

The Tempest abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Honor

Situation: Following Prospero's instructions, Ariel tells his boss that he has "confined together all prisoners, sir, in the grove of linden trees which weather-fends your cell. They cannot budge till your release." Prospero soon says "Go, release them Ariel."

PROSPERO: My charms I'll break, their senses I'll restore, and they shall be themselves.

ARIEL: I'll fetch them, sir.

He exits.

PROSPERO: This rough magic I here abjure, and when I have required some heavenly music, which even now I do.

Solemn music. Ariel enters, followed by Alonso and his followers.

PROSPERO TO HIMSELF: A solemn air, and the best comforter to an unsettled fancy, cure thy brains, now useless, within thy skull. There stand, for you are spell-stopped.

Alonso and his followers do not yet see or hear Prospero or Ariel.

Prospero to Ariel

The charm dissolves apace, and as the dawn
Steals upon the night, spreading shadows on
What's seen, so their new awareness begins
To chase the ignorant fumes that cloak their
Clearer reason. Alonso, your cruel sins
Did use us, as did you Sebastian, where
You, brother mine, expelling remorse and
Nature would here have killed your king. This hand
Extends. I forgive thee, unnatural
Though thou art. Ariel, I shall miss thee,
But thou shalt have freedom. At the ship pull
The sailors below deck from their sleep; see
The master is awakened presently.
Drive them by force to this place, I prithee.

ARIEL: I drink the air before me, and return before your pulse twice beat.

GONZALO: All torment, trouble, wonder, and amazement inhabits here. Some heavenly power guide us out of this fearful country.

PROSPERO TO ALONSO: Behold, sir king, the wronged Duke of Milan, Prospero. For more assurance that a living prince does now speak to thee, I embrace thy body.

He embraces Alonso.