

The Tempest abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Father to Daughter

Situation: Claiming she remembers when she “wast not yet three years old” that “four or five women tended me,” Miranda is fascinated with the tale of Gonzalo, as told by her father. Gonzalo was a friend of her father’s who twelve years ago had helped the two of them when they needed help. He had made sure her father had his magic books and had provided them with a good supply of provisions the night they were sent out to sea.

MIRANDA: O, the heavens! I, not remembering how I cried out then, will cry it o’er again. Wherefore did they not that hour destroy us?

Prospero to Miranda, No. 4

They dared not, so dear the people love me,
Nor set on this crime a mark so bloody.
They bore us some leagues to sea where they let
Us go, to cry to the sea that roared to
Us, to sigh to the winds that we did get
So wrong. What let us bear what would ensue
Was your smile. We came ashore through divine
Assistance. My friend Gonzalo, a fine
Neapolitan, out of charity
Gave us some food and fresh water, being
The plan’s master, so with necessities
Such as fabrics, helping us so. Knowing
I loved my volumes, he furnished me from
My library books I prize above my dukedom.

MIRANDA: Would I might but ever see that man.

Prospero stands.

PROSPERO: Sit still, and hear the last of our sea-sorrow. Here in this island we arrived, and here have I, thy schoolmaster, made thee more profit than other princes can.

MIRANDA: Heavens thank you for ‘t. And now I pray you, sir, your reason for raising this sea storm?

PROSPERO: By accident most strange, hath mine enemies brought to this shore; and by my reaching the zenith of good fortune, if now I court not, my fortunes will ever after droop. Here cease more questions thou art inclined to sleep.

Miranda falls asleep. Prospero puts on his cloak.