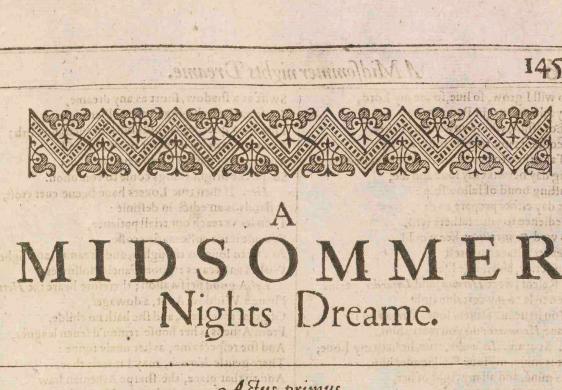
Example Interlude

Shakespeare First Folio circa 1620

Digital facsimile of the Bodleian First Folio of Shakespeare's plays, Arch. G c.7 http://firstfolio.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/downloads.html#images

The. Either to dye the death, or to abiure For euer the society of men: Therefore faire Hermia question your desires, Know of your youth, examine well your blood, Whether (if you yeeld not to your fathers choice) You can endure the liverie of a Nunne, For aye to be in shady Cloister mew'd, To liue a barren sister all your life, Chanting faint hymnes to the cold fruitlesse Moone, Thrice bleffed they that mafter so their blood.

Chris Jennings 2021



Actus primus.

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, with others.

Ow faire Hippolita, our nuptiall houre Drawes on apace: foure happy daies bring i Another Moon: but oh, me thinkes, how flow This old Moon wanes; She lingers my defires ike to a Step-dame, or a Dowager,

ng withering out a yong mans reuennew.

Hip. Foure daies wil quickly steep theselues in nights oure nights wil quickly dreame away the time: nd then the Moone, like to a filuer bow, ow bent in heaven, shalbehold the night

The. Go Philostrate, irre vp the Athenian youth to merriments, wake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth, urne melancholy forth to Funerals: he pale companion is not for our pompe, ippolita, I woo'd thee with my sword, nd wonne thy loue, doing thee injuries : ut I will wed thee in another key, Vith pompe, with triumph, and with reuelling.

Enter Egous and his daughter Hermia, Lysander,

Ege. Happy be Thefeus, our renowned Duke. The. Thanks good Egens: what's the news with thee Ege. Full of vexation, come I, with complaint gainst my childe, my daughter Hermia. Stand forth Dometrius

isman hath my consent to marrie her

nd my gracious Duke, his man hath bewitch'd the bosome of my childes hou, thou Ly fander, thou hast given her rimes, id interchang'd loue-tokens with my childe: hou haft by Moone-light at her window fung, ith faining voice, verses of faining loue, nd stolne the impression of her fantasie, lith bracelets of thy haire, rings, gawdes, conceits, inackes, trifles, Nofe-gaies, sweet meats (messengers With cunning haft thou filch'd my daughters heart, Turn'd her obedience (which is due to me) To stubborne harihnesse. And my gracious Duke, Be it so she will not heere before your Grace, Consent to marrie with Demetrius, I beg the ancient priviledge of Athens; As the is mine, I may dispose of her; Which shall be either to this Gentleman, Or to her death, according to our Law, Immediately prouided in that case.

The. What say you Hermia? be aduis'd faire Maide, To you your Father should be as a God; One that compos'd your beauties; yea and one To whom you are but as a forme in waxe By him imprinted: and within his power, To leave the figure, or disfigure it: Demetrius is a worthy Gentleman.

Her. Sois Lysander. The. In himselfe he is. But in this kinde, wanting your fathers voyce. The other must be held the worthier.

Her. I would my father look'd but with my eyes. The. Rather your cies must with his judgment looke.

Her. I do entreat your Grace to pardon me, I know not by what power I am made bold, Nor how it may concerne my modeffie In such a presence heere to pleade my thoughts: But I beseech your Grace, that I may know The worst that may befall me in this case, If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

The. Either to dye the death, or to abiure For ever the fociety of men Therefore faire Hermia question your defires, Know of your youth, examine well your blood, Whether (if you yeeld not to your fathers choice) You can endure the liverie of a Nunne, For aye to be in shady Cloister mew'd, To liue a barren sister all your life, Chanting faint hymnes to the cold fruitlesse Moone, Thrice bleffed they that mafter so their blood, To vndergo such maiden pilgrimage, But earthlierhappie is the Rose distil'd, Then that which withering on the virgin thorne, Growes, liues, and dies, in single blessednesse.