

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

THE TEMPEST

Act I, scene 2: Prospero, Ariel

ARIEL

All hail, great master! grave sir, hail! I come to answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly, to swim, to dive into the fire, to ride on the curl'd clouds, to thy strong bidding task Ariel and all my quality.

PROSPERO

Hast thou, spirit, perform'd to point the tempest that I bade thee?

ARIEL

To every article.

I boarded the king's ship; now on the beak, now in the waist, the deck, in every cabin, I flamed amazement: All but mariners plunged in the foaming brine and quit the vessel: the king's son, Ferdinand, was the first man that leap'd; cried, 'Hell is empty and all the devils are here!'

PROSPERO

Why that's my spirit! But are they, Ariel, safe?

ARIEL

Not a hair perish'd: In troops I have dispersed them 'bout the isle. The king's son have I landed by himself. Safely in harbour is the king's ship; The mariners all under hatches stow'd and who I have left asleep; and for the rest o' the fleet which I dispersed, they all have met again bound sadly home for Naples, supposing that they saw the king's ship wreck'd.

PROSPERO

Ariel, thy charge exactly is perform'd: but there's more work.

ARIEL

Is there more toil?

PROSPERO

How now? moody? What is't thou canst demand?

ARIEL

My liberty. Remember I have done thee worthy service; thou didst promise to bate me a full year.

PROSPERO

Dost thou forget from what a torment I did free thee? malignant thing!
Hast thou forgot the foul witch Sycorax?

ARIEL

No, sir.

PROSPERO

This blue-eyed hag was hither brought with child; Thou, wast then her servant;
And she did confine thee, in her most unmitigable rage, into a cloven pine; imprison'd thou didst painfully remain a dozen years; within which space she died and left her son, not honour'd with A human shape.

ARIEL

Yes, Caliban her son.

PROSPERO

He, whom now I keep in service.
What torment I did find thee in; it was mine art, when I arrived and heard thee, that let thee out.

ARIEL

I thank thee, master. Pardon, master; I will be correspondent to command and do my spiriting gently.

PROSPERO

Do so, and after two days I will discharge thee.

ARIEL

That's my noble master! Say, what shall I do?

PROSPERO

Go make thyself like a nymph o' the sea: be subject to no sight but thine and mine, invisible to every eyeball else. Go, hence with diligence!