

*ElizabethanDrama.org*

presents  
a Theatre Script of

THE COMICAL HISTORY of  
ALPHONSUS, KING of ARAGON

By Robert Greene

Written c. 1588-1591

Earliest Extant Edition: 1599

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of ALPHONSUS,  
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DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

European Characters:

*CARINUS*, the rightful heir to the crown of Aragon.

*ALPHONSUS*, his son.

*FLAMINIUS*, King of Aragon.

*ALBINUS*, a Lord of Aragon

*LAELIUS*, a Lord of Aragon

*MILES*, a Lord of Aragon

*BELINUS*, King of Naples.

*FABIUS*, a Lord of Naples.

*DUKE OF MILLAIN (Milan).*

Eastern Characters:

*AMURACK*, the Great Turk.

*FAUSTA*, wife to Amurack.

*IPHIGINA*, their daughter.

*ARCASTUS*, King of the Moors.

*CLARAMONT*, King of Barbary.

*CROCON*, King of Arabia.

*FAUSTUS*, King of Babylon.

*BAJAZET*, a lord.

*TWO PRIESTS* of Mahomet.

*MEDEA*, an enchantress.

Supernatural Characters:

*MAHOMET* (speaking from a Brazen Head).

*VENUS*, goddess of love.

*THE NINE MUSES.*

Provost, Soldiers, Janissaries, etc.

## **NOTES.**

### **A. Geographical Confusion in *Alphonsus*.**

Elizabethan plays are infamous for their numerous internal inconsistencies, what modern editors might call issues of "continuity". In *Alphonsus*, the primary problem arises from the lack of clues as to the actual geographical setting of the scenes.

The play features a plethora of battles, fought by 6 distinct armies: those of Aragon, Naples, and Milan; the combined armies of the kings Crocon and Faustus; the Amazon army of Queen Fausta; and the army of the Ottoman Sultan Amurack. The various armies rush to and fro, seemingly only separated by a few miles instead of many hundreds of miles, appearing before and disappearing from each other as the action hurries breathlessly from one battle to the next.

The best way to approach such lack of "realism" in Elizabethan drama is – to ignore it. We adopt the setting locations suggested by Dickinson, but the locations don't really matter. If one tries too hard to plot the movement of *Alphonsus*' characters and armies on a map, the most likely outcome will be the onset of a minor fit of madness.

### **B. Scene Breaks, Settings, and Stage Directions.**

*Alphonsus, King of Aragon*, was originally published in a 1599 quarto. As usual, we lean towards adhering to the wording of this earliest volume as much as possible.

Words or syllables which have been added to the original text to clarify the sense or repair the meter are surrounded by hard brackets [ ]; these additions are often adopted from the suggestions of later editors. A director who wishes to remain truer to the original text may of course choose to omit any of the supplementary wording.

The 1599 quarto does not divide *Alphonsus* into Acts and Scenes, or provide settings or asides. Act and scene breaks and setting have been adapted primarily from Dickinson;<sup>5</sup> asides have been adopted from Dyce.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, as is our normal practice, a good number of the quarto's stage directions have been modified, and others added, usually without comment, to give clarity to the action. Most of these changes are adopted from Dyce.

### **C. Optional Textual Changes.**

A list of optional emendations to the text can be found at the end of this play.

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ACT I.

PROLOGUE.

*The trumpets sound thrice.*

*Venus is let down from the top of the stage*

1 **Venus.** Poets are scarce, when goddesses themselves  
2 Are forced to leave their high and stately seats,  
Placed on the top of high Olympus' Mount,  
4 To seek them out, to pen their champion's praise.  
The time hath been when Homer's sugared Muse  
6 Did make each echo to repeat his verse,  
That every coward that durst crack a spear,  
8 And tilt and tourney for his lady's sake,  
Was painted out in colours of such price  
10 As might become the proudest potentate.  
But now-a-days so irksome idless' slights,  
12 And cursèd charms have witchèd each student's mind,  
That death it is to any of them all,  
14 If that their hands to penning you do call. –  
Oh Virgil, Virgil! wert thou now alive,  
16 Whose painful pen in stout Augustus' days,  
Did dain to let the base and silly flea  
18 To scape away without thy praise of her,  
I do not doubt but long or ere this time,  
20 Alphonsus' fame unto the heavens should climb;  
Alphonsus' fame, that man of Jove his seed,  
22 Sprung from the loins of the immortal gods,  
Whose sire, although he habit on the earth,  
24 May claim a portion in the fiery pole,

As well as any one whate'er he be.  
 26 But, setting by Alphonsus' power divine,  
 What man alive, or now amongst the ghosts,  
 28 Could countervail his courage and his strength?  
 But thou art dead, yea, Virgil, thou art gone,  
 30 And all his acts drowned in oblivion. –  
 And all his acts drowned in oblivion?  
 32 No, Venus, no, though poets prove unkind,  
 And loath to stand in penning of his deeds,  
 34 Yet rather than they shall be clean forgot,  
 I, which was wont to follow Cupid's games  
 36 Will put in ure Minerva's sacred art;  
 And this my hand, which usèd for to pen  
 38 The praise of love and Cupid's peerless power,  
 Will now begin to treat of bloody Mars,  
 40 Of doughty deeds and valiant victories.

*The nine Muses enter:*

***Melpomene** (Muse of Tragedy), **Clio** (History),  
 44 **Erato** (Love Poetry), **Euterpe** (Music),  
**Terpsechore** (Dance), **Thalia** (Comedy),  
 46 **Urania** (Astronomy), **Polymnia** (Rhetoric),  
 and **Calliope** (Epic Poetry).*

48 *All of them are playing upon sundry instruments,  
 50 except for Calliope, who comes last,  
 her head hanging. She is not playing her instrument.*

52 But see whereas the stately Muses come,  
 54 Whose harmony doth very far surpass  
 The heavenly music of Apollo's pipe!  
 56 But what means this? Melpómenë herself  
 With all her sisters sound their instruments,  
 58 Only excepted fair Calliopë,  
 Who, coming last and hanging down her head,  
 60 Doth plainly shew by outward actiöns  
 What secret sorrow doth torment her heart.

[Stands aside.]

64 ***Melp.*** Calliopë, thou which so oft didst crake  
 66 How that such clients clustered to thy court,  
 By thick and threefold, as not any one  
 68 Of all thy sisters might compare with thee,  
 Where be thy scholars now become, I trow?  
 70 Where are they vanished in such sudden sort,  
 That, while as we do play upon our strings,

72 | You stand still lazing, and have naught to do?

74 | **Clio.** Melpómenë, make you a why of that?  
I know full oft you have [in] authors read,  
76 | The higher tree, the sooner is his fall,  
And they which first do flourish and bear sway,  
78 | Upon the sudden vanish clean away.

80 | **Call.** Mock on apace; my back is broad enough  
To bear your flouts, as many as they be.  
82 | That year is rare that ne'er feels winter's storms;  
That tree is fertile which ne'er wanteth fruit;  
84 | And that same Muse hath heapèd well in store,  
Which never wanteth clients at her door.  
86 | But yet, my sisters, when the surgent seas  
Have ebbèd their fill, their waves do rise again,  
88 | And fill their banks up to the very brims;  
And when my pipe hath eased herself a while,  
90 | Such store of suitors shall my seat frequent,  
That you shall see my scholars be not spent.

92 | **Erato.** Spent, quoth you, sister? Then we were to blame,  
94 | If we should say your scholars all were spent.  
But, pray now, tell me when your painful pen  
96 | Will rest enough?

98 | **Melp.** When husbandmen shear hogs.

100 | **Venus.** [*Coming forward*]  
Melpómenë, Eráto, and the rest,  
102 | From thickest shrubs dame Venus did espy  
The mortal hatred which you jointly bear  
104 | Unto your sister high Calliopë.  
What, do you think if that the tree do bend,  
106 | It follows therefore that it needs must break?  
And since her pipe a little while doth rest,  
108 | It never shall be able for to sound?  
Yes, Muses, yes, if that she will vouchsafe  
110 | To entertain Dame Venus in her school,  
And further me with her instructiöns,  
112 | She shall have scholars which will dain to be  
In any other Muse's company.

114 | **Call.** Most sacred Venus, do you doubt of that?  
116 | Calliopë would think her three times blessed  
For to receive a goddess in her school,  
118 | Especially so high an one as you,  
Which rules the earth, and guides the heavens too.

120

**Venus.** Then sound your pipes, and let us bend our steps

122

Unto the top of high Parnassus Hill,

And there together do our best devoir

124

For to describe Alphonsus' warlike fame,

And, in the manner of a comedy,

126

Set down his noble valour presently.

128

**Call.** As Venus wills, so bids Calliopë.

130

**Melp.** And as you bid, your sisters do agree.

132

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT I, SCENE I.*Near Naples.**Enter Carinus (the father), and Alphonsus (his son).*

1 **Carin.** My noble son, since first I did recount  
 2 The noble acts your predecessors did  
 In Aragon, against their warlike foes,  
 4 I never yet could see thee joy at all,  
 But hanging down thy head as malcontent,  
 6 Thy youthful days in mourning have been spent.  
 Tell me, Alphonsus, what might be the cause  
 8 That makes thee thus to pine away with care?  
 Hath old Carinus done thee any offence  
 10 In reckoning up these stories unto thee? –  
 What, ne'er a word but mum? Alphonsus, speak,  
 12 Unless your father's fatal day you seek.

14 **Alphon.** Although, dear father, I have often vowed  
 Ne'er to unfold the secrets of my heart  
 16 To any man or woman, whosome'er  
 Dwells underneath the circle of the sky;  
 18 Yet do your words so conjure me, dear sire,  
 That needs I must fulfill that you require.  
 20 Then so it is. Amongst the famous tales  
 Which you rehearsed done by our sires in war,  
 22 Whenas you came unto your father's days,  
 With sobbing notes, with sighs and blubbering tears,  
 24 And much ado, at length you thus began;  
 "Next to Alphonsus should my father come  
 26 For to possess the diadem by right  
 Of Aragon, but that the wicked wretch,  
 28 His younger brother, with aspiring mind,  
 By secret treason robbed him of his life,  
 30 And me his son of that which was my due."  
 These words, my sire, did so torment my mind,  
 32 As, had I been with Ixion in hell,  
 The ravening bird could never plague me worse;  
 34 For ever since my mind hath troubled been  
 Which way I might revenge this traitorous fact,  
 36 And that recover which is ours by right.

38 **Carin.** Ah, my Alphonsus, never think on that;  
 In vain it is to strive against the stream.  
 40 The crown is lost, and now in hucksters' hands,  
 And all our hope is cast into the dust.

42 | Bridle these thoughts, and learn the same of me, –  
A quiet life doth pass an empery.

44 | **Alphon.** Yet, noble father, ere Carinus' brood  
46 | Shall brook his foe for to usurp his seat,  
He'll die the death with honour in the field,  
48 | And so his life and sorrows briefly end.  
But did I know my froward fate were such  
50 | As I should fail in this my just attempt,  
This sword, dear father, should the author be  
52 | To make an end of this my tragedy.  
Therefore, sweet sire, remain you here a while,  
54 | And let me walk my fortune for to try.  
I do not doubt but, ere the time be long,  
56 | I'll quite his cost, or else myself will die.

58 | **Carin.** My noble son, since that thy mind is such  
For to revenge thy father's foul abuse,  
60 | As that my words may not a whit prevail  
To stay thy journey, go with happy fate,  
62 | And soon return unto thy father's cell,  
With such a train as Julius Caesar came  
64 | To noble Rome, whenas he had achieved  
The mighty monarch of the triple world.  
66 | Meantime, Carinus in this silly grove  
Will spend his days with prayer[s] and horizons  
68 | To mighty Jove to further thine intent.  
Farewell, dear son, Alphonsus, fare you well.

70 |

[Exit Carinus.]

72 |

**Alphon.** And is he gone? Then hie, Alphonsus, hie,  
74 | To try thy fortune where thy Fates do call.  
A noble mind disdains to hide his head,  
76 | And let his foes [to] triumph in his overthrow.

78 |

[As Alphonsus is about to go out, Albinus enters.]

80 | **Alb.** [Aside] What loitering fellow have we spied here? –  
Presume not, villain, further for to go,  
82 | Unless you do at length the same repent.

84 |

[Alphonsus comes towards Albinus.]

86 | **Alphon.** “Villain,” say'st thou? nay, “villain” in thy throat!  
What, know'st thou, skipjack, whom thou "villain" call'st?

88 |

**Alb.** A common vassal I do villain call.

90 | **Alphon.** That shall thou soon approve, persuade thyself,  
92 | Or else I'll die, or thou shalt die for me.

94 | **Alb.** [*Aside*] What, do I dream, or do my dazzling eyes  
Deceive me? Is't Alphonsus that I see?  
96 | Doth now Medea use her wonted charms  
For to delude Albinus' fantasy?  
98 | Or doth black Pluto, King of dark Avern,  
Seek [for] to flout me with his counterfeit?  
100 | His body like to Alphonsus' framèd is;  
His face resembles much Alphonsus' hue;  
102 | His noble mind declares him for no less. –  
'Tis he indeed. Woe worth Albinus,  
104 | Whose babbling tongue hath caused his own annoy!  
Why doth not Jove send from the glittering skies  
106 | His thunderbolts to chastise this offence?  
Why doth Dame Terra cease with greedy jaws  
108 | To swallow up Albinus presently?  
What, shall I fly and hide my traitorous head  
110 | From stout Alphonsus whom I so misused?  
Or shall I yield? – Tush, yielding is in vain,  
112 | Nor can I fly, but he will follow me.  
Then cast thyself down at his grace's feet,  
114 | Confess thy fault, and ready make thy breast  
To entertain thy well-deservèd death.

116 | [*Albinus kneels.*]

118 | **Alphon.** What news, my friend? Why are you [now] so blank,  
120 | That erst before did vaunt it to the skies?

122 | **Alb.** Pardon, dear lord! Albinus pardon craves  
For this offence, which, by the heavens I vow,  
124 | Unwittingly I did unto your grace;  
For had I known Alphonsus had been here,  
126 | Ere that my tongue had spoke so traitorously,  
This hand should make my very soul to die.

128 | **Alphon.** Rise up, my friend, thy pardon soon is got.

130 | [*Albinus rises up.*]

132 | But, prithee, tell me what the cause might be,  
134 | That in such sort thou erst upbraid'st me?

136 | **Alb.** Most mighty prince, since first your father's sire  
Did yield his ghost unto the sisters three,

138 | And old Carinus forcèd was to fly  
 His native soil and royal diadem;  
 140 | I, for because I seemèd to complain  
 Against their treason, shortly was forewarned  
 142 | Ne'er more to haunt the bounds of Aragon  
 On pain of death. Then, like a man forlorn,  
 144 | I sought about to find some resting-place;  
 And at the length did hap upon this shore,  
 146 | Where shewing forth my cruël banishment,  
 By King Belinus I am succourèd.  
 148 | But now, my lord, to answer your demand,  
 It happens so, that the usurping king  
 150 | Of Aragon makes war upon this land  
 For certain tribute which he claimeth here;  
 152 | Wherefore Belinus sent me round about  
 His country, for to gather up [his] men  
 154 | For to withstand this most injurious foe;  
 Which being done, returning with the king,  
 156 | Despitefully I did so taunt your grace,  
 Imagining you had some soldier been,  
 158 | The which, for fear, had sneakèd from the camp.

160 | *Alphon.* Enough, Albinus, I do know thy mind.  
 But may it be that these thy happy news  
 162 | Should be of truth, or have you forgèd them?

164 | *Alb.* The gods forbid that ere Albinus' tongue  
 Should once be found to forge a feignèd tale,  
 166 | Especially unto his sovereign lord:  
 But if Alphonsus think that I do feign,  
 168 | Stay here a while, and you shall plainly see  
 My words be true, whenas you do perceive  
 170 | Our royal army march before your face –  
 The which, if't please my noble lord to stay,  
 172 | I'll hasten on with all the speed I may.

174 | *Alphon.* Make haste, Albinus, if you love my life;  
 But yet beware, whenas your army comes,  
 176 | You do not make as though you do me know,  
 For I awhile a soldier base will be,  
 178 | Until I find time more conveniënt  
 To shew, Albinus, what is mine intent.

180 | *Alb.* Whate'er Alphonsus fittest doth esteem,  
 182 | Albinus for his profit best will deem.

184 | [Exit Albinus.]

186 | **Alphon.** Now do I see both gods and Fortune too  
Do join their powers to raise Alphonsus' fame;  
188 | For in this broil I do not greatly doubt  
But that I shall my cousin's courage tame. —  
190 | But see whereas Belinus' army comes,  
And he himself, unless I guess awry:  
192 | Whoe'er it be, I do not pass a pin;  
Alphonsus means his soldier for to be.

194 |

*[He stands aside.]*

ACT I, SCENE II.*The Camp of Belinus.**Enter Belinus (King of Naples), Albinus, Fabius,  
marching with their soldiers (and make a stand).*

1 **Belin.** Thus far, my lords, we trainèd have our camp  
 2 For to encounter haughty Aragon,  
 Who with a mighty power of straggling mates  
 4 Hath traitorously assailèd this our land,  
 And burning towns, and sacking cities fair,  
 6 Doth play the devil wheresome'er he comes.  
 Now, as we are informèd by our scouts,  
 8 He marcheth on unto our chiefest seat,  
 Naples, I mean, that city of renown,  
 10 For to begirt it with his bands about,  
 And so at length, the which high Jove forbid,  
 12 To sack the same, as erst he other did.  
 If which should hap, Belinus were undone,  
 14 His country spoiled, and all his subject[s] slain:  
 Wherefore your sovereign thinketh it most meet  
 16 For to prevent the fury of the foe,  
 And Naples' succour, that distressèd town,  
 18 By entering in, ere Aragon doth come,  
 With all our men, which will sufficient be  
 20 For to withstand their cruël battery.

22 **Alb.** The silly serpent, found by country-swain,  
 And cut in pieces by his furious blows,  
 24 Yet if her head do scape away untouched,  
 As many write, it very strangely goes  
 26 To fetch an herb, with which in little time  
 Her battered corpse again she doth conjoin:  
 28 But if by chance the ploughman's sturdy staff  
 Do hap to hit upon the serpent's head,  
 30 And bruise the same, though all the rest be sound,  
 Yet doth the silly serpent lie for dead,  
 32 Nor can the rest of all her body serve  
 To find a salve which may her life preserve.  
 34 Even so, my lord, if Naples once be lost,  
 Which is the head of all your grace's land,  
 36 Easy it were for the malicious foe  
 To get the other cities in their hand:  
 38 But if from them that Naples town be free,  
 I do not doubt but safe the rest shall be:  
 40 And therefore, mighty king, I think it best,

42 To succour Naples rather than the rest.

43 **Belin.** 'Tis bravely spoken; by my crown I swear,  
44 I like thy counsel, and will follow it.

45 [He points toward Alphonsus.]

48 But hark, Albinus, dost thou know the man,  
That doth so closely overthwart us stand?

50 **Alb.** Not I, my lord, nor never saw him yet.

52 **Belin.** Then, prithee, go, and ask him presently,  
54 What countryman he is, and why he comes  
56 Into this place? Perhaps he is some one,  
That is sent hither as a secret spy  
To hear and see in secret what we do.

58 [Albinus and Fabius go toward Alphonsus.]

60 **Alb.** My friend, what art thou, that so like a spy  
62 Dost sneak about Belinus' royal camp?

64 **Alphon.** I am a man.

66 **Fabius.** A man? We know the same:  
But prithee, tell me, and set scoffing by,  
68 What countryman thou art, and why you come,  
That we may soon resolve the king thereof?

70 **Alphon.** Why, say, I am a soldier.

72 **Fabius.** Of whose band?

74 **Alphon.** Of his that will most wages to me give.

76 **Fabius.** But will you be  
78 Content to serve Belinus in his wars?

80 **Alphon.** Ay, if he'll reward me as I do deserve,  
And grant whate'er I win, it shall be mine  
82 Incontinent.

84 **Alb.** Believe me, sir, your service costly is:  
But stay a while, and I will bring you word  
86 What King Belinus says unto the same.

88 [Albinus goes toward Belinus.]

90 **Belin.** What news, Albinus? Who is that we see?

92 **Alb.** It is, my lord, a soldier that you see,  
Who fain would serve your grace in these your wars,  
94 But that, I fear, his service is too dear.

96 **Belin.** Too dear, why so? What doth the soldier crave?

98 **Alb.** He craves, my lord, all things that with his sword  
He doth obtain, whatever that they be.

100 **Belin.** [*To Alphonsus*]  
102 Content, my friend; if thou wilt succour me,  
Whate'er you get, that challenge as thine own,  
104 Belinus gives it frankly unto thee,  
Although it be the crown of Aragon.  
106 Come on therefore, and let us hie apace  
To Naples town, whereas by this, I know,  
108 Our foes have pitched their tents against our walls.

110 **Alphon.** March on, my lord, for I will follow you; –  
[*Aside*] And do not doubt but, ere the time be long,  
112 I shall obtain the crown of Aragon.

114

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT II.

PROLOGUE.

*Alarum.*  
*Enter Venus.*

1 *Venus.* Thus from the pit of pilgrim's poverty  
2 Alphonsus gins by step and step to climb  
Unto the top of friendly Fortune's wheel.  
4 From banished state, as you have plainly seen,  
He is transformed into a soldier's life,  
6 And marcheth in the ensign of the king  
Of worthy Naples, which Belinus hight;  
8 Not for because that he doth love him so,  
But that he may revenge him on his foe.  
10 Now on the top of lusty barbèd steed  
He mounted is, in glittering armour clad,  
12 Seeking about the troops of Aragon,  
For to encounter with his traitorous niece.  
14 How he doth speed, and what doth him befall,  
Mark this our act, for it doth show it all.

16

*[Exit Venus.]*

ACT II, SCENE I.

*A Battlefield.*

*Strike up alarum.*

*Enter Flaminius at one door, Alphonsus at another:  
they fight; Alphonsus kills Flaminius.*

1 **Alphon.** Go pack thou hence unto the Stygian lake,  
2 And make report unto thy traitorous sire  
How well thou hast enjoyed the diadem  
4 Which he by treason set upon thy head;  
And if he ask thee who did send thee down,  
6 Alphonsus say, who now must wear thy crown.

8

*Alarum.  
Enter Laelius.*

10

**Lael.** Traitor, how darest thou look me in the face,  
12 Whose mighty king thou traitorously hast slain?  
What, dost thou think Flaminius hath no friends  
14 For to revenge his death on thee again?  
Yes, be you sure that, ere you scape from hence,  
16 Thy gasping ghost shall bear him company,  
Or else myself, fighting for his defense,  
18 Will be content by those thy hands to die.

20 **Alphon.** Laelius, few words would better thee become,  
Especially as now the case doth stand;  
22 And didst thou know whom thou dost threaten thus,  
We should you have more calmer out of hand:  
24 For, Laelius, know, that I Alphonsus am,  
The son and heir to old Carinus, whom  
26 The traitorous father of Flaminius  
Did secretly bereave of his diadem.  
28 But see the just revenge of mighty Jove!  
The father dead, the son is likewise slain  
30 By that man's hand who they did count as dead,  
Yet doth survive to wear the diadem,  
32 When they themselves accompany the ghosts  
Which wander round about the Stygian fields.

34

*[Laelius gazes upon Alphonsus.]*

36

Muse not hereat, for it is true, I say;  
38 I am Alphonsus, whom thou hast misused.

40 **Lael.** The man whose death I did so oft lament!

42 [Kneels.]

44 Then pardon me for these uncourteous words,  
 The which I in my rage did utter forth,  
 46 Pricked by the duty of a loyal mind;  
 Pardon, Alphonsus, this my first offence,  
 48 And let me die if e'er I flite again.

50 **Alphon.** Laelius, I fain would pardon this offence,  
 And eke accept thee to my grace again,  
 52 But that I fear that, when I stand in need  
 And want your help, you will your lord betray.  
 54 How say you, Laelius, may I trust to thee?

56 **Lael.** Ay, noble lord, by all the gods I vow;  
 For first shall heavens want stars, and foaming seas  
 58 Want watery drops, before I'll traitor be  
 Unto Alphonsus, whom I honour so.

60 **Alphon.** Well then, arise;

62 [Laelius rises.]

64 and for because I'll try  
 66 If that thy words and deeds be both alike,  
 Go haste and fetch the youths of Aragon,  
 68 Which now I hear have turned their heels and fled;  
 Tell them your chance, and bring them back again  
 70 Into this wood; where in ambushment lie,  
 Until I send or come for you myself.

72 **Lael.** I will, my lord.

74 [Exit Laelius.]

76 **Alphon.** Full little thinks Belinus and his peers  
 78 What thoughts Alphonsus casteth in his mind;  
 For if they did, they would not greatly haste  
 80 To pay the same the which they promised me.

82 *Enter Belinus, Albinus, Fabius,  
 with their soldiers, marching.*

84 **Belin.** Like simple sheep, when shepherd absent is  
 86 Far from his flock, assailed by greedy wolves,  
 Do scattering fly about, some here, some there,  
 88 To keep their bodies from their ravening jaws,

90 So do the fearful youths of Aragon  
 Run round about the green and pleasant plains,  
 And hide their heads from Neapolitans;  
 92 Such terror have their strong and sturdy blows  
 Strook to their hearts, as for a world of gold,  
 94 I warrant you, they will not come again. –  
 But, noble lords, where is the knight become  
 96 Which made the blood besprinkle all the place  
 Whereas he did encounter with his foe?  
 98 My friend Albinus, know you where he is?

100 **Alb.** Not I, my lord, for since in thickest ranks  
 I saw him chase Flaminius at the heels,  
 102 I never yet could set mine eyes on him.

[Albinus spies out Alphonsus,  
 and shews him to Belinus.]

106  
 But see, my lord, whereas the warrior stands,  
 108 Or else my sight doth fail me at this time.

110 **Belin.** 'Tis he indeed, who, as I do suppose,  
 Hath slain the king, or else some other lord.  
 112 For well I wot, a carcass I do see  
 Hard at his feet, lie struggling on the ground.  
 114 Come on, Albinus, we will try the truth.

[Belinus and Albinus go towards Alphonsus.]

118 Hail to the noble victor of our foes!

120 **Alphon.** Thanks, mighty prince, but yet I seek not this:  
 It is not words must recompense my pain,  
 122 But deeds: when first I took up arms for you,  
 Your promise was, whate'er my sword did win  
 124 In fight, as his Alphonsus should it crave.

[Alphonsus shows Belinus Flaminius,  
 who lieth all this while dead at his feet.]

128  
 See, then, where lies thy foe Flaminius,  
 130 Whose crown my sword hath conquered in the field;  
 Therefore, Belinus, make no long delay,  
 132 But that discharge you promised for to pay.

134 **Belin.** Will nothing else satisfy thy conquering mind  
 Besides the crown? – Well, since thou hast it won,  
 136 Thou shalt it have, though far against my will.

138 [Alphonsus sits in the chair;

140 *Belinus takes the crown off of Flaminius' head,  
and puts it on that of Alphonsus.]*

142 Here doth Belinus crown thee with his hand  
The king of Aragon.

144 *[Sound trumpets and drums within.]*

146 What, are you pleased?

148 **Alphon.** Not so, Belinus, till you promise me  
150 All things belonging to the royal crown  
Of Aragon, and make your lordings swear  
152 For to defend me to their utmost power  
Against all men that shall gainsay the same.

154 **Belin.** Mark, what belongèd erst unto the crown  
156 Of Aragon, that challenge as thine own;  
Belinus gives it frankly unto thee,  
158 And swears by all the powers of glittering skies  
To do my best for to maintain the same,  
160 So that it be not prejudiciäl  
Unto mine honour, or my country-soil.

162 **Alb.** And by the sacred seat of mighty Jove  
164 Albinus swears that first he'll die the death  
Before he'll see Alphonsus suffer wrong.

166 **Fabius.** What erst Albinus vowed we jointly vow.

168 **Alphon.** Thanks, mighty lords; but yet I greatly fear  
170 That very few will keep the oaths they swear. –  
But what, Belinus, why stand you so long,  
172 And cease from offering homage unto me?  
What, know you not that I thy sovereign am,  
174 Crownèd by thee and all thy other lords,  
And now confirmèd by your solemn oaths?  
176 Feed not thyself with fond persuasiöns,  
But presently come yield thy crown to me,  
178 And do me homage, or by heavens I swear  
I'll force thee do it maugre all thy train.

180 **Belin.** How now, base brat! What, are thy wits thine own,  
182 That thou dar'st thus abraid me in my land?  
'Tis best for thee these speeches to recall,  
184 Or else, by Jove, I'll make thee to repent  
That e'er thou sett'st thy foot in Naples' soil.

186

188 **Alphon.** "Base brat," say'st thou? as good a man as thou:  
But say I came but of a base descent,  
My deeds shall make my glory for to shine  
190 As clear as Luna in a winter's night.  
But for because thou bragg'st so of thy birth,  
192 I'll see how it shall profit thee anon.

194 **Fabius.** Alphonsus, cease from these thy threatening words,  
And lay aside this thy presumptuous mind,  
196 Or else be sure thou shalt the same repent.

198 **Alphon.** How now, sir boy, will you be prattling too?  
'Tis best for thee to hold thy tattling tongue,  
200 Unless I send some one to scourge thy breech.  
Why, then, I see, 'tis time to look about,  
202 When every boy Alphonsus dares control:  
But be they sure, ere Phoebus' golden beams  
204 Have compassèd the circle of the sky,  
I'll clog their tongues, since nothing else will serve  
206 To keep those vild and threatening speeches in. —  
Farewell, Belinus, look thou to thyself;  
208 Alphonsus means to have thy crown ere night.

210 [Exit Alphonsus.]

212 **Belin.** What, is he gone? The devil break his neck,  
The fiends of hell torment his traitorous corpse!  
214 Is this the quittance of Belinus' grace,  
Which he did shew unto that thankless wretch,  
216 That runagate, that rakehell, yea, that thief?  
For, well I wot, he hath robbed me of a crown.  
218 If ever he had sprung from gentle blood,  
He would not thus misuse his favourer.

220 **Alb.** "That runagate, that rakehell, yea, that thief!"  
222 Stay there, sir king, your mouth runs over-much;  
It ill becomes the subject for to use  
224 Such traitorous terms against his sovereign.  
Know thou, Belinus, that Carinus' son  
226 Is neither rakehell, nor [a] runagate:  
But be thou sure that, ere the darksome night  
228 Do drive God Phoebus to his Thetis' lap,  
Both thou, and all the rest of this thy train,  
230 Shall well repent the words which you have said.

232 **Belin.** What, traitorous villain, dost thou threaten me? —  
Lay hold on him, and see he do not scape;  
234 I'll teach the slave to know to whom he speaks.

236

[*They seize Albinus.*]

238

**Alb.** To thee I speak, and to thy fellows all;  
And though as now you have me in your power,

240

Yet doubt I not but that in little space

242

These eyes shall see thy treason recompensed,  
And then I mean to vaunt of our victory.

244

**Belin.** Nay, proud Albinus, never build on that;  
For though the gods do chance for to appoint

246

Alphonsus victor of Belinus' land,

248

Yet shalt thou never live to see that day: –  
And therefore, Fabius, stand not lingering,  
But presently slash off his traitorous head.

250

**Alb.** Slash off his head? As though Albinus' head

252

Were then so easy to be slashèd off.

254

In faith, sir, no; when you are gone and dead,  
I hope to flourish like the pleasant spring.

256

**Belin.** Why, how now, Fabius! what, do you stand in doubt  
To do the deed? what fear you? who dares seek

258

For to revenge his death on thee again,  
Since that Belinus did command it so?

260

Or are you waxed so dainty, that you dare  
Not use your sword for staining of your hands?

262

If it be so, then let me see thy sword,  
And I will be his butcher for this time.

264

[*Fabius gives Belinus his sword drawn.*]

266

Now, Sir Albinus, are you of the mind  
That erst you were? What, do you look to see  
And triumph in Belinus' overthrow?

270

I hope the very sight of this my blade  
Hath changed your mind into another tune.

272

**Alb.** Not so, Belinus, I am constant still.

274

My mind is like to the asbeston-stone,  
Which, if it once be heat in flames of fire,

276

Denieth to becomen cold again:

278

Even so am I, and shall be till I die;  
And though I should see Atropos appear  
With knife in hand, to slit my threed in twain,

280

Yet ne'er Albinus should persuaded be  
But that Belinus he should vanquished see.

282

284 **Belin.** Nay, then, Albinus since that words are vain  
For to persuade you from this heresy,  
286 This sword shall sure put you out of doubt.

288 *[Belinus offers to strike off Albinus' head;  
alarum;  
enter Alphonsus and his men; Belinus and Fabius  
290 fly, followed by Alphonsus and Albinus.]*

ACT II, SCENE II.

*Another Part of the Battlefield.*

*Enter Laelius, Miles, and others.*

- 1 **Lael.** My noble Lords of Aragon, I know  
 2 You wonder much what might the occasion be  
 That Laelius, which erst did fly the field,  
 4 Doth egg you forwards now unto the wars;  
 But when you hear my reason, out of doubt  
 6 You'll be content with this my rash attempt.  
 When first our king, Flaminius I do mean,  
 8 Did set upon the Neapolitans,  
 The worst of you did know and plainly see  
 10 How far they were unable to withstand  
 The mighty forces of our royal camp,  
 12 Until such time as froward fates we thought,  
 Although the fates ordained it for our gain,  
 14 Did send a stranger stout, whose sturdy blows  
 And force alone did cause our overthrow.  
 16 But to our purpose: this same martial knight  
 Did hap to hit upon Flaminius,  
 18 And lent our king then such a friendly blow  
 As that his gasping ghost to Limbo went.  
 20 Which when I saw, and seeking to revenge,  
 My noble lords, did hap on such a prize  
 22 As never king nor keiser got the like.
- 24 **Miles.** Laelius, of force we must confess to thee,  
 We wondered all, whenas you did persuade  
 26 Us to return unto the wars again;  
 But since our marvel is increasèd much  
 28 By these your words which sound of happiness:  
 Therefore, good Laelius, make no tarrying,  
 30 But soon unfold thy happy chance to us.
- 32 **Lael.** Then, friends and fellow soldiers, hark to me;  
 When Laelius thought for to revenge his king  
 34 On that same knight, instead of mortal foe,  
 I found him for to be our chiefest friend.
- 36 **Miles.** Our chiefest friend! I hardly can believe  
 38 That he, which made such bloody massacres  
 Of stout Italians, can in any point  
 40 Bear friendship to the country or the king.

42 **Lael.** As for your king, Milës, I hold with you,  
 He bare no friendship to Flaminius,  
 44 But hated him as bloody Atropos;  
 But for your country, Laelius doth avow  
 46 He loves as well as any other land,  
 Yea, sure, he loves it best of all the world.  
 48 And for because you shall not think that I  
 Do say the same without a reason why,  
 50 Know that the knight Alphonsus hath to name,  
 Both son and heir to old Carinus, whom  
 52 Flaminius' sire bereavèd of his crown;  
 Who did not seek the ruin of our host  
 54 For any envy he did bear to us,  
 But to revenge him on his mortal foe;  
 56 Which by the help of high celestial Jove  
 He hath achieved with honour in the field.

58 **Miles.** Alphonsus, man! I'll ne'er persuaded be  
 60 That ere Alphonsus may survive again,  
 Who with Carinus, many years ago,  
 62 Was said to wander in the Stygian fields.

64 **Lael.** Truth, noble Milës: these mine ears have heard,  
 For certainty reported unto me,  
 66 That old Carinus, with his peerless son,  
 Had felt the sharpness of the Sisters' shears;  
 68 And had I not of late Alphonsus seen  
 In good estate, though all the world should say  
 70 He is alive, I would not credit them.  
 But, fellow soldiers, wend you back with me,  
 72 And let us lurk within the secret shade  
 Which he himself appointed unto us;  
 74 And if you find my words to be untruth,  
 Then let me die to recompense the wrong.

76  
 78 *[Alarum;  
 re-enter Albinus with his sword drawn.]*

80 **Alb.** Laelius, make haste: soldiers of Aragon,  
 Set lingering by, and come and help your king,  
 82 I mean Alphonsus, who, whilst that he did  
 Pursue Belinus at the very heels,  
 84 Was suddenly environèd about  
 With all the troops of mighty Millain-land.

86 **Miles.** What news is this? and is it very so?  
 88 Is our Alphonsus yet in human state,

Whom all the world did judge for to be dead?  
90 Yet can I scarce give credit to the same. –  
Give credit! Yes, and since the Millain Duke  
92 Hath broke his league of friendship, be he sure,  
Ere Cynthia, the shining lamp of night,  
94 Doth scale the heavens with her hornèd head,  
Both he and his shall very plainly see  
96 The league is burst, that causèd long the glee.

98 *Lael.* And could the traitor harbour in his breast  
Such mortal treason ‘gainst his sovereign,  
100 As when he should with fire and sword defend  
Him from his foes, he seeks his overthrow?  
102 March on, my friends: I ne’er shall joy at all,  
Until I see that bloody traitor’s fall.

104

[*Exeunt.*]

106

[*Alarum;*

108

*Belinus flies, followed by Laelius;*

110

*Fabius flies, followed by Albinus;  
the Duke of Millain flies, followed by Miles.]*

ACT III.

PROLOGUE.

*Alarum;  
And then enter Venus.*

1 *Venus.* No sooner did Alphonsus with his troop  
2 Set on the soldiers of Belinus' band,  
But that the fury of his sturdy blows  
4 Did strike such terror to their daunted minds  
That glad was he which could escape away  
6 With life and limb, forth of that bloody fray.  
Belinus flies unto the Turkish soil,  
8 To crave the aid of Amurack their king;  
Unto the which he willingly did consent,  
10 And sends Belinus, with two other kings,  
To know God Mahomet's pleasure in the same.  
12 Meantime the empress by Medea's help  
Did use such charms that Amurack did see,  
14 In soundest sleep, what afterward should hap.  
How Amurack did recompense her pain,  
16 With mickle more, this act shall shew you plain.

18

*[Exit Venus.]*

ACT III, SCENE I.

*Camp of Alphonsus, near Naples.*

*Enter one, carrying two crowns upon a crest:  
Alphonsus, Albinus, Laelius and Miles,  
with their soldiers.*

1 **Alphon.** Welcome, brave youths of Aragon, to me,  
2 Yea, welcome, Milës, Laelius, and the rest,  
Whose prowess alone hath been the only cause  
4 That we, like victors, have subdued our foes.  
Lord, what a pleasure was it to my mind  
6 To see Belinus, which not long before  
Did with his threatenings terrify the gods,  
8 Now scud apace from warlike Laelius' blows.  
The Duke of Millain, he increased our sport,  
10 When doubting that his force was over-weak  
For to withstand, Milës, thy sturdy arm,  
12 Did give more credence to his frisking skips  
Than to the sharpness of his cutting blade.  
14 What Fabius did to pleasure us withal,  
Albinus knows as well as I myself;  
16 For well I wot, if that thy tirèd steed  
Had been as fresh and swift in foot as his,  
18 He should have felt, yea known for certainty,  
To check Alphonsus, did deserve to die.  
20 Briefly, my friends and fellow peers in arms,  
The worst of you do deserve such mickle praise  
22 As that my tongue denies for to set forth  
The demi-parcel of your valiant deeds;  
24 So that, perforce, I must by duty be  
Bound to you all for this your courtesy.

26 **Miles.** Not so, my lord; for if our willing arms  
28 Have pleased you so much as you do say,  
We have done naught but that becometh us  
30 For to defend our mighty sovereign.  
As for my part, I count my labour small,  
32 Yea though it had been twice as much again,  
Since that Alphonsus doth accept thereof.

34 **Alphon.** Thanks, worthy Milës: [but] lest all the world  
36 Should count Alphonsus thankless for to be,  
Laelius sit down, and, Milës, sit by him,  
38 And that receive the which your swords have won.

40 | *[Laelius and Miles sit down.]*

42 | First, for because thou, Laelius, in these broils,  
 44 | By martial might, didst proud Belinus chase  
 46 | From troop to troop, from side to side about,  
 48 | And never ceased from this thy swift pursuit  
 50 | Until thou hadst obtained his royal crown,  
 52 | Therefore, I say, I'll do thee naught but right,  
 54 | And give thee that [the] which thou well hast won.

56 | *[Sets the crown on his head.]*

58 | Here doth Alphonsus crown thee, Laelius, King  
 60 | Of Naples-town, with all dominions  
 62 | That erst belongèd to our traitorous foe,  
 64 | That proud Belinus in his regiment. –

66 | *[Trumpets and drums sound.]*

68 | Milès, thy share the Millain Dukedom is,  
 70 | For, well I wot, thy sword deserved no less;

72 | *[Alphonsus sets the crown on his head.]*

74 | The which Alphonsus frankly giveth thee,  
 76 | In presence of his warlike men-at-arms;  
 78 | And if that any stomach this my deed,  
 80 | Alphonsus can revenge thy wrong with speed.

82 | *[Trumpets and drums sound.]*

84 | Now to Albinus, which in all my toils  
 86 | I have both faithful, yea, and friendly found:  
 88 | Since that the gods and friendly Fates assign  
 90 | This present time to me to recompense  
 92 | The sundry pleasures thou hast done to me,  
 94 | Sit down by them, and on thy faithful head

96 | *[Alphonsus takes the crown from his own head.]*

98 | Receive the crown of peerless Aragon.

100 | **Alb.** Pardon, dear lord, Albinus at this time;  
 102 | It ill becomes me for to wear a crown  
 104 | Whenas my lord is destitute himself.  
 106 | Why, high Alphonsus, if I should receive  
 108 | This crown of you, the which high Jove forbid,  
 110 | Where would yourself obtain a diadem?  
 112 | Naples is gone, Millain possessèd is,

And naught is left for you but Aragon.

90

**Alphon.** And naught is left for me but Aragon?

92

Yes, surely, yes, my Fates have so decreed,  
That Aragon should be too base a thing

94

For to obtain Alphonsus for her king.

What, hear you not how that our scattered foes,

96

Belinus, Fabius, and the Millain Duke,  
Are fled for succour to the Turkish court?

98

And think you not that Amurack their king  
Will, with the mightiest power of all his land,

100

Seek to revenge Belinus' overthrow?

Then doubt I not but, ere these broils do end,

102

Alphonsus shall possess the diadem

That Amurack now wears upon his head.

104

Sit down therefore, and that receive of me

The which the Fates appointed unto thee.

106

**Alb.** Thou king of Heaven, which by thy power divine

108

Dost see the secrets of each liver's heart,

Bear record now with what unwilling mind

110

I do receive the crown of Aragon.

112

[*Albinus sit down by Laelius and Miles;  
And Alphonsus set the crown on his head.*]

114

**Alphon.** Arise, Albinus, King of Aragon,

116

Crownèd by me, who, till my gasping ghost

Do part asunder from my breathless corpse,

118

Will be thy shield against all men alive

That for thy kingdom any way do strive.

120

[*Trumpets and drums sound.*]

122

Now since we have, in such an happy hour,

124

Confirmed three kings, come, let us march with speed

Into the city, for to celebrate

126

With mirth and joy this blissful festival.

128

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT III, SCENE II.

*Palace of Amurack at Constantinople.*

*Enter Amurack, Belinus, Fabius,  
Arcastus (King of Moors), Claramont (King of  
Barbary), and Bajazet, with their train.*

1 **Amur.** Welcome, Belinus, to thy cousin's court,  
2 Whose late arrival in such posting pace  
Doth bring both joy and sorrow to us all;  
4 Sorrow, because the Fates have been so false  
To let Alphonsus drive thee from thy land,  
6 And joy, since that now mighty Mahomet  
Hath given me cause to recompense at full  
8 The sundry pleasures I received of thee.  
Therefore, Belinus, do but ask and have,  
10 For Amurack doth grant whate'er you crave.

12 **Belin.** Thou second sun, which with thy glimsing beams  
Dost clarify each corner of the earth,  
14 Belinus comes not, as erst Midas did  
To mighty Bacchus, to desire of him  
16 That whatsoe'er at any time he touched  
Might turnèd be to gold incontinent.  
18 Nor do I come as Jupiter did erst  
Unto the palace of Amphitriion,  
20 For any fond or foul concupiscence,  
Which I do bear to Alcumena's hue.  
22 But as poor Saturn, forced by mighty Jove  
To fly his country, banished and forlorn,  
24 Did crave the aide of Troös, King of Troy,  
So comes Belinus to high Amurack;  
26 And if he can but once your aid obtain,  
He turns with speed to Naples back again.

28 **Amur.** My aid, Belinus! Do you doubt of that?  
30 If all the men-at-arms of Africa,  
Of Asia likewise, will sufficient be  
32 To press the pomp of that usurping mate,  
Assure thyself, thy kingdom shall be thine,  
34 If Mahomet say ay unto the same;  
For were I sure to vanquish all our foes,  
36 And find such spoils in ransacking their tents  
As never any keiser did obtain,  
38 Yet would I not set foot forth of this land,  
If Mahomet our journey did withstand.

40  
 42 **Belin.** Nor would Belinus, for King Croesus' trash,  
 Wish Amurack [so] to displease the gods,  
 In pleasuring me in such a trifling toy.  
 44 Then, mighty monarch, if it be thy will,  
 Get their consents, and then the act fulfill.

46  
 48 **Amur.** You counsel well; therefore, Belinus, haste,  
 And, Claramont, go bear him company,  
 With King Arcastus, to the city walls:  
 50 Then bend with speed unto the darksome grove,  
 Where Mahomet this many a hundred year  
 52 Hath prophesied unto our ancestors.  
 Tell to his priests that Amurack, your king,  
 54 Is now selecting all his men-at-arms  
 To set upon that proud Alphonsus' troop.  
 56 (The cause you know, and can inform them well,  
 That makes me take these bloody broils in hand);  
 58 And say, that I desire their sacred god,  
 That Mahomet which ruleth all the skies,  
 60 To send me word, and that most speedily,  
 Which of us shall obtain the victory.

62  
 64 *[Exeunt all except Bajazet and Amurack.]*

64  
 66 You, Bajazet, go post away apace  
 To Syria, Scythia, and Albania,  
 To Babylon, with Mesopotamia,  
 68 Asia, Armenia, and all other lands  
 Which owe their homage to high Amurack;  
 70 Charge all their kings with expedition  
 To gather up the chiefest men-at-arms  
 72 Which now remain in their dominions,  
 And on the twenty day of the same month,  
 74 To come and wait on Amurack their king,  
 At his chief city Constantinople.  
 76 Tell them, moreover, that who so doth fail,  
 Naught else but death from prison shall him bail.

78  
 80 *[Exit Bajazet.]*

*[Sound music within.]*

82  
 84 What heavenly music soundeth in my ear?  
 Peace, Amurack, and hearken to the same.

86  
*[Amurack hearkens to the music, and falls asleep.]*



136  
 138 **Calch.** Forced by thy charm, though with unwilling mind,  
 I haste to hell, the certainty to find.

140 [Calchas sinks down from where he came up.]

142 **Medea.** Now, peerless princes, I must needs be gone;  
 My hasty business calls me from this place.  
 144 There resteth naught, but that you bear in mind  
 What Amurack, in this his fit, doth say;  
 146 For mark, what dreaming, madam, he doth prate,  
 Assure yourself, that that shall be his fate.

148  
 150 **Fausta.** Though very loath to let thee so depart,  
 Farewell, Medea, easer of my heart.

152 [Exit Medea.]

154 [Instruments sound within.]

156 **Amur.** [Speaking in a dream]  
 What, Amurack, doest thou begin to nod?  
 158 Is this the care that thou hast of thy wars?  
 As when thou shouldst be prancing of thy steed,  
 160 To egg thy soldiers forward in thy wars,  
 Thou sittest moping by the fire-side?  
 162 See where thy viceroys grovel on the ground;  
 Look where Belinus breatheth forth his ghost;  
 164 Behold by millions how thy men do fall  
 Before Alphonsus, like to silly sheep;  
 166 And canst thou stand still lazing in this sort? –  
 No, proud Alphonsus, Amurack doth fly  
 168 To quail thy courage, and that speedily. –

170 [Instruments sound within.]

172 And dost thou think, thou proud injurious god,  
 Mahound I mean, since thy vain prophesies  
 174 Led Amurack into this doleful case,  
 To have his princely feet in irons clapped,  
 176 Which erst the proudest kings were forced to kiss,  
 That thou shalt scape unpunished for the same?  
 178 No, no, as soon as by the help of Jove  
 I scape this bondage, down go all thy groves,  
 180 Thy altars tumble round about the streets,  
 And whereas erst we sacrificed to thee,  
 182 Now all the Turks thy mortal foes shall be. –

184 [Instruments sound within.]

186 Behold the gem and jewel of mine age,  
 See where she comes, whose heavenly majesty  
 188 Doth far surpass the brave and gorgeous pace  
 Which Cytherea, daughter unto Jove,  
 190 Did put in ure whenas she had obtained  
 The golden apple at the shepherd's hands.  
 192 See, worthy Fausta, where Alphonsus stands,  
 Whose valiant courage could not daunted be  
 194 With all the men-at-arms of Africa;  
 See now he stands, as one that lately saw  
 196 Medusa's head, or Gorgon's hoary hue. –

198 *[Instruments sound within.]*

200 And can it be that it may happen so?  
 Can Fortune prove so friendly unto me  
 202 As that Alphonsus loves Iphigina?  
 The match is made, the wedding is decreed.  
 204 Sound trumpets, haw! strike drums for mirth and glee!  
 And three times welcome son-in-law to me.

206 *[Fausta rises up in a fury, and wakes Amurack.]*

208 **Fausta.** Fie, Amurack, what wicked words be these?  
 210 How canst thou look thy Fausta in her face,  
 Whom thou hast wrongèd in this shameful sort?  
 212 And are the vows so solemnly you sware  
 Unto Belinus, my most friendly niece,  
 214 Now washed so clearly from thy traitorous heart?  
 Is all the rancour which you erst did bear  
 216 Unto Alphonsus worn so out of mind,  
 As, where thou should'st pursue him to [the] death,  
 218 You seek to give our daughter to his hands?  
 The gods forbid that such a heinous deed  
 220 With my consent should ever be decreed;  
 And rather than thou shouldst it bring to pass,  
 222 If all the army of Amázonës  
 Will be sufficient to withhold the same,  
 224 Assure thyself that Fausta means to fight  
 'Gainst Amurack for to maintain the right.

226 **Iphig.** Yea, mother, say – which Mahomet forbid –  
 228 That in this conflict you should have the foil,  
 Ere that Alphonsus should be called my spouse,  
 230 This heart, this hand, yea, and this blade, should be  
 A readier means to finish that decree.

232

[*Amurack rises in a rage from his chair.*]

234 **Amur.** What threatening words thus thunder in mine ears?  
 236 Or who are they amongst the mortal troops,  
 That dares presume to use such threats to me?  
 238 The proudest kings and keisers of the land  
 Are glad to feed me in my fantasy;  
 240 And shall I suffer, then, each prattling dame  
 For to upbraid me in this spiteful sort?  
 242 No, by the heavens, first will I lose my crown,  
 My wife, my children, yea, my life and all.  
 244 And therefore, Fausta, thou which Amurack  
 Did'st tender erst as the apple of mine eye,  
 246 Avoid my court, and, if thou lov'st thy life,  
 Approach not nigh unto my regiment.  
 248 As for this carping girl, Iphigina,  
 Take her with thee to bear thee company,  
 250 And in my land I rede be seen no more,  
 For if you do, you both shall die therefóre.

252

[*Exit Amurack.*]

254

**Fausta.** Nay, then, I see 'tis time to look about,  
 256 Delay is dangerous, and procureth harm:  
 The wanton colt is tamèd in his youth;  
 258 Wounds must be cured when they be fresh and green;  
 And pleurisies, when they begin to breed,  
 260 With little care are driven away with speed.  
 Had Fausta then, when Amurack begun  
 262 With spiteful speeches to control and check,  
 Sought to prevent it by her martial force,  
 264 This banishment had never happed to me.  
 But the echinus, fearing to be gored,  
 266 Doth keep her younglings in her paunch so long,  
 Till, when their pricks be waxen long and sharp,  
 268 They put their dam at length to double pain:  
 And I, because I loathed the broils of Mars,  
 270 Bridled my thoughts and pressèd down my rage;  
 In recompense of which my good intent,  
 272 I have received this woeful banishment. —  
 Woeful, said I? Nay, happy I did mean,  
 274 If that be happy which doth set one free;  
 For by this means I do not doubt ere long  
 276 But Fausta shall with ease revenge her wrong. —  
 Come, daughter, come: my mind foretelleth me  
 278 That Amurack shall soon requited be.

ACT III, SCENE III.

*A Grove.*

*As Fausta and Iphigina are going out,  
enter **Medea**, meeting them.*

- 1 **Medea.** Fausta, what means this sudden flight of yours?  
2 Why do you leave your husband's princely court,  
And all alone pass through these thickest groves,  
4 More fit to harbour brutish savage beasts  
Than to receive so high a queen as you?  
6 Although your credit would not stay your steps  
From bending them into these darkish dens,  
8 Yet should the danger which is imminent  
To every one which passeth by these paths,  
10 Keep you at home with fair Iphigina.  
What foolish toy hath tickled you to this?  
12 I greatly fear some hap hath hit amiss.
- 14 **Fausta.** No toy, Medea, tickled Fausta's head,  
Nor foolish fancy led me to these groves,  
16 But earnest business eggs my trembling steps  
To pass all dangers, whatso'er they be.  
18 I banished am, Medea, I, which erst  
Was Empress over all the triple world,  
20 Am banished now from palace and from pomp.  
But if the gods be favourers to me,  
22 Ere twenty days I will revengèd be.
- 24 **Medea.** I thought as much, when first from thickest leaves  
I saw you trudging in such posting pace.  
26 But to the purpose: what may be the cause  
Of this [so] strange and sudden banishment?  
28
- Fausta.** The cause, ask you? A simple cause, God wot:  
30 'Twas neither treason, nor yet felony,  
But for because I blamed his foolishness.  
32
- Medea.** I hear you say so, but I greatly fear,  
34 Ere that your tale be brought unto an end,  
You'll prove yourself the author of the same.  
36 But pray, be brief, what folly did your spouse?  
And how will you revenge your wrong on him?  
38
- Fausta.** "What folly", quoth you? Such as never yet  
40 Was heard or seen, since Phoebus first gan shine.

42 You know how he was gathering in all haste  
 His men-at-arms, to set upon the troop  
 Of proud Alphonsus; yea, you well do know  
 44 How you and I did do the best we could  
 To make him shew us in his drowsy dream  
 46 What afterward should happen in his wars.  
 Much talk he had, which now I have forgot.  
 48 But at the length, this surely was decreed,  
 How that Alphonsus and Iphigina  
 50 Should be conjoined in Juno's sacred rites.  
 Which when I heard, as one that did despise  
 52 That such a traitor should be son to me,  
 I did rebuke my husband Amurack:  
 54 And since my words could take no better place,  
 My sword with help of all Amázonës  
 56 Shall make him soon repent his foolishness.

58 **Medea.** This is the cause, then, of your banishment?  
 And now you go unto Amázonë  
 60 To gather all your maidens in array,  
 To set upon the mighty Amurack?  
 62 Oh, foolish queen, what meant you by this talk?  
 Those prattling speeches have undone you all.  
 64 Do you disdain to have that mighty prince,  
 I mean Alphonsus, counted for your son?  
 66 I tell you, Fausta, he is born to be  
 The ruler of a mighty monarchy.  
 68 I must confess the powers of Amurack  
 Be great; his confines stretch both far and near;  
 70 Yet are they not the third part of the lands  
 Which shall be rulèd by Alphonsus' hands –  
 72 And yet you dain to call him son-in-law.  
 But when you see his sharp and cutting sword  
 74 Piercing the heart of this your gallant girl,  
 You'll curse the hour wherein you did deny  
 76 To join Alphonsus with Iphigina.

78 **Fausta.** The gods forbid that e'er it happen so.

80 **Medea.** Nay, never pray, for it must happen so.

82 **Fausta.** And is there, then, no remedy for it?

84 **Medea.** No, none but one, and that you have forsworn.

86 **Fausta.** As though an oath can bridle so my mind  
 As that I dare not break a thousand oaths  
 88 For to eschew the danger imminent!

90 Speak, good Medea, tell that way to me,  
 And I will do it, whatsoe'er it be.

92 *Medea.* Then, as already you have well decreed,  
 Pack to your country, and in readiness  
 94 Select the army of Amázonës;  
 When you have done, march with your female troop  
 96 To Naples' town, to succour Amurack;  
 And so, by marriage of Iphigina,  
 98 You soon shall drive the danger clean away.

100 *Iphig.* So shall we soon eschew Charybdis' lake,  
 And headlong fall to Scylla's greedy gulf.  
 102 I vowed before, and now do vow again,  
 Before I wed Alphonsus, I'll be slain.

104 *Medea.* In vain it is to strive against the stream;  
 106 Fates must be followed, and the gods' decree  
 Must needs take place in every kind of cause.  
 108 Therefore, fair maid, bridle these brutish thoughts,  
 And learn to follow what the Fates assign.  
 110 When Saturn heard that Jupiter his son  
 Should drive him headlong from his heavenly seat  
 112 Down to the bottom of the dark Avern,  
 He did command his mother presently  
 114 To do to death the young and guiltless child;  
 But what of that? The mother loathed in heart  
 116 For to commit so vile a massacre;  
 Yea, Jove did live, and, as the Fates did say,  
 118 From heavenly seat drave Saturn clean away.  
 What did avail the castle all of steel,  
 120 The which Acrisius causèd to be made  
 To keep his daughter Danaë clogged in?  
 122 She was with child for all her castle's force;  
 And by that child Acrisius, her sire,  
 124 Was after slain, so did the Fates require.  
 A thousand examples I could bring hereof;  
 126 But marble stones needs no colouring,  
 And that which every one doth know for truth  
 128 Needs no examples to confirm the same.  
 That which the Fates appoint must happen so,  
 130 Though heavenly Jove and all the gods say no.

132 *Fausta.* Iphigina, she say[e]th naught but truth;  
 Fates must be followed in their just decrees;  
 134 And therefore, setting all delays aside,  
 Come let us wend unto Amázonë,  
 136 And gather up our forces out of hand.

138 | **Iphig.** Since Fausta wills, and Fates do so command,  
140 | Iphigina will never it withstand.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT IV.PROLOGUE.*Enter Venus.*

1 *Venus.* Thus have you seen how Amurack himself,  
 2 Fausta his wife, and every other king  
 Which hold their sceptres at the Turk his hands,  
 4 Are now in arms, intending to destroy,  
 And bring to naught, the Prince of Aragon.  
 6 Charms have been used by wise Medea's art,  
 To know before what afterward shall hap;  
 8 And King Belinus, with high Claramont,  
 Joined to Arcastus, which with princely pomp  
 10 Doth rule and govern all the warlike Moors,  
 Are sent as legates to God Mahomet,  
 12 To know his counsel in these high affairs.  
 Mahound, provoked by Amurack's discourse,  
 14 Which, as you heard, he in his dream did use,  
 Denies to play the prophet any more;  
 16 But, by the long entreaty of his priests,  
 He prophesies in such a crafty sort  
 18 As that the hearers needs must laugh for sport.  
 Yet poor Belinus, with his fellow kings,  
 20 Did give such credence to that forgèd tale  
 As that they lost their dearest lives thereby,  
 22 And Amurack became a prisoner  
 Unto Alphonsus, as straight shall appear.  
 24

*[Exit Venus.]*

ACT IV, SCENE I.

*The Temple of Mahomet.*

*Let there be a Brazen Head set in the middle  
of the place behind the stage, out of the which  
cast flames of fire; drums rumble within.*

*Enter two Priests.*

1 **1st Priest.** My fellow priest of Mahound's holy house,  
2 What can you judge of these strange miracles  
3 Which daily happen in this sacred seat?

4

*[Drums rumble within.]*

6

Hark, what a rumbling rattleth in our ears!

8

*[Flakes of fire are cast forth of the Brazen Head.]*

10

See flakes of fire proceeding from the mouth  
12 Of Mahomet, that god of peerless power!  
Nor can I tell, with all the wit I have,  
14 What Mahomet, by these his signs, doth crave.

16

**2nd Priest.** Thrice ten times Phoebus with his golden beams  
Hath compassèd the circle of the sky,  
18 Thrice ten times Ceres hath her workmen hired,  
And filled her barns with fruitful crops of corn,  
20 Since first in priesthood I did lead my life;  
Yet in this time I never heard before  
22 Such fearful sounds, nor saw such wondrous sights;  
Nor can I tell, with all the wit I have,  
24 What Mahomet, by these his signs, doth crave.

26

**Mahom.** *[Speaking out of the Brazen Head]*

You cannot tell, nor will you seek to know:  
28 Oh, perverse priest[s], how careless are you waxed,  
As when my foes approach unto my gates,  
30 You stand still talking of "I cannot tell"!  
Go, pack you hence, and meet the Turkish kings,  
32 Which now are drawing to my temple ward;  
Tell them from me, God Mahomet is disposed  
34 To prophesy no more to Amurack,  
Since that his tongue is waxen now so free,  
36 As that it needs must chat and rail at me.

38

*[The Priests kneel.]*

40 **Ist Priest.** Oh Mahomet, if all the solemn prayers  
 Which from our childhood we have offered thee,  
 42 Can make thee call this sentence back again,  
 Bring not thy priest[s] into this dangerous state!  
 44 For when the Turk doth hear of this repulse,  
 We shall be sure to die the death therefóre.

46 **Mahom.** [*Speaking out of the Brazen Head*]  
 48 Thou sayest truth: go call the princes in:  
 I'll prophesy unto them for this once;  
 50 But in such wise as they shall neither boast,  
 Nor you be hurt in any kind of wise.

52 *Belinus, Claramont, Arcastus and Fabius*  
 54 *are brought in by the Priests.*

56 **Ist Priest.** You kings of Turkey, Mahomet our god,  
 By sacred science having notice that  
 58 You were sent legates from high Amurack  
 Unto this place, commanded us, his priests,  
 60 That we should cause you make as mickle speed  
 As well you might, to hear for certainty  
 62 Of that shall happen to your king and ye.

64 **Belin.** For that intent we came into this place;  
 And sithens that the mighty Mahomet  
 66 Is now at leisure for to tell the same,  
 Let us make haste and take time while we may,  
 68 For mickle danger happeneth through delay.

70 **2nd Priest.** Truth, worthy king, and therefore you yourself,  
 With your companions, kneel before this place,  
 72 And listen well what Mahomet doth say.

74 **Belin.** As you do will, we jointly will obey.

76 [*All kneel down before the Brazen Head.*]

78 **Mahom.** [*Speaking out of the Brazen Head*]  
 Princes of Turkey, and ambassadors  
 80 Of Amurack to mighty Mahomet,  
 I needs must muse that you, which erst have been  
 82 The readiest soldiers of the triple world,  
 Are now become so slack in your affairs,  
 84 As, when you should with bloody blade in hand  
 Be hacking helms in thickest of your foes,  
 86 You stand still loitering in the Turkish soil.  
 What, know you not, how that it is decreed

88 | By all the gods, and chiefly by myself,  
 That you with triumph should all crownèd be?  
 90 | Make haste, [then] kings, lest when the Fates do see  
 How carelessly you do neglect their words,  
 92 | They call a council, and force Mahomet  
 Against his will some other things to set.  
 94 | Send Fabius back to Amurack again,  
 To haste him forwards in his enterprise;  
 96 | And march you on, with all the troops you have,  
 To Naples ward, to conquer Aragon,  
 98 | For, if you stay, both you and all your men  
 Must needs be sent down straight to Limbo-den.

100 | **2nd Priest.** Muse not, brave kings, at Mahomet's discourse,  
 102 | For mark what he forth of that mouth doth say,  
 Assure yourselves it needs must happen so.  
 104 | Therefore make haste, go mount you on your steeds,  
 And set upon Alphonsus presently:  
 106 | So shall you reap great honour for your pain,  
 And scape the scourge which else the Fates ordain.

108 |

[All rise up.]

110 |

**Belin.** Then, proud Alphonsus, look thou to thy crown:  
 112 | Belinus comes, in glittering armour clad,  
 All ready prest for to revenge the wrong  
 114 | Which, not long since, you offered unto him;  
 And since we have God Mahound on our side,  
 116 | The victory must needs to us betide.

118 | **Clar.** Worthy Belinus, set such threats away,  
 And let us haste as fast as horse can trot  
 120 | To set upon presumptuous Aragon. –  
 You Fabius, haste, as Mahound did command,  
 122 | To Amurack with all the speed you may.

124 | **Fabius.** With willing mind I hasten on my way.

126 |

[Exit Fabius.]

128 | **Belin.** And thinking long till that we be in fight,  
 Belinus hastes to quail Alphonsus' might.

130 |

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV, SCENE II.*Near Naples.**Alarum awhile.**Enter Carinus.*

1 **Carin.** No sooner had God Phoebus' brightsome beams  
 2 Begun to dive within the Western seas,  
 And darksome Nox had spread about the earth  
 4 Her blackish mantle, but a drowsy sleep  
 Did take possession of Carinus' sense,  
 6 And Morpheus showed me strange disguisèd shapes.  
 Methought I saw Alphonsus, my dear son,  
 8 Placed in a throne all glittering clear with gold,  
 Bedecked with diamonds, pearls and precious stones,  
 10 Which shined so clear, and glittered all so bright,  
 Hyperion's coach that well be termed it might.  
 12 Above his head a canopy was set,  
 Not decked with plumes, as other princes use,  
 14 But all beset with heads of conquered kings,  
 Installed with crowns, which made a gallant shew,  
 16 And strook a terror to the viewers' hearts.  
 Under his feet lay groveling on the ground  
 18 Thousand of princes, which he in his wars  
 By martial might did conquer and bring low:  
 20 Some lay as dead as either stock or stone,  
 Some other[s] tumbled, wounded to the death;  
 22 But most of them, as to their sovereign king,  
 Did offer duly homage unto him.  
 24 As thus I stood beholding of this pomp,  
 Methought Alphonsus did espy me out,  
 26 And, at a trice, he leaving throne alone,  
 Came to embrace me in his blessèd arms.  
 28 Then noise of drums and sound of trumpets shrill  
 Did wake Carinus from this pleasant dream.  
 30 Something, I know, is now foreshewn by this:  
 The gods forfend that aught should hap amiss.

32

*[Carinus walk up and down.]*

34

*Enter the Duke of Millain in pilgrim's apparel.*

36

**Duke.** This is the chance of fickle Fortune's wheel;  
 38 A prince at morn, a pilgrim ere't be night.  
 I, which erewhile did dain for to possess  
 40 The proudest palace of the western world,

42 Would now be glad a cottage for to find  
 To hide my head; so Fortune hath assigned.  
 Thrice Hesperus with pomp and peerless pride  
 44 Hath heaved his head forth of the eastern seas,  
 Thrice Cynthia, with Phoebus' borrowed beams,  
 46 Hath shewn her beauty through the darkish clouds,  
 Since that I, wretched duke, have tasted aught,  
 48 Or drunk a drop of any kind of drink.  
 Instead of beds set forth with ebony,  
 50 The greenish grass hath been my resting place;  
 And, for my pillow stuffed with down,  
 52 The hardish hillocks have sufficed my turn.  
 Thus I, which erst had all things at my will,  
 54 A life more hard than death do follow still.

56 **Carin.** [*Aside*] Methinks I hear, not very far from hence,  
 Some woeful wight lamenting his mischance:  
 58 I'll go and see if that I can espy  
 Him where he sits, or overhear his talk.  
 60

**Duke.** O Millain, Millain, little dost thou think,  
 62 How that thy Duke is now in such distress!  
 For if thou didst, I soon should be released  
 64 Forth of this greedy gulf of misery.

66 **Carin.** [*Aside*] The Millain Duke! I thought as much before,  
 When first I glanced mine eyes upon his face.  
 68 This is the man which was the only cause  
 That I was forced to fly from Aragon:  
 70 High Jove be praised, which hath allotted me  
 So fit a time to quite that injury. –  
 72 Pilgrim, God speed.

74 **Duke.** Welcome, grave sir, to me.

76 **Carin.** Methought as now I heard you for to speak  
 Of Millain-land: pray, do you know the same?  
 78

**Duke.** Ay, agèd father, I have cause to know  
 80 Both Millain-land and all the parts thereof.

82 **Carin.** Why then, I doubt not but you can resolve  
 Me of a question that I shall demand.  
 84

**Duke.** Ay, that I can, whatever that it be.  
 86

**Carin.** Then, to be brief: not twenty winters past,  
 88 When these my limbs, which withered are with age,

90 Were in the prime and spring of all their youth,  
 I still desirous, as young gallants be,  
 To see the fashions of Arabia,  
 92 My native soil, and in this pilgrim's weed,  
 Began to travel through unkennèd lands.  
 94 Much ground I past, and many soils I saw;  
 But when my feet in Millain-land I set,  
 96 Such sumptuous triumphs daily there I saw  
 As never in my life I found the like.  
 98 I pray, good sir, what might the occasion be,  
 That made the Millains make such mirth and glee?

100 **Duke.** This solemn joy, whereof you now do speak,  
 102 Was not solémnizèd, my friend, in vain,  
 For at that time there came into the land  
 104 The happiest tidings that they e'er did hear;  
 For news was brought upon that solemn day  
 106 Unto our court, that Ferdinandus proud  
 Was slain himself, Carinus and his son  
 108 Were banished both for ever from Aragon;  
 And for these happy news that joy was made.

110 **Carin.** But what, I pray, did afterward become  
 112 Of old Carinus with his banished son?  
 What, hear you nothing of them all this while?

114 **Duke.** Yes, too-too-much, the Millain Duke may say.  
 116 Alphonsus first by secret means did get  
 To be a soldier in Belinus' wars,  
 118 Wherein he did behave himself so well  
 As that he got the Crown of Aragon;  
 120 Which being got, he dispossessed also  
 The king Belinus which had fostered him.  
 122 As for Carinus, he is dead and gone:  
 I would his son were his companiön.

124 **Carin.** A blister build upon that traitor's tongue!  
 126 But, for thy friendship which thou shewed'st me,  
 Take that of me, I frankly give it thee.

128 *[Carinus stabs the Duke of Millain, who dies.]*

130 Now will I haste to Naples with all speed,  
 132 To see if Fortune will so favour me  
 To view Alphonsus in his happy state.

134

*[Exit Carinus.]*

ACT IV, SCENE III.*The Palace at Constantinople.*

*Enter Amurack, Crocon (King of Arabia),  
Faustus (King of Babylon), Fabius,  
with the Provost and Janissaries.*

1 **Amur.** Fabius, come hither: what is that thou sayest?  
2 What did god Mahound prophesy to us?  
3 Why do our viceroys wend unto the wars  
4 Before their king had notice of the same?  
5 What, do they think to play bob-fool with me?  
6 Or are they waxed so frolic now of late,  
7 Since that they had the leading of our bands,  
8 As that they think that mighty Amurack  
9 Dares do no other than to soothe them up? –  
10 Why speak'st thou not? What fond or frantic fit  
11 Did make those careless kings to venture it?

12 **Fabius.** Pardon, dear lord; no frantic fit at all,  
13 No frolic vain, nor no presumptuous mind,  
14 Did make your viceroys take these wars in hand;  
15 But forced they were by Mahound's prophecy  
16 To do the same, or else resolve to die.

17 **Amur.** So, sir, I hear you, but can scarce believe  
18 That Mahomet would charge them go before,  
19 Against Alphonsus, with so small a troop,  
20 Whose number far exceeds King Xerxes' troop.

21 **Fabius.** Yes, noble lord, and more than that, he said  
22 That, ere that you, with these your warlike men,  
23 Should come to bring your succour to the field,  
24 Belinus, Claramont, and Arcastus too  
25 Should all be crowned with crowns of beaten gold,  
26 And borne with triumph round about their tents.

27 **Amur.** With triumph, man! Did Mahound tell them so? –  
28 Provost, go carry Fabius presently  
29 Unto the Marshalsea; there let him rest,  
30 Clapped sure and safe in fetters all of steel,  
31 Till Amurack discharge him from the same;  
32 For be he sure, unless it happen so  
33 As he did say Mahound did prophesy,  
34 By this my hand forthwith the slave shall die.

40 | *[As Fabius is being carried out, enter a Soldier.]*

42 | **Sold.** Stay, Provost, stay, let Fabius alone:  
More fitteth now that every lusty lad  
44 | Be buckling on his helmet, than to stand  
In carrying soldiers to the Marshalsea.

46 | **Amur.** Why, what art thou, that darest once presume  
48 | For to gainsay that Amurack did bid?

50 | **Sold.** I am, my Lord, the wretched'st man alive,  
Born underneath the planet of mishap;  
52 | Erewhile a soldier of Belinus' band,  
But now –

54 | **Amur.** What now?

56 | **Sold.** The mirror of mishap;  
58 | Whose captain is slain, and all his army dead,  
Only excepted me, unhappy wretch.

60 | **Amur.** What news is this? And is Belinus slain?  
62 | Is this the crown which Mahomet did say  
He should with triumph wear upon his head?  
64 | Is this the honour which that cursèd god  
Did prophesy should happen to them all?  
66 | Oh Daedalus, and wert thou now alive,  
To fasten wings upon high Amurack,  
68 | Mahound should know, and that for certainty,  
That Turkish kings can brook no injury!

70 | **Fabius.** Tush, tush, my lord; I wonder what you mean,  
72 | Thus to exclaim against high Mahomet:  
I'll lay my life that, ere this day be past,  
74 | You shall perceive his tidings all be waste.

76 | **Amur.** "We shall perceive", accursèd Fabius!  
Suffice it not that thou hast been the man  
78 | That first didst beat those babbles in my brain,  
But that, to help me forward in my grief,  
80 | Thou seekest to confirm so foul a lie?  
Go get thee hence, and tell thy traitorous king

82 | *[Amurack stabs Fabius, who dies.]*

84 | What gift you had, which did such tidings bring. –  
86 | And now, my lords, since nothing else will serve,  
Buckle your helms, clap on your steelèd coats,

88 Mount on your steeds, take lances in your hands;  
 For Amurack doth mean this very day  
 90 Proud Mahomet with weapons to assay.

92 *Sold.* Mercy, high monarch! [i]t is no time now  
 To spend the day in such vain threatenings  
 94 Against our god, the mighty Mahomet.  
 More fitteth thee to place thy men-at-arms  
 96 In battle 'ray, for to withstand your foes,  
 Which now are drawing towards you with speed.

98

[Drums sound within.]

100

Hark, how their drums with dub-a-dub do come!  
 102 To arms, high lord, and set these trifles by,  
 That you may set upon them valiantly.

104

*Amur.* And do they come? You kings of Turkey[-land],  
 106 Now is the time in which your warlike arms  
 Must raise your names above the starry skies.  
 108 Call to your mind your predecessors' acts,  
 Whose martial might, this many a hundred year,  
 110 Did keep those fearful dogs in dread and awe,  
 And let your weapons show Alphonsus plain,  
 112 That though that they be clappèd up in clay,  
 Yet there be branches sprung up from those trees,  
 114 In Turkish land, which brook no injuries.  
 Besides the same, remember with yourselves  
 116 What foes we have; not mighty Tamburlaine,  
 Nor soldiers trained up amongst the wars,  
 118 But fearful boors, picked from their rural flock,  
 Which, till this time, were wholly ignorant  
 120 What weapons meant, or bloody Mars doth crave.  
 More would I say, but horses that be free  
 122 Do need no spurs, and soldiers which themselves  
 Long and desire to buckle with the foe,  
 124 Do need no words to egg them to the same.

126

*Enter Alphonsus,*  
*with a canopy carried over him by three lords,*  
 128 *having over each corner a king's head crowned;*  
*with him, Albinus, Laelius, and Miles,*  
 130 *with crowns on their heads, and their Soldiers.*

132 Besides the same, behold whereas our foes  
 Are marching towards us most speedily.  
 134 Courage, my lords, ours is the victory.

136 **Alphon.** Thou pagan dog, how dar'st thou be so bold  
To set thy foot within Alphonsus' land?

138 What, art thou come to view thy wretched kings,  
Whose traitorous heads bedeck my tent so well?

140 Or else, thou hearing that on top thereof  
There is a place left vacant, art thou come

142 To have thy head possess the highest seat?

If it be so, lie down, and this my sword

144 Shall presently that honour thee afford.

If not, pack hence, or by the heavens I vow,

146 Both thou and thine shall very soon perceive

That he that seeks to move my patiënce

148 Must yield his life to me for recompense.

150 **Amur.** Why, proud Alphonsus, think'st thou Amurack,

Whose mighty force doth terrify the gods,

152 Can e'er be found to turn his heels, and fly

Away for fear from such a boy as thou?

154 No, no, although that Mars this mickle while

Hath fortified thy weak and feeble arm,

156 And Fortune oft hath viewed with friendly face

Thy armies marching victors from the field,

158 Yet at the presence of high Amurack

Fortune shall change, and Mars, that god of might,

160 Shall succour me, and leave Alphonsus quite.

162 **Alphon.** Pagan, I say, thou greatly art deceived.

I clap up Fortune in a cage of gold,

164 To make her turn her wheel as I think best;

And as for Mars, whom you do say will change,

166 He moping sits behind the kitchen-door,

Prest at command of every scullion's mouth,

168 Who dares not stir, nor once to move a whit,

For fear Alphonsus then should stomach it.

170 **Amur.** Blasphémous dog, I wonder that the earth

172 Doth cease from renting underneath thy feet,

To swallow up that cankered corpse of thine.

174 I muse that Jove can bridle so his ire

As, when he hears his brother so misused,

176 He can refrain from sending thunderbolts

By thick and threefold, to revenge his wrong. —

178 Mars fight for me, and Fortune be my guide!

And I'll be victor, whatsome'er betide.

180

**Alb.** Pray loud enough, lest that you pray in vain:

182 Perhaps God Mars and Fortune is asleep.

184 **Amur.** And Mars lies slumbering on his downy bed,  
 Yet do not think but that the power we have,  
 186 Without the help of those celestial gods,  
 Will be sufficient, yea, with small ado,  
 188 Alphonsus' stragglings army to subdue.

190 **Lael.** You had need as then to call for Mahomet,  
 With hellish hags [for] to perform the same.

192  
**Faustus.** High Amurack, I wonder what you mean,  
 194 That, when you may, with little toil or none  
 Compel these dogs to keep their tongues in peace,  
 196 You let them stand still barking in this sort:  
 Believe me, sovereign, I do blush to see  
 198 These beggars' brats to chat so frolicly.

200 **Alphon.** How now, sir boy! Let Amurack himself,  
 Or any he, the proudest of you all,  
 202 But offer once for to unsheath his sword,  
 If that he dares, for all the power you have.

204  
**Amur.** What, dar'st thou us? Myself will venture it. —  
 206 To arms, my mates!

208  
*Amurack draws his sword;*  
*Alphonsus and all the other kings draw theirs.*  
 210 *Alarum: Amurack and his company fly,*  
*followed by Alphonsus and his company.*

ACT V.

PROLOGUE.

*Alarum.*  
*Enter Venus.*

1 *Venus.* Fierce is the fight, and bloody is the broil.  
2 No sooner had the roaring cannon shot  
Spit forth the venom of their firèd paunch,  
4 And with their pellets sent such troops of souls  
Down to the bottom of the dark Avern,  
6 As that it covered all the Stygian fields;  
But, on a sudden, all the men-at-arms,  
8 Which mounted were on lusty coursers' backs,  
Did rush together with so great a noise  
10 As that I thought the giants one time more  
Did scale the heavens, as erst they did before.  
12 Long time Dame Fortune tempered so her wheel  
As that there was no vantage to be seen  
14 On any side, but equal was the gain;  
But at the length, so God and Fates decreed,  
16 Alphonsus was the victor of the field,  
And Amurack became his prisoner;  
18 Who so remained, until his daughter came,  
And by her marrying, did his pardon frame.

20

[*Exit Venus.*]

ACT V, SCENE I.

*A Battlefield near Naples.*

*Alarum:*

*Amurack flies, followed by Alphonsus,  
who takes him prisoner and carries him in.*

*Alarum.*

*As Crocon and Faustus are flying,  
enter Fausta and Iphigina, with their army,  
meeting them.*

1 **Fausta.** You Turkish kings, what sudden flight is this?  
2 What means the men, which for their valiant prowess  
Were dreaded erst clean through the triple world,  
4 Thus cowardly to turn their backs and fly?  
What froward fortune happened on your side?  
6 I hope your king in safety doth abide?

8 **Crocon.** Ay, noble madam, Amurack doth live,  
And long I hope he shall enjoy his life;  
10 But yet I fear, unless more succour come,  
We shall both lose our King and sovereign.

12 **Fausta.** How so, King Crocon? Dost thou speak in jest,  
14 To prove if Fausta would lament his death?  
Or else hath any thing happed him amiss?  
16 Speak quickly, Crocon, what the cause might be,  
That thou dost utter forth these words to me.

18 **Crocon.** Then, worthy Fausta, know that Amurack,  
20 Our mighty king, and your approvèd spouse,  
Pricked with desire of everlasting fame,  
22 As he was pressing in the thickest ranks  
Of Aragonians, was, with much ado,  
24 At length took prisoner by Alphonsus' hands.  
So that, unless you succour soon do bring,  
26 You lose your spouse, and we shall want our king.

28 **Iphig.** O hapless hap, oh dire and cruël fate!  
What injury hath Amurack, my sire,  
30 Done to the gods, which now I know are wrath,  
Although unjustly and without a cause?  
32 For well I wot, not any other king,  
Which now doth live, or since the world begun  
34 Did sway a sceptre, had a greater care  
To please the gods than mighty Amurack.

36 | And for to quite our father's great good will,  
Seek they thus basely all his fame to spill?

38 | **Fausta.** Iphigina, leave off these woeful tunes:  
40 | It is not words can cure and ease this wound,  
But warlike swords; not tears, but sturdy spears.  
42 | High Amurack is prisoner to our foes:  
What then? Think you that our Amázonës,  
44 | Joined with the forces of the Turkish troop,  
Are not sufficient for to set him free?  
46 | Yes, daughter, yes, I mean not for to sleep,  
Until he's free, or we him company keep. –  
48 | March on, my mates.

50 |

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V, SCENE II.

*Another Part of the Battlefield.*

*Alarum:*

*Alphonsus flies, followed by Iphigina.*

1 **Iphig.** How now, Alphonsus! You which never yet  
 2 Could meet your equal in the feats of arms,  
 How haps it now that in such sudden sort  
 4 You fly the presence of a silly maid?  
 What, have you found mine arm of such a force  
 6 As that you think your body over-weak  
 For to withstand the fury of my blows?  
 8 Or do you else disdain to fight with me,  
 For staining of your high nobility?

10 **Alphon.** No, dainty dame, I would not have thee think  
 12 That ever thou or any other wight  
 Shall live to see Alphonsus fly the field  
 14 From any king or keiser whosome'er:  
 First will I die in thickest of my foe,  
 16 Before I will disbase mine honour so.  
 Nor do I scorn, thou goddess, for to stain  
 18 My prowess with thee, although it be a shame  
 For knights to combat with the female sect:  
 20 But love, sweet mouse, hath so benumbed my wit,  
 That, though I would, I must refrain from it.

22 **Iphig.** I thought as much when first I came to wars;  
 24 Your noble acts were fitter to be writ  
 Within the tables of Dame Venus' son,  
 26 Than in God Mars his warlike registers:  
 Whenas your lords are hacking helms abroad,  
 28 And make their spears to shiver in the air,  
 Your mind is busied in fond Cupid's toys.  
 30 Come on, i'faith, I'll teach you for to know,  
 We came to fight, and not to love, I trow.

32 **Alphon.** Nay, virgin, stay. And if thou wilt vouchsafe  
 34 To entertain Alphonsus' simple suit,  
 Thou shalt ere long be monarch of the world:  
 36 All christened kings, with all your pagan dogs,  
 Shall bend their knees unto Iphigina;  
 38 The Indian soil shall be thine at command,  
 Where every step thou settest on the ground  
 40 Shall be receivèd on the golden mines;

42 Rich Pactolus, that river of account,  
Which doth descend from top of Tmolus Mount,  
Shall be thine own, and all the world beside,  
44 If you will grant to be Alphonsus' bride.

46 **Iphig.** Alphonsus' bride? Nay, villain, do not think  
That fame or riches can so rule my thoughts  
48 As for to make me love and fancy him  
Whom I do hate, and in such sort despise,  
50 As if my death could bring to pass his bane,  
I would not long from Pluto's port remain.

52 **Alphon.** Nay then, proud peacock, since thou art so stout  
54 As that entreaty will not move thy mind  
For to consent to be my wedded spouse,  
56 Thou shalt, in spite of gods and Fortune too,  
Serve high Alphonsus as a concubine.

58 **Iphig.** I'll rather die then ever that shall hap.

60 **Alphon.** And thou shalt die unless it come to pass.

62  
64 *[Alphonsus and Iphigina fight.  
Iphigina flies, followed by Alphonsus.]*

ACT V, SCENE III.

*The Camp of Alphonsus.*

*Alarum.*

*Enter Alphonsus with his rapier,  
Albinus, Laelius, Miles, with their soldiers.*

*Amurack, Fausta, Iphigina, Crocon and  
Faustus, all bound, with their hands behind them.*

*Amurack looks angrily on Fausta.*

*Enter Medea.*

1 **Medea.** Nay, Amurack, this is no time to jar,  
2 Although thy wife did, in her frantic mood,  
Use speeches which might better have been spared,  
4 Yet do thou not judge the same time to be  
A season to requite that injury.  
6 More fitteth thee, with all the wit thou hast,  
To call to mind which way thou mayst release  
8 Thyself, thy wife, and fair Iphigina,  
Forth of the power of stout Alphonsus' hands.  
10 For, well I wot, since first you breathèd breath,  
You never were so nigh the snares of death.  
12 Now, Amurack, your high and kingly seat,  
Your royal sceptre, and your stately crown,  
14 Your mighty country, and your men-at-arms,  
Be conquered all, and can no succour bring.  
16 Put, then, no trust in these same paltry toys,  
But call to mind that thou a prisoner art,  
18 Clapped up in chains, whose life and death depends  
Upon the hands of thy most mortal foe.  
20 Then take thou heed, that whatsome'er he say,  
Thou doest not once presume for to gainsay.

22  
24 **Amur.** Away, you fool! Think you your cursèd charms  
Can bridle so the mind of Amurack  
As that he will stand croaching to his foe?  
26 No, no, be sure that, if that beggar's brat  
Do dare but once to contrary my will,  
28 I'll make him soon in heart for to repent  
That e'er such words 'gainst Amurack he spent.

30  
32 **Medea.** Then, since thou dost disdain my good advice,  
Look to thyself, and if you fare amiss,

34 Remember that Medea counsel gave,  
 Which might you safe from all those perils save. —  
 But, Fausta, you, as well you have begun,  
 36 Beware you follow still your friend's advice:  
 If that Alphonsus do desire of thee  
 38 To have your daughter for his wedded spouse,  
 Beware you do not once the same gainsay,  
 40 Unless with death he do your rashness pay.

42 **Fausta.** No, worthy wight; first Fausta means to die  
 Before Alphonsus she will contrary.

44 **Medea.** Why, then, farewell. — But you, Iphigina,  
 46 Beware you do not over-squeamish wax,  
 Whenas your mother giveth her consent.

48 **Iphig.** The gods forbid that e'er I should gainsay  
 50 That which Medea bids me to obey.

52 [Exit Medea.]

54 [Alphonsus, who all this while has been talking to  
 Albinus, rises up out of his chair.]

56 **Alphon.** Now, Amurack, the proud blasphemous dogs,  
 58 For so you termed us, which did brawl and rail  
 Against God Mars, and fickle Fortune's wheel,  
 60 Have got the goal for all your solemn prayers.  
 Yourself are prisoner, which as then did think  
 62 That all the forces of the triple world  
 Were insufficient to fulfill the same.  
 64 How like you this? Is Fortune of such might,  
 Or hath God Mars such force or power divine,  
 66 As that he can, with all the power he hath,  
 Set thee and thine forth of Alphonsus hands?  
 68 I do not think but that your hope's so small  
 As that you would with very willing mind  
 70 Yield for my spouse the fair Iphigina,  
 On that condition, that without delay  
 72 Fausta and you may scot-free scape away.

74 **Amur.** What, think'st thou, villain, that high Amurack  
 Bears such a mind as, for the fear of death,  
 76 He'll yield his daughter, yea, his only joy,  
 Into the hands of such a dunghill knight?  
 78 No, traitor, no; for [though] as now I lie  
 Clapped up in irons and with bolts of steel,  
 80 Yet do there lurk within the Turkish soil

82 Such troops of soldiers, that with small ado,  
They'll set me scot-free from your men and you,

84 **Alphon.** "Villain," sayest thou? "Traitor" and "dunghill knight"?  
Now, by the heavens, since that thou dost deny  
86 For to fulfill that which in gentle wise  
Alphonsus craves, both thou and all thy train  
88 Shall with your lives requite that injury. –  
Albinus, lay hold of Amurack,  
90 And carry him to prison presently,  
There to remain until I do return  
92 Into my tent; for, by high Jove, I vow,  
Unless he wax more calmer out of hand,  
94 His head amongst his fellow-kings shall stand.

96 **Amur.** No, villain, think not that the fear of death  
Shall make me calmer while I draw my breath.

98

[*Amurack exits in custody of Albinus.*]

100

**Alphon.** Now, Laelius, take you Iphigina,  
102 Her mother Fausta, with these other kings,  
And put them into prisons severally;  
104 For Amurack's stout stomach shall undo  
Both he himself and all his other crew,

106

**Fausta.** [*Kneeling*]  
108 O sacred prince, if that the salt-brine tears,  
Distilling down poor Fausta's withered cheeks,  
110 Can mollify the hardness of your heart,  
Lessen this judgment, which thou in thy rage  
112 Hast given on thy luckless prisoners.

114 **Alphon.** Woman, away! My word is gone and past;  
Now, if I would, I cannot call it back.  
116 You might have yielded at my first demand,  
And then you need[ed] not to fear this hap. –

118

[*Fausta rises.*]

120

Laelius, make haste, and go thou presently  
122 For to fulfill that I commanded thee.

124 **Iphig.** [*Kneeling*]  
Mighty Alphonsus, since my mother's suit  
126 Is so rejected that in any case  
You will not grant us pardon for her sake,  
128 I now will try if that my woeful prayers

130 May plead for pity at your grace's feet.  
 131 When first you did, amongst the thickest ranks,  
 132 All clad in glittering arms encounter me,  
 133 You know yourself what love you did protest  
 134 You then did bear unto Iphigina.  
 135 Then for that love, if any love you had,  
 136 Revoke this sentence, which is too-too bad.

137 **Alphon.** No, damsel; he that will not when he may,  
 138 When he desires shall surely purchase nay:  
 139 If that you had, when first I proffer made,  
 140 Yielded to me, mark, what I promised you  
 141 I would have done; but since you did deny,  
 142 Look for denial at Alphonsus' hands.

143 [Iphigina rises up and stands aside.  
 144 Albinus re-enters; Alphonsus talk with Albinus.]

145 Enter **Carinus** in pilgrim's apparel.

146  
 147 **Carin.** [Aside]  
 148 O friendly Fortune, now thou shew'st thy power  
 149 In raising up my son from banished state  
 150 Unto the top of thy most mighty wheel! –  
 151 But what be these, which at his sacred feet  
 152 Do seem to plead for mercy at his hands?  
 153 I'll go and sift this matter to the full. –

154 [Carinus goes toward Alphonsus,  
 155 and speaks to one of his soldiers.]

156  
 157 Sir Knight, and may a pilgrim be so bold  
 158 To put your person to such mickle pain  
 159 For to inform me what great king is this,  
 160 And what these be, which, in such woeful sort,  
 161 Do seem to seek for mercy at his hands?

162 **Soldier.** Pilgrim, the king that sits on stately throne  
 163 Is called Alphonsus; and this matron hight  
 164 Fausta, the wife to Amurack the Turk;  
 165 That is their daughter, fair Iphigina;  
 166 Both which, together with the Turk himself,  
 167 He did take prisoners in a battle fought.

168 [Alphonsus spies out Carinus.]

169  
 170 **Alphon.** And can the gods be found so kind to me  
 171 As that Carinus now I do espy?



226 Been trainèd up in bloody broils of Mars,  
 What, know you not that castles are not won  
 At first assault, and women are not wooed  
 228 When first their suitors proffer love to them?  
 As for my part, I should account that maid  
 230 A wanton wench, unconstant, lewd and light,  
 That yields the field before she venture fight;  
 232 Especially unto her mortal foe,  
 As you were then unto Iphigina.  
 234 But, for because I see you fitter are  
 To enter lists and combat with your foes  
 236 Then court fair ladies in God Cupid's tents,  
 Carinus means your spokesman for to be,  
 238 And if that she consent, you shall agree.

240 **Alphon.** What you command, Alphonsus must not fly,  
 Though otherwise perhaps he would deny.  
 242

**Carin.** Then, dainty damsel, stint these trickling tears,  
 244 Cease sighs and sobs, yea, make a merry cheer:  
 Your pardon is already purchasèd,  
 246 So that you be not over-curious  
 In granting to Alphonsus' just demand.  
 248

**Iphig.** Thanks, mighty prince: no curiouser I'll be  
 250 Then doth become a maid of my degree.

252 **Carin.** The gods forbid that e'er Carinus tongue  
 Should go about to make a maid consent  
 254 Unto the thing which modesty denies.  
 That which I ask is neither hurt to thee,  
 256 Danger to parents, nor disgrace to friends,  
 But good and honest, and will profit bring  
 258 To thee and those which lean unto that thing.  
 And that is this: since first Alphonsus' eyes  
 260 Did hap to glance upon your heavenly hue,  
 And saw the rare perfection of the same,  
 262 He hath desirèd to become your spouse:  
 Now, if you will unto the same agree,  
 264 I dare assure you that you shall be free.

266 **Iphig.** Pardon, dear lord; the world goes very hard  
 When womenkind are forcèd for to woo.  
 268 If that your son had lovèd me so well,  
 Why did he not inform me of the same?  
 270

**Carin.** Why did he not? what, have you clean forgot  
 272 What ample proffers he did make to you,

274 | When, hand to hand, he did encounter you?

276 | **Iphig.** No, worthy sir, I have not it forgot;  
 276 | But Cupid cannot enter in the breast  
 278 | Where Mars before had took possession.  
 278 | That was no time to talk of Venus' games  
 280 | When all our fellows were pressed in the wars.

282 | **Carin.** Well, let that pass: now canst thou be content  
 282 | To love Alphonsus, and become his spouse?

284 | **Iphig.** Ay, if the high Alphonsus could vouchsafe  
 286 | To entertain me as his wedded spouse.

288 | **Alphon.** If that he could! what, dost thou doubt of that?  
 288 | Jason did jet whenas he had obtained  
 290 | The golden fleece by wise Medea's art;  
 290 | The Greeks rejoicèd when they had subdued  
 292 | The famous bulwarks of most stately Troy;  
 292 | But all their mirth was nothing in respect  
 294 | Of this my joy, since that I now have got  
 294 | That which I long desirèd in my heart.

296 | **Carin.** But what says Fausta to her daughter's choice?

298 | **Fausta.** Fausta doth say, the gods have been her friends,  
 300 | To let her live to see Iphigina  
 300 | Bestowèd so unto her heart's content.

302 | **Alphon.** Thanks, mighty empress, for your gentleness;  
 304 | And, if Alphonsus can at any time  
 304 | With all his power requite this courtesy,  
 306 | You shall perceive how kindly he doth take  
 306 | Your forwardness in this his happy chance.

308 | **Carin.** Albinus, go call forth Amurack:  
 310 | We'll see what he doth say unto this match. —

[Exit Albinus; he brings forth Amurack.]

312 | Most mighty Turk, I, with my warlike son  
 314 | Alphonsus, loathing that so great a prince  
 316 | As you should live in such unseemly sort,  
 316 | Have sent for you to proffer life or death;  
 318 | Life, if you do consent to our demand,  
 318 | And death, if that you dare gainsay the same.  
 320 | Your wife, high Fausta, with Iphigina,  
 320 | Have given consent that this my warlike son

Should have your daughter for his bedfellow:  
 322 Now resteth naught but that you do agree,  
 And so to purchase sure tranquility.

324

*Amur.* [*Aside*]

326 Now, Amurack, advise thee what thou say'st:  
 Bethink thee well what answer thou wilt make:  
 328 Thy life and death dependeth on thy words.  
 If thou deny to be Alphonsus' sire,  
 330 Death is thy share; but if that thou consent,  
 Thy life is saved. – Consent! nay, rather die;  
 332 Should I consent to give Iphigina  
 Into the hands of such a beggar's brat?  
 334 What, Amurack, thou dost deceive thyself;  
 Alphonsus is the son unto a king;  
 336 What then? the[n] worthy of thy daughter's love.  
 She is agreed, and Fausta is content;  
 338 Then Amurack will not be discontent. –

340

[*Amurack takes Iphigina by the hand,  
 and gives her to Alphonsus.*]

342

Here, brave Alphonsus, take thou at my hand  
 344 Iphigina, I give her unto thee;  
 And for her dowry, when her father die[s],  
 346 Thou shalt possess the Turkish empery.  
 Take her, I say, and live King Nestor's years:  
 348 So would the Turk and all his noble peers.

350 *Alphon.* Immortal thanks I give unto your grace.

352 *Carin.* Now, worthy princes, since, by help of Jove,  
 On either side the wedding is decreed,  
 354 Come, let us wend to Naples speedily,  
 For to solémnize it with mirth and glee.

356

*Amur.* As you do will, we jointly do agree.

358

[*Exeunt.*]

EPILOGUE.

*Enter Venus with the Muses.*

1 *Venus.* Now, worthy Muses, with unwilling mind  
 2 Venus is forced to trudge to heavens again,  
 For Jupiter, that God of peerless power,  
 4 Proclaimèd hath a solemn festival  
 In honour of dame Danae's luckless death;  
 6 Unto the which, in pain of his displeasure,  
 He hath invited all the immortal gods  
 8 And goddesses, so that I must be there,  
 Unless I will his high displeasure bear.  
 10 You see Alphonsus hath, with much ado,  
 At length obtainèd fair Iphigina,  
 12 Of Amurack her father, for his wife;  
 Who now are going to the temple wards,  
 14 For to perform Dame Juno's sacred rites;  
 Where we will leave them till the feast be done,  
 16 Which, in the heavens, by this time is begun.  
 Meantime, dear Muses, wander you not far  
 18 Forth of the path of high Parnassus' hill,  
 That, when I come to finish up his life,  
 20 You may be ready for to succour me;  
 Adieu, dear dames; farewell, Calliopë.

22 *Call.* Adieu, you sacred goddess of the sky.

24  
[Exit Venus;  
 26 *Or, if you can conveniently, let a chair come down*  
*from the top of the stage and draw her up.]*

28  
 Well, loving sisters, since that she is gone,  
 30 Come, let us haste unto Parnassus' hill,  
 As Cytherea did [us] lately will.

32 *Melp.* Then make you haste her mind for to fulfill.

34  
[Exeunt omnes, playing on their instruments.]

*FINIS.*

## Optional Textual Changes.

The texts of the Scripts prepared for our website, ElizabethanDrama.org, generally lean towards keeping the language of the plays' earliest editions. Where obvious errors in typography have occurred, the emendations suggested by early and modern editors are usually accepted without comment.

Words and syllables have in some cases been added to the original text; such additions appear within hard brackets [ ], and may be omitted at a director's discretion. Additions may be made for one of two reasons: (1) where words or syllables have clearly been omitted from the original text by accident, and are needed for a line to make sense; and (2) where words or syllables are added to repair a line's meter.

The text of this Script may be confidently adopted by a theatre group without further revision; however, we present below a list of changes a director may wish to consider, if he or she feels any of them would make the language more sensible, etc. Most of these emendations represent suggestions of later editors of the play, and a few represent restoring original language from the quartos.

Explanations for all these possible emendations can be found in the annotated edition of this play found on our website.

### Universal Emendations.

1. modernize *Millain* to *Milan* everywhere.
2. emend *shew* (and its derivatives) to *show* everywhere.

### Act I, Prologue.

1. line 11: emend *slights* to *sleights*.

### Act I, Scene i.

1. line 67: modernize *renowm* to *renown*.
- 2: line100: omit *to*.

### Act II, Scene i.

1. line 93: modernize *strook* to *struck*.
2. line 134: emend *nothing* to *naught*, OR omit *else*.
- 3: line 242: omit *of*.
4. line 279: modernize *threed* to *thread*.

### Act III, Prologue.

1. line 9: emend *did consent* to *consented*.

### Act III, Scene i.

1. line 10: emend *When* to *Who*.
2. line 21: omit *do*.

### Act III, Scene ii.

1. line 12: modernize *glimsing* to *glimpsing*.
2. line 21: emend *I do* to *he did*.
- 3: line 73: modernize *twenty* to *twentieth*.
4. line 204: emend *haw* to *hah*.
5. line 212: modernize *sware* to *swore*.

Act III, Scene iii.

1. line 75: modernize *denay* to *deny*.
2. line 118: modernize *drave* to *drove*.
3. line 126: emend *stones need* to *stones do need*.

Act IV, Scene ii.

1. line 16: modernize *strook* to *struck*.

Act IV, Scene iii.

1. line 22: emend *troop* to *host*.
2. line 182: emend *is* to *are*.

Act V, Scene iii.

1. line 4: modernize *the same time* to *this same time*.
2. line 25 modernize *croaching* to *crouching*.
3. line 197: emend *loadstone* to *lodestar*.