

## **A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated**

Act 3, Scene 2

### **Fantasy**

**Situation:** Oberon and Robin legitimately feel a sense of responsibility for these deteriorating relationships, having overheard the ladies' angry conversation. They agree that it is up to them to make things right. Robin's instructions are to place the nectar on Lysander's eyelids. Oberon's plan is to "release the potent juice from the queen's charmed eye."

HERMIA: I am amazed and know not what to say.

Hermia exits. Having stepped aside, Oberon and Robin overheard the harsh conversation.

OBERON: This is thy negligence. Still thou mistak'st or else committ'st thy knaveries willfully.

ROBIN: Believe me, king of shadows, I mistook. Did not you tell me I should know the man by the Athenian garments he had on? And so far blameless proves my enterprise that I have 'nointed an Athenian's eyes; and so far am I glad it so did sort, as this their jangling I esteem a sport.

### **Oberon to Puck, No. 2**

**Puck, since I in this strange affair do thee  
Employ, do overcast the night, so we  
May lead these testy rivals so astray  
That they in your drooping fog feel so lost  
As not to come within another's way.  
Lead from each other those with lover's crossed  
Till o'er their brows death-counterfeiting sleep  
With leaden and batty wings doth creep.  
Then crush this herb into Lysander's eye,  
Which hath this virtuous property to  
Take from thence all error so he may sigh,  
'Twas just a mixed-up dream, as lovers do.  
Then from my queen's charmed eye I will release  
The potent juice, and all things shall be peace.**

ROBIN: My fairy lord, this must be done with haste, for night's swift dragons cut the clouds full fast. They willfully themselves exile from light and must for aye consort with black-browed night.

OBERON: But we are spirits of another sort. Make no delay. We may effect this business yet ere day.