

## Pericles abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

### Disclosure

**Situation: Pericles calmly and coherently describes to Helicanus what he observed while in Antioch. He looks to his confidant for advice. Helicanus advises him “to go travel for a while till anger be forgot, or till the Destinies do cut his thread of life.”**

PERICLES: Rise, prithee rise.

Helicanus rises.

PERICLES: Thou art no flatterer. Fit counselor and servant for a prince, who by thy wisdom makes a prince thy servant. What wouldst thou have me do?

HELICANUS: To bear with patience such griefs as you yourself do lay upon yourself.

### Pericles to Helicanus

**In Antioch I sought to find a wife,  
The most wondrous beauty seen in my life,  
But found by my knowledge a place as black  
As incest. The sinful father sensing  
I knew, tyrants knowing not to attack  
At home, caused me, under the covering  
Of a watchful night, to flee. Tyrants' fears  
Decrease not but grow faster than the years,  
And should he fear I might reveal his sin  
To the list'ning air, letting others know  
How so many heads of princes have been  
Shed to keep his blackened bed hidden so  
He may keep his secret, he'll fill this land  
With arms; with all the blame on me well fanned.**

HELICANUS: Alas, sir!

PERICLES: Drew sleep out of mine eyes, blood from my cheeks, musings into my mind. I thought it princely charity to grieve for them.

HELICANUS: Well, my lord, since you have given me leave to speak, freely will I speak.

Antiochus you fear, and justly too, I think, will take away your life. Therefore, my lord, go travel for a while, till that his rage and anger be forgot, or till the Destinies do cut his thread of life. If to me, day serves not light more faithful than I'll be.