

The Tempest abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

Threat

Situation: The worn-out shipwrecked men search for the separated Ferdinand. Antonio and Sebastian continue to look for an opening to do the king in. It's in this environment that Ariel and his spirit-assistants show up with a banquet table prepared for a king.

SEBASTIAN: They have left their food and drink behind, for we have stomachs. Will 't please you taste of what is here?

ALONSO: Not I.

GONZALO: Faith, sir, you need not fear.

ALONSO: I will stand to and feed. Although my last, no matter, since I feel the best is past. Brother, my lord the Duke, stand to, and do as we.

Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio move toward the table. Thunder sounds. Ariel enters like a Harpy, claps his wings upon the table. A Harpy is a mythological creature with the wings and talons of a bird. The banquet vanishes.

Ariel as Harpy to Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio.

**You are three men of sin whom Destiny
Hath caused the sea to belch up here with me,
On this island uninhabited by
Man, you 'mongst the men most unfit to live.
As to diminish one feather in my
Plume, you may as well still the sea or give
The loud winds wounds with your swords. Remember,
You three men from Milan did deliver
An exposed proud Prospero and his child
Unto the sea. The powers have drawn their
Wrath against your peace for having defiled
His goodness. While thou, Alonso, doth bear
The loss of thy son, they do pronounce by
Me ling'ring perdition until thou die.**

He vanishes in thunder.

PROSPERO ASIDE: Bravely the figure of this Harpy hast thou performed, my Ariel. They now are in my power; and in these fits I have them while I visit young Ferdinand, whom they suppose is drowned, and his and mine loved darling.