Shakespeare Translation - Act i, Scene 1

ACT I

SCENE 1

[Leila and Edgar stand close in the corridor, their voices low]

LEILA

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| And as the bright sun glorifies the sky, there's darkness from this cloud of darkness. | VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.485) THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (IV.VI.133) KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (V.IV.48) | The sun grows bright, yet darkness clouds the court. |

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| Here have you seen a mighty king? Doth he still rage? | PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (II.PROLOGUE.1) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (V.VII.11) | Have you observed the king's most recent rage? |

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| The fire of rage is in him of strange shadows that sometimes anger thrusts into his hide. | CYMBELINE (I.II.8) THE SONNETS (I.53.2) THE SONNETS (I.50.10) | His temper flares at shadows on the wall, |

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| Is as a whisper in the ears of death, though usurpers sway the rule awhile, when that shall fade. | PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (III.PROLOGUE.69) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.III.76) THE SONNETS (I.54.14) | At whispers that his rule might someday fade. |

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| His greatness weigh'd, his will is not his own; wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings. | THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (I.III.20) THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (IV.I.194) | I fear the weight of crown has bent his mind |

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| With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls, past thought of human reason. | THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (I.IV.59) THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (V.I.191) | Toward thoughts that reason cannot navigate. |

EDGAR

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| I have surely seen him; the eyesight of his look from the search of eyes | CYMBELINE (V.V.106) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (I.I.76) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (III.III.74) | I've seen it too... the way his eyes now search |

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| Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou liv'st in his face | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (I.III.223) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.II.159) | For traitors in the faces of his friends. |

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| Thou call'dst me up at midnight to fetch dew unto his chamber | THE TEMPEST (I.II.266) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (II.V.19) | Last night he called me to his chamber late |

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| As if they saw some wondrous monument, and hills whose heads touch heaven | THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (III.II.84) THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (I.III.157) | And spoke of monuments that touch the sky, |

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| Whose chronicle thus writ Of his most sovereign name his triumphs and his glories. | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (V.III.161) A WINTER'S TALE (V.I.32) VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.1014) | Of histories rewritten in his name... |

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| This judgement of the heavens that makes us tremble, as it were doomsday. | THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (V.III.268) THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (III.I.108) | As if tomorrow's judgment haunts today. |

LEILA

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| And call them pillars that will stand to us about his throne | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.III.51) PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (II.III.41) | We stand as pillars to support his throne, |

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| These ruined pillars, struggling for passage, earth's foundation shakes. | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (III.II.450) VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.1047) | Yet pillars crumble when the ground gives way. |

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| I then did use the person of your father; His service and his counsel before his father | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (V.II.74) KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (III.I.73) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.II.18) | Your father served as counselor before— |

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| What wisdom stirs amongst you at such a time? | A WINTER'S TALE (II.I.28) THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (II.II.170) | What wisdom did he share about such times? |

EDGAR

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| Did ever keep your counsels, to die upon the bed my father died, | A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (III.II.317) A WINTER'S TALE (IV.IV.485) | My father kept his counsel close, and died |

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| No, pardon. 'Tis a secret must be locked within the teeth and the lips. | MEASURE FOR MEASURE (III.II.107) | With secrets locked behind his silent lips. |

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| Sometimes I 'll say, "I wonder at it." I would I knew his mind. | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.IV.43) MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (III.III.87) THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA (I.II.33) | Sometimes I think... I wonder if he knew... |

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| There 's for your silence which we will pay | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (II.II.121) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (V.III.363) | That silence has a price we all must pay. |

LEILA

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| Go we to council within this hour. | TROILUS AND CRESSIDA (II.III.228) THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (IV.IX.1) | The council meeting starts within the hour. |

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| Will you be rul'd by me? I 'll make the motion but rather wishing a more strict restraint | THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (IV.VII.63) TWELFTH NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL (III.IV.232) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (I.IV.4) | Will you support my motion for restraint? |

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| All the east have cost a mass of public treasury. | THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (I.V.53) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (I.III.121) | The eastern campaign drains our treasury— |

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| The orphan pines while the oppressor feeds; when we mean to build for his dreams | THE RAPE OF LUCRECE (I.I.905) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (I.III.42) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.II.26) | The people suffer while we build his dream. |

EDGAR

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| I'll be with you to stand in thy affairs, fall by thy side. | THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (I.III.173) THE SONNETS (I.151.12) | I'll stand with you, though standing feels like falling |

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| When truth kills truth, the sides of loyalty, with truth and loyalty. | A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (III.II.129) KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (I.II.31) AS YOU LIKE IT (II.III.71) | When caught between the truth and loyalty. |

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| Your voice shall be as strong as any man's; and this soft courage makes your followers faint. | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (III.I.191) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.II.57) | Your voice gives strength to mine when courage fails. |

[He reaches for her hand, their fingers briefly intertwining]

LEILA

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| And this worm-eaten hold of ragged stone, the palace full of tongues, of eyes and ears; | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (I.PROLOGUE.35) THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (II.I.134) | In this stone fortress where the walls have ears, |

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| How we may steal from hence, like a thief, that touches any of this fruit. | CYMBELINE (III.II.61) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.X.29) AS YOU LIKE IT (II.VII.100) | We steal these moments like forbidden fruit. |

[Alastor enters; Leila and Edgar step apart quickly]

ALASTOR

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| I am most fortunate thus accidentally to encounter a precious seeing to the eye! | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (IV.III.29) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (IV.III.315) | What fortunate encounter greets my eyes! |

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| All scholars, lawyers, courtiers, gentlemen, of excellent dumb discourse. | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.IV.35) THE TEMPEST (III.III.48) | The kingdom's brightest minds in deep discourse. |

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| I trust I may have leave to speak in my affairs | THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (IV.III.77) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.I.62) | I trust I'm not intruding on affairs |

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| Interest of territory, cares of state,— | THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (I.I.43) | Of state—or matters somewhat more... personal? |

EDGAR

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| Good morrow to your lordship. | PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (III.II.12) | Just morning pleasantries, Lord Alastor. |

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| Talking of hawking; nothing else, my lord. | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.I.55) | We spoke of... council matters, nothing more. |

ALASTOR

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| That the great figure of a council frames the minds of all. | ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (III.I.14) TROILUS AND CRESSIDA (I.III.58) | Of course. The council weighs on all our minds. |

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| The king's not here. King is not to answer for it. | ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (V.I.23) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.I.160) | Our king expects solutions, not excuses. |

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| The future in the instant, bold and resolute, look forward on the journey you shall go. | THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH (I.V.59) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.IV.59) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (IV.III.44) | The future calls us forward, bold and bright. |

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| No glory lives behind the back of such. See suitors following and not look behind; the view of earthly glory. | MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (III.I.114) THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (II.I.169) KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (I.I.19) | Why look behind when glory waits ahead? |

LEILA

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| Are merely shadows to the unseen grief of what is past. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (IV.I.302) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (III.II.87) | Some lessons hide in shadows of the past. |

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| The present wars devour him; our nation's full weak to undertake our wars against. | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (I.I.260) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.II.16) CYMBELINE (III.VIII.5) | The eastern war consumes our nation's strength |

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| The whilst their own birds famish in their nests in the west upon the sandy plains. | THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (II.III.154) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (IV.IV.502) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (I.IV.33) | While children hunger in the western plains. |

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| What legacy shall I bequeath to thee if you should be our king? | THE RAPE OF LUCRECE (I.I.1192) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (I.III.148) | Is this the legacy our king should build? |

ALASTOR

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| Dear lady— you speak of for the gods know I speak this in hunger | TWELFTH NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL (III.I.94) KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (II.I.69) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (I.I.16) | You speak of hunger? Lady Leila, please— |

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| Barns and garners never empty; their storehouses crammed with grain. | THE TEMPEST (IV.I.121) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (I.I.62) | Our granaries are fuller than before. |

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| Peace and prosperity of benefit proceeding from our king. | MEASURE FOR MEASURE (I.IV.16) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (V.IV.152) | The people prosper under royal rule. |

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| You hold too heinous a respect of grief; in that hit you miss. | THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (III.IV.92) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (I.I.198) | Your sentiments, though touching, miss the mark. |

LEILA

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| Tell me whereon the likelihood depends. Make up no factious numbers for the matter, being counted falsehood. | AS YOU LIKE IT (I.III.50) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.I.41) A WINTER'S TALE (III.II.25) | Statistics without context tell false tales. |

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| I have walk'd about the streets to the common people, and I have seen | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (I.III.49) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.IV.24) THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (I.III.6) | I've walked among the common folk and seen |

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| With those that I saw suffer, not in revenues, from lender's book | THE TEMPEST (I.II.6) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (II.I.229) THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (III.IV.91) | Their struggles firsthand, not through ledger books. |

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| Must kings neglect poor wasting monuments of lasting moans, when majesty falls to folly? | THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.I.200) THE RAPE OF LUCRECE (I.I.798) THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (I.I.147) | The king builds monuments while bridges fall. |

ALASTOR

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| 'Our heir apparent is a king! Successively from age to age, he built it? Without a monument | PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (III.PROLOGUE.37) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.I.73) CYMBELINE (IV.II.284) | Our king builds future, not mere monuments! |

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| His will is most malignant, and it stretches beyond the infinite and boundless reach from our sight. | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (I.II.157) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (IV.III.122) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.III.91) | His vision stretches far beyond our sight. |

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| Who else must be let blood, deep scars to save thy life; even for the blood, by bleeding must be cured. | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (III.I.166) THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (V.I.195) THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (III.I.126) | Sometimes a surgeon's cut must first draw blood |

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| Before his legs be firm to bear his body, which to his former strength may be restored. | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.I.190) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.I.42) | Before the body heals to greater strength. |

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| To give the enemy way, and to secure us from successful wars, begins his golden progress in the east. | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (V.II.76) THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (I.I.172) THE FIRST PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.I.220) | The eastern campaign secures trade routes vital |

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| Prosperity be thy page! Many years of happy days befall! | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (I.V.26) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.I.20) | To decades of prosperity ahead. |

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| Only you do lack No scope of nature to see the world | THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (IV.I.128) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (III.IV.156) THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (I.II.52) | You lack the scope to see beyond today. |

EDGAR

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| Two truths are told; there is truth in them. Both full of truth. | THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH (I.III.136) THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (II.I.129) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.III.161) | Perhaps there's truth in both perspectives here... |

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| The king's the people's And the desire of the nobles | ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (I.I.196) THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (II.III.199) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (II.I.214) | The king's ambitions and the people's needs |

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| For better might we atone together, if we can make our peace. | THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (III.II.34) AS YOU LIKE IT (V.IV.90) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (IV.I.190) | Might find some balance if we work as one. |

ALASTOR

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| What are his words, thy boisterous chamberlain? As I have heard my father speak himself. | THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.IV.40) THE LIFE OF TIMON OF ATHENS (IV.III.236) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (I.I.108) | Balance? A curious word from Chamberlain's son. |

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| The right idea of your father, if our father carry authority, my father hath a power | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.VII.13) THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (I.I.314) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (III.II.186) | Your father understood that power demands |

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| Be bloody bold and resolute; come not to composition with the now the matter grows to compromise. | THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH (IV.I.86) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (I.II.1) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (V.IV.149) | Decisive action, not hesitant compromise. |

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| I think he will stand very strong with us, thus boldly for his king. | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (II.I.147) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (IV.I.135) | He'd stand beside our king without question. |

EDGAR

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| I served my king with all my heart | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (III.II.531) THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (I.III.212) | My father served the crown with all his heart, |

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| Direct not him whose way himself will choose by what by-paths and indirect crook'd ways that leadeth on to danger | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (II.I.29) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (IV.V.185) VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.788) | But even he would question paths that lead |

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| But darkness and the gloomy shade of death | THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (V.IV.89) | Through darkness without promise of the dawn. |

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| Would you speak with me, what would my lord? | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (I.II.221) THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (IV.XIV.64) | I wonder, Lord Alastor, would you speak |

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| An if thou hast the mettle of a king of the king | THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (II.I.408) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (II.III.168) | So boldly of the king's design if he |

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| Here stand we both in this place with me in your company? | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.I.8) TWELFTH NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL (III.III.38) MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (II.I.65) | Were standing in this corridor with us? |

ALASTOR

[with a sharp laugh]

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| Unlike all others not here in presence, I have a king's oath to the contrary. | CYMBELINE (I.VII.201) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (I.II.2) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (III.I.10) | Unlike some present, I've the king's full trust. |

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| For all in vain comes counsel to his ear. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (II.I.4) | My counsel reaches his receptive ear |

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| Without the taste of danger and reproof: without fear or doubt | THE FIRST PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.I.174) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (IV.I.88) | Without the filter of excessive caution. |

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| Our king and all his company eye to eye | PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (V.I.312) TROILUS AND CRESSIDA (III.III.112) | The king and I see eye to eye on matters |

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| That rounds the mortal temples of a king Upon this kingdom. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (III.II.161) THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (II.II.303) | That shape the kingdom's place in history. |

LEILA

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| There lies the substance and it concerns me. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (IV.I.304) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (I.I.82) | And there it lies—the core of our concern. |

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| It does, but time will—and so—Than this decision | THE LIFE OF TIMON OF ATHENS (III.VI.50) THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (V.III.5) | Not just today's decisions, but how time |

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| Judge. And in our name And on our actions set the name of right | MEASURE FOR MEASURE (I.II.36) THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (III.XII.33) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (V.II.67) | Will judge the actions taken in our name. |

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| Who like a king perplexed in his throne, what he will | VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.1043) THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (II.II.38) | The king obsesses over how he'll be |

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| Though written in our flesh, we shall remember his mortal hurt and will remembered be. | THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (V.II.144) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (III.I.100) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (IV.III.91) | Remembered when his mortal frame has failed. |

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| Death and destruction dog thee at thy heels; like a double shadow as the midday sun | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (IV.I.41) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.VI.49) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (V.II.17) | Death haunts him like a shadow at midday, |

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| And leads the will to desperate undertakings, drives him beyond the bounds of patience. | THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (II.I.112) THE FIRST PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (I.III.203) | And drives him toward increasingly desperate acts. |

ALASTOR

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| Away, for death doth hold us in pursuit. Death makes no conquest of this conqueror, like men born to renown by life or death. | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.V.127) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.I.87) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (I.IV.8) | Death haunts us all, but great men rise above |

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| That fears his fellowship to die with us. Immortal longings in me. | THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.III.41) THE TRAGEDY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (V.II.321) | Such common fear to grasp immortality. |

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| The king's will be perform'd upon a stone. | A WINTER'S TALE (II.I.137) AS YOU LIKE IT (II.IV.40) | Our king will carve his name in history's stone. |

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| Is not this piece too strait? It may be worth thy pains to ease the anguish of a torturing hour. | THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (III.VI.116) TWELFTH NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL (I.II.59) A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (V.I.38) | Is that not worth some temporary strain? |

LEILA

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| Well then, I pray, your price o' th' consulship? Tell me that | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (II.III.65) THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (IV.I.185) | At what price, Alastor? Tell me that. |

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| Hateful divorce of love for wisdom's sake, divided from herself and her fair judgement. | VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.932) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (IV.III.339) THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (IV.V.80) | When logic stands divorced from wisdom's heart, |

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| A false conclusion 'tis false. | TWELFTH NIGHT; OR, WHAT YOU WILL (II.III.5) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (V.I.308) | The calculations yield a false result. |

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| I have a king here to my flatterer. No other king but him. Now my sovereign speaketh like himself. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (IV.I.314) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.I.4) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.VII.67) | I've watched our king dismiss all voices save |

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| Those whose great power must try him—even this, with their echoes, for he is set so only to himself. | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (III.III.100) THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (II.II.51) THE LIFE OF TIMON OF ATHENS (V.II.2) | Those echoing his own. Power isolates— |

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| From our dissension, then where is truth, if there be no self-trust? and then myself | A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (II.I.117) THE RAPE OF LUCRECE (I.I.158) CYMBELINE (I.VI.80) | First from dissent, then truth, then finally self. |

EDGAR

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| By south and east Shall be a wall sufficient to defend Our inland from the pilfering borderers. | THE FIRST PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.I.75) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (I.II.143) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (I.II.144) | The eastern border could be secured through |

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| By guileful fair words peace may be obtain'd rather than bloody war shall cut them short. | THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (I.I.77) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.IV.11) | Diplomacy instead of costly war. |

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| The part my father meant to act upon your father might have kept | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (I.II.223) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (I.I.124) | My father's papers show alternative paths... |

ALASTOR

[interrupting]

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| These letters come from your father. | THE FIRST PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (IV.I.15) | Your father's papers! Ancient history! |

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| Fie, brother, how the world is chang'd with you since he 's gone with his pen. | THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (II.II.139) PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (I.III.26) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.II.81) | The world has changed since he laid down his pen. |

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| The enemy increaseth every day; the stronger grows our foe. | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (IV.III.242) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.III.40) | Our enemies grow stronger by the day. |

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| The King in this perceives him how he coasts | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (III.II.49) | The king sees clearly what you two cannot: |

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| Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass. | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (IV.II.64) | A kingdom standing still soon falls behind. |

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| Well somewhat we must do. Let us be sacrificers. Good reasons must of force give place to better. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (II.II.118) THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (II.I.173) THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (IV.III.228) | Progress demands we sometimes sacrifice |

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| For present comfort, and for future good, | A WINTER'S TALE (V.I.38) | The comfort of today for future's gain. |

LEILA

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| not a conscience to be used in every trade, we shall never prosper. It boots thee not to be compassionate. | PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE (IV.II.9) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.III.174) | Progress without compassion is no progress. |

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| 'Tis in motion; without a heart; Is but a quintain, a mere lifeless block. | THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (I.II.120) THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (II.II.44) AS YOU LIKE IT (I.II.197) | It's merely motion, heartless and unmoored. |

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| there spoke a king of his remembrance | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (V.III.57) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (IV.III.82) | The king speaks often of his legacy, |

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| And yet not so, for what can we bequeath if not that the lives of many | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (III.II.149) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (II.I.280) THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (III.III.16) | But what is legacy if not the lives |

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| Be chosen with proclamations today, on better judgement making from our choice | THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (I.I.190) THE SONNETS (I.87.12) TROILUS AND CRESSIDA (I.III.352) | Improved by choices we make here today? |

ALASTOR

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| Most pretty things to say upon thy tasteful lips. | CYMBELINE (I.IV.32) THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (I.I.199) | Such pretty sentiments from pretty lips. |

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| Why are we met in council? Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls. | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (V.II.44) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (V.III.316) | The council chamber is no place for dreams. |

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| Real necessities and give way the while I do demand there is no virtue like necessity. | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (III.I.179) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (III.III.55) KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.III.278) | Reality demands pragmatic minds. |

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| A king perhaps—chosen from above—That acts my words | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (IV.II.101) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (V.IV.39) CYMBELINE (III.III.100) | The king has chosen action over words— |

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| If those that care to keep your royal person as it must be so maintain'd | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.I.173) MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (IV.I.218) | As those who wish to keep their influence should. |

[He looks meaningfully at Edgar]

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| Bequeathed down from many ancestors, their thread of life is spun in a silken thread. | ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (IV.II.56) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.II.22) MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (V.I.26) | Some family legacies hang by fragile threads. |

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| The world esteemed thy father honourable, and thy father bore it. | AS YOU LIKE IT (I.II.168) AS YOU LIKE IT (IV.II.14) | Your father's name still carries weight, for now. |

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| Can the son's eye behold his father bleed? Is my dear son with such sour company. | THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (V.III.65) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (III.III.8) | How would he view his son's... associations? |

EDGAR

[stiffening]

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| Plainly spoken, if thou dar'st. | THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (III.I.114) A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (III.II.349) | Speak plainly, Lord Alastor, if you dare. |

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| Meantime let this defend my loyalty: So long as I am loyal, true, and crimeless. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.I.67) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.IV.64) | My loyalty remains beyond reproach. |

ALASTOR

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| Of many faces eyes and hearts, loyalty, something fears me to think of, my young man. | AS YOU LIKE IT (III.II.128) THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (III.V.3) THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (IV.I.5) | Loyalty wears many faces, my young friend. |

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| The presence of a king engenders love Amongst his subjects and his loyal friends, to stand firm by honour | THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (III.I.185) THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (III.I.186) TROILUS AND CRESSIDA (II.II.69) | The king values those who stand firmly with him, |

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| I speak not this as doubting any here; Foul whisp'rings are abroad; all shadow and silence in it | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (V.IV.43) THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH (V.I.55) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (III.I.242) | Not those who whisper doubts in shadowed halls. |

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| I come to observe; I give thee warning on't. No, truly, but in friendly recompense. | THE LIFE OF TIMON OF ATHENS (I.II.36) MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (V.IV.87) | I merely offer friendly observation |

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| For I must think of that which company so stain our judgment | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (V.I.87) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (II.I.128) | That certain company might cloud one's judgment. |

[Bells sound in the distance]

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| The curfew bell. Are then in council. The king's coming. | THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (IV.IV.4) THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (II.I.67) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (V.II.38) | The council bell. Our king awaits our presence. |

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| Before we enter his forbidden gates, come not within these doors for our entrance. | LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (II.I.26) AS YOU LIKE IT (II.III.18) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (I.IV.8) | Remember as we enter those grand doors: |

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| There is a history in all men's lives, whereof the world takes note. But we in it shall be remembered. | THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.I.80) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (I.III.167) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.III.61) | History remembers those who shape events, |

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| Or those that be not who overcome by doubt and bloodless fear | THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (III.III.145) VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.891) | Not those who stand aside in fear or doubt. |

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| Mark how the tyrant writes with thy kingly hand with these strokes | AS YOU LIKE IT (IV.III.39) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (II.I.204) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (IV.II.80) | The king writes our tomorrow with bold strokes— |

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| We may sir if we will, I hold now with him, so we'll hold thee ever | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (II.III.2) KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (III.I.133) CYMBELINE (V.V.476) | We merely choose if we'll hold the pen with him |

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| Or be inferior to the proudest peer by his reign | THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (V.I.57) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.VII.169) | Or be forgotten footnotes to his reign. |

[Alastor bows slightly and exits toward the council chamber]

LEILA

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| With words more sweet, and yet more dangerous, he draweth out the thread of his verbosity finer than the staple of his. | THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (IV.IV.88) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (V.I.14) | He weaves his threats like silk into his words. |

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| Which oft the ear of greatness needs must hear by his voice | THE FIRST PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (III.II.25) THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (I.V.53) | The king's ear bends too often to his voice. |

EDGAR

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| What now remains, my lords, for us to do, it should proceed On our proceeding. | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.III.62) MEASURE FOR MEASURE (III.I.158) THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR (V.I.38) | What choice remains for us but to proceed |

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| But yet be wary in thy studious care. Bear a wary eye. | THE FIRST PART OF HENRY THE SIXTH (II.V.97) THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (V.II.257) | With caution, knowing watchful eyes observe? |

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| I cannot delve him to the root; his father | CYMBELINE (I.I.33) | I cannot break the chain of father's name, |

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| Yet who so bold but says he sees it not? Though what I am I can not avoid To what I shall unfold. | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.VI.12) THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (III.V.108) THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (I.V.9) | Yet cannot blind myself to what unfolds. |

LEILA

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| So we must. Besides, they are our outward consciences, | THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (I.II.117) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.I.8) | Then we must be the conscience they ignore— |

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| The common voice of others voices, the worst unheard. | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (V.II.246) THE SONNETS (I.112.10) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN (IV.II.140) | The voice of those whose suffering goes unheard. |

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| Should we be silent and not speak, we will write | THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (V.III.107) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (I.IX.80) | If we stay silent now, we write ourselves |

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| Into the blind cave of eternal night this hellish tale. | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (V.III.65) THE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS (II.III.105) | Into the darkest chapters of this tale. |

EDGAR

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| This is my father's choice to his grave | THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (III.IV.30) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (IV.I.240) | My father chose his silence, to his grave. |

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| You have often what he might Might stop our countryman. | THE TEMPEST (I.II.39) THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (IV.I.279) THE TRAGEDY OF CORIOLANUS (V.I.42) | I've often wondered what he might have stopped |

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| Had he done so? Put fear to valour, courage to the coward when it seems most just. | KING RICHARD THE THIRD (III.V.40) VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.1158) VENUS AND ADONIS (I.I.1156) | Had he found courage when it mattered most. |

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| I would not, though 'tis my familiar sin, though it be | MEASURE FOR MEASURE (I.IV.33) THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (III.III.473) | I'll not repeat his error, though it means |

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| Might breed the ruin of my name with the crown | THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN (III.VI.296) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (I.IV.108) | My name may fall from favor with the crown. |

LEILA

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| As truth and beauty shall together thrive to speak truth to every power | THE SONNETS (I.14.11) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.III.8) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (IV.III.313) | Together then, we'll speak truth to this power, |

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| Though in our lives a separable spite, although my body pay the price of it. | THE SONNETS (I.36.6) THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH (II.II.155) | Though isolation be the price we pay. |

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| And men may talk of kings, history report or his own proof, as may beseem a monarch like himself. | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.I.58) CYMBELINE (I.VII.78) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (III.III.124) | The king may write the history he desires, |

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| Truth hath a quiet breast; I'll stay with patience, but the time is long last longer telling than thy kindness' date. | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.III.96) LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (V.II.833) KING RICHARD THE THIRD (IV.IV.258) | But truth has patience longer than his reign. |

EDGAR

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| Wait else at door, a fellow councillor, let us sway on and face them in the field. | KING HENRY THE EIGHTH (V.II.21) THE SECOND PART OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH (IV.I.26) | The council waits. Let's face what comes ahead. |

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| Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun. | THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (II.I.31) | Not separate shadows, but as one light— |

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| Let her awhile be secretly kept in, more free from peril than the envious court. | MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (IV.I.207) AS YOU LIKE IT (II.I.4) | Though hidden from the watchful eyes at court. |

[Edgar offers his arm formally to Leila]

LEILA

[taking his arm]

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| We talk here in the public haunt of men. Share the advice betwixt you. Speak freely what you think. | THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO AND JULIET (III.I.41) ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (II.I.3) THE THIRD PART OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH (IV.I.28) | In public, just advisors sharing thoughts. |

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| Encamp'd in hearts, but fighting outwardly against the unseen secrecy of night. | A LOVER'S COMPLAINT (I.I.203) THE RAPE OF LUCRECE (I.I.763) | In private, hearts aligned against the dark. |

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| The sullen passage of thy weary steps to the marbled mansion | KING RICHARD THE SECOND (I.III.265) THE LIFE OF TIMON OF ATHENS (IV.III.205) | The marble halls may echo with our steps, |

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| Our hearts you see not; they are pitiful; we cannot hear it. | THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR (III.I.183) THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (V.I.70) | But cannot hear the beating of our hearts. |

[They exit toward the council chamber]

ACT I

ACT I