

FTLN 0111 Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,
 FTLN 0112 Upon this spotted and inconstant man.

THESEUS

FTLN 0113 I must confess that I have heard so much,
 FTLN 0114 And with Demetrius thought to have spoke thereof;
 FTLN 0115 But, being overfull of self-affairs, 115
 FTLN 0116 My mind did lose it.—But, Demetrius, come,
 FTLN 0117 And come, Egeus; you shall go with me.
 FTLN 0118 I have some private schooling for you both.—
 FTLN 0119 For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself
 FTLN 0120 To fit your fancies to your father's will, 120
 FTLN 0121 Or else the law of Athens yields you up
 FTLN 0122 (Which by no means we may extenuate)
 FTLN 0123 To death or to a vow of single life.—
 FTLN 0124 Come, my Hippolyta. What cheer, my love?—
 FTLN 0125 Demetrius and Egeus, go along. 125
 FTLN 0126 I must employ you in some business
 FTLN 0127 Against our nuptial and confer with you
 FTLN 0128 Of something nearly that concerns yourselves.

EGEUS

FTLN 0129 With duty and desire we follow you.
〔All but Hermia and Lysander〕 exit.

LYSANDER

FTLN 0130 How now, my love? Why is your cheek so pale? 130
 FTLN 0131 How chance the roses there do fade so fast?

HERMIA

FTLN 0132 Belike for want of rain, which I could well
 FTLN 0133 Beteem them from the tempest of my eyes.

LYSANDER

FTLN 0134 Ay me! For aught that I could ever read,
 FTLN 0135 Could ever hear by tale or history, 135
 FTLN 0136 The course of true love never did run smooth.
 FTLN 0137 But either it was different in blood—

HERMIA

FTLN 0138 O cross! Too high to be enthralled to *〔low.〕*

LYSANDER

FTLN 0139 Or else misgraffèd in respect of years—

HERMIA

FTLN 0140 O spite! Too old to be engaged to young. 140

LYSANDER

FTLN 0141 Or else it stood upon the choice of friends—

HERMIA

FTLN 0142 O hell, to choose love by another's eyes!

LYSANDER

FTLN 0143 Or, if there were a sympathy in choice,
 FTLN 0144 War, death, or sickness did lay siege to it,
 FTLN 0145 Making it momentary as a sound, 145

FTLN 0146 Swift as a shadow, short as any dream,
 FTLN 0147 Brief as the lightning in the collied night,
 FTLN 0148 That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven and Earth,
 FTLN 0149 And, ere a man hath power to say "Behold!"
 FTLN 0150 The jaws of darkness do devour it up. 150
 FTLN 0151 So quick bright things come to confusion.

HERMIA

FTLN 0152 If then true lovers have been ever crossed,
 FTLN 0153 It stands as an edict in destiny.
 FTLN 0154 Then let us teach our trial patience
 FTLN 0155 Because it is a customary cross, 155
 FTLN 0156 As due to love as thoughts and dreams and sighs,
 FTLN 0157 Wishes and tears, poor fancy's followers.

LYSANDER

FTLN 0158 A good persuasion. Therefore, hear me, Hermia:
 FTLN 0159 I have a widow aunt, a dowager
 FTLN 0160 Of great revenue, and she hath no child. 160

FTLN 0161 From Athens is her house remote seven leagues,
 FTLN 0162 And she respects me as her only son.
 FTLN 0163 There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;
 FTLN 0164 And to that place the sharp Athenian law
 FTLN 0165 Cannot pursue us. If thou lovest me, then 165

FTLN 0166 Steal forth thy father's house tomorrow night,
 FTLN 0167 And in the wood a league without the town
 FTLN 0168 (Where I did meet thee once with Helena
 FTLN 0169 To do observance to a morn of May),
 FTLN 0170 There will I stay for thee. 170

FTLN 0171 HERMIA My good Lysander,
 FTLN 0172 I swear to thee by Cupid's strongest bow,
 FTLN 0173 By his best arrow with the golden head,
 FTLN 0174 By the simplicity of Venus' doves,
 FTLN 0175 By that which knitteth souls and prospers loves, 175
 FTLN 0176 And by that fire which burned the Carthage queen
 FTLN 0177 When the false Trojan under sail was seen,
 FTLN 0178 By all the vows that ever men have broke
 FTLN 0179 (In number more than ever women spoke),
 FTLN 0180 In that same place thou hast appointed me, 180
 FTLN 0181 Tomorrow truly will I meet with thee.

FTLN 0182 LYSANDER
 Keep promise, love. Look, here comes Helena.

Enter Helena.

FTLN 0183 HERMIA
 Godspeed, fair Helena. Whither away?

FTLN 0184 HELENA
 Call you me "fair"? That "fair" again unsay.
 FTLN 0185 Demetrius loves your fair. O happy fair! 185
 FTLN 0186 Your eyes are lodestars and your tongue's sweet air
 FTLN 0187 More tunable than lark to shepherd's ear
 FTLN 0188 When wheat is green, when hawthorn buds appear.
 FTLN 0189 Sickness is catching. O, were favor so!
 FTLN 0190 「Yours would」 I catch, fair Hermia, ere I go. 190
 FTLN 0191 My ear should catch your voice, my eye your eye;
 FTLN 0192 My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet
 FTLN 0193 melody.
 FTLN 0194 Were the world mine, Demetrius being bated,
 FTLN 0195 The rest 「I'd」 give to be to you translated. 195
 FTLN 0196 O, teach me how you look and with what art
 FTLN 0197 You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart!

FTLN 0198 HERMIA
 I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

FTLN 0199 HELENA
 O, that your frowns would teach my smiles such
 FTLN 0200 skill! 200