

The Two Noble Kinsmen.

Source: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/47240/47240-h/47240-h.htm>

The Persons represented in the Play.

- Hymen,
- Theseus,
- Hippolyta, }
- Emilia, } Sisters to Theseus
- Nymphs,
- Three Queens,
- Three valiant Knights,
- Palamon, } *The two Noble Kinsmen, in*
- Arcite, } *love with fair Emilia.*
- Pirithous,
- Jailor,
- His Daughter, *in love with Palamon,*
- Countrey men,
- Wenches,
- A Taberner,
- Gerrold, *A Schoolmaster.*

PROLOGUE.

Flourish.

New Plays and Maiden-heads are near a-kin,
Much follow'd both; for both much money gi'n,
If they stand sound, and well: And a good Play
(Whose modest Scenes blush on his marriage day,
And shake to loose his honour) is like hir
That after holy Tie, and first nights stir
Yet still is Modesty, and still retains
More of the Maid to sight, than Husbands pains;
We pray our Play may be so; for I'm sure
It has a noble breeder, and a pure,
A Learned, and a Poet never went
More famous yet 'twixt Po, and silver Trent.
Chaucer (of all admir'd) the Story gives,
There constant to eternity it lives:
If we let fall the Nobleness of this,
And the first sound this Child hear, be a hiss,
How will it shake the bones of that good man
And make him cry from under ground. Oh fan
From me the witless chaff of such a writer
That blasts my Bayes, and my fam'd Works makes lighter
Than Robin Hood, this is the fear we bring

45 *For to say Truth, it were an endless thing;
And too ambitious to aspire to him;
Weak as we are, and almost breathless swim
In this deep water. Do but you hold out
Your helping hands, and we shall tack about;
And something do to save us: You shall hear*
50 *Scænes, though below his Art, may yet appear
Worth two hours travel. To his bones sweet sleep:
Content to you. If this Play do not keep,
A little dull time from us, we perceive
Our losses fall so thick, we must needs leave. Florish.*

Act One. Scene One.

*Enter Hymen with a Torch burning: a Boy, in a white Robe before, singing, and strewing
Flowers: after Hymen, a Nymph, encompassed in her Tresses, bearing a wheaten
60 Garland. Then Theseus between two other Nymphs, with wheaten Chaplets on
their heads. Then Hippolyta the Bride lead by Theseus, and another holding a
Garland over her head (her Tresses likewise hanging.) After her Emilia holding up
her Train.*

The SONG. Musick.

65 *Roses their sharp spines being gone,
Not royal in their smells alone,
But in their hew,
Maiden-Pinks, of odour faint,
Daisies smell less, yet most quaint
And sweet Time true.
70 Primrose first born, child of Ver,
Merry Spring-time's Harbinger,
With her bells dimm.
Oxlips in their Cradles growing,
Marigolds on death-beds blowing,
75 Larks-heels trim.
All dear natures children sweet,
Lie fore Bride and Bridegrooms feet, [Strew Flowers.
Blessing their sense.
Not an Angel of the Air,
80 Bird melodious, or Bird fair,
Is absent hence.
The Crow, the slanderous Cuckoo, nor
The boading Raven, nor Clough-hore
Nor chatt'ring Pie,
85 May on our Birdhouse perch or sing,
Or with them any discord bring
But from it fly.*

*Enter three Queens in Black, with vails stained, with Imperial
Crowns. The first Queen falls down at the foot of Theseus;
90 The second falls down at the foot of
Hippolyta. The third before Emilia.*

First Queen: *For pity's sake, and true gentilities,
Hear and respect me.*

Second Queen: For your Mothers sake.

And as you wish your womb may thrive with fair ones,
Hear and respect me.

Third Queen: Now for the love of him whom *Jove* hath mark'd

The honor of your Bed, and for the sake
Of clear Virginity, be Advocate

For us, and our distresses: This good deed
Shall raze you out o'th' Book of Trespasses
All you are set down there.

Theseus: Sad Lady, rise.

Hippolyta: Stand up.

Emilia: No knees to me.
What Woman I may steed that is distress,
Does bind me to her.

Theseus: What's your request? Deliver you for all?

First Queen: We are three Queens, whose Sovereigns fell before

The wrath of cruel *Creon*; who endured
The Beaks of Ravens, Talons of the Kites,
And pecks of Crows in the foul fields of *Thebes*.
He will not suffer us to burn their bones,
To urn their ashes, nor to take th' offence

Of mortal loathsomeness from the blest eye
Of holy *Phœbus*, but infects the winds
With stench of our slain Lords. Oh pity Duke,
Thou purger of the earth, draw thy fear'd Sword
That does good turns to th' world; give us the Bones
Of our dead Kings, that we may Chapel them;
And of thy boundless goodness take some note
That for our crowned heads we have no roof;
Save this which is the Lions and the Bears,
And vault to everything.

Theseus: Pray you kneel not,
I was transported with your Speech, and suffer'd
Your knees to wrong themselves; I have heard the fortunes
Of your dead Lords, which gives me such lamenting
As wakes my vengeance, and revenge for 'em:

King *Capanus*, was your Lord the day
That he should marry you, at such a season,
As now it is with me, I met your Groom,
By *Mars's* Altar, you were that time fair;
Not *Juno's* Mantle, fairer than your Tresses,
Nor in more bounty spread her. Your wheaten wreath
Was then not thrash'd, nor blasted; Fortune at you
Dimpled her Cheek with smiles: *Hercules* our kinsman
(Then weaker than your eyes) laid by his Club,
He tumbled down upon his Nemean hide

And swore his sinews thaw'd: Oh grief, and time,
Fearful consumers, you will all devour.

First Queen: Oh I hope some God,
Some God hath put his mercy in your manhood
Where to he'll infuse power, and press you forth

145 Our undertaker.
~~Theseus:~~ Oh no knees, none, Widow,
 Unto the Helmeted ~~Belona~~ use them;
 And pray for me your Soldier.
 Troubled I am. [*Turns away.*]
 150 ~~Second Queen:~~ Honoured ~~Hippolyta~~,
 Most dreaded ~~Amazonian~~, that hast slain
 The Sith-tusk'd Boar; that with thy Arm as strong
 As it is white, was't near to make the male
 To thy Sex captive; but that this thy Lord
 155 Born to uphold Creation, in that honor
 First nature stil'd it in, shrunk thee into
 The bound thou wast o'er flowing; at once subduing
 Thy force, and thy affection: Soldieress
 That equally canst poize sternness with pity,
 160 Whom now I know hast much more power on him
 Than ever he had on thee, who ow'st his strength;
 And his Love too: who is a Servant for
 The Tenor of the Speech. Dear Glass of Ladies.
 Bid him that we whom flaming war doth scorch,
 165 Under the shadow of his Sword, may cool us:
 Require him he advance it o'er our heads;
 Speak't in a woman's key: like such a woman
 As any of us three; weep e'r you fail; lend us a knee;
 But touch the ground for us no longer time
 170 Than a Doves motion, when the head's pluckt off:
 Tell him if he i'th' blood-ciz'd field, lay swoln
 Shewing the Sun his Teeth, grinning at the Moon
 What you would do.
~~Hippolyta:~~ Poor Lady, say no more:
 175 I had as lief trace this good action with you
 As that whereto I'm going, and never yet
 Went I so willingly. My Lord is taken
 Heart deep with your distress: Let him consider;
 I'll speak anon.
 180 ~~Third Queen:~~ Oh my petition was, [*Kneel to Emilia.*]
 Set down in Ice, which by hot grief uncandied
 Melts into drops, so sorrow wanting form
 Is prest with deeper matter.
~~Emilia:~~ Pray stand up;
 185 Your grief is written in your cheek.
~~Third Queen:~~ Oh woe,
 You cannot read it there; there through my tears,
 Like wrinkled pebbles in a Glass stream
 You may behold 'em (Lady, Lady, alack)
 190 He that will all the treasure know o'th' earth
 Must know the Center too; he that will fish
 For my least minnow, let him lead his line
 To catch one at my heart. Oh pardon me;
 Extremity that sharpens sundry wits
 195 Makes me a fool.

Emilia: Pray you say nothing, pray you,
 Who cannot feel, nor see the rain being in't,
 Knows neither wet, nor dry, if that you were
 The ground-piece of some Painter, I would buy you
 T'instruct me 'gainst a capital grief indeed
 Such heart-pierc'd demonstration; but alas
 Being a natural Sister of our Sex
 Your sorrow beats so ardently upon me:
 That it shall make a counter-reflect 'gainst
 My Brothers heart, and warm it to some pity
 Though it were made of stone: pray have good comfort:
Theseus: Forward to th' Temple, leave not out a jot
 O' th' sacred ceremony.
First Queen: Oh this celebration
 Will long last, and be more costly than
 Your Suppliants war: Remember that your Fame
 Knows in the ear-e'th' world: what you do quickly,
 Is not done rashly; your first thought is more,
 Than others laboured meditative: your premeditating
 More than their actions: But oh Jove, your actions,
 Soon as they move, as Asprays do the fish,
 Subdue before they touch: think, dear Duke, think
 What beds our slain Kings have.
Second Queen: What griefs our beds
 That our dear Lords have none.
Third Queen: None fit for th' dead:
 Those that with Cords, Knives, Drums precipitate,
 Weary of this worlds light, have to themselves
 Been deaths most horrid Agents, humane grace
 Affords them dust and shadow.
First Queen: But our Lords
 Lie blis'tring 'fore the visitating Sun,
 And were good Kings, when living.
Theseus: It is true, and I will give you comfort,
 To give your dead Lords graves:
 The which to do must make some work with Creon.
First Queen: And that work presents it self to th' doing:
 Now 'twill take form, the heats are gone tomorrow,
 Then bootless toil must recompence itself,
 With its own sweat: Now he's secure,
 Not dreams, we stand before your puissance
 Wringing our holy begging in our eyes
 To make petition clear.
Second Queen: Now you may take him;
 Drunk with his victory.
Third Queen: And his Army full
 Of Bread, and cloth.
Theseus: Arctis that best knowest
 How to draw out, fit to this enterprise,
 The prim'st for this proceeding, and the number
 To carry such a business, forth and levy

Our worthiest Instruments, whilst we dispatch
This grand act of our life, this daring deed
Of Fate in wedlock.

First Queen: Dowagers, take hands
Let us be Widows to our woes, delay
Commends us to a famishing hope.
All: Farewell.

Second Queen: We come unseasonably: But when could grief
Cull forth as unpang'd judgement can, fit't time
For best solicitation.

Theseus: Why, good Ladies,
This is a service, whereto I am going;
Greater than any was; it more imports me
Than all the actions that I have foregone,
Or futurely can cope.

First Queen: The more proclaiming
Our suit shall be neglected, when her Arms,
Able to lock Jove from a Synod, shall
By warranting Moon-light corslet thee, oh when
Her twining Cherries shall their sweetness fall
Upon thy tasteful Lips, what wilt thou think
Of rotten Kings, or blubber'd Queens, what care
For what thou feel'st not? what thou feel'st being able
To make Mars spurn his Drom. Oh if thou couch
But one night with her, every hour in't will
Take hostage of thee for a hundred, and
Thou shalt remember nothing more, than what
That Banquet bids thee too.

Hippolyta: Though much unlike
You should be so transported, as much sorry
I should be such a Suitor; yet I think
Did I not by th' abstaining of my joy
Which breeds a deeper longing, cure their surfeit
That craves a present medicine, I should pluck
All Ladies scandal on me. Therefore, Sir,
As I shall here make trial of my Prayers,
Either presuming them to have some force,
Or sentencing for ay their vigor dumb,
Prorogue this business, we are going about, and hang
Your Shield afore your heart, about that neck
Which is my Fee, and which I freely lend
To do these poor Queens service.

All Queens: Oh help now
Our Cause cries for your knee.

Emilia: If you grant not
My Sister her petition in that force,
With that Celerity, and nature which
She makes it in: from henceforth I'll not dare
To ask you any thing, nor be so hardy
Ever to take a Husband.

Theseus: Pray stand up.

I am entreating of my self to do
 That which you kneel to have me; *Pirithous*,
 Lead on the Bride; get you and pray the gods
 For success, and return; omit not any thing
 In the pretended Celebration; Queens;
 Follow your Soldier (as before) hence you
 And at the banks of *Anly* meet us with
 The forces you can raise, where we shall find
 The moiety of a number, for a business,
 More bigger look't; since that our Theme is haste
 I stamp this kiss upon thy currant lip,
 Sweet keep it as my token; set you forward
 For I will see you gone. ~~[Exeunt towards the Temple.~~
 Farewell my beauteous Sister; *Pirithous*,
 Keep the Feast full, bate not an hour on't.
Pirithous: Sir,
 I'll follow you at heels; The Feasts solemnity
 Shall want till your return.
Theseus: Cousin, I charge you
 Budge not from *Athens*; we shall be returning
 E'r you can end this Feast; of which I pray you
 Make no abatement; once more farewell all.
First Queen: Thus dost thou still make good the tongue o'th' world.
Second Queen: And earnest a Deity equal with *Mars*.
Third Queen: If not above him, for
 Thou being but mortal, makest affections bend
 To godlike honors; they themselves some say
 Groan under such a Mast'ry.
Theseus: As we are men
 Thus should we do, being sensually subdued
 We loose our humane Title; good cheer, Ladies. *Flourish*.
 Now turn we towards our Comforts. ~~[Exeunt.~~
Act One. Scene Two.
Enter Palamon, and Arcite.
Arcite: Dear *Palamon*, dearer in Love than Blood
 And our prime Cousin, yet unhard'ned in
 The Crimes of nature; Let us leave the City
Thebes, and the temptings in't, before we further
 Sully our gloss of youth,
 And here to keep in abstinence we shame
 As in Incontinence; for not to swim
 I'th' aid o'th' current, were almost to sink;
 At least to frustrate striving, and to follow
 The common stream, 't would bring us to an Eddy
 Where we should turn or drown; if labour through,
 Our gain but life, and weakness.
Palamon: Your advice
 Is cry'd up with example; what strange ruins
 Since first we went to School, may we perceive
 Walking in *Thebes*! Skars, and bare weeds
 The gain o'th' Martialist, who did propound

350 To his bold ends, honor, and golden Ingots,
 Which though he won, he had not, and now fluted
 By peace, for whom he fought, who then shall offer
 To Mars's so scorn'd Altar? I do bleed
 When such I meet, and wish great Juno would
 Resume her ancient fit of jealousy
 355 To get the Soldier work, that peace might purge
 For her repletion, and retain anew
 Her charitable heart now hard, and harsher
 Than strife, or war could be.
Arcite: Are you not out?
 360 Meet you no ruin, but the Soldier in
 The cranks and turns of Thebes? you did begin
 As if you met decays of many kinds:
 Perceive you none, that do arouse your pity
 But th' unconsidered Soldier?
 365 **Palamon:** Yes, I pity
 Decays where e'er I find them, but such most
 That sweating in an honourable toil
 Are paid with lee to cool 'em.
Arcite: 'Tis not this
 370 I did begin to speak of, this is virtue
 Of no respect in Thebes, I spake of Thebes
 How dangerous if we will keep our honors,
 It is for our residing, where every evil
 Hath a good colour; where ev'ry seeming good's
 375 A certain evil, where not to be ev'n jump
 As they are, here were to be strangers, and
 Such things to be mere Monsters.
Palamon: 'Tis in our power,
 (Unless we fear that Apes can Tutor's) to
 380 Be Masters of our manners: what need I
 Affect another's gait, which is not catching
 Where there is faith, or to be fond upon
 Another's way of speech, when by mine own
 I may be reasonably conceiv'd; sav'd too,
 385 Speaking it truly; why am I bound
 By any generous bond to follow him
 Follows his Taylor, haply so long, until
 The follow'd, make pursuit? or let me know,
 Why mine own Barber is unblest, with him
 390 My poor Chinn too, for 'tis not Cizard just
 To such a Favorites glass:
 What Cannon is there
 That does command my Rapier from my hip
 To dangle't in my hand, or to go tip toe
 395 Before the street be foul? either I am
 The fore-horse in the Team, or I am none
 That draw i' th' sequent trace: these poor slight sores,
 Need not a Plantain; That which rips my bosom
 Almost to th' heart.

400 **Arcite:** Our Uncle *Creon*.
Palamon: He,
A most unbounded Tyrant, whose successes
Makes Heaven unfear'd, and villainy assured
Beyond its power: ~~there's nothing, almost puts~~
405 ~~Faith in a Fever, and deifies alone~~
~~Voluble chance, who only attributes~~
~~The faculties of other Instruments~~
~~To his own Nerves and act; Commands men service,~~
And what they win in't, boot and glory on;
410 ~~That fears not to do harm; good, dares not;~~ Let
The blood of mine that's sibbe to him, be suckt
From me with Leeches, let them break and fall
Off me with that corruption.
Arcite: Clear spirited Cousin,
415 Let's leave his Court, that we may nothing share,
Of his loud infamy: ~~for our milk,~~
~~Will relish of the pasture, and we must~~
~~Be vile, or disobedient, not his kinsmen~~
~~In blood, unless in quality.~~
420 **Palamon:** Nothing truer:
I think ~~the echoes of his shames have deaf't~~
~~The ears of heav'nly Justice: widdows cries~~
~~Descend again into their throats, and have not~~
~~Due audience of the gods: *Valerius*.~~
425 *Enter Valerius* **Letter is received by Arcite.**
Valerius Arcite, Reading: "The King calls for you; yet be leaden-footed
Till his great rage be off him. "~~*Phebus* when~~
~~He broke his whipstock, and exclaimed against~~
~~The Horses of the Sun, but whispered to~~
430 ~~The loudness of his fury.~~
Palamon: Small winds shake him,
But what's the matter?
Valerius Arcite, reading: "~~*Theseus* (~~ who where he threats appalls, ~~)~~ hath sent
Deadly defiance to him, and pronounces
435 Ruin to ~~*Thebes*, who is at hand to seal~~
~~The promise of his wrath. "~~
Arcite: Let him approach:
But that we fear the gods in him, he brings not
A jot of terror to us; yet what man
440 Thirds his own worth (the case is each of ours)
When that his actions dregg'd, with mind assured
'Tis bad he goes about.
Palamon: ~~Leave that unreasoned.~~
Our services stand now for *Thebes*, not *Creon*,
445 Yet to be neutral to him, were dishonor;
Rebellious to oppose: therefore we must
With him stand to the mercy of our Fate,
Who hath bounded our last minute.
Arcite: So we must;
450 ~~let sed this wars afoot? or it shall be~~

On fail of some condition.
Valerius: 'Tis in motion
The intelligence of state came in the instant
With the defier.
455 **Palamon:** Let's to the King, who, were he
A quarter carrier of that honor, which
His enemy came in, the blood we venture
Should be as for our health; ~~which were not spent,~~
~~Rather laid out for purchase; but alas~~
460 Our hands advanced before our hearts, what will
The fall o' th' stroke do damage?
Arci: Let th' event,
That never erring Arbitrator, tell us
When we know all our selves, and let us follow
465 The becking of our chance. *[Exeunt.*
Act One. Scene Three.
Enter Pirithous, Hippolyta, Emilia.
Pirithous: No further.
Hippolyta: Sir farewell; repeat my wishes
470 To our great Lord, of whose success I dare not
Make any timorous question; yet I wish him
Excess, and overflow of power, ~~and't might be~~
~~To dure ill dealing fortune; speed to him,~~
~~Store never hurts good Governors.~~
475 **Pirithous:** Though I know
His Ocean needs not my poor drops, yet they
Must yield their tribute there: My precious Maid,
~~Those best affections that the heavens infuse~~
~~In their best tempered pieces, keep enthroned~~
480 ~~In your dear heart.~~
Emilia: Thanks, Sir; ~~r~~Remember me
To our all-Royal Brother, for whose speed
The great *Bellona* I'll solicit; ~~and~~
~~Since in our terrene State, petitions are not~~
485 ~~Without gifts understood:~~ I'll offer to her
What I shall be advised she likes; our hearts
Are in his Army, in his Tent.
Hippolyta: In's bosom:
We have been Soldiers, and we cannot weep
490 When our Friends don their helms, or put to Sea;
~~Or tell of Babes breach'd on the Lance, or Women~~
~~That have sod their Infants in (and after eat them)~~
~~The brine, they wept at killing 'em; Then if~~
~~You stay to see of us such Spinsters, we~~
495 ~~Should hold you here forever.~~
Pirithous: Peace be to you
As I pursue this war; ~~which shall be then~~
~~Beyond further requiring.~~ *[Exit Pirithous:*
Emilia: How his longing
500 Follows his friend; ~~since his depart, his sports~~
~~Though craving seriousness, and skill, past slightly~~

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505 His careless execution, where nor gain
Made him regard, or loss consider, but
Playing o'er business in his hand, another
Directing in his head, his mind, nurse equal
To these so differing Twins; have you observed him,
Since our great Lord departed?
Hippolyta: With much labour:
And I did love him for't, they two have Cabin'd
510 In many as dangerous, as poor a corner,
Peril and want contending, they have skift
Torrents, whose roaring tyranny and power
I'th' least of these was dreadful, and they have
Fought out together, where Death's self was lodg'd,
515 Yet Fate hath brought them off: their knot of love
Tied, weaved, entangled, with so true, so long,
And with a finger of so deep a cunning
May be out worn, never undone. I think
~~Theseus cannot be umpire to himself~~
520 Cleaving his conscience into twain, and doing
Each side like Justice, which he loves best.
Emilia: Doubtless
There is a best, and reason has no manners
To say it is not you: Have you observed him
525 Since our great lord departed?
HIPPOLYTA: With much labor,
And I did love him for't. Their knot of love,
Tied, weaved, entangled,
May be outworn, never undone. I think
530 Theseus cannot be umpire to himself
Cleaving his conscience into twain, and doing
Each side like Justice, which he loves best.
Emilia: I was acquainted
Once with a time, when I enjoyed a Play-fellow;
535 You were at wars, when she the grave enrich'd,
~~Who made too proud the Bed, took leave o' th' Moon~~
~~(Which then looked pale at parting) when our count~~
~~Was each eleven.~~
540 **Hippolyta:** 'Twas ~~Flavia~~Flavina.
Emilia: Yes,
You talk of *Pirithous* and *Theseus* love;
Theirs has more ground, is more maturely season'd,
More buckled with strong judgement, and their needs
545 The one of th' other may be said to water
Their intertangled roots of love, but I
And she (~~I~~ sigh and spoke of) were things innocent,
Lov'd for we did, and like the Elements
That know not what, nor why, yet do effect
Rare issues by their operance; our souls
550 Did so to one another; what she lik'd,
Was then of me approved, ~~what not condemn'd~~
~~No more arraignment,~~

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the flower that I would pluck
And put between my breasts, oh ~~(then but beginning~~
555 ~~To swell about the blossom)~~, she would long
Till she had such another, and commit it
To the like innocent Cradle, ~~where Phenix-like~~
~~They di'd in perfume: on my head no toy~~
560 ~~But was her pattern, her affections pretty~~
Though happily, her careless, were, I followed
~~For my most serious decking, had mine ear~~
Stol'n some new air, or at adventure hummed on
From musical Coinage, why, it was a Note
Whereon her spirits would sojourn (rather dwell on)
565 And sing it in her slumbers; This rehearsal
(Which fury innocent wots well) comes in
~~Like old importments bastard, has this end;~~
~~That t~~The true love 'tween Maid, and Maid, may be
More than in sex individual.

570 **Hippolyta:** Y'are out of breath,
And this high speeded-pace is but to say
That you shall never (like the Maid *Flavina*)
Love any that's call'd Man.

Emilia: I'm sure I shall not.

575 **Hippolyta:** Now alack, weak Sister,
~~I must no more believe thee in this point~~
~~Though in't I know thou dost believe thy self~~
~~I must no more believe thee in this point~~
~~(Though in't I know thou dost believe thy self)~~

580 Then I will trust a sickly appetite,
That loathes even as it longs, ~~but sure my Sister~~
~~If I were ripe for your persuasion, you~~
Have said enough to shake me from the Arm
Of the all noble *Theseus*, for whose fortunes,
585 I will now in, and kneel with great assurance,
~~That we, more than his Pirathous, possess~~
~~The high Throne in his heart.~~

Emilia: I am not against your faith,
Yet I continue mine. [*Exeunt Cornets.*]

590 **Act One. Scene Four.**

A Battle struck within: then a Retreat: Flourish. Then Enter Theseus (victor)
~~the three Queens meet him, and fall on their faces before him.~~

First Queen: To thee no Star be dark.

595 **Second Queen:** Both Heaven and Earth
Friend thee for ever.

Third Queen: All the good that may
Be wish'd upon thy head, I cry *Amen* to't.

600 **Theseus:** Th'impartial gods, who from the mounted heavens
View us their mortal Herd, behold who erre,
And in their time chastise: goe and find out
The bones of your dead Lords, and honor them
With treble ceremony, rather than a gap
Should be in their dear rights, we would supply't.

605 But those we will depute, which shall invest
You in your dignities, and even each thing
Our haste does leave imperfect; So adieu
And heavens good eyes look on you, w^hat are those? [*Exeunt Queens.*]

Herald Pirithous. Men of great quality, as may be judged
By their appointment; some of *Thebes* have told's
610 They are Sisters children, Nephews to the King.

Theseus: By th' Helm of Mars, I saw them in the War,
Like to a pair of Lions, smear'd with prey,
Make lanes in troops agast. I fixed my note
Constantly on them; for they were a mark
615 Worth a god's view: what prisoner was't that told me
When I enquired their names?

Herald Pirithous. With the leave, they're called
Arcite and *Palamon*.

Theseus: 'Tis right, those, those
620 They are not dead? [*Three Hearses ready.*]
Herald. Nor in a state of life, had they been taken
When their last hurts were given, 'twas possible
They might have been recovered; Yet they breathe
And have the name of men.

Theseus: Then like men use 'em
625 The very loss of such (millions of rates)
Exceed the Wine of others, all our Surgeons
Convent in their behoof, our richest balmes
Rather than niggard waste, their lives concern us,
630 Much more than *Thebes* is worth, rather than have 'em
Freed of this plight, and in their morning state
(Sound and at liberty) I would 'em dead,
But forty thousand fold, w^e had rather have 'em
Prisoners to us, than death; bear 'em speedily
635 From our kind air, to them unkind, and minister
What man to man may do for our sake more,
Since I have known frights, fury, friends, beheasts,
Loves, provocations, zeal, a Mistress task,
Desire of liberty, a fever, madness,
640 Hath set a mark which nature could not reach too
Without some imposition, sickness in Will
Or wrestling strength in reason, for our Love
And great *Apollo's* mercy, all our best,
Their best skill tender. Lead into the City,
645 Where having bound things scatter'd, we will post. [*Flourish.*]
To *Athens* for our Army. [*Exeunt. Musick.*]

Act One. Scene Five.

*Enter the Queens, with the Hearses of their Knights, in a Funeral
Solemnity, &c.*

650 *Urns and Odours, bring away,
Vapors, sighs, darken the day;
Our dole more deadly looks, than dying
Balms, and Gums, and heavy cheers,
Sacred vials fill'd with tears,*

655 ~~And clamors, through the wild air flying;
Come all sad and solemn Shows;
That are quick-ey'd pleasures foes;
We convent nought else but woes.
We convent, &c.~~
660 ~~**Third Queen:** This funeral path, brings to your households grave:
Joy seize on you again: peace, sleep with him.
Second Queen: And this to yours.
First Queen: Yours this way: Heavens lend
A thousand differing ways to one sure end.~~
665 ~~**Third Queen:** This world's a City full of straying streets,
And Death's the Market-place, where each one meets. [*Exeunt severally.*~~

Act Two. Scene One.

Enter Jailor and Wooer.

670 **Jailor.**
~~I may depart with little, while I live, something I
May cast to you, not much: Alas the Prison I
Keep, though it be for great ones, yet they seldom
Come; before one *Salmon*, you shall take a number~~
675 ~~Of Minnows. I am given out to be better lin'd
Than it can appear, to me report is a true
Speaker: I would I were really, that I am
Deliver'd to be: Marry, what I have (be it what
It will) I will assure upon my daughter at
The day of my death.~~
680 **Wooer.** Sir, I demand no more than your own offer,
And I will estate your Daughter, in what I
Have promised.
Jailor. Well, we will talk more of this, when the solemnity
685 Is past; But have you a full promise of her?
Enter Daughter.
When that shall be seen, I tender my consent.
Wooer. I have Sir; here she comes.
Jailor. ~~Your friend and I have chanced to name
You here, upon the old business: but no more of that.
Now, so soon as the Court hurry is over, we will
Have an end of it: I th' meantime I~~ Look tenderly
To the two prisoners. I can tell you they are Princes.
690 **Daughter:** ~~These strowings are for their Chamber;~~ 'tis pity they
Are in prison, and 'twere pity they should be out: ~~I
Do think they have patience to make any adversity
Asham'd;
the prison itself is proud of 'em; and
They have all the world in their Chamber.~~
695 **Jailor.** They are fam'd to be a pair of absolute men.
Daughter: By my troth, I think Fame but stammers 'em, they
Stand a grief above the reach of report.
Jailor. I heard them reported in the battle, to be the only doers.
700 **Daughter:** Nay, most likely, for they are noble sufferers; I

705 ~~Marvel how they would have look'd, had they been~~
~~Victors, that with such a constant Nobility, enforce~~
~~A freedom out of bondage, making misery their~~
~~Mirth, and affliction a toy to jest at.~~
Jailor: Do they so?

710 **Daughter:**
It seems to me, they have no more sense of their
Captivity, than I of ruling *Athens*: they eat
Well, look merrily, discourse of many things,
But nothing of their own restraint, and disasters:
715 ~~Yet sometime a divided sigh, martyr'd as 'twere~~
~~I' th' deliverance, will break from one of them,~~
~~When the other presently gives it so sweet a rebuke,~~
~~That I could wish myself a sigh to be so chid,~~
~~Or at least a sigher to be comforted.~~
720 **Woore:** I never saw 'em.
Jailor: ~~The Duke himself came privately in the night.~~
Enter Palamon, and Arcite above.

~~And so did they, what the reason of it is, I~~
~~know not:~~ Look, yonder they are; that's
725 ~~Arcite~~ looks out.
Daughter: No Sir, no, that's *Palamon*: ~~Arcite is the~~
~~Lower of the twain; you may perceive a part~~
~~Of him.~~
Jailor. Go to, leave your pointing; they would not
730 Make us their object; out of their sight.
Daughter: It is a holiday to look on them: Lord, the
Difference of men.[*Exeunt.*

Act Two. Scene Two.
Enter Palamon, and Arcite in prison.

735 **Palamon:** How do you, Noble Cousin?
Arcite: How do you, Sir?
Palamon: Why, strong enough to laugh at misery,
And bear the chance of war yet, we are prisoners
I fear forever, Cousin.

740 **Arcite:** I believe it,
~~And to that destiny have patiently~~
~~Laid up my hour to come.~~
Palamon: Oh Cousin *Arcite*,
Where is *Thebes* now? Where is our noble Country?
745 Where are our friends, and kindreds? never more
Must we behold those comforts, ~~never see~~
~~The hardy youths strive for the Games of honor~~
~~(Hung with the painted favours of their Ladies)~~
~~Like tall Ships under Sail: then start amongst 'em~~
750 ~~And as an Eastwind leave 'em all behind us,~~
~~Like lazy Clouds, whilst *Palamon* and *Arcite*,~~
~~Even in the wagging of a wanton leg~~
~~Out stripped the people's praises, won the Garlands,~~
~~Ere they have time to wish 'em ours. Oh never~~
755 ~~Shall we two exercise, like twins of honor,~~

Our Arms again, and feel our fiery horses,
 Like proud Seas under us, our good Swords, now
 (Better the red-eyed god of War never were)
 Bravish'd our sides, like age, must run to rust,
 And deck the Temples of those gods that hate us,
 These hands shall never draw 'em out like light'ning
 To blast whole Armies more.
Arcite: No, *Palamon*,
 Those hopes are prisoners with us, here we are
 And here the graces of our youths must wither
 Like a too timely Spring; here age must find us,
 And which is heaviest, *Palamon*, unmarried,
 The sweet embraces of a loving wife
 Loaden with kisses, arm'd with thousand *Cupids*
 Shall never claspe our necks, no issue know us,
 No figures of ourselves shall we ev'r see;
 To glad our age, and like young Eagles teach 'em
 Boldly to gaze against bright arms, and say
 Remember what your Fathers were, and conquer.
 The fair ey'd Maids, shall weep our banishments,
 And in their Songs, curse ever blinded fortune
 Till she for shame see what a wrong she has done
 To youth and nature; This is all our world;
 We shall know nothing here, but one another,
 Hear nothing, but the clock that tells our woes.
 The Vine shall grow, but we shall never see it:
 Summer shall come, and with her all delights;
 But dead cold winter must inhabit here still.
Palamon: 'Tis too true, *Arcite*, To our Theban hounds,
 That shook the aged Forest with their echoes,
 No more now must we hollo, no more shake
 Our pointed Javelins, whilst the angry Swine
 Flies like a Parthian quiver from our rages,
 Struck with our well-steeled Darts: All valiant uses,
 (The food and nourishment of noble minds,)
 In us two here shall perish; we shall die
 (Which is the curse of honor) lastly,
 Children of grief, and Ignorance.
Arcite: Yet, Cousin,
 Even from the bottom of these miseries
 From all that fortune can inflict upon us,
 I see two comforts rising, two meer blessings,
 If the gods please, to hold here a brave patience,
 And the enjoying of our griefs together.
 Whilst *Palamon* is with me, let me perish
 If I think this our prison.
Palamon: Certainly,
 'Tis a main goodness, Cousin, that our fortunes
 Were twin'd together; 'tis most true, two souls
 Put in two noble bodies, let 'em suffer
 The gaul of hazard, so they grow together,

Will never sink, ~~they must not, say they could,~~
~~A willing man dies sleeping, and all's done.~~

Arcite: Shall we make worthy uses of this place
That all men hate so much?

Palamon: How, gentle Cousin?

Arcite: Let's think this prison, Holy Sanctuary,
To keep us from corruption of worse men,
We are young, ~~and yet desire the wayes of honour,~~
~~That liberty and common conversation,~~
~~The poison of pure spirits, might, like women,~~
~~Woo us to wander from. What worthy blessing~~
~~Can be but our imaginations~~
~~May make it ours?~~ And here being thus together,

We are an endless mine to one another;
~~We are one anothers Wife, ever begetting~~
New births of love; we are Father, Friends, Acquaintance,
We are, in one another, Families,

~~I am your Heir, and you are mine: This place~~
~~Is our Inheritance: no hard oppressor~~
~~Dare take this from us; here with a little patience~~
~~We shall live long, and loving: No surfeits seek us:~~
~~The hand of War hurts none here, nor the Seas~~
~~Swallow their youth: were we at liberty,~~
~~A Wife might part us lawfully, or business,~~
~~Quarrels consume us: Envy of ill men~~
~~Crave our acquaintance, I might sicken, Cousin,~~
~~Where you should never know it, and so perish~~
~~Without your noble hand to close mine eyes,~~
~~Or prayers to the gods; a thousand chances~~
~~Were we from hence, would sever us.~~

Palamon: You have made me -

~~I thank you, Cousin Arcite~~ almost wanton
With my Captivity: ~~what a misery~~
~~It is to live abroad! and every where:~~
~~'Tis like a Beast me thinks: I find the Court here,~~
~~I'm sure a more content, and all those pleasures~~
~~That woo the Wills of men to vanity,~~
~~I see through now; and am sufficient~~
To tell the world, 'tis but a gaudy shadow,
~~That old Time, as he passes by, takes with him,~~
~~What had we been old in the Court of Creon,~~
Where sin is Justice, Lust, and Ignorance,
~~The virtues of the great ones: Cousin Arcite,~~
Had not the loving gods found this place for us
~~We had did as they do, ill old men unwept,~~
~~And had their Epitaphs, the peoples Curses.~~
~~Shall I say more?~~

Arcite: I would hear you still.

Palamon: Ye shall.

Is there record of any two that lov'd
Better than we two, *Arcite*?

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Arcite: Sure there cannot.

Palamon: I do not think it possible our friendship
Should ever leave us.

Arcite: Till our deaths it cannot.

Enter Emilia and her Woman.

And after death our spirits shall be led
To those that love eternally. Speak on Sir.
This Garden has a world of pleasures in't.

Emilia: What Flower is this?

Woman: 'Tis call'd *Narcissus*, Madam.

Emilia: That was a fair Boy certain, but a fool,
To love himself. ~~Were there not Maids enough?~~

~~**Arcite:** Pray forward.~~

~~**Palamon:** Yes.~~

~~**Emilia:** Or were they all hard-hearted?~~

Woman: They could not be to one so fair.

Emilia: Thou wouldst not.

Woman: I think I should not, Madam.

~~**Emilia:** That's a good wench:~~

~~But take heed to your kindness though.~~

~~**Woman:** Why, Madam?~~

Emilia: Men are mad things.

~~**Arcite:** Will ye go forward, Cousin?~~

~~**Emilia:** Canst not thou work such Flowers in Silk, wench?~~

~~**Woman:** Yes.~~

~~**Emilia:** I'll have a Gown full of 'em, and of these,~~

~~This is a pretty colour, will't not do~~

~~Rarely upon a skirt, wench?~~

~~**Woman:** Dainty, Madam.~~

~~**Arcite:** Cousin, Cousin, how do you, Sir? Why *Palamon*?~~

~~**Palamon:** Never till now, I was in prison, *Arcite*.~~

~~**Arcite:** Why, what's the matter man?~~

~~**Palamon:** Behold, and wonder.~~

~~By heaven she is a Goddess.~~

~~**Arcite:** Ha.~~

~~**Palamon:** Do reverence.~~

~~She is a Goddess, *Arcite*.~~

~~**Emilia:** Of all Flowers,~~

~~Methinks a Rose is best.~~

Woman: Why gentle Madam?

Emilia: It is the very Emblem of a Maid.

For when the West wind courts her gently
How modestly she blows, and paints the Sun,
With her chaste blushes! When the North comes near her,
Rude and impatient, then like Chastity
She locks her beauties in her bud again,
And leaves him to base briers.

Woman: Yet, good Madam,
Sometimes her modesty will blow so far
She falls for't: a Maid
If she have any honor, would be loth

To take example by her.
 910 **Emilia:** Thou art wanton.
~~**Arcite:** She is wondrous fair.~~
~~**Palamon:** She is all the beauty extant.~~
~~**Emilia:** The Sun grows high, let's walk in, keep these flowers;~~
~~We'll see how near Art can come near their colours;~~
 915 ~~I'm wondrous merry hearted, I could laugh now.~~
Woman: I could lie down I am sure.
Emilia: And take one with you?
Woman: That's as we bargain, Madam.
Emilia: Well, agree then. *[Exeunt Emilia and Woman.]*
 920 **Palamon:** What think you of this beauty?
Arcite: 'Tis a rare one.
~~**Palamon:** Is't but a rare one?~~
~~**Arcite:** Yes, a matchless beauty.~~
~~**Palamon:** Might not a man well lose himself, and love her?~~
 925 ~~**Arcite:** I cannot tell what you have done, I have;~~
~~Beshrew mine eyes for't, now I feel my Shackles.~~
Palamon: You love her then?
Arcite: Who would not?
Palamon: And desire her?
 930 **Arcite:** Before my liberty.
Palamon: I saw her first.
Arcite: That's nothing.
Palamon: But it shall be.
Arcite: I saw her too.
 935 **Palamon:** Yes, but you must not love her.
Arcite: I will not as you do; to worship her;
 As she is heavenly, and a blessed goddess;
 (I love her as a woman, to enjoy her.)
 So both may love.
 940 **Palamon:** You shall not love at all.
Arcite: Not love at all;
 Who shall denie me?
Palamon: I that first saw her; I that took possession
 First with mine eye of all those beauties
 945 In her reveal'd to mankind: if thou lov'st her;
 Or entertain'st a hope to blast my wishes,
 Thou art a Traitor, *Arcite*, and a fellow
 False as thy Title to her: friendship, bloud
 And all the ties between us I disclaim
 950 If thou once think upon her.
Arcite: Yes, I love her,
 And if the lives of all my name lay on it,
 I must do so, I love her with my soul,
 If that will lose ye, farewell, *Palamon*.
 955 ~~I say again, I love, and in loving her, maintain~~
~~I am as worthy and as free a Lover~~
~~And have as just a title to her beauty~~
~~As any *Palamon*, or any living~~
~~That is a man's Son.~~

960 **Palamon:** Have I call'd thee friend?
Arcite: Yes, and have found me so; ~~why are you mov'd thus?~~
~~Let me deal coldly with you, am not I~~
~~Part of your blood, part of your soul? you have told me~~
~~That I was *Palamon*, and you were *Arcite*.~~
965 ~~**Palamon:** Yes.~~
~~**Arcite:** Am not I liable to those affections,~~
~~Those joyes, griefs, angers, fears, my friend shall suffer?~~
~~**Palamon:** Ye may be.~~
~~**Arcite:**~~
970 Why then would you deal so cunningly,
So strangely, so unlike a Noble Kinsman
To love alone? speak truly, do you think me
Unworthy of her sight?
Palamon: No, but unjust,
975 If thou pursue that sight.
~~**Arcite:** Because another~~
~~First sees the Enemy, shall I stand still~~
~~And let mine honor down, and never charge?~~
~~**Palamon:** Yes, if he be but one.~~
980 ~~**Arcite:** But say that one~~
~~Had rather combat me?~~
~~**Palamon:** Let that one say so,~~
~~And use thy freedom: else if thou pursuest her,~~
~~Be as that cursed man that hates his Country,~~
985 ~~A branded villain.~~
Arcite: You are mad.
Palamon: I must be.
Till thou art worthy, *Arcite*, it concerns me,
And in this madness, if I hazard thee
990 And take thy life, I deal but truly.
Arcite: Fie Sir.
You play the child extremely: I will love her,
I must, I ought to do so, and I dare,
And all this justly.
995 ~~**Palamon:** Oh that now, that now~~
~~Thy false self, and thy friend, had but this fortune~~
~~To be one hour at liberty, and grasp~~
~~Our good swords in our hands, I would quickly teach thee~~
~~What 'twere to filch affection from another:~~
1000 ~~Thou art baser in it than a Cutpurse;~~
~~Put but thy head out of this window more,~~
~~And as I have a soul, I'll nail thy life to't.~~
~~**Arcite:** Thou dar'st not fool, thou canst not, thou art feeble.~~
~~Put my head out? I'll throw my Body out,~~
1005 ~~And leap the Garden, when I see her next.~~

Enter Jailor.

~~And pitch between her Arms to anger thee.~~
Palamon: No more; the Jailors coming; I shall live
To knock thy brains out with my Shackles.
1010 **Arcite:** Do.

Jailor. By your leave, Gentlemen.

Palamon: Now, honest Jailor?

Jailor... Lord *Arcite*, you must presently to th' Duke;
The cause I know not yet.

Arcite: I am ready, Jailor.

Jailor... Prince *Palamon*, I must awhile bereave you
Of your fair Cousins company.[*Exeunt Arcite, and Jailor.*

Palamon: ~~And me too,~~

~~Even when you please of life; w~~Why is he sent for?

It may be he shall marry her, he's goodly,
And like enough the Duke hath taken notice
Both of his Blood and Body: but his falsehood,
Why should a friend be treacherous? if that
Get him a Wife so noble, and so fair;

Let honest men ne'er love again. ~~Once more~~
~~I would but see this fair one: blessed Garden,~~
~~And Fruit, and Flowers more blessed that still blossom~~
~~As her bright eyes shine on ye. Would I were~~
~~For all the fortune of my life hereafter~~
~~Yon little Tree, yon blooming Apricock;~~
~~How I would spread, and fling my wanton arms~~
~~In at her window; I would bring her fruit~~
~~Fit for the gods to feed on: youth and pleasure~~
~~Still as she tasted should be doubled on her,~~
~~And if she be not heavenly, I would make her~~
~~So near the gods in nature, they should fear her.~~

Enter Jailor.

~~And then I'm sure she would love me: h~~How now Jailor,
Where's *Arcite*?

Jailor... Banish'd: Prince *Pirithous*
Obtain'd his liberty; but never more
Upon his oath and life must he set foot
Upon this Kingdom.

Palamon: He's a blessed man,
~~He shall see Thebes again, and call to Arms~~
~~The bold young men, that when he bids 'em charge,~~
~~Fall on like fire: Arcite shall have a Fortune,~~
~~If he dare make himself a worthy Lover,~~
~~Yet in the Field to strike a battle for her;~~
~~And if he lose her then, he's a cold Coward;~~
~~How bravely may he bear himself to win her~~
~~If he be noble Arcite; thousand ways.~~

Were I at liberty, I would do things
Of such a virtuous greatness, that this Lady,
This blushing Virgin should take manhood to her
And seek to ravish me.

Jailor... My Lord, for you
I have this charge too.

Palamon: To discharge my life.

Jailor... No, but from this place to remove your Lordship,
The windows are too open.

Palamon: Devils take 'em
That are so envious to me; prithee kill me.

Jailor.. And hang for't afterward.

Palamon: ~~By this good light~~
~~Had I a sword I would kill thee:~~

Jailor.. Why my Lord?

Palamon: ~~Thou bring'st such pelting scurvy news continually~~
~~Thou art not worthy life;~~ I will not go.

Jailor.. Indeed you must my Lord.

Palamon: May I see the Garden?

Jailor.. No.

Palamon: ~~Then I am resolv'd, I will not go:~~

Jailor.. ~~I must constrain you then: and, for you are dangerous~~
~~I'll clap more irons on you:~~

Palamon: ~~Do, good Jailor:~~

~~I'll shake 'em so, ye shall not sleep;~~

~~I'll make ye a new Morris, must I go?~~

Jailor.. ~~There is no remedy:~~

Palamon: Farewell kind window.
May rude wind never hurt thee. Oh my Lady,
If ever thou hast felt what sorrow was,
Dream how I suffer. Come; now bury me. *[Exeunt Palamon and Jailor.]*

Act Two, Scene Three

Enter Arcite

Arcite: Banish'd the Kingdom? ~~'tis a benefit,~~

~~A mercy I must thank 'em for, but banish'd~~

~~The free enjoying of that face I die for,~~

~~Oh 'twas a studied punishment, a death~~

~~Beyond Imagination: Such a vengeance~~

~~That were I old and wicked, all my sins~~

~~Could never pluck upon me, Palamon;~~

Thou hast the Start now, thou shalt stay and see

Her bright eyes break each morning 'gainst thy window,

~~And let in life into thee; Thou shalt feed~~

~~Upon the sweetness of a noble beauty;~~

~~That nature never exceeded, nor never shall:~~

Good gods! what happiness has *Palamon*!

Twenty to one, he'll come to speak to her,

And if she be as gentle, as she's fair,

I know she's his, he has a Tongue will tame

Tempests, and make the wild Rocks wanton.

Come what can come,

The worst is death; I will not leave the Kingdom,

~~I know mine own is but a heap of ruins;~~

~~And no redress there, if I go,~~ he has her,

I'm resolv'd an other shape shall make me,

Or end my fortunes. Either way, I'm happy:

I'll see her, and be near her, or no more.

Enter ~~Four~~. Country people, & one with a garland before them.

First Countryman: My Masters, I'll be there that's certain.

Second Countryman: ~~And I'll be there.~~

1115 ~~Third Countryman~~ And I.
~~Fourth Countryman~~ Why then have with ye Boys; 'Tis but a chiding,
Let the plough play today, I'll tickle out
Of the jades tails tomorrow.
~~First Countryman~~:. I 'm sure
To have my wife as jealous as a Turkey:
But that's all one, I'll go through, let her mumble.
1120 ~~Second Countryman~~. Clap her aboard tomorrow night, and stow her,
And all's made up again.
~~Third Countryman~~. I, do but put a fesku in her fist, and you shall see her
Take a new lesson out, and be a good wench.
Do we all hold, against the Maying?
1125 ~~Fourth Countryman~~ Hold? what should ail us?
~~Third Countryman~~ Arcas will be there.
~~Second Countryman~~ And Sennois.
And Rycas, and three better lads never danc'd under green Tree,
And yet know what wenches: ha?
1130 But will the dainty ~~Domine~~, the Schoolmaster keep touch
Do you think: For he do's all ye know. ~~Third Countryman~~ He'll eat a hornbook ere he fail:
go too, the matter's too far driven between him, and the Tanners daughter, to let
slip now, and she must see the Duke, and she must dance too.
~~Fourth Countryman~~ Shall we be lusty.
1135 ~~Second Countryman~~. All the Boys in Athens blow wind i'th' breech on's,
-and here I'll be and there I'll be, for our Town, and here again, and there again: Ha,
Boys, heigh for the weavers.
~~First Countryman~~:. This must be done i'th woods.
~~Fourth Countryman~~. O pardon me.
1140 ~~Second Countryman~~ By any means our thing of learning sees so: Where he himself will
edifie the Duke most pariously in our behalfe: He's excellent i'th' woods, bring him to'th' plains, his
learning makes no cry.
~~Third Countryman~~. We'll see the sports, then every man to's Tackle: and
Sweet Companions let's rehearse by any means, before
1145 The Ladies see us, and do sweetly, and God knows what
May come on't.
~~Fourth Countryman~~. Content: the sports once ended, we'll perform. Away
Boys and hold.
~~Arcite~~: By your leaves honest friends: Pray you whither go you.
1150 ~~Fourth Countryman~~. Whither? Why, what a question's that!
~~Arcite~~: Yes, 'tis a question, to me that know not.
~~Third Countryman~~. To the Games, my Friend.
~~Second Countryman~~. Where were you bred you know it not?
1155 ~~Arcite~~: Not far, Sir,
Are there such Games today?
~~First Countryman~~:. Yes marry are there:
And such as you never saw; The Duke, himself
Will be in person there.
~~Arcite~~: What pastimes are they?
1160 ~~Second Countryman~~ Wrastling, and Running; 'Tis a pretty Fellow.
~~Third Countryman~~ Thou wilt not go along.
~~Arcite~~: Not yet Sir.
~~Fourth Countryman~~. Well, Sir,

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1165 ~~Take your own time, come, Boys.~~
~~First Countryman:~~ My mind misgives me
~~This fellow has a vengeance trick o'th hip,~~
~~Marko how his Bodi's made for't.~~
~~Second Countryman:~~ I'll be hang'd though
1170 ~~If he dare venture, hang him plum porridge,~~
~~He wrestle? He roast eggs.~~
~~Thou wilt not goe along?~~
~~ARCITE:~~ Not yet, Sir.
~~COUNTREYMAN:~~ Well, Sir, Take your owne time Come let's be gone Lads. ~~[Exiteunt~~
~~Four.~~
1175 **Arcite:** This is an offered opportunity
I durst not wish for. ~~Well, I could have wrestled,~~
~~The best men call'd it excellent, and run~~
~~Swifter, than wind upon a field of Corn~~
~~(Curling the wealthy ears) never flew:~~ I'll venture,
1180 And in some poor disguise be there, who knows
Whether my brows may not be girt with garlands?
And happiness prefer me to a place,
Where I may ever dwell in sight of her. ~~[Exit Arcite~~
Act Two. Scene Four
Enter Jailor's Daughter alone.
1185 **Daughter:** Why should I love this Gentleman? 'Tis odds
He never will affect me; I am base,
My Father the mean Jailor of his Prison,
And he a Prince; To marry him is hopeless;
1190 To be his whore, is witless. ~~Out upon't~~
~~What pushes are we wenches driven to? Out upon't;~~
~~What pushes are we wenches driven to~~
~~When fifteen once has found us?~~ First I saw him,
1195 I, seeing, thought he was a goodly man;
He has as much to please a woman in him,
(If he please to bestow it so) as ever
These eyes yet lookt on; Next, I pittied him,
And so would any young wench o'my Conscience
1200 That ever dream'd, or vow'd her Maidenhead
To a young handsome Man; Then I lov'd him,
(Extremely lov'd him) infinitely lov'd him;
And yet he had a Cousin, fair as he too.
But in my heart was *Palamon*, and there
1205 Lord, what a coil he keeps! ~~To hear him~~
~~Sing in an evening, what a Heaven it is!~~
~~And yet his Songs are sad ones; Fairer spoken,~~
~~Was never Gentleman:~~ When I come in
To bring him water in a morning, first
1210 He bows his noble body, then salutes me, thus:
Fair, gentle Maid, good morrow, may thy goodness,
Get thee a happy husband; Once he kissed me,
I lov'd my lips the better ten days after,
Would he would do so ev'ry day; ~~He grieves much,~~
~~And me as much to see his misery:~~

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1215 ~~What should I do, to make him know I love him,~~
~~For I would fain enjoy him?~~ Say I ventured
To set him free? What says the Law then? Thus much
For Law, or kindred: I will do it,
And this night, or tomorrow he shall love me. *[Exit.*
1220 *[This short florish of Cornets and Shouts within.*

Act Two. Scene Five

Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Pirithous, Emilia: Arcite with a Garland, &c.

Theseus: You have done worthily; ~~I have not seen~~
Since ~~Hercules~~, a man of tougher sinews;
1225 ~~What ere you are, you run the best, and wrestle,~~
~~That these times can allow.~~
Arcite: ~~I'm proud to please you.~~
Theseus:
What Country bred you?
1230 **Arcite:** This; But far off, Prince.
Theseus: Are you a Gentleman?
Arcite: My father said so;
~~And to those gentle uses gave me life.~~
Theseus: Are you his heir?
1235 **Arcite:** His youngest, Sir.
Theseus: Your Father
Sure is a happy Sire, then: What proves you?
Arcite: A little of all noble Qualities:
I could have kept a Hawk, and well have hollow'd
1240 ~~To a deep crie of Dogs; I dare not praise~~
~~My feat in horsemanship: yet they that knew me~~
~~Would say it was my best peece: last, and greatest,~~
~~I would be thought a Soldier.~~
Theseus: You are perfect.
1245 **Pirithous.** Upon my soul, a proper man.
Emilia. He is so.
Pirithous: How do you like him, Lady?
Hippolyta: I admire him,
I have not seen so young a man, so noble
1250 ~~(If he say true,) of his sort.~~
Emilia: Believe,
His mother was a wondrous handsome woman,
His face me thinks, goes that way.
Hippolyta: ~~But his Body~~
1255 ~~And fiery mind, illustrate a brave Father.~~
Pirithous: Mark how his virtue, like a hidden Sun,
~~Breaks through his baser garments.~~
Hippolyta: He's well got sure.
Theseus: What made you seek this place, Sir?
1260 **Arcite:** Noble *Theseus*.
To purchase name, and do my ablest service
To such a well-found wonder, as thy worth,
~~For only in thy Court, of all the world~~
~~Dwells fair-ey'd honor.~~
1265 **Pirithous:** ~~All his words are worthy.~~

Theseus: Sir, we are much indebted to your travel,
Nor shall you lose your wish: *Pirithous*
Dispose of this faire Gentleman.

Pirithous. Thanks *Theseus*.

What ere you are y'are mine, and I shall give you
To a most noble service, to this Lady,
This bright young Virgin; Pray observe her goodness;
~~You have honour'd her fair birth-day, with your virtues,
And as your due y'are hers: kiss her fair hand Sir.~~

Arcite: Sir, y'are a noble Giver: dearest Beauty,
~~Thus let me seal my vow'd faith: when your Servant,
Your most unworthy Creature, but offends you,
Command him die, he shall.~~

Emilia: ~~That were too cruel:~~

~~If you deserve well, Sir; I shall soon see't:~~

Y'are mine, and somewhat better than your rank I'll use you.

~~**Pirithous:** I'll see you furnish'd, and because you say
You are a horseman, I must needs entreat you
This afternoon to ride, but 'tis a rough one.~~

~~**Arcite:** I like him better, Prince, I shall not then
Freeze in my Saddle.~~

~~**Theseus:** Sweet, you must be ready,
And you *Emilia*, and you, Friend, and all
Tomorrow by the Sun, to do observance~~

~~To flowery May, in *Dian's* wood: wait well Sir,
Upon your Mistress: *Emily*, I hope
He shall not go a foot.~~

~~**Emilia:** That were a shame Sir,~~

~~While I have horses: take your choice, and what
You want at any time, let me but know it;
If you serve faithfully, I dare assure you
You'll find a loving Mistress.~~

~~**Arcite:** If I do not,
Let me find that my Father ever hated,
Disgrace, and blows.~~

Theseus: Go lead the way; You have won it:

~~It shall be so; You shall receive all dues
Fit for the honor you have won; 'Twere wrong else.~~

Sister, beshrew my heart, you have a Servant,
That if I were a woman, would be Master,
But you are wise. *[Flourish.*

Emilia: I hope too wise for that Sir. *[Exeunt omnes.*

Act Two. Scene Six.

Enter Jailors Daughter alone.

Daughter. Let all the Dukes and all the devils roar,
He is at liberty: I have ventured for him:

And out I have brought him to a little wood
A mile hence, ~~I have sent him, where a Cedar,
Higher than all the rest, spreads like a plane~~

~~Fast by a Brook,~~ and there he shall keep close,
Till I provide him files and food; for yet

1320 His iron bracelets are not off. ~~O Love~~
~~What a stout hearted child thou art! My Father~~
~~Durst better have endured cold iron, than done it:~~
I love him beyond love, and beyond reason,
Or wit, or safety: I have made him know it
I care not, I am desperate: ~~If the Law~~
~~Find me, and then condemn me for't; Some wenches,~~
1325 ~~Some honest hearted Maids will sing my Dirge.~~
~~And tell to memory, my death was noble,~~
~~Dying almost a Martyr: That way he takes,~~
~~I purpose is my way too:~~ Sure he cannot
Be so unmanly, as to leave me here,
If he do, Maids will not so easily
1330 Trust men again: And yet he has not thank'd me
For what I have done: no not so much as kist me,
And that (me thinks) is not so well; ~~Nor scarcely~~
~~Could I persuade him to become a free man;~~
~~He made such scruples of the wrong he did~~
1335 ~~To me, and to my Father.~~ Yet I hope
When he considers more, this love of mine
Will take more root within him: Let him do
What he will with me, so he use me kindly,
For use me so he shall, or I'll proclaim him,
1340 And to his face, no man: ~~I'll presently~~
~~Provide him necessaries, and pack my clothes up,~~
~~And where there is a path of ground I'll venture~~
~~So he be with me; By him, like a shadow~~
~~I'll ever dwell; Within this hour the whoobub~~
1345 ~~Will be all o'er the prison: I am then~~
~~Kissing the man they look for: Farewell Father,~~
~~Get many more such prisoners, and such daughters,~~
~~And shortly you may keep your self.~~ Now to him.

[Corns in sundry places. Noise and hollowing as people a Maying.]

1350 **Act Three. Scene One.**
Enter Arcite alone.

Arcite:
1355 ~~The Duke has lost Hypolita; Each took~~
~~A several land. This is a solemn Right~~
~~They owe bloom'd May, and the Athenians pay it~~
~~To 'th' heart of Ceremony: O Queen Emilia~~
~~Fresher than May, sweeter~~
1360 ~~Then her gold Buttons on the bows, or all~~
~~Th' enamel'd knacks o'th' Mead, or garden, yea~~
~~We challenge too the banck of any Nymph~~
~~That makes the stream seem flowers; Thou o Jewell~~
~~O'th wood, o'th world, hast likewise blest a pace~~
1365 ~~With thy sole presence, in thy rumination~~
~~That I poor man might eftsoones come between~~
~~And chop on some cold thought, thrice blessed chance~~

To drop on such a Mistress, expectation
 Most guiltless on't: tell me O Lady Fortune
 (Next after *Emely* my Sovereign) how far
 I may be proud. She takes strong note of me,
 Hath made me near her; and this beauteous Morn
 (The prim'st of all the year) presents me with
 A brace of horses, two such Steeds might well
 Be by a pair of Kings backt, in a Field
 That their crowns titles tried: Alas, alas
 Poor Cousin *Palamon*, poor prisoner, thou
 So little dream'st upon my fortune, ~~that~~
 Thou thinkst thyself, the happier thing, to be
 So near *Emilia*, me thou deem'st at *Thebes*,
 And therein wretched, although free; But if
 Thou knew'st my Mistress breath'd on me, and that
 I ear'd her language, liv'd in her eye; O Coz
 What passion would enclose thee.
Enter Palamon as out of a Bush, with his Shackles: bends his fist at Arcite.
Palamon: Traitor kinsman,
 Thou shouldst perceive my passion, if these signs
 Of prisonment were off me, and this hand
 But owner of a Sword: ~~By all oaths in one~~
~~I, and the justice of my love would make thee~~
 A confest traitor: O thou most perfidious
 That ever gently look'd the voids of honor.
 That ev'r bore gentle Token; falsest Cousin
 That ever blood made kin, call'st thou her thine?
 I'll prove it in my Shackles, with these hands,
 Void of appointment, that thou ly'st, and art
 A very thief in love, ~~a Chaffy Lord~~
 Nor worth the name of villain: had I a Sword
 And these house cloggs away.
Arcite: Dear Cousin *Palamon*.
Palamon: Cosoner *Arcite*, give me language, such
 As thou hast shew'd me feat.
Arcite: Not finding in
 The circuit of my breast, any gross stuff
 To form me like your blazon, holds me to
 This gentleness of answer; 'tis your passion
 That thus mistakes, the which to you being enemy,
 Cannot to me be kind: honor, and honestie
 I cherish, and depend on, how so ev'r
 You skip them in me, and with them, fair Coz,
 I'll maintain my proceedings; pray be pleas'd
 To shew in generous terms, your griefs, since that
 Your question's with your equal, who professes
 To clear his own way, with the mind and Sword
 Of a true Gentleman.
Palamon: That thou durst, *Arcite*.
Arcite: My Coz, my Coz, you have been well-advertised
 How much I dare, y'ave seen me use my Sword

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1420 Against th' advice of fear: sure of another
You would not hear me doubted, but your silence
Should break out, though i'th' Sanctuary.
Palamon: Sir,
I have seen you move in such a place, which well
Might justify your manhood, you were call'd
1425 A good knight and a bold; But the whole week's not fair
If any day it rain: Their valiant temper
Men lose when they incline to treachery,
And then they fight like coupl'd bears, would fly
Were they not ty'd.
Arcite: Kinsman, you might as well
1430 Speak this, and act it in your Glasse, as to
His ear, which now disdains you.
Palamon: Come up to me,
Quit me of these cold Gyves, give me a Sword
Though it be rusty, and the charity
1435 Of one meal lend me; Come before me then,
A good Sword in thy hand, and do but say
That *Emily* is thine, I will forgive
The trespass thou hast done me, yea my life
If thou canst carry't, and brave souls in shades
1440 That have di'd manly, which will seek of me
Some news from earth, they shall get none but this,
That thou art brave, and noble.
Arcite: Be content,
Again betake you to your hawthorn house,
1445 With counsel of the night, I will be here
With wholesome viands; these impediments
Will I file off, you shall have garments, and
Perfumes to kill the smell o'th' prison, after
When you shall stretch yourself, and say but *Arcite*
1450 I am in plight, there shall be at your choice
Both Sword, and Armor.
Palamon: Oh you heavens, dare any
So noble bear a guilty business! none
But only *Arcite*, therefore none but *Arcite*
1455 In this kind is so bold.
Arcite: Sweet *Palamon*.
Palamon: I do embrace you, and your offer, for
Your offer do't I only, Sir your person
Without hypocrisy I may not wish [*Wind-horns of Cornets*.
1460 More than my Swords edge ont.
Arcite: You hear the Horns;
Enter your Musick least this match between's
Be crost e'r met, give me your hand, farewell.
I'll bring you every needful thing: I pray you
1465 Take comfort and be strong.
Palamon: Pray hold your promise;
And do the deed with a bent brow, most certain
You love me not, be rough with me, and pour

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1470 This oil out of your language; by this air
I could for each word, give a Cuff: my stomach
Not reconciled by reason.
Arcite: Plainly spoken,
Yet pardon me hard language, when I spur [Wind horns.
My horse, I chide him not; content, and anger
1475 In me have but one face. Hark Sir, they call
The scatter'd to the Banket; you must guess
I have an office there.

Palamon: Sir your attendance
Cannot please heaven, and I know your office
1480 Unjustly is achieved.

Arcite: If a good title,
I'm persuaded this question sick between's;
By bleeding must be cured. I'm a Suitor,
That to your Sword you will bequeath this plea,
1485 And talk of it no more.

Palamon: But this one word:
You are going now to gaze upon my Mistress,
For note you, mine she is.

Arcite: Nay then.

1490 **Palamon:** Nay pray you,
You talk of feeding me to breed me strength
You are going now to look upon a Sun
That strengthens what it looks on, there
You have a vantage o'er me, but enjoy't till
1495 I may enforce my remedy. Farewell. [Exeunt.

Act Three. Scene Two

Enter Jailors daughter alone.

Daughter: He has mistook; the Beak I meant, is gone
After his fancy;

1500 'Tis now well nigh morning,
No matter, would it were perpetual night,
And darkness Lord o'th' world. Hark 'tis a wolf:
In me hath grief slain fear, and but for one thing
I care for nothing, and that's *Palamon*.
1505 I wreak not if the wolves would jaw me, so
He had this File; what if I hollow'd for him?
I cannot hollow: if I whoop'd; what then?
If he not answer'd, I should call a wolf,
And do him but that service. I have heard
1510 Strange howls this live-long night, why may't not be
They have made prey of him? he has no weapons;
He cannot run, the jangling of his Givess
Might call fell things to listen, who have in them
A sense to know a man unarm'd, and can
1515 Smell where resistance is. I'll set it down
He's torn to pieces, they howl'd many together
And then they fed on him: So much for that,
Be bold to ring the Bell; How stand I then?
All's cha'd when he is gone. No, no I lie,

1520 My Father's to be hang'd for his escape,
My self to beg, if I prized life so much
As to deny my act, but that I would not,
Should I try death by dussone: I am mop't,
Feed took I none these two days.
1525 Sipt some water, I have not closed mine eyes
Save when my lids scowrd off their bine; alas
Dissolve my life, Let not my sense unsettle
Least I should drown, or stab or hang my self.
O state of Nature, fail together in me,
1530 Since thy best props are warp't: So which way now?
The best way is, the next way to a grave:
Each errant step beside is torment. Loe
The Moon is down, the Cr'ckets chirp, the Screech-owl
Calls in the dawn; all offices are done
1535 Save what I fail in: But the point is this
An end, and that is all. *[Exit.]*

Act Three. Scene Three.

Enter Arcite, with Meat, Wine, and Files.

~~Arcite: I should be near the place, ho, Cousin Palamon.~~

Enter Palamon.

~~Palamon: Arcite?~~

~~Arcite: The same: I have brought you food and files,
Come forth and fear not, here's no Theseus.~~

~~Palamon: Nor none so honest, Arcite.~~

~~Arcite: That's no matter,~~

~~We'll argue that hereafter: Come take courage,~~

~~You shall not die thus beastly, here Sir drink:~~

~~I know you're faint, then I'll talk further with you.~~

~~Palamon: Arcite, thou mightst now poyson me:~~

~~Arcite: I might.~~

~~But I must fear you first: Sit down, and good now~~

~~No more of these vain parlies; let us not~~

~~Having our ancient reputation with us~~

~~Make talk for Fools, and Cowards, To your health. &c.~~

~~Palamon: Doe.~~

~~Arcite: Pray sit down then, and let me entreat you~~

~~By all the honesty and honor in you,~~

~~No mention of this woman, 't will disturb us,~~

~~We shall have time enough.~~

~~Palamon: Well Sir, I'll pledge you.~~

~~Arcite: Drink a good hearty draught, it breeds good blood man.~~

~~Do not you feel it thaw you?~~

~~Palamon: Stay, I'll tell you after a draught or two more.~~

~~Arcite: Spare it not, the Duke has more, Cuz: Eat now.~~

~~Palamon: Yes.~~

~~Arcite: I am glad you have so good a stomach.~~

~~Palamon: I am gladder I have so good meat to't.~~

~~Arcite: Is't not mad lodging here in the wild woods, Cousin?~~

~~Palamon: Yes, for them that have wild Consciences.~~

~~Arcite: How tastes your victuals? your hunger needs no sauce I see.~~

~~Palamon:~~ Not much.

~~But if it did, yours is too tart: sweet Cousin: what is this?~~

~~Arcite:~~ Venison.

~~Palamon:~~ 'Tis a lusty meat:

Give me more wine; here, *Arcite*: to the wenches
We have known in our days. The Lord Stewards daughter.
Do you remember her?

Arcite: After you, Cuz.

Palamon: She lov'd a black-hair'd man.

Arcite: She did so; well Sir.

Palamon: And I have heard some call him *Arcite*; ~~an~~.

~~Arcite:~~ Out with't faith.

~~Palamon:~~ She met him in an Arbor:

~~What did she there, Cuz? play o'the virginals?~~

~~Arcite:~~ Something she did Sir.

~~Palamon:~~ Made her groan a Month for't; or 2. or 3. or 10.

Arcite: The Marshals Sister,
Had her share too, as I remember, Cousin,
~~Else there be tales abroad, you'll pledge her?~~

~~Palamon:~~ Yee.

~~Arcite:~~ A pretty brown wench 'tis: There was a time
~~When young men went a hunting, and a wood,~~
~~And a broad beech: and thereby hangs a tale: heigh ho.~~

Palamon: For *Emily*, upon my life, fool
A way with this strain'd mirth; I say again
That sigh was breath'd for *Emily*; base Cousin,
Dar'st thou break first?

~~Arcite:~~ You are wide.

~~Palamon:~~ By heaven and earth, ~~t~~here's nothing in thee honest.

Arcite: Then I'll leave you: you are a Beast now:

Palamon: As thou mak'st me, traitor.

~~Arcite:~~ ~~There's all things needful, files and shirts, and perfumes.~~

I'll come again some two hours hence, and bring
~~Thatee~~ that shall quiet all.

Palamon: A Sword and Armor.

Arcite: Fear me not; you are now too foul; farewell.

~~Get off your Trinkets, you shall want nought.~~

~~Palamon:~~ Sir ha:

~~Arcite:~~ I'll here no more. *[Exit.*

~~Palamon:~~ If he keep touch, he dies for't. *[Exit.*

Act Three. Scene Four.

Enter Jailors daughter.

Daughter: I am very cold, and all the Stars are out too,
The little Stars, and all, that look like aglets:

The Sun has seen my Folly: *Palamon*;
Alas no; he's in heaven; where am I now?

~~Yonder's the sea, and there's a Ship; how't tumbles~~

~~And there's a Rock lies watching under water;~~

~~Now, now, it beats upon it; now, now, now,~~

~~There's a leak sprung, a sound one, how they cry!~~

~~Upon her before the wind, you'll loose all els:~~

Up with a course or two, and tack about Boys.
Good night, good night, y'are gone; I'm very hungry,
Would I could find a fine Frog; he would tell me
1625 News from all parts o'th' world, ~~then would I make~~
~~A Careck of a Cockle shell, and say!!~~
~~By East and North East to the King of Pigmies,~~
~~For he tells fortunes rarely. Now my Father~~
~~Twenty to one is trust up in a trice~~
1630 ~~Tomorrow morning, I'll say never a word.~~

Sing.

For I'll cut my green coat, afoot above my knee,
And I'll clip my yellow locks; an inch below mine eie.

~~hey, nonny, nonny, nonny.~~

1635 He's buy me a whit Cut, forth for to ride
And I'll go seek him, throw the world that is so wide.

~~hey nonny, nonny, nonny.~~

O for a prick now like a Nightingale, to put my brest
Against. I shall sleep like a Top else.[Exit.

1640 ~~Act Three. Scene Five~~

~~Enter a Schoolmaster 4. Countrymen: and Bavian. 2. or 3., with a Taborer.~~

~~Schoolmaster:~~ Fy, fy, what tediousity, & disensanity is here among ye? have my
Rudiments bin labour'd so long with ye? milk'd unto ye, and, by a figure, even the
1645 very plumbroth & marrow of my understanding laid upon ye? and do you still cry
where, and how, & wherefore? you most course freeze capacities, ye jave
Judgements, have I said thus let be, and there let be, and then let be, and no man
understand me, ~~prob-deum, medius fidius~~, ye are all dunces: For why here stand
I. Here the Duke comes, there are you close in the Thicket; the Duke appears, I
1650 meet him, and unto him I utter learned things, and many figures, he hears, and
nods, and hums, and then cries rare, and I go forward, at length I fling my Cap up;
mark there; then do you as once did ~~Meleager~~, and the ~~Bore~~ break comely out
before him: like true lovers, cast your selves in a Body decently, and sweetly, by a
figure trace, and turn Boys.

~~First Countryman~~. And sweetly we will do it Master ~~Gerrold~~.

1655 ~~Second Countryman~~. Draw up the Company, Where's the Taborer?

~~Third Countryman~~ Why, ~~Timothy~~!

~~Taborer~~. Here, my mad boys, have at ye.

~~Schoolmaster~~: But I say where's their women?

~~Fourth Countryman~~ Here's ~~Friz~~ and ~~Maudline~~.

1660 ~~Second Countryman~~. And little ~~Luce~~, with the white legs, and bouncing ~~Barbary~~.

~~First Countryman~~ And freckled ~~Nel~~; that never fail'd her Master.

~~Schoolmaster~~: Where be your Ribands maids? swym with your Bodies

And carry it sweetly, and deliverly

And now and then a favor, and a friske.

1665 ~~Nel~~. Let us alone Sir.

~~Schoolmaster~~: Where's the rest o'th' Musick.

~~Third Countryman~~ Dispers'd as you commanded.

~~Schoolmaster~~: Couple then

And see what's wanting; where's the ~~Bavian~~?

1670 My friend, carry your tail without offence

Or scandal to the Ladies; and be sure

You tumble with audacity, and manhood,

And when you bark do it with judgement.

Bavian: Yes Sir.

Schoolmaster: *Quo usque tandem?* Here is a woman wanting.

Fourth Countryman: We may go whistle: all the fat's i'th' fire.

Schoolmaster: We have;

As learned Authors utter, wash'd a Tile;

We have been *fatuus*, and labour'd vainly.

Second Countryman: This is that scornfull peece, that scurvy hilding

That gave her promise faithfully, she would be here,

Cicely the Sempsters daughter:

The next gloves that I give her shall be dogs skin;

Nay and she fail me once, you can tell Arcas;

She swore by wine, and bread, she would not break.

Schoolmaster: An Eel and woman;

A learned Poet sayes: unles by'th' tail

And with thy teeth thou hold, will either fail;

In manners this was false position:

First Countryman: A fire ill take her; do's she flinch now?

Third Countryman: What

Shall we determine Sir?

Schoolmaster: Nothing;

Our business is become a nullity

Yea, and a woeful, and a piteous nullity.

Fourth Countryman: Now when the credit of our Town lay on it,

Now to be frampall, now to piss o'th' nettle,

Go thy ways, I'll remember thee, I'll fit thee.

Enter Jailor's daughter.

Daughter,

The George a-low, came from the South, from

The coast of Barbary-a.

And there he met with brave gallants of war

By one, by two, by three, a-

Well hail'd, well hail'd, you jolly gallants, [Chair and stools out.

And whither now are you bound a?

O let me have your company

till I come to the sound a.

There was three fools, fell out about an howlet:

The one sed it was an owl

The other he sed nay,

The third he sed it was a hawk, and her bels were cut away.

Third Countryman: There's a dainty mad woman Mr. comes i'th' Nick, as

mad as a march Hare; If we can get her dance, we are made

again: I warrant her, she'll do the rarest gambols.

First Countryman: A mad woman? we are made Boys.

Schoolmaster: And are you mad good woman?

Daughter: I would be sorry else,

Give me your hand.

Schoolmaster: Why?

Daughter: I can tell your fortune.

You are a fool: tell ten, I have poz'd him: Buz

Friend you must eat no white bread, if you do

1725 Your teeth will bleed extremely, shall we dance he?
 I know you, y'are a Tinker: Sir, ha Tinker
 Stop no more holes, but what you should.
Schoolmaster: *Dii boni.* A Tinker Damsel?
Daug. Or a Conjuror: raise me a devil now; and let him play.
Quipassa, o'th' bols and bones.
 1730 **Schoolmaster:** Go take her, and fluently persuade her to a peace:
Et opus exegi, quod nec Jovis ira, nec ignis.
 Strike up, and lead her in.
Second Countryman. Come Lass, let's trip it.
Daughter: I'll lead. [*Wind Horns.*]
 1735 **Third Countryman.** Do, do.
Schoolmaster: Persuasively, and cunningly: away boys,
 [*Ex. all but Schoolemaster.*]
 I hear the horns: give me some
 Meditation, and mark your Cue;
 1740 *Pallas* inspire me.
Enter Theseus: Pirithous: Hippolyta: Emilia: Arcite: and train.
Theseus: This way the Stag took.
Schoolmaster: Stay, and edify.
Theseus: What have we here?
 1745 **Pirithous:** Some Country sport, upon my life, Sir.
Theseus: Well, Sir, gee forward, we will edifie.
 Ladies sit down, we'll stay it.
Schoolmaster: Thou doughty Duke all hail: all hail sweet Ladies.
Theseus: This is a cold beginning.
 1750 **Schoolmaster:** If you but favor; our Country pastime made is,
 We are a few of those collected here
 That ruder Tongues distinguish villager,
 And to say verity, and not to fable;
 We are a merry rout, or else a rable
 1755 Or company, or by a figure, *Chorus*
 That for thy dignity will dance a Morris.
 And I that am the rectifier of all
 By title Pedagogus, that let fall
 The Birch upon the breeches of the small ones,
 1760 And humble with a Ferula the tall ones,
 Doe here present this Machine, or this frame
 And dainty Duke, whose doughty dismal fame
 From *Dis* to *Dedalus*, from post to pillar
 Is blown abroad; help me thy poor well willer,
 1765 And with thy twinkling eyes, look right and straight
 Upon this mighty Merr—of mickle weight
 Is—now comes in, which being glued together
 Makes Morris, and the cause that we came hither
 The body of our sport of no small study
 1770 I first appear, though rude, and raw, and muddy,
 To speak before thy noble grace, this tenner:
 At whose great feet I offer up my penner.
 The next the Lord of May, and Lady bright,
 The Chambermaid, and Servingman by night

1775 That seek out silent hanging: Then mine Host
And his fat Spouse, that welcomes to their cost
The gauled Traveler, and with a beck'ning
Informs the Tapster to inflame the reck'ning:
1780 Then the beast-eating Clown, and next the fool;
The *Bavian*, with long tail, and eke long tool
Cum multis aliis, that make a dance,
Say I, and all shall presently advance.
Theseus: I, I by any means, dear *Domine*.
Pirithous: Produce.
1785 *Intrate filii*, Come forth, and foot it.
[*Musick Dance*. Knock for Schoolmaster. Enter The Dance.
Ladies, if we have been merry
And have pleas'd thee with a derry,
And a derry, and a down
1790 *Say the Schoolmaster's no Clown.*
Duke, if we have pleas'd thee too
And have done as good Boys should do
Give us but a tree or twain
For a Maypole, and again
1795 *Ere another year run out*
We'll make thee laugh and all this rout.
Theseus: Take 20 *Domine*; how does my sweet heart?
Hippolyta: Never so pleased Sir.
Emilia: 'Twas an excellent dance, and for a preface
1800 I never heard a better.
Theseus: Schoolmaster, I thank you, One see'em all rewarded.
Pirithous: And here's something to paint your Pole withal.
Theseus: Now to our sports again.
Schoolmaster: May the Stag thou huntot stand long;
1805 And thy dogs be swift and strong;
May they kill him without lets,
And the Ladies eat his dowsets: Come we are all made.[*Wind Horns.*
Dii Deæq; Omnes, ye have danced rarely wenches.[*Exeunt.*

Act Three. Scene Six

Enter Palamon from the Bush.

1810 *Palamon*: About this hour my Cousin gave his faith
To visit me again, and with him bring
Two Swords, and two good Armors; If he fail
He's neither man, nor Soldier; When he left me
1815 I did not think a week could have restor'd
My lost strength to me, I was grown so low;
And Crest fal'n with my wants: I thank thee *Arcite*,
Thou art yet a fair Foe; And I feel myself
With this refreshing, able once again
1820 To out dure danger: To delay it longer
Would make the world think when it comes to hearing,
That I lay fatting like a Swine, to fight
And not a Soldier: Therefore this blest morning
Shall be the last; And that Sword he refuses,
1825 If it but hold, I kill him with; 'tis Justice:

~~So love, and Fortune for me: O good morrow.~~

[Enter Arcite with Armors and Swords.]

Arcite: Good morrow noble kinsman.

Palamon: I have put you

To too much pains Sir.

Arcite: That too much fair Cousin,

Is but a debt to honor, and my duty.

~~**Palamon:** Would you were so in all Sir; I could wish ye~~

~~As kind a kinsman, as you force me find~~

A beneficial foe, that my embraces

Might thank ye, not my blows.

~~**Arcite:** I shall think either~~

~~Well done, a noble recompense.~~

~~**Palamon:** Then I shall quit you.~~

~~**Arcite:** Defy me in these fair terms, and you show~~

~~More than a Mistress to me, no more anger~~

~~As you love any thing that's honorable:~~

~~We were not bred to talk man, when we are arm'd~~

~~And both upon our guards, then let our fury~~

~~Like meeting of two tides, fly strongly from us,~~

~~And then to whom the birthright of this Beauty~~

~~Truly pertains (without upbraidings, scorns,~~

~~Despisings of our persons, and such poutings~~

~~Fitter for Girls and Schoolboys) will be seen~~

~~And quickly, yours, or mine: Wilt please you arm, Sir?~~

~~Or if you feel yourself not fitting yet~~

~~And furnished with your old strength, I'll stay, Cousin~~

~~And ev'ry day discourse you into health,~~

~~As I'm spar'd, your person I'm friends with~~

~~And I could wish I had not said I lov'd her~~

~~Though I had did; But loving such a Lady~~

~~And justifying my Love, I must not fly from't.~~

Palamon: *Arcite*, thou art so brave an enemy

That no man but thy Cousin's fit to kill thee,

I'm well, and lusty, choose your Arms.

Arcite: Choose you, Sir.

~~**Palamon:** Wilt thou exceed in all, or dost thou do it~~

~~To make me spare thee?~~

~~**Arcite:** If you think so, Cousin,~~

~~You are deceived, for as I'm a Soldier,~~

~~I will not spare you.~~

~~**Palamon:** That's well said.~~

~~**Arcite:** You'll find it.~~

~~**Palamon:** Then as I am an honest man and love,~~

~~With all the justice of affection~~

~~I'll pay thee soundly: This I'll take.~~

Arcite: That's mine then,

I'll arme you first.

~~**Palamon:** Do: Pray thee tell me Cousin,~~

~~Where gotst thou this good Armor?~~

~~**Arcite:** 'Tis the Dukes,~~

And to say true, I stole it, do I pinch you?

Palamon: No.

Arcite: Is't not too heavy?

Palamon: I have worn a lighter,
But I shall make it serve.

~~**Arcite:** I'll buckl't close.~~

~~**Palamon:** By any means.~~

Arcite: You care not for a Grand guard?

~~**Palamon:** No, no, we'll use no horses, I perceive~~
You would fain be at that Fight.

~~**Arcite:** I'm indifferent.~~

Palamon: Faith so am I: Good Cousin, thrust the buckle
Through far enough.

~~**Arcite:** I warrant you.~~

~~**Palamon:** My Cask now.~~

~~**Arcite:** Will you fight bare-arm'd?~~

~~**Palamon:** We shall be the nimbler.~~

Arcite: But use your Gauntlets though; those are o'th' least,
Prithee take, mine good Cousin.

Palamon: Thank you, *Arcite*.

How do I look, am I fallen much away?

Arcite: Faith very little; Love has us'd you kindly.

Palamon: I'll warrant thee, I'll strike home.

Arcite: Doe, and spare not;
I'll give you cause sweet, Cousin.

Palamon: Now to you Sir,
Me thinks this Armor's very like that, *Arcite*,
Thou wor'st that day the three Kings fell, but lighter.

Arcite: That was a very good one, and that day
I well remember, you out-did me, Cousin,

I never saw such valour: ~~When you charged~~
~~Upon the left wing of the Enemy,~~

~~I spurred hard to come up, and under me~~
~~I had a right good horse.~~

~~**Palamon:** You had indeed~~

~~A bright Bay I remember.~~

~~**Arcite:** Yes but all~~

~~Was vainly labour'd in me, you out-went me,~~
~~Nor could my wishes reach you; Yet a little~~

~~I did by imitation.~~

~~**Palamon:** More by virtue,~~

You are modest Cousin.

~~**Arcite:** When I saw you charge first,~~
~~Me thought I heard a dreadful clap of Thunder~~

~~Break from the Troop.~~

~~**Palamon:** But still before that flew~~

~~The lightning of your valour.~~ Stay a little,

Is not this piece too straight?

Arcite: No, no, 'tis well.

Palamon: I would have nothing hurt thee but my Sword,
A bruise would be dishonor.

1930 **Arcite:** Now I'm perfect.
Palamon: Stand off then.
Arcite: Take my Sword, I hold it better.
Palamon: I thank ye: No, keep it, your life lyes on it,
Here's one, if it but hold, I ask no more;
For all my hopes: My Cause and honor guard me.
[They bow several ways: then advance and stand.

1935 **Arcite:** And me my love: ~~Is there ought else to say?~~
Palamon: ~~This only, and no more: Thou art mine Aunts Son.~~
And that blood we desire to shed is mutual:
In me, thine, and in thee, mine: My Sword
Is in my hand, and if thou killst me
The gods, and I forgive thee: ~~If there be~~
A place prepared for those that sleep in honor;
I wish his wearie soul, that falls may win it:
Fight bravely Cousin, give me thy noble hand.

1940 **Arcite:** Here **Palamon:** This hand shall never more
Come near thee with such friendship.
Palamon: I commend thee.
Arcite: If I fall, curse me, and say I was a coward,
For none but such, dare die in these just Tryalls.
Once more farewell my Cousin.

1945 **Palamon:** Farewell **Arcite:** ~~Fight! Horns within: they stand.~~
Arcite: ~~Lo, Cousin, lo, our Folly has undone us.~~
Palamon: Why?
Arcite: This is the Duke, a hunting as I told you,
If we be found, we're wretched, O retire
For honor's sake, and safely presently
Into your Bush agen; Sir we shall find
Too many hours to die in, gentle Cousin:
If you be seen you perish instantly
For breaking prison, and I, if you reveal me,
For my contempt; Then all the world will scorn us,
And say we had a noble difference,
But base disposers of it.

1950 **Palamon:** No, no, Cousin
I will no more be hidden, nor put off
This great adventure to a second trial
I know your cunning, and I know your cause,
He that faints now, shame take him, put thy self
Upon thy present guard.
Arcite: You are not mad?

1955 **Palamon:** Or I will make th'advantage of this hour
Mine own, and what to come shall threaten me,
I fear less then my fortune: Know weak Cousin
I love *Emilia*, and in that I'll bury
Thee, and all crosses else.

1960 **Arcite:** Then come, what can come
Thou shalt know **Palamon**, I dare as well
Die, as discourse, or sleep: Only this fears me,
The law will have the honor of our ende,

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Have at thy life.

Palamon: Look to thine own well **Arcite:** ~~[Fight again. Horns.~~

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Emilia, Pirithous and train.

Arcite: Lo, Cousin, lo, our Folly has undone us.

Theseus. What ignorant and mad malicious Traitors,
Are you? That 'gainst the tenor of my Laws

Are making Battail, ~~thus like Knights appointed,~~

~~Without my leave, and Officers of Armes?~~

By *Castor* both shall die.

Palamon: Hold thy word *Theseus*,

We are certainly both Traitors, ~~both despisers~~

~~Of thee, and of thy goodness:—~~ I'm *Palamon*

That cannot love thee, he that broke thy Prison,

Think well, what that deserves; And this is *Arcite*

~~A bolder traitor never trod thy ground,~~

~~A Falser never seem'd friend: This is the man~~

Was beg'd and banish'd, ~~this is he condemns thee~~

~~And what thou dar'st do;~~ and in this disguise

Against this own Edict follows thy Sister,

That fortunate bright Star, the fair *Emilia*

~~Whose servant, (if there be a right in seeing,~~

~~And first bequeathing of the soul to) justly~~

~~I am, and which is more, dares think her his.~~

~~This treachery like a most trusty Lover,~~

~~I call'd him now to answer:—~~ If thou be'st

As thou art spoken, great and virtuous,

~~The true decider of all injuries,~~

Say, Fight again, and thou shalt see me *Theseus*

Doe such a Justice, thou thy self wilt envy

Then take my life, I'll woo thee to't.

Pirithous: O Heaven,

What more than man is this!

Theseus: I have sworn.

Arcite: ~~We seek not~~

~~Thy breath of mercy. Theseus, 'Tis to me~~

~~A thing as soon to die, as thee to say it,~~

~~And no more mov'd: where this man calls me Traitor,~~

Let me say thus much;

If in love be Treason,

~~In service of so excellent a Beauty,~~

~~As I love most, and in that faith will perish,~~

~~As I have brought my life here to confirm it,~~

~~As I have serv'd her truest, worthiest,~~

~~As I dare kill this Cousin, that denies it,~~

~~So let me be most Traitor, and ye please me:~~

~~For scorning thy Edict Duke,~~ aske that Lady

Why she is fair, and why her eyes command me

Stay here to love her. And if she say traitor,

I'm a villain fit to lie unburied.

Palamon: Thou shalt have pity of us both, O *Theseus*,

2030 ~~If unto neither thou show mercy, stop~~
~~(As thou art just) thy noble ear against us,~~
~~As thou art valiant; For thy Cousin's soul~~
~~Whose twelve strong labors crown his memory,~~
 Let's die together, at one instant, Duke,
 2035 Only a little let him fall before me,
 That I may tell my Soul he shall not have her.
Theseus: I grant your wish, ~~for to say true, your Cousin~~
~~Has ten times more offended, for I gave him~~
~~More mercy than you found, Sir, your offences~~
 2040 ~~Being no more than his:~~ None here speak for 'em
 For ere the Sun set, both shall sleep for ever.
Hippolyta Alas the pity, now or never Sister
 Speak not to be denied; That face of yours
 Will bear the curses else of after ages
 2045 For these lost Cousins.
Emilia: In my face, dear Sister,
 I find no anger to'em; Nor no ruin,
 The misadventure of their own eyes kill'em;
 Yet that I will be woman, ~~and have pity,~~
 2050 ~~My knees shall grow to th' ground but~~ I'll get mercy.
 Help me dear Sister, in a deed so virtuous,
 The powers of all women will be with us,
 Most royally Brother.
Hippolyta. Sir by our tie of Marriage.
 2055 **Emilia:** By your own spotless honor.
Hippolyta: By that faith,
 That fair hand, and that honest heart you gave me.
Emilia: By that you would have pity in another,
 By your own virtues infinite.
 2060 **Hippolyta:** By valor,
 By all the chaste nights I have ever pleas'd you.
Theseus: These are strange Conjurations.
Pirithous: Nay then I'll in too: By all our friendship Sir, by all our dangers,
 By all you love most, wars; And this sweet Lady.
 2065 **Emilia:** ~~By that you would have trembled to deny~~
~~A blushing Maid.~~
Hippolyta: ~~By your own eyes: By strength~~
~~In which you swore I went beyond all women,~~
~~Almost all men, and yet I yielded~~ **Theseus:**
 2070 **Pirithous:** ~~To crown all this; By your most noble soul~~
~~Which cannot want due mercy, I beg first.~~
Hippolyta: ~~Next hear my prayers.~~
Emilia: ~~Last~~ let me intreat Sir.
Pirithous: For mercy.
 2075 **Hippolyta:** Mercy.
Emilia: Mercy on these Princes.
Theseus: Ye make my faith reel: Say I felt
 Compassion to'em both, how would you place it?
Emilia: Upon their lives: But with their banishments.
 2080 **Theseus:** ~~You are a right woman, Sister; You have pity,~~

But want the understanding where to use it.
 If you desire their lives, invent a way
 Safer than banishment: Can these two live
 And have the agony of love about 'em,
 And not kill one another? Every day
 They'd fight about you; ~~Hourly bring your honor~~
 In public question with their Swords; Be wise then
 And here forget 'em; It concerns your credit,
 And my oth equally: I have said they die,
 Better they fall by th' Law, than one another.
 Bow not my honor.
Emilia: O my noble Brother,
 That oth was rashly made, and in your anger,
 Your reason will not hold it, if such vows
 Stand for express will, all the world must perish.
 Beside, I have another oath, gainst yours
 Of more authority, I'm sure more love,
 Not made in passion neither, but good heed.
Theseus: What is it, Sister?
Pirithous: Urge it home brave Lady.
Emilia: That you would never deny me anything
 Fit for my modest suit, and your free granting:
 I tie you to your word now, if ye fall in't,
 Think how you maim your honor;
 (For now I'm set a begging Sir, I'm deaf
 To all but your compassion) how, their lives
 Might breed the ruin of my name; Opinion,
 Shall anything that loves me perish for me?
 That were a cruel wisdom, do men prey
 The straight young Bows that blush with thousand Blossoms
 Because they may be rotten? O Duke *Theseus*
 The goodly Mothers that have groaned for these,
 And all the longing Maids that ever lov'd,
 If your vow stand, shall curse me and my Beauty,
 And in their funeral songs, for these two Cousins
 Despise my cruelty, and cry woe worth me,
 Till I'm nothing but the scorn of women;
 For Heaven's sake save their lives, and banish 'em.
Theseus: On what conditions?
Emilia: Swear 'em never more
 To make me their Contention, or to know me,
 To tread upon the Dukedom, and to be
 Wherever they shall travel, ever strangers to one another.
Palamon: I'll be cut a peeces
 Before I take this oath, forget I love her?
 O all ye gods despise me then: Thy Banishment
 I not mislike, so we may fairly carry
 Our Swords, and cause along: Else never trifle,
 But take our lives Duke, I must love and will,
 And for that love, must and dare kill this Cousin
 On any peece the earth has.

Theseus: Will you, *Arcite*,
Take these conditions?

Palamon: He's a villain then.

Pirithous: These are men.

Arcite: No, never Duke: 'Tis worse to me than begging
To take my life so basely, though I think
I never shall enjoy her, yet I'll preserve
The honor of affection, and die for her,
Make death a Devil.

Theseus: What may be done? For now I feel compassion.

Pirithous: Let it not fall again Sir.

Theseus: Say, *Emilia*,

If one of them were dead, as one must, are you
Content to take th'other to your husband?

They cannot both enjoy you; ~~They are Princes~~

~~As goodly as your own eyes, and as noble~~

~~As ever fame yet spoke of:~~ Look upon'em,

And if you can love, end this difference,

I give consent, are you content too, Princes?

Both Palamon. With all our souls.

Theseus: He that she refuses

Must die then.

Arcite Both. Any death thou canst invent Duke.

Palamon: If I fall from that mouth, I fall with favor.

And Lovers yet unborn shall bless my ashes.

Arcite: If she refuse me, yet my grave will wed me,

And Soldiers sing my Epitaph.

Theseus: Make choice then.

Emilia: I cannot Sir, they are both too excellent

For me, a hair shall never fall of these men.

Hippolyta: What will become of 'em?

Theseus: Thus I ordain it,

And by mine honor, once again it stands,

Or both shall die. You shall ~~both to your Country,~~

~~And each within this month accompanied~~

~~With three fair Knights,~~ appear again in this place,

In which I'll plant a Pyramid; And whether

Before us that are here, can force his Cousin

By fair and knightly strength to touch the Pillar,

He shall enjoy her: The other loose his head,

~~And all his friends: Nor shall he grudge to fall,~~

~~Nor think he dies with interest in this Lady:~~

Will this content ye?

Palamon: Yes: Here, Cousin *Arcite*,

I'm friends again, till that hour.

Arcite: I embrace ye.

Theseus: Are you content, Sister?

Emilia: Yes, I must Sir,

Else both miscarry.

Theseus: Come shake hands again then;

~~And take heed, as you are Gentlemen, this Quarrel~~

Sleep till the hour pre-fixed, and hold your course.

Palamon: We dare not fail thee, *Theseus*.

Theseus: Come, I'll give ye

Now usage like to Princes, and to Friends:

When ye return, who wins, I'll settle here;

Who loses, yet I'll weep upon his Beer. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Four. Scene One

Enter Jailor and his Friend.

Jailor.

Hear you no more? was nothing said of me

Concerning the escape of *Palamon*?

Good Sir remember.

First Friend: Nothing that I heard,

For I came home before the business

Was fully ended: yet I might perceive

E'r I departed, a great likelihood

Of both their pardons: for *Hippolita*,

And fair-ey'd *Emilia*, upon their knees,

Begged with such handsome pity, that the Duke

Methought stood staggering whether he should follow

His rash oath, or the sweet compassion

Of those two Ladies; and to second them,

That truly noble Prince *Pirithous*

Half his own heart, set in too, that I hope

All shall be well: neither heard I one question

Of your name, or his scape.

Enter Second Friend

Jailor. Pray Heaven it hold so.

Second Friend Be of good comfort man; I bring you news

Good news.

Jailor. They are welcome.

Second Friend. *Palamon* has clear'd you,

And got your pardon, and discover'd

How, and by whose means he scap'd, which was your Daughter's,

Whose pardon is procured too, and the prisoner

Not to be held ungrateful to her goodness,

Has given a sum of money to her Marriage,

A large one I'll assure you.

Jailor. Ye are a good man

And ever bring good news.

First Friend: How was it ended?

Second Friend Why, as it should be; they that ne'er begg'd

But they prevailed, had their suits fairly granted.

The prisoners have their lives.

First Friend: . I knew 'twould be so.

Second Friend. But there be new conditions, which you'll hear of

At better time.

Jailor. I hope they are good.

Second Friend. They are honourable;

~~How good they'll prove, I know not.~~

Enter Wooer.

~~First Friend: 'Twill be known.~~

Wooer. Alas, Sir, where's your Daughter?

Jailor. Why do you ask?

Wooer. Oh Sir, when did you see her?

~~Second Friend: How he looks!~~

Jailor. This morning.

Wooer. Was she well? Was she in health, Sir? When did she sleep?

~~First Friend: Jailor:~~ These are strange questions.

~~Jailor:~~ I do not think she was very well, for now

You make me mind her, but this very day

I ask'd her questions, and she answered me

So far from what she was, so childishly,

So sillily, as if she were a fool,

An Innocent, and I was very angry.

But what of her Sir?

Wooer. Nothing but my pity, but you must know it, and as good by me

As by another that less loves her:

Jailor. Well Sir.

~~First Friend: Not right?~~

~~Second Friend: [Wooer: Headshake]~~ Not well?—

Wooer. No Sir, not well.

'Tis too true, she is mad.

~~First Friend: It cannot be.~~

~~Wooer: Believe, you'll find it so.~~

~~Jailor: I half suspected~~

~~What you told me: the gods comfort her:~~

~~Either this was her love to Palamon,~~

~~Or fear of my miscarrying on his scape,~~

~~Or both.~~

~~Wooer: 'Tis likely.~~

~~Jailor: But why all this haste, Sir?~~

~~Wooer: I'll tell you quickly.~~ As I late was angling

In the great Lake that lies behind the Palace,

~~From the far shore, thick set with Reeds and Sedges.~~

~~As patiently I was attending sport,~~

~~I heard a voice, a shrill one, and attentive~~

~~I gave my ear, when I might well perceive~~

~~'Twas one that sung, and by the smallness of it~~

~~A Boy or Woman. I then left my angle~~

~~To his own skill, came near, but yet perceived not~~

~~Who made the sound; the Rushes, and the Reeds~~

~~Had so encompassed it: I laid me down~~

~~And listened to the words she sung, for then~~

~~Through a small glade cut by the Fisher men,~~

I saw it was your Daughter.

Jailor. Pray go on, Sir?

Wooer. She sung much, but no sense; only I heard her

Repeat this often, *Palamon is gone,*

Is gone to th' wood to gather Mulberries,

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I'll find him out tomorrow.

First Friend: ~~Pretty soul.~~

Wooer. His shackles will betray him, he'll be taken,
And what shall I do then? I'll bring a bevy,
A hundred black ey'd Maids that love as I do
With Chaplets on their heads of Daffadillies,
With cherry lips, and cheeks of Damask Roses,
And all we'll dance an Antique 'fore the Duke,
And beg his pardon; then she talked of you, Sir;
That you must lose your head tomorrow morning
And she must gather Flowers to bury you,
And see the house made handsome, then she sung
Nothing but willow, willow, willow, and between
Ever was, *Palamon*, fair *Palamon*,
And *Palamon*, was a tall young man. The place
Was knee deep where she sate; her careless Tresses,
A wreath of Bull-rush rounded; about her stuck
Thousand fresh Water-Flowers of several colours.
That methought she appear'd like the fair Nymph
That feeds the lake with waters, or as *Iris*
Newly dropped down from heaven; Rings she made
Of Rushes that grew by, and to 'em spoke
The prettiest posies: thus our true love's tied,
This you may lose, not me, and many a one:
And then she wept, and sung again, and sigh'd,
And with the same breath smiled, and kissed her hand.

Second Friend ~~Alas what pity it is!~~

Wooer. I made in to her,
She saw me, and straight sought the flood, I sav'd her,
And set her safe to land: when presently
She slipped away, and to the City made,
With such a cry, and swiftness, that believe me
She left me far behind her; three, or four,
I saw from far off cross her, one of 'em
I knew to be your brother, where she staid,
And fell, scarce to be got away: I left them with her.

Enter Brother, Daughter, and others
Daughter.
And hither came to tell you: Here they are.

Daughter: *May you never more enjoy the light, &c.*
Is not this a fine Song?

Brother **Wooer.** Oh, a very fine one.

Daughter: I can sing twenty more.

Brother **Wooer.** . I think you can.

Daughter: Yes truly can I, I can sing the *Broom*,
And *Bonny Robbin*. Are not you a Tailor?

Brother. Yes.

Daughter: Where's my wedding-Gown?

Brother **Wooer.** . I'll bring it tomorrow.

Daughter: Do, very rarely, I must be abroad else
To call the Maids, and pay the Minstrels
For I must lose my Maiden-head by cock-light

2335 'Twill never thrive else.
Oh fair, oh sweet, &c.[Sings.
~~Brother. You must ev'n take it patiently.~~
~~Jailor. 'Tis true.~~
2340 ~~Daughter. Good ev'n, good men, pray did you ever hear~~
~~Of one young Palamon?~~
~~Jailor. Yes wench, we know him.~~
~~Daughter. Is't not a fine young Gentleman?~~
~~Jailor. 'Tis Love.~~
2345 ~~Brother. By no mean cross her, she is then distemper'd~~
~~For worse than now she shows.~~
~~First Friend. Yes, he's a fine man.~~
~~Daughter. Oh, is he so? you have a Sister.~~
~~First Friend Wooer. . Yes.~~
2350 ~~Daughter. But she shall never have him, tell her so,~~
~~For a trick that I know, y'had best look to her,~~
~~For if she see him once, she's gone, she's done,~~
~~And undone in an hour. All the young Maids~~
~~Of our Town are in love with him, but I laugh at 'em~~
~~And let 'em all alone, is't not a wise course?~~
2355 ~~First Friend. Yes.~~
~~Daughter. There is at least two hundred now with child by him,~~
~~There must be four; yet I keep close for all this,~~
~~Close as a Cockle; and all these must be boys,~~
~~He has the trick on't, and at ten years old~~
2360 ~~They must be all golt for Musicians,~~
~~And sing the wars of Theseus.~~
~~Second Friend This is strange.~~
~~Daughter. As ever you heard, but say nothing.~~
~~First Friend. No.~~
2365 ~~Daughter. They come from all parts of the Dukedom to him,~~
~~I'll warrant ye, he had not so few last night~~
~~As twenty, to dispatch, he'll tickle't up~~
~~In two hours, if his hand be in.~~
2370 ~~Jailor. She's lost~~
~~Past all cure.~~
~~Brother. Heaven forbid man.~~
~~Daughter. Come hither, you are a wise man.~~
~~First Friend Wooer. . Does she know him you?~~
~~Second Friend Jailor No, would she did.~~
2375 ~~Daughter. You are master of a Ship?~~
~~Jailor. Yes.~~
~~Daughter. Where's your Compass?~~
~~Jailor. Here.~~
~~Daughter. Set it to th' North.~~
2380 ~~And now direct your course to th' wood, where Palamon~~
~~Lies longing for me; for the Tackling~~
~~Let me alone; come weigh my hearts, cheerly.~~
~~All. Owgh, owgh, owgh, 'tis up, the wind's fair, top the~~
~~Bowling; out with the main sail, where's your~~
2385 ~~Whistle Master?~~

Brother Wooer. . Let's get her in.

Jailor. Up to the top Boy.

Brother. Where's the Pilot?

First Friend. Here.

Daughter. What ken'st thou?

Second Friend. A fair wood.

Daughter. Bear for it master: tack about: [*Sings.*

When Cinthia with her borrowed light, &c.] **Exeunt.**

Act Four. Scene Two

Enter Emilia alone, with two Pictures.

Emilia. Yet I may bind those wounds up, that must open

And bleed to death for my sake else; I'll choose,

And end their strife: two such young handsome men

Shall never fall for me, their weeping Mothers,

Following the dead cold ashes of their Sons

Shall never curse my cruelty: Good Heaven;

What a sweet face has *Arcite*, if wise nature

With all her best endowments, all these beauties

She sows into the births of noble bodies,

Were here a mortal woman, and had in her

The coy denials of young Maids, yet doubtless,

She would run mad for this man: what an eye!

Of what a fiery sparkle, and quick sweetness:

Has this young Prince! here Love himself sits smiling,

Just such another wanton *Ganymead*,

Set Love a fire with, and enforced the god

Snatch up the goodly Boy, and set him by him

A shining constellation: what a brow,

Of what a spacious Majesty he carries!

Ach'd like the great ey'd *Juno's*, but far sweeter,

Smoother than *Pelops* Shoulder! Fame and Honor

Methinks from hence, as from a Promontory

Pointed in heaven, should clap their wings, and sing

To all the underworld, the Loves, and Fights

Of gods, and such men near 'em. *Palamon*,

Is but his foil, to him, a mere dull shadow,

He's swarth, and meagre, of an eye as heavy

As if he had lost his mother; a still temper,

No stirring in him, no alacrity,

Of all this sprightly sharpness, not a smile;

Yet these that we count errors, may become him:

Narcissus was a sad Boy, but a heavenly:

Oh who can find the bent of women's fancy?

I'm a fool, my reason is lost in me;

I have no choice, and I have lied so lowly

That Women ought to beat me. On my knees

I ask thy pardon: *Palamon*, thou art alone,

And only beautiful, and these the eyes,

These the bright lamps of Beauty that command

And threaten Love, and what young Maid dare cross 'em

What a bold gravity, and yet inviting

2440 Has this brown manly face! Oh Love, this only
 From this hour is complexion: lye there *Arcite*,
 Thou art a changeling to him, a mere Gipsie.
 And this the noble Bodie: I am sotted,
 Utterly lost: My Virgin's faith has fled me:
 For if my Brother, but even now had ask'd me
 Whether I lov'd, I had run mad for *Arcite*:
 2445 Now if my Sister; More for *Palamon*.
 Stand both together: now, come ask me Brother,
 Alas, I know not: ask me now sweet Sister,
 I may go look; what a mere child is *Fancie*,
 That having two fair gawds of equal sweetness,
 2450 Cannot distinguish, but must cry for both.
Enter Emilia: and Gent.
Emilia: How now Sir?
Gent: From the Noble Duke your Brother
 Madam, I bring you news: the Knights are come.
 2455 *Emilia:* To end the quarrel?
Gent: Yes.
Emilia: Would I might end first:
 What sins have I committed, chaste *Diana*,
 That my unspotted youth must now be soil'd
 With blood of Princes? and my Chastity
 2460 Be made the Altar, where the Lives of Lovers,
 Two greater, and two better never yet
 Made Mothers joy, must be the sacrifice
 To my unhappy Beauty? How now, sir?
Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Pirithous, and Attendants.
 2465 *Theseus:* Bring 'em in quickly,
 By any means I long to see 'em.
 Your two contending Lovers are return'd,
 And with them their fair Knights: Now my fair Sister,
 You must love one of them.
 2470 *Emilia:* I had rather both,
 So neither for my sake should fall untimely.
Enter Messenger: Curtis.
Theseus: Who saw 'em?
Pirithous: I a while.
 2475 *Gent:* And I.
Theseus: From whence come you, Sir?
Mess: From the Knights.
Theseus: Pray speak
 You that have seen them, what they are:
 2480 *Mess:* I will Sir,
 And truly what I think: six braver spirits
 Than those they have brought, (if we judge by the outside)
 I never saw, nor read of: he that stands
 In the first place with *Arcite*, by his seeming
 2485 Should be a stout man, by his face a Prince,
 (His very looks so say him) his complexion;
 Nearer a brown, than black; stern, and yet noble,

Which shows him hardy, fearless, proud of dangers:
 The circles of his eyes, shew fair within him,
 And as a heated Lion, so he looks:
 His hair hangs long behind him, black and shining
 Like Ravens wings: his shoulders broad, and strong,
 Arm'd long and round, and on his Thigh a Sword
 Hung by a curious Bauldrick: when he frowns
 To seal his Will with, better o' my conscience
 Was never Soldier's friend.
Theseus: Thou hast well described him.
Pirithous: Yet, a great deal short
 Methinks, of him that's first with *Palamon*.
Theseus: Pray speak him friend.
Pirithous: I guess he is a Prince too,
 And if it may be, greater, for his show
 Has all the ornament of honor in't:
 He's somewhat bigger than the Knight he spoke of,
 But of a face far sweeter; his complexion
 Is (as a ripe Grape) ruddy: he has felt
 Without doubt, what he fights for, and so apter
 To make this cause his own: in's face appears
 All the fair hopes of what he undertakes,
 And when he's angry, then a settled valour
 (Not tainted with extremes) runs through his body,
 And guides his arm to brave things: Fear he cannot,
 He shews no such soft temper, his head's yellow,
 Hard hair'd, and curled, thick twin'd, like Ivy tops,
 Not to undo with thunder; in his face
 The Livery of the warlike Maid appears,
 Pure red and white, for yet no beard has blest him.
 And in his rowling eyes sits victory,
 As if she ever meant to correct his valour:
 His Nose stands high, a Character of honor,
 His red Lips, after fights, are fit for Ladies.
Emilia: Must these men die too?
Pirithous: When he speaks, his tongue
 Sounds like a Trumpet; all his lineaments
 Are as a man would wish 'em, strong and clean,
 He wears a well-steeled Axe, the staff of Gold,
 His age some five and twenty.
Mess: There's another,
 A little man, but of a tough soul, seeming
 As great as any, fairer promises
 In such a Body yet I never look'd on.
Pirithous: Oh he that's freckle fac'd?
Mess: The same my Lord,
 Are they not sweet ones?
Pirithous: Yes, they are well.
Mess: Methinks,
 Being so few, and well disposed, they show
 Great, and fine Art in nature, he's white hair'd,

2540 Not wanton white, but such a manly colour
 Next to an aborn, tough, and nimble set,
 Which shows an active soul: his arms are brawny
 Lin'd with strong sinews: to the shoulder piece,
 Gently they swell, like Women new conceived;
 2545 Which speaks him prone to labour, never fainting
 Under the weight of Arms, stout-hearted still,
 But when he stirs, a Tiger; he's grey eyed,
 Which yields compassion where he conquers: sharp
 To spie advantages, and where he finds 'em,
 2550 He's swift to make 'em his: He does no wrongs,
 Nor takes none; he's round fac'd, and when he smiles
 He shows a Lover, when he frowns, a Soldier:
 About his head he wears the winners oak,
 And in it stuck the favour of his Lady:
 2555 His age, some six and thirty. In his hand
 He bears a Charging Staffe, embossed with Silver.
Theseus: Are they all thus?
Pirithous: They are all the sons of honor.
Theseus: Now as I have a soul, I long to see 'em,
 Lady, you shall see men fight now.
 2560 **Hippolyta:** I wish it,
 But not the cause my Lord; They would shew
 Bravely about the Titles of two Kingdoms;
 'Tis pity Love should be so tyrannous:
 Oh my soft-hearted Sister, what think you?
 2565 Weep not, till they weep blood: Wench it must be.
Theseus: You have steeled 'em with your Beauty: ~~honored friend,~~
~~To you I give the Field; pray order it,~~
~~Fitting the persons that must use it.~~
Pirithous: Yes Sir.
 2570 **Theseus:** Come, I'll go visit 'em: I cannot stay,
~~Their fame has fir'd me so; till they appear,~~
~~Good friend be royal.~~
Pirithous: There shall want no bravery. *[Exeunt.]*
 2575 **Emilia:** Poor wench go weep, for whosoever wins,
 Looses a noble Cousin, for thy sins. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Four. Scene Three.
Enter Jailor, Wooer, Doctor.

Doctor. Her distraction is more at some time of the Moon,
 Than at other some, is it not?
 2580 **Jailor.** She is continually in a harmless distemper, sleeps
 Little, altogether without appetite, save often drinking,
 Dreaming of another world, and a better; and what
 Broken piece of matter so e'er she's about, the name
 2585 **Palamon** lards it, that she farces ev'ry business

Enter Daughter.

 Withal, fits it to every question; Look where
 She comes, you shall perceive her behaviour.
Daughter: I have forgot it quite; the burden on't was *Down*
~~A down a:~~ and penned by no worse man, than

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*Girardo, Emilia's Schoolmaster; he's as
Fantastical too, as ever he may go upon's legs,
For in the next world will Dido see Palamon, and
Then will she be out of love with Aeneas.*
Doctor . What stuff's here? poor soul.
Jailor . Ev'n thus all day long.
Daughter . Now for this Charm, that I told you of, you must
Bring a piece of silver on the tip of your tongue;
Or no ferry: then if it be your chance to come where
The blessed spirits, as there's a sight now; we Maids
That have our Livers, perisht, cracked to pieces with
Love, we shall come there, and do nothing all day long
But pick Flowers with *Proserpine*, then will I make
Palamon a Nosegay, then let him mark me,—then.
Doctor . How prettily she's amiss! note her a little farther.
Daughter Faith I'll tell you, sometime we go to Barly-break,
We of the blessed; alas, 'tis a sore life they have i' th'
Other place, such burning, frying, boiling, hissing;
Howling, chatt'ring, cursing, oh they have shrowd
Measure, take heed; if one be mad, or hang, or
Drown themselves, thither they goe, *Jupiter* bless
Us, and there shall we be put in a Cauldron of
Lead, and Usurers grease, amongst a whole million of
Cut purses, and there boil like a Gammon of Bacon
That will never be enough. *[Exit.*
Doctor . How her brain coins!
Daughter . Lords and Courtiers, that have got Maids with child, they are in this
place, they shall stand in fire up to the Navel, and in Ice up to th' heart, and there
th' offending part burns, and the deceiving part freezes; in troth a very grievous
punishment, as one would think, for such a Trifle, believe me one would marry a
leprous witch, to be rid on't I'll assure you.
Doctor . How she continues this fancie! 'Tis not an engrafted madness but a most
thick, and profound melancholy.
Daughter . To hear there a proud Lady, and a proud City wife, howl together: I were
a beast, and I'd call it good sport: one cries, oh this smoak, another this fire; one
cries oh that I ever did it behind the Arras, and then howls; th' other curses a suing
fellow and her Garden-house.
Sings. *I will be true, my Stars, my Fate, &c.* *[Exit Daughter:*
Jailor . What think you of her, Sir?
Doctor . I think she has a perturbed mind, which I cannot minister to.
Jailor . Alas, what then?
Doctor . Understand you, she ever affected any man, e'r
She beheld *Palamon*?
Jailor . I was once, Sir, in great hope she had fix'd her
Liking on this Gentleman my friend.
Wooer . I did think so too, and would account ~~I had a great~~
~~Pen'worth on't, to give half my state~~, that both
She and I at this present stood unfainedly on the
Same terms.
Doctor . ~~That intemperate surfeit of her eye, hath distemper'd the~~
~~Other senses, they may return and settle again to~~

Execute their preordained faculties, but they are
Now in a most extravagant vagary. This you
Must do, confine her to a place, where the light
May rather seem to steal in, than be permitted; take
2645 Upon you (young Sir, her friend) the name of
Palamon; say you come to eat with her, and to
Commune of Love; this will catch her attention, for
This her mind beats upon; other objects that are
2650 Inserted 'tween her mind and eye, become the pranks
And friskins of her madness; sing to her such green
Songs of Love, as she says *Palamon* hath sung in
Prison; Come to her, stuck in as sweet Flowers as the
Season is mistress of, and thereto make an addition of
2655 Some other compounded odors, which are grateful to the
Sense: all this shall become *Palamon*, for *Palamon* can
Sing, and *Palamon* is sweet, and every good thing, desire
To eat with her, carve her, drink to her, and still
Among, intermingle your petition of grace and acceptance
2660 Into her favour: learn what Maids have been her
Companions, and Play pheers; and let them repair to
Her with *Palamon* in their mouths, and appear with
Tokens, as if they suggested for him, 'It is a falsehood
She is in, which is with falsehoods to be combated.
2665 This may bring her to eat, to sleep, and reduce what's
Now out of square in her, into their former Law, and
Regiment; I have seen it approved, how many times
I know not, but to make the number more, I have
Great hope in this. I will between the passages of
2670 This project, come in with my appliance: Let us
Put it in execution; and hasten the success, which doubt not
Will bring forth comfort. [Flourish. *Exeunt*.

Act Five. Scene One.

Enter *Thesius*, *Arcite*, *Palamon*, *Pirithous*, *Hippolita*, *Attendants*.

2675 *Thesius*:
Now let 'em enter, and before the gods
Tender their holy Prayers: Let the Temples
Burn bright with sacred fires, and the Altars
In hallowed clouds commend their swelling Incense
2680 To those above us: Let no due be wanting, [Flourish of Cornets.
They have a noble work in hand, will honor
The very powers that love 'em.
Enter *Palamon* and *Arcite*, and their Knights.
Pirithous: Sir, they enter.
2685 *Thesius*: You valiant and strong-hearted enemies
You royal German foes, that this day come
To blow that nearness out, that flames between ye;
Lay by your anger for an hour, and Dove-like
Before the holy Altars of your helpers
2690 (The all-fear'd gods) bow down your stubborn bodies,

Your Ire is more than mortal; So your help be,
And as the gods regard ye, fight with Justice,
I'll leave you to your prayers, and betwixt ye
I part my wishes.

Pirithous: Honor crown the worthiest.

~~[Exit Theseus and his train.]~~

Palamon: The glass is running now that cannot finish
Till one of us expire: think you but thus,
That were there ought in me which strove to shew
Mine enemy in this business, were't one eye
Against another: Arm oppress by Arm:
I would destroy th' offender, Coz. I would
Though parcel of myself: then from this gather
How I should tender you.

Arcite: I am in labour

To push your name, your ancient love, our kindred
Out of my memory; and i' th' self same place
To seat something I would confound: so hoist we
The sails, that must these vessels port, even where
The heavenly Limiter please.

Palamon: ~~You speak well;~~

~~Before I turn, I~~ let me embrace thee Cousin

This I shall never do again.

Arcite: One farewell.

Palamon: Why let it be so: Farewell Coz.

~~[Exeunt Palamon and his Knights.]~~

Arcite: Farewell Sir;

Theseus:

Now let 'em enter, and before the gods

Tender their holy Prayers: ~~[Exeunt Palamon, Theseus.]~~

Arcite: True worshippers of Mars, whose spirit in you
Expels the seeds of fear and th' apprehension
Which still is father of it. You know my prize
must be dragged out of blood— force and great feat
must put my garland on.

~~Knights, Kinsmen, Lovers, yea my Sacrifices
True worshipers of Mars, whose spirit in you
Expels the seeds of fear, and th' apprehension
Which still is farther off it, goe with me~~

~~Before the god of our profession: There
Require of him the hearts of Lions, and
The breath of Tygers, yea, the fierceness too,
Yea, the speed also, to go on, I mean~~

~~Else wish we to be snails: you know my prize
Must be dragged out of blood, force and great feat
Must put my Garland on, where she sticks~~

~~The Queen of Flowers: our intercession then
Must be to him that makes the Camp, a Cestron
Brim'd with the blood of men: give me your aid
And bend your spirits towards him. [They kneel.]~~

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Thou mighty one, that with thy power hast turn'd
~~Green Neptune into purple.~~
Comets prewarn, whose havoc in vast Field
Unearthed skulls proclaim, whose breath blows down,
The teeming Ceres foyzon, who dost pluck
With hand armenipotent from forth blew clouds,
The mason'd Turrets, that both mak'st and break'st
The stony girths of Cities: me thy pupil,
Youngest follower of thy Drum, instruct this day
With military skill, that to thy laud
I may advance my streamer, and by thee,
Be styled the Lord o' th' day; gGive me great Mars
Some token of thy Pleasure.

*[Here they fall on their faces as formerly, and there is heard
clanging of Armor, with a short Thunder, as the burst of a
battle, whereupon they all rise, and bow to the Altar.*

Oh great Corrector of enormous times,
Shaker of o'er-rank States, thou grand decider
Of dusty, and old Titles, that heal'st with blood
The earth when it is sick, and curst the world
O' th' pleurisy of people; I do take
Thy signs auspiciously, and in thy name
To my design; march boldly, ~~let us go.~~ [Exeunt.

Enter Palamon and his Knights, with the former observance.

Palamon: Our stars must glister with new fire, or be
~~Today extinct; our argument is love,~~
Which if the goddess of it grant, she gives
Victory too, then blend your spirits with mine,
You, whose free nobleness do make my cause
Your personal hazard; to the goddess Venus
Commend we our proceeding, and implore
Her power unto our partie. ~~[Here they kneel as formerly.~~
Hail Sovereign Queen of secrets, who hast power
To call the fiercest Tyrant from his rage;
~~And weep unto a Girl;~~ that hast the might
Even with an eye-glance, to choak Mars's Drum
And turn th' alarm to whispers, ~~that canst make~~
~~A Cripple flourish with his Crutch, and cure him~~
~~Before Apollo;~~ that may'st force the King
~~To be his subjects vassal, and induce~~
~~Stale gravity to dance, the pould Batchelor~~
Whose youth like wanton boys through Bonfires
Have skipt thy flame, at seventy, thou canst catch
And make him to the scorn of his hoarse throat
Abuse young lays of Love; what godlike power
Hast thou not power upon? To ~~Phœbus~~ thou
Add'st flames, hotter than his the heavenly fires
Did scorch his mortal Son, thine him; the huntress
All moist and cold, some say, began to throw
Her Bow away, and sigh: take to thy grace
Me thy vow'd Soldier, who do bear thy yolk

2795 As 'twere a wreath of Roses, yet is heavier
 Than Lead it self, stings more than Nettles;
 I have never been foul mouthed against thy Law,
 Ne'er reveal'd secret, for I knew none; would not
 Had I ken'd all that were; I never practised
 Upon man's wife, nor would the Libels read
 2800 Of liberal wits: I never at great feasts
 Sought to betray a beauty, but have blushed
 At simp'ring Sire that did: I have been harsh
 To large Confessors, and have hotly ask'd 'em
 If they had Mothers, I had one, a woman,
 2805 And women 't were they wrong'd. I knew a man
 Of eighty winters, this I told them, who
 A Lass of fourteen bridged, 'twas thy power
 To put life into dust, the aged Cramp
 Had screw'd his square foot round,
 2810 The Gout had knit his fingers into knots,
 Torturing Convulsions from his globy eyes,
 Had almost drawn their spheres, that what was life
 In him seem'd torture: this Anatomie
 Had by his young fair pheare a Boy, and I
 2815 Believed it was his, for she swore it was,
 And who would not believe her? brief I am
 To those that prate, and have done, no Companion;
 To those that boast and have not, a defyer;
 To those that would and cannot, a Rejoycer.
 2820 Yea him I do not love, that tells close offices
 The foulest way, nor names concealments in
 The boldest language, such a one I am,
 And vow that lover never yet made sigh
 Truer than I:
 2825 bless me with a sign
Of thy great pleasure.
[Here Music is heard, Doves are seen to flutter, they fall again
upon their faces, then on their knees.]
 Oh then most soft sweet goddess
 Give me the victory of this question, which
 2830 Is true loves merit, and, Time comes on, bless me with a sign
Of thy great pleasure.
[Here Music is heard, Doves are seen to flutter, they fall again upon their faces, then on
their knees.]
 2835 **Palamon:** Oh thou that from eleven to ninety reign'st
 In mortal bosoms, whose Chase is this world
 And we in Herds thy Game; I give thee thanks
 For this fair Token, which being laid unto
 Mine innocent true heart, arms in assurance [They bow.
 2840 My body to this business; Let us rise
And bow before the goddess: Time comes on.
[Exeunt. Still Music of Records.
Enter Emilia in white, her hair about her shoulders, a wheaten wreath:
One in white, holding up her train, her hair stuck with Flowers: One

2845 ~~before her carrying a silver Hynd, in which is conveyed Incense
and sweet odors, which being set upon the Altar, her Maids
standing aloof, she sets fire to it, then they curtsy and kneel.~~

Emilia: Oh sacred, shadowy, cold and constant Queen,
Abandoner of Revels, mute contemplative,
Sweet, solitary, white as chaste, and pure

2850 As wind-fan'd Snow, ~~who to thy female Knights
Allow'st no more blood than will make a blush,
Which is their Orders Robe. I here thy Priest
Am humbled for thine Altar, oh vouchsafe
With that thy rare green eye, which never yet
2855 Beheld thing maculate, look on thy Virgin;
And sacred silver Mistress, lend thine ear
(Which ne'r heard scurril term, into whose port
Ne'er entered wanton sound,) to my petition
Season'd with holy fear;~~ this is my last

2860 Of vestal office, I'm Bride-habited,
But Maiden-hearted: a Husband I have pointed,
But do not know him, out of two, I should
Choose one, and pray for his success, but I
Am guiltless of election of mine eyes,
2865 Were I to lose one, they are equal precious,
I could doom neither, that which perish'd should
Go to't unsentenced: Therefore most modest Queen,
He of the two Pretenders, that best loves me
And has the truest Title in't, let him
2870 Take off my wheaten Garland, or else grant
The file and quality I hold, I may
Continue in thy Band.

~~[Here the Hind vanishes under the Altar: and in the place ascends a Rose Tree, having
one Rose upon it.~~

2875 ~~See what our General of Ebbs and Flows
Out from the bowels of her holy Altar
With sacred Act advances: But one Rose,
If well inspired, this Battle shall confound
Both these brave Knights, and I a Virgin Flower
2880 Must grow alone unplucked.~~

~~[Here is heard a sudden twang of Instruments, and the Rose falls from the Tree.
The Flower is fall'n, the Tree descends: oh Mistress
Thou here dischargest me, I shall be gathered,
I think so, but I know not thine own Will;
2885 Unclasp thy Mystery: I hope she's pleased,
Her Signs were gracious.~~

[They curtsey, and Exeunt.

Act Five, Scene Two.

Enter Doctor, Jailor, and Wooer, in habit of Palamon.

2890 **Doctor.** Has this advice I told you, done any good upon her?

Wooer. Oh very much; the Maids that kept her company
Have half persuaded her that I am *Palamon*; within this
Half hour she came smiling to me, and ask'd me what I
Would eat, and when I would kiss her: I told her,

2895 Presently, and kist her twice.
Doctor. 'Twas well done; ~~twenty times had been far better,~~
~~For there the cure lies mainly.~~
Wooper. ~~Then she told me~~
~~She would watch with me tonight, for well she knew~~
2900 ~~What hour my fit would take me.~~
Doctor. ~~Let her do so,~~
~~And when your fit comes, fit her home,~~
~~And presently.~~
Wooper. She would have me sing.
Doctor. You did so?
Wooper. No.
Doctor. 'Twas very ill done then,
You should observe her every way.
Wooper. Alas
2910 I have no voice Sir, to confirm her that way.
Doctor. That's all one, if ye make a noise,
If she intreat again, do any thing,
Lie with her if she ask you.
Jailor. Hoa there, Doctor.
2915 **Doctor.** Yes, in the way of cure.
~~**Jailor.** But first, by your leave~~
~~I' th' way of honesty.~~
Doctor. ~~That's but a niceness,~~
~~Nev'r cast your child away for honesty;~~
2920 ~~Cure her first this way, then if she will be honest,~~
~~She has the path before her.~~
~~**Jailor.** Thank ye, Doctor.~~
~~**Doctor.** Pray bring her in~~
~~And let's see how she is.~~
2925 **Jailor.** I will, and tell her
Her *Palamon* stays for her: but Doctor,
Methinks you are i' th' wrong still. [*Exit Jailor.*]
Doctor. Go, go: you Fathers are fine fools: ~~her honesty?~~
~~And we should give her physick till we find that:~~
2930 ~~**Wooper.** Why, do you think she is not honest, Sir?~~
~~**Doctor.** How old is she?~~
~~**Wooper.** She's eighteen.~~
~~**Doctor.** She may be,~~
But that's all one, 'tis nothing to our purpose,
2935 What ev'r her Father says, if you perceive
Her Mood inclining that way that I spoke of
~~Videlicet, The way of flesh, you have me.~~
~~**Wooper.** Yes very well Sir.~~
Doctor. ~~Please her appetite~~
2940 And do it home, it cures her *ipso facto*,
The melancholy humor that infects her.
Wooper. ~~I am of your mind, Doctor.~~ Yes very well sir.
Enter Jailor, Daughter, Maid.
2945 **Doctor.** ~~You'll find it so; she comes, pray honor her.~~
Jailor. Come, your Love *Palamon* stays for you child,

And has done this long hour, to visit you.
Daughter: I thank him for his gentle patience,
He's a kind Gentleman, and I am much bound to him,
~~Did you never see the horse he gave me?~~
2950 **Jailor:** Yes.
Daughter: How do you like him?
Jailor: He's a very fair one.
Daughter: You never saw him dance?
Jailor: No.
2955 **Daughter:** I have often,
He dances very finely, very comely,
And for a Jig, come cut and long tail to him,
He turns ye like a Top.
Jailor: That's fine indeed.
2960 **Daughter:** He'll dance the ~~Morris~~ twenty mile an hour.
And that will founder the best hobby-horse
(If I have any skill) in all the parish;
And gallops to the turn of ~~Light-a-love~~,
What think you of this horse?
2965 **Jailor:** Having these virtues
I think he might be brought to play at Tennis.
Daughter: Alas that's nothing.
Jailor: Can he write and read too?
Daughter: A very fair hand, and casts himself th' accounts
2970 Of all his Hay and Provender: that Hostler
Must rise betime that cozens him; you know
The Chestnut Mare the Duke has?
Jailor: Very well.
Daughter: She is horribly in love with him, poor beast,
2975 But he is like his Master, coy and scornful.
Jailor: What Dowry has she?
Daughter: Some two hundred Bottles,
And twenty strike of Oats; but he'll ne'er have her;
He lispes, in's neighing, able to entice
2980 A Miller's Mare,
He'll be the death of her.
Wooper: What stuff she utters!
Jailor: Make curtesy, here your love comes.
Wooper: Pretty soul
2985 How do ye? ~~that's a fine Maid, there's a curtsy.~~
Daughter: Yours to command i'th' way of honesty;
How far is't now to th' end o'th' world, my Masters?
Doctor: Why a day's journey wench.
Daughter: Will you go with me?
2990 **Wooper:** What shall we do there wench?
Daughter: Why play at Stool-ball.
What is there else to do?
Wooper: I am content
If we shall keep our wedding there.
2995 **Daughter:** 'Tis true
For there I will assure you, we shall find

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Some blind Priest for the purpose, that will venture
 To marry us, for here they are nice and foolish;
~~Besides, my Father must be hang'd tomorrow~~
~~And that would be a blot i'th' business.~~
 Are not you *Palamon*?
Wooser . Do not you know me?
Daughter: Yes, but you care not for me; I have nothing
 But this poor Petticoat, and two course Smocks.
Wooser . That's all one, I will have you.
Daughter: Will you surely?
Wooser . Yes, by this fair hand will I.
Daughter: We'll to bed then.
Wooser . Ev'n when you will.
Daughter: ~~Oh Sir, you would fain be nibbling.~~
~~Wooser~~ . ~~Why do you rub my kiss off?~~
Daughter: 'Tis a sweet one,
 And will perfume me finely against the wedding.
~~Is not this your Cousin Arcite?~~
Doctor: ~~Yes Sweet heart,~~
 And I am glad my Cousin *Palamon*
 Has made so fair a choice.
Daughter: ~~Do you think he'll have me?~~
Doctor: ~~Yes, without doubt.~~
Daughter: ~~Do you think so too?~~
Jailor: ~~Yes.~~
Daughter: We shall have many children: ~~Lord, how y'are grown~~
~~My Palamon I hope will grow too finely~~
~~Now he's at liberty: alas poor Chicken,~~
~~He was kept down with hard Meat, and ill Lodging,~~
~~But I'll kiss him up again.~~
~~Enter a Messenger.~~
Messenger: ~~What do you here? you'll lose the noblest sight,~~
~~That e'er was seen.~~
Doctor: ~~Are they i'th' field?~~
Messenger: ~~They are~~
~~You bear a charge there too.~~
Doctor: ~~I'll away straight~~
~~I must ev'n leave you here.~~
Doctor: ~~Nay, we'll go with you,~~
~~I will not lose the Fight.~~
Jailor: ~~How did you like her?~~
Doctor: ~~I'll warrant you within these three or four days~~
~~I'll make her right again. You must not from her~~
~~But still preserve her in this way.~~
~~Wooser~~ . ~~I will.~~
Doctor: ~~Let's get her in.~~
Wooser . Come, Sweet, we'll go to dinner
 And then we'll play at Cards.
Daughter: And shall we kiss too?
Wooser . A hundred times.
Daughter: And twenty.

3050 **Wooser** . I, and twenty.

Daughter: And then we'll sleep together.

Doctor: Take her offer.

Wooser . Yes, marry will we.

Daughter: But you shall not hurt me.

Wooser . I will not, Sweet.

3055 **Daughter**: If you do, Love, I'll cry.[*Flourish Exeunt.*]

Act Five. Scene Three.

Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Emilia, Pirithous: and some Attendants,
T. Tuck: Curtis.

3060 **Emilia**: I'll not step further.

Pirithous: Will you lose this sight?

Emilia: I had rather see a Wren hawk at a Fly

Than this decision; ~~ev'ry blow that falls~~

~~Threats a brave life, each stroke laments~~

~~The place whereon it falls, and sounds more like~~

~~A Bell, than Blade,~~ I will stay here,

3065 It is enough, my hearing shall be punished,

With what shall happen; ~~'gainst the which there is~~

~~No deafing, but to hear; not taint mine eye~~

~~With dread sights, it may shun.~~

3070 **Pirithous**: Sir, my good Lord

~~Your Sister will no further.~~

Theseus: ~~Oh she must.~~

She shall see deeds of Honor in their kind,

~~Which sometime show well penciled. Nature now~~

3075 ~~Shall make, and act the Story, the belief~~

~~Both seal'd with eye, and ear; you must be present,~~

~~You are the victors meed, the price, and garland~~

~~To crown the Questions Title.~~

Emilia: Pardon me;

~~If I were there, I'd wink.~~

3080 **Hippolyta**: You must go.

Emilia: In faith I will not.

Theseus: You must be there;

This trial is as 'twere i' th' night, and you

The only Star to shine.

3085 **Emilia**: I am extinct,

There is but envy in that light, which shows

The one the other: ~~darkness which ever was~~

~~The dam of horror; who does stand accurst~~

3090 ~~Of many mortal Millions, may even now~~

~~By casting her black mantle over both~~

~~That neither could find other, get her self~~

~~Some part of a good name, and many a murder~~

~~Set off whereto she's guilty.~~

3095 **Hippolyta**: You must go.

Emilia: In faith I will not.

Theseus: Why the Knights must kindle

Their valour at your eye: know of this war

You are the Treasure, and must needs be by

3100 ~~To give the Service pay.~~
~~Emilia:~~ Sir, pardon me,
The Title of a Kingdom may be try'd
Out of itself.
3105 ~~Theseus:~~ Well, well then, at your pleasure,
~~Those that remain with you, could wish their office~~
~~To any of their enemies.~~
~~Hippolyta:~~ Farewell Sister,
I am like to know your Husband 'fore yourself
By some small start of time, he whom the gods
Do of the two, know best, I pray them, he
Be made your Lot.
3110 [Exeunt Theseus, Hippolita, Pirithous, &c.
~~Emilia:~~ Arcite is gently visag'd; yet his eye
Is like an Engine bent, or a sharp weapon
In a soft sheath; mery, and manly courage
3115 Are bedfellows in his visage; Palamon
Has a most menacing aspect, his brow
Is grav'd, and seems to bury what it frowns on,
Yet sometimes 'tis not so, but alters to
The quality of his thoughts; long time his eye
3120 Will dwell upon his object. Melancholy
Becomes him nobly; so does Arcite's mirth,
But Palamon's sadness is a kind of mirth,
So mingled, as if mirth did make him sad.
And sadness, merry; those darker humors that
3125 Stick mis-becomingly on others, on them
Live in fair dwelling.
[Cornets. Trumpets sound as to a Charge.
Hark how yon spurs to spirit do incite
The Princes to their proof, Arcite may win me,
3130 And yet may Palamon wound Arcite, to
The spoiling of his figure. Oh what pity
Enough for such a chance; if I were by
I might do hurt, for they would glance their eyes
Toward my Seat, and in that motion might
3135 Omit a Ward, or forfeit an offence
Which craved that very time: it is much better
[Cornets. A great cry, and noise within, crying a Palamon.
I am not there, oh better never born
Than minister to such harm, what is the chance?
3140 Enter Servant. Cry within, Palamon, Palamon
Servant Emilia . The cry's a Palamon.
Emilia: Then he has won: 'twas ever likely,
He look'd all grace and success, and he is
Doubtless the prim'st of men: I pritheo run
3145 And tell me how it goes.
[Shout, and Cornets: crying a Palamon.
Servant Emilia . Still Palamon.
Emilia: Run and enquire, poor Servant thou hast lost,

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3150 Upon my right side still I wore thy Picture,
~~Palamon's on the left, why so I know not,~~
 I had no end in't; else chance would have it so.~~[Another cry and shout within, and~~
~~Cornets.~~
 On the sinister side the heart lies; ~~Palamon~~
 3155 Had the best boding chance: this burst of clamor
 Is sure th' end o' th' combat.
 Enter ~~Servant~~Pirithous.
~~Servant~~Pirithous. They said that ~~Palamon~~ had ~~Arcites~~ body
 Within an inch o' th' Pyramid, that the cry
 Was general a ~~Palamon~~: but anon,
 3160 Th' Assistants~~He~~ made a brave redemption, ~~and~~
 The two bold Tytlers, at this instant ~~they~~ are
 Hand to hand at it.
~~Emilia: Were they metamorphos'd~~
 Both into one; oh why? there were no woman
 3165 Worth so compos'd a man: their single share;
 Their nobleness peculiar to them, gives
 The prejudice of disparity values shortness~~[Cornets. Cry within, Arcite, Arcite!~~
 To any Lady breathing—More exulting?
~~Palamon still?~~
 3170 ~~Servant. Nay, now the sound is Arcite.~~
~~Emilia: I prithee pay attention to the Cry.[Cornets. A great shout, and cry, Arcite, victory.~~
~~Set both thine ears to th' business.~~
~~Servant~~Pirithous. The cry is
 Arcite, and victory, hark ~~Arcite~~, victory,
 3175 The Combats consummation is proclaimed
 By the wind Instruments.
~~Emilia: Half sights saw~~
 That ~~Arcite~~ was no babe, god's lyd, his richness
 And costliness of spirit looked through him; it could
 3180 No more be hid in him, than fire in flax,
 Than humble banks can go to law with waters,
 That drift winds, force to raging: I did think
 Good ~~Palamon~~ would miscarry, yet I knew not
 Why I did think so; Our reasons are not prophets
 3185 When oft our fancies are: they are coming off:
 Alas poor ~~Palamon~~.~~[Cornets.~~
 Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Pirithous, Arcite as Victor and
 Attendants, &c.
 3190 ~~Theseus: Lo, where our Sister is in expectation,~~
 Yet quaking, and unsettled: fairest ~~Emilia~~,
 The gods by their Divine arbitrament
 Have given you this Knight, he is a good one
 As ever struck at head: Give me your hands;
 3195 Receive you her, you him, be plighted with
 A love that grows, as you decay.
~~Arcite: Emily.~~
 To buy you I have lost what's dearest to me,
 Save what is bought, and yet I purchase cheaply,
 As I do rate your value. ~~[Exeunt~~

3200 *Theseus:* Oh loved Sister,
 He speaks now of as brave a Knight as e'er
 Did spur a noble Steed: surely the gods
 Would have him die a bachelor, lest his race
 3205 Should show i'th' world too godlike: his behaviour
 So charm'd me, that methought *Arcides* was
 To him a Sow of Lead: if I could praise
 Each part of him to th' all I have spoke, your *Arcite*
 Did not lose by't; for he that was thus good
 3210 Encountered yet his Better, I have heard
 Two emulous Philomels, beat the ear o'th' night
 With their contentious throats, now one the higher,
 Anon the other, then again the first,
 And by and by out-breasted, that the sense
 3215 Could not be judge between 'em: so it far'd
 Good space between these kinsmen; till heavens did
 Make hardly one the winner: wear the Garland
 With joy that you have won: for the subdued,
 Give them our present Justice, since I know
 3220 Their lives but pinch 'em, let it here be done:
 The Scene's not for our seeing, goe we hence,
 Right joyful, with some sorrow. Arm your prize,
 I know you will not lose her: *Hippolyta*,
 I see one eye of yours conceives a tear
 The which it will deliver. *[Flourish]*
 3225 *Emilia:* Is this winning?
 Oh all you heavenly powers, where is your mercy?
 But that your wills have said it must be so,
 And charge me live to comfort this unfriended,
 This miserable Prince that cuts away
 3230 A life more worthy from him, than all women;
 I should, and would die too.
Hippolyta: Infinite pity
 That four such eyes should be so fix'd on one
 That two must needs be blind for't.
 3235 *Theseus:* So it is. *[Exeunt]*

Act Five. Scene Four.

*Enter Palamon and his Knights pinion'd: Jailor Executioner, &c.
Gard.*

3240 *Palamon:* There's many a man alive that hath out liv'd
 The love o' th' people, yea, i'th' self same state
 Stands many a Father with his child; some comfort
 We have by so considering: we expire
 And not without mens pity. To live still,
 3245 Have their good wishes, we prevent
 The loathsome misery of age, beguile
 The Gout and Rheum, that in lag hours attend
 For grey approachers; we come towards the gods
 Young, and unwapper'd, not halting under Crimes
 3250 Many and stale: that sure shall please the gods
 Sooner than such, to give us Nectar with 'em,

For we are more clear Spirits. My dear kinsmen,
Whose lives (for this poor comfort) are laid down,
You have sold 'em too too cheap.

First Knight. What ending could be
Of more content? o'er us the victors have
Fortune, whose Title is as momentary,
As to us death is certain: a grain of honor
They not o'er-weigh us.

Second Knight. Let us bid farewell;
And, with our patience, anger tottering Fortune,
Who at her certain'st reels.

Third Knight. Come: who begins?

Palamon: Ev'n he that led you to this Banquet, shall
Taste to you all: ah ha my Friend, my Friend,
Your gentle daughter gave me freedom once;
You'll see't done now for ever: pray how does she?
I heard she was not well; her kind of ill
Gave me some sorrow.

Jailor. Sir, she's well restor'd,
And to be married shortly.

Palamon: By my short life
I am most glad on't; 'tis the latest thing
I shall be glad of, prithee tell her so:
Commend me to her, and to piece her portion
Tender her this.

First Knight. Nay, let's be offerers all.

Second Knight. Is it a maid?

Palamon: Verily I think so,
A right good creature, more to me deserving
Than I can quight or speak of.

All Knights. Commend us to her. *[They give their purses.]*

Jailor. The gods requite you all,
And make her thankful.

Palamon: Adieu; and let my life be now as short,
As my leave taking. *[Lies on the Block.]*

First Knight. Lead, courageous Cousin.

Second Knight. We'll follow cheerfully.

*[A great noise within, crying, run, save, hold.
Enter in haste a Messenger.]*

Messenger. Hold, hold, oh hold, hold, hold.

Enter Pirithous in haste.

Pirithous: Hold, hold: *It is a cursed haste you made*
If you have done so quickly: noble Palamon,
The gods will shew their glory in a life
That thou art yet to lead.

Palamon: Can that be,
When *Venus* I have said is false? How do things fare?

Pirithous: Arise great Sir, and give the tidings ear
That are most early sweet, and bitter.

Palamon: What
Hath waked us from our dream? *[Exit Jailor]*

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Pirithous: List then: your Cousin

Mounted upon a Steed that *Emily*

Did first bestow on him, ~~a black one, owing~~

~~Not a hayr worth of white, which some will say~~

~~Weakens his price, and many will not buy~~

~~His goodness with this note: Which superstition~~

~~Hear finds allowance:~~ On this horse is *Arcite*

Trotting the stones of *Athens*, ~~which the Calkins~~

~~Did rather tell, than trample; For the horse~~

~~Would make his length a mile, if't pleas'd his Rider~~

~~To put pride in him:~~ as he thus went counting

The flinty pavement, dancing as t'were to'th' Music

His own hoofs made; ~~(For as they say from iron~~

~~Came Musicks origen)~~ what envious Flint,

Cold as old *Saturne*, and like him possessed

With fire malevolent, darted a Spark,

Or what fierce sulphur else, to this end made,

I comment not; The hot horse, hot as fire,

Took Toy at this, and fell to what disorder

His power could give his will, ~~bounds, comes on end,~~

~~Forgets school doeing, being therein train'd,~~

~~And of kind manage, pig-like he whines~~

~~At the sharp Rowell, which he frets at rather~~

~~Than any jot obeys;~~ Seeks all foul means

Of boisterous and rough Jad'rie, to dis-seat

His Lord, that kept it bravely: When nought serv'd,

~~When neither Curb would crack, girth break, nor diff'ring plunges~~

~~Dis-root his Rider whence he grew, but that~~

~~He kept him 'tween his legs,~~ on his hind hooves on end he stands

That *Arcite's* legs being higher than his head

Seem'd with strange art to hang: His victor's wreath

Even then fell off his head: And presently

Backward the jade comes o'er, and his full poyze

Becomes the Riders load: Yet is he living,

But such a vessel 'tis that floats but for

The surge that next approaches: He much desires

To have some speech with you: Lo he appears.

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Emilia, Arcite, in a chair.

Palamon: O miserable end of our alliance

~~The gods are mighty Arcite, if thy heart,~~

~~Thy worthie, manly heart be yet unbroken:~~

Give me thy last words, I'm *Palamon*,

~~One that yet loves thee dying.~~

Arcite: Take *Emilia*

And with her, all the worlds joy: ~~Reach thy hand,~~

Farewell: I have told my last hour; I was false,

Yet never treacherous: Forgive me Cousin:

One kiss from fair *Emilia*: 'Tis done:

Take her: I die.

Palamon: Thy brave soul seek *Elysium*:

Emilia: ~~I'll close thine eyes, Prince;~~ Blessed souls be with thee

Thou art a right good man, and while I live,
This day I give to tears.

Palamon: And I to honor.

Theseus: In this place first you fought: Even very here
I sundred you, acknowledge to the gods
Our thanks that you are living:

His part is play'd, and though it were too short
He did it well: your day is lengthened, and
The blissful dew of heaven do's arouse you:
The powerful *Venus*, well hath grac'd her Altar,
And given you your love: Our Master *Mars*,
Hast vouch'd his Oracle, and to *Arcite*, gave
The grace of the Contention: So the Deities
Have shew'd due justice: Bear this hence.

Palamon: O Cousin,

That we should things desire, which do cost us
The loss of our desire: That nought could buy
Dear love, but loss of dear love.

Theseus: Never Fortune

Did play a subtler Game: The conquer'd triumphs,
The victor has the Loss: yet in the passage,
The gods have been most equal: *Palamon*,
Your kinsman hath confest the right o'th' Lady
Did lye in you, for you first saw her, and
Even then proclaim'd your fancie: He restor'd her
As your stolen Jewel, and desired your spirit
To send him hence forgiven; The gods my justice
Take from my hand, and they themselves become
The Executioners: Lead your Lady off;

And call your Lovers from the stage of death,
Whom I adopt my Friends: A day or two
Let us look sadly, and give grace unto
The Funeral of *Arcite*, in whose end
The visages of Bridegrooms we'll put on
And smile with *Palamon*; For whom an hour,
But one hour since, I was as dearly sorry,
As glad of *Arcite*: And am now as glad,

As for him sorry. O you heavenly Charmers,
What things you make of us? For what we lack
We laugh, for what we have, are sorry still;
Are children in some kind. Let us be thankful
For that which is, and with you leave dispute
That are above our question: Let's go off,
And bear us like the time. [*Flourish. Exeunt.*]

EPILOGUE.

*I would now ask ye how ye like the Play,
But as it is with School Boys, cannot say,
I'm cruell fearefull: pray yet stay a while,
And let me look upon ye: No man smile?*

3405 ~~Then it goes hard I see; He that has~~
~~Lov'd a young handsome wench then, show his face:~~
~~'Tis strange if none be here, and if he will~~
~~Against his Conscience let him hiss and kill~~
~~Our Market: 'Tis in vain, I see to stay ye,~~
~~Have at the worst can come, then; Now what say ye?~~
3410 ~~And yet mistake me not: I am not bold~~
~~We have no such cause. If th' tale we have told~~
~~(For 'tis no other) any way content ye~~
~~(For to that honest purpose it was meant ye)~~
~~We have our end; And ye shall have ere long~~
3415 ~~I dare say many a better, to prolong~~
~~Your old loves to us: We, and all our might,~~
~~Rest at your service, Gentlemen, good night.~~

~~{Flourish.~~

3420