

The Winter's Tale abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Courtesy

Situation: Leontes has learned that Florizell has arrived in Sicily along “with his princess.” He invites them to join him in his palace.

PAULINA: Had our prince, jewel of children, seen this hour, he had paired well with this lord.

LEONTES: Prithee, no more; cease. Thou know'st he dies to me again when talked of. They are come.

Florizell, Perdita, Cleomenes and others enter.

Leontes to Florizell

**Your mother, conceiving you, was most true,
Prince, printing your father's image through you.
Your father's look is so represented
In you that if I were but twenty-four
I should here call you brother, as I did
Him, and speak of times we had before.
Most dearly welcome, and your fair princess.
Alas, 'twixt heaven and earth, I confess,
I lost a couple that might have stood as
You, young couple, begetting wonder, do.
'Twas mine own folly that our friendship has
Been lost, as has our time together too.
In spite of this sad life of misery,
I do desire to once more with him be.**

FLORIZELL: By his command I give you all greetings that a king, as a friend, can send his brother.

LEONTES: O my brother, the wrongs I have done thee stir afresh within me. Welcome hither, as is the spring to th' earth. And hath he too exposed this paragon to th' dreadful Neptune, to greet a man not worth her pains?

FLORIZELL: Most royal sir, from thence, a prosperous south wind friendly. We have crossed to execute the charge my father gave me for visiting your Highness: my wife's safety here where we are.