

A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Fantasy

Situation: Oberon, as we say, is the king of the fairies and Titania is his queen. He is jealous of the attention she's been paying to a young Indian boy. He plans to have his aide Puck (Robin Goodfellow) fetch Cupid's skewed flower. He then plans to use the nectar from the magic flower to play a trick on his queen.

OBERON: Ill met my moonlight, proud Titania?

TITANIA: What, jealous Oberon?

OBERON: Am not I thy lord?

TITANIA: Then I must by thy lady. But I know when thou hast stolen away from Fairyland and in the shape of Corin sat all day playing on pipes of corn and versing love to amorous Phillida.

OBERON: Why should Titania cross her Oberon?

TITANIA: Set your heart at rest. The Fairyland buys not the child of me. His mother was a vot'ress of my order, and for her sake do I rear up her boy, and for her sake I will not part with him.

OBERON: How long within this wood intend you stay?

TITANIA: Perchance till after Theseus' wedding day.

OBERON: Give me that boy and I will go with thee.

TITANIA: Not for thy fairy kingdom.

She exits.

OBERON TO TITANIA: Well, go thy way. Thou shalt not from this grove till I torment thee for this injury.

OBERON TO ROBIN: My gentle Puck, come hither. Thou rememb'rest since once I sat upon a promontory and saw a mermaid on a dolphin's back.

ROBIN: I remember.

Oberon to Puck, No. 1

That very time when I heard that mermaid
Sing with such sweetness that the rude sea laid
Civil and stars shot madly from their spheres,
I saw, Puck, flying between the cold moon
And earth, Cupid all armed. To clear maid's tears,
He loosed the fiery shaft from his bow soon
To miss its mark of a hundred thousand
Hearts. I saw that errant bolt of Cupid wend
Its way upon a flower, once milk-white,
Now purple. Puck, fetch me that skewed flower
With love's wound; its juice laid on eyelids light
Makes one to madly dote on the creature
Next it sees. We'll place what this charm doth owe
On the queen's eyes and see what it doth sow.

