

The Tempest Quotations

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Quotes

"Me, poor man, my library/Was dukedom large enough." (Prospero, Act 1, Scene 2)

"You taught me language, and my profit on 't/Is I know how to curse./The red plague rid you/ For learning me your language!" (Caliban, Act 1, Scene 2)

"Sitting on a bank,/Weeping again the King my father's wrack,/This music crept by me upon the waters,/Allaying both their fury and my passion/With its sweet air." (Ferdinand, Act 1, Scene 2)

"There's nothing ill can dwell in such a temple./If the ill spirit have so fair a house,/Good things will strive to dwell with 't." (Miranda, Act 1, Scene 2)

"I' th' commonwealth I would by contraries/Execute all things, for no kind of traffic/Would I admit; no name of magistrate;/Letters should not be known; riches, poverty,/And use of service, none; contract, succession,/Bourn, bound of land, tilth, vineyard, none;/No use of metal, corn, or wine, or oil;/No occupation; all men idle, all." (Gonzalo, Act 2, Scene 1)

"Be not afeard. The isle is full of noises,/Sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not." (Caliban, Act 3, Scene 2)

"The solemn temples, the great globe itself,/Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,/And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,/Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff/As dreams are made on, and our little life/Is rounded with a sleep."

(Prospero, Act 4, Scene 1)

“Look thou be true; do not give dalliance/Too much the rein. The strongest oaths are straw/To th’ fire i’ th’ blood.” (Prospero, Act 4, Scene 1)

“The rarer action is/In virtue than in vengeance.” (Prospero, Act 5, Scene 1)

“O wonder!/How many goodly creatures are there here!/How beauteous mankind is! O, brave new world/That has such people in ’t.” (Miranda, Act 5, Scene 1)

“But release me from my bands/With the help of your good hands./Gentle breath of yours my sails/Must fill, or else my project fails,/Which was to please.” (Prospero, Epilogue)