

Task:

Hippolyta says very little during this emotional controversy about a girl's unhappy future. In a short monolog, imagine what she might say to Theseus about the situation and his judgment.

Good to know:

monologue ≠ soliloquy

Monologue: Everybody can hear it

Soliloquy: Only the spectator can hear it, not the other characters.

Hippolyta.

My lord, I have watched the events of this day with a heart heavier than you may know. This quarrel over a maiden's future, her heart torn between love and obedience, weighs upon my spirit. Theseus, you speak of law and duty, of the edicts that must bind us all, yet I wonder — does the law not also possess a heart?

Hermia stands before us, her love for Lysander clear, her resolve unwavering. Is it just to force her into a life she does not choose, simply to uphold the words of men? My lord, you have conquered my lands, but you have also won my heart. Yet, it was not by force or decree, but through your honor and respect that I came to love you. Can we not afford Hermia the same grace? To allow love to flourish in its natural course, untainted by fear?

My lord is probably not correct. Figures like *Helena* do call him „*My lord*“ but not Hippolyta. She would not use language that implies such a hierarchy.