



**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

( ANONYMOUS ASCRIBED IN PART TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE)

**THE LAMENTABLE TRAGEDY  
OF LOCRINE**

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## 1. THE LAMENTABLE TRAGEDY OF LOCRINE

The eldest son of King Brutus, discoursing the wars of the Britains and Huns, with their discomfiture, the Britain's victory with their accidents, and the death of Albanact.  
Play attributed in part to William Shakespeare.

### DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

BRUTUS, King of Britain.

LOCRINE, his son.

CAMBER, his son.

ALBANACT, his son.

CORINEIUS, brother to Brutus.

ASSARACHUS, brother to Brutus.

THRASIMACHUS, brother to Brutus.

DEBON, an old Officer.

HUMBER, King of the Scythians.

HUBBA, his son.

THRASSIER, a Scythian Commander.

STRUMBO, clown.

TRUMPART, clown.

OLIVER, clown.

WILLIAM, clown.

GWENDOLINE, Corineius his Daughter, married to Lochrine.

ESTRILD, Humber's Wife.

ATE, the Goddess of Revenge.

Ghosts of Albanact, and Corineius.

### ACT I. PROLOGUE.

Enter Ate with thunder and lightning all in black, with a burning torch in one hand, and a bloody sword in the other

hand, and presently let there come forth a Lion running after a Bear or any other beast; then come forth an Archer who must kill the Lion in a dumb show, and then depart. Remain Ate.

ATE.

In paenam sectatur & umbra.

A Mighty Lion, ruler of the woods,  
Of wondrous strength and great proportion,  
With hideous noise scaring the trembling trees,  
With yelling clamors shaking all the earth,  
Travest the groves, and chased the wandering beasts.  
Long did he range amid the shady trees,  
And drave the silly beasts before his face,  
When suddenly from out a thorny bush,  
A dreadful Archer with his bow ybent,  
Wounded the Lion with a dismal shaft.  
So he him stroke that it drew forth the blood,  
And filled his furious heart with fretting ire;  
But all in vain he threatened teeth and paws,  
And sparkleth fire from forth his flaming eyes,  
For the sharp shaft gave him a mortal wound.  
So valiant Brute, the terror of the world,  
Whose only looks did scare his enemies,  
The Archer death brought to his latest end.  
Oh what may long abide above this ground,  
In state of bliss and healthful happiness.

[Exit.]

ACT I. SCENE I.

Enter Brutus carried in a chair, Lochrine, Camber, Albanact,  
Corineius, Gwendoline, Assarachus, Debon, Thrasimachus.

BRUTUS.

Most loyal Lords and faithful followers,  
That have with me, unworthy General,  
Passed the greedy gulf of Ocean,  
Leaving the confines of fair Italy,  
Behold, your Brutus draweth nigh his end,  
And I must leave you, though against my will.  
My sinews shrunk, my numbed senses fail,

A chilling cold possesseth all my bones;  
Black ugly death, with visage pale and wan,  
Presents himself before my dazzled eyes,  
And with his dart prepared is to strike.  
These arms my Lords, these never daunted arms,  
That oft have quelled the courage of my foes,  
And eke dismay'd my neighbours arrogancy,  
Now yield to death, o'erlaid with crooked age,  
Devoid of strength and of their proper force,  
Even as the lusty cedar worn with years,  
That far abroad her dainty odor throws,  
Mongst all the daughters of proud Lebanon.  
This heart, my Lords, this near appalled heart,  
That was a terror to the bordering lands,  
A doeful scourge unto my neighbor Kings,  
Now by the weapons of impartial death,  
Is clove asunder and bereft of life,  
As when the sacred oak with thunderbolts,  
Sent from the fiery circuit of the heavens,  
Sliding along the air's celestial vaults,  
Is rent and cloven to the very roots.  
In vain, therefore, I strangle with this foe;  
Then welcome death, since God will have it so.

ASSARACHUS.

Alas, my Lord, we sorrow at your case,  
And grieve to see your person vexed thus;  
But what so ere the fates determined have,  
It lieth not in us to disannul,  
And he that would annihilate his mind,  
Soaring with Icarus too near the sun,  
May catch a fall with young Bellerophon.  
For when the fatal sisters have decreed  
To separate us from this earthly mould,  
No mortal force can countermand their minds:  
Then, worthy Lord, since there's no way but one,  
Cease your laments, and leave your grievous moan.

CORINEIUS.

Your highness knows how many victories,  
How many trophies I erected have  
Triumphantly in every place we came.  
The Grecian Monarch, warlike Pandrassus,  
And all the crew of the Molossians;

Goffarius, the arm strong King of Gauls,  
And all the borders of great Aquitaine,  
Have felt the force of our victorious arms,  
And to their cost beheld our chivalry.  
Where ere Aurora, handmaid of the Sun,  
Where ere the Sun, bright guardiant of the day,  
Where ere the joyful day with cheerful light,  
Where ere the light illuminates the world,  
The Trojan's glory flies with golden wings,  
Wings that do soar beyond fell ennui's flight.  
The fame of Brutus and his followers  
Pierceth the skies, and with the skies the throne  
Of mighty Jove, Commander of the world.  
Then worthy Brutus, leave these sad laments;  
Comfort your self with this your great renown,  
And fear not death though he seem terrible.

BRUTUS.

Nay, Corineius, you mistake my mind  
In construing wrong the cause of my complaints.  
I feared to yield my self to fatal death!  
God knows it was the least of all my thoughts;  
A greater care torments my very bones,  
And makes me tremble at the thought of it,  
And in you, Lordings, doth the substance lie.

THRASI.

Most noble Lord, if ought your loyal peers  
Accomplish may, to ease your lingering grief,  
I, in the name of all, protest to you,  
That we will boldly enterprise the same,  
Were it to enter to black Tartarus,  
Where triple Cerberus with his venomous throat,  
Scarreth the ghosts with high resounding noise.  
We'll either rent the bowels of the earth,  
Searching the entrails of the brutish earth,  
Or, with his Ixion's overdaring son,  
Be bound in chains of everduring steel.

BRUTUS.

Then harken to your sovereign's latest words,  
In which I will unto you all unfold  
Our royal mind and resolute intent:--  
When golden Hebe, daughter to great Jove,

Covered my manly cheeks with youthful down,  
Th' unhappy slaughter of my luckless sire,  
Drove me and old Assarachus, mine eame,  
As exiles from the bounds of Italy:  
So that perforce we were constrained to fly  
To Graecia's Monarch noble Pandrassus.  
There I alone did undertake your cause,  
There I restored your antique liberty,  
Though Graecia frowned, and all Mollossia stormed,  
Though brave Antigonus, with martial band,  
In pitched field encountered me and mine,  
Though Pandrassus and his contributories,  
With all the route of their confederates,  
Sought to deface our glorious memory  
And wipe the name of Trojans from the earth,  
Him did I captivate with this mine arm,  
And by compulsion forced him to agree  
To certain articles which there we did propound.  
From Graecia through the boisterous Hellespont,  
We came unto the fields of Lestrigon,  
Whereas our brother Corineius was,  
Since when we passed the Cicillian gulf,  
And so transfretting the Illirian sea,  
Arrived on the coasts of Aquitaine,  
Where with an army of his barbarous Gauls  
Goffarius and his brother Gathelus  
Encountering with our host, sustained the foil.  
And for your sakes my Turnus there I lost,  
Turnus that slew six hundred men at arms  
All in an hour, with his sharp battle-axe.  
From thence upon the strons of Albion  
To Corus haven happily we came,  
And quelled the giants, come of Albion's race,  
With Gogmagog son to Samotheus,  
The cursed Captain of that damned crew.  
And in that Isle at length I placed you.  
Now let me see if my laborious toils,  
If all my care, if all my grievous wounds,  
If all my diligence were well employed.

CORINEIUS.

When first I followed thee & thine, brave king,  
I hazarded my life and dearest blood,  
To purchase favour at your princely hands,

And for the same in dangerous attempts  
In sundry conflicts and in diverse broils,  
I showed the courage of my manly mind.  
For this I combated with Gathelus,  
The brother to Goffarius of Gaul;  
For this I fought with furious Gogmagog,  
A savage captain of a savage crew;  
And for these deeds brave Cornwall I received,  
A grateful gift given by a gracious King:  
And for this gift, this life and dearest blood,  
Will Corineius spend for Brutus good.

DEB.

And what my friend, brave prince, hath vowed to you,  
The same will Debon do unto his end.

BRUTUS.

Then, loyal peers, since you are all agreed,  
And resolute to follow Brutus hosts,  
Favor my sons, favor these Orphans, Lords,  
And shield them from the dangers of their foes.  
Lochrine, the column of my family,  
And only pillar of my weakened age,  
Lochrine, draw near, draw near unto thy sire,  
And take thy latest blessings at his hands:  
And for thou art the eldest of my sons,  
Be thou a captain to thy brethren,  
And imitate thy aged father's steps,  
Which will conduct thee to true honor's gate;  
For if thou follow sacred virtue's lore,  
Thou shalt be crowned with a laurel branch,  
And wear a wreath of sempiternal fame,  
Sorted amongst the glorious happy ones.

LOCRINE.

If Lochrine do not follow your advise,  
And bear himself in all things like a prince  
That seeks to amplify the great renown  
Left unto him for an inheritance  
By those that were his ancestors,  
Let me be flung into the Ocean,  
And swallowed in the bowels of the earth,  
Or let the ruddy lightning of great Jove  
Descend upon this my devoted head.

BRUTUS.

[Taking Gwendoline by the hand.]

But for I see you all to be in doubt,  
Who shall be matched with our royal son,  
Lochrine, receive this present at my hand,  
A gift more rich than are the wealthy mines  
Found in the bowels of America.  
Thou shalt be spoused to fair Gwendoline;  
Love her, and take her, for she is thine own,  
If so thy uncle and her self do please.

CORINEIUS.

And herein how your highness honors me  
It cannot now be in my speech expressed;  
For careful parents glory not so much  
At their honour and promotion,  
As for to see the issue of their blood  
Seated in honor and prosperity.

GWENDOLINE.

And far be it from any maiden's thoughts  
To contradict her aged father's will.  
Therefore, since he to whom I must obey  
Hath given me now unto your royal self,  
I will not stand aloof from off the lure,  
Like crafty dames that most of all deny  
That which they most desire to possess.

BRUTUS.

[Turning to Lochrine. Lochrine kneeling.]

Then now, my son, thy part is on the stage,  
For thou must bear the person of a King.

[Puts the Crown on his head.]

Lochrine, stand up, and wear the regal Crown,  
And think upon the state of Majesty,  
That thou with honor well mayest wear the crown.  
And if thou tendrest these my latest words,



As thou requirest my soul to be at rest,  
As thou desirest thine own security,  
Cherish and love thy new betrothed wife.

LOCRINE.

No longer let me well enjoy the crown,  
Than I do honour peerless Gwendoline.

BRUTUS.

Camber.

CAMBER.

My Lord.

BRUTUS.

The glory of mine age,  
And darling of thy mother Imogen,  
Take thou the South for thy dominion.  
From thee there shall proceed a royal race,  
That shall maintain the honor of this land,  
And sway the regal scepter with their hands.

[Turning to Albanact.]

And Albanact, thy father's only joy,  
Youngest in years, but not the youngest in mind,  
A perfect pattern of all chivalry,  
Take thou the North for thy dominion,  
A country full of hills and ragged rocks,  
Replenished with fierce untamed beasts,  
As correspondent to thy martial thoughts,  
Live long, my sons, with endless happiness,  
And bear firm concordance amongst your selves.  
Obey the counsels of these fathers grave,  
That you may better bear out violence.--  
But suddenly, through weakness of my age,  
And the defect of youthful puissance,  
My malady increaseth more and more,  
And cruel death hasteneth his quickened pace,  
To dispossess me of my earthly shape.  
Mine eyes wax dim, overcast with clouds of age,  
The pangs of death compass my crazed bones;  
Thus to you all my blessings I bequeath,  
And with my blessings, this my fleeting soul

My glass is run, and all my miseries  
Do end with life; death closeth up mine eyes,  
My soul in haste flies to the Elysian fields.

[He dieth.]

LOCRINE.

Accursed stars, damned and accursed stars,  
To abbreviate my noble father's life!  
Hard-hearted gods, and too envious fates,  
Thus to cut off my father's fatal thread!  
Brutus, that was a glory to us all,  
Brutus, that was a terror to his foes,  
Alas, too soon, by Demagorgon's knife,  
The martial Brutus is bereft of life!

CORINEIUS.

No sad complaints may move just Aeacus,  
No dreadful threats can fear judge Rhodomanth.  
Wert thou as strong as mighty Hercules,  
That tamed the huge monsters of the world,  
Playedst thou as sweet, on the sweet sounding lute,  
As did the spouse of fair Eurydice,  
That did enchant the waters with his noise,  
And made stones, birds, and beasts, to lead a dance,  
Constrained the hilly trees to follow him,  
Thou couldst not move the judge of Erebus,  
Nor move compassion in grim Pluto's heart;  
For fatal Mors expecteth all the world,  
And every man must tread the way of death.  
Brave Tantalus, the valiant Pelops' sire,  
Guest to the gods, suffered untimely death,  
And old Tithonus, husband to the morn,  
And eke grim Minos, whom just Jupiter  
Deigned to admit unto his sacrifice.  
The thundering trumpets of blood-thirsty Mars,  
The fearful rage of fell Tisiphone,  
The boistrous waves of humid Ocean,  
Are instruments and tools of dismal death.  
Then, novel cousin, cease to mourn his chance,  
Whose age & years were signs that he should die.  
It reseth now that we inter his bones,  
That was a terror to his enemies.  
Take up the course, and, princes, hold him dead,

Who while he lived, upheld the Trojan state.  
Sound drums and trumpets; march to Troinouant,  
There to provide our chieftain's funeral.

[Exeunt.]

ACT 1. SCENE 2. The house of Strumbo.

[Enter Strumbo above in a gown, with ink and paper  
in his hand, saying:--]

STRUMBO.

Either the four elements, the seven planets, and all the  
particular stars of the pole Antastick, are adversative  
against me, or else I was begotten and born in the wane  
of the Moon, when every thing as Lactantius in his  
fourth book of Consultations doth say, goeth asward.  
Aye, masters, aye, you may laugh, but I must weep;  
you may joy, but I must sorrow; shedding salt tears  
from the watery fountains of my most dainty fair eyes,  
along my comely and smooth cheeks, in as great plenty  
as the water runneth from the buckingtubs, or red wine  
out of the hogs heads: for trust me, gentlemen and my  
very good friends, and so forth, the little god, nay the  
desperate god Cuprit, with one of his vengible birdbolts,  
hath shot me unto the heel: so not only, but also, oh  
fine phrase, I burn, I burn, and I burn a, in love, in love,  
and in love a. Ah, Strumbo, what hast thou seen? not  
Dina with the Ass Tom? Yea, with these eyes thou hast  
seen her, and therefore pull them out, for they will work  
thy bale. Ah, Strumbo, hast thou heard? not the voice  
of the Nightingale, but a voice sweeter than hers. Yea,  
with these ears hast thou heard it, and therefore cut them  
off, for they have caused thy sorrow. Nay, Strumbo, kill  
thy self, drown thy self, hang thy self, starve thy self. Oh,  
but then I shall leave my sweet heart. Oh my heart! Now,  
pate, for thy master! I will dite an eloquent love-pistle to  
her, and then she hearing the grand verbosity of my  
scripture, will love me presently.

[Let him write a little and then read.]

My pen is naught; gentlemen, lend me a knife. I think

the more haste the worst speed.

[Then write again, and after read.]

So it is, mistress Dorothy, and the sole essence of my soul, that the little sparkles of affection kindled in me towards your sweet self hath now increased to a great flame, and will ere it be long consume my poor heart, except you, with the pleasant water of your secret fountain, quench the furious heat of the same. Alas, I am a gentleman of good fame and name, majestic, in parrel comely, in gate portly. Let not therefore your gentle heart be so hard as to despise a proper tall, young man of a handsome life, and by despising him, not only, but also to kill him. Thus expecting time and tide, I bid you farewell. Your servant, Signior Strumbo.

Oh wit! Oh pate! O memory! O hand! O ink! O paper! Well, now I will send it away. Trompart, Trompart! what a villain is this? Why, sirra, come when your master calls you. Trompart!

[Trompart, entering, saith:]

TROMPART.

Anon, sir.

STRUMBO.

Thou knowest, my pretty boy, what a good mast I have been to thee ever since I took thee into my service.

TROMPART.

Aye, sir.

STRUMBO.

And how I have cherished thee always, as if you had been the fruit of my loins, flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone.

TROMPART.

Aye, sir.

STRUMBO.

Then show thy self herein a trusty servant, and carry this letter to mistress Dorothy, and tell her--

[Speaking in his ear. Exit Trompart.]

Nay, masters, you shall see a marriage by and by. But here she comes. Now must I frame my amorous passions.

[Enter Dorothy and Trompart.]

DOROTHY.

Signior Strumbo, well met. I received your letters by your man here, who told me a pitiful story of your anguish, and so understanding your passions were so great, I came hither speedily.

STRUMBO.

Oh my sweet and pigney, the fecundity of my ingenie is not so great, that may declare unto you the sorrowful sobs and broken sleeps, that I suffered for your sake; and therefore I desire you to receive me into your familiarity.

For your love doth lie,  
As near and as nigh  
Unto my heart within,  
As mine eye to my nose,  
My leg unto my hose,  
And my flesh unto my skin.

DOROTHY.

Truly, Master Strumbo, you speak too learnedly for me to understand the drift of your mind, and therefore tell your tale in plain terms, and leave off your dark riddles.

STRUMBO.

Alas, mistress Dorothy, this is my luck, that when I most would, I cannot be understood; so that my great learning is an inconvenience unto me. But to speak in plain terms, I love you, mistress Dorothy, if you like to accept me into your familiarity.

DOROTHY.

If this be all, I am content.

STRUMBO.

Sayest thou so, sweet wench; let me lick thy toes. Farewell,

mistress.

[Turning to the people.]

If any of you be in love, provide ye a capcase full of new  
coined words, and then shall you soon have the succado  
de labres, and something else.

[Exeunt.]

ACT I. SCENE 3. An apartment in the palace.

[Enter Lochrine, Gwendoline, Camber, Albanact, Corineius,  
Assarachus, Debon, Thrasimachus.]

LOCRINE.

Uncle, and princes of brave Britany,  
Since that our noble father is entombed,  
As best beseemed so brave a prince as he,  
If so you please, this day my love and I,  
Within the temple of Concordia,  
Will solemnize our royal marriage.

THRASIMACHUS.

Right noble Lord, your subjects every one,  
Must needs obey your highness at command;  
Especially in such a cause as this,  
That much concerns your highness great content.

LOCRINE.

Then frolic, lordings, to fair Concord's walls,  
Where we will pass the day in knightly sports,  
The night in dancing and in figured masks,  
And offer to God Risus all our sports

[Exeunt.]

ACT II. PROLOGUE.

[Enter Ate as before. After a little lightning and  
thundering, let there come forth this show:--Perseus  
and Andromeda, hand in hand, and Cepheus also,

with swords and targets. Then let there come out of an other door, Phineus, all black in armour, with Aethiopians after him, driving in Perseus, and having taken away Andromeda, let them depart, Ate remaining, saying:]

ATE.

Regit omnia numen.

When Perseus married fair Andromeda,  
The only daughter of king Cepheus,  
He thought he had established well his Crown,  
And that his kingdom should for aie endure.  
But, lo, proud Phineus with a band of men,  
Contrived of sun-burnt Aethiopians,  
By force of arms the bride he took from him,  
And turned their joy into a flood of tears.  
So fares it with young Locrine and his love,  
He thinks this marriage tendeth to his weal;  
But this foul day, this foul accursed day,  
Is the beginning of his miseries.  
Behold where Humber and his Scithians  
Approacheth nigh with all his warlike train.  
I need not, I, the sequel shall declare,  
What tragic chances fall out in this war.

ACT II. SCENE I.

[Enter Humber, Hubba, Estrild, Segar, and their soldiers.]

HUMBER.

At length the snail doth clime the highest tops,  
Ascending up the stately castle walls;  
At length the water with continual drops,  
Doth penetrate the hardest marble stone;  
At length we are arrived in Albion.  
Nor could the barbarous Dacian sovereign,  
Nor yet the ruler of brave Belgia,  
Stay us from cutting over to this Isle,  
Whereas I hear a troop of Phrigians  
Under the conduct of Postumius' son,  
Have pitched up lordly pavilions,  
And hope to prosper in this lovely Isle.  
But I will frustrate all their foolish hope,

And teach them that the Scithian Emperour  
Leads fortune tied in a chain of gold,  
Constraining her to yield unto his will,  
And grace him with their regal diadem,  
Which I will have mauger their treble hosts,  
And all the power their petty kings can make.

HUBBA.

If she that rules fair Rhamnis' golden gate  
Grant us the honour of the victory,  
As hitherto she always favoured us,  
Right noble father, we will rule the land,  
Enthronized in seats of Topaz stones,  
That Loctrine and his brethren all may know,  
None must be king but Humber and his son.

HUMBER.

Courage, my son, fortune shall favour us,  
And yield to us the coronet of bay,  
That decked none but noble conquerours.  
But what saith Estrild to these regions?  
How liketh she the temperature thereof?  
Are they not pleasant in her gracious eyes?

ESTRILD.

The plains, my Lord, garnished with Flora's wealth,  
And overspread with party colored flowers,  
Do yield sweet contentation to my mind.  
The airy hills enclosed with shady groves,  
The groves replenished with sweet chirping birds,  
The birds resounding heavenly melody,  
Are equal to the groves of Thessaly,  
Where Phoebus with the learned Ladies nine,  
Delight themselves with music harmony,  
And from the moisture of the mountain tops,  
The silent springs dance down with murmuring streams,  
And water all the ground with crystal waves.  
The gentle blasts of Eurus, modest wind,  
Moving the pittering leaves of Silvan's woods,  
Do equal it with Temp's paradise;  
And thus consorted all to one effect,  
Do make me think these are the happy Isles,  
Most fortunate, if Humber may them win.



HUBBA.

Madam, where resolution leads the way,  
And courage follows with imboldened pace,  
Fortune can never use her tyranny;  
For valiantness is like unto a rock  
That standeth in the waves of Ocean,  
Which though the billows beat on ever side,  
And Boreas fell with his tempestuous storms  
Bloweth upon it with a hideous clamour,  
Yet it remaineth still unmoveable.

HUMBER.

Kingly resolved, thou glory of thy sire.  
But, worthy Segar, what uncouth novelties  
Bringst thou unto our royal majesty?

SEGAR.

My Lord, the youngest of all Brutus' sons,  
Stout Albanact, with millions of men,  
Approacheth nigh, and meaneth, ere the morn,  
To try your force by dint of fatal sword.

HUMBER.

Tut, let him come with millions of hosts;  
He shall find entertainment good enough.  
Yea, fit for those that are our enemies:  
For we'll receive them at the lance's points,  
And massacre their bodies with our blades:  
Yea, though they were in number infinite,  
More than the mighty Babylonian queen,  
Semiramis the ruler of the West,  
Brought gainst the Emperour of the Scithians;  
Yet would we not start back one foot from them:  
That they might know we are invincible.

HUBBA.

Now, by great Jove, the supreme king of heaven,  
And the immortal gods that live therein,  
When as the morning shows his cheerful face,  
And Lucifer, mounted upon his steed,  
Brings in the chariot of the golden sun,  
I'll meet young Albanact in the open field,  
And crack my lance upon his burganet,  
To try the valour of his boyish strength.

There will I show such ruthful spectacles  
And cause so great effusion of blood,  
That all his boys shall wonder at my strength:  
As when the warlike queen of Amazon,  
Penthisilea, armed with her lance,  
Girt with a corslet of bright shining steel,  
Couped up the faintheart Graecians in the camp.

HUMBER.

Spoke like a warlike knight, my noble son;  
Nay, like a prince that seeks his father's joy.  
Therefore, tomorrow, ere fair Titan shine,  
And bashful Eos, messenger of light,  
Expels the liquid sleep from out men's eyes,  
Thou shalt conduct the right wing of the host;  
The left wing shall be under Segar's charge,  
The rearward shall be under me my self.  
And lovely Estrild, fair and gracious,  
If fortune favour me in mine attempts,  
And make the Queen of lovely Albion,  
Come, let us in and muster up our train,  
And furnish up our lusty soldiers,  
That they may be a bulwark to our state,  
And bring our wished joys to perfect end.

ACT II. SCENE II.

[Enter Strumbo, Dorothy, Trompart, cobbling shoes and singing. To them enter Captain.]

TROMPART.

We Cobblers lead a merry life:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan:

STRUMBO.

Void of all ennui and strife:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

DOROTHY.

Our ease is great, our labour small:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

STRUMBO.

And yet our gains be much withall:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

DOROTHY.

With this art so fine and fair:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

TROMPART.

No occupation may compare:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

DOROTHY.

For merry pastime and joyful glee:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

STRUMBO.

Most happy men we Cobblers be:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

TROMPART.

The can stands full of nappy ale:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

STRUMBO.

In our shop still withouten fail:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

DOROTHY.

This is our meat, this is our food:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

TROMPART.

This brings us to a merry mood:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

STRUMBO.

This makes us work for company:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

DOROTHY.

To pull the tankards cheerfully:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

TROMPART.

Drink to thy husband, Dorothy,

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

DOROTHY.

Why, then, my Strumbo, there's to thee:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

STRUMBO.

Drink thou the rest, Trompart, amain:

ALL.

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

DOROTHY.

When that is gone, we'll fill't again:

ALL.

Dan diddle dan.

CAPTAIN.

The poorest state is farthest from annoy.

How merrily he sitteth on his stool!

But when he sees that needs he must be pressed,

He'll turn his note and sing another tune.

Ho, by your leave, master Cobbler.

STRUMBO.

You are welcome, gentleman. What will you? any old shoes or buskins? or will you have your shoes clouted? I will do them as well as any Cobbler in Cathnes whatsoever.

CAPTAIN.

[Showing him press money.]

O master Cobbler, you are far deceived in me, for don you see this? I come not to buy any shoes, but to buy your self; come, sir, you must be a soldier in the king's cause.

STRUMBO.

Why, but hear you, sir; has your king any commission to take any man against his will. I promise you, I can scant believe it; or did he give you commission?

CAPTAIN.

O sir, ye need not care for that; I need no commission. Hold, here: I command you, in the name of our king Albanact, to appear tomorrow in the town-house of Cathnes.

STRUMBO.

King Nactaball! I cry God mercy! what have we to do

with him, or he with us? But you, sir master capontail, draw your pasteboard, or else I promise you, I'll give you a canuasado with a bastinado over your shoulders, and teach you to come hither with your implements.

CAPTAIN.

I pray thee, good fellow, be content; I do the king's command.

STRUMBO.

Put me out of your book, then.

CAPTAIN.

I may not.

STRUMBO.

[Snatching up the staff.]

No! Well, come, sir, will your stomach serve you? by gog's blue hood and halidom, I will have a bout with you.

[Fight both. Enter Thrasimachus.]

THRASIMACHUS.

How now, what noise, what sudden clamor's this?  
How now, my captain and the cobbler so hard at it?  
Sirs, what is your quarrel?

CAPTAIN.

Nothing, sir, but that he will not take press money.

THRASIMACHUS.

Here, good fellow; take it at my command,  
Unless you mean to be stretched.

STRUMBO.

Truly, master gentleman, I lack no money; if you please, I will resign it to one of these poor fellows.

THRASIMACHUS.

No such matter,  
Look you be at the common house tomorrow.

[Exit Thrasimachus and the captain.]

STRUMBO.

O, wife, I have spun a fair thread! If I had been quiet, I had not been pressed, and therefore well may I wayment. But come, sirrah, shut up, for we must to the wars.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE III. The camp of Albanact.

[Enter Albanact, Debon, Thrasimachus, and the Lords.]

ALBA.

Brave cavalries, princes of Albany,  
Whose trenchant blades with our deceased sire,  
Passing the frontiers of brave Graecia,  
Were bathed in our enemies' lukewarm blood,  
Now is the time to manifest your wills,  
Your haughty minds and resolutions.  
Now opportunity is offered  
To try your courage and your earnest zeal,  
Which you always protest to Albanact;  
For at this time, yea, at this present time,  
Stout fugitives, come from the Scithians' bounds,  
Have pestered every place with mutinies.  
But trust me, Lordings, I will never cease  
To persecute the rascal runnagates,  
Till all the rivers, stained with their blood,  
Shall fully show their fatal overthrow.

DEBON.

So shall your highness merit great renown,  
And imitate your aged father's steps.

ALBA.

But tell me, cousin, camest thou through the plains?  
And sawest thou there the fain heart fugitives  
Mustering their weather-beaten soldiers?  
What order keep they in their marshalling?

THRASIMACHUS.

After we passed the groves of Caledone,  
Where murmuring rivers slide with silent streams,  
We did behold the stragglers Scythians' camp,  
Replete with men, stored with munition;  
There might we see the valiant minded knights  
Fetching careers along the spacious plains.  
Humber and Hubba armed in azure blue,  
Mounted upon their coursers white as snow,  
Went to behold the pleasant flowering fields;  
Hector and Troilus, Priamus lovely sons,  
Chasing the Graecians over Simoeis,  
Were not to be compared to these two knights.

ALBA.

Well hast thou painted out in eloquence  
The portraiture of Humber and his son,  
As fortunate as was Policrates;  
Yet should they not escape our conquering swords,  
Or boast of ought but of our clemency.

[Enter Strumbo and Trompart, crying often;  
Wild fire and pitch, wild fire and pitch, &c.]

THRASIMACHUS.

What, sirs! what mean you by these clamors made,  
These outcries raised in our stately court?

STRUMBO.

Wild fire and pitch, wild fire and pitch.

THRASIMACHUS.

Villains, I say, tell us the cause hereof?

STRUMBO.

Wild fire and pitch, &c.

THRASIMACHUS.

Tell me, you villains, why you make this noise,  
Or with my lance I will prick your bowels out.

ALBA.

Where are your houses, where's your dwelling place?

STRUMBO.



Place? Ha, ha, ha! laugh a month and a day at him.  
Place! I cry God mercy: why, do you think that such  
poor honest men as we be, hold our habitacles in kings'  
palaces? Ha, ha, ha! But because you seem to be an  
abominable chieftain, I will tell you our state.

From the top to the toe,  
From the head to the shoe;  
From the beginning to the ending,  
From the building to the burning.

This honest fellow and I had our mansion cottage in the  
suburbs of this city, hard by the temple of Mercury. And  
by the common soldiers of the Shitens, the Scithians--  
what do you call them?--with all the suburbs were burnt  
to the ground, and the ashes are left there, for the country  
wives to wash bucks withall.

And that which grieves me most,  
My loving wife,  
(O cruel strife!)  
The wicked flames did roast.  
And therefore, captain crust,  
We will continually cry,  
Except you seek a remedy  
Our houses to reedify  
Which now are burnt to dust.

BOTH CRY.

Wild fire and pitch, wild fire and pitch.

ALBA.

Well, we must remedy these outrages,  
And throw revenge upon their hateful heads.  
And you, good fellows, for your houses burnst,  
We will remunerate you store of gold,  
And build your houses by our palace gate.

STRUMBO.

Gate! O petty treason to my person! nowhere  
else but by your backside? Gate! Oh how I am  
vexed in my collar! Gate! I cry God mercy! Do  
you hear, master king? If you mean to gratify such  
poor men as we be, you must build our houses by

the Tavern.

ALBA.

It shall be done, sir.

STRUMBO.

Near the Tavern, aye! by lady, sir, it was spoken like  
a good fellow. Do you hear, sir? when our house is  
builded, if you do chance to pass or repass that way,  
we will bestow a quart of the best wine upon you.

[Exit.]

ALBA.

It grieves me, lordings, that my subjects' goods  
Should thus be spoiled by the Scithians,  
Who, as you see, with lightfoot foragers  
Depopulate the places where they come.  
But cursed Humber thou shalt rue the day  
That ere thou camest unto Cathnesia.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE IV. The camp of Humber.

[Enter Humber, Hubba, Trussier, and their soldiers.]

HUMBER.

Hubba, go take a coronet of our horse,  
As many lancers, and light armed knights  
As may suffice for such an enterprise,  
And place them in the grove of Caledon.  
With these, when as the skirmish doth increase,  
Retire thou from the shelters of the wood,  
And set upon the weakened Troyans' backs,  
For policy joined with chivalry  
Can never be put back from victory.

[Exit. Albanact enter and say (clowns with him).]

ALBA.

Thou base born Hun, how durst thou be so bold  
As once to menace warlike Albanact,

The great commander of these regions?  
But thou shalt buy thy rashness with thy death,  
And rue too late thy over bold attempts;  
For with this sword, this instrument of death,  
That hath been drenched in my foe-men's blood,  
I'll separate thy body from they head,  
And set that coward blood of thine abroach.

STRUMBO.

Nay, with this staff, great Strumbo's instrument,  
I'll crack thy cockscomb, paltry Scithian.

HUMBER.

Nor wreak I of thy threat, thou princox boy,  
Nor do I fear thy foolish insolency;  
And but thou better use thy bragging blade,  
Then thou doest rule thy overflowing tongue,  
Superbious Brittain, thou shalt know too soon  
The force of Humber and his Scithians.

[Let them fight. Humber and his soldiers run in.]

STRUMBO.

O horrible, terrible.

[Exit.]

ACT II. SCENE V. Another part of the field of  
battle.

[Sound the alarm. Enter Humber and his soldiers.]

HUMBER.

How bravely this young Brittain, Albanact,  
Darteth abroad the thunderbolts of war,  
Beating down millions with his furious mood,  
And in his glory triumphs over all,  
Moving the mass squadrants of the ground;  
Heaps hills on hills, to scale the starry sky,  
As when Briareus, armed with an hundreth hands,  
Flung forth an hundreth mountains at great Jove,  
And when the monstrous giant Monichus  
Hurled mount Olympus at great Mars his target,

And shot huge caedars at Minerva's shield.  
How doth he overlook with haughty front  
My fleeting hosts, and lifts his lofty face  
Against us all that now do fear his force,  
Like as we see the wrathful sea from far,  
In a great mountain heaped, with hideous noise,  
With thousand billows beat against the ships,  
And toss them in the waves like tennis balls.

[Sound the alarm.]

Aye me, I fear my Hubba is surprised.

[Sound again. Enter Albanact.]

ALBA.

Follow me, soldiers, follow Albanact;  
Pursue the Scythians flying through the field:  
Let none of them escape with victory;  
That they may know the Brittain's force is more  
Than all the power of the trembling Huns.

THRASIMACHUS.

Forward, brave soldiers, forward! keep the chase.  
He that takes captive Humber or his son  
Shall be rewarded with a crown of gold.

[Sound alarm, then let them fight, Humber give  
back, Hubba enter at their backs, and kill Debon,  
let Strumbo fall down, Albanact run in, and  
afterwards enter wounded.]

ALBA.

Injurious fortune, hast thou crossed me thus?  
Thus, in the morning of my victories,  
Thus, in the prime of my felicity,  
To cut me off by such hard overthrow!  
Hadst thou no time thy rancor to declare,  
But in the spring of all my dignities?  
Hadst thou no place to spit thy venom out,  
But on the person of young Albanact?  
I, that ere while did scare mine enemies,  
And drove them almost to a shameful flight,  
I, that ere while full lion-like did fare

Amongst the dangers of the thick thronged pikes,  
Must now depart most lamentably slain  
By Humber's treacheries and fortune's spites.  
Cursed be her charms, damned be her cursed charms  
That doth delude the wayward hearts of men,  
Of men that trust unto her fickle wheel,  
Which never leaveth turning upside down.  
O gods, O heavens, allot me but the place  
Where I may find her hateful mansion!  
I'll pass the Alps to watery Meroe,  
Where fiery Phoebus in his chariot,  
The wheels whereof are decked with Emeralds,  
Casts such a heat, yea such a scorching heat,  
And spoileth Flora of her chequered grass;  
I'll overrun the mountain Caucasus,  
Where fell Chimaera in her triple shape  
Rolleth hot flames from out her monstrous paunch,  
Searing the beasts with issue of her gorge;  
I'll pass the frozen Zone where icy flakes,  
Stopping the passage of the fleeting ships,  
Do lie like mountains in the congealed sea:  
Where if I find that hateful house of hers,  
I'll pull the pickle wheel from out her hands,  
And tie her self in everlasting bands.  
But all in vain I breath these threatenings;  
The day is lost, the Huns are conquerors,  
Debon is slain, my men are done to death,  
The currents swift swim violently with blood  
And last, O that this last night so long last,  
My self with wounds past all recovery  
Must leave my crown for Humber to possess.

STRUMBO.

Lord have mercy upon us, masters, I think this  
is a holy day; every man lies sleeping in the fields,  
but, God knows, full sore against their wills.

THRASIMACHUS.

Fly, noble Albanact, and save thy self.  
The Scithians follow with great celerity,  
And there's no way but flight, or speedy death;  
Fly, noble Albanact, and save thy self.

[Exit Thrasimachus. Sound the alarm.]

ALBA.

Nay, let them fly that fear to die the death,  
That tremble at the name of fatal mors.  
Never shall proud Humber boast or brag himself  
That he hath put young Albanact to flight;  
And least he should triumph at my decay,  
This sword shall reave his master of his life,  
That oft hath saved his master's doubtful life:  
But, oh, my brethren, if you care for me,  
Revenge my death upon his traitorous head.

Et vos queis domus est nigrantis regia ditis,  
Qui regitis rigido stigios moderamine lucos:  
Nox coeci regina poli, furialis Erinnis,  
Diique deaeque omnes, Albanum tollite regem,  
Tollite flumineis undis rigidaque palude.  
Nune me fata vocant, loc condam pectore ferrum.

[Thrusts himself through. Enter Trompart.]

TROMPART.

O, what hath he done? his nose bleeds.  
But, oh, I smell a fox:  
Look where my master lies. Master, master.

STRUMBO.

Let me alone, I tell thee, for I am dead.

TROMPART.

Yet one word, good master.

STRUMBO.

I will not speak, for I am dead, I tell thee.

TROMPART.

And is my master dead?  
O sticks and stones, brickbats and bones,  
and is my master dead?  
O you cockatrices and you bablatrices,  
that in the woods dwell:  
You briars and brambles, you cook's shops  
and shambles,  
come howl and yell.

With howling & screeking, with wailing and  
weeping,  
come you to lament,  
O Colliers of Croyden, and rustics of Royden,  
and fishers of Kent;  
For Strumbo the cobbler, the fine merry cobbler  
of Cathnes town:  
At this same stour, at this very hour,  
lies dead on the ground.  
O master, thieves, thieves, thieves.

STRUMBO.

Where be they? cox me tunny, bobekin! let me  
be rising. Be gone; we shall be robbed by and by.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE VI. The camp of the Huns.

[Enter Humber, Hubba, Segar, Thrassier, Estrild,  
and the soldiers.]

HUMBER.

Thus from the dreadful shocks of furious Mars,  
Thundering alarms, and Rhamnusias' drum,  
We are retired with joyful victory.  
The slaughtered Troyans, squeltring in their blood,  
Infect the air with their carcasses,  
And are a prey for every ravenous bird.

ESTRILD.

So perish they that are our enemies!  
So perish they that love not Humber's weal,  
And mighty Jove, commander of the world,  
Protect my love from all false treacheries.

HUMBER.

Thanks, lovely Estrild, solace to my soul.  
But, valiant Hubba, for thy chivalry,  
Declared against the men of Albany,  
Lo, here a flowering garland wreathed of bay,  
As a reward for thy forward mind.

[Set it on his head.]

HUBBA.

This unexpected honor, noble sire,  
Will prick my courage unto braver deeds,  
And cause me to attempt such hard exploits,  
That all the world shall sound of Hubba's name.

HUMBER.

And now, brave soldiers, for this good success,  
Carouse whole cups of Amazonian wine,  
Sweeter than nectar or Ambrosia,  
And cast away the clods of cursed care,  
With goblets crowned with Semeleius' gifts.  
Now let us march to Abis' silver streams,  
That clearly glide along the Champaign fields,  
And moist the grassy meads with humid drops.  
Sound drums & trumpets, sound up cheerfully,  
Sith we return with joy and victory.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. PROLOGUE.

[Enter Ate as before. The dumb show. A Crocodile  
sitting on a river's bank, and a little Snake stinging it.  
Then let both of them fall into the water.]

ATE.

Scelera in authorem cadunt.  
High on a bank by Nilus' boistrous streams,  
Fearfully sat the Aegiptian Crocodile,  
Dreadfully grinding in her sharp long teeth  
The broken bowels of a silly fish.  
His back was armed against the dint of spear,  
With shields of brass that shined like burnished gold;  
And as he stretched forth his cruel paws,  
A subtle Adder, creeping closely near,  
Thrusting his forked sting into his claws,  
Privily shed his poison through his bones;  
Which made him swell, that there his bowels burst,  
That did so much in his own greatness trust.  
So Humber, having conquered Albanact,



Doth yield his glory unto Lochrine's sword.  
Mark what ensues and you may easily see,  
That all our life is but a Tragedy.

ACT III. SCENE I. Troynouant. An apartment in  
the Royal Palace.

[Enter Lochrine, Gwendoline, Corineius, Assaracus,  
Thrasimachus, Camber.]

LOCRINE.

And is this true? Is Albanactus slain?  
Hath cursed Humber, with his stragglng host,  
With that his army made of mungrel curs,  
Brought our redoubted brother to his end?  
O that I had the Thracian Orpheus' harp,  
For to awake out of the infernal shade  
Those ugly devils of black Erebus,  
That might torment the damned traitor's soul!  
O that I had Amphion's instrument,  
To quicken with his vital notes and tunes  
The flinty joints of every stony rock,  
By which the Scithians might be punished!  
For, by the lightening of almighty Jove,  
The Hun shall die, had he ten thousand lives:  
And would to God he had ten thousand lives,  
That I might with the arm-strong Hercules  
Crop off so vile an Hydra's hissing heads!  
But say me, cousin, for I long to hear,  
How Albanact came by untimely death.

THRASIMACHUS.

After the traitrous host of Scithians  
Entered the field with martial equipage,  
Young Albanact, impatient of delay,  
Led forth his army gainst the stragglng mates,  
Whose multitude did daunt our soldiers' minds.  
Yet nothing could dismay the forward prince,  
But with a courage most heroical,  
Like to a lion mongst a flock of lambs,  
Made havoc of the faintheart fugitives,  
Hewing a passage through them with his sword.  
Yea, we had almost given them the repulse,

When suddenly, from out the silent wood,  
Hubba, with twenty thousand soldiers,  
Cowardly came upon our weakened backs,  
And murdered all with fatal massacre.  
Amongst the which old Debon, martial knight,  
With many wounds was brought unto the death,  
And Albanact, oppressed with multitude,  
Whilst valiantly he felled his enemies,  
Yielded his life and honour to the dust.  
He being dead, the soldiers fled amain,  
And I alone escaped them by flight,  
To bring you tidings of these accidents.

LOCRINE.

Not aged Priam, King of stately Troy,  
Grand Emperor of barbarous Asia,  
When he beheld his noble minded sons  
Slain traitorously by all the Mermidons,  
Lamented more than I for Albanact.

GWENDOLINE.

Not Hecuba, the queen of Ilium  
When she beheld the town of Pergamus,  
Her palace, burnst with all devouring flames,  
Her fifty sons and daughters fresh of hue  
Murdered by wicked Pirrus' bloody sword,  
Shed such sad tears as I for Albanact.

CAMBER.

The grief of Niobe, fair Athen's queen,  
For her seven sons, magnanimous in field,  
For her seven daughters, fairer than the fairest,  
Is not to be compared with my laments.

CORINEIUS.

In vain you sorrow for the slaughtered prince,  
In vain you sorrow for his overthrow;  
He loves not most that doth lament the most,  
But he that seeks to venge the injury.  
Think you to quell the enemy's warlike train  
With childish sobs and womanish laments?  
Unsheath your swords, unsheath your conquering swords,  
And seek revenge, the comfort for this sore.  
In Cornwall, where I hold my regiment,

Even just ten thousand valiant men at arms  
Hath Corineius ready at command:  
All these and more, if need shall more require,  
Hath Corineius ready at command.

CAMBER.

And in the fields of martial Cambria,  
Close by the boistrous Iscan's silver streams,  
Where lightfoot fairies skip from bank to bank,  
Full twenty thousand brave courageous knights,  
Well exercised in feats of chivalry,  
In manly manner most invincible,  
Young Camber hath with gold and victual:  
All these and more, if need shall more require,  
I offer up to venge my brother's death.

LOCRINE.

Thanks, loving uncle, and good brother, too;  
For this revenge, for this sweet word, revenge  
Must ease and cease my wrongful injuries.  
And by the sword of bloody Mars, I swear,  
Ne'er shall sweet quiet enter this my front,  
Till I be venged on his traitorous head  
That slew my noble brother Albanact.  
Sound drums and trumpets; muster up the camp.  
For we will straight march to Albania.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE II. The banks of the river,  
afterward the Humber.

[Enter Humber, Estrild, Hubba, Trussier, and the  
soldiers.]

HUMBER.

Thus are we come, victorious conquerors,  
Unto the flowing current's silver streams,  
Which, in memorial of our victory,  
Shall be agnominated by our name,  
And talked of by our posterity:  
For sure I hope before the golden sun

Posteth his horses to fair Thetis' plains,  
To see the water turned into blood,  
And change his bluish hue to rueful red,  
By reason of the fatal massacre  
Which shall be made upon the virent plains.

[Enter the ghost of Albanact.]

GHOST.

See how the traitor doth presage his harm,  
See how he glories at his own decay,  
See how he triumphs at his proper loss;  
O fortune wild, unstable, fickle, frail!

HUMBER.

Me thinks I see both armies in the field:  
The broken lances climb the crystal skies;  
Some headless lie, some breathless on the ground,  
And every place is strewed with carcasses.  
Behold! the grass hath lost his pleasant green,  
The sweetest sight that ever might be see.

GHOST.

Aye, traitorous Humber, thou shalt find it so.  
Yea, to thy cost thou shalt the same behold,  
With anguish, sorrow, and with sad laments.  
The grassy plains, that now do please thine eyes,  
Shall ere the night be coloured all with blood;  
The shady groves which now inclose thy camp  
And yield sweet savours to thy damned corps,  
Shall ere the night be figured all with blood:  
The profound stream, that passeth by thy tents,  
And with his moisture serveth all thy camp,  
Shall ere the night converted be to blood,--  
Yea, with the blood of those thy stragglings boys;  
For now revenge shall ease my lingering grief,  
And now revenge shall glut my longing soul.

HUBBA.

Let come what will, I mean to bear it out,  
And either live with glorious victory,  
Or die with fame renowned for chivalry.  
He is not worthy of the honey comb,  
That shuns the hives because the bees have stings:

That likes me best that is not got with ease,  
Which thousand dangers do accompany;  
For nothing can dismay our regal mind,  
Which aims at nothing but a golden crown,  
The only upshot of mine enterprises.  
Were they enchanted in grim Pluto's court,  
And kept for treasure mongst his hellish crew,  
I would either quell the triple Cerberus  
And all the army of his hateful hags,  
Or roll the stone with wretched Sisiphos.

HUMBER.

Right martial be thy thoughts my noble son,  
And all thy words savour of chivalry.--

[Enter Segar.]

But warlike Segar, what strange accidents  
Makes you to leave the warding of the camp.

SEGAR.

To arms, my Lord, to honourable arms!  
Take helm and targe in hand; the Brittaines come,  
With greater multitude than erst the Greeks  
Brought to the ports of Phrygian Tenidos.

HUMBER.

But what saith Segar to these accidents?  
What counsel gives he in extremities?

SEGAR.

Why this, my Lord, experience teacheth us:  
That resolution is a sole help at need.  
And this, my Lord, our honour teacheth us:  
That we be bold in every enterprise.  
Then since there is no way but fight or die,  
Be resolute, my Lord, for victory.

HUMBER.

And resolute, Segar, I mean to be.  
Perhaps some blissful star will favour us,  
And comfort bring to our perplexed state.  
Come, let us in and fortify our camp,  
So to withstand their strong invasion.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE III. Before the hut of a peasant.

[Enter Strumbo, Trompart, Oliver, and his son William following them.]

STRUMBO.

Nay, neighbour Oliver, if you be so what, come, prepare your self. You shall find two as stout fellows of us, as any in all the North.

OLIVER.

No, by my dorth, neighbor Strumbo. Ich zee dat you are a man of small zideration, dat will zeek to injure your old vriends, one of your vamiliar guests; and derefore, zeeing your pinion is to deal withouten reason, ich and my zon William will take dat course, dat shall be fardest vrom reason. How zay you, will you have my daughter or no?

STRUMBO.

A very hard question, neighbour, but I will solve it as I may. What reason have you to demand it of me?

WILLIAM.

Marry, sir, what reason had you, when my sister was in the barn, to tumble her upon the hay, and to fish her belly.

STRUMBO.

Mass, thou saist true. Well, but would you have me marry her therefore? No, I scorn her, and you. Aye, I scorn you all.

OLIVER.

You will not have her then?

STRUMBO.

No, as I am a true gentleman.

WILLIAM.

Then will we school you, ere you and we part hence.

[They fight. Enter Margery and snatch the staff out of her brother's hand, as he is fighting.]

STRUMBO.

Aye, you come in pudding time, or else I had dressed them.

MARGERY.

You, master saucebox, lobcock, cockscomb, you slopsauce, lickfingers, will you not hear?

STRUMBO.

Who speak you to? me?

MARGERY.

Aye, sir, to you, John lackhonesty, little wit. Is it you that will have none of me?

STRUMBO.

No, by my troth, mistress nicebice. How fine you can nickname me. I think you were brought up in the university of bridewell; you have your rhetoric so ready at your tongue's end, as if you were never well warned when your were young.

MARGERY.

Why then, goodman cods-head, if you will have none of me, farewell.

STRUMBO.

If you be so plain, mistress drigle dragle, fare you well.

MARGERY.

Nay, master Strumbo, ere you go from hence, we must have more words. You will have none of me?

[They both fight.]

STRUMBO.

Oh my head, my head! leave, leave, leave! I will, I will, I will!

MARGERY.

Upon that condition I let thee alone.

OLIVER.

How now, master Strumbo? hath my daughter taught you  
a new lesson?

STRUMBO.

Aye, but hear you, goodman Oliver; it will not be for my  
ease to have my head broken every day; therefore remedy  
this and we shall agree.

OLIVER.

Well, zon, well--for you are my zon now--all shall be  
remedied. Daughter, be friends with him.

[Shake hands. Exeunt Oliver, William, and Margery.]

STRUMBO.

You are a sweet nut! The devil crack you. Masters, I  
think it be my luck; my first wife was a loving quiet  
wench, but this, I think, would weary the devil. I would  
she might be burnt as my other wife was. If not, I must  
run to the halter for help. O codpiece, thou hast done thy  
master! this it is to be meddling with warm plackets.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE IV. The camp of Lochrine.

[Enter Lochrine, Camber, Corineius, Thrasimachus,  
Assarachus.]

LOCRINE.

Now am I guarded with an host of men,  
Whose haughty courage is invincible:  
Now am I hemmed with troops of soldiers,  
Such as might force Bellona to retire,  
And make her tremble at their puissance:  
Now sit I like the mighty god of war,  
When, armed with his coat of Adament,  
Mounted his chariot drawn with mighty bulls,



He drove the Argives over Xanthus' streams:  
Now, cursed Humber, doth thy end draw nigh.  
Down goes the glory of thy victories,  
And all the fame, and all thy high renown  
Shall in a moment yield to Locrine's sword.  
Thy bragging banners crossed with argent streams,  
The ornaments of thy pavilions,  
Shall all be capituated with this hand,  
And thou thy self, at Albanactus' tomb,  
Shalt offered be in satisfaction  
Of all the wrongs thou didst him when he lived.--  
But canst thou tell me, brave Thrasimachus,  
How far we are distant from Humber's camp?

THRASIMACHUS.

My Lord, within yon foul accursed grove,  
That bears the tokens of our overthrow,  
This Humber hath intrenched his damned camp.  
March on, my Lord, because I long to see  
The treacherous Scythians squeltring in their gore.

LOCRINE.

Sweet fortune, favour Locrine with a smile,  
That I may venge my noble brother's death;  
And in the midst of stately Troinouant,  
I'll build a temple to thy deity  
Of perfect marble and of Iacincthe stones,  
That it shall pass the high Pyramids,  
Which with their top surmount the firmament.

CAMBER.

The armstrong offspring of the doubled night,  
Stout Hercules, Alemena's mighty son,  
That tamed the monsters of the threefold world,  
And rid the oppressed from the tyrant's yokes,  
Did never show such valiantness in fight,  
As I will now for noble Albanact.

CORINEIUS.

Full four score years hath Corineius lived,  
Sometime in war, sometime in quiet peace,  
And yet I feel my self to be as strong  
As erst I was in summer of mine age,  
Able to toss this great unwieldy club

Which hath been painted with my foemen's brains;  
And with this club I'll break the strong array  
Of Humber and his straggling soldiers,  
Or lose my life amongst the thickest prease,  
And die with honour in my latest days.  
Yet ere I die they all shall understand  
What force lies in stout Corineius' hand.

THRASIMACHUS.

And if Thrasimachus detract the fight,  
Either for weakness or for cowardice,  
Let him not boast that Brutus was his eame,  
Or that brave Corineius was his sire.

LOCRINE.

Then courage, soldiers, first for your safety,  
Next for your peace, last for your victory.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE V. The field of battle.

[Sound the alarm. Enter Hubba and Segar at  
one door, and Corineius at the other.]

CORINEIUS.

Art thou that Humber, prince of fugitives,  
That by thy treason slewst young Albanact?

HUBBA.

I am his son that slew young Albanact,  
And if thou take not heed, proud Phrigian,  
I'll send thy soul unto the Stigian lake,  
There to complain of Humber's injuries.

CORINEIUS.

You triumph, sir, before the victory,  
For Corineius is not so soon slain.  
But, cursed Scythians, you shall rue the day  
That ere you came into Albania.  
So perish thy that envy Brittain's wealth,  
So let them die with endless infamy;  
And he that seeks his sovereign's overthrow,

Would this my club might aggravate his woe.

[Strikes them both down with his club.]

ACT III. SCENE VI. Another part of the field.

[Enter Humber.]

HUMBER.

Where may I find some desert wilderness,  
Where I may breath out curse as I would,  
And scare the earth with my condemning voice;  
Where every echoes repercussion  
May help me to bewail mine overthrow,  
And aide me in my sorrowful laments?  
Where may I find some hollow uncoth rock,  
Where I may damn, condemn, and ban my fill  
The heavens, the hell, the earth, the air, the fire,  
And utter curses to the concave sky,  
Which may infect the airy regions,  
And light upon the Brittain Locrine's head?  
You ugly sprites that in Cocitus mourn,  
And gnash your teeth with dolorous laments:  
You fearful dogs that in black Laethe howl,  
And scare the ghosts with your wide open throats:  
You ugly ghosts that, flying from these dogs,  
Do plunge your selves in Puryflegiton:  
Come, all of you, and with your shriking notes  
Accompany the Brittain's conquering host.  
Come, fierce Erinnis, horrible with snakes;  
Come, ugly Furies, armed with your whips;  
You threefold judges of black Tartarus,  
And all the army of you hellish fiends,  
With new found torments rack proud Locrine's bones!  
O gods, and stars! damned be the gods & stars  
That did not drown me in fair Thetis' plains!  
Curst be the sea, that with outrageous waves,  
With surging billows did not rive my ships  
Against the rocks of high Cerannia,  
Or swallow me into her watery gulf!  
Would God we had arrived upon the shore  
Where Poliphemus and the Cyclops dwell,  
Or where the bloody Anthrophagie

With greedy jaws devours the wandering wights!

[Enter the ghost of Albanact.]

But why comes Albanact's bloody ghost,  
To bring a corsive to our miseries?  
Is't not enough to suffer shameful flight,  
But we must be tormented now with ghosts,  
With apparitions fearful to behold?

GHOST.

Revenge! revenge for blood!

HUMBER.

So nought will satisfy your wandering ghost  
But dire revenge, nothing but Humber's fall,  
Because he conquered you in Albany.  
Now, by my soul, Humber would be condemned  
To Tantal's hunger or Ixion's wheel,  
Or to the vulture of Prometheus,  
Rather than that this murder were undone.  
When as I die I'll drag thy cursed ghost  
Through all the rivers of foul Erebus,  
Through burning sulphur of the Limbo-lake,  
To allay the burning fury of that heat  
That rageth in mine everlasting soul.

GHOST.

Vindicta, vindicta.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV. PROLOGUE.

[Enter Ate as before. Then let there follow  
Omphale, daughter to the king of Lydia, having  
a club in her hand, and a lion's skin on her back,  
Hercules following with a distaff. Then let Omphale  
turn about, and taking off her pantole, strike Hercules  
on the head; then let them depart, Ate remaining,  
saying:]

Quem non Argolici mandota severa Tyranni,

Non potuit Juno vincere, vicit amor.

Stout Hercules, the mirror of the world,  
Son to Alemena and great Jupiter,  
After so many conquests won in field,  
After so many monsters quelled by force,  
Yielded his valiant heart to Omphale,  
A fearful woman void of manly strength.  
She took the club, and wear the lion's skin;  
He took the wheel, and maidenly gan spin.  
So martial Lochrine, cheered with victory,  
Falleth in love with Humber's concubine,  
And so forgetteth peerless Gwendoline.  
His uncle Corineius storms at this,  
And forceth Lochrine for his grace to sue.  
Lo here the sum, the process doth ensue.

[Exit.]

ACT IV. SCENE I. The camp of Lochrine.

[Enter Lochrine, Camber, Corineius, Assaracus,  
Thrasimachus, and the soldiers.]

LOCRINE.

Thus from the furty of Bellona's boils,  
With sound of drum and trumpets' melody,  
The Brittain king returns triumphantly.  
The Scithians slain with great occasion  
Do equalize the grass in multitude,  
And with their blood have stained the streaming brooks,  
Offering their bodies and their dearest blood  
As sacrifice to Albanactus' ghost.  
Now, cursed Humber, hast thou paid thy due,  
For thy deceits and crafty treacheries,  
For all thy guiles and damned strategems,  
With loss of life, and everduring shame.  
Where are thy horses trapped with burnished gold,  
Thy trampling coursers ruled with foaming bits?  
Where are thy soldiers, strong and numberless,  
Thy valiant captains and thy noble peers?  
Even as the country clowns with sharpest scythes  
Do mow the withered grass from off the earth,

Or as the ploughman with his piercing share  
Renteth the bowels of the fertile fields,  
And rippeth up the roots with razours keen:  
So Locrine with his mighty curtleaxe  
Hath cropped off the heads of all thy Huns;  
So Locrine's peers have daunted all thy peers,  
And drove thin host unto confusion,  
That thou mayest suffer penance for thy fault,  
And die for murdering valiant Albanact.

CORINEIUS.

And thus, yea thus, shall all the rest be served  
That seek to enter Albion gainst our wills.  
If the brave nation of the Troglodites,  
If all the coalblack Aethiopians,  
If all the forces of the Amazons,  
If all the hosts of the Barbarian lands,  
Should dare to enter this our little world,  
Soon should they rue their overbold attempts,  
That after us our progeny may say,  
There lie the beasts that sought to usurp our land.

LOCRINE.

Aye, they are beasts that seek to usurp our land,  
And like to brutish beasts they shall be served.  
For mighty Jove, the supreme king of heaven,  
That guides the concourse of the Meteors,  
And rules the motion of the azure sky,  
Fights always for the Brittain's safety.--  
But stay! me thinks I hear some shriking noise,  
That draweth near to our pavilion.

[Enter the soldiers leading in Estrild.]

ESTRILD.

What prince so ere, adorned with golden crown,  
Doth sway the regal scepter in his hand,  
And thinks no chance can ever throw him down,  
Or that his state shall everlasting stand:  
Let him behold poor Estrild in this plight,  
The perfect platform of a troubled wight.  
Once was I guarded with manortial bands,  
Compassed with princes of the noble blood;  
Now am I fallen into my foemen's hands,

And with my death must pacific their mood.  
O life, the harbour of calamities!  
O death, the haven of all miseries!  
I could compare my sorrows to thy woe,  
Thou wretched queen of wretched Pergamus,  
But that thou viewdst thy enemies' overthrow.  
Night to the rock of high Caphareus,  
Thou sawest their death, and then departedst thence;  
I must abide the victor's insolence.  
The gods that pitied thy continual grief  
Transformed thy corps, and with thy corps thy care;  
Poor Estrild lives despairing of relief,  
For friends in trouble are but few and rare.  
What, said I few? Aye! few or none at all,  
For cruel death made havoc of them all.  
Thrice happy they whose fortune was so good,  
To end their lives, and with their lives their woes!  
Thrice hapless I, whom fortune so withstood,  
That cruelly she gave me to my foes!  
Oh, soldiers, is there any misery,  
To be compared to fortune's treachery.

LOCRINE.

Camber, this same should be the Scithian queen.

CAMBER.

So may we judge by her lamenting words.

LOCRINE.

So fair a dame mine eyes did never see;  
With floods of woe she seems overwhelmed to be.

CAMBER.

O Locrine, hath she not a cause for to be sad?

LOCRINE.

[At one side of the stage.]

If she have cause to weep for Humber's death,  
And shed salt tears for her overthrow,  
Locrine may well bewail his proper grief,  
Locrine may move his own peculiar woe.  
He, being conquered, died a speedy death,

And felt not long his lamentable smart:  
I, being conqueror, live a lingering life,  
And feel the force of Cupid's sudden stroke.  
I gave him cause to die a speedy death,  
He left me cause to wish a speedy death.  
Oh that sweet face painted with nature's dye,  
Those roseall cheeks mixed with a snowy white,  
That decent neck surpassing ivory,  
Those comely breasts which Venus well might spite,  
Are like to snares which wily fowlers wrought,  
Wherein my yielding heart is prisoner caught.  
The golden tresses of her dainty hair,  
Which shine like rubies glittering with the sun,  
Have so entrapt poor Lochrine's lovesick heart,  
That from the same no way it can be won.  
How true is that which oft I heard declared,  
One dram of joy, must have a pound of care.

ESTRILD.

Hard is their fall who, from a golden crown,  
Are cast into a sea of wretchedness.

LOCRINE.

Hard is their thrall who by Cupid's frown  
Are wrapt in waves of endless carefulness.

ESTRILD.

Oh kingdom, object to all miseries.

LOCRINE.

Oh love, the extremest of all extremities.

[Let him go into his chair.]

FIRST SOLDIER.

My lord, in ransacking the Scithian tents,  
I found this Lady, and to manifest  
That earnest zeal I bear unto your grace,  
I here present her to your majesty.

SECOND SOLDIER.

He lies, my Lord; I found the Lady first,  
And here present her to your majesty.



FIRST SOLDIER.

Presumptuous villain, wilt thou take my prize?

SECOND SOLDIER.

Nay, rather thou deprivest me of my right.

FIRST SOLDIER.

Resign thy title, captive, unto me,  
Or with my sword I'll pierce thy coward's loins.

SECOND SOLDIER.

Soft words, good sir, tis not enough to speak;  
A barking dog doth seldom strangers bite.

LOCRINE.

Unreverent villains, strive you in our sight?  
Take them hence, Jailor, to the dungeon;  
There let them lie and try their quarrel out.  
But thou, fair princess, be no whit dismayed,  
But rather joy that Lochrine favours thee.

ESTRILD.

How can he favor me that slew my spouse?

LOCRINE.

The chance of war, my love, took him from thee.

ESTRILD.

But Lochrine was the causer of his death.

LOCRINE.

He was an enemy to Lochrine's state,  
And slew my noble brother Albanact.

ESTRILD.

But he was linked to me in marriage bond,  
And would you have me love his slaughterer?

LOCRINE.

Better to live, than not to live at all.

ESTRILD.

Better to die renowned for chastity,  
Than live with shame and endless infamy.

What would the common sort report of me,  
If I forget my love, and cleave to thee?

LOCRINE.

Kings need not fear the vulgar sentences.

ESTRILD.

But Ladies must regard their honest name.

LOCRINE.

Is it a shame to live in marriage bonds?

ESTRILD.

No, but to be a strumpet to a king.

LOCRINE.

If thou wilt yield to Loocrine's burning love,  
Thou shalt be queen of fair Albania.

ESTRILD.

But Gwendoline will undermine my state.

LOCRINE.

Upon mine honor, thou shalt have no harm.

ESTRILD.

Then lo, brave Loocrine, Estrild yields to thee;  
And by the gods, whom thou doest invoke,  
By the dead ghost of thy deceased sire,  
By thy right hand and by thy burning love,  
Take pity on poor Estrild's wretched thrall.

CORINEIUS.

Hath Loocrine then forgot his Gwendoline,  
That thus he courts the Scithian's paramour?  
What, are the words of Brute so soon forgot?  
Are my deserts so quickly out of mind?  
Have I been faithful to thy sire now dead,  
Have I protected thee from Humber's hands,  
And doest thou quite me with ungratitude?  
Is this the guerdon for my grievous wounds,  
Is this the honour for my labor's past?  
Now, by my sword, Loocrine, I swear to thee,  
This injury of thine shall be repaid.

LOCRINE.

Uncle, scorn you your royal sovereign,  
As if we stood for cyphers in the court?  
Upbraid you me with those your benefits?  
Why, it was a subject's duty so to do.  
What you have done for our deceased sire,  
We know, and all know you have your reward.

CORINEIUS.

Avaunt, proud princex; bravest thou me withall?  
Assure thy self, though thou be Emperor,  
Thou ne'er shalt carry this unpunished.

CAMBER.

Pardon my brother, noble Corineius;  
Pardon this once and it shall be amended.

ASSARACHUS.

Cousin, remember Brutus' latest words,  
How he desired you to cherish them;  
Let not this fault so much incense your mind,  
Which is not yet passed all remedy.

CORINEIUS.

Then, Loocrine, lo, I reconcile my self;  
But as thou lovest thy life, so love thy wife.  
But if thou violate those promises,  
Blood and revenge shall light upon thy head.  
Come, let us back to stately Troinouant,  
Where all these matters shall be settled.

LOCRINE.

[To himself.]

Millions of devils wait upon thy soul!  
Legions of spirits vex thy impious ghost!  
Ten thousand torments rack thy cursed bones!  
Let every thing that hath the use of breath  
Be instruments and workers of thy death!

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV. SCENE II. A forest.

[Enter Humber alone, his hair hanging over his shoulders, his arms all bloody, and a dart in one hand.]

HUMBER.

What basilisk was hatched in this place,  
Where every thing consumed is to nought?  
What fearful Fury haunts these cursed groves,  
Where not a root is left for Humber's meat?  
Hath fell Alecto, with invenomed blasts,  
Breathed forth poison in these tender plains?  
Hath triple Cerberus, with contagious foam,  
Sowed Aconitum mongst these withered herbs?  
Hath dreadful Fames with her charming rods  
Brought barrenness on every fruitful tree?  
What, not a root, no fruit, no beast, no bird,  
To nourish Humber in this wilderness?  
What would you more, you fiends of Erebus?  
My very entrails burn for want of drink,  
My bowels cry, Humber, give us some meat.  
But wretched Humber can give you no meat;  
These foul accursed groves afford no meat,  
This fruitless soil, this ground, brings forth no meat.  
The gods, hard hearted gods, yield me no meat.  
Then how can Humber give you any meat?

[Enter Strumbo with a pitchfork, and a scotch-cap, saying:]

STRUMBO.

How do you, masters, how do you? how have you  
scaped hanging this long time? Yfaith, I have scaped  
many a scouring this year; but I thank God I have past  
them all with a good couragio, couragio, & my wife  
& I are in great love and charity now, I thank my  
manhood & my strength. For I will tell you, masters:  
upon a certain day at night I came home, to say the  
very truth, with my stomach full of wine, and ran up  
into the chamber where my wife soberly sat rocking  
my little baby, leaning her back against the bed,  
singing lullaby. Now, when she saw me come with

my nose foremost, thinking that I had been drunk, as I was indeed, she snatched up a faggot stick in her hand, and came furiously marching towards me with a big face, as though she would have eaten me at a bit; thundering out these words unto me: Thou drunken knave, where hast thou been so long? I shall teach thee how to be knighted me another time; and so she began to play knaves' trumps. Now, although I trembled, fearing she would set her ten commandments in my face, I ran within her, and taking her lustily by the middle, I carried her valiantly to the bed, and flinging her upon it, flung myself upon her; and there I delighted her so with the sport I made, that ever after she would call me sweet husband, and so banished brawling for ever. And to see the good will of the wench! she bought with her portion a yard of land, and by that I am now become one of the richest men in our parish. Well, masters, what's a clock? is it now breakfast time; you shall see what meat I have here for my breakfast.

[Let him sit down and pull out his vittails.]

HUMBER.

Was ever land so fruitless as this land?  
Was ever grove so graceless as this grove?  
Was ever soil so barren as this soil?  
Oh no: the land where hungry Fames dwell  
May no wise equalize this cursed land;  
No, even the climate of the torrid zone  
Brings forth more fruit than this accursed grove.  
Ne'er came sweet Ceres, ne'er came Venus here;  
Triptolemus, the god of husbandmen,  
Ne'er sowed his seed in this foul wilderness.  
The hunger-bitten dogs of Acheron,  
Chased from the ninefold Puriflegiton,  
Have set their footsteps in this damned ground.  
The iron hearted Furies, armed with snakes,  
Scattered huge Hydras over all the plains,  
Which have consumed the grass, the herbs, the trees;  
Which have drunk up the flowing water springs.

[Strumbo, hearing his voice, shall start up and put meat in his pocket, seeking to hide himself.]

Thou great commander of the starry sky,  
That guidest the life of every mortal wight,  
From the inclosures of the fleeting clouds  
Fain down some food, or else I faint and die:  
Pour down some drink, or else I faint and die.  
O Jupiter, hast thou sent Mercury  
In clownish shape to minister some food?  
Some meat! some meat! some meat!

STRUMBO.

O, alas, sir, ye are deceived. I am not Mercury;  
I am Strumbo.

HUMBER.

Give me some meat, villain; give me some meat,  
Or gainst this rock I'll dash thy cursed brains,  
And rent thy bowels with my bloody hands.  
Give me some meat, villain; give me some meat!

STRUMBO.

By the faith of my body, good fellow, I had rather  
give an whole oxe than that thou shouldst serve me  
in that sort. Dash out my brains? O horrible!  
terrible! I think I have a quarry of stones in my  
pocket.

[Let him make as though he would give him some,  
and as he putteth out his hand, enter the ghost of  
Albanact, and strike him on the hand: and so  
Strumbo runs out, Humber following him. Exit.]

ALBANACT'S GHOST.

Lo, here the gift of fell ambition,  
Of usurpation and of treachery!  
Lo, here the harms that wait upon all those  
That do intrude themselves in other's lands,  
Which are not under their dominion.

[Exit.]

ACT IV. SCENE III. A chamber in the Royal Palace.

[Enter Locrine alone.]

LOCRINE.

Seven years hath aged Corineus lived,  
To Locrine's grief, and fair Estrild's woe,  
And seven years more he hopeth yet to live.  
Oh supreme Jove, annihilate this thought!  
Should he enjoy the air's fruition?  
Should he enjoy the benefit of life?  
Should he contemplate the radiant sun,  
That makes my life equal to dreadful death?  
Venus, convey this monster fro the earth,  
That disobeyeth thus thy sacred hests!  
Cupid, convey this monster to dark hell,  
That disanulls thy mother's sugared laws!  
Mars, with thy target all beset with flames,  
With murdering blade bereave him of his life,  
That hindreth Locrine in his sweetest joys!  
And yet, for all his diligent aspect,  
His wrathful eyes, piercing like Linces' eyes,  
Well have I overmatched his subtilty.  
Nigh Deurolitum, by the pleasant Lee,  
Where brackish Thamis slides with silver streams,  
Making a breach into the grassy downs,  
A curious arch, of costly marble fraught,  
Hath Locrine framed underneath the ground;  
The walls whereof, garnished with diamonds,  
With ophirs, rubies, glistening emeralds,  
And interlast with sun-bright carbuncles,  
Lighten the room with artificial day:  
And from the Lee with water-flowing pipes  
The moisture is derived into this arch,  
Where I have placed fair Estrild secretly.  
Thither eftsoons, accompanied with my page,  
I covertly visit my heart's desire,  
Without suspicion of the meanest eye;  
For love aboundeth still with policy:  
And thither still means Locrine to repair,  
Till Atropos cut off mine uncle's life.

[Exit.]

ACT IV. SCENE IV. The entrance of a cave,

near which runs the river, afterward the Humber.]

[Enter Humber alone, saying:]

HUMBER.

O vita misero longa, foelici brevis,  
Eheu! malorum fames extremum malum.

Long have I lived in this desert cave,  
With eating haws and miserable roots,  
Devouring leaves and beastly excrements.  
Caves were my beds, and stones my pillow-bears,  
Fear was my sleep, and horror was my dream,  
For still me thought, at every boisterous blast,  
Now Locrine comes, now, Humber, thou must die:  
So that for fear and hunger, Humber's mind  
Can never rest, but always trembling stands,  
O, what Danubius now may quench my thirst?  
What Euphrates, what lightfoot Euripus,  
May now allay the fury of that heat,  
Which, raging in my entrails, eats me up?  
You ghastly devils of the ninefold Styx,  
You damned ghosts of joyless Acheron,  
You mournful souls, vexed in Abyss' vaults,  
You coalblack devils of Avernus' pond,  
Come, with your fleshhooks rent my famished arms,  
These arms that have sustained their master's life.  
Come, with your razors rip my bowels up,  
With your sharp fireforks crack my sterved bones:  
Use me as you will, so Humber may not live.  
Accursed gods, that rule the starry poles,  
Accursed Jove, king of the cursed gods,  
Cast down your lightning on poor Humber's head,  
That I may leave this deathlike life of mine!  
What, hear you not? and shall not Humber die?  
Nay, I will die, though all the gods say nay!  
And, gentle Aby, take my troubled corps,  
Take it and keep it from all mortal eyes,  
That none may say, when I have lost my breath,  
The very floods conspired gainst Humber's death.

[Fling himself into the river.]

[Enter the ghost of Albanact.]



ALBANACT'S GHOST.

En coedem sequitur coedes, in coede quiesco.  
Humber is dead! joy heavens! leap earth! dance trees!  
Now mayest thou reach thy apples, Tantalus,  
And with them feed thy hunger-bitten limbs!  
Now, Sisyphus, leave tumbling of thy rock,  
And rest thy restless bones upon the same!  
Unbind Ixion, cruel Rhadamanth,  
And lay proud Humber on the whirling wheel.  
Back will I post to hell mouth Taenarus,  
And pass Cocitus, to the Elysian fields,  
And tell my father Brutus of these news.

[Exit.]

ACT V. PROLOGUE.

[Enter Ate as before. Jason, leading Creon's daughter. Medea, following, hath a garland in her hand, and putting it on Creon's daughter's head, setteth it on fire, and then, killing Jason and her, departeth.]

ATE.

Non tam Tinacriis exaestuat Aetna cavernis,  
Laesae furtivo quam cor mulieris amore.

Medea, seeing Jason leave her love,  
And choose the daughter of the Theban king,  
Went to her devilish charms to work revenge;  
And raising up the triple Hecate,  
With all the rout of the condemned fiends,  
Framed a garland by her magic skill,  
With which she wrought Jason and Creons.  
So Gwendoline, seeing her self misused,  
And Humber's paramour possess her place,  
Flies to the dukedom of Cornubia,  
And with her brother, stout Thrasimachus,  
Gathering a power of Cornish soldiers,  
Gives battle to her husband and his host,  
Nigh to the river of great Mertia.

The chances of this dismal massacre  
That which insueth shortly will unfold.

[Exit.]

ACT V. SCENE I. A chamber in the Royal Palace.

[Enter Lochrine, Camber, Assarachus, Thrasimachus.]

ASSARACHUS.

But tell me, cousin, died my brother so?  
Now who is left to helpless Albion?  
That as a pillar might uphold our state,  
That might strike terror to our daring foes?  
Now who is left to hapless Brittain,  
That might defend her from the barbarous hands  
Of those that still desire her ruinous fall,  
And seek to work her downfall and decay?

CAMBER.

Aye, uncle, death is our common enemy,  
And none but death can match our matchless power:  
Witness the fall of Albioneus' crew,  
Witness the fall of Humber and his Huns.  
And this foul death hath now increased our woe,  
By taking Corineius from this life,  
And in his room leaving us worlds of care.

THRASIMACHUS.

But none may more bewail his mournful hearse,  
Than I that am the issue of his loins.  
Now foul befall that cursed Humber's throat,  
That was the causer of his lingering wound.

LOCRINE.

Tears cannot raise him from the dead again.  
But where's my Lady, mistress Gwendoline?

THRASIMACHUS.

In Cornwall, Lochrine, is my sister now,  
Providing for my father's funeral.

LOCRINE.

And let her there provide her mourning weeds  
And mourn for ever her own widow-hood.  
Ne'er shall she come within our palace gate,  
To countercheck brave Locrine in his love.  
Go, boy, to Devrolitum, down the Lee,  
Unto the arch where lovely Estrild lies.  
Bring her and Sabren straight unto the court;  
She shall be queen in Gwendoline's room.  
Let others wail for Corineius' death;  
I mean not so to macerate my mind  
For him that barred me from my heart's desire.

THRASIMACHUS.

Hath Locrine, then, forsook his Gwendoline?  
Is Corineius' death so soon forgot?  
If there be gods in heaven, as sure there be,  
If there be fiends in hell, as needs there must,  
They will revenge this thy notorious wrong,  
And power their plagues upon thy cursed head.

LOCRINE.

What! prat'st thou, peasant, to thy sovereign?  
Or art thou strooken in some extasy?  
Doest thou not tremble at our royal looks?  
Dost thou not quake, when mighty Locrine frowns?  
Thou beardless boy, wer't not that Locrine scorns  
To vex his mind with such a heartless child,  
With the sharp point of this my battle-axe,  
I would send thy soul to Puriflegiton.

THRASIMACHUS.

Though I be young and of a tender age,  
Yet will I cope with Locrine when he dares.  
My noble father with his conquering sword,  
Slew the two giants, kings of Aquitaine.  
Thrasimachus is not so degenerate  
That he should fear and tremble at the looks  
Or taunting words of a venerian squire.

LOCRINE.

Menacest thou thy royal sovereign,  
Uncivil, not beseeming such as you?  
Injurious traitor (for he is no less  
That at defiance standeth with his king)

Leave these thy taunts, leave these thy bragging words,  
Unless thou mean to leave thy wretched life.

THRASIMACHUS.

If princes stain their glorious dignity  
With ugly spots of monstrous infamy,  
They leese their former estimation,  
And throw themselves into a hell of hate.

LOCRINE.

Wilt thou abuse my gentle patience,  
As though thou didst our high displeasure scorn?  
Proud boy, that thou mayest know thy prince is moved,  
Yea, greatly moved at this thy swelling pride,  
We banish thee for ever from our court.

THRASIMACHUS.

Then, losell Lochrine, look unto thy self,  
Thrasimachus will venge this injury.

[Exit.]

LOCRINE.

Farewell, proud boy, and learn to use thy tongue.

ASSARACHUS.

Alas, my Lord, you should have called to mind  
The latest words that Brutus spake to you:  
How he desired you, by the obedience  
That children ought to bear unto the sire,  
To love and favour Lady Gwendoline.  
Consider this, that if the injury  
Do move her mind, as certainly it will,  
War and dissention follows speedily.  
What though her power be not so great as yours?  
Have you not seen a mighty elephant  
Slain by the biting of a silly mouse?  
Even so the chance of war inconstant is.

LOCRINE.

Peace, uncle, peace, and cease to talk hereof;  
For he that seeks, by whispering this or that,  
To trouble Lochrine in his sweetest life,  
Let him persuade himself to die the death.

[Enter the Page, with Estrild and Sabren.]

ESTRILD.

O, say me, Page, tell me, where is the king?  
Wherefore doth he send for me to the court?  
Is it to die? is it to end my life?  
Say me, sweet boy, tell me and do not feign!

PAGE.

No, trust me, madame; if you will credit the little honesty  
that is yet left me, there is no such danger as you fear. But  
prepare your self; yonder's the king.

ESTRILD.

Then, Estrild, life thy dazzled spirits up,  
And bless that blessed time, that day, that hour,  
That warlike Lochrine first did favour thee.  
Peace to the king of Brittainy, my love!  
Peace to all those that love and favour him!

LOCRINE.

[Taking her up.]

Doth Estrild fall with such submission  
Before her servant, king of Albion?  
Arise, fair Lady; leave this lowly cheer.  
Life up those looks that cherish Lochrine's heart,  
That I may freely view that roseall face,  
Which so intangled hath my lovesick breast.  
Now to the court, where we will court it out,  
And pass the night and day in Venus' sports.  
Frolic, brave peers; be joyful with your king.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V. SCENE II. The camp of Gwendoline.

[Enter Gwendoline, Thrasimachus, Madan, and  
the soldiers.]

GWENDOLINE.

You gentle winds, that with your modest blasts  
Pass through the circuit of the heavenly vault,  
**E**nter the clouds unto the throne of Jove,  
And there bear my prayers to his all hearing ears.  
For Locrine hath forsaken Gwendoline,  
And learnt to love proud Humber's concubine.  
You happy sprites, that in the concave sky  
With pleasant joy enjoy your sweetest love,  
Shed forth those tears with me, which then you shed,  
When first you would your ladies to your wills.  
Those tears are fittest for my woeful case,  
Since Locrine shuns my nothing pleasant face.  
Blush heavens, blush sun, and hide thy shining beams;  
Shadow thy radiant locks in gloomy clouds;  
Deny thy cheerful light unto the world,  
Where nothing reigns but falsehood and deceit.  
What said I? falsehood? Aye, that filthy crime,  
For Locrine hath forsaken Gwendoline.  
Behold the heavens do wail for Gwendoline.  
The shining sun doth blush for Gwendoline.  
The liquid air doth weep for Gwendoline.  
The very ground doth groan for Gwendoline.  
Aye, they are milder than the Brittain king,  
For he rejecteth luckless Gwendoline.

THRASIMACHUS.

Sister, complaints are bootless in this cause;  
This open wrong must have an open plague,  
This plague must be repaid with grievous war,  
This war must finish with Locrine's death;  
His death will soon extinguish our complaints.

GWENDOLINE.

O no, his death will more augment my woes.  
He was my husband, brave Thrasimachus,  
More dear to me than the apple of mine eye,  
Nor can I find in heart to work his scathe.

THRASIMACHUS.

Madame, if not your proper injuries,  
Nor my exile, can move you to revenge,  
Think on our father Corineius' words;  
His words to us stands always for a law.  
Should Locrine live that caused my father's death?

Should Lochrine live that now divorceth you?  
The heavens, the earth, the air, the fire reclaims,  
And then why should all we deny the same?

GWENDOLINE.

Then henceforth, farewell womanish complaints!  
All childish pity henceforth, then, farewell!  
But, cursed Lochrine, look unto thy self,  
For Nemesis, the mistress of revenge,  
Sits armed at all points on our dismal blades;  
And cursed Estrild, that inflamed his heart,  
Shall, if I live, die a reproachful death.

MADAN.

Mother, though nature makes me to lament  
My luckless father's froward lechery,  
Yet, for he wrongs my Lady mother thus,  
I, if I could, my self would work his death.

THRASIMACHUS.

See, madame, see, the desire of revenge  
Is in the children of a tender age!  
Forward, brave soldiers, into Mertia,  
Where we shall brave the coward to his face.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V. SCENE III. The camp of Lochrine.

[Enter Lochrine, Estrild, Sabren, Assarachus, and  
the soldiers.]

LOCRINE.

Tell me, Assarachus, are the Cornish chuffes  
In such great number come to Mertia?  
And have they pitched there their petty host,  
So close unto our royal mansion?

ASSARACHUS.

They are, my Lord, and mean incontinent  
To bid defiance to your majesty.

LOCRINE.

It makes me laugh, to think that Gwendoline  
Should have the heart to come in arms gainst me.

ESTRILD.

Alas, my Lord, the horse will run amain,  
When as the spur doth gall him to the bone.  
Jealousy, Locrine, hath a wicked sting.

LOCRINE.

Sayest thou so, Estrild, beauty's paragon?  
Well, we will try her choler to the proof,  
And make her know, Locrine can brook no braves.  
March on, Assarachus; thou must lead the way,  
And bring us to their proud pavilion.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V. SCENE IV. The field of battle.

[Enter the ghost of Corineius, with thunder and  
lightening.]

CORINEIUS' GHOST.

Behold, the circuit of the azure sky  
Throws forth sad throbs and grievous suspires,  
Prejudicating Locrine's overthrow.  
The fire casteth forth sharp darts of flames,  
The great foundation of the triple world  
Trembleth and quaketh with a mighty noise,  
Presaging bloody massacres at hand.  
The wandering birds that flutter in the dark,  
When hellish night, in cloudy chariot seated,  
Casteth her mists on shady Tellus' face,  
With sable mantles covering all the earth,  
Now flies abroad amid the cheerful day,  
Foretelling some unwonted misery.  
The snarling curs of darkened Tartarus,  
Sent from Avernus' ponds by Radamanth,  
With howling ditties pester every wood.  
The watery ladies and the lightfoot fawns,  
And all the rabble of the woody Nymphs,  
All trembling hide themselves in shady groves,  
And shroud themselves in hideous hollow pits.



The boisterous Boreas thundreth forth revenge;  
The stony rocks cry out on sharp revenge;  
The thorny bush pronounceth dire revenge.

[Sound the alarm.]

Now, Corineius, stay and see revenge,  
And feed thy soul with Lochrine's overthrow.  
Behold, they come; the trumpets call them forth;  
The roaring drums summon the soldiers.  
Lo, where their army glistereth on the plains!  
Throw forth thy lightning, mighty Jupiter,  
And power thy plagues on cursed Lochrine's head.

[Stand aside.]

[Enter Lochrine, Estrild, Assarachus, Sabren and  
their soldiers at one door: Thrasimachus, Gwendoline,  
Madan and their followers at an other.]

LOCRINE.

What, is the tiger started from his cave?  
Is Gwendoline come from Cornubia,  
That thus she braveth Lochrine to the teeth?  
And hast thou found thine armour, pretty boy,  
Accompanied with these thy stragging mates?  
Believe me, but this enterprise was bold,  
And well deserveth commendation.

GWENDOLINE.

Aye, Lochrine, traitorous Lochrine! we are come,  
With full pretence to seek thine overthrow.  
What have I done, that thou shouldst scorn me thus?  
What have I said, that thou shouldst me reject?  
Have I been disobedient to thy words?  
Have I bewrayed thy Arcane secrecy?  
Have I dishonoured thy marriage bed  
With filthy crimes, or with lascivious lusts?  
Nay, it is thou that hast dishonoured it:  
Thy filthy minds, o'ercome with filthy lusts,  
Yieldeth unto affections filthy darts.  
Unkind, thou wrongst thy first and truest feer;  
Unkind, thou wrongst thy best and dearest friend;  
Unkind, thou scornst all skilfull Brutus' laws,

Forgetting father, uncle, and thy self.

ESTRILD.

Believe me, Locrine, but the girl is wise,  
And well would seem to make a vestal Nun.  
How finely frames she her oration!

THRASIMACHUS.

Locrine, we came not here to fight with words,  
Words that can never win the victory;  
But for you are so merry in your frumps,  
Unsheath your swords, and try it out by force,  
That we may see who hath the better hand.

LOCRINE.

Thinkst thou to dare me, bold Thrasimachus?  
Thinkst thou to fear me with thy taunting braves,  
Or do we seem too weak to cope with thee?  
Soon shall I shew thee my fine cutting blade,  
And with my sword, the messenger of death,  
Seal thee an acquittance for thy bold attempts.

[Exeunt.]

[Sound the alarm. Enter Locrine, Assarachus, and a  
soldier at one door; Gwendoline, Thrasimachus, at  
another; Locrine and his followers driven back.  
Then let Locrine & Estrild enter again in a maze.]

LOCRINE.

O fair Estrild, we have lost the field;  
Thrasimachus hath won the victory,  
And we are left to be a laughing stock,  
Scoft at by those that are our enemies.  
Ten thousand soldiers, armed with sword & shield,  
prevail against an hundreth thousand men;  
Thrasimachus, incensed with fuming ire,  
Rageth amongst the faintheart soldiers,  
Like to grim Mars, when covered with his targe  
He fought with Diomedes in the field,  
Close by the banks of silver Simois.

[Sound the alarm.]

O lovely Estrild, now the chase begins;  
Ne'er shall we see the stately Troynouant,  
Mounted on the coursers garnished all with pearls;  
Nor shall we view the fair Concordia,  
Unless as captives we be thither brought.  
Shall Locrine then be taken prisoner  
By such a youngling as Thrasimachus?  
Shall Gwendoline captivate my love?  
Ne'er shall mine eyes behold that dismal hour;  
Ne'er will I view that ruthless spectacle,  
For with my sword, this sharp curtleaxe,  
I'll cut in sunder my accursed heart.  
But O! you judges of the ninefold Styx,  
Which with incessant torments rack the ghosts  
Within the bottomless Abissus' pits,  
You gods, commanders of the heavenly spheres,  
Whose will and laws irrevocable stands,  
Forgive, forgive, this foul accursed sin!  
Forget, O gods, this foul condemned fault!  
And now, my sword, that in so many fights

[Kiss his sword.]

Hast saved the life of Brutus and his son,  
End now his life that wisheth still for death;  
Work now his death that wisheth still for death;  
Work now his death that hateth still his life.  
Farewell, fair Estrild, beauty's paragon,  
Framed in the front of forlorn miseries!  
Ne'er shall mine eyes behold thy sunshine eyes,  
But when we meet in the Elysian fields;  
Thither I go before with hastened pace.  
Farewell, vain world, and thy inticing snares!  
Farewell, foul sin, and thy inticing pleasures!  
And welcome, death, the end of mortal smart,  
Welcome to Locrine's overburthened heart!

[Thrust himself through with his sword.]

ESTRILD.

Break, heart, with sobs and grievous suspires!  
Stream forth, you tears, from forth my watery eyes;  
Help me to mourn for warlike Locrine's death!  
Pour down your tears, you watery regions,

For mighty Locrine is bereft of life!  
O fickle fortune! O unstable world!  
What else are all things that this globe contains,  
But a confused chaos of mishaps,  
Wherein, as in a glass, we plainly see,  
That all our life is but a Tragedy?  
Since mighty kings are subject to mishap--  
Aye, mighty kings are subject to mishap!--  
Since martial Locrine is bereft of life,  
Shall Estrild live, then, after Locrine's death?  
Shall love of life bar her from Locrine's sword?  
O no, this sword, that hath bereft his life,  
Shall now deprive me of my fleeting soul;  
Strengthen these hands, O mighty Jupiter,  
That I may end my woeful misery.  
Locrine, I come; Locrine, I follow thee.

[Kill her self.]

[Sound the alarm. Enter Sabren.]

SABREN.

What doleful sight, what ruthless spectacle  
Hath fortune offered to my hapless heart?  
My father slain with such a fatal sword,  
My mother murdered by a mortal wound?  
What Thracian dog, what barbarous Mirmidon,  
Would not relent at such a rueful case?  
What fierce Achilles, what had stony flint,  
Would not bemoan this mournful Tragedy?  
Locrine, the map of magnanimity,  
Lies slaughtered in this foul accursed cave,  
Estrild, the perfect pattern of renown,  
Nature's sole wonder, in whose beauteous breasts  
All heavenly grace and virtue was inshrined:  
Both massacred are dead within this cave,  
And with them dies fair Pallas and sweet love.  
Here lies a sword, and Sabren hath a heart;  
This blessed sword shall cut my cursed heart,  
And bring my soul unto my parents' ghosts,  
That they that live and view our Tragedy  
May mourn our case with mournful plaudities.

[Let her offer to kill her self.]

Ay me, my virgin's hands are too too weak,  
To penetrate the bulwark of my breast;  
My fingers, used to tune the amorous lute,  
Are not of force to hold this steely glaive.  
So I am left to wail my parents' death,  
Not able for to work my proper death.  
Ah, Locrine, honored for thy nobleness!  
Ah, Estrild, famous for thy constancy!  
Ill may they fare that wrought your mortal ends!

[Enter Gwendoline, Thrasimachus, Madan, and the soldiers.]

GWENDOLINE.

Search, soldiers, search, find Locrine and his love;  
Find the proud strumpet, Humber's concubine,  
That I may change those her so pleasing looks  
To pale and ignominious aspect.  
Find me the issue of their cursed love,  
Find me young Sabren, Locrine's only joy,  
That I may glut my mind with lukewarm blood,  
Swiftly distilling from the bastard's breast.  
My father's ghost still haunts me for revenge,  
Crying, Revenge my overhastened death.  
My brother's exile and mine own divorce  
Banish remorse clean from my brazen heart,  
All mercy from mine adamantine breasts.

THRASIMACHUS.

Nor doth thy husband, lovely Gwendoline,  
That wonted was to guide our stailless steps,  
Enjoy this light; see where he murdered lies  
By luckless lot and froward frowning fate;  
And by him lies his lovely paramour,  
Fair Estrild, gored with a dismal sword;--  
And as it seems, both murdered by themselves,  
Clasping each other in their feeble arms,  
With loving zeal, as if for company  
Their uncontented corps were yet content  
To pass foul Stix in Charon's ferry-boat.

GWENDOLINE.

And hath proud Estrild then prevented me?

Hath she escaped Gwendoline's wrath  
Violently, by cutting off her life?  
Would God she had the monstrous Hydra's lives,  
That every hour she might have died a death  
Worse than the swing of old Ixion's wheel;  
And every hour revive to die again,  
As Titius, bound to houses Caucason,  
Doth feed the substance of his own mishap,  
And every day for want of food doth die,  
And every night doth live, again to die.  
But stay! methinks I hear some fainting voice,  
Mournfully weeping for their luckless death.

SABREN.

You mountain nymphs, which in these deserts reign,  
Cease off your hasty chase of savage beasts;  
Prepare to see a heart oppressed with care;  
Address your ears to hear a mournful style!  
No humane strength, no work can work my weal,  
Care in my heart so tyrant like doth deal.  
You Dryads and lightfoot Satyri,  
You gracious Fairies which, at evening tide,  
Your closets leave with heavenly beauty stored,  
And on your shoulders spread your golden locks;  
You savage bears in caves and darkened dens,  
Come wail with me the martial Lochrine's death;  
Come mourn with me for beautiful Estrild's death.  
Ah! loving parents, little do you know  
What sorrow Sabren suffers for your thrall.

GWENDOLINE.

But may this be, and is it possible?  
Lives Sabren yet to expiate my wrath?  
Fortune, I thank thee for this courtesy;  
And let me never see one prosperous hour,  
If Sabren die not a reproachful death.

SABREN.

Hard hearted death, that, when the wretched call,  
Art furthest off, and seldom hearest at all;  
But, in the midst of fortune's good success,  
Uncalled comes, and sheers our life in twain:  
When will that hour, that blessed hour, draw nigh,  
When poor distressed Sabren may be gone?

Sweet Atropos, cut off my fatal thread!  
What art thou death? shall not poor Sabren die?

GWENDOLINE.

[Taking her by the chin shall say thus.]

Yes, damsel, yes; Sabren shall surely die,  
Though all the world should seek to save her life;  
And not a common death shall Sabren die,  
But after strange and grievous punishments  
Shortly inflicted upon thy bastard's head,  
Thou shalt be cast into the cursed streams,  
And feed the fishes with thy tender flesh.

SABREN.

And thinkst thou then, thou cruel homicide,  
That these thy deeds shall be unpunished?  
No, traitor, no; the gods will venge these wrongs,  
The fiends of hell will mark these injuries.  
Never shall these blood-sucking masty curs,  
Bring wretched Sabren to her latest home;  
For I my self, in spite of thee and thine,  
Mean to abridge my former destinies,  
And that which Locrine's sword could not perform,  
This pleasant stream shall present bring to pass.

[She drowneth her self.]

GWENDOLINE.

One mischief follows on another's neck.  
Who would have thought so young a maid as she  
With such a courage would have sought her death?  
And for because this River was the place  
Where little Sabren resolutely died,  
Sabren for ever shall this same be called.  
And as for Locrine, our deceased spouse,  
Because he was the son of mighty Brute,  
To whom we owe our country, lives and goods,  
He shall be buried in a stately tomb,  
Close by his aged father Brutus' bones,  
With such great pomp and great solemnity,  
As well beseems so brave a prince as he.  
Let Estrild lie without the shallow vaults,

Without the honour due unto the dead,  
Because she was the author of this war.  
Retire, brave followers, unto Troynouant,  
Where we shall celebrate these exequies,  
And place young Locrine in his father's tomb.

[Exeunt omnes.]

[Enter Ate.]

ATE.

Lo here the end of lawless treachery,  
Of usurpation and ambitious pride;  
And they that for their private amours dare  
Turmoil our land, and set their broils abroad,  
Let them be warned by these premises.  
And as a woman was the only cause  
That civil discord was then stirred up,  
So let us pray for that renowned maid,  
That eight and thirty years the scepter swayed,  
In quiet peace and sweet felicity;  
And every wight that seeks her grace's smart,  
Would that this sword were pierced in his heart!

[Exit.]

[Finis.]

2. A MOST PLEASANT COMEDY OF MUCEDORUS THE KING'S SON OF  
VALENTIA, AND AMADINE, THE KING'S DAUGHTER OF ARRAGON.

THE PROLOGUE.

Most sacred Majesty, whose great deserts  
Thy Subject England, nay, the World, admires:  
Which Heaven grant still increase: O may your Praise,  
Multiplying with your hours, your Fame still raise;  
Embrace your Counsel; Love, with Faith, them guide,



That both, as one, bench by each other's side.  
So may your life pass on and run so even,  
That your firm zeal plant you a Throne in Heaven,  
Where smiling Angels shall your guardians be  
From blemished Traitors, stained with Perjury:  
And as the night's inferiour to the day,  
So be all earthly Regions to your sway.  
Be as the Sun to Day, the Day to Night;  
For, from your Beams, Europe shall borrow light.  
Mirth drown your bosom, fair Delight your mind,  
And may our Pastime your Contentment find.

[Exit.]

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Eight persons may easily play it.

THE KING and ROMBELO, for one.  
KING VALENCIA, for one.  
MUCEDORUS the prince of Valencia, for one.  
ANSELMO, for one.  
AMADINE the King's daughter of Arragon, for one.  
SEGASTO a Noble man, for one.  
ENVY; TREMELIO a Captain; BREMO a wild  
man, for one.  
COMEDY, a BOY, an OLD WOMAN, ARIENA  
Amadine's maid, for one.  
COLLEN a Counselor, a MESSENGER, for one.  
MOUSE the Clown, for one.

INDUCTION.

[Enter Comedy joyful with a garland of bays in  
her hand.]

Why so! thus do I hope to please:  
Music revives, and mirth is tolerable,  
Comedy, play thy part and please,

Make merry them that comes to joy with thee:  
Joy, then, good gentles; I hope to make you laugh.  
Sound forth Bellona's silver tuned strings.  
Time fits us well, the day and place is ours.

[Enter Envy, his arms naked, besmeared with blood.]

ENVY.

Nay, stay, minion, there lies a block.  
What, all on mirth! I'll interrupt your tale  
And mix your music with a tragic end.

COMEDY.

What monstrous ugly hag is this,  
That dares control the pleasures of our will?  
Vaunt, churlish cur, besmeared with gory blood,  
That seemst to check the blossoms of delight,  
And stifle the sound of sweet Bellona's breath:  
Blush, monster, blush, and post away with shame,  
That seekst disturbance of a goddess' deeds.

ENVY.

Post hence thy self, thou counter-checking trull;  
I will possess this habit, spite of thee,  
And gain the glory of thy wished port:  
I'll thunder music shall appall the nymphs,  
And make them shiver their clattering strings:  
Flying for succour to their dankish caves.

[Sound drums within and cry, 'stab! stab!']

Hearken, thou shalt hear a noise  
Shall fill the air with a shrilling sound,  
And thunder music to the gods above:  
Mars shall himself breathe down  
A peerless crown upon brave envy's head,  
And raise his chivall with a lasting fame.  
In this brave music Envy takes delight,  
Where I may see them wallow in their blood,  
To spurn at arms and legs quite shivered off,  
And hear the cries of many thousand slain.  
How likst thou this, my trull? this sport alone for me!

COMEDY.

Vaunt, bloody cur, nurst up with tiger's sap,  
That so dost seek to quail a woman's mind.  
Comedy is mild, gentle, willing for to please,  
And seeks to gain the love of all estates:  
Delighting in mirth, mixt all with lovely tales,  
And bringeth things with treble joy to pass.  
Thou, bloody, Envious, disdain of men's joy,  
Whose name is fraught with bloody stratagems,  
Delights in nothing but in spoil and death,  
Where thou maist trample in their luke warm blood,  
And grasp their hearts within thy cursed paws:  
Yet vail thy mind, revenge thou not on me;  
A silly woman begs it at thy hands:  
Give me the leave to utter out my play,  
Forbear this place, I humbly crave thee: hence,  
And mix not death amongst pleasing comedies,  
That treats naught else but pleasure and delight.  
If any spark of human rests in thee,  
Forbear, be gone, tender the suite of me.

ENVY.

Why so I will; forbearance shall be such  
As treble death shall cross thee with despite,  
And make thee mourn where most thou joyest,  
Turning thy mirth into a deadly dole,  
Whirling thy pleasures with a peal of death,  
And drench thy methods in a sea of blood:  
This will I do, thus shall I bear with thee;  
And more to vex thee with a deeper spite,  
I will with threats of blood begin thy play,  
Favoring thee with envy and with hate.

COMEDY.

Then, ugly monster, do thy worst,  
I will defend them in despite of thee:  
And though thou thinkst with tragic fumes  
To brave my play unto my deep disgrace,  
I force it not, I scorn what thou canst do;  
I'll grace it so, thy self shall it confess  
From tragic stuff to be a pleasant comedy.

ENVY.

Why then, Comedy, send thy actors forth  
And I will cross the first steps of their tread:

Making them fear the very dart of death.

COMEDY.

And I'll defend them maugre all thy spite:  
So, ugly fiend, farewell, till time shall serve,  
That we may meet to parle for the best.

ENVY.

Content, Comedy; I'll go spread my branch,  
And scattered blossoms from mine envious tree  
Shall prove to monsters, spoiling of their joys.

[Exit.]

ACT I. SCENE I. Valentia. The Court.

[Sound. Enter Mucedorus and Anselmo his friend.]

MUCEDORUS.

Anselmo.

ANSELMO.

My Lord and friend.

MUCEDORUS.

True, my Anselmo, both thy Lord and friend  
Whose dear affections bosom with my heart,  
And keep their domination in one orb.

ANSELMO.

Whence near disloyalty shall root it forth,  
But faith plant firmer in your choice respect.

MUCEDORUS.

Much blame were mine, if I should other deem,  
Nor can coy Fortune contrary allow:  
But, my Anselmo, loth I am to say  
I must estrange that friendship--  
Misconsture not, tis from the Realm, not thee:  
Though Lands part Bodies, Hearts keep company.  
Thou knowst that I imparted often have  
Private relations with my royal Sire,  
Had as concerning beautiful Amadine,

Rich Aragon's bright Jewel, whose face (some say)  
That blooming Lilies never shone so gay,  
Excelling, not excelled: yet least Report  
Does mangle Verity, boasting of what is not,  
Wing'd with Desire, thither I'll straight repair,  
And be my Fortunes, as my Thoughts are, fair.

ANSELMO.

Will you forsake Valencia, leave the Court,  
Absent you from the eye of Sovereignty?  
Do not, sweet Prince, adventure on that task,  
Since danger lurks each where: be won from it.

MUCEDORUS.

Desist dissuasion,  
My resolution brooks no battery;  
Therefore, if thou retain thy wonted form,  
Assist what I intend.

ANSELMO.

Your miss will breed a blemish in the Court,  
And throw a frosty dew upon that Beard,  
Whose front Valencia stoops to.

MUCEDORUS.

If thou my welfare tender, then no more;  
Let Love's strong magic charm thy trivial phrase,  
Wasted as vainly as to gripe the Sun:  
Augment not then more answers; lock thy lips,  
Unless thy wisdom suite me with disguise,  
According to my purpose.

ANSELMO.

That action craves no counsel,  
Since what you rightly are will more command,  
Than best usurped shape.

MUCEDORUS.

Thou still art opposite is disposition:  
A more obscure servile habillament  
Beseems this enterprise.

ANSELMO.

Than like a Florentine or Mountebank?

MUCEDORUS.

Tis much too tedious; I dislike thy judgement:  
My mind is grafted on an humbler stock.

ANSELMO.

Within my Closet does there hang a Cassock,  
Though base the weed is; twas a Shepherds,  
Which I presented in Lord Julio's Mask.

MUCEDORUS.

That, my Anselmo, and none else but that,  
Mask Mucedorus from the vulgar view!  
That habit suits my mind; fetch me that weed.

[Exit Anselmo.]

Better than Kings have not disdained that state,  
And much inferiour, to obtain their mate.

[Enter Anselmo with a Shepherd's coat.]

So!

Let our respect command thy secrecy.  
At once a brief farewell:  
Delay to lovers is a second hell.

[Exit Mucedorus.]

ANSELMO.

Prosperity forerun thee; Awkward chance  
Never be neighbour to thy wishes' venture:  
Content and Fame advance thee; ever thrive,  
And Glory thy mortality survive.

[Exit.]

ACT I. SCENE II. A Forest in Arragon.

[Enter Mouse with a bottle of Hay.]

MOUSE.

O horrible, terrible! Was ever poor Gentleman

so scared out of his seven Senses? A Bear? nay,  
sure it cannot be a Bear, but some Devil in a  
Bear's Doublet: for a Bear could never have had  
that agility to have frightened em. Well, I'll see my  
Father hanged, before I'll serve his Horse any more:  
Well, I'll carry home my Bottle of Hay, and for  
once make my Father's Horse turn puritan and  
observe Fasting days, for he gets not a bit. But  
soft! this way she followed me, therefore I'll take  
the other Path; and because I'll be sure to have an  
eye on him, I will take hands with some foolish  
Creditor, and make every step backward.

[As he goes backwards the Bear comes in, and he  
tumbles over, and runs away and leaves his bottle  
of Hay behind him.]

ACT I. SCENE III. The same.

[Enter Segasto running and Amadine after him,  
being pursued by a bear.]

SEGASTO.

Oh fly, Madam, fly or else we are but dead.

AMADINE.

Help, Segasto, help! help, sweet Segasto, or else  
I die.

SEGASTO.

Alas, madam, there is no way but flight;  
Then haste and save your self.

[Segasto runs away.]

AMADINE.

Why then I die; ah help me in distress!

[Enter Mucedorus like a shepherd with a sword  
drawn and a bear's head in his hand.]

MUCEDORUS.

Stay, Lady, stay, and be no more dismayed.

That cruel beast most merciless and fell,  
Which hath bereaved thousands of their lives,  
Affrighted many with his hard pursues,  
Prying from place to place to find his prey,  
Prolonging thus his life by others' death,  
His carcass now lies headless, void of breath.

AMADINE.

That foul deformed monster, is he dead?

MUCEDORUS.

Assure your self thereof, behold his head:  
Which if it please you, Lady, to accept,  
With willing heart I yield it to your majesty.

AMADINE.

Thanks, worthy shepherd, thanks a thousand times.  
This gift, assure thy self, contents me more  
Than greatest bounty of a mighty prince,  
Although he were the monarch of the world.

MUCEDORUS.

Most gracious goddess, more than mortal wight,  
Your heavenly hue of right imports no less,  
Most glad am I in that it was my chance  
To undertake this enterprise in hand,  
Which doth so greatly glad your princely mind.

AMADINE.

No goddess, shepherd, but a mortal wight,  
A mortal wight distressed as thou seest:  
My father here is king of Arragon.  
I Amadine his only daughter am,  
And after him sole heir unto the crown.  
Now, where as it is my father's will  
To marry me unto Segasto, one,  
Whose wealth through father's former usury  
Is known to be no less than wonderful,  
We both of custom oftentimes did use,  
Leaving the court, to walk within the fields  
For recreation, especially in the spring,  
In that it yields great store of rare delights:  
And passing further than our wonted walks,  
Scarce were entered within these luckless woods,



But right before us down a steep fall hill  
A monstrous ugly bear did hie him fast,  
To meet us both. I faint to tell the rest,  
Good shepherd, but suppose the ghastly looks,  
The hideous fears, the thousand hundred woes,  
Which at this instant Amadine sustained.

MUCEDORUS.

Yet, worthy princess, let thy sorrow cease,  
And let this sight your former joys revive.

AMADINE.

Believe me, shepherd, so it doth no less.

MUCEDORUS.

Long may they last unto your heart's content.  
But tell me, Lady, what is become of him,  
Segasto called, what is become of him?

AMADINE.

I know not, I; that know the powers divine,  
But God grant this: that sweet Segasto live.

MUCEDORUS.

Yet hard hearted he in such a case,  
So cowardly to save himself by flight:  
And leave so brave a princess to the spoil.

AMADINE.

Well, shepherd, for thy worthy valour tried,  
Endangering thy self to set me free,  
Unrecompensed, sure, thou shalt not be.  
In court thy courage shall be plainly known:  
Throughout the Kingdom will I spread thy name,  
To thy renown and never dying fame:  
And that thy courage may be better known,  
Bear thou the head of this most monstrous beast  
In open sight to every courtiers view:  
So will the king my father thee reward.  
Come, let's away, and guard me to the court.

MUCEDORUS.

With all my heart.

[Exeunt.]

ACT I. SCENE IV. Outskirts of the Forest.

[Enter Segasto solus.]

SEGASTO.

When heaps of harms to hover over head,  
Tis time as then, some say, to look about,  
And of ensuing harms to choose the least:  
But hard, yea hapless, is that wretches chance,  
Luckless his lot and caytiffe like acourste,  
At whose proceedings fortune ever frowns.  
My self I mean, most subject unto thrall,  
For I, the more I seek to shun the worst,  
The more by proof I find myself accurst:  
Ere whiles assaulted with an ugly bear,  
Fair Amadine in company all alone,  
Forthwith by flight I thought to save my self,  
Leaving my Amadine unto her shifts:  
For death it was for to resist the bear,  
And death no less of Amadine's harms to hear.  
Accursed I in lingering life thus long!  
In living thus, each minute of an hour  
Doth pierce my heart with darts of thousand deaths:  
If she by flight her fury do escape,  
What will she think?  
Will she not say--yea, flatly to my face,  
Accusing me of mere disloyalty--  
A trusty friend is tried in time of need,  
But I, when she in danger was of death  
And needed me, and cried, Segasto, help:  
I turned my back and quickly ran away.  
Unworthy I to bear this vital breath!  
But what! what needs these plaints?  
If Amadine do live, then happy I;  
She will in time forgive and so forget:  
Amadine is merciful, not Juno like,  
In harmful heart to harbor hatred long.

[Enter Mouse, the Clown, running, crying:  
clubs.]

MOUSE.

Clubs, prongs, pitchforks, bills! O help! a bear,  
a bear, a bear, a bear!

SEGASTO.

Still bears, and nothing else but bears. Tell me,  
sirrah, where she is.

MOUSE.

O sir, she is run down the woods: I see her white  
head and her white belly.

SEGASTO.

Thou talkest of wonders, to tell me of white bears.  
But, sirra, didst thou ever see any such?

MOUSE.

No, faith, I never saw any such, but I remember  
my father's words: he bade me take heed I was  
not caught with a white bear.

SEGASTO.

A lamentable tale, no doubt.

MOUSE.

I tell you what, sir, as I was going a field to serve  
my father's great horse, & carried a bottle of hay  
upon my head--now do you see, sir--I, fast  
hoodwinked, that I could see nothing, perceiving  
the bear coming, I threw my hay into the hedge  
and ran away.

SEGASTO.

What, from nothing?

MOUSE.

I warrant you, yes, I saw something, for there was  
two load of thorns besides my bottle of hay, and  
that made three.

SEGASTO.

But tell me, sirra, the bear that thou didst see,  
Did she not bear a bucket on her arm?

MOUSE.

Ha, ha, ha! I never saw bear go a milking in my life. But hark you, sir, I did not look so high as her arm: I saw nothing but her white head, and her white belly.

SEGASTO.

But tell me, sirra, where dost thou dwell?

MOUSE.

Why, do you not know me?

SEGASTO.

Why no, how should I know thee?

MOUSE.

Why, then, you know no body, and you know not me. I tell you, sir, I am the goodman rats son of the next parish over the hill.

SEGASTO.

Goodman rats son: why, what's thy name?

MOUSE.

Why, I am very near kin unto him.

SEGASTO.

I think so, but what's thy name?

MOUSE.

My name? I have a very pretty name; I'll tell you what my name is: my name is Mouse.

SEGASTO.

What, plain Mouse?

MOUSE.

Aye, plain mouse with out either welt or guard. But do you hear, sir, I am but a very young mouse, for my tail is scarce grown out yet; look you here else.

SEGASTO.

But, I pray thee, who gave thee that name?

MOUSE.

Faith, sir, I know not that, but if you would fain know,  
ask my father's great horse, for he hath been half a year  
longer with my father than I have.

SEGASTO.

This seems to be a merry fellow;  
I care not if I take him home with me.  
Mirth is a comfort to a troubled mind,  
A merry man a merry master makes.  
How saist thou, sirra, wilt thou dwell with me?

MOUSE.

Nay, soft, sir, two words to a bargain: pray you, what  
occupation are you?

SEGASTO.

No occupation, I live upon my lands.

MOUSE.

Your lands! away, you are no master for me: why, do  
you think that I am so mad, to go seek my living in the  
lands amongst the stones, briars, and bushes, and tear  
my holy day apparel? not I, by your leave.

SEGASTO.

Why, I do not mean thou shalt.

MOUSE.

How then?

SEGASTO.

Why, thou shalt be my man, and wait upon me at the  
court.

MOUSE.

What's that?

SEGASTO.

Where the King lies.

MOUSE.

What's that same King, a man or woman?

SEGASTO.

A man as thou art.

MOUSE.

As I am? hark you, sir; pray you, what kin is he  
to good man king of our parish, the church warden?

SEGASTO.

No kin to him; he is the King of the whole land.

MOUSE.

King of the land! I never see him.

SEGASTO.

If thou wilt dwell with me, thou shalt see him  
every day.

MOUSE.

Shall I go home again to be torn in pieces with  
bears? no, not I. I will go home & put on a clean  
shirt, and then go drown my self.

SEGASTO.

Thou shalt not need; if thou wilt dwell with me,  
thou shalt want nothing.

MOUSE.

Shall I not? then here's my hand; I'll dwell with you.  
And hark you, sir, now you have entertained me, I  
will tell you what I can do: I can keep my tongue  
from picking and stealing, and my hands from lying  
and slandering, I warrant you, as well as ever you had  
man in all your life.

SEGASTO.

Now will I to court with sorrowful heart, rounded with  
doubts.

If Amadine do live, then happy I:

Yea, happy I, if Amadine do live.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE I. The Camp of the King of Arragon.

[Enter the King with a young prince prisoner, Amadine,  
Tremelio, with Collen and counselors.]

KING.

Now, brave Lords, our wars are brought to end,  
Our foes to the foil, and we in safety rest:  
It us behooves to use such clemency  
In peace as valour in the war  
It is as great honor to be bountiful  
At home as to be conquerors in the field.  
Therefore, my Lords, the more to my content,  
Your liking, and your country's safeguard,  
We are disposed in marriage for to give  
Our daughter to Lord Segasto here,  
Who shall succeed the diadem after me,  
And reign hereafter as I tofore have done,  
Your sole and lawful King of Arragon:  
What say you, Lordings, like you of my advise?

COLLEN.

And please your Majesty, we do not only allow of  
your highness pleasure, but also vow faithfully in  
what we may to further it.

KING.

Thanks, good my Lords, if long Adrostus live,  
He will at full requite your courtesies.  
Tremelio,  
In recompense of thy late valour done,  
Take unto thee the Catalonea prince,  
Lately our prisoner taken in the wars.  
Be thou his keeper, his ransom shall be thine:  
We'll think of it when leisure shall afford:  
Mean while, do use him well; his father is a King.

TREMELIO.

Thanks to your Majesty: his usage shall be such,  
As he thereat shall think no cause to grutce.

[Exeunt Tremelio and Prince.]

KING.

Then march we on to court, and rest our wearied limbs.

But, Collen, I have a tale in secret kept for thee:  
When thou shalt hear a watch word from thy king,  
Think then some weighty matter is at hand  
That highly shall concern our state,  
Then, Collen, look thou be not far from me:  
And for thy service thou to fore hast done,  
Thy trueth and valour proud in every point,  
I shall with bounties thee enlarge therefore:  
So guard us to the court.

COLLEN.

What so my sovereign doth command me do,  
With willing mind I gladly yield consent.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE II. The same.

[Enter Segasto, and the Clown with weapons  
about him.]

SEGASTO.

Tell me, sirra, how do you like your weapons?

MOUSE.

O very well, very well, they keep my sides warm.

SEGASTO.

They keep the dogs from your shins very well,  
do they not?

MOUSE.

How, keep the dogs from my shins? I would  
scorn but my shins should keep the dogs from them.

SEGASTO.

Well, sirra, leaving idle talk, tell me:  
Dost thou know captain Tremelio's chamber?

MOUSE.

Aye, very well; it hath a door.

SEGASTO.



I think so, for so hath every chamber.

But does thou know the man?

MOUSE.

Aye, forsooth, he hath a nose on his face.

SEGASTO.

Why so hath every one.

MOUSE.

That's more than I know.

SEGASTO.

But doest thou remember the captain, that was here with the king even now, that brought the young prince prisoner?

MOUSE.

O, very well.

SEGASTO.

Go unto him and bid him come to me. Tell him I have a matter in secret to impart to him.

MOUSE.

I will, master:--master, what's his name?

SEGASTO.

Why, captain Tremelio.

MOUSE.

O, the meal man. I know him very well. He brings meal every Saturday. But hark you, master, must I bid him come to you or must you come to him?

SEGASTO.

No, sir, he must come to me.

MOUSE.

Hark you, master, how if he be not at home? What shall I do then?

SEGASTO.

Why, then thou leavest word with some of his folks.

MOUSE.

Oh, master, if there be no body within, I will leave word with his dog.

SEGASTO.

Why, can his dog speak?

MOUSE.

I cannot tell; wherefore doth he keep his chamber else?

SEGASTO.

To keep out such knaves as thou art.

MOUSE.

Nay, be lady, then go your self.

SEGASTO.

You will go, sir, will ye not?

MOUSE.

Yes, marry, will I. O tis come to my head:  
And a be not within, I'll bring his chamber to you.

SEGASTO.

What, wilt thou pluck down the King's house?

MOUSE.

Nay, be lady, I'll know the price of it first. Master,  
it is such a hard name, I have forgotten it again. I  
pray you, tell me his name.

SEGASTO.

I tell thee, captain Tremelio.

MOUSE.

Oh, captain treble knave, captain treble knave.

[Enter Tremelio.]

TREMELIO.

How now, sirra, doost thou call me?

MOUSE.

You must come to my master, captain treble knave.

TREMELIO.

My Lord Segasto, did you send for me?

SEGASTO.

I did, Tremelio. Sirra, about your business.

MOUSE.

Aye, marry: what's that, can you tell?

SEGASTO.

No, not well.

MOUSE.

Marry, then, I can: straight to the kitchen dresser, to John the cook, and get me a good piece of beef and brewis, and then to the buttery hatch to Thomas the butler for a jack of beer, and there for an hour I'll so be labour my self! therefore, I pray you, call me not till you think I have done, I pray you, good master.

SEGASTO.

Well, sir, away.

[Exit Mouse.]

Tremelio, this it is: thou knowest the valour of Segasto spread through all the kingdom of Arragon, and such as hath found triumph and favours, never daunted at any time; but now a shepherd is admired at in court for worthiness, and Segasto's honour laid a side. My will, therefore, is this, that thou dost find some means to work the shepherd's death. I know thy strength sufficient to perform my desire, & thy love no other wise than to revenge my injuries.

TREMELIO.

It is not the frowns of a shepherd that Tremelio fears. Therefore, account it accomplished, what I take in hand.

SEGASTO.

Thanks, good Tremelio, and assure they self,  
What I promise that will I perform.

TREMELIO.

Thanks, my good Lord, and in good time see where  
He cometh: stand by a while, and you shall see  
Me put in practise your intended drifts.  
Have at thee, swain, if that I hit thee right.

[Enter Mucedorus.]

MUCEDORUS.

Viled coward, so without cause to strike a man.  
Turn, coward, turn; now strike and do thy worst.

[Mucedorus killeth him.]

SEGASTO.

Hold, shepherd, hold; spare him, kill him not!  
Accursed villain, tell me, what hast thou done?  
Ah, Tremelio, trusty Tremelio!  
I sorrow for thy death, and since that thou,  
Living, didst prove faithful to Segasto,  
So Segasto now, living, shall honour  
The dead corpse of Tremelio with revenge.  
Bloodthirsty villain,  
Born and bred to merciless murder,  
Tell me, how durst thou be so bold at once  
To lay thy hands upon the least of mine?  
Assure thy self,  
Thou shalt be used according to the law.

MUCEDORUS.

Segasto, cease, these threats are needless.  
Accuse not me of murther, that have done  
Nothing but in mine own defence.

SEGASTO.

Nay, shepherd, reason not with me.  
I'll manifest thy fact unto the King,  
Whose doom will be thy death, as thou deservest.  
What ho, Mouse, come away!

[Enter Mouse.]

MOUSE.

Why how now, what's the matter?

I thought you would be calling before I had done.

SEGASTO.

Come, help; away with my friend.

MOUSE.

Why, is he drunk? cannot he stand on his feet?

SEGASTO.

No, he is not drunk, he is slain.

MOUSE.

Flaine? no, by Lady, he is not flaine.

SEGASTO.

He's killed, I tell thee.

MOUSE.

What, do you use to kill your friends?

I will serve you no longer.

SEGASTO.

I tell thee, the shepherd killed him.

MOUSE.

O, did a so? but, master, I will have all his  
apparel if I carry him away.

SEGASTO.

Why, so thou shalt.

MOUSE.

Come, then, I will help; mas, master, I think  
his mother song looby to him, he is so heavy.

[Exeunt Segasto and Mouse.]

MUCEDORUS.

Behold the fickle state of man, always mutable,  
Never at one. Sometimes we feed on fancies

With the sweet of our desires; sometimes again  
We feel the heat of extreme misery.  
Now am I in favour about the court and country.  
To morrow those favours will turn to frowns:  
To day I live revenged on my foe,  
To morrow I die, my foe revenged on me.

[Exit.]

ACT II. SCENE III. The Forest.

[Enter Bremono, a wild man.]

BREMO.

No passengers this morning? what, not one?  
A chance that seldom doth befall.  
What, not one? then lie thou there,  
And rest thyself till I have further need,  
Now, Bremono, sith thy leisure so affords--  
An endless thing. Who knows not Bremono's strength,  
Who like a king commands within these woods?  
The bear, the boar, dares not abide my sight,  
But hastes away to save themselves by flight:  
The crystal waters in the bubbling brooks,  
When I come by, doth swiftly slide away,  
And claps themselves in closets under banks,  
Afraid to look bold Bremono in the face:  
The aged oaks at Bremono's breath do bow,  
And all things else are still at my command.  
Else what would I?  
Rent them in pieces and pluck them from the earth,  
And each way else I would revenge my self.  
Why who comes here with whom I dare not fight?  
Who fights with me & doth not die the death?  
Not one: What favour shews this sturdy stick to those,  
That here within these woods are combatants with me?  
Why, death, and nothing else but present death.  
With restless rage I wander through these woods,  
No creature here but feareth Bremono's force,  
Man, woman, child, beast and bird,  
And every thing that doth approach my sight,  
Are forced to fall if Bremono once but frown.  
Come, cudgel, come, my partner in my spoils,

For here I see this day it will not be;  
But when it falls that I encounter any,  
One pat sufficeth for to work my will.  
What, comes not one? then let's begone;  
A time will serve when we shall better speed.

[Exit.]

ACT II. SCENE IV. Arragon. a Room of State in  
the Court.

[Enter the King, Segasto, the Shepherd, and the Clown,  
with others.]

KING.

Shepherd, thou hast heard thin accusers;  
Murther is laid to thy charge.  
What canst thou say? thou hast deserved death.

MUCEDORUS.

Dread sovereign, I must needs confess,  
I slew this captain in mine own defence,  
Not of any malice, but by chance;  
But mine accuser hath a further meaning.

SEGASTO.

Words will not here prevail,  
I seek for justice, & justice craves his death.

KING.

Shepherd, thine own confession hath condemned thee.  
Sirra, take him away, 7 do him to execution straight.

MOUSE.

So he shall, I warrant him; but do you hear, master  
King, he is kin to a monkey, his neck is bigger than  
his head.

SEGASTO.

Come, sirra, away with him, and hang him about the  
middle.

MOUSE.

Yes, forsooth, I warrant you: come on, sir. A, so like  
a sheep biter a looks!

[Enter Amadine and a boy with a bear's head.]

AMADINE.

Dread sovereign and wellbeloved sire,  
On bended knees I crave the life of this  
Condemned shepherd, which heretofore preserved  
The life of thy sometime distressed daughter.

KING.

Preserved the life of my sometime distress daughter?  
How can that be? I never knew the time  
Wherein thou wast distressed; I never knew the day  
But that I have maintained thy state,  
As best beseemed the daughter of a king.  
I never saw the shepherd until now.  
How comes it, then, that he preserved thy life?

AMADINE.

Once walking with Segasto in the woods,  
Further than our accustomed manner was,  
Right before us, down a steep fall hill,  
A monstrous ugly bear doth hie him fast  
To meet us both: now whether this be true,  
I refer it to the credit of Segasto.

SEGASTO.

Most true, and like your majesty.

KING.

How then?

AMADINE.

The bear, being eager to obtain his prey,  
Made forward to us with an open mouth,  
As if he meant to swallow us both at once;  
The sight whereof did make us both to dread,  
But specially your daughter Amadine,  
Who, for I saw no succour incident  
But in Segasto's valour, I grew desperate,  
And he most cowardlike began to fly--



Left me distressed to be devoured of him.  
How say you, Segasto, is it not true?

KING.

His silence verifies it to be true. What then?

AMADINE.

Then I amazed, distressed, all alone,  
Did hie me fast to scape that ugly bear,  
But all in vain, for, why, he reached after me,  
And hardly I did oft escape his paws,  
Till at the length this shepherd came,  
And brought to me his head.  
Come hither boy: lo, here it is,  
Which I present unto your majesty.

KING.

The slaughter of this bear deserves great fame.

SEGASTO.

The slaughter of a man deserves great blame.

KING.

Indeed occasion oftentimes so falls out.

SEGASTO.

Tremelio in the wars, O King, preserved thee.

AMADINE.

The shepherd in the woods, o king, preserved me.

SEGASTO.

Tremelio fought when many men did yield.

AMADINE.

So would the shepherd, had he been in field.

MOUSE.

So would my master, had he not run away.

SEGASTO.

Tremelio's force saved thousands from the foe.

AMADINE.

The shepherd's force would have saved thousands more.

MOUSE.

Aye, shipsticks, nothing else.

KING.

Segasto, cease to accuse the shepherd,  
His worthiness deserves a recompense,  
All we are bound to do the shepherd good:  
Shepherd, whereas it was my sentence, thou shouldst die,  
So shall my sentence stand, for thou shalt die.

SEGASTO.

Thanks to your majesty.

KING.

But soft, Segasto, not for this offence.--  
Long maist thou live, and when the sisters shall decree  
to cut in twain the twisted thread of life,  
Then let him die: for this I set thee free:  
And for thy valour I will honour thee.

MUCEDORUS.

Thanks to your majesty.

KING.

Come, daughter, let us now depart, to honour the  
worthy valour of the shepherd with our rewards.

[Exeunt.]

MOUSE.

O master, hear you, you have made a fresh hand  
now you would be slow, you; why, what will you  
do now? you have lost me a good occupation by  
the means. Faith, master, now I cannot hang the  
shepherd, I pray you, let me take the pains to hang  
you: it is but half an hour's exercise.

SEGASTO.

You are still in your knavery, but sith a I cannot  
have his life I will procure his banishment for ever.  
Come one, sirra.

MOUSE.

Yes, forsooth, I come.--Laugh at him, I pray you.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE I. Grove near the Court.

[Enter Mucedorus solus.]

MUCEDORUS.

From Amadine and from her father's court,  
With gold and silver and with rich rewards,  
Flowing from the banks of golden treasures,--  
More may I boast and say: but I,  
Was never shepheard in such dignity.

[Enter the messenger and the clown.]

MESSENGER.

All hail, worthy shepherd.

MOUSE.

All reign, lowly shepherd..

MUCEDORUS.

Welcome, my friends; from whence come you?

MESSENGER.

The King and Amadine greets thee well, and after  
greetings done, bids thee depart the court: shepherd,  
begone.

MUCEDORUS.

Whose words are these? came these from Amadine?

MESSENGER.

Aye, from Amadine.

MOUSE.

Aye, from Amadine.

MUCEDORUS.

Ah, luckless fortune, worse than Phaeton's tale,  
My former bliss is now become my bale.

MOUSE.

What, wilt thou poison thy self?

MUCEDORUS.

My former heaven is now become my hell.

MOUSE.

The worse ale house that I ever came in, in all my life.

MUCEDORUS.

What shall I do?

MOUSE.

Even go hang thy self half an hour.

MUCEDORUS.

Can Amadine so churlishly command,  
To banish the shepherd from her Father's court?

MESSENGER.

What should shepherds do in the court?

MOUSE.

What should shepherds do amongst us? have we not  
Lords enough on us in the court?

MUCEDORUS.

Why, shepherds are men, and kings are no more.

MESSENGER.

Shepherds are men and masters over their flock.

MOUSE.

That's a lie: who pays them their wages then?

MESSENGER.

Well, you are always interrupting of me, but you  
are best look to him, least you hang for him when  
he is gone.

[Exit.]

[The Clown sings.]

MOUSE.

And you shall hang for company,

For leaving me alone.

Shepherd, stand forth and hear thy sentence:

Shepherd, begone within three days in pain of

My displeasure: shepherd, begone; shepherd, begone;

begone, begone, begone, shepherd, shepherd, shepherd.

[Exit.]

MUCEDORUS.

And must I go, and must I needs depart?

Ye goodly groves, partakers of my songs

In time tofore when fortune did not frown,

Pour forth your plaints and wail a while with me;

And thou bright sun, my comfort in the cold,

Hide, hide thy face and leave me comfortless;

Ye wholesome herbs, and sweet smelling favors,

Ye each thing else prolonging life of man,

Change, change your wonted course, that I,

Wanting your aide, in woeful sort may die.

[Enter Amadine and Ariana her maid.]

AMADINE.

Ariana, if any body ask for me,

Make some excuse till I return.

ARIANA.

What and Segasto call?

AMADINE.

Do thou the like to him; I mean not to stay long.

[Exit Ariana.]

MUCEDORUS.

This voice so sweet my pining spirits revives.

AMADINE.

Shepherd, well met; tell me how thou doest.

MUCEDORUS.

I linger life, yet wish for speedy death.

AMADINE.

Shepherd, although thy banishment already  
Be decreed, and all against my will,  
Yet Amadine--

MUCEDORUS.

Ah, Amadine, to hear of banishment  
Is death, aye, double death to me,  
But since I must depart, one thing I crave.

AMADINE.

Say on with all my heart.

MUCEDORUS.

That in absence, either far or near,  
You honor me, as servant, with your name.

AMADINE.

Not so.

MUCEDORUS.

And why?

AMADINE.

I honour thee, as sovereign, with my heart.

MUCEDORUS.

A shepherd and a sovereign? nothing like.

AMADINE.

Yet like enough where there is no dislike.

MUCEDORUS.

Yet great dislike, or else no banishment.

AMADINE.

Shepherd, it is only

Segasto that procures thy banishment.

MUCEDORUS.

Unworthy wights are most in jealousy.

AMADINE.

Would God they would free thee from banishment,  
Or likewise banish me.

MUCEDORUS.

Amen, say I, to have your company.

AMADINE.

Well, shepherd, sith thou sufferest this for my sake,  
With thee in exile also let me live--  
On this condition, shepherd, thou canst love.

MUCEDORUS.

No longer love, no longer let me live!

AMADINE.

Of late I loved one indeed, now love I none but  
only thee.

MUCEDORUS.

Thanks, worthy princess; I borne likewise,  
Yet smother up the blast,  
I dare not promise what I may perform.

AMADINE.

Well, shepherd, hark what I shall say:  
I will return unto my Father's court,  
There for to provide me of such necessaries,  
As for our journey I shall think most fit;  
This being done, i will return to thee.  
Do thou, therefore, appoint the place where we may meet.

MUCEDORUS.

Down in the valley where I slew the bear:  
And there doth grow a fair broad branched beech,  
That overshades a well; so who comes first  
Let them abide the happy meeting of us both.  
How like you this?

AMADINE.

I like it very well.

MUCEDORUS.

Now, if you please, you may appoint the time.

AMADINE.

Full three hours hence, God willing, I will return.

MUCEDORUS.

The thanks that Paris gave the Grecian queen

The like doth Mucedorus yield.

AMADINE.

Then, Mucedorus, for three hours farewell.

[Exit.]

MUCEDORUS.

Your departure, lady, breeds a privy pain.

[Exit.]

ACT III. SCENE II. The Court.

[Enter Segasto solus.]

SEGASTO.

Tis well, Segasto, that thou hast thy will;

Should such a shepherd, such a simple swain

As he, eclipse the credit famous through

The court? No, ply, Segasto, ply:

Let it not in Arragon be said,

A shepherd hath Segasto's honour won.

[Enter Mouse the clown calling his master.]

MOUSE.

What ho, master, will you come away?

SEGASTO.

Will you come hither? I pray you, what's the matter?



MOUSE.

Why, is it not past eleven a clock?

SEGASTO.

How then, sir?

MOUSE.

I pray you, come away to dinner.

SEGASTO.

I pray you, come hither.

MOUSE.

Here's such a do with you! will you never come?

SEGASTO.

I pray you, sir, what news of the message I sent you about?

MOUSE.

I tell you all the messes be on the table already.  
There wants not so much as a mess of mustard  
half an hour ago.

SEGASTO.

Come, sir, your mind is all upon your belly;  
You have forgotten what I did bid you do.

MOUSE.

Faith, I know nothing, but you bade me go to  
breakfast.

SEGASTO.

Was that all?

MOUSE.

Faith, I have forgotten it; the very scent of the  
meat hath made me forget it quite.

SEGASTO.

You have forgotten the arrant I bid you do?

MOUSE.

What arrant? an arrant knave, or arrant whore?

SEGASTO.

Why, thou knave, did I not bid thee banish the shepherd?

MOUSE.

O, the shepherd's bastard.

SEGASTO.

I tell thee, the shepherd's banishment.

MOUSE.

I tell you the shepherd's bastard shall be well kept; I'll look to it myself else; but I pray you, come away to dinner.

SEGASTO.

Then you will not tell me whether you have banished him or no?

MOUSE.

Why, I cannot say banishment, and you would give me a thousand pounds to say so.

SEGASTO.

Why, you whoreson slave, have you forgotten that I sent you and another to drive away the shepherd.

MOUSE.

What an ass are you; here's a stir indeed: here's 'message,' 'arrant,' 'banishment,' and I cannot tell what.

SEGASTO.

I pray you, sir, shall I know whether you have drove him away?

MOUSE.

Faith, I think I have; and you will not believe me, ask my staff.

SEGASTO.

Why, can thy staff tell?

MOUSE.

Why, he was with me to.

SEGASTO.

Then happy I that have obtained my will.

MOUSE.

And happier I, if you would go to dinner.

SEGASTO.

Come, sirra, follow me.

MOUSE.

I warrant you, I will not loose an inch of you,  
now you are going to dinner.--I promise you, I  
thought seven year before I could get him away.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE III. The Forest.

[Enter Amadine sola.]

AMADINE.

God grant my long delay procures no harm  
Nor this my tarrying frustrate my pretence.  
My Mucedorus surely stays for me,  
And thinks me over long: at length I come  
My present promise to perform.  
Ah, what a thing is firm unfained love!  
What is it which true love dares not tempt?  
My father he may make, but I must match;  
Segasto loves, but Amadine must like,  
Where likes her best; compulsion is a thrall:  
No, no, the hearty choice is all in all,  
The shepherd's virtue Amadine esteems.  
But, what, me thinks my shepherd is not come.  
I muse at that, the hour is sure at hand:  
Well here I'll rest till Mucedorus come.

[She sits her down.]

[Enter Bremo looking about, hastily taketh hold  
of her.]

BREMO.

A happy prey! now, Bremo, feed on flesh.  
Dainties, Bremo, dainties, thy hungry panch to fill!  
Now glut thy greedy guts with luke warm blood!  
Come, fight with me, I long to see thee dead.

AMADINE.

How can she fight that weapons cannot wield?

BREMO.

What, canst not fight? then lie thou down and die.

AMADINE.

What, must I die?

BREMO.

What needs these words? I thirst to suck thy blood.

AMADINE.

Yet pity me and let me live a while.

BREMO.

No pity I, I'll feed upon thy flesh,  
I'll tear thy body piecemeal joint from joint.

AMADINE.

Ah, now I want my shepherd's company.

BREMO.

I'll crush thy bones betwixt two oaken trees.

AMADINE.

Haste, shepherd, haste, or else thou comst too late.

BREMO.

I'll suck the sweetness from thy marie bones.

AMADINE.

Ah spare, ah spare to shed my guiltless blood!

BREMO.

With this my bat will I beat out thy brains.  
Down, down, I say, prostrate thy self upon the ground.

AMADINE.

Then, Mucedorus, farewell; my hoped joys, farewell.  
Yea, farewell life, and welcome present death!

[She kneels.]

To thee, O God, I yield my dying ghost.

BREMO.

Now, Bremo, play thy part.--  
How now, what sudden chance is this?  
My limbs do tremble and my sinews shake,  
My unweakened arms have lost their former force:  
Ah Bremo, Bremo, what a foil hast thou,  
That yet at no time ever wast afraid  
To dare the greatest gods to fight with thee,

[He strikes.]

And now want strength for one down driving blow!  
Ah, how my courage fails when I should strike:  
Some new come spirit, abiding in my breast,  
Sayth, 'spare her, Bremo, spare her, do not kill.'  
Shall I spare her which never spared any?  
To it, Bremo, to it, say again.--  
I cannot wield my weapons in my hand;  
Me thinks I should not strike so fair a one:  
I think her beauty hath bewitched my force  
Or else with in me altered nature's course.  
Aye, woman, wilt thou live in woods with me?

AMADINE.

Fain would I live, yet loath to live in woods.

BREMO.

Thou shalt not choose, it shall be as I say, &  
therefore, follow me.

[Exit.]

ACT III. SCENE IV. The same.

[Enter Mucedorus solus.]

MUCEDORUS.

It was my will an hour ago and more,  
As was my promise, for to make return,  
But other business hindered my pretence.  
It is a world to see when man appoints,  
And purposely one certain thing decrees,  
How many things may hinder his intent.  
What one would wish, the same is farthest off:  
But yet th' appointed time cannot be past,  
Nor hath her presence yet prevented me.  
Well, here I'll stay, and expect her coming.

[They cry within, 'hold him, stay him, hold.']

Some one or other is pursued, no doubt;  
Perhaps some search for me: tis good  
To doubt the worst, therefore I'll begone.

[Exit.]

ACT III. SCENE V. The same.

[Cry within 'hold him, hold him.' Enter Mouse  
the Clown with a pot.]

MOUSE.

Hold him, hold him, hold him! here's a stir indeed.  
Here came hue after the crier: and I was set close  
at mother Nips' house, and there I called for three  
pots of ale, as tis the manner of us courtiers. Now,  
sirra, I had taken the maiden head of two of them.  
Now, as I was lifting up the third to my mouth,  
there came: hold him, hold him! now I could not  
tell whom to catch hold on, but I am sure I caught  
one: perchance a may be in this pot. Well, I'll  
see: mas, I cannot see him yet; well, I'll look a  
little further. Mas, he is a little slave, if a be here.  
Why, here's no body. All this goes well yet: but if  
the old trot should come for her pot--aye, marry,

there's the matter, but I care not; I'll face her out,  
and call her old rusty, dusty, musty, fusty, crusty  
firebrand, and worse than all that, and so face her  
out of her pot: but soft, here she comes.

[Enter the old woman.]

OLD WOMAN.

Come on, you knave: where's my pot, you knave?

MOUSE.

Go look your pot: come not to me for your pot  
twere good for you.

OLD WOMAN.

Thou liest, thou knave; thou hast my pot.

MOUSE.

You lie, and you say it. I your pot! I know what  
I'll say.

OLD WOMAN.

Why, what wilt thou say?

MOUSE.

But say I have him, and thou darst.

OLD WOMAN.

Why, thou knave, thou hast not only my pot but my  
drink unpaid for.

MOUSE.

You lie like an old--I will not say whore.

OLD WOMAN.

Dost thou call me whore? I'll cap thee for my pot.

MOUSE.

Cap me & thou darest, search me whether I have it  
or no.

[She searcheth him, and he drinketh over her head  
and casts down the pot; she stumbleth at it; then  
they fall together by the ears; she takes her pot and

goes out. Exit.]

[Enter Segasto.]

SEGASTO.

How now, sirra, what's the matter?

MOUSE.

Oh, flies, master, flies.

SEGASTO.

Flies? where are they?

MOUSE.

Oh here, master, all about your face.

SEGASTO.

Why, thou liest; I think thou art mad.

MOUSE.

Why, master, I have killed a duncart full at the least.

SEGASTO.

Go to, sirra! leaving this idle talk, give ear to me.

MOUSE.

How? give you one of my ears? not & you were ten masters.

SEGASTO.

Why, sir, I bid you give ear to my words.

MOUSE.

I tell you I will not be made a curtall for no man's pleasure.

SEGASTO.

I tell thee, attend what I say: go thy ways straight and rear the whole town.

MOUSE.

How? rear the town? even go your self; it is more than I can do: why, do you think I can rear a town, that can scarce rear a pot of ale to my head? I should



rear a town, should I not?

SEGASTO.

Go to the custable and make a privy search, for the shepherd is run away with the King's daughter.

MOUSE.

How? is the shepherd run away with the king's daughter? or is the king's daughter run away with the shepherd?

SEGASTO.

I cannot tell, but they are both gone together.

MOUSE.

What a fool is she to run away with the shepherd! why, I think I am a little handsomer man than the shepherd my self; but tell me, master, must I make a privy search, or search in the privy?

SEGASTO.

Why, doest thou think they will be there?

MOUSE.

I cannot tell.

SEGASTO.

Well, then, search every where; leave no place unsearched for them.

[Exit.]

MOUSE.

Oh now am I in office; now will I to that old firebrand's house & will not leave one place unsearched: nay, I'll to her ale stand & drink as long as I can stand, & when I have done, I'll let out all the rest, to see if he be not bid in the barrel. & I find him not there, I'll to the cupboard; I'll not leave one corner of her house unsearched: yfaith, ye old crust, I will be with you now.

[Exit.]

ACT IV. SCENE I. Valentia. The Court.

[Sound Music.]

[Enter the King of Valentia, Anselmo, Roderigo,  
Lord Borachius, with others.]

KING OF VALENTIA.

Enough of Music, it but adds to torment;  
Delights to vexed spirits are as Dates  
Set to a sickly man, which rather cloy than comfort:  
Let me entreat you to entreat no more.

RODERIGO.

Let your strings sleep; have done there.

[Let the music cease.]

KING OF VALENTIA.

Mirth to a soul disturb'd are embers turn'd,  
Which sudden gleam with molestation,  
But sooner loose their sight fort;  
Tis Gold bestowed upon a Rioter,  
Which not relieves, but murders him: Tis a Drug  
Given to the healthful, Which infects, not cures.  
How can a Father that hath lost his Son,  
A Prince both wise, virtuous, and valiant,  
Take pleasure in the idle acts of Time?  
No, no; till Mucedorus I shall see again,  
All joy is comfortless, all pleasure pain.

ANSELMO.

Your son my lord is well.

KING OF VALENTIA.

I pre-thee, speak that thrice.

ANSELMO.

The Prince, you Son, is safe.

KING OF VALENTIA.

O where, Anselmo? surfeit me with that.

ANSELMO.

In Aragon, my Liege;  
And at his parture, Bound my secrecy,  
By his affectious love, not to disclose it:  
But care of him, and pity of your age,  
Makes my tongue blab what my breast vow'd  
concealment.

KING OF VALENTIA.

Thou not deceivest me?  
I ever thought thee What I find thee now,  
An upright, loyal man. But what desire,  
Or young-fed humour Nurst within the brain,  
Drew him so privately to Aragon?

ANSELMO.

A forcing Adamant:  
Love, mixt with fear and doubtful jealousy,  
Whether report guilded a worthless trunk,  
Or Amadine deserved her high extolment.

KING OF VALENTIA.

See our provision be in readiness;  
Collect us followers of the comeliest hue  
For our chief guardians, we will thither wend:  
The crystal eye of Heaven shall not thrice wink,  
Nor the green Flood six times his shoulders turn,  
Till we salute the Aragonian King.  
Music speak loudly now, the season's apt,  
For former dolours are in pleasure wrapt.

[Exeunt omnes.]

ACT IV. SCENE II. The Forest.

[Enter Mucedorus to disguise himself.]

MUCEDORUS.

Now, Mucedorus, whither wilt thou go?  
Home to thy father, to thy native soil,  
Or try some long abode within these woods?  
Well, I will hence depart and hie me home.--  
What, hie me home, said? that may not be;

In Amadine rests my felicity.  
Then, Mucedorus, do as thou didst decree:  
Attire thee hermit like within these groves,  
Walk often to the beach and view the well,  
Makes settles there and seat thy self thereon,  
And when thou feelest thy self to be a thirst,  
Then drink a hearty draught to Amadine.  
No doubt she thinks on thee,  
And will one day come pledge thee at this well.  
Come, habit, thou art fit for me:

[He disguiseth himself.]

No shepherd now, a hermit I must be.  
Me thinks this fits me very well;  
Now must I learn to bear a walking staff,  
And exercise some gravity withall.

[Enter the Clown.]

MOUSE.  
Here's throw the wods, and throw the wods, to  
look out a shepherd & a stray king's daughter:  
but soft, who have we here? what art thou?

MUCEDORUS.  
I am a hermit.

MOUSE.  
An emmet? I never saw such a big emmet in  
all my life before.

MUCEDORUS.  
I tell you, sir, I am an hermit, one that leads a  
solitary life within these woods.

MOUSE.  
O, I know thee now, thou art he that eats up all  
the hips and haws; we could not have one piece  
of fat bacon for thee all this year.

MUCEDORUS.  
Thou dost mistake me; but I pray thee, tell me  
what dost thou seek in these woods?

MOUSE.

What do I seek? for a stray King's daughter run  
away with a shepherd.

MUCEDORUS.

A stray King's daughter run away with a shepherd.  
Wherefore? canst thou tell?

MOUSE.

Yes, that I can; tis this: my master and Amadine,  
walking one day abroad, nearer to these woods  
than they were used--about what I can not tell--but  
toward them comes running a great bear. Now my  
master, he played the man and run away, & Amadine  
crying after him: now, sir, comes me a shepherd &  
strikes off the bear's head. Now whether the bear  
were dead before or no I cannot tell, for bring twenty  
bears before me and bind their hands & feet and I'll  
kill them all:--now ever since Amadine hath been in  
love with the shepherd, and for good will she's even  
run away with the shepherd.

MUCEDORUS.

What manner of man was a? canst describe him unto me?

MOUSE.

Scribe him? aye, I warrant you, that I can: a was a  
little, low, broad, tall, narrow, big, well favoured  
fellow, a jerkin of white cloth, and buttons of the same  
cloth.

MUCEDORUS.

Thou describest him well, but if I chance to see any  
such, pray you, where shall I find you, or what's your  
name?

MOUSE.

My name is called master mouse.

MUCEDORUS.

Oh, master mouse, I pray you what office might you  
bear in the court?

MOUSE.

Marry, sir, I am a rusher of the stable.

MUCEDORUS.

O, usher of the table.

MOUSE.

Nay, I say rusher and I'll prove mine office good; for look, sir, when any comes from under the sea or so, and a dog chance to blow his nose backward, then with a whip I give him the good time of the day, and straw rushes presently: therefore, I am a rusher, a high office, I promise ye.

MUCEDORUS.

But where shall I find you in the Court?

MOUSE.

Why, where it is best being, either in the kitchen a eating or in the buttery drinking: but if you come, I will provide for thee a piece of beef & brewis knockle deep in fat; pray you, take pains, remember master mouse.

[Exit.]

MUCEDORUS.

Aye, sir, I warrant I will not forget you. Ah, Amadine, What should become of thee?  
Whither shouldst thou go so long unknown?  
With watch and ward each passage is beset,  
So that she cannot long escape unknown.  
Doubtless she hath lost her self within these woods  
And wandring to and fro she seeks the well,  
Which yet she cannot find; therefore will I seek her out.

[Exit.]

ACT IV. SCENE III. The same.

[Enter Bremo and Amadine.]

BREMO.

Amadine, how like you Brema & his woods?

AMADINE.

As like the woods of Brema's cruelty:  
Though I were dumb and could not answer him,  
The beasts themselves would with relenting tears  
Bewail thy savage and unhumane deeds.

BREMO.

My love, why dost thou murmur to thy self?  
Speak louder, for thy Brema hears thee not.

AMADINE.

My Brema? no, the shepherd is my love.

BREMO.

Have I not saved thee from sudden death,  
Giving thee leave to live that thou mightst love?  
And dost thou whet me on to cruelty?  
Come kiss me, sweet, for all my favours past.

AMADINE.

I may not, Brema, and therefore pardon me.

BREMO.

See how she flings away from me; I will follow  
And give a rend to her. Deny my love!  
Ah, worm of beauty, I will chastice thee;  
Come, come, prepare thy head upon the block.

AMADINE.

Oh, spare me, Brema, love should limit life,  
Not to be made a murderer of him self.  
If thou wilt glut thy loving heart with blood,  
Encounter with the lion or the bear,  
And like a wolf pray not upon a lamb.

BREMO.

Why then dost thou repine at me?  
If thou wilt love me thou shalt be my queen:  
I will crown thee with a chaplet made of Ivy,  
And make the rose and lily wait on thee:  
I'll rend the burley branches from the oak,

To shadow thee from burning sun.  
The trees shall spread themselves where thou dost go,  
And as they spread, I'll trace along with thee.

AMADINE.

[Aside.] You may, for who but you?

BREMO.

Thou shalt be fed with quails and partridges,  
With black birds, larks, thrushes and nightingales.  
Thy drink shall be goat's milk and crystal water,  
Distilled from the fountains & the clearest springs.  
And all the dainties that the woods afford.  
I'll freely give thee to obtain thy love.

AMADINE.

[Aside.] You may, for who but you?

BREMO.

The day I'll spend to recreate my love  
With all the pleasures that I can devise,  
And in the night I'll be thy bedfellow,  
And lovingly embrace thee in mine arms.

AMADINE.

[Aside.] One may, so may not you.

BREMO.

The satyrs & the woodnymphs shall attend on thee  
And lull thee a sleep with music's sound,  
And in the morning when thou dost awake,  
The lark shall sing good morn to my queen,  
And whilst he sings, I'll kiss my Amadine.

AMADINE.

[Aside.] You may, for who but you?

BREMO.

When thou art up, the wood lanes shall be strawed  
With violets, cowslips, and sweet marigolds  
For thee to trample and to trace upon,  
And I will teach thee how to kill the deer,  
To chase the hart and how to rouse the roe,  
If thou wilt live to love and honour me.



AMADINE.

[Aside.] You may, for who but you?

[Enter Mucedorus.]

BREMO.

Welcome, sir,

An hour ago I looked for such a guest.

Be merry, wench, we'll have a frolic feast:

Here's flesh enough to suffice us both.

Stay, sirra, wilt thou fight or dost thou yeel to die?

MUCEDORUS.

I want a weapon; how can I fight?

BREMO.

Thou wants a weapon? why then thou yeelst to die.

MUCEDORUS.

I say not so I do not yield to die.

BREMO.

Thou shalt not choose. I long to see thee dead.

AMADINE.

Yet spare him, Bremo, spare him.

BREMO.

Away, I say, I will not spare him.

MUCEDORUS.

Yet give me leave to speak.

BREMO.

Thou shalt not speak.

AMADINE.

Yet give him leave to speak for my sake.

BREMO.

Speak on, but be not over long.

MUCEDORUS.

In time of yore, when men like brutish beasts  
Did lead their lives in loathsome cells and woods  
And wholly gave themselves to witless will,  
A rude unruly rout, then man to man  
Became a present prey, then might prevailed,  
The weakest went to walls:  
Right was unknown, for wrong was all in all.  
As men thus lived in this great outrage,  
Behold one Orpheus came, as poets tell,  
And them from rudeness unto reason brought,  
Who led by reason soon forsook the woods.  
Instead of caves they built them castles strong;  
Cities and towns were founded by them then:  
Glad were they, they found such ease,  
And in the end they grew to perfect amity;  
Weighing their former wickedness,  
They termed the time wherein they lived then  
A golden age, a goodly golden age.  
Now, Bremono, for so I hear thee called,  
if men which lived tofore as thou dost now,  
Wily in wood, addicted all to spoil,  
Returned were by worthy Orpheus' means,  
Let me like Orpheus cause thee to return  
From murder, bloodshed and like cruelty.  
What, should we fight before we have a cause?  
No, let's live and love together faithfully.  
I'll fight for thee.

BREMONO.

Fight for me or die: or fight or else thou diest.

AMADINE.

Hold, Bremono, hold!

BREMONO.

Away, I say, thou troublest me.

AMADINE.

You promised me to make me your queen.

BREMONO.

I did, I mean no less.

AMADINE.

You promised that I should have my will.

BREMO.

I did, I mean no less.

AMADINE.

Then save this hermit's life, for he may save us both.

BREMO.

At thy request I'll spare him, but never any after  
him. Say, hermit, what canst thou do?

MUCEDORUS.

I'll wait on thee, sometime upon the queen. Such  
Service shalt thou shortly have as Bremono never had.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV. SCENE IV. The Court.

[Enter Segasto, the Clown, and ROMBELO.]

SEGASTO.

Come, sirs; what, shall I never have you find out  
Amadine and the shepherd?

MOUSE.

And I have been through the woods, and through  
the woods, and could see nothing but an emet.

ROMBELO.

Why, I see thousand emets; thou meanest a little one?

MOUSE.

Nay, that emet that I saw was bigger than thou art.

ROMBELO.

Bigger than I? what a fool have you to your man:  
I pray you, master, turn him away.

SEGASTO.

But dost thou hear? was he not a man?

MOUSE.

I think he was, for he said he did lead a saltseller  
life about the woods.

SEGASTO.

Thou wouldest say a solitary life about the woods.

MOUSE.

I think it was so, indeed.

ROMBELO.

I thought what a fool thou art.

MOUSE.

Thou art a wise man! why, he did nothing but sleep  
since he went.

SEGASTO.

But tell me, Mouse, how did he go?

MOUSE.

In a white gown and a white hat on his head, and a  
staff in his hand.

SEGASTO.

I thought so: it was a hermit that walked a solitary  
life in the woods. Well, get you to dinner, and after  
never leave seeking till you bring some news of them,  
or I'll hang you both.

[Exit.]

MOUSE.

How now, Rombelo? what shall we do now?

ROMBELO.

Faith, I'll home to dinner, and afterward to sleep.

MOUSE.

Why, then, thou wilt be hanged.

ROMBELO.

Faith, I care not, for i know I shall never find them:  
well, I'll once more abroad, & if I cannot find them,

I'll never come home again.

MOUSE.

I tell thee what, Rombelo, thou shalt go in at one end of the wood and I at the other, and we will meet both together at the midst.

ROMBELO.

Content! let's away to dinner.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V. SCENE I. The Forest.

[Enter Mucedorus solus.]

MUCEDORUS.

Unknown to any here within these woods  
With bloody Bremo do I led my life.  
The monster, he doth murder all he meets,  
He spareth none and none doth him escape.  
Who would continue, who but only I,  
In such a cruel cutthroat's company?  
Yet Amadine is there; how can I choose?  
Ah, silly soul, how often times she sits  
And sighs, and calls: 'come, shepherd, come,  
Sweet Mucedorus, come and set me free;  
When Mucedorus present stands her by:  
But here she comes.

[Enter Amadine.]

What news, fair Lady, as you walk these woods.

AMADINE.

Ah, hermit, none but bad & such as thou knowest.

MUCEDORUS.

How do you like your Bremo and his woods?

AMADINE.

Not my Bremo nor Bremo his woods.

MUCEDORUS.

And why not yours? me thinks he loves you well.

AMADINE.

I like him not, his love to me is nothing worth.

MUCEDORUS.

Lady, in this me thinks you offer wrong,  
To hate the man that ever loves you best.

AMADINE.

Ah hermit, I take no pleasure in his love;  
Neither yet doth Brema like me best.

MUCEDORUS.

Pardon my boldness, fair lady: sith we both  
May safely talk now out of Brema's sight,  
Unfold to me, if so you please, the full discourse  
How, when, and why you came into these woods,  
And fell into this bloody butcher's hands.

AMADINE.

Hermit, I will;  
Of late a worthy shepherd I did love.

MUCEDORUS.

A shepherd, lady? sure a man unfit  
To match with you.

AMADINE.

Hermit, this is true, and when we had--

MUCEDORUS.

Stay there, the wild man comes.  
Refer the rest until another time.

[Enter Brema.]

BREMA.

What secret tale is this? what whispering have we here?  
Villain, I charge thee tell thy tale again.

MUCEDORUS.

If needs I must, lo, here it is again:

When as we both had lost the sight of thee,  
It grieved us both, but specially thy queen,  
Who in thy absence ever fears the worst,  
Least some mischance befall your royal grace.  
'Shall my sweet Bremono wander through the woods?  
Toil to and fro for to redress my want,  
Hazard his life; and all to cherish me?  
I like not this,' quoth she,  
And thereupon craved to know of me  
If I could teach her handle weapons well.  
My answer was I had small skill therein,  
But glad, most mighty king, to learn of thee.  
And this was all.

BREMONO.

Wast so? none can dislike of this.  
I'll teach  
You both to fight: but first, my queen, begin.  
Here, take this weapon; see how thou canst use it.

AMADINE.

This is too big, I cannot wield it in my arm.

BREMONO.

Ist so? we'll have a knotty crabtree staff  
For thee.--But, sirra, tell me, what saist thou?

MUCEDORUS.

With all my heart I willing am to learn.

BREMONO.

Then take my staff & see how canst wield it.

MUCEDORUS.

First teach me how to hold it in my hand.

BREMONO.

Thou holdest it well.  
Look how he doth; thou maist the sooner learn.

MUCEDORUS.

Next tell me how and when tis best to strike.

BREMONO.

Tis best to strike when time doth serve,  
Tis best to loose no time.

MUCEDORUS.

[Aside.] Then now or never is my time to strike.

BREMO.

And when thou strikest, be sure thou hit the head.

MUCEDORUS.

The head?

BREMO.

The very head.

MUCEDORUS.

Then have at thine! [He strikes him down head.]

So, lie there and die,

A death no doubt according to desert,  
or else a worse as thou deservest a worse.

AMADINE.

It glads my heart this tyrant's death to see.

MUCEDORUS.

Now, lady, it remains in you

To end the tale you lately had begun,

Being interrupted by this wicked wight.

You said you loved a shepherd.

AMADINE.

Aye, so I do, and none but only him,

And will do still as long as life shall last.

MUCEDORUS.

But tell me, lady; sith I set you free,

What course of life do you intend to take?

AMADINE.

I will disguised wander through the world,

Till I have found him out.

MUCEDORUS.

How if you find your shepherd in these woods?



AMADINE.

Ah, none so happy then as Amadine.

[He discloseth himself.]

MUCEDORUS.

In tract of time a man may alter much;  
Say, Lady, do you know your shepherd well?

AMADINE.

My Mucedorus! hath he set me free?

MUCEDORUS.

Mucedorus he hath set thee free.

AMADINE.

And lived so long unknown to Amadine!

MUCEDORUS.

Aye that's a question where of you may not be resolved.  
You know that I am banisht from the court;  
I know likewise each passage is best,  
So that we cannot long escape unknown:  
Therefore my will is this, that we return  
Right through the thickets to the wild man's cave,  
And there a while live on his provision,  
Until the search and narrow watch be past.  
This is my counsel, and I think it best.

AMADINE.

I think the very same.

MUCEDORUS.

Come, let's begone.

[Enter the Clown who searches and falls over the wild man and so carry him away.]

MOUSE.

Nay, soft, sir; are you here? a bots on you! I was like to be hanged for not finding you. We would borrow a certain stray king's daughter of you: a wench, a wench, sir, we would have.

MUCEDORUS.

A wench of me! I'll make thee eat my sword.

MOUSE.

Oh Lord! nay, and you are so lusty, I'll call a cooling card  
for you. Ho, master, master, come away quickly.

[Enter Segasto.]

SEGASTO.

What's the matter?

MOUSE.

Look, master, Amadine & the shepherd: oh, brave!

SEGASTO.

What, minion, have I found you out?

MOUSE.

Nay, that's a lie, I found her out myself.

SEGASTO.

Thou gadding huswife,  
What cause hadst thou to gad abroad,  
When as thou knowest our wedding day so nigh?

AMADINE.

Not so, Segasto, no such thing in hand;  
Shew your assurance, then I'll answer you.

SEGASTO.

Thy father's promise my assurance is.

AMADINE.

But what he promist he hath not performed.

SEGASTO.

It rests in thee for to perform the same.

AMADINE.

Not I.

SEGASTO.

And why?

AMADINE.

So is my will, and therefore even so.

MOUSE.

Master, with a nonie, nonie, no!

SEGASTO.

Aye, wicked villain, art thou here?

MUCEDORUS.

What needs these words? we weigh them not.

SEGASTO.

We weigh them not, proud shepherd! I scorn  
thy company.

MOUSE.

We'll not have a corner of thy company.

MUCEDORUS.

I scorn not thee, nor yet the least of thine.

MOUSE.

That's a lie, a would have killed me with his  
pugsnando.

SEGASTO.

This stoutness, Amadine, contents me not.

AMADINE.

Then seek an other that may you better please.

MUCEDORUS.

Well, Amadine, it only rests in thee  
Without delay to make thy choice of three:  
There stands Segasto, here a shepherd stands,  
There stands the third; now make thy choice.

MOUSE.

A Lord at the least I am.

AMADINE.

My choice is made, for I will none but thee.

SEGASTO.

A worthy mate, no doubt, for such a wife.

MUCEDORUS.

And, Amadine, why wilt thou none but me?

I cannot keep thee as thy father did;

I have no lands for to maintain thy state.

Moreover, if thou mean to be my wife,

Commonly this must be thy use:

To bed at midnight, up at four,

Drudge all day and trudge from place to place,

Whereby our daily vittell for to win;

And last of all, which is the worst of all,

No princess then but plain a shepherd's wife.

MOUSE.

Then, god ge you go morrow, goody shepherd!

AMADINE.

It shall not need; if Amadine do live,

Thou shalt be crowned king of Arragon.

MOUSE.

Oh, master, laugh! when he's King, then I'll be a queen.

MUCEDORUS.

Then know that which ne'er tofore was known:

I am no shepherd, no Arragonian I,

But born of Royal blood--my father's of

Valentia King, my mother queen--who for

Thy secret sake took this hard task in hand.

AMADINE.

Ah how i joy my fortune is so good.

SEGASTO.

Well now i see, Segasto shall not speed;

But, Mucedorus, I as much do joy,

To see thee here within our Court of Arragon,

As if a kingdom had befain me. This time

I with my heart surrender it to thee.

[He giveth her unto him.]

And loose what right to Amadine I have.

MOUSE.

What a barn's door, and born where my father  
Was cunstable! a bots on thee, how dost thee?

MUCEDORUS.

Thanks, Segasto; but yet you leveled at the crown.

MOUSE.

Master, bear this and bear all.

SEGASTO.

Why so, sir?

MOUSE.

He says you take a goose by the crown.

SEGASTO.

Go to, sir: away, post you to the king,  
Whose heart is fraught with careful doubts,  
Glad him up and tell him these good news,  
And we will follow as fast as we may.

MOUSE.

I go, master; I run, master.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V. SCENE II. Open Place near the Court of  
the King of Arragon.

[Enter the King and Collen.]

KING.

Break, heart, and end my paled woes,  
My Amadine, the comfort of my life,  
How can I joy except she were in sight?  
Her absence breeds sorrow to my soul  
And with a thunder breaks my heart in twain.

COLLEN.

Forbear those passions, gentle King,  
And you shall see twill turn unto the best,  
And bring your soul to quiet and to joy.

KING.

Such joy as death, I do assure me that,  
And naught but death, unless of her I hear,  
And that with speed; I cannot sigh thus long--  
But what a tumult do I hear within?

[The cry within, 'joy and happiness!']

COLLEN.

I hear a noise of over-passing joy  
Within the court; my Lord, be of good comfort--  
And here comes one in haste.

[Enter the Clown running.]

MOUSE.

A King! a King! a King!

COLLEN.

Why, how now, sirra? what's the matter?

MOUSE.

O, tis news for a king, 'tis worth money.

KING.

Why, sirra, thou shalt have silver and gold if it be  
good.

MOUSE.

O, tis good, tis good. Amadine--

KING.

Oh, what of her? tell me, & I will make thee a knight.

MOUSE.

How a spright? no, by lady, I will not be a spright.  
Masters, get ye away; if I be a spright, I shall be so lean  
I shall make you all afraid.

COLLEN.

Thou sot, the King means to make thee a gentleman.

MOUSE.

Why, I shall want parrell.

KING.

Thou shalt want for nothing.

MOUSE.

Then stand away, trick up thy self: here they come.

[Enter Segasto, Mucedorus, and Amadine.]

AMADINE.

My gracious father, pardon thy disloyal daughter.

KING.

What do mine eyes behold? my daughter Amadine?  
Rise up, dear daughter & let these, my embracing arms,  
Show some token of thy father's joy,  
Which ever since thy departure hath languished in sorrow.

AMADINE.

Dear father, never were your sorrows  
Greater than my griefs,  
Never you so desolate as I comfortless;  
Yet, nevertheless, acknowledging my self  
To be the cause of both, on bended knees  
I humbly crave your pardon.

KING.

I'll pardon thee, dear daughter: but as for him--

AMADINE.

Ah, father, what of him?

KING.

As sure as I am a king, and wear the crown,  
I will revenge on that accursed wretch.

MUCEDORUS.

Yet, worthy prince, work not thy will in wrath;  
Show favour.

KING.

Aye, such favour as thou deservest.

MUCEDORUS.

I do deserve the daughter of a king.

KING.

Oh, impudent! a shepherd and so insolent!

MUCEDORUS.

No shepherd I, but a worthy prince.

KING.

In fair conceit, not princely born.

MUCEDORUS.

Yes, princely born: my father is a king,  
My mother Queen, and of Valentia both.

KING.

What, Mucedorus! welcome to our court.  
What cause hadst thou to come to me disguised?

MUCEDORUS.

No cause to fear; I caused no offence  
But this:  
Desiring thy daughter's virtues for to see  
Disguised my self from out my father's court.  
Unknown to any, in secret I did rest,  
And passed many troubles near to death;  
So hath your daughter my partaker been,  
As you shall know hereafter more at large,  
Desiring you, you will give her to me,  
Even as mine own and sovereign of my life;  
Then shall I think my travels are well spent.

KING.

With all my heart, but this--  
Segasto claims my promise made to fore,  
That he should have her as his only wife,  
Before my counsel when we came from war.



Segasto, may I crave thee let it pass,  
And give Amadine as wife to Mucedorus?

SEGASTO.

With all my heart, were it far a greater thing,  
And what I may to furnish up there rites  
With pleasing sports and pastimes you shall see.

KING.

Thanks, good Segasto, I will think of this.

MUCEDORUS.

Thanks, good my Lord, & while I live  
Account of me in what I can or may.

AMADINE.

And, good Segasto, these great courtesies  
Shall not be forgot.

MOUSE.

Why, hark you, master: bones, what have you  
done? What, given away the wench you made  
me take such pains for? you are wise indeed!  
mas, and I had known of that I would have had  
her my self! faither, master, now we may go to  
breakfast with a woodcoke pie.

SEGASTO.

Go, sir, you were best leave this knavery.

KING.

Come on, my Lords, let's now to court,  
Where we may finish up the joyfulest day  
That ever hapt to a distressed King.  
Were but thy Father, the Valencia Lord,  
Present in view of this combining knot.

[A shout within. Enter a Messenger.]

What shout was that?

MESSENGER.

My Lord, the great Valencia King,  
Newly arrived, entreats your presence.

MUCEDORUS.

My Father?

KING OF ARRAGON.

Prepared welcomes give him entertainment:  
A happier Planet never reigned than that,  
Which governs at this hour.

[Sound. Enter the King of Valencia, Anselmo, Rodrigo,  
Borachius, with others; the King runs and embraces  
his Son.]

KING OF VALENCIA.

Rise, honour of my age, food to my rest:  
Condemn not mighty King of Aragon  
My rude behaviour, so compelled by Nature,  
That manners stood unknowledged.

KING OF ARRAGON.

What we have to recite would tedious prove  
By declaration; therefore, in, and feast:  
To morrow the performance shall explain,  
What Words conceal; till then, Drums speak,  
    Bells ring,  
Give plausible welcomes to our brother King.

[Sound Drums and Trumpets. Exeunt omnes.]

EPILOGUE.

[Enter Comedy and Envy.]

COMEDY.

How now, Envy? what, blushest thou all ready?  
Peep forth, hide not thy head with shame,  
But with a courage praise a woman's deeds.  
Thy threats were vain, thou couldst do me no hurt.  
Although thou seemdst to cross me with despite,  
I overwhelmed, and turned upside down thy block  
And made thy self to stumble at the same.

ENVY.

Though stumbled, yet not overthrown.  
Thou canst not draw my heart to mildness;  
Yet must I needs confess thou hast done well,  
And played thy part with mirth and pleasant glee:  
Say all this, yet canst thou not conquer me;  
Although this time thou hast got--yet not the conquest  
neither--  
A double revenge another time I'll have.

COMEDY.

Envy, spit thy gall;  
Plot, work, contrive; create new fallacies,  
Teem from thy Womb each minute a black Traitor,  
Whose blood and thoughts have twins conception:  
Study to act deeds yet unchronicled,  
Cast native Monsters in the molds of Men,  
Case vicious Devils under sancted Rochets,  
Unhasp the Wicket where all perjureds roost,  
And swarm this Ball with treasons: do thy worst;  
Thou canst not hell-hound cross my star to night,  
Nor blind that glory, where I wish delight.

ENVY.

I can, I will.

COMEDY.

Nefarious Hag, begin,  
And let us tug, till one the mastery win.

ENVY.

Comedy, thou art a shallow Goose;  
I'll overthrow thee in thine own intent,  
And make thy fall my Comic merriment.

COMEDY.

Thy policy wants gravity; thou art  
Too weak. Speak, Fiend, as how?

ENVY.

Why, thus:  
From my foul Study will I hoist a Wretch,  
A lean and hungry Meager Cannibal,  
Whose jaws swell to his eyes with chawing Malice:  
And him I'll make a Poet.

COMEDY.

What's that to th' purpose?

ENVY.

This scrambling Raven, with his needy Beard,  
Will I whet on to write a Comedy,  
Wherein shall be compos'd dark sentences,  
Pleasing to factious brains:  
And every other where place me a Jest,  
Whose high abuse shall more torment than blows:  
Then I my self (quicker than Lightning)  
Will fly me to a puissant magistrate,  
And weighting with a Trencher at his back,  
In midst of jollity, rehearse those gauls,  
(With some additions)  
So lately vented in your Theater.  
He, upon this, cannot but make complaint,  
To your great danger, or at least restraint.

COMEDY.

Ha, ha, ha! I laugh to hear thy folly;  
This is a trap for Boys, not Men, nor such,  
Especially desertful in their doings,  
Whose stay'd discretion rules their purposes.  
I and my faction do eschew those vices.  
But see, O see! the weary Sun for rest  
Hath lain his golden compass to the West,  
Where he perpetual bide and ever shine,  
As David's off-spring, in his happy Clime.  
Stoop, Envy, stoop, bow to the Earth with me,  
Let's beg our Pardons on our bended knee.

[They kneel.]

ENVY.

My Power has lost her Might; Envy's date's expired.  
Yon splendant Majesty hath felled my sting,  
And I amazed am.

[Fall down and quake.]

COMEDY.

Glorious and wise Arch-Caesar on this earth,

At whose appearance, Envy's stricken dumb,  
And all bad things cease operation:  
Vouchsafe to pardon our unwilling error,  
So late presented to your Gracious view,  
And we'll endeavour with excess of pain,  
To please your senses in a choicer strain.  
Thus we commit you to the arms of Night,  
Whose spangled carcass would, for your delight,  
Strive to excell the Day; be blessed, then:  
Who other wishes, let him never speak.

ENVY.

Amen.

To Fame and Honour we commend your rest;  
Live still more happy, every hour more blest.

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