

Prospero:

Know thus far forth.
By accident most strange, bountiful Fortune,
Now my dear lady, hath mine enemies
Brought to this shore.

*Prospero pauses and waves his hand towards Miranda
who immediately becomes drowsy*

Here cease more questions.
Thou art inclined to sleep; 'tis a good dullness,
And give it way. I know thou canst not choose.

Miranda falls asleep

Come away, servant, come! I am ready now.
Approach, my Ariel; come!

Ariel appears



*The Public Theater New York, Patrick Stewart as Prospero and Carrie Preston as Miranda.
Photo by Michal Daniel*

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 curled clouds. To thy strong bidding task¹
Ariel and all his quality.²

¹ order

² other spirits

Prospero:

Hast thou, spirit,
Performed to point the tempest that I bade thee?

Ariel:

To every article.³ All but mariners
Plunged in the foaming brine and quit the vessel,
Then all afire with me. The King's son, Ferdinand,
Was the first man that leaped; cried, "Hell is empty,
And all the devils are here."

³ detail

Prospero:

Why, that's my spirit!
But was not this nigh shore?

Ariel:

Close by, my master.

Prospero:

But are they, Ariel, safe?

Ariel:

Not a hair perished;
On their sustaining garments not a blemish,
But fresher than before. And, as thou bad'st me,
In troops I have dispersed them 'bout the isle.
The King's son have I landed by himself,
In an odd angle of the isle, and sitting,
His arms in this sad knot.

*Ariel impersonates Ferdinand in his grief at being
shipwrecked alone*

Prospero:

Of the King's ship
The mariners say how thou hast disposed,
And all the rest o' the fleet.

Ariel:

Safely in harbour
The mariners all under hatches stowed,
Who, with a charm joined to their suffered labour,
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 wrecked
And his great person perish.

Prospero:

Ariel, thy charge
Exactly is performed; but there's more work.

Ariel:

Is there more toil? Since thou dost give me pains,¹
Let me remember thee what thou hast promised,
Which is not yet performed me.

¹ put me to
some trouble

Prospero:

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

Ariel:

My liberty.

Prospero:

Before the time be out? No more!

Ariel:

I prithee,
Remember I have done thee worthy service,
Told thee no lies, made thee no mistakings, served
Without or grudge or grumblings. Thou did promise
To bate me a full year.²

² reduce my
time by a full
year

Prospero:

Dost thou forget
From what a torment I did free thee?

Ariel:

No.

Orlando – UCF Shakespeare Festival, William Metzro as Prospero and Grace Hsu as Ariel. Photo by Tony Firriolo

