

The Tempest abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2.1

Resentment

Situation: Prospero shares with his daughter some of his resentment for his brother Antonio, after giving his fifteen year old daughter Miranda a brief history of that time twelve years ago when they were sent out to sea from Milan, only to land on this remote Mediterranean island. Prospero believes his brother took advantage of him when he was the duke of Milan, but acknowledges to her that he was guilty of “neglecting worldly ends,” being so caught up as he was at the time with his magic tricks.

PROSPERO: I pray thee, mark me.

Prospero to Miranda, No. 2

By thus neglecting all worldly ends, I
Devoted time to bettering of my
Mind, leading me into a secluded
Life, but awakening in my brother
A false nature, my having created
In him an evil treachery, greater
Than my trust, which had indeed no limit.
He, having my revenue and what it
Yielded, and what my power might extract,
Turned memory into truth by telling
It, crediting his own lie, one that backed
His belief that he was Duke. His growing
Ambition blinded him to what was, or
The part he played or him he played it for.

PROSPERO: Dost thou hear?