

The Tempest abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1.2

Love

Situation: In one of Shakespeare's nicest and classiest love scenes, we find Ferdinand and Miranda falling for each other, Prospero happy as can be, taking it all in from a distance.

MIRANDA: You look wearily.

FERDINAND: No, noble mistress, 'tis fresh morning with me when you are by at night. I do beseech you, what is your name?

MIRANDA: Miranda. O my father, I have broke your command to say so!

FERDINAND: Admired Miranda!

Ferdinand to Miranda

**With my best regard I have eyed many
A lady, and often the harmony
Of their tongues hath brought into bondage my
Too attentive ear. I have liked women
For different virtues and reasons that lie
With them, but too often finding with them
Some defect. I am in my condition
A prince, Miranda, being but the son
Of a king, and, wishing it were not so,
Think a king. Hear my soul speak: the instant
That I saw you my wounded heart did go
To you; for your sake am I this patient
Log-man. You, so peerless and perfected
Are the best of all creatures created.**

MIRANDA: Do you love me? I do not know one of my sex, no woman's face remember, save, from my glass, mine own. Nor have I seen more that I may call men than you, good friend, and my dear father. I would not wish any companion in the world but you, nor can imagination form a shape besides yourself to like of. But I prattle something too wildly.

FERDINAND: I, beyond all limit of what else i' th' world, do love, prize, honor you.

MIRANDA: I am a fool to weep at what I am glad of.

PROSPERO ASIDE: Fair encounter of two most rare affections. Heavens rain grace on that which breeds between 'em!