you will.

716   BOTTOM  
717         I will discharge it in either your straw-colored beard,  
718         your orange-tawny beard, your purple-in-grain<sup>19</sup> beard, or  
719         your French-crown-color beard, your perfect yellow.

720   QUINCE  
721         Some of your French crowns have no hair at all, and then  
722         you will play bare-faced.—<sup>20</sup> But, masters, here are your  
723         parts: and I am to entreat you, request you, and desire  
724         you, to con<sup>21</sup> them by tomorrow night: and meet me in the  
725         palace wood, a mile without the town, by moonlight; there  
726         we will rehearse: for if we meet in the city, we shall be  
727         dogged with company, and our devises known. In the  
728         meantime, I will draw a bill of properties such as our play  
729         wants. I pray you fail me not.

730   BOTTOM  
731         We will meet; and there we may rehearse more obscenely and  
732         courageously. Take pains; be perfect; adieu.

733   QUINCE  
734         At the Duke's oak we meet.

735   BOTTOM  
736         Enough. Hold or cut bow-strings.<sup>22</sup>

737

[All exit.]

---

<sup>19</sup> *"purple-in-grain"*: the color of purple wheat. The implication is that Bottom is to create a beard from some sort of grass or grain.

<sup>20</sup> *"Some of your French crowns...play bare-faced."*: A political joke, i.e., the French kings are but children to the English.

<sup>21</sup> *"con"*: Learn.

<sup>22</sup> *"Hold or cut bowstrings."*: A double meaning: literally, end the conversation. Secondary meaning is, I'll have the last word. Also, metaphorically, hold the bowstring (do not fire another verbal volley), or cut the string (end the conversation and leave in peace.)

738 ACT II. SCENE 1.

739 [Enter a Fairy from one side, Puck from the  
740 other.]

741 PUCK

742       -     ^       -     ^       -     -     -     -     ^  
743 How now spirit, whither wander you?

744 FAIRY

745       -     -     ^       -     -     ^  
746 Over hill, over dale,  
747       -     -     ^       -     -     ^  
748 Thorough bush, thorough brier,  
749       -     -     ^       -     -     ^  
750 Over park, over pale,  
751       -     -     ^       -     -     ^  
752 Thorough flood, thorough fire:  
753       -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
754 I do wander everywhere,  
755       -     ^       -     -     -     ^       ^  
756 Swifter than the moon's sphere;  
757     ^     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
758 And I serve the Fairy Queen,  
759     -     ^     -     ^     -     -     ^     ^  
760 To dew her orbs<sup>23</sup> upon the green:  
761     -     -     ^     ^     -     -     -     ^  
762 The cowslips tall her pensioners<sup>24</sup> be,  
763     -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
764 In their gold coats spots you see;  
765     -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
766 Those be rubies, Fairy favors,  
767     -     -     -     ^     ^     ^     -     ^  
768 In those freckles live their savors:  
769     -     ^     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
770 I must go seek some dewdrops here,  
771     -     ^     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
772 And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.  
773     -     ^     -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
774 Farewell, thou lob<sup>25</sup> of spirits; I'll be gone;  
775     -     ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
776 Our Queen and all her elves come here anon.

<sup>23</sup> "orbs": fairy circles, a particular colony of fungus that grows in a ring.

<sup>24</sup> "pens'ners": "pensioners", Splendidly dressed gentlemen callers.

<sup>25</sup> "lob": Lubber, or a deceiver.

777

PUCK

778

The King doth keep his revels here to night;

779

780

Take heed the Queen come not within his sight.

781

782

For Oberon is passing fell and wrath,

783

784

Because that she, as her attendant, hath

785

786

A lovely boy stolen from an Indian King;

787

788

She never had so sweet a changeling:<sup>26</sup>

789

790

And jealous Oberon would have the child

791

792

Knight of his train, to trace the forests wild:

793

794

But she, perforce withholds the loved boy,

795

796

Crowns him with flowers, and makes him all her joy:

797

798

And now they never meet in grove, or green,

799

800

By fountain clear, or spangled starlight sheen,

801

802

But they do square; that all their elves, for fear,

803

804

Creep into acorn cups and hide them there.

805

806

FAIRIE

807

Either I mistake your shape and making quite,

808

809

Or else you are that shrewd and knavish sprite,

810

811

Called Robin Goodfellow; are you not he,

812

813

That frights the maidens of the villagery;—

814

815

Skim milk; and sometimes labor in the quern;<sup>27</sup>

816

817

And bootless<sup>28</sup> make the breathless housewife churn;

818

<sup>26</sup> "changeling": i.e., a child received in exchange for something, presumably as in fealty for the goddess Titania's blessings.

<sup>27</sup> "quern": hand mill.

819           ^    -    ^    -    -    ^    -    ^    -    ^  
 820           And sometime make the drink to bear no barm;<sup>29</sup>  
 821           -    ^    -    -    -    -    ^    -    -    ^  
 822           Mislead night-wanderers, laughing at their harm?  
 823           -    ^    -    -    ^    -    -    -    ^    ^  
 824           Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Puck,  
 825           -    -    -    ^    -    ^    -    -    -    ^    ^  
 826           You do their work, and they shall have good luck:  
 827           ^    ^    ^    ^  
 828           Are not you he?

829   PUCK

830   -    -    -    ^  
 831   Thou speak'st aright;  
 832           -    ^    -    -    -    -    ^    -    -    ^  
 833           I am that merry wanderer of the night.  
 834           -    ^    -    -    -    ^    -    -    -    ^  
 835           I jest to Oberon, and make him smile,  
 836           -    ^    -    ^    -    -    -    ^    -    ^  
 837           When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile,  
 838           -    ^    -    -    -    -    -    ^    ^  
 839           Neighing in likeness of a filly foal:  
 840           ^    -    ^    -    ^    -    -    ^    ^  
 841           And sometime lurk I in a gossip's bowl,<sup>30</sup>  
 842           -    -    -    -    ^    -    -    -    ^  
 843           In very likeness of a roasted crab;  
 844           ^    -    -    -    ^    -    -    -    ^    -    ^  
 845           And, when she drinks, against her lips I bob,  
 846           -    -    -    -    ^    -    ^    -    -    ^  
 847           And on her withered dewlap<sup>31</sup> pour the ale.  
 848           -    -    -    ^    -    -    -    -    ^  
 849           The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale,  
 850           -    ^    -    -    -    -    ^    -    -    ^  
 851           Sometime for three-foot stool mistaketh me;  
 852           ^    -    ^    -    -    ^    -    -    -    ^  
 853           Then slip I from her bum, down topples she,  
 854           -    -    ^    ^    -    -    -    -    ^  
 855           And "Tailor" cries, and falls into a cough;  
 856           -    ^    -    -    ^    -    -    -    ^    ^  
 857           And then the whole quire<sup>32</sup> hold their hips and laugh,

<sup>28</sup> "bootless": ineffectual, or in vain

<sup>29</sup> "barm": the froth on fermenting malt liquor.

<sup>30</sup> "gossip's bowl": i.e., in a drunkard's cup.

<sup>31</sup> "withered dewlap": double chin.

<sup>32</sup> "quire": Choir, although the double meaning is a sheaf of a manuscript, usually 24 pages, and likely refers to the wheezing cough from drunkards that sounds similar to a book's pages being rifled.



858  
 859 And waxen in their mirth, and neeze,<sup>33</sup> and swear  
 860  
 861 A merrier hour was never wasted there.—  
 862  
 863 But room, Fairy, here comes Oberon.

864 FAIRIE  
 865  
 866 And here my Mistress:— Would that he were gone!

867 *[Oberon and his train enter from one side.*  
 868 *Titania and her train enter from the*  
 869 *opposite.]*

870 OBERON  
 871  
 872 Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

873 TITANIA  
 874  
 875 What, jealous Oberon? Fairies, skip hence.  
 876  
 877 I have forsworn his bed and company.

878 OBERON  
 879  
 880 Tarry, rash wanton. Am not I thy Lord?

881 TITANIA  
 882  
 883 Then I must be thy Lady: But I know  
 884  
 885 When thou hast stolen away from Fairyland,  
 886  
 887 And in the shape of Corin, sate<sup>34</sup> all day,  
 888  
 889 Playing on pipes of Corne,<sup>35</sup> and versing love  
 890  
 891 To amorous Phillida.<sup>36</sup> Why art thou here,

<sup>33</sup> "neeze": sneeze.

<sup>34</sup> "sate": sat.

<sup>35</sup> "Corne": a horn. Capitalized, as it appears in the text, suggests the double-meaning of that god who invented the pipes. Also sometimes edited as "corn" which would suggest pipes made of grain stalks (not necessarily maize).



921           -    -   ^       -    -   -   -   -   -       ^  
 922           And never, since the middle summer-spring,  
 923           -    -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 924           Met we on hill, in dale, forest, or mead,  
 925           -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 926           By pavéd fountain, or by rushy brook,  
 927           -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    -   -   ^       -    ^  
 928           Or on the beachéd margent of the sea,  
 929           -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 930           To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,  
 931           -    -    ^       ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 932           But with thy brawls thou hast disturbed our sport.  
 933           -    ^       -    ^       -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 934           Therefore the winds, piping to us in vain,  
 935           -    -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   ^       -    ^  
 936           As in revenge, have sucked up from the sea  
 937           -    -   -   -   ^       ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 938           Contagious fogs: which, falling in the land,  
 939           -    -    ^       -    ^       -    ^       -    -   -   ^       -    ^  
 940           Hath every pelting river made so proud,  
 941           -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 942           That they have overborne their continents:<sup>42</sup>  
 943           -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 944           The ox hath therefore stretched his yoke in vain,  
 945           -    -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 946           The ploughman lost his sweat; and the green corn  
 947           -    -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 948           Hath rotted, ere his youth attained a beard:  
 949           -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 950           The fold<sup>43</sup> stands empty in the drownéd field,  
 951           -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 952           And crows are fatted with the murrain<sup>44</sup> flock;  
 953           -    ^       ^       -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 954           The Nine Men's Morris<sup>45</sup> is filled up with mud;  
 955           -    -    ^       -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    ^  
 956           And the quaint mazes<sup>46</sup> in the wanton green,  
 957           -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^       -    -   -   -   ^       -    ^  
 958           For lack of tread, are undistinguishable;

<sup>42</sup> "continents": Contents or riverbanks.

<sup>43</sup> "fold": i.e., foal.

<sup>44</sup> "murrain": plagued or blighted.

<sup>45</sup> "Nine Men's Morris": A Roman board game, possibly played as a variation in open field with nine players. Morris also refers to an English dance, and so a crossover double-meaning may be intended.

<sup>46</sup> "Mazes": Referring to the labyrinth mazes used in medieval England for meditative purposes, their being undistinguishable, or grown over due to a lack of adherents treading them. It suggests that the old gods, Titania and Oberon, are aware that their power is waning because they are losing followers.

959           - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
960       The human mortals want their winter cheer;  
961       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
962       No night is now with hymn or carol blessed;—  
963       - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - - - - - - ^  
964       Therefore the moon, the governess of floods,  
965       ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
966       Pale in her anger, washes all the air,  
967       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
968       That rheumatic diseases do abound;  
969       - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
970       And through this distemperature, we see  
971       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
972       The seasons alter: hoary-headed frosts  
973       ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
974       Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson Rose;  
975       ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
976       And on old Hyems'<sup>47</sup> thin and icy crown  
977       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
978       An odorous chaplet of sweet summer buds  
979       ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
980       Is, as in mockery, set. The spring, the summer,  
981       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
982       The childing<sup>48</sup> autumn, angry winter, change  
983       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
984       Their wonted liveries; and the 'mazed<sup>49</sup> world,  
985       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
986       By their increase, now knows not which is which.  
987       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
988       And this same progeny of evils comes  
989       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
990       From our debate, from our dissention;  
991       ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
992       We are their parents and original.

993    OBERON  
994       - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
995       Do you amend it, then; it lies in you.  
996       ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
997       Why should Titania cross her Oberon?  
998       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
999       I do but beg a little changeling boy

<sup>47</sup> "Hyem's": old English for "home's", making the meaning of the verse, "summer flowers are budding on icy rooftops," or similar.

<sup>48</sup> "childing": chilling, pronounced *chil·ding*.

<sup>49</sup> "'mazed": amazed.

1000           -   -   -   -           ^  
 1001           To be my henchman.

1002                                   TITANIA

1003                                   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1004                                   Set your heart at rest;  
 1005           -   -   -   ^           ^   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1006           The fairy land buys not the child of me.  
 1007           -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1008           His mother was a votaress<sup>50</sup> of my order;  
 1009           ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1010           And, in the spicéd Indian air, by night,  
 1011           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1012           Full often hath she gossiped by my side;  
 1013           ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1014           And sat with me on Neptune's yellow sands,  
 1015           -   ^           -   -   -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   -           ^  
 1016           Marking the embarkéd traders on the flood;  
 1017           -   -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1018           When we have laughed to see the sails conceive,  
 1019           -   ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1020           And grow big-bellied with the wanton wind;  
 1021           -           ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -           -  
 1022           Which she, with pretty and with swimming gait  
 1023           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1024           Following— her womb then rich with my young squire—  
 1025           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1026           Would imitate, and sail upon the land,  
 1027           -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -           -  
 1028           To fetch me trifles, and return again,  
 1029           -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1030           As from a voyage, rich with merchandise.  
 1031           -   ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1032           But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;  
 1033           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1034           And for her sake do I rear up her boy;  
 1035           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1036           And for her sake I will not part with him.

1037                                   OBERON

1038           -           ^   -   -   -   -           ^   -   -   -   -           ^  
 1039           How long within this wood intend you stay?

<sup>50</sup> "votaress": archaic for a female religious dedicant; a nun.

1040 TITANIA  
 1041 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1042 Perchance till after Theseus' wedding day.  
 1043 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1044 If you will patiently dance in our round,  
 1045 - - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 1046 And see our moonlight revels, go with us;  
 1047 - ^ - ^ - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1048 If not, shun me, and I will spare your haunts.

1049 OBERON  
 1050 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1051 Give me that boy, and I will go with thee.

1052 TITANIA  
 1053 - - - - ^ - ^ - ^  
 1054 Not for thy Fairy kingdom. Fairies, away.  
 1055 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1056 We shall chide downright if I longer stay.

1057 *[Titania and her retinue exit.]*

1058 OBERON  
 1059 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 1060 Well, go thy way; thou shalt not from this grove  
 1061 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1062 Till I torment thee for this injury.  
 1063 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1064 My gentle Puck, come hither. Thou rememberest  
 1065 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1066 Since once I sat upon a promontory,  
 1067 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1068 And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back  
 1069 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1070 Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath  
 1071 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1072 That the rude sea grew civil at her song,  
 1073 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1074 And certain stars shot madly from their spheres  
 1075 ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1076 To hear the sea-maid's music.

1077 PUCK.  
 1078 - - - ^  
 1079 I remember.

1080

OBERON

1081

- - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 1082 That very time I saw, but thou couldst not,

1083

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1084 Flying between the cold moon and the earth

1085

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1086 Cupid, all armed; a certain aim he took

1087

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1088 At a fair Vestal, thronéd by the west,<sup>51</sup>

1089

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1090 And loosed his love-shaft smartly from his bow,

1091

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1092 As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts;

1093

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1094 But I might see young Cupid's fiery shaft

1095

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1096 Quenched in the chaste beams of the watery moon;

1097

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1098 And the imperial votaress passed on,

1099

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1100 In maiden meditation, fancy-free.

1101

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1102 Yet marked I where the bolt of Cupid fell.

1103

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1104 It fell upon a little western flower,

1105

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1106 Before milk-white, now purple with love's wound,

1107

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1108 And maidens call it, Love-in-idleness.

1109

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1110 Fetch me that flower, the herb I showed thee once.

1111

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1112 The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid

1113

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1114 Will make or<sup>52</sup> man or woman madly dote

1115

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1116 Upon the next live creature that it sees.

1117

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1118 Fetch me this herb, and be thou here again

1119

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 1120 Ere the Leviathan can swim a league.

<sup>51</sup> "a fair Vestal, thronéd by the West": a reverence to Queen Elizabeth I, the virgin queen.

<sup>52</sup> "will make or man or woman": literally, "will make either man or woman," but the word *either* is swallowed to produce a single-syllabled word to maintain the integrity of the meter of the verse.

1121

PUCK

1122

- - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 I'll put a girdle round about the earth<sup>53</sup>

1124

- - - - ^  
 In forty minutes.

1125

1126

*[Puck exits, leaving Oberon.]*

1127

OBERON

1128

1129

- - - - - ^  
 Having once this juice,

1130

- - - - - ^  
 I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,

1131

1132

^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 And drop the liquor of it in her eyes;

1133

1134

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 The next thing when she waking looks upon,

1135

1136

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,

1137

1138

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 On meddling monkey, or on busy ape,

1139

1140

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 She shall pursue it with the soul of love.

1141

1142

^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 And ere I take this charm off from her sight,

1143

1144

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 As I can take it with another herb,

1145

1146

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 I'll make her render up her page to me.

1147

1148

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 But who comes here? I am invisible;

1149

1150

^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 And I will overhear their conference.

1151

1152

*[Demetrius, followed by Helena, enter.]*

1153

DEMETRIUS

1154

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.

1155

1156

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Where is Lysander and fair Hermia?

1157

1158

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 The one I'll slay, the other slayeth me.

1159

<sup>53</sup> "I'll put a girdle about the earth...": Literally, 'I'll circumscribe the Earth,' with a double-meaning of placing a bodice on the personification of Earth as Mother.



1160  
 1161           -    -       ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 1162           Thou told'st me they were stolen unto this wood,  
 1163           -    -    -    ^   -    -    -    -   -    -    -    -    -    -    -    ^  
 1164           And here am I, and wood<sup>54</sup> within this wood,  
 1165           -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1166           Because I cannot meet my Hermia.  
 1167           ^   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 Hence! Get thee gone and follow me no more.

1168   HELENA  
 1169           -    -       ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1170           You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant;<sup>55</sup>  
 1171           -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1172           But yet you draw not iron, for my heart  
 1173           -   -   -    ^   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1174           Is true as steel. Leave you your power to draw,  
 1175           -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1176           And I shall have no power to follow you.

1177   DEMETRIUS  
 1178           -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1179           Do I entice you? Do I speak you fair?  
 1180           ^   -    ^   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1181           Or, rather, do I not in plainest truth  
 1182           -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -    ^  
 1183           Tell you I do not nor I cannot love you?

1184   HELENA  
 1185           ^   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1186           And even for that do I love you the more!  
 1187           -   -   -    -    ^    ^   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1188           I am your spaniel; and Demetrius,  
 1189           -   -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1190           The more you beat me, I will fawn on you.  
 1191           -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^   -    ^  
 1192           Use me but as your spaniel, spurn me, strike me,  
 1193           -   -    ^   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1194           Neglect me, lose me; only give me leave,  
 1195           -   -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1196           Unworthy as I am, to follow you.  
 1197           -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 1198           What worser place can I beg in your love,

<sup>54</sup> "wood": meaning, mad or incensed.

<sup>55</sup> "adamant": metaphorically, a hard or impenetrable substance, suggesting Demetrius cannot be swayed.

1199 - ^ - - - - ^  
1200 And yet a place of high respect with me,  
1201 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
1202 Than to be used as you do your dog?

1203 DEMETRIUS

1204 ^ ^ - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1205 Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit;  
1206 - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1207 For I am sick when I do look on thee.

1208 HELENA

1209 - ^ - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
1210 And I am sick when I look not on you.

1211 DEMETRIUS

1212 ^ - - - - ^ - - ^  
1213 You do impeach your modesty too much  
1214 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
1215 To leave the city and commit yourself  
1216 - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1217 Into the hands of one that loves you not;  
1218 - ^ - - - - ^  
1219 To trust the opportunity of night,  
1220 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
1221 And the ill counsel of a desert place,  
1222 - - ^ ^ - - - ^  
1223 With the rich worth of your virginity.

1224 HELENA

1225 - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
1226 Your virtue is my privilege for that:  
1227 - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1228 It is not night when I do see your face,  
1229 - ^ - - - - ^ - - ^  
1230 Therefore I think I am not in the night;  
1231 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
1232 Nor doth this wood lack worlds of company,  
1233 - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
1234 For you, in my respect, are all the world.  
1235 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
1236 Then how can it be said I am alone  
1237 - - - ^ - - - ^  
1238 When all the world is here to look on me?

1239

DEMETRIUS

1240           ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 1241       I'll run from thee and hide me in the brakes,  
 1242       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 1243       And leave thee to the mercy of wild beasts.

1244

HELENA

1245           -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1246       The wildest hath not such a heart as you.  
 1247       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1248       Run when you will; the story shall be changed;  
 1249       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 1250       Apollo flies, and Daphne holds the chase;  
 1251       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1252       The dove pursues the griffin; the mild hind  
 1253       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1254       Makes speed to catch the tiger— bootless speed,  
 1255       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1256       When cowardice pursues, and valor flies!

1257

DEMETRIUS

1258           -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1259       I will not stay thy questions; let me go;  
 1260       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1261       Or, if thou follow me, do not believe  
 1262       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1263       But I shall do thee mischief in the wood.

1264

*[Demetrius exits.]*

1265

HELENA

1266           ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 1267       Aye, in the temple, in the town, the field,  
 1268       -       -       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       ^  
 1269       You do me mischief. Fie, Demetrius!  
 1270       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1271       Your wrongs do set a scandal on my sex.  
 1272       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 1273       We cannot fight for love as men may do;  
 1274       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 1275       We should be wooed, and were not made to woo.  
 1276       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 1277       I follow thee, and make a heaven of hell,  
 1278       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1279       To die upon the hand I love so well.

1280

*[Helena exits. Oberon steps forward.]*

1281

OBERON

1282

- - ^ ^ - - - - - ^  
 Fare thee well nymph; ere he do leave this grove,

1284

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Thou shalt fly him, and he shall seek thy love.

1286

[Puck returns.]

1287

- - - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Hast thou the flower there? Welcome, wanderer.

1288

1289

PUCK

1290

^ - - ^  
 Aye, there it is.

1291

1292

OBERON

1293

- - ^ - - ^  
 I pray thee give it me.

1294

1295

- - - ^ - - - ^  
 I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,

1296

1297

- - ^ - - - - - - ^  
 Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,

1298

1299

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Quite o'er-canopied with luscious woodbine,

1300

1301

- - - ^ - - - ^  
 With sweet musk-roses, and with eglantine;

1302

1303

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,

1304

1305

- - - ^ - - - ^  
 Lulled in these flowers with dances and delight.

1306

1307

- ^ - ^ - - - - ^  
 And there the snake throws her enameled skin,

1308

1309

- - ^ - - - ^  
 Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in;

1310

1311

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 And with the juice of this, I'll streak her eyes,

1312

1313

- - ^ - - - ^  
 And make her full of hateful fantasies.

1314

1315

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:

1316

1317

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 A sweet Athenian lady is in love

1318

1319

^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 With a disdainful youth; Anoint his eyes;

1320

1321

^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 But do it when the next thing he espies

1322

1323

- - - ^ - - - ^  
 May be the lady. Thou shalt know the man

1324

1325                    - - - - - ^ - - - - -  
1326                    By the Athenian garments he hath on.  
1327                    - - - - - ^ - - - - -  
1328                    Effect it with some care, that he may prove  
1329                    - - - - - ^ - - - - -  
1330                    More fond on her than she upon her love.  
1331                    ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1332                    And look thou meet me ere the first cock crow.

1333                    PUCK

1334                    -     ^   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
1335                    Fear not my Lord; your servant shall do so.

1336                    *[All exit.]*

1337 ACT II. SCENE 2.

1338 [*Titania enters with her train of Fairies.*]

1339 TITANIA

1340       ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     ^  
 1341 Come, now a roundel and a fairy song;  
 1342       ^     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^     ^  
 1343 Then, for the third part of a minute, hence:  
 1344       ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     ^     ^  
 1345 Some to kill cankers in the musk-rose buds;  
 1346       ^     -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     ^     ^  
 1347 Some war with rear-mice<sup>56</sup> for their leathern wings,  
 1348       -     -     -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^     -     -  
 1349 To make my small elves coats; and some keep back  
 1350       -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -  
 1351 The clamorous owl that nightly hoots and wonders  
 1352       -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 1353 At our quaint spirits. Sing me now asleep;  
 1354       ^     -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
 1355 Then to your offices, and let me rest.

1356 FAIRIES (SUNG.)

1357       ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
 1358 You spotted snakes with double tongue,  
 1359       -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
 1360 Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;  
 1361       -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
 1362 Newts and blind-worms, do no wrong,  
 1363       -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 1364 Come not near our Fairy Queen.

1365 [*Fairies dance.*]

1366       -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
 1367 Philomel<sup>57</sup> with melody  
 1368       -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 1369 Sing in your sweet lullaby.  
 1370       -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 1371 Lulla, lulla, lullaby;  
 1372       -     ^     -     ^     -     -     ^  
 1373 Lulla, lulla, lullaby.

<sup>56</sup> "rear-mice": originally 'reremise', meaning: bats.

<sup>57</sup> "Philomel": a German stringed instrument similar to the violin. Metaphorically, also the name of a Greek princess who was turned into a nightingale, and so as a double-meaning the fairies are calling on the music of the nightingale.

1374           - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1375           Never harm nor spell nor charm  
 1376           - - - - - ^  
 1377           Come our lovely Lady nigh.  
 1378           - - - - - ^  
 1379           So good night, with Lullaby;  
 1380           - - - - - ^  
 1381           So good night, with Lullaby.

[Fairies dance and wake Titania.]

1382  
 1383           - - - - - ^  
 1384           Weaving spiders, come not here;  
 1385           - - - - - ^  
 1386           Hence, you long legged spinners, hence.  
 1387           - - - - - ^  
 1388           Beetles black, approach not near;  
 1389           - - - - - ^  
 1390           Worm nor snail do no offence.

[Fairies dance.]

1391  
 1392           - - - - - ^  
 1393           Philomel with melody,  
 1394           - - - - - ^  
 1395           Sing in your sweet lullaby.  
 1396           - - - - - ^  
 1397           Lulla, lulla, lullaby;  
 1398           - ^ - ^ - ^  
 1399           Lulla, lulla, lullaby.  
 1400           - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1401           Never harm nor spell nor charm  
 1402           - - - - - ^  
 1403           Come our lovely Lady nigh.  
 1404           - - - - - ^  
 1405           So good night, with Lullaby;  
 1406           - - - - - ^  
 1407           So good night, with Lullaby.

FIRST FAIRY

1408  
 1409           - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1410           Hence away; now all is well.  
 1411           - - ^ - - ^  
 1412           One aloof stand sentinel.

[Fairies exit. First Fairy remains and watches over Titania as she sleeps. Oberon enters and magically causes Frist Fairy to sleep.]

1413  
 1414  
 1415  
 1416

1417

OBERON

1418

- - ^ - - - ^  
 What thou seest when thou dost wake,

1420

- ^ - - - ^  
 Do it for thy true love take;

1422

- - ^ - - - ^  
 Love and languish for his sake.

1424

- - ^ - - - ^  
 Be it ounce,<sup>58</sup> or cat, or bear,

1426

^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 Pard,<sup>59</sup> or boar with bristled hair,

1428

- - ^ - - - ^  
 In thy eye that shall appear

1430

- - ^ - - - ^  
 When thou wak'st, it is thy dear.

1432

- - ^ - - - ^  
 Wake when some vile thing is near.

1434

*[Oberon exits. Enter Lysander and Hermia.]*

1435

LYSANDER

1436

- ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 Fair love, you faint with wand'ring in the wood;

1438

^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 And, to speak troth<sup>60</sup>, I have forgot our way;

1440

- - ^ - - - ^  
 We'll rest us, Hermia, if you think it good,

1442

- - ^ - - - ^  
 And tarry for the comfort of the day.

1444

HERMIA

1445

- - ^ - - - ^  
 Be it so Lysander: find you out a bed.

1447

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 For I upon this bank will rest my head.

1449

LYSANDER

1450

- ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 One turf shall serve as pillow for us both;

1452

- ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 One heart, one bed, two bosoms, and one troth.

<sup>58</sup> "ounce": snow leopard.

<sup>59</sup> "pard": leopard.

<sup>60</sup> "troth": truth.



1454 HERMIA  
 1455 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1456 Nay, good Lysander; for my sake my dear,  
 1457 - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1458 Lie further off yet; do not lie so near.

1459 LYSANDER  
 1460 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1461 O, take the sense, sweet, of my innocence!  
 1462 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1463 Love takes the meaning in love's conference.  
 1464 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1465 I mean that my heart unto yours is knit,  
 1466 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1467 So that but one heart we can make of it;  
 1468 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1469 Two bosoms interchainéd with an oath,  
 1470 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1471 So then two bosoms and a single troth.  
 1472 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1473 Then by your side no bedroom me deny,  
 1474 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1475 For lying so, Hermia, I do not lie.

1476 HERMIA  
 1477 - - - - - ^  
 1478 Lysander riddles very prettily.  
 1479 ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1480 Now much beshrew<sup>61</sup> my manners and my pride,  
 1481 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1482 If Hermia meant to say Lysander lied!  
 1483 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1484 But, gentle friend, for love and courtesy  
 1485 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1486 Lie further off, in human modesty;  
 1487 - - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1488 Such separation as may well be said  
 1489 - - - - - ^  
 1490 Becomes a virtuous bachelor and a maid,  
 1491 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1492 So far be distant; and good night, sweet friend.  
 1493 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1494 Thy love ne'er alter till thy sweet life end.

<sup>61</sup> "beshrew": to make evil, to create depravity.

1495 LYSANDER  
 1496 - ^ - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 1497 Amen, amen, to that fair prayer say I;  
 1498 - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1499 And then end life, when I end loyalty!  
 1500 ^ - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1501 Here is my bed; sleep give thee all his rest!

1502 HERMIA  
 1503 - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1504 With half that wish the wisher's eyes be pressed.

1505 *[They sleep. Puck enters.]*

1506 PUCK  
 1507 - - - ^ - - ^  
 1508 Through the forest have I gone,  
 1509 ^ - - ^ - - ^ -  
 1510 But Athenian found I none  
 1511 - - ^ - - - -  
 1512 On whose eyes I might approve  
 1513 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1514 This flower's force in stirring love.  
 1515 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1516 Nigh<sup>62</sup> and silence— Who is here?  
 1517 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1518 Weeds of Athens he doth wear:  
 1519 - - ^ - - - ^  
 1520 This is he, my master said,  
 1521 - - - - - ^  
 1522 Despised the Athenian maid;  
 1523 - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 1524 And here the maiden, sleeping sound,  
 1525 - - - - - ^  
 1526 On the dank and dirty ground.  
 1527 - - ^ - - - -  
 1528 Pretty soul! She durst not lie  
 1529 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 1530 Near this lack-love, this kill-courtesy.  
 1531 ^ - - - ^ - - -  
 1532 Churl<sup>63</sup>, upon thy eyes I throw  
 1533 - - ^ - - - ^  
 1534 All the power this charm doth owe:

<sup>62</sup> "Nigh": Night.

<sup>63</sup> "Churl": a mean-spirited person. Also, a person of low birth.

1535           -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1536           When thou wakest let love forbid  
 1537           ^       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1538           Sleep his seat on thy eyelid.  
 1539           ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 1540           So awake when I am gone,  
 1541           -       ^       -       -       -       -       -  
 1542           For I must now to Oberon.

1543   *[Puck exits. Demetrius enters running,*  
 1544   *pursued by Helena.]*

1545   HELENA  
 1546           ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1547           Stay, though thou kill me, sweet Demetrius!

1548   DEMETRIUS  
 1549           -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 1550           I charge thee, hence, and do not haunt me thus!

1551   HELENA  
 1552           ^       -       ^       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1553           O, wilt thou darkling leave me? Do not so.

1554   DEMETRIUS  
 1555           -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1556           Stay on thy peril; I alone will go.

1557   *[Demetrius exits.]*

1558   HELENA  
 1559           ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1560           O, I am out of breath in this fond chase!  
 1561           -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1562           The more my prayer, the lesser is my grace.  
 1563           -       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 1564           Happy is Hermia, wheresoe'er she lies,  
 1565           -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1566           For she hath blessed and attractive eyes.  
 1567           ^       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1568           How came her eyes so bright? Not with salt tears;  
 1569           -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 1570           If so, my eyes are oftner washed than hers.  
 1571           ^       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 1572           No, no, I am as ugly as a bear,  
 1573           -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 1574           For beasts that meet me run away for fear;

1575  
 1576 Therefore no marvel though Demetrius  
 1577  
 1578 Do, as a monster, fly my presence thus.  
 1579  
 1580 What wicked and dissembling glass<sup>64</sup> of mine  
 1581  
 1582 Made me compare with Hermia's sphery eyne?<sup>65</sup>  
 1583  
 1584 But who is here? Lysander! On the ground!  
 1585  
 1586 Dead, or asleep? I see no blood, no wound.  
 1587  
 1588 Lysander, if you live, good sir, awake.

1589 *[Helena wakes Lysander.]*

1590 LYSANDER

1591  
 1592 And run through fire, I will, for thy sweet sake!  
 1593  
 1594 Transparent Helena! Nature shows her art,  
 1595  
 1596 That through thy bosom makes me see thy heart.  
 1597  
 1598 Where is Demetrius? Oh, how fit a word  
 1599  
 1600 Is that vile name to perish on my sword!

1601 HELENA

1602  
 1603 Do not say so, Lysander; Say not so.  
 1604  
 1605 What though he love your Hermia? Lord, what though?  
 1606  
 1607 Yet Hermia still loves you; then be content.

1608 LYSANDER

1609  
 1610 Content with Hermia? No: I do repent  
 1611  
 1612 The tedious minutes I with her have spent.

<sup>64</sup> "glass": mirror.

<sup>65</sup> "sphery eyne": sphere-like eyes. An allusion to the twinkling planets of the heavens, and Demetrius' attraction to Helena as a planetary goddess of the heavens, possibly Venus.

1613  
 1614 Not Hermia but Helena I love:  
 1615  
 1616 Who will not change a raven for a dove?  
 1617  
 1618 The will of man is by his reason swayed,  
 1619  
 1620 And reason says you are the worthier maid.  
 1621  
 1622 Things growing are not ripe until their season;  
 1623  
 1624 So I, being young, till now ripe not to reason.  
 1625  
 1626 And touching now the point of human skill,  
 1627  
 1628 Reason becomes the marshal to my will  
 1629  
 1630 And leads me to your eyes, where I overlook  
 1631  
 1632 Love's stories, written in Love's richest book.

1633 HELENA

1634  
 1635 Wherefore was I to this keen mockery born?  
 1636  
 1637 When at your hands did I deserve this scorn?  
 1638  
 1639 Is it not enough, is it not enough, young man,  
 1640  
 1641 That I did never, no, nor never can,  
 1642  
 1643 Deserve a sweet look from Demetrius' eye,  
 1644  
 1645 But you must flout my insufficiency?  
 1646  
 1647 Good troth, you do me wrong, good sooth, you do  
 1648  
 1649 In such disdainful manner me to woo.  
 1650  
 1651 But fare you well; perforce I must confess  
 1652  
 1653 I thought you lord of more true gentleness.  
 1654  
 1655 Oh, that a lady of one man refused  
 1656  
 1657 Should of another therefore be abused!

1658 *[Helena exits.]*

1659

LYSANDER

1660

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 She sees not Hermia. Hermia, sleep thou there;

1662

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 And never mayest thou come Lysander near!

1664

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 For, as a surfeit of the sweetest things

1666

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 The deepest loathing to the stomach brings,

1667

1668

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Or as the heresies that men do leave

1669

1670

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Are hated most of those that did deceive,

1671

1672

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 So thou, my surfeit and my heresy,

1673

1674

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Of all be hated, but the most of me!

1675

1676

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 And, all my powers, address your love and might

1677

1678

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 To honor Helen, and to be her knight!

1679

1680

[Lysander exits.]

1681

HERMIA

1682

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Help me, Lysander! Help me! Do thy best

1683

1684

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 To pluck this crawling serpent from my breast.

1685

1686

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Aye me, for pity! What a dream was here!

1687

1688

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Lysander, look how I do quake with fear.

1689

1690

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Methought a serpent ate my heart away,

1691

1692

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 And yet sat smiling at his cruel prey.

1693

1694

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Lysander? What removed? Lysander! lord!

1695

1696

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 What, out of hearing gone? No sound, no word?

1697

1698

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Alack, where are you? Speak, an if you hear;

1699

1700

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Speak, of all loves! I swoond<sup>66</sup> almost with fear.

1701

---

<sup>66</sup> "swoond": swoon.

1702           ^      -      -      ^      -      ^      -      -      -      ^  
 1703           No? Then I well perceive you are not nigh.  
 1704           -            ^           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^  
 1705           Either death or you I'll find immediately!

[*Hermia exits.*]

1706

1707 ACT III. SCENE 1.

1708 *[Titania sleeps nearby, hidden from the*  
 1709 *other players. Bottom, Quince, Snug, Flute,*  
 1710 *Snout, and Starveling enter variously.]*

1711 BOTTOM

1712 Are we all met?

1713 QUINCE

1714 Pat, pat; and here's a marvelous convenient place for our  
 1715 rehearsal. This green plot shall be our stage, this  
 1716 hawthorn brake<sup>67</sup> our tiring-house<sup>68</sup>; and we will do it in  
 1717 action, as we will do it before the Duke.

1718 BOTTOM

1719 Peter Quince!

1720 QUINCE

1721 What sayest thou, bully Bottom?

1722 BOTTOM

1723 There are things in this comedy of "Pyramus and Thisby"  
 1724 that will never please. First, Pyramus must draw a sword to  
 1725 kill himself; which the ladies cannot abide. How answer you  
 1726 that?

1727 SNOUT

1728 By'r lakin<sup>69</sup>, a parlous<sup>70</sup> fear!

1729 STARVELING

1730 I believe we must leave the killing out, when all is done.

1731 BOTTOM

1732 Not a whit; I have a device to make all well. Write me a  
 1733 Prologue; and let the Prologue seem to say we will do no  
 1734 harm with our swords, and that Pyramus is not kill'd  
 1735 indeed; And for the more better assurance, tell them that I

<sup>67</sup> "hawthorn brake": hedge.

<sup>68</sup> "tiring house": greenroom.

<sup>69</sup> "By'r lakin": literally, 'by your leave', meaning "indeed". Pronounced bīr•lā´•kīn.

<sup>70</sup> "parlous": perilous.



1736 Pyramus am not Pyramus but Bottom the weaver. This will put  
1737 them out of fear.

1738 QUINCE

1739 Well, we will have such a Prologue; and it shall be written  
1740 in eight and six.

1741 BOTTOM

1742 No, Make it two more; let it be written in eight and eight

1743 SNOUT

1744 Will not the Ladies be afeard of the Lion?

1745 STARVELING

1746 I fear it, I promise you.

1747 BOTTOM

1748 Masters, you ought to consider with yourselves to bring in—  
1749 God shield us!—a lion among ladies is a most dreadful  
1750 thing; for there is not a more fearful wild foul than your  
1751 lion living; and we ought to look to't.

1752 SNOUT

1753 Therefore, another Prologue must tell he is not a lion.

1754 BOTTOM

1755 Nay, you must name his name, and half his face must be seen  
1756 through the lion's neck; and he himself must speak through,  
1757 saying thus, or to the same defect: 'Ladies,' or 'Fair  
1758 Ladies, I would wish you' or 'I would request you' or 'I  
1759 would entreat you not to fear, not to tremble. My life for  
1760 yours! If you think I come hither as a lion, it were pity  
1761 of my life. No, I am no such thing; I am a man as other men  
1762 are.' And there, indeed, let him name his name, and tell  
1763 him plainly he is Snug the joiner.

1764 QUINCE

1765 Well, it shall be so. But there is two hard things—that is,  
1766 to bring the moonlight into a chamber; for, you know,  
1767 Pyramus and Thisby meet by moonlight.

1768 SNOUT

1769 Doth the moon shine that night we play our play?

1770

BOTTOM

1771

A calendar, a calendar! Look in the almanac; find out  
1772 moonshine, find out moonshine.

1773

QUINCE

1774

Yes, it doth shine that night.

1775

BOTTOM

1776

Why, then may you leave a casement of the great chamber  
1777 window, where we play, open; and the moon may shine in at  
1778 the casement.

1779

QUINCE

1780

Aye; or else one must come in with a bush of thorns and a  
1781 lantern, and say he comes to disfigure or to present the  
1782 person of Moonshine. Then there is another thing: we must  
1783 have a wall in the great chamber; for Pyramus and Thisby,  
1784 says the story, did talk through the chink of a wall.

1785

SNOUT

1786

You can never bring in a wall. What say you Bottom?

1787

BOTTOM

1788

Some man or other must present Wall; and let him have some  
1789 plaster, or some loam, or some rough-cast about him, to  
1790 signify wall; and let him hold his fingers thus, and  
1791 through that cranny shall Pyramus and Thisby whisper.

1792

QUINCE

1793

If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit down, every  
1794 mother's son, and rehearse your parts. Pyramus, you begin;  
1795 When you have spoken your speech, enter into that brake;  
1796 and so every one according to his cue.

1797

[Puck enters.]

1798

PUCK

1799

^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1800 What hempen homespuns have we swagg'ring here,

1801

- - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1802 So near the cradle of the Fairy Queen?

1803

^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1804 What, a play toward! I'll be an auditor,

1805

- - - - - ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
1806 An actor too perhaps if I see cause.

1807

QUINCE

1808

Speak, Pyramus. Thisby, stand forth.

1809

BOTTOM

1810

- ^ - - - - ^ - ^ -  
 Thisby, the flowers of odious savors sweet—

1811

1812

QUINCE

1813

"Odious"— Odorous!

1814

BOTTOM

1815

1816

- ^ - ^ ^  
 —odors savors sweet;

1817

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisby dear.

1818

1819

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 But hark, a voice! Stay thou but here awhile,

1820

1821

^ - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 And by and by I will to thee appear.

1822

1823

*[Bottom exits.]*

1824

PUCK

1825

1826

- - - - ^ - - - ^  
 A stranger Pyramus than e'er played here.

1827

*[Puck follows Bottom into the brake.]*

1828

FLUTE

1829

Must I speak now?

1830

QUINCE

1831

1832

Aye, marry, must you; for you must understand he goes but  
 to see a noise that he heard, and is to come again.

1833

FLUTE

1834

1835

- - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 Most radiant Pyramus, most lily white of hue,

1836

1837

- - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 Of color like the red rose on triumphant brier,

1838

1839

- - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 Most brisky juvenal, and eke most lovely Jew,

1840

1841

- ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire,

1842

1843

- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

1844

QUINCE

1845  
1846  
1847  
1848

"Ninus' tomb," man! Why, you must not speak that yet; That  
you answer to Pyramus. You speak all your part at once,  
cues, and all. Pyramus, enter: your cue is past; it is  
"never tire."

1849

FLUTE

1850  
1851

^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
O- As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire.

1852  
1853

[Puck re-enters. Bottom enters with an ass's  
head.]

1854

BOTTOM

1855  
1856

- - - ^ - - - ^  
If I were fair, Thisby I were only thine.

1857

QUINCE

1858  
1859

O, monstrous! O, strange! We are haunted. Pray, masters!  
fly, masters! Help!

1860

[All exit, except Bottom and Puck.]

1861

PUCK

1862  
1863  
1864  
1865  
1866  
1867  
1868  
1869  
1870  
1871  
1872  
1873

- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
I'll follow you; I'll lead you 'bout a round,  
- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier,  
- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
Sometime a horse I'll be, sometime a hound,  
- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire;  
- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn  
- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire, at every turn.

1874

[Puck exits, chasing the others.]

1875

BOTTOM

1876  
1877

Why do they run away? This is a knavery of them to make me  
afeard.

1878

[Snout enters.]

1879

SNOUT

1880

O Bottom, thou art changed! What do I see on thee?

1881

BOTTOM

1882

What do you see? You see an Ass-head of your own, do you?

1883

*[Snout exits. Quince enters.]*

1884

QUINCE

1885

Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee! Thou art translated.

1886

*[Quince exits.]*

1887

BOTTOM

1888

I see their knavery: this is to make an ass of me; to  
 1889 fright me if they could. But I will not stir from this  
 1890 place, do what they can; I will walk up and down here, and  
 1891 will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid!

1892

- - - ^ - - - ^  
 1893 The woosel<sup>71</sup> cock, so black of hue,

1894

- - - ^  
 1895 With orange-tawny bill.

1896

- - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1897 The throstle<sup>72</sup> with his note so true,

1898

- - - ^  
 1899 The wren with little quill.

1900

TITANIA (WAKING)

1901

- - - ^ - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1902 What angel wakes me from my flow'ry bed?

1903

BOTTOM

1904

- ^ - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1905 The finch, the sparrow, and the lark,

1906

- - - ^  
 1907 The plainsong cuckoo gray,

1908

- - - ^ - - - - ^  
 1909 Whose note full many a man doth mark,

1910

- - - ^ ^  
 1911 And dares not answer, nay—

1912

1913 for indeed, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird? Who  
 1914 would give a bird the lie, though he cry cuckoo, never so?

---

<sup>71</sup> "woosel": black.

<sup>72</sup> "throstle": a thrush.

1915

TITANIA

1916

- - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
 I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again.

1918

- ^ - - - - - ^  
 Mine ear is much enamored of thy note;

1920

- - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape;

1922

- - - - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me,

1924

- - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 On the first view, to say, to swear, I love thee.

1926

BOTTOM

1927

Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that.

1928

And yet, to say the truth, reason and love keep little

1929

company together nowadays. The more the pity that some

1930

honest neighbors will not make them friends. Nay, I can

1931

gleek upon occasion.

1932

TITANIA

1933

^ - - ^ - - - - ^  
 Thou art as wise, as thou art beautiful.

1935

BOTTOM

1936

Not so, neither; but if I had wit enough to get out of this

1937

wood, I have enough to serve mine own turn.

1938

TITANIA

1939

- - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 Out of this wood, do not desire to go;

1940

- - - - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 Thou shalt remain here whether thou wilt or no.

1941

^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 I am a spirit of no common rate;

1942

- - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 The Summer still doth tend upon my state;

1943

^ ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 And I do love thee; therefore, go with me.

1944

- - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 I'll give thee Fairies to attend on thee;

1945

- - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep,

1946

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And sing, while thou on pressed flowers dost sleep;

1947

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1948

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1949

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1950

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1951

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1952

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1953

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1954

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1955

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1956

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - ^  
 And I will purge thy mortal grossness so

1957 - ^ - - - ^ - ^ ^  
1958 That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.

1959 - ^ - ^ ^ - - ^ ^  
1960 Pease-blossom! Cobew! Moth! and Mustard-seed!

1961 [Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Mustardseed,  
1962 and four other fairies enter.]

1963 PEASEBLOSSOM

1964 Ready!

1965 COBWEB

1966 And I!

1967 MOTH

1968 And I!

1969 MUSTARDSEED

1970 And I!

1971 ALL FAIRIES

1972 Where shall we go?

1973 TITANIA

1974 - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
1975 Be kind and courteous to this gentleman;

1976 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1977 Hop in his walks, and gambol in his eyes;

1978 - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1979 Feed him with apricocks, and dewberries,

1980 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1981 With purple grapes, green figs, and mulberries;

1982 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1983 The honey-bags steal from the humble bees,

1984 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1985 And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighs,

1986 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1987 And light them at the fiery glowworm's eyes,

1988 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1989 To have my love to bed and to arise;

1990 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1991 And pluck the wings from painted butterflies,

1992 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1993 To fan the moonbeams from his sleeping eyes.

1994 - - ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^  
1995 Nod to him elves, and do him courtesies.

1996 PEASEBLOSSOM

1997 Hail, mortal!

1998 COBWEB

1999 Hail!

2000 MOTH

2001 Hail!

2002 MUSTARDSEED

2003 Hail!

2004 BOTTOM

2005 I cry your worships mercy, heartily; I beseech your  
2006 worship's name.

2007 COBWEB

2008 Cobweb.

2009 BOTTOM

2010 I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good Mistress  
2011 Cobweb. If I cut my finger, I shall make bold with you.  
2012 Your name, honest lady?

2013 PEASEBLOSSOM

2014 Peaseblossom.

2015 BOTTOM

2016 I pray you commend me to Mistress Squash<sup>73</sup>, your mother, and  
2017 to Master Peascod,<sup>74</sup> your father. Good Mistress  
2018 Peaseblossom, I shall desire of you more acquaintance too.  
2019 Your name, I beseech you lady?

2020 MUSTARDSEED

2021 Mustardseed.

2022 BOTTOM

2023 Good Mistress Mustardseed, I know your patience well. That  
2024 same cowardly giant-like ox-beef hath devoured many a  
2025 gentleman of your house. I promise you your kindred hath

<sup>73</sup> "Squash": in this context, an unripened peapod.

<sup>74</sup> "Peascod": a mature pea pod.



2026 made my eyes water ere now. I desire you more acquaintance,  
 2027 good Mistress Mustardseed.

2028 TITANIA

2029 Come, wait upon him; lead him to my bower.

2031 The Moon, methinks, looks with a wat'ry eye;

2033 And when she weeps, weep every little flower;

2035 Lamenting some enforcéd chastity.

2037 Tie up my lover's tongue, bring him silently.<sup>75</sup>

2039 [All exit as a train, the Fairies leading  
 2040 bottom with a rope.]

---

<sup>75</sup> "The Moon, methinks...bring him silently.": An allusion to the Moon as the chaste Goddess of the Hunt, Diana, in her aspect as virgin. Thus, the enforced chastity of Bottom's tongue.

2041 ACT III. SCENE 2.

2042 [Oberon enters.]

2043 OBERON

2044 - - - - - ^  
 2045 I wonder if Titania be awaked;  
 2046 ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2047 Then what it was that next came in her eye,  
 2048 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2049 Which she must dote on, in extremity.

2050 [Puck enters.]

2051 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2052 Here comes my messenger. How now, mad spirit!  
 2053 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2054 What night-rule<sup>76</sup> now about this haunted grove?

2055 PUCK

2056 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2057 My Mistress with a monster is in love.  
 2058 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2059 Near to her close and consecrated bower,  
 2060 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2061 While she was in her dull and sleeping hour,  
 2062 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2063 A crew of patches, rude mechanicals,  
 2064 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2065 That work for bread upon Athenian stalls,  
 2066 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2067 Were met together to rehearse a play  
 2068 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2069 Intended for great Theseus' nuptial day.  
 2070 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2071 The shallowest thickskin of that barren sort,  
 2072 ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2073 Who Pyramus presented, in their sport  
 2074 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2075 Forsook his scene and entered in a brake;  
 2076 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2077 When I did him at this advantage take,  
 2078 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 2079 An ass's nole<sup>77</sup> I fixéd on his head.

<sup>76</sup> "night-rule": night revels, sport

<sup>77</sup> "nole": short for old English 'noddle', meaning head.

2080  
 2081 Anon his Thisby must be answeréd,  
 2082  
 2083 And forth my mimic<sup>78</sup> comes. When they him spy,  
 2084  
 2085 As wild geese that the creeping fowler eye,  
 2086  
 2087 Or russet-pated choughs<sup>79</sup>, many in sort,  
 2088  
 2089 Rising and cawing at the gun's report,  
 2090  
 2091 Sever themselves and madly sweep the sky,  
 2092  
 2093 So at his sight, away his fellows fly;  
 2094  
 2095 And at our stamp here, o'er and o'er one falls;  
 2096  
 2097 He murder cries, and help from Athens calls.  
 2098  
 2099 Their sense thus weak, lost with their fears thus strong,  
 2100  
 2101 Made senseless things begin to do them wrong,  
 2102  
 2103 For briars and thorns at their apparel snatch;  
 2104  
 2105 Some sleeves, some hats, from yielders all things catch.  
 2106  
 2107 I led them on in this distracted fear,  
 2108  
 2109 And left sweet Pyramus translated there.  
 2110  
 2111 When in that moment, so it came to pass,  
 2112  
 2113 Titania waked, and straightway loved an ass.

2114 OBERON

2115  
 2116 This falls out better than I could devise.  
 2117  
 2118 But hast thou yet latched<sup>80</sup> the Athenian's eyes  
 2119  
 2120 With the love-juice, as I bid thee do?

<sup>78</sup> "mimic": originally, "mimmick". A burlesque actor.

<sup>79</sup> "russet-pated choughs": grey-headed jackdaws. The metaphor is to describe Quince, Snout, etc. as flying like a scared flock of birds.

<sup>80</sup> "latched" from OE, anointed. Also, double-meaning of sealed.

2121

PUCK

2122

I took him sleeping—that is finished too—

2124

And the Athenian woman by his side;

2126

That, when he waked, of force she must be eyed.

2128

*[Demetrius enters, chasing Hermia.]*

2129

OBERON

2130

Stand close; this is the same Athenian.

2131

2132

PUCK

2133

This is the woman, but not this the man.

2134

2135

DEMETRIUS

2136

O, why rebuke you him that loves you so?

2137

2138

Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe.

2139

2140

HERMIA

2141

Now I but chide, but I should use thee worse,

2142

2143

For thou, I fear, hast given me cause to curse.

2144

2145

If thou hast slain Lysander in his sleep,

2146

2147

Being o'er shoes in blood<sup>81</sup>, plunge in the deep,

2148

2149

And kill me too.

2150

2151

The Sun was not so true unto the day

2152

2153

As he to me. Would he have stolen away

2154

2155

From sleeping Hermia? I'll believe as soon

2156

2157

This whole earth may be bored, and that the Moon

2158

<sup>81</sup> "o'er shoes in blood": ankle deep in his blood

2159           ^           -           -           -           ^           ^           -           ^           -           -  
 2160           May through the center creep, and so displease

2161           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2162           Her brother's noontide with th'Antipodes.<sup>82</sup>

2163           -           -           ^           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2164           It cannot be but thou hast murdered him;

2165           ^           -           -           -           -           ^           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 2166           So should a murderer look—so dead, so grim.

2167   DEMETRIUS

2168           ^           -           -           -           -           ^           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 2169           So should the murdered look; and so should I,

2170           -           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2171           Pierced through the heart with your stern cruelty;

2172           -           ^           -           -           ^           -           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 2173           Yet you, the murderer, look as bright, as clear,

2174           -           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 2175           As yonder Venus in her glimmering sphere.

2176   HERMIA

2177           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 2178           What's this to my Lysander? Where is he?

2179           ^           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2180           Ah, good Demetrius, wilt thou give him me?

2181   DEMETRIUS

2182           ^           -           -           ^           -           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 2183           I had rather give his carcass to my hounds!

2184   HERMIA

2185           ^           ^           ^           ^           -           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -  
 2186           Out, dog! Out, cur! Thou driv'st me past the bounds

2187           -           -           ^           -           ^           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2188           Of maiden's patience. Hast thou slain him, then?

2189           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2190           Henceforth be never numbered among men!

2191           ^           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2192           O, once tell true; even for my sake!

2193           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2194           Durst thou have looked upon him being awake,

2195           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2196           And hast thou killed him sleeping? O brave touch!

2197           -           ^           -           ^           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 2198           Could not a worm, an adder, do so much?

<sup>82</sup> "th'Antipodes": the other side of the earth.

2199           -   -   -   -   ^       ^       -       -       -       -  
2200           An adder did it; for with doubler tongue  
2201           -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2202           Than thine, thou serpent, never adder stung.

2203    DEMETRIUS

2204           -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2205           You spend your passion on a mispris'd<sup>83</sup> mood:  
2206           ^   -       -       -       ^   -       -       -       -       ^  
2207           I am not guilty of Lysander's blood;  
2208           ^   -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2209           Nor is he dead, for ought that I can tell.

2210    HERMIA

2211           -       -       ^       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       ^  
2212           I pray thee, tell me then that he is well.

2213    DEMETRIUS

2214           -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
2215           An if I could, what should I get therefore?

2216    HERMIA

2217           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2218           A privilege never to see me more.  
2219           ^   -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
2220           And from thy hated presence part I so;  
2221           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       ^  
2222           See me no more whether he be dead or no.

[Hermia exits.]

2224    DEMETRIUS

2225           -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
2226           There is no following her in this fierce vain;  
2227           ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
2228           Here, therefore, for a while I will remain.  
2229           ^   -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
2230           So sorrow's heaviness doth heavier grow  
2231           -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
2232           For debt that bankrupt sleep doth sorrow owe;  
2233           ^       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
2234           Which now in some slight measure it will pay,

---

<sup>83</sup> "mispris'd": also sometimes "misprized", meaning undervalued, but could mean misplaced or mistaken in this context. Also has a possible connection to "misprision" c.f..

2235 ^ \_ \_ ^ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 2236 If for his tender here I make some stay.

2237 [Demetrius sleeps.]

2238 OBERON

2239 ^ \_ \_ ^ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 2240 What hast thou done? Thou hast mistaken quite,  
 2241 \_ ^ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^ \_ ^  
 2242 And laid the love-juice on some true-love's sight.  
 2243 ^ \_ \_ ^ ^ \_ \_ ^ \_  
 2244 Of thy misprision<sup>84</sup> must perforce ensue  
 2245 \_ ^ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^ \_ ^  
 2246 Some true love turned, and not a false turned true!

2247 PUCK

2248 \_ \_ \_ ^ ^ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 2249 Then fate o'er-rules, that, one man holding troth,  
 2250 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ ^  
 2251 A million fail, confounding oath on oath.

2252 OBERON

2253 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 2254 About the wood go swifter than the wind,  
 2255 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 2256 And Helena of Athens look thou find;  
 2257 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 2258 All fancy sick she is and pale of cheer,  
 2259 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 2260 With sighs of love that costs the fresh blood dear.<sup>85</sup>  
 2261 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 2262 By some illusion see thou bring her here;  
 2263 \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 2264 I'll charm his eyes against she do appear.

2265 PUCK

2266 \_ ^ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 2267 I go, I go; look how I go,

<sup>84</sup> "misprision": some interpret this as mistake. Definition is a deliberate concealment of knowledge of a treasonable act, also erroneous judgement of the value or identity of something. In this context, Oberon is accusing Puck of both stupidity in judgement in not recognizing which Athenians he described, and of willfully hiding the mistake. This forces Puck to admit to the deed which brings the lesser of the two punishments from his Lord.

<sup>85</sup> "with sighs...blood dear." It was said that every sigh uttered allowed a drop of blood to leak from the heart.

2268 - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
2269 Swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bow.

2270 *[Puck exits.]*

2271 OBERON

2272 - - - - - ^  
2273 Flower of this purple die,  
2274 - - - - - ^  
2275 Hit with Cupid's archery,  
2276 - - - - - ^  
2277 Sink in apple of his eye,  
2278 ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
2279 When his love he doth espy,  
2280 - - ^ - - - -  
2281 Let her shine as gloriously  
2282 - - - - - ^  
2283 As the Venus of the sky.  
2284 - - ^ - - - - ^  
2285 When thou wak'st, if she be by,  
2286 - - ^ - - - ^  
2287 Beg of her for remedy.

2288 *[Puck returns.]*

2289 PUCK

2290 - - - - - ^  
2291 Captain of our Fairy band,  
2292 - - ^ - - - ^  
2293 Helena is here at hand,  
2294 - - ^ - - - ^  
2295 And the youth, mistook by me  
2296 - - - - - ^  
2297 Pleading for a lovers fee;  
2298 - - ^ - - - ^  
2299 Shall we their fond pageant see?  
2300 ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
2301 Lord, what fools these mortals be!

2302 OBERON

2303 - - ^ - - - -  
2304 Stand aside. The noise they make  
2305 - - - - - ^  
2306 Will cause Demetrius to awake.



2307

PUCK

2308

- - ^ - ^ - ^  
Then will two at once woo one.

2309

2310

- - - ^ - - ^  
That must needs be sport alone;

2311

2312

^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
And those things do best please me

2313

2314

- - ^ - - ^  
That befall prepost'rously.

2315

2316

*[Helena enters, pursued by Lysander.]*

2317

LYSANDER

2318

- - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
Why should you think that I should woo in scorn?

2319

2320

^ - - ^ - - ^  
Scorn and derision never come in tears.

2321

2322

^ ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
Look when I vow, I weep; and vows so born,

2323

2324

- - - ^ - - ^  
In their nativity all truth appears.

2325

2326

- - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
How can these things in me seem scorn to you,

2327

2328

- - - ^ - - ^  
Bearing the badge of faith to prove them true?

2329

2330

HELENA

2331

^ - - ^ - - ^  
You do advance your cunning more and more.

2332

2333

- - - ^ - - ^  
When truth kills truth, O devilish-holy fray!

2334

2335

- ^ - ^ - ^  
These vows are Hermia's. Will you give her o'er?

2336

2337

- - - ^ - - ^  
Weigh oath with oath, and you will nothing weigh:

2338

2339

- ^ - ^ - ^  
Your vows to her and me, put in two scales,

2340

2341

^ - ^ ^ - ^ - ^  
Will even weigh, and both as light as tales.

2342

2343

LYSANDER

2344

- - - ^ - ^ - - ^  
I had no judgment when to her I swore.

2345

2346

HELENA

2347

- ^ - - ^ - ^  
Nor none, in my mind, now you give her o'er!

2348

2349 LYSANDER  
 2350 - - ^ - ^ - - ^ ^  
 2351 Demetrius loves her, and he loves not you.

2352 [Demetrius awakens.]

2353 DEMETRIUS  
 2354 ^ - ^ - ^ ^ - ^ - ^  
 2355 O, Helen, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!  
 2356 - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2357 To what, my love, shall I compare thine eyne?<sup>86</sup>  
 2358 - - - ^ ^ - ^ ^  
 2359 Crystal is muddy. O, how ripe in show  
 2360 - ^ - - - ^ - - ^ ^  
 2361 Thy lips, those kissing cherries, tempting grow!  
 2362 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2363 That pure congealéd white, high Taurus<sup>87</sup> snow,  
 2364 - - - ^ - - -  
 2365 Fanned with the Eastern wind, turns to a crow  
 2366 - - - ^ ^ - - -  
 2367 When thou hold'st up thy hand. O, let me kiss  
 2368 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2369 This Princess of pure white, this seal of bliss!

2370 HELENA  
 2371 ^ ^ ^ ^ - - - -  
 2372 O, spite! O, hell! I see you are all bent  
 2373 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2374 To set against me for your merriment.  
 2375 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2376 If you were civil and knew courtesy,  
 2377 - - - ^ ^ - - - ^  
 2378 You would not do me thus much injury.  
 2379 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2380 Can you not hate me, as I know you do,  
 2381 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2382 But you must join in souls to mock me too?  
 2383 ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 2384 If you were men, as men you are in show,  
 2385 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2386 You would not use a gentle Lady so:  
 2387 - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2388 To vow, and swear, and superpraise my parts,

<sup>86</sup> "eyne": eyes.

<sup>87</sup> "Taurus": referencing the Turkish mountains.

2389                 ^    -   -    ^    -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 2390                 When I am sure you hate me with your hearts.

2391                 ^           ^    -   -   -   -   -   -    ^    ^  
 2392                 You both are rivals, and love Hermia;

2393                 -           ^    ^    -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 2394                 And now both rivals, to mock Helena.

2395                 -           ^    -    ^    -   -   -   -    ^    ^  
 2396                 A trim exploit, a manly enterprise,

2397                 -   -   -   -   -           ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 2398                 To conjure tears up in a poor maid's eyes

2399                 -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^   -   -   -    ^    ^  
 2400                 With your derision! None of noble sort

2401                 -   -   -    ^    -   -    ^           ^   -   -   -  
 2402                 Would so offend a Virgin, and extort

2403                 -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -    ^           ^  
 2404                 A poor soul's patience, all to make you sport.

2405   LYSANDER

2406                 -   -   -    ^    -   -    ^   -   -    ^    ^  
 2407                 You are unkind, Demetrius; be not so;

2408                 -           ^    -   -    ^           ^   -   -    ^    ^  
 2409                 For you love Hermia. This you know I know;

2410                 ^           ^    -   -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -    ^  
 2411                 And here, with all good will, with all my heart,

2412                 -   -   -    ^    -   -   -   -   -    ^    ^  
 2413                 In Hermia's love I yield you up my part;

2414                 -           ^    -   -    ^   -   -    ^           ^  
 2415                 And yours of Helena to me bequeath,

2416                 -           ^    -    ^    -   -    ^   -   -    ^    ^  
 2417                 Whom I do love and will do to my death.

2418   HELENA

2419                 -    ^    -   -    ^    -   -   -   -    ^    ^  
 2420                 Never did mockers waste more idle breath.

2421   DEMETRIUS

2422                 -   -    ^    -   -   -    ^   -   -    ^    ^  
 2423                 Lysander, keep thy Hermia: I will none.

2424                 ^    -   -   -    ^    -   -   -   -    ^    ^    ^  
 2425                 If e'er I loved her, all that love is gone.

2426                 -           ^    ^    ^    ^   -   -    ^   -    ^    ^  
 2427                 My heart to her but as guest-wise sojourned,

2428                 -           ^    -   -    ^   -   -    ^   -    ^    ^  
 2429                 And now to Helen it is home returned,

2430                 ^    -   -    ^  
 2431                 There to remain.

2432 LYSANDER  
 2433 - ^ - - - ^  
 2434 Helen, it is not so.

2435 DEMETRIUS  
 2436 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2437 Disparage not the faith thou dost not know,  
 2438 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2439 Lest, to thy peril, thou aby<sup>88</sup> it dear.  
 2440 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2441 Look where thy Love comes; yonder is thy dear.

2442 *[Hermia enters.]*

2443 HERMIA  
 2444 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2445 Dark night, that from the eye his function takes,  
 2446 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2447 The ear more quick of apprehension makes;  
 2448 - - - - - ^  
 2449 Wherein it doth impair the seeing sense,  
 2450 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2451 It pays the hearing double recompense.  
 2452 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2453 Thou art not by mine eye, Lysander, found;  
 2454 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2455 Mine ear, I thank it, brought me to thy sound.  
 2456 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2457 But why unkindly didst thou leave me so?

2458 LYSANDER  
 2459 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2460 Why should he stay whom Love doth press to go?

2461 HERMIA  
 2462 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2463 What love could press Lysander from my side?

2464 LYSANDER  
 2465 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2466 Lysander's love, that would not let him bide—  
 2467 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2468 Fair Helena, who more engilds the night

<sup>88</sup> "aby": abide.

2469 Than all yon fiery oes<sup>89</sup> and eyes of light.

2471 Why seek'st thou me? Could not this make thee know

2473 The hate I bare thee made me leave thee so?

2475 HERMIA

2476 You speak not as you think; it cannot be.

2478 HELENA

2479 Lo, she is one of this confederacy!

2481 Now I perceive they have conjoined all three

2483 To fashion this false sport in spite of me.

2485 Injurious Hermia! Most ungrateful maid!

2487 Have you conspired, have you with these contrived,

2489 To bait<sup>90</sup> me with this foul derision?

2491 Is all the counsel that we two have shared,

2493 The sisters' vows, the hours that we have spent,

2495 When we have chid<sup>91</sup> the hasty-footed time

2497 For parting us— O, is all forgot?

2499 All school-days' friendship, childhood innocence?

2501 We, Hermia, like two artificial gods,

2503 Have with our needles created both one flower,

2505 Both on one sampler, sitting on one cushion,

2507 Both warbling of one song, both in one key;

<sup>89</sup> "oes": orbs.

<sup>90</sup> "bait": torment.

<sup>91</sup> "chid": old English past tense of 'chide', meaning reprimand.

2509 - - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
2510 As if our hands, our sides, voices, and minds,  
2511 - - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
2512 Had been incorporate. So we grew together,  
2513 - - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
2514 Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,  
2515 - ^ - - - - - -  
2516 But yet a union in partition,  
2517 - - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
2518 Two lovely berries molded on one stem;  
2519 ^ - - - - ^ - - - ^  
2520 So, with two seeming bodies, but one heart;  
2521 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2522 Two of the first, like coats in Heraldry,  
2523 ^ ^ - ^ - - - ^ ^  
2524 Due but to one and crowned with one crest.<sup>92</sup>  
2525 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2526 And will you rend our ancient love asunder,  
2527 - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
2528 To join with men in scorning your poor friend?  
2529 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2530 It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly;  
2531 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2532 Our sex, as well as I, may chide you for it,  
2533 - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
2534 Though I alone do feel the injury.

2535 HERMIA

2536 - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
2537 I am amazed at your passionate words;  
2538 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2539 I scorn you not; it seems that you scorn me.

2540 HELENA

2541 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2542 Have you not set Lysander, as in scorn,  
2543 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2544 To follow me and praise my eyes and face?  
2545 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2546 And made your other love, Demetrius,  
2547 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
2548 Who even but now did spurn me with his foot,

---

<sup>92</sup> "two of the life coats...with one crest.": In heraldry, a double coat with a single crest is representative of the union of two families through marriage. The allusion is to a relationship between Helena and Hermia that is so close they may as well have been married.

2549       -   -   -   -   ^       ^       -   ^   -       ^  
 2550       To call me goddess, nymph, divine, and rare,  
 2551       -   ^       -   -   -   ^       -   -       ^   -   -  
 2552       Precious, celestial? Wherefore speaks he this  
 2553       -   ^       -   ^       -   -   -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2554       To her he hates? And wherefore doth Lysander  
 2555       -   -   ^       ^       -   -   -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2556       Deny your love, so rich within his soul,  
 2557       -   -   -       ^   -   ^       -   -   ^       -   -  
 2558       And tender me, forsooth, affection,  
 2559       ^   -   ^       -   -   ^       -   ^   -       ^   ^  
 2560       But by your setting on, by your consent?  
 2561       -       ^       ^   -   -   -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2562       What though I be not so in grace as you,  
 2563       -   -   -   -   -       ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2564       So hung upon with love, so fortunate,  
 2565       ^   -   -   -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2566       But miserable most, to love unloved?  
 2567       ^   -   -   -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2568       This you should pity rather than despise.

2569   HERMIA

2570       ^   -   -   -       ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2571       I understand not what you mean by this.

2572   HELENA

2573       ^   ^       -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2574       Ay, do— persever,<sup>93</sup> counterfeit sad looks,  
 2575       -       ^       -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2576       Make mouths upon me<sup>94</sup> when I turn my back,  
 2577       ^   ^       -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2578       Wink each at other; hold the sweet jest up;  
 2579       -       ^       -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2580       This sport, well carried, shall be chronicled.  
 2581       -   -   ^       -   -   ^       -   -   ^       -   -   ^  
 2582       If you have any pity, grace, or manners,  
 2583       -   -   -   -   -       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2584       You would not make me such an argument.  
 2585       ^   -   -   -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2586       But fare ye well; 'tis partly mine own fault,  
 2587       -       ^       -   -   ^       -   -   -       ^   ^  
 2588       Which death, or absence, soon shall remedy.

<sup>93</sup> *persever*: persevere, i.e., continue to play dumb

<sup>94</sup> "make mouths upon me": make faces, grimace.

2589 LYSANDER  
 2590       ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2591 Stay gentle Helena; hear my excuse;  
 2592       - ^ - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2593 My love, my life, my soul, fair Helena!

2594 HELENA  
 2595       ^ - - ^  
 2596 O excellent!

2597 HERMIA  
 2598               ^ - - - - ^  
 2599 Sweet, do not scorn her so.

2600 DEMETRIUS  
 2601       - ^ - - - ^ ^ - - ^  
 2602 If she cannot entreat, I can compel.<sup>95</sup>

2603 LYSANDER  
 2604       ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
 2605 Thou canst compel no more than she entreat;  
 2606       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
 2607 Thy threats have no more strength than her weak prayers;  
 2608       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2609 Helen, I love thee, by my life I do;  
 2610       - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
 2611 I swear by that which I will lose for thee<sup>96</sup>  
 2612       - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2613 To prove him false that says I love thee not.

2614 DEMETRIUS  
 2615       ^ ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2616 I say I love thee more than he can do.

2617 LYSANDER  
 2618       ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2619 If thou say so, withdraw, and prove it too!

2620 DEMETRIUS  
 2621       ^ ^  
 2622 Quick, come!

<sup>95</sup> "If she cannot entreat, I can compel.": Meaning, 'If Hermia cannot stop you (Demetrius) from pursuing Helena with her words, I will do so by force if need be.'

<sup>96</sup> "by that which I will lose for thee": i.e., his life.



2623 HERMIA  
2624 - - ^ - - - - ^  
2625 Lysander, whereto tends all this?

2626 LYSANDER

2627 - ^ - - - ^  
2628 Away, you Ethiope!<sup>97</sup>

2629 DEMETRIUS

2630 ^ ^ - -  
2631 No, no, he will  
2632 ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
2633 Seem to break loose— take on as you would follow,  
2634 ^ ^ - ^ - - ^ ^ ^  
2635 But yet come not. You are a tame man; go!

2636 LYSANDER

2637 - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
2638 Hang off thou cat, thou bur; vile thing, let loose,  
2639 - - - ^ - ^ - - ^  
2640 Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

2641 HERMIA

2642 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
2643 Why are you grown so rude? What change is this,  
2644 - ^  
2645 Sweet Love?

2646 LYSANDER

2647 ^ ^ ^ - - - ^ ^  
2648 Thy love? Out, tawny Tartar<sup>98</sup>, out!  
2649 ^ - - ^ ^ - - ^ ^  
2650 Out loathed med'cine! O hated potion,<sup>99</sup> hence!

2651 HERMIA

2652 - - - ^  
2653 Do you not jest?

<sup>97</sup> "Away, you Ethiope!": Lysander is spurning Hermia, and using her dark complexion to spawn an epithet.  
<sup>98</sup> Lysander is once again using racial epithets to deride Hermia.  
<sup>99</sup> *potion*: sometimes "poison"

2654

HELENA

2655

2656

Yes, sooth; and so do you.

2657

LYSANDER

2658

2659

Demetrius, I will keep my word with thee.

2660

DEMETRIUS

2661

2662

I would I had your bond; for I perceive

2663

2664

A weak bond holds you; I'll not trust your word.

2665

LYSANDER

2666

2667

What, should I hurt her, strike her, kill her dead?

2668

2669

Although I hate her, I'll not harm her so.

2670

HERMIA

2671

2672

What! Can you do me greater harm than hate?

2673

2674

Hate me! wherefore? O me! what news, my Love?

2675

2676

Am not I Hermia? Are not you Lysander?

2677

2678

I am as fair now as I was erewhile.

2679

2680

Since night you loved me; yet since night you left me.

2681

2682

Why then, you left me— O, the gods forbid!—

2683

2684

In earnest, shall I say?

2685

LYSANDER

2686

2687

Aye, by my life.

2688

2689

And never did desire to see thee more.

2690

2691

Therefore be out of hope, of question, of doubt;

2692

2693

Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest

2694 - - - ^ ^ - ^ - - ^  
 2695 That I do hate thee and love Helena!

2696 HERMIA

2697 ^ ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 2698 O, me! You juggler! You canker blossom!<sup>100</sup>  
 2699 - - - ^ ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2700 You thief of love! What! Have you come by night,  
 2701 - ^ - - ^ - - -  
 2702 And stol'n my love's heart from him?

2703 HELENA

2704 ^ - - ^  
 2705 Fine, i' faith!  
 2706 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2707 Have you no modesty, no maiden shame,  
 2708 - - - - ^ ^ - - -  
 2709 No touch of bashfulness? What! Will you tear  
 2710 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2711 Impatient answers from my gentle tongue?  
 2712 ^ ^ - - - ^ ^ ^ ^  
 2713 Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet you.

2714 HERMIA

2715 - ^ - ^ ^ - - - - ^  
 2716 "Puppet!" why so? Aye, that way goes the game.  
 2717 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - -  
 2718 Now I perceive that she hath made compare  
 2719 - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 2720 Between our statures; she hath urged her height;  
 2721 - - - - ^ ^ - - - ^  
 2722 And with her personage, her tall personage,  
 2723 - ^ - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2724 Her height, forsooth, she hath prevailed with him.  
 2725 - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 2726 And are you grown so high in his esteem  
 2727 - - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2728 Because I am so dwarfish and so low?  
 2729 - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 2730 How low am I, thou painted Maypole? Speak.  
 2731 - ^ - ^ - - - ^ ^  
 2732 How low am I? I am not yet so low  
 2733 - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 2734 But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

<sup>100</sup> "canker blossom": a worm that feeds on flower buds.

2735 HELENA  
 2736 - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
 2737 I pray you, though you mock me, gentlemen,  
 2738 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2739 Let her not hurt me. I was never curst;  
 2740 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2741 I have no gift at all in shrewishness;  
 2742 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2743 I am a right maid for my cowardice;  
 2744 - - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2745 Let her not strike me. You perhaps may think,  
 2746 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2747 Because she is something lower than myself,  
 2748 - ^ - - ^  
 2749 That I can match her.

2750 HERMIA  
 2751 - ^ ^ - ^  
 2752 'Lower' hark, again.

2753 HELENA  
 2754 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2755 Good Hermia, do not be so bitter with me.  
 2756 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2757 I evermore did love you Hermia,  
 2758 - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 2759 Did ever keep your counsels, never wronged you;  
 2760 - ^ - - - ^  
 2761 Save that, in love unto Demetrius,  
 2762 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2763 I told him of your stealth unto this wood.  
 2764 ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2765 He followed you; for love I followed him;  
 2766 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2767 But he hath chid me hence, and threatened me  
 2768 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2769 To strike me, spurn me, nay, to kill me too;  
 2770 - ^ - - - ^  
 2771 And now, so you will let me quiet go,  
 2772 - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2773 To Athens will I bear my folly back,  
 2774 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2775 And follow you no further. Let me go.  
 2776 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2777 You see how simple, and how fond I am.

2778 HERMIA  
 2779 ^ - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 2780 Why, get you gone! Who is't that hinders you?

2781 HELENA  
 2782 - - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 2783 A foolish heart that I leave here behind.

2784 HERMIA  
 2785 ^ - - - ^  
 2786 What, with Lysander?

2787 HELENA  
 2788 - - - - ^  
 2789 With Demetrius.

2790 LYSANDER  
 2791 - - ^ - - - ^ - ^  
 2792 Be not afraid; she shall not harm thee, Helena.

2793 DEMETRIUS  
 2794 ^ ^ - - ^ - - - ^  
 2795 No, sir, she shall not, though you take her part.

2796 HELENA  
 2797 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2798 O, when she is angry, she is keen and shrewd;  
 2799 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2800 She was a vixen when she went to school;  
 2801 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2802 And, though she be but little, she is fierce.

2803 HERMIA  
 2804 - ^ - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 2805 'Little' again! Nothing but 'low' and 'little'!  
 2806 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2807 Why will you suffer her to flout me thus?  
 2808 - - - ^  
 2809 Let me come to her!

2810 LYSANDER  
 2811 - - ^ - - ^  
 2812 Get you gone, you dwarf;  
 2813 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 2814 You minimus, of hind'ring knot-grass made;

2815        -     ^        -     -     ^  
2816     You bead, you acorn.

2817                                    DEMETRIUS

2818                                    -        -        -        -        ^  
2819                                    You're too officious  
2820     -     -     -     ^            -            ^            -     -     -     ^  
2821     In her behalf that scorns your services.  
2822     -     -     -     ^            -            ^            -     -     -     ^  
2823     Let her alone; speak not of Helena;  
2824     -            ^        -        ^        -        -        -        -        ^  
2825     Take not her part; for if thou dost intend  
2826     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
2827     Never so little show of love to her,  
2828            ^        -        -        -        ^  
2829     Thou shalt aby<sup>101</sup> it.

2830                                    LYSANDER

2831                                    ^        -        -        -        ^  
2832                                    Now she holds me not.  
2833     -     -     ^        -        -            ^        -        -        ^  
2834     Now follow, if thou dar'st, to try whose right,  
2835     -            ^        -            ^        -        -        -        ^  
2836     Of thine or mine, is most in Helena!

2837                                    DEMETRIUS

2838     -     ^        ^        -        ^        ^        -        -        ^  
2839     Follow! Nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jowl.

2840    *[Lysander and Demetrius exit.]*

2841                                    HERMIA

2842     ^        -        ^        -        -        ^        -        -        -        ^  
2843     You, Mistress, all this coil<sup>102</sup> is long of you.  
2844     ^        -        -        ^  
2845     Nay, go not back.

2846                                    HELENA

2847                                    -     -        -        ^        ^        ^  
2848                                    I will not trust you, I;  
2849     -     -     -     ^        -            ^        -        -        ^  
2850     Nor longer stay in your curst company.

<sup>101</sup> "aby": pay for

<sup>102</sup> "coil": confusion, turmoil.

2851                     -       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2852           Your hands than mine are quicker for a fray;  
2853                     -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
2854           My legs are longer though to run away.

2855    [Helena evades Hermia, and exits.]

2856   HERMIA

2857                     ^   -   -   ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
2858           I am amazed, and know not what to say.

2859   [Hermia exits. Oberon and Puck step  
2860   forward.]

2861   OBERON

2862                     ^   -       ^   -       -       ^                   ^   -       -       ^  
2863           This is thy negligence. Still thou mistak'st,  
2864                     -   -           ^                   -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
2865           Or else committ'st thy knaveries willfully.

2866   PUCK

2867                     -   -           ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
2868           Believe me, King of shadows, I mistook.  
2869                     -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -  
2870           Did not you tell me I should know the man  
2871                     -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -  
2872           By the Athenian garments he hath on?  
2873                     ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2874           And so far blameless proves my enterprise  
2875                     -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2876           That I have 'nointed an Athenian's eyes.  
2877                     ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2878           And so far am I glad it so did sort,  
2879                     -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2880           As this their jangling I esteem a sport.

2881   OBERON

2882                     -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2883           Thou seest these Lovers seek a place to fight.  
2884                     ^                   ^                   ^                   ^  
2885           Hie<sup>103</sup> therefore, Robin, overcast the night;  
2886                     -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
2887           The starry welkin<sup>104</sup> cover thou anon

<sup>103</sup> "Hie": hurry.

<sup>104</sup> "welkin": sky, in the sense of a multilayered celestial sphere, it is the highest empyrean, that closest to heaven.

2888           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2889       With drooping fog as black as Acheron.<sup>105</sup>  
 2890           -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -  
 2891       And lead these testy rivals so astray  
 2892           ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2893       As one come not within another's way.  
 2894           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2895       Like to Lysander sometime frame thy tongue,  
 2896           ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2897       Then stir Demetrius up with bitter wrong;  
 2898           ^       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2899       And sometime rail thou like Demetrius;  
 2900           ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
 2901       And from each other look thou lead them thus,  
 2902           ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2903       Till o'er their brows death-counterfeiting sleep  
 2904           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 2905       with leaden legs and batty wings doth creep.  
 2906           ^       -       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 2907       Then crush this herb into Lysander's eye;  
 2908           -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2909       Whose liquor hath this virtuous property,  
 2910           -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2911       To take from thence all error with his might<sup>106</sup>  
 2912           -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2913       And make his eyeballs roll with wonted<sup>107</sup> sight.  
 2914           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -  
 2915       When they next wake, all this derision  
 2916           -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2917       Shall seem a dream and fruitless vision;  
 2918           -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -  
 2919       And back to Athens shall the Lovers wend  
 2920           -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2921       With league<sup>108</sup> whose date till death shall never end.  
 2922           -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2923       Whiles I in this affair do thee employ,  
 2924           ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 2925       I'll to my Queen, and beg her Indian Boy;

<sup>105</sup> "Acheron": a river of the Greek underworld of Hades.

<sup>106</sup> "with his might": this is a male personification of the herb, whereas the eyeballs which follow are Lysander's.

<sup>107</sup> "wonted": wanted, or normal

<sup>108</sup> "with league": in alliance, ie., in love. Use of "league" is connotive of the great emotional and spiritual distance traveled by the couples, as well as the physical distance through the darkened woods from Athens they have traveled. Note that throughout, the forest represents the great human subconscious, filled with uncertain fears and unacknowledged desires that filter up like will-o-the-wisps and fairies, unbidden, beautiful, and sometimes dangerous.



2926           -     ^   -   ^   -   -   -   ^   -   -  
 2927           And then I will her charméð eye release  
 2928           -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2929           From monster's view, and all things shall be peace.

2930                                    PUCK

2931           -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^  
 2932           My Fairy Lord, this must be done with haste,  
 2933           -   -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2934           For Night's swift Dragons<sup>109</sup> cut the clouds full fast;  
 2935           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2936           And yonder shines Aurora's harbinger,<sup>110</sup>  
 2937           -   -   -   -   ^   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2938           At whose approach ghosts, wandering here and there,  
 2939           -   -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2940           Troop home to churchyards. Damnéð spirits all  
 2941           ^   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2942           That in cross-ways and floods have burial,  
 2943           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 2944           Already to their wormy beds are gone,  
 2945           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2946           For fear lest day should look their shames upon;  
 2947           ^   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2948           They willfully themselves exiled from light,  
 2949           -   ^   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2950           And must for aye<sup>111</sup> consort with black-browed night.

2951                                    OBERON

2952           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2953           But we are spirits of another sort:  
 2954           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2955           I with the Morning's love have oft made sport;  
 2956           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 2957           And like a forester, the groves may tread  
 2958           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 2959           Even till the Eastern gate, all fiery red,  
 2960           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^   ^  
 2961           Opening on Neptune with fair blesséd beams,

---

<sup>109</sup> "Night's swift Dragons": Some say this line refers to the goddess of Night, who had a chariot drawn by dragons. The dragon, in this case specifically, is a British creature, and suggests the Celtic Morgan le Fey (Morgan the Fairie) as the goddess, or an analogue of Morgan le Fey combined with the Greek goddess Nix, despite the play being set in Greece.

<sup>110</sup> "Aurora's harbinger": the morning star, Venus, which precedes Aurora, the goddess of the sunrise who is seen as a glow in the Eastern sky.

<sup>111</sup> "for aye": forever.

2962           -     -     ^     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^  
2963           Turns into yellow gold his salt green streams.  
2964           ^     -     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
2965           But, notwithstanding, haste, make no delay;  
2966           -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
2967           We may effect this business yet ere day.

*[Oberon exits.]*

2969   PUCK

2970           -     -            ^     -     -            ^  
2971           Up and down, up and down,  
2972           -     ^     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
2973           I will lead them up and down.  
2974           -     -     ^            -     ^            -     ^            -     ^  
2975           I am feared in field and town.  
2976           -     ^     -            ^     -     -            ^     -     -     ^  
2977           Goblin, lead them up and down.  
2978           -     -            ^  
2979           Here comes one.

*[Lysander enters.]*

2981   LYSANDER

2982           -     -            ^     -     -            ^     -     -            ^     -     -            ^  
2983           Where art thou, proud Demetrius? Speak thou now.

2984   PUCK

2985           ^     -     ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
2986           Here, villain, drawn and ready! Where art thou?

2987   LYSANDER

2988           -     -     -     -     -            ^  
2989           I will be with thee straight.

2990   PUCK

2991                                   -     -     ^     -     ^  
2992                                   Follow me, then,  
2993           -     -     -     ^  
2994           To plainer ground!

*[Lysander exits. Demetrius enters.]*

2996   DEMETRIUS

2997           -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
2998           Lysander, speak again.

2999  
 3000 Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled?  
 3001  
 3002 Speak! In some bush? Where dost thou hide thy head?

3003 PUCK

3004  
 3005 Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,  
 3006  
 3007 Telling the bushes that thou look'st for wars,  
 3008  
 3009 And wilt not come? Come, recreant, come, thou child;  
 3010  
 3011 I'll whip thee with a rod. He is defiled  
 3012  
 3013 That draws a sword on thee!

3014 DEMETRIUS

3015  
 3016 Yea, art thou there?

3017 PUCK

3018  
 3019 Follow my voice; we'll try no manhood here.

3020 [Demetrius exits, chasing Puck off. Lysander  
 3021 enters.]

3022 LYSANDER

3023  
 3024 He goes before me, and still dares me on;  
 3025  
 3026 When I come where he calls, then he is gone.  
 3027  
 3028 The villain is much lighter heeled than I.  
 3029  
 3030 I followed fast, but faster he did fly,  
 3031  
 3032 That fallen am I in dark uneven way,  
 3033  
 3034 And here will rest me. Come, thou gentle day.  
 3035  
 3036 For if but once thou show me thy gray light,  
 3037  
 3038 I'll find Demetrius, and revenge this spite.

3039 *[Lysander sleeps. Puck enters, pursued by*  
 3040 *Demetrius.]*

3041 PUCK

3042 ^ ^ ^ - ^ - - - - ^  
 3043 Ho, ho, ho! Coward, why comest thou not?

3044 DEMETRIUS

3045 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3046 Abide<sup>112</sup> me, if thou dar'st; for well I wot<sup>113</sup>  
 3047 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3048 Thou runn'st before me, shifting every place,  
 3049 - - - ^ ^ - - - ^  
 3050 And dar'st not stand, nor look me in the face.  
 3051 - - - ^  
 3052 Where art thou now?

3053 PUCK

3054 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3055 Come hither; I am here.

3056 DEMETRIUS

3057 ^ ^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3058 Nay, then, thou mock'st me. Thou shalt buy this dear,  
 3059 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3060 If ever I thy face by daylight see;  
 3061 ^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3062 Now, go thy way. Faintness constraineth me  
 3063 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3064 To measure out my length on this cold bed.  
 3065 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3066 By day's approach look to be visited.

3067 *[Demetrius sleeps. Enter Helena.]*

3068 HELENA

3069 ^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3070 O weary night, O long and tedious night,  
 3071 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3072 Abate thy hours! Shine comforts from the East,  
 3073 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3074 That I may back to Athens by daylight,

<sup>112</sup> "Abide": wait for, in this sense, fight.

<sup>113</sup> "wot": know.



3114           -     -     -  
 3115           I'll apply  
 3116           -     -     ^  
 3117           To your eye,  
 3118           -     -     -     ^     -     -     ^  
 3119           Gentle lover, remedy.  
 3120           -     -     ^  
 3121           When thou wak'st,  
 3122           -     -  
 3123           Thou tak'st  
 3124           -     -     ^  
 3125           True delight  
 3126           -     -     -  
 3127           In the sight  
 3128           -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 3129           Of thy former Lady's eye.  
 3130  
 3131           -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 3132           And the country proverb known,  
 3133           -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 3134           That every man should take his own,  
 3135           -     ^     -     -     -     -     -     ^  
 3136           In your waking shall be shown:  
 3137           ^     -     -     ^  
 3138           Jack shall have Jill;  
 3139           ^     -     -     ^  
 3140           Naught shall go ill;  
 3141           -     ^     -     -     -     -     ^     -     ^     -     ^     -     -     ^  
 3142           The man shall have his Mare again, and all shall be well.  
 3143  
[Puck exits.]

3144 ACT IV. SCENE 1.

3145 *[Titania enters, accompanied by Bottom and*  
 3146 *her train of Fairies. Oberon enters unseen*  
 3147 *and observes them.]*

3148 TITANIA

3149       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3150 Come, sit thee down upon this flow'ry bed,  
 3151       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3152 While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,<sup>114</sup>  
 3153       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3154 And stick musk-roses in thy sleek smooth head,  
 3155       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3156 And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.

3157 BOTTOM

3158 Where's Peaseblossom?

3159 PEASEBLOSSOM

3160 Ready.

3161 BOTTOM

3162 Scratch my head, Peaseblossom. Where's Mistress Cobweb?

3163 COBWEB

3164 Ready.

3165 BOTTOM

3166 Mistress Cobweb; good mistress, get your weapons in your  
 3167 hand and kill me a red hipped humble-bee on the top of a  
 3168 thistle; and good mistress, bring me the honey-bag. Do not  
 3169 fret yourself too much in the action, mistress; and, good  
 3170 mistress, have a care the honey-bag break not; I would be  
 3171 loath to have you overflown<sup>115</sup> with a honey-bag, mistress.  
 3172 Where's Mistress Mustardseed?

3173 MUSTARDSEED

3174 Ready.

<sup>114</sup> "coy": caress.

<sup>115</sup> "overflown": or overflowed, meaning drowned.

3175

BOTTOM

3176

Give me your neafe,<sup>116</sup> Mistress Mustardseed. Pray you, leave  
 3177 your courtesy good Mistress.

3178

MUSTARDSEED

3179

What's your will?

3180

BOTTOM

3181

Nothing, good Mistress, but to help Cavalery<sup>117</sup> Cobweb to  
 3182 scratch. I must to the barber's, mistress; for methinks I  
 3183 am marvelous hairy about the face; and I am such a tender  
 3184 ass, if my hair do but tickle me I must scratch.

3185

TITANIA

3186

^ - - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3187 What, wilt thou hear some music, my sweet love?

3188

BOTTOM

3189

I have a reasonable good ear in music. Let us have the  
 3190 tongs and the bones.<sup>118</sup>

3191

*[Music is played.]*

3192

TITANIA

3193

- ^ - ^ - - ^ - ^  
 3194 Or say, sweet Love, what thou desirest to eat.

3195

BOTTOM

3196

Truly a peck of provender;<sup>119</sup> I could munch your good dry  
 3197 oats. Methinks I have a great desire to a bottle<sup>120</sup> of hay.  
 3198 Good hay, sweet hay, hath no fellow.

3199

TITANIA

3200

- ^ - - - ^ - - -  
 3201 I have a venturous fairy that shall seek  
 3202 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3203 The squirrel's hoard, and fetch thee new nuts.

<sup>116</sup> "neafe": also sometimes spelled 'neaf' or "neif", meaning fist.

<sup>117</sup> "Cavalery": noble form of address, meaning cavalier.

<sup>118</sup> "the tongs and the bones.": Tongs and bones were rural percussion instruments: tongs were a piece of metal struck with a metal hammer, like a triangle; bones were rattled between the fingers similar to spoons.

<sup>119</sup> "Provender": animal fodder.

<sup>120</sup> "bottle": bundle.



3204

BOTTOM

3205 I had rather have a handful or two of dried peas. But, I  
 3206 pray you, let none of your people stir me; I have an  
 3207 exposition of sleep come upon me.

3208

TITANIA

3209       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
 3210 Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms.  
 3211       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3212 Fairies be gone, and be always away.  
 3213       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3214 So doth the woodbine the sweet honeysuckle  
 3215       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -  
 3216 Gently entwist; the female ivy so  
 3217       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3218 Enrings the barky fingers of the elm.  
 3219       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3220 O, how I love thee! how I dote on thee!

3221

[Titania and Bottom sleep. Oberon steps  
 3222 forward as Puck enters.]

3223

OBERON

3224       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3225 Welcome good Robin. Seest thou this sweet sight?  
 3226       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3227 Her dotage now I do begin to pity;  
 3228       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3229 For, meeting her of late behind the wood,  
 3230       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3231 Seeking sweet savors for this hateful fool,  
 3232       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3233 I did upbraid her and fall out with her.  
 3234       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -  
 3235 For she his hairy temples then had rounded  
 3236       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       ^  
 3237 With coronet of fresh and fragrant flowers;  
 3238       ^       -       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -  
 3239 And that same dew which sometime on the buds  
 3240       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3241 Was wont to swell like round and orient pearls  
 3242       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
 3243 Stood now within the pretty flouriets'<sup>121</sup> eyes,

<sup>121</sup> "flouriets": flowerettes.

3244           -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       ^  
3245       Like tears that did their own disgrace bewail.  
3246       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
3247       When I had at my pleasure taunted her,  
3248       ^       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
3249       And she in mild terms begged my patience,  
3250       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
3251       I then did ask of her her changeling child;  
3252       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -  
3253       Which straight she gave me, and her fairy sent  
3254       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
3255       To bear him to my bower in fairy land.  
3256       -       ^       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -  
3257       And now I have the Boy, I will undo  
3258       -       -       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^  
3259       This hateful imperfection of her eyes.  
3260       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       -  
3261       And, gentle Puck, take this transforméd scalp  
3262       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
3263       From off the head of this Athenian swain,<sup>122</sup>  
3264       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
3265       That he awaking when the other do  
3266       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
3267       May all to Athens back again repair,  
3268       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
3269       And think no more of this night's accidents  
3270       -       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
3271       But as the fierce vexation of dream.  
3272       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
3273       But first I will release the Fairy Queen.  
3274       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
3275       Be thou as thou wast wont to be;  
3276       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
3277       See as thou wast wont to see.  
3278       -       -       ^       -       -       -       ^  
3279       Dian's bud, or Cupid's flower  
3280       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
3281       Hath such force and blessed power.  
3282       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^  
3283       Now, my Titania; wake you, my sweet Queen.

3284                                   TITANIA  
3285       -       -       -       ^       ^       -       -       -       -       ^  
3286       My Oberon! What visions have I seen!

<sup>122</sup> "swain": young lover.

3287           -      ^           -      -      -      -      -      ^           -      -      -      ^  
 3288           Me thought I was enamored of an ass!

3289    OBERON

3290           ^           -           -           ^  
 3291           There lies your love.

3292    TITANIA

3293   -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3294   How came these things to pass?

3295           ^      -      -      ^           -      ^           -      -      -      -      ^  
 3296           O, how mine eyes doth loath this visage now!

3297   OBERON

3298           -      ^           -      ^           -      ^           -      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3299           Silence awhile. Robin, take off his head.  
 3300           -      -      ^           -      -      ^           -      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3301           Titania, music call; and strike more dead  
 3302           -      -      -      -      ^      -      -      -      -      -      ^      -      -      ^  
 3303           Than common sleep of all these five the sense.

3304   TITANIA

3305           -      ^           ^      -      ^           -      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3306           Music, ho, music, such as charmeth sleep!

3307   *[Puck removes the ass head from Bottom.]*

3308   PUCK

3309           ^      -      -      ^           -      -      ^      -      -      ^      -      ^      ^  
 3310           Now when thou wak'st with thine own fool's eyes peep.

3311   OBERON

3312           ^           -      ^           ^           -      ^           -      -      -      -      ^  
 3313           Sound, music. Come, my Queen, take hands with me,  
 3314           -      -      -      -      ^      -      ^      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3315           And rock the ground whereon these sleepers be.  
 3316           ^           -      -      ^      -      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3317           Now thou and I are new in amity,  
 3318           -      ^           -      -      -      -      -      ^      -      -      -      ^  
 3319           And will tomorrow midnight solemnly  
 3320           ^           -      -      -      -      ^      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3321           Dance in Duke Theseus' house triumphantly,  
 3322           -      -      ^      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      ^  
 3323           And bless it to all fair posterity.  
 3324           ^           -      -      ^      -      -      -      -      -      -      ^      -      ^  
 3325           There shall the pairs of faithful lovers be

3326 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3327 Wedded, with Theseus, an in jollity.

3328

PUCK

3329 - - ^ - - - ^  
 3330 Fairie King, attend and mark;  
 3331 - - ^ - - - ^  
 3332 I do hear the morning Lark!

3333

OBERON

3334 ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
 3335 Then, my Queen, in silence sad,  
 3336 - ^ - - - ^  
 3337 Trip we after the night's shade.  
 3338 ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 3339 We the Globe can compass soon,  
 3340 - ^ - - - ^  
 3341 Swifter than the wand'ring Moon.

3342

TITANIA

3343 ^ - - ^ - - ^  
 3344 Come, my Lord; and in our flight,  
 3345 - - ^ - - -  
 3346 Tell me how it came this night  
 3347 ^ ^ - - ^ - -  
 3348 That I sleeping here was found  
 3349 - - - ^ - - ^  
 3350 With these mortals on the ground.

3351

[Oberon and Titania exit with Puck and the  
 3352 other fairies. Bottom awakens.]

3353

BOTTOM

3354 When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer:- my next is,  
 3355 "Most fair Pyramus."- Hey, ho!- Peter Quince! Flute, the  
 3356 bellows-mender! Snout, the tinker! Starveling! God's my  
 3357 life! stolen hence, and left me asleep! I have had a most  
 3358 rare vision. I had a dream,- past the wit of man to say  
 3359 what dream it was:- Man is but an Ass, if he go about to  
 3360 expound this dream. Methought I was-there is no man can  
 3361 tell what. Methought I was, and methought I had-but man is  
 3362 but a patched fool, if he will offer to say, what methought  
 3363 I had. The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath  
 3364 not seen, man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to  
 3365 conceive, nor his heart to report, what my dream was. I  
 3366 will get Peter Quince to write a ballet of this dream: it  
 3367 shall be called Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom;

3368           and I will sing it in the latter end of a play, before the  
3369           Duke. Peradventure, to make it the more gracious, I shall  
3370           sing it at her death.

3371

*[Bottom exits.]*

3372

## ACT IV. SCENE 2.

3373

3374

[*Quince, Flute, Snout, and Starveling  
enter.*]

3375

QUINCE

3376

Have you sent to Bottom's house? Is he come home yet?

3377

STARVELING

3378

He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt he is transported.<sup>123</sup>

3379

FLUTE

3380

3381

If he come not, then the play is marred; it goes not  
forward, doth it?

3382

QUINCE

3383

3384

It is not possible: you have not a man in all Athens able  
to discharge Pyramus, but he.

3385

FLUTE

3386

3387

No: he hath simply the best wit of any handy-craftman in  
Athens.

3388

QUINCE

3389

3390

Yea, and the best person too: And he is a very paramour<sup>124</sup>  
for a sweet voice.

3391

FLUTE

3392

3393

You must say paragon: a paramour is, God bless us! a thing  
of naught.

3394

[*Snug enters.*]

3395

SNUG

3396

3397

3398

Masters, the Duke is coming from the temple, and there is  
two or three Lords and Ladies more married. If our sport  
had gone forward, we had all been made men.

3399

FLUTE

3400

3401

O, sweet bully Bottom! Thus hath he lost sixpence a day  
during his life; he could not have 'scaped sixpence a day:

<sup>123</sup> "transported": kidnapped by the fairies.

<sup>124</sup> "paramour": a mistress, or extramarital lover.

3402 an the Duke had not given him sixpence a day for playing  
 3403 Pyramus, I'll be hanged; he would have deserved it:  
 3404 sixpence a day in Pyramus, or nothing!

3405 *[Bottom enters.]*

3406 BOTTOM  
 3407 Where are these lads? Where are these hearts?

3408 QUINCE  
 3409 Bottom!— O most courageous day! O most happy hour!

3410 BOTTOM  
 3411 Masters, I am to discourse wonders: but ask me not what;  
 3412 for if I tell you, I am no true Athenian. I will tell you  
 3413 everything, right as it fell out.

3414 QUINCE  
 3415 Let us hear, sweet Bottom.

3416 BOTTOM  
 3417 Not a word of me. All that I will tell you, is that the  
 3418 Duke hath dined. Get your apparel together; good strings to  
 3419 your beards, new ribbands<sup>125</sup> to your pumps; meet presently at  
 3420 the palace, every man look o'er his part; for the short and  
 3421 the long is, our play is preferred!<sup>126</sup> In any case, let  
 3422 Thisby have clean linen; and let not him that plays the  
 3423 Lion pare his nails, for they shall hang out for the Lion's  
 3424 claws. And, most dear actors, eat no onions, nor garlic,  
 3425 for we are to utter sweet breath; and I do not doubt but to  
 3426 hear them say it is a sweet comedy. No more words; away;  
 3427 go, away!

3428 *[All exit.]*

---

<sup>125</sup> "ribbands": ribbons;

<sup>126</sup> "preferred": recommended, or more likely on the program for performance.

3429

## ACT IV SCENE 3

3430

*[The sound of trumpets from without. Theseus*

3431

*and Hippolyta enter followed by Egeus and*

3432

*the royal train.]*

3433

THESEUS

3434

^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Go one of you – find out the Forester;

3435

3436

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 For now our observation is performed,

3437

3438

^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 And since we have the vaward<sup>127</sup> of the day,

3439

3440

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 My Love shall hear the music of my hounds.

3441

3442

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 Uncouple in the Western valley; let them go.

3443

3444

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 Dispatch I say, and find the Forester.

3445

3446

*[An Attendant exits.]*

3447

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 We will, fair Queen, up to the Mountain's top

3448

3449

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 And mark the musical confusion

3450

3451

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 Of hounds and echo in conjunction.

3451

3452

3453

HIPPOLYTA

3454

^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 I was with Hercules and Cadmus once

3455

3456

- - - - - ^ - - - - -  
 When in a wood of Crete they bayed the Bear

3456

3457

3458

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 With hounds of Sparta; never did I hear

3458

3459

3460

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Such gallant chiding, for, besides the groves,

3459

3460

3461

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 The skies, the fountains, every region near

3461

3462

3463

- ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 Seemed all one mutual cry. I never heard

3462

3463

3464

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 So musical a discord, such sweet thunder.

3464

3465

3466

3467

<sup>127</sup> "vaward": lit, vanguard, meaning the beginning of the day.



3468

THESEUS

3469

- ^ - - - - - ^ ^  
 My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind,

3471

- ^ - - - - - ^ - -  
 So flewed,<sup>128</sup> so sanded;<sup>129</sup> and their heads are hung

3473

- ^ - - - - - ^  
 With ears that sweep away the morning dew;

3475

- ^ - - - - - ^  
 Crook-kneed and dew-lapped like Thessalian bulls;

3477

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Slow in pursuit, but matched in mouth like bells,

3479

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Each under each.<sup>130</sup> A cry more tunable

3481

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Was never holla'd to, nor cheered with horn

3483

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 In Crete, in Sparta, nor in Thessaly.

3485

^ - - - - - ^ ^ ^ - - - - - ^  
 Judge when you hear. But, soft, What nymphs are these?

3486

3487

EGEUS

3488

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 My Lord, this is my daughter here asleep,

3490

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 And this Lysander, this Demetrius is,

3492

^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 This Helena, old Nedar's Helena.

3494

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 I wonder of their being here together.

3495

3496

THESEUS

3497

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 No doubt they rose up early to observe

3498

3499

- - - - - ^ ^ - - - - - ^  
 The right of May; and, hearing our intent,

3500

3501

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 Came here in grace of our solemnity.

3502

3503

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 But speak, Egeus; is not this the day

3504

3505

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 That Hermia should give answer of her choice?

3506

<sup>128</sup> "flewed": having draping jowls.

<sup>129</sup> "sanded": sandy colored.

<sup>130</sup> "match'd in mouth...each under each.": The hounds have perfect pitch like a tuned set of bells.

3507

EGEUS

3508

- ^ - ^  
It is, my Lord.

3509

3510

THESEUS

3511

^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
Go bid the huntsmen wake them with their horns.

3512

3513

*[Horns are played. The lovers wake.]*

3514

THESEUS

3515

- - - ^ - - - - - - - ^  
Good-morrow, friends. Saint Valentine<sup>131</sup> is past;

3516

3517

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
Begin these wood-birds but to couple now?

3518

3519

LYSANDER

3520

- ^ - ^  
Pardon, my Lord.

3521

3522

THESEUS

3523

- - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
I pray you all, stand up.

3524

3525

- ^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
I know you two are rival enemies;

3526

3527

- - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
How comes this gentle concord in the world

3528

3529

- - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
That hatred is so far from jealousy

3530

3531

- - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
To sleep by hate, and fear no enmity?

3532

3533

LYSANDER

3534

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
My Lord, I shall reply amazedly,

3535

3536

- - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
Half sleep, half waking; but as yet, I swear,

3537

3538

- - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
I cannot truly say how I came here,

3539

3540

^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
But, as I think— for truly would I speak,

3541

3542

- ^ - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
And now I do bethink me, so it is—

3543

<sup>131</sup> "Saint Valentine is past": A Medieval belief held that songbirds chose their mates on Valentine's day.

3544  
 3545 I came with Hermia hither. Our intent  
 3546  
 3547 Was to be gone from Athens, where we might,  
 3548  
 3549 Without the peril of the Athenian Law—

## EGEUS

3550  
 3551  
 3552 Enough, enough, my Lord; you have enough;  
 3553  
 3554 I beg the Law, the Law upon his head.  
 3555  
 3556 They would have stol'n away, they would, Demetrius,  
 3557  
 3558 Thereby to have defeated you and me:  
 3559  
 3560 You of your wife, and me of my consent,  
 3561  
 3562 Of my consent that she should be your wife.

## DEMETRIUS

3563  
 3564  
 3565 My Lord, fair Helen told me of their stealth,  
 3566  
 3567 Of this their purpose hither to this wood:  
 3568  
 3569 And I in fury hither followed them,  
 3570  
 3571 Fair Helena in fancy following me.  
 3572  
 3573 But, my good Lord, I wot not by what power—  
 3574  
 3575 But by some power it is— my love to Hermia,  
 3576  
 3577 Melted as the snow, seems to me now  
 3578  
 3579 As the remembrance of an idle gaud<sup>132</sup>  
 3580  
 3581 Which in my childhood I did dote upon;  
 3582  
 3583 And all the faith, the virtue of my heart,  
 3584  
 3585 The object and the pleasure of mine eye,

<sup>132</sup> "idel gaude": some interpret this as a useless trinket. More likely a timewasting amusement.

3586           -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   ^   -   ^  
 3587           Is only Helena. To her, my Lord,  
 3588           -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 3589           Was I betrothed, ere I saw Hermia.  
 3590           ^           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3591           But, like a sickness, did I loathe this food;  
 3592           ^   -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 3593           But, as in health, come to my natural taste,  
 3594           ^   -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 3595           Now do I wish it, love it, long for it,  
 3596           -   ^   -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   ^  
 3597           And will for evermore be true to it.

3598   THESEUS

3599           -   -   ^           -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 3600           Fair Lovers, you are fortunately met;  
 3601           -   -   -   ^           -   -   -   -   -   ^   -   ^  
 3602           Of this discourse we shall hear more anon.  
 3603           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3604           Egeus, I will overbear your will;  
 3605           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3606           For in the Temple, by and by, with us  
 3607           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3608           These couples shall eternally be knit.  
 3609           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3610           And, for the morning now is something worn,  
 3611           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3612           Our purposed hunting shall be set aside.  
 3613           -   ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3614           Away with us to Athens, three and three;  
 3615           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3616           We'll hold a feast in great solemnity.  
 3617           ^           -   -   -   -   ^  
 3618           Come, Hippolyta.

3619   *[Theseus, Egeus, and Hippolyta exit with*  
 3620   *their retinue.]*

3621   DEMETRIUS

3622           -           ^           -           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 3623           These things seem small and undistinguishable,  
 3624           -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^           ^  
 3625           Like far off mountains turned into clouds.

3626 HERMIA  
 3627 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3628 Methinks I see these things with parted eye,<sup>133</sup>  
 3629 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3630 When every thing seems double.

3631 HELENA  
 3632 - - - ^  
 3633 So methinks;  
 3634 ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3635 And I have found Demetrius like a jewel,  
 3636 - ^ - - - ^  
 3637 Mine own, and not mine own.

3638 DEMETRIUS  
 3639 - - -  
 3640 Are you sure  
 3641 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3642 That we are awake? It seems to me  
 3643 ^ ^ - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3644 That yet we sleep, we dream. Do not you think  
 3645 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3646 The Duke was here, and bid us follow him?

3647 HERMIA  
 3648 ^ - - - ^  
 3649 Yea. And my Father.

3650 HELENA  
 3651 - - - - ^  
 3652 And Hippolyta.

3653 LYSANDER  
 3654 ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3655 And he did bid us follow to the Temple.

3656 DEMETRIUS  
 3657 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3658 Why, then we are awake; Let's follow him;  
 3659 ^ - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3660 And by the way let us recount our dreams.

3661 *[Hermia, Lysander, Helena and Demetrius exit]*

<sup>133</sup> "parted eye": newly woken, out of focus.

3662

ACT V. SCENE 1.

3663

*[Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, and Lords.]*

3664

HIPPOLYTA

3665

3666

'Tis strange, my Theseus, that these lovers speak of.

3667

THESEUS

3668

3669

More strange than true. I never may believe

3670

3671

These antic<sup>134</sup> fables, nor these Fairy toys.<sup>135</sup>

3672

3673

Lovers and madmen have such seething brains,

3674

3675

Such shaping phantasies, that apprehend

3676

3677

More than cool reason ever comprehends.

3678

3679

The lunatic, the lover, and the poet,

3680

3681

Are of imagination all compact.

3682

3683

One sees more devils than vast hell can hold—

3684

3685

That is the madman: the lover, all as frantic,

3686

3687

Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt:

3688

3689

The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,

3690

3691

Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven,

3692

3693

And, as imagination bodies forth

3694

3695

The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen

3696

3697

Turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing

3698

3699

A local habitation and a name.

<sup>134</sup> antic: in some versions, antique; a double-play on meaning either old or unbelievable.

<sup>135</sup> toys: shortening of "stories"







3782            - ^ - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 3783            When I from Thebes came last a conqueror.  
 3784            - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ -  
 3785            "The thrice three Muses mourning for the death  
 3786            - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 3787            Of learning, late deceased in beggary."  
 3788            ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - -  
 3789            That is some satire, keen and critical,  
 3790            - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3791            Not sorting with a nuptial ceremony.  
 3792            - - - ^ - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 3793            "A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus  
 3794            - - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 3795            And his love Thisby; very tragical mirth."  
 3796            - ^ ^ - - - ^ - - ^ - ^  
 3797            Merry and tragical! tedious, and brief!  
 3798            - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^ - - ^ - ^  
 3799            That is hot ice and wondrous strange snow.  
 3800            - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3801            How shall we find the concord of this discord?

3802    PHILOSTRATE

3803            - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 3804            A play there is, my Lord, some ten words long,  
 3805            - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3806            Which is as brief as I have known a play;  
 3807            ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3808            But by ten words, my Lord, it is too long,  
 3809            - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3810            Which makes it tedious; for in all the play  
 3811            - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3812            There is not one word apt, one player fitted.  
 3813            - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3814            And tragical, my noble Lord, it is;  
 3815            - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3816            For Pyramus therein doth kill himself.  
 3817            ^ - - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3818            Which when I saw rehearsed, I must confess,  
 3819            - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3820            Made mine eyes water; but more merry tears  
 3821            - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3822            The passion of loud laughter never shed.

3823    THESEUS

3824            - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3825            What are they that do play it?

3826 PHILOSTRATE  
 3827 - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3828 Hard-handed men that work in Athens here,  
 3829 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3830 Which never labored in their minds till now;  
 3831 - ^ - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3832 And now have toiled their unbreathed memories  
 3833 - - - ^ - ^ - - - - ^  
 3834 With this same play against your nuptial.

3835 THESEUS  
 3836 - ^ ^ - ^  
 3837 And we will hear it.

3838 PHILOSTRATE  
 3839 ^ - - - ^  
 3840 No my noble Lord,  
 3841 - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 3842 It is not for you. I have heard it over,  
 3843 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3844 And it is nothing, nothing in the world;  
 3845 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3846 Unless you can find sport in their intents,  
 3847 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 3848 Extremely stretched and conned<sup>136</sup> with cruel pain,  
 3849 - - - ^  
 3850 To do you service.

3851 THESEUS  
 3852 - ^ - - - ^  
 3853 I will hear that play.  
 3854 - - ^ - - - ^  
 3855 For never anything can be amiss  
 3856 - - - ^ - ^ - - - ^  
 3857 When simpleness and duty tender it.  
 3858 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3859 Go, bring them in; and take your places, Ladies.

3860 HIPPOLYTA  
 3861 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3862 I love not to see wretchedness o'er-charged,  
 3863 - - ^ - - - ^  
 3864 And duty in his service perishing.

<sup>136</sup> "conned": memorized.

3865 THESEUS  
 3866 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ ^ ^ ^  
 3867 Why, gentle sweet, you shall see no such thing.

3868 HIPPOLYTA  
 3869 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3870 He says they can do nothing in this kind.

3871 THESEUS  
 3872 - ^ ^ - - - - ^ - - ^  
 3873 The kinder we, to give them thanks for nothing.  
 3874 - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ ^ ^  
 3875 Our sport shall be to take what they mis-take;  
 3876 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3877 And what poor duty cannot do, noble respect  
 3878 - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3879 Takes it in might, not merit.  
 3880 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3881 Where I have come, great clerks have purposéd  
 3882 - - - ^ - - - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3883 To greet me with premeditated welcomes;  
 3884 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3885 Where I have seen them shiver and look pale,  
 3886 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3887 Make periods in the midst of sentences,  
 3888 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3889 Throttle their practiced accent in their fears,  
 3890 ^ - - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3891 And, in conclusion, dumbly have broke off,  
 3892 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3893 Not paying me a welcome. Trust me, sweet,  
 3894 - - - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3895 Out of this silence yet I picked a welcome;  
 3896 ^ - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
 3897 And in the modesty of fearful duty  
 3898 - - - ^ ^ - - - - - ^  
 3899 I read as much as from the rattling tongue  
 3900 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3901 Of saucy and audacious eloquence.  
 3902 ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3903 Love, therefore, and tongue-tied simplicity  
 3904 - - - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
 3905 In least speak most to my capacity.

3906 PHILOSTRATE  
 3907 - ^ - - - ^ - - - - - ^  
 3908 So please your Grace, the Prologue is addressed.

3909

THESEUS

3910

- - - ^  
Let him approach.

3911

3912

[A flourish of trumpets is heard. Quince

3913

enters with scroll.]

3914

QUINCE (PROLOGUE)

3915

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
If we offend it is with our good will.

3916

3917

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
That you should think, we come not to offend,

3918

3919

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
But with good will. To show our simple skill,

3920

3921

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
That is the true beginning of our end.

3922

3923

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
Consider then, we come but in despite.

3924

3925

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ -  
We do not come, as minding to content you.

3926

3927

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
Our true intent is. All for your delight,

3928

3929

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
We are not here. That you should here repent you,

3930

3931

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
The Actors are at hand; and, by their show,

3932

3933

- - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^  
You shall know all, that you are like to know.

3934

3935

THESEUS

3936

This fellow doth not stand upon points.

3937

LYSANDER

3938

He hath rid<sup>137</sup> his Prologue, like a rough Colt; He knows not

3939

the stop. A good moral my lord: It is not enough to speak,

3940

but to speak true.

3941

HIPPOLYTA

3942

Indeed he hath played on this Prologue Like a child on a

3943

recorder— a sound, but not in government.

<sup>137</sup> "rid": pun meaning read and ridden.

3944

## THESEUS

3945

His speech was like a tangled chain; nothing impaired, but

3946

all disordered. Who is next?

3947

*[A Trumpet flourishes. Bottom, Flute, Snout,*

3948

*Snug and Starveling enter and perform a*

3949

*dumb-show as Quince speaks the Prologue.]*

3950

## QUINCE (PROLOGUE)

3951

- ^ - ^ - - ^ - ^ ^  
 Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show;

3952

3953

^ - ^ ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 But wonder on, till truth make all things plain.

3954

3955

- ^ - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 This man is Pyramus, if you would know;

3956

3957

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 This beauteous Lady, Thisby is certain.

3958

3959

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 This man, with lime and rough-cast, doth present

3960

3961

^ - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 Wall, that vile wall, which did these lovers sunder;

3962

3963

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 And through wall's chink, poor souls, they are content

3964

3965

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 To whisper. At the which, let no man wonder.

3966

3967

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 This man, with lanthorne<sup>138</sup>, dog, and bush of thorn,

3968

3969

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 Presenteth Moonshine; for, if you will know,

3970

3971

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 By moonshine did these lovers think no scorn

3972

3973

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 To meet at Ninus' tomb, there, there to woo.

3974

3975

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 This grizzly beast, which Lion hight<sup>139</sup> by name,

3976

3977

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 The trusty Thisby, coming first by night,

3978

3979

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 Did scare away, or rather did affright;

3980

3981

- ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 And as she fled, her mantle she did fall;

3982

3983

- - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
 Which Lion vile with bloody mouth did stain.

3984

<sup>138</sup> "lanthorne": lantern.

<sup>139</sup> "hight": is called.

3985                   - ^ - - ^ - ^ - ^  
3986           Anon comes Pyramus, sweet youth and tall,  
3987                   - ^ - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
3988           And finds his trusty Thisby's mantle slain;  
3989                   - ^ - - ^ - ^ - ^ - ^  
3990           Whereat with blade, with bloody blameful blade,  
3991                   - - ^ ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
3992           He bravely broached his boiling bloody breast;  
3993                   - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
3994           And Thisby, tarrying in Mulberry shade,  
3995                   - - ^ ^ - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
3996           His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,  
3997                   - - ^ - - ^ - - - ^ ^  
3998           Let Lion, Moonshine, Wall, and lovers twain,  
3999                   - ^ - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
4000           At large discourse, while here they do remain.

4001   *[Bottom, Flute, Snug, Starveling and Quince*  
4002   *exit.]*

4003   THESEUS

4004           I wonder if the Lion be to speak.

4005   DEMETRIUS

4006           No wonder, my Lord: one Lion may, when many Asses do.

4007   SNOUT (WALL)

4008                   - - - - ^ - - - ^  
4009           In this same Interlude, it doth befall  
4010                   - ^ - - ^ - ^ - - ^ ^  
4011           That I, one Snout by name, present a wall;  
4012                   - - - - - ^  
4013           And such a wall as I would have you think  
4014                   - - - - - ^  
4015           That had in it a crannied hole or chink,  
4016                   - - - - ^ - - - - ^  
4017           Through which the lovers, Pyramus and Thisby,  
4018                   - - - - - ^  
4019           Did whisper often very secretly.  
4020                   - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^ - - ^  
4021           This loam, this rough-cast, and this stone, doth show,  
4022                   - - - - - ^ - - - ^  
4023           That I am that same Wall: the truth is so;  
4024                   - ^ - - - ^ - - - ^  
4025           And this the cranny is, right and sinister,  
4026                   - - - - - ^  
4027           Through which the fearful lovers are to whisper.

4028

THESEUS

4029

Would you desire lime and hair to speak better?

4030

DEMETRIUS

4031

It is the wittiest partition that ever I heard discourse,  
4032 my Lord.

4033

THESEUS

4034

Pyramus draws near the Wall, silence.

4035

*[Bottom enters.]*

4036

BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)

4037

^ \_ ^ ^ ^ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 O grim-looking night! O night with hue so black!

4039

^ ^ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 O night, which ever art when day is not!

4040

4041

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^  
 O night, O night, alack, alack, alack,

4042

4043

\_ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 I fear my Thisby's promise is forgot!

4044

4045

\_ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 And thou, O wall, O sweet, O lovely wall,

4046

4047

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 That stand'st between her father's ground and mine;

4048

4049

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 Thou wall, O wall, O sweet and lovely wall,

4050

4051

\_ ^ ^ \_ \_ ^ ^ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 Shew<sup>140</sup> me thy chink, to blink through with mine eyne.<sup>141</sup>

4052

4053

^ \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 Thanks, courteous wall. Jove shield thee well for this!

4054

4055

^ \_ \_ ^ ^ \_ \_ \_ ^  
 But what see I? No Thisby do I see.

4056

4057

^ \_ ^ ^ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^ ^  
 O wicked wall, through whom I see no bliss,

4058

4059

^ \_ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^ \_ \_ ^  
 Cursed be thy stones for thus deceiving me!

4060

4061

THESEUS

4062

The wall, methinks, being sensible, should curse again.

---

<sup>140</sup> "Shew": show.

<sup>141</sup> "eyne": eyes.

4063

BOTTOM

4064 No, in truth, sir, he should not. "Deceiving me" is  
 4065 Thisby's cue. She is to enter now, and I am to spy her  
 4066 through the wall. You shall see it will fall pat as I told  
 4067 you; yonder she comes... Yonder she comes... Yonder she comes!

4068

*[Flute enters.]*

4069

FLUTE (THISBY)

4070

4071 O wall, full often hast thou heard my moans,  
 4072

4073

4073 For parting my faire Pyramus and me!  
 4074

4075

4075 My cherry lips have often kissed thy stones,  
 4076

4077

4077 Thy stones with Lime and Hair knit up in thee.

4078

BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)

4079

4079 I see a voice; now will I to the chink,  
 4081

4082

4082 To spy an<sup>142</sup> I can hear my Thisby's face.  
 4083

4084

4084 Thisby!

4085

FLUTE (THISBY)

4086

4086 My Love! Thou art my Love, I think.

4088

BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)

4089

4089 Think what thou wilt, I am thy Lover's grace;  
 4091

4092

4092 And like Limander<sup>143</sup> am I trusty still.

4093

FLUTE (THISBY)

4094

4094 And I like Helen,<sup>144</sup> till the Fates me kill.

4095

<sup>142</sup> "an": if.

<sup>143</sup> "Limander": some interpretations interpret this as being a misspeak for Leander.

<sup>144</sup> "Helen": just as Limander is a misspeak for Leander, Helen in this case is a misspeak for Helen. The tale of Helen and Leander is a tragic Greek myth in which Leander, as suitor for Helen, swims across the Hellespont every night to



4096                                   BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)  
 4097                   -   -   -   ^   -   -   ^   -   -   ^  
 4098                   Not Shafalus to Procrus<sup>145</sup> was so true.

4099                                   FLUTE (THISBY)  
 4100                   -           ^   -   ^   -           ^   -           ^  
 4101                   As Shafalus to Procrus, I to you.<sup>146</sup>

4102                                   BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)  
 4103                   ^   ^   ^   -           -   ^   -   -   ^   ^  
 4104                   O, kiss me through the hole of this vile wall.

4105                                   FLUTE (THISBY)  
 4106                   -   ^           -   ^           ^           ^   -           ^   -   ^  
 4107                   I kiss the wall's hole, not your lips at all.

4108                                   BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)  
 4109                   -           ^   -   -   -           ^   -   -   -           ^  
 4110                   Wilt thou at Ninny's tomb meet me straightway?

4111                                   QUINCE  
 4112                   Ninus!

4113                                   FLUTE (THISBY)  
 4114                   -           ^   -           ^   -           ^   -           ^   -   ^  
 4115                   Tide life, tide death, I come without delay.

4116   *[Bottom and Flute exit in opposite*  
 4117   *directions.]*

4118                                   SNOUT (WALL)  
 4119                   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4120                   Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so;  
 4121                   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4122                   And, being done, thus Wall away doth go.

4123   *[Snout exits.]*

---

Aphrodite's temple to worship the virginal Helen until a storm blows out her lantern and he is lost at sea. She throws herself into the ocean out of sorrow.

<sup>145</sup> "Shafalus to Procrus": Another misspeak, this time for Cephalus and Procris, a mythological couple who were founding figures of Athens.

<sup>146</sup> The humor here is Flute comparing the couple by swapping the sexes: Cephalus was the husband and Procris the wife.

4124 THESEUS  
4125 Now is the mural down between the two neighbors.

4126 DEMETRIUS  
4127 No remedy my Lord, when Walls are so willful to hear  
4128 without warning.

4129 HIPPOLYTA  
4130 This is the silliest stuff that e'er I heard!

4131 THESEUS  
4132 The best in this kind are but shadows; and the worst are no  
4133 worse, if imagination amend them.

4134 HIPPOLYTA  
4135 It must be your imagination then, and not theirs.

4136 THESEUS  
4137 If we imagine no worse of them than they of themselves,  
4138 they may pass for excellent men. Here come two noble beasts  
4139 in, a man and a Lion.

4140 *[Snug and Starveling enter.]*

4141 SNUG (LION)  
4142       ^   -   ^       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
4143 You, Ladies, you, whose gentle hearts do fear  
4144       -       -       ^       -       ^       ^       -       ^       -       ^  
4145 The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor,  
4146       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
4147 May, now perchance, both quake and tremble here,  
4148       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
4149 When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.  
4150       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       ^       -  
4151 Then know that I one Snug the Joiner am  
4152       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
4153 A lion fell, nor else no Lion's dam;<sup>147</sup>  
4154       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       ^       -       -       -  
4155 For, if I should as Lion come in strife  
4156       -       -       -       ^       -       -       -       -       -       ^  
4157 Into this place, 'twere pity of my life.

<sup>147</sup> "one Snug the Joiner...no Lion's dam": interpreted as "Only I, Snug, play a lion, not a lioness."

4158 THESEUS  
4159 A very gentle beast, and of good conscience.

4160 DEMETRIUS  
4161 The very best at a beast, my Lord, that e'er I saw.

4162 LYSANDER  
4163 This Lion is a very Fox for his valor.

4164 THESEUS  
4165 True; and a Goose for his discretion.

4166 DEMETRIUS  
4167 Not so, my Lord; for his valor cannot carry his discretion,  
4168 and the fox carries the Goose.

4169 THESEUS  
4170 His discretion, I am sure, cannot carry his valor; for the  
4171 Goose carries not the Fox. It is well. Leave it to his  
4172 discretion, and let us hearken to the Moon.

4173 STARVELING (MOON)  
4174 - - ^ - - - ^ ^ - ^  
4175 This lanthorn doth the hornéd moon present—

4176 DEMETRIUS  
4177 He should have worn the horns on his head.

4178 THESEUS  
4179 He is no crescent, and his horns are invisible within the  
4180 circumference

4181 STARVELING (MOON)  
4182 - - ^ - - - ^ ^ - ^  
4183 This lanthorn doth the hornéd moon present;  
4184 - ^ - ^ - - - - ^  
4185 Myself, the Man i' the Moon do seem to be—

4186 THESEUS  
4187 This is the greatest error of all the rest; the man should  
4188 be put into the lantern. How is it else the man i' the  
4189 moon?

4190 DEMETRIUS  
 4191 He dares not come there for the candle; for, you see, it is  
 4192 already in snuff.

4193 HIPPOLYTA  
 4194 I am weary of this Moon. Would he would change!

4195 THESEUS  
 4196 It appears, by his small light of discretion, that he is in  
 4197 the wane; but yet, in courtesy, in all reason, we must stay  
 4198 the time.

4199 LYSANDER  
 4200 Proceed, Moon.

4201 STARVELING (MOON)  
 4202 All that I have to say is to tell you that the Lanthorn is  
 4203 the Moon; I, the man i' th' Moon; this thorn-bush; my  
 4204 thorn-bush; and this dog, my dog.

4205 DEMETRIUS  
 4206 Why all these should be in the lantern; for all these are  
 4207 in the Moon. But silence; here comes Thisby.

4208 *[Flute enters.]*

4209 FLUTE (THISBY)  
 4210       - ^ - ^ - ^  
 4211       This is old Ninny's tomb.

4212 QUINCE  
 4213 Ninus!

4214 FLUTE (THISBY)  
 4215       - ^ - ^  
 4216       Where is my love?

4217 SNUG (LION)  
 4218 Oh.

4219 *[Snug roars, Flute runs off, dropping a*  
 4220 *handkercheif.]*

4221 DEMETRIUS  
 4222 Well roared, Lion.

4223 THESEUS  
 4224 Well run, Thisby.

4225 HIPPOLYTA  
 4226 Well shone, Moon. Truly the Moon shines with a good grace.  
 4227 *[Snug picks up the handkerchief in his mouth*  
 4228 *and mangles it.]*

4229 THESEUS  
 4230 Well moused,<sup>148</sup> Lion.  
 4231 *[Snug exits as Bottom enters.]*

4232 DEMETRIUS  
 4233 And then came Pyramus.

4234 LYSANDER  
 4235 And so the lion vanished.

4236 BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)  
 4237       -       ^       -       ^       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
 4238 Sweet Moon, I thank thee for thy sunny beams;  
 4239       -       ^       ^       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^  
 4240 I thank thee, Moon, for shining now so bright;  
 4241       ^       -       -       ^       -       ^       -       -       ^       ^  
 4242 For, by thy gracious golden, glittering gleams,  
 4243       -       ^       -       ^       -       ^       -       ^       ^  
 4244 I trust to take of truest Thisby sight.  
 4245       -       ^       ^       ^  
 4246 But stay, O spite!  
 4247       -       ^       -       ^  
 4248 But mark, poor Knight,  
 4249       -       -       -       ^       ^       ^  
 4250 What dreadful dole is here!  
 4251       ^       -       -       ^  
 4252 Eyes, do you see?  
 4253       -       -       -       ^  
 4254 How can it be?  
 4255       ^       -       ^       ^       ^  
 4256 O dainty Duck! O Dear!  
 4257       -       -       ^       ^  
 4258 Thy mantle good,

<sup>148</sup> "moused": to tear apart, as a cat with a mouse.

4259                   ^           ^           -           ^  
 4260           What! stain'd with blood?  
 4261           -           ^           -           -           ^           ^  
 4262           Approach, ye furies fell.  
 4263           ^           ^           ^           ^  
 4264           O Fates! come, come;  
 4265           -           ^           -           ^           ^  
 4266           Cut thread and thrum,<sup>149</sup>  
 4267           ^           ^           -           ^           -           ^           ^  
 4268           Quail, crush, conclude, and quell.

4269   THESEUS  
 4270           This passion, and the death of a dear friend, would go near  
 4271           to make a man look sad.

4272   HIPPOLYTA  
 4273           Beshrew my heart, but I pity the man.

4274   BOTTOM (PYRAMUS)  
 4275           ^           -           -           -           ^           -           ^           --           ^  
 4276           O wherefore Nature, did'st thou lions frame?  
 4277           -           -           ^           -           -           -           -           -           ^  
 4278           Since lion vile hath here deflowered my dear;  
 4279           -           ^           ^           ^           -           ^           -           -           -           ^  
 4280           Which is— no, no— which was the fairest dame  
 4281           -           ^           -           ^           -           ^           -           -           ^  
 4282           That lived, that loved, that liked, that looked  
 4283   -           ^  
 4284   with cheer.  
 4285           ^           ^           -           ^  
 4286           Come, tears, confound;  
 4287           ^           ^           -           ^  
 4288           Out, sword, and wound  
 4289           -           ^           -           -           -           ^  
 4290           The pap of Pyramus;  
 4291           ^           -           -           ^  
 4292           Aye, that left pap,  
 4293           -           ^           -           ^  
 4294           Where heart doth hop.  
 4295           ^           -           ^  
 4296           Thus die I,  
 4297           ^           ^           ^  
 4298           Thus, thus, thus.

<sup>149</sup> "thread and thrum": the warp and weave of fabric, here in metaphor to the Fates spinning, weaving, and cutting the threads of life.

4299           ^   -   -   ^  
 4300           Now am I dead,  
 4301           ^   -   -   ^  
 4302           Now am I fled;  
 4303           -   ^   -   -   -   ^  
 4304           My soul is in the sky.  
 4305           ^           -           -           ^  
 4306           Tongue, lose thy light;  
 4307           ^           -           -           ^  
 4308           Moon, take thy flight.

4309 *[Starveling exits.]*

4310 BOTTOM (CONT.)

4311           -   ^   ^   ^   ^   ^  
 4312           Now die, die, die, die, die.

4313 DEMETRIUS

4314           No die, but an ace, for him; for he is but one.

4315 LYSANDER

4316           Less than an ace, man; for he is dead; he is nothing.

4317 THESEUS

4318           With the help of a surgeon he might yet recover and prove  
 4319           an ass.<sup>150</sup>

4320 HIPPOLYTA

4321           How chance Moonshine is gone before Thisby comes back and  
 4322           finds her lover?

4323 THESEUS

4324           She will find him by starlight. Here she comes; and her  
 4325           passion ends the play.

4326 *[Flute enters.]*

4327 HIPPOLYTA

4328           Methinks she should not use a long one for such a Pyramus;  
 4329           I hope she will be brief.

<sup>150</sup> "prove an Ass": This is a pun on the word "ace".

4330

DEMETRIUS

4331

4332 A mote will turn the balance, which Pyramus, which Thisby  
4333 is the better— he for a man, God warrant us; she for a  
woman, God bless us!

4334

LYSANDER

4335

She hath spied him already, with those sweet eyes.

4336

DEMETRIUS

4337

And thus she means,<sup>151</sup> videlicet;—<sup>152</sup>

4338

FLUTE

4339

— ^ — ^  
Asleep, my Love?

4340

4341

— ^ — ^  
What, dead, my Dove?

4342

4343

— ^ — ^ — ^  
O Pyramus, arise,

4344

4345

— ^ — ^ — ^  
Speak, speak. Quite dumb?

4346

4347

— ^ — ^ — ^  
Dead, dead? A tomb

4348

4349

— ^ — ^ — ^ — ^  
Must cover thy sweet eyes.

4350

4351

— ^ — ^ — ^  
These lily lips,

4352

4353

— ^ — ^ — ^  
This cherry nose,

4354

4355

— ^ — ^ — ^ — ^  
These yellow cowslip cheeks,

4356

4357

— ^ — ^ — ^  
Are gone, are gone;

4358

4359

— ^ — ^ — ^  
Lovers make moan;

4360

4361

— ^ — ^ — ^ — ^  
His eyes were green as leeks.

4362

4363

— ^ — ^ — ^  
O Sisters three,

4364

4365

— ^ — ^ — ^  
Come, come to me,

4366

4367

— ^ — ^ — ^ — ^  
With hands as pale as milk;

4368

<sup>151</sup> "means": moans or laments.

<sup>152</sup> "videlicet": Latin for "as follows", meaning 'as we are about to see.'



4369           -       ^       -       ^  
 4370           Lay them in gore,  
 4371           -           ^       -       ^  
 4372           Since you have shore  
 4373           -       ^       -       ^       -       ^  
 4374           With sheers his thread of silk.  
 4375           -           ^       -       ^  
 4376           Tongue, not a word.  
 4377           -           ^       -       ^  
 4378           Come, trusty sword;  
 4379           -       ^       -       ^       -       ^  
 4380           Come, blade, my breast imbrue:  
 4381           -       ^       -       ^  
 4382           And farewell, friends,  
 4383           -       ^       -       ^  
 4384           Thus Thisby ends;  
 4385           -       ^       -       ^       -       ^  
 4386           Adieu, adieu, adieu.

4387                                   THESEUS  
 4388           Moonshine and Lion are left to bury the dead.

4389                                   DEMETRIUS  
 4390           Aye, and Wall too.

4391                                   BOTTOM  
 4392           No, I assure you; the wall is down that parted their  
 4393           fathers. Will it please you to see the Epilogue, or to hear  
 4394           a Bergomask dance<sup>153</sup> between two of our company?

4395                                   THESEUS  
 4396           No Epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no excuse.  
 4397           Never excuse; for when the players are all dead, there need  
 4398           none to be blamed. Marry, if he that writ it had play'd  
 4399           Pyramus, and hung himself in Thisby's garter, it would have  
 4400           been a fine Tragedy. And so it is, truly; and very notably  
 4401           discharg'd. But come, your Burgomask; let your epilogue  
 4402           alone.

4403   *[A short dance between the company of*  
 4404   *players.]*

---

<sup>153</sup> "Bergomask dance": an Italianate folk dance.

4405

## THESEUS (CONT.)

4406

The iron tongue of midnight hath tolled twelve.

4407

4408

Lovers, to bed; 'tis almost fairy time.

4409

4410

I fear we shall out-sleep the coming morn,

4411

4412

As much as we this night have over-watched.

4413

4414

This palpable-gross play hath well beguiled

4415

4416

The heavy gait of night. Sweet friends, to bed.

4417

4418

A fortnight hold we this solemnity,

4419

4420

In nightly Revels and new jollity.

4421

4422

*[The players all exit their separate ways as  
Puck dances on among them.]*

4423

4424

## PUCK

4425

Now the hungry lion roars,

4426

4427

And the wolf howls the moon;

4428

4429

Whilst the heavy ploughman snores,

4430

4431

All with weary task fore-done.

4432

4433

Now the wasted brands do glow,

4434

4435

Whilst the screech-owl, screeching loud,

4436

4437

Puts the wretch that lies in woe

4438

4439

In remembrance of a shroud.

4440

4441

Now it is the time of night

4442

4443

That the graves, all gaping wide,

4444

4445

Every one lets forth his sprite

4446

4447

In the church-way paths to glide.

4448

4449

And we fairies, that do run

4450

4451           -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 4452       By the triple Hecate's team  
 4453           -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 4454       From the presence of the sun,  
 4455           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^  
 4456       Following darkness like a dream,  
 4457           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -  
 4458       Now are frolic. Not a mouse  
 4459           -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 4460       Shall disturb this hallowed house.  
 4461           -   -   ^   -   ^   -   ^  
 4462       I am sent with broom before,  
 4463           -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 4464       To sweep the dust behind the door.

4465   *[Oberon and Titania enter, followed by their*  
 4466   *train of Fairies.]*

4467   OBERON  
 4468           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4469       Through the house give glimmering light,  
 4470           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4471       By the dead and drowsy fire;  
 4472           -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 4473       Every elf and fairy sprite  
 4474           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4475       Hop as light as bird from brier;  
 4476           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   ^  
 4477       And this ditty, after me,  
 4478           -   -   -   -   -   -           ^  
 4479       Sing and dance it trippingly.

4480   TITANIA  
 4481           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4482       First rehearse your song by rote,  
 4483           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4484       To each word a warbling note;  
 4485           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   -  
 4486       Hand in hand, with fairy grace,  
 4487           -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4488       Will we sing, and bless this place.

4489   OBERON  
 4490           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4491       Now, until the break of day,  
 4492           -   -   -   ^   -   -   -   -   ^  
 4493       Through this house each fairy stray.

4494            - - - - ^ - ^  
4495            To the best bride-bed will we,  
4496            ^ - - ^ ^ - - ^ ^  
4497            Which by us shall blessed be;  
4498            - - - ^ ^ - - ^ ^  
4499            And the issue there create  
4500            - ^ - - - ^  
4501            Ever shall be fortunate.  
4502            - - - - - ^ ^  
4503            So shall all the couples three  
4504            - - ^ - - ^ ^  
4505            Ever true in loving be;  
4506            - - - - - - - -  
4507            And the blots of Nature's hand  
4508            - ^ - - - ^ ^  
4509            Shall not in their issue stand:  
4510            - - ^ - - ^ - - ^ ^  
4511            Never mole, harelip, nor scar,  
4512            - - - - ^ - - - -  
4513            Nor mark prodigious, such as are  
4514            - - ^ - - - - ^  
4515            Despised in nativity,  
4516            ^ - - - - - ^  
4517            Shall upon their children be.  
4518            - - - - ^ - - - ^  
4519            With this field-dew consecrate,  
4520            - - - ^ - - - ^  
4521            Ev'ry Fairy take his gait,  
4522            ^ ^ - - - - ^  
4523            And each several chamber bless,  
4524            - - - - ^ - - - ^  
4525            Through this palace, with sweet peace;  
4526            - - - - ^ - - -  
4527            And the owner of it blest  
4528            - ^ - - - ^ ^  
4529            Ever shall in safety rest.  
4530            - - ^ - - - ^  
4531            Trip away; make no stay;  
4532            - ^ ^ - - - ^  
4533            Meet me all by break of day.

4534    *[All exit except Puck.]*

4535    PUCK

4536            - - - ^ - - - ^  
4537            If we shadows have offended,  
4538            - - ^ - - - ^  
4539            Think but this and all is mended,

4540           -    ^   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4541           That you have but slumbered here  
 4542           -           -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4543           While these visions did appear.  
 4544           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4545           And this weak and idle theme,  
 4546           -   -   -    ^   -   -   -    ^  
 4547           No more yielding but a dream,  
 4548           -    ^   -    ^   -   -    ^  
 4549           Gentles, do not reprehend.  
 4550           ^   -   -    ^   -   -   -    ^  
 4551           If you pardon, we will mend.  
 4552           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4553           And as I am an honest Puck,  
 4554           -    ^   -   -   -   -   -   -  
 4555           If we have unearnéd luck  
 4556           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4557           Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,  
 4558           -   -   -   -    ^   -   -    ^  
 4559           We will make amends ere long;  
 4560           ^           -    ^   -   -   -    ^  
 4561           Else the Puck a liar call.  
 4562           ^   -   -   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4563           So, good night unto you all.  
 4564           -   -   -    ^   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4565           Give me your hands, if we be friends,  
 4566           -   -    ^   -   -   -   -    ^  
 4567           And Robin shall restore amends.  
 4568

4569

Revision History

Revision	Pages Affected
6	All
7	3-9, 11-16, 23-32, 34-37, 39-48, 54, 57-58, 60-62, 65-66, 69-70, 72-78, 81, 83-86, 88-89, 99, 102, 104, 123-124
8	3-5, 8, 15, 18, 28, 92-125

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