

Antonio + Sebastian

No Fear Shakespeare – Tempest (by SparkNotes)

-28-

Original Text

Modern Text

Whiles thou art waking.

acting on it.

SEBASTIAN

SEBASTIAN

Thou dost snore distinctly.

You're snoring, but it sounds like you're talking.

There's meaning in thy snores.

There's meaning in your snoring.

Act 2, Scene 1, Page 12

START

ANTONIO

I am more serious than my custom. You
Must be so too if heed me, which to do
Trebles thee o'er.

ANTONIO

I'm not kidding when I say this, I'm not joking
around like usual. You should be serious too
when you listen to what I'm saying. You can
become a great man if you listen to me.

SEBASTIAN

Well, I am standing water.

SEBASTIAN

I'm hanging on every word you say.

ANTONIO

I'll teach you how to flow.

ANTONIO

You need to do more than hang around—you
have to act. I'll show you how.

SEBASTIAN

Do so. To obb

SEBASTIAN

You need to. I'm lazy by nature.

ANTONIO

Oh,
190 If you but knew how you the purpose cherish
Whiles thus you mock it! Now, in snuffing it,
You more invest it! Ebbing men indeed
Most often do so near the bottom run
By their own tears, so cloth

ANTONIO

Oh, if you only knew how close to success you
are, even while you make fun of what I'm telling
you! The more you joke about it, the more clearly
I feel how serious it is! Lazy people end up at the
bottom, and you deserve to be at the top.

SEBASTIAN

Prithee, say on.

SEBASTIAN

Please, tell me more. There's something in your
expression that tells me you have something
serious to say, and you're having a lot of difficulty
saying it.

ANTONIO

Thus, sir:
Although this lord of weak remembrance
Who shall be of us none
200 When he is earned—hath here almost persuade
For he's a spin of persuasion only
Professes to persuade the king his son's alive,
'Tis as impossible that he's undrowned
And he that sleeps here swims.

ANTONIO

This is what I'm saying. (points
at GONZALO) Although this lord who has such a
bad memory—and who will be forgotten by the
world when he's dead and buried—almost
succeeded in convincing the king that his son's
alive, it's impossible that he survived. It's as far
from the truth as saying this sleeping man is
swimming.

Act 2, Scene 1, Page 13

SEBASTIAN

I have no hope
205 That he's undrowned.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, I'm sure he's dead. I've got no hope that he
survived.

ANTONIO

Oh, out of that "no hope"
What great hope have you! No hope that way is
Another way so high a hope that even
Ambition cannot pierce a wink beyond
But doubt discovery there Will you grant with me

ANTONIO

But in that "no hope" there are great hopes for
you! That "no hope" means you're on the way to
glory so brilliant you couldn't even imagine it, no
matter how ambitious you were. Do you agree
that Ferdinand must have drowned?

Original Text

Modern Text

210 That Ferdinand is drowned?

SEBASTIAN

He's gone.

ANTONIO

Then, tell me,
Who's the next heir of Naples?

SEBASTIAN

Claribel.

ANTONIO

She that is Queen of Tunis; she that dwells
Ten leagues beyond man's life; ~~she that from Naples~~
~~is ten leagues beyond man's life~~
~~rough and favorable~~; she that from whom
We all were sea-swallowed, though some cast
again,

215

And by that destiny to perform an act

220 Whereof what's past is prologue ~~what's to come~~ *et*
~~is yours and my discharge.~~

SEBASTIAN

What stuff is this? How say you?

~~It is true, my brother's daughter's Queen of Tunis,~~
~~She is the heir of Naples, which which regions~~
~~There is some space.~~

ANTONIO

~~A space whose every cubit~~ *et*
~~seems to cry out,~~ "How shall that Claribel

225 Measure us back to Naples? Keep in Tunis,

SEBASTIAN

He's dead.

ANTONIO

So, in that case, tell me who's next in line to
inherit the kingdom of Naples?

SEBASTIAN

Claribel, his daughter.

ANTONIO

The one who's now Queen of Tunis, living at the
edge of the world, out of reach of mail service. It
takes a letter longer to reach her than it takes a
baby boy to grow old enough to shave. Claribel
who was the cause of our shipwreck, which a
few of us survived—she was destined to give us
an opportunity that we are destined to act on.

SEBASTIAN

What in the world are you talking about? It's true
that my brother's daughter is Queen of Tunis,
and heir of Naples. And it's true those two places
are far apart.

ANTONIO

So far that every foot of distance between them
seems to shout, "It's too far for Claribel to come
back to Naples. Let her stay in Tunis and give
Sebastian a

Act 2, Scene 1, Page 14

And let Sebastian wake." Say this were death
That now hath seized them. Why, they were no
worse

Than now they are. There be that can rule Naples

230 As well as he that sleeps, ~~lords that can prate~~ *et*
~~As empty and unnecessary~~

~~As this Gonzalo. I myself could make~~
~~Enough of as deep chat.~~ Oh, that you bore
The mind that I do, what a sleep were this
For your advancement! Do you understand me?

SEBASTIAN

235 Methinks I do.

ANTONIO

And how does your content
Tender your own good fortune?

SEBASTIAN

I remember
You did supplant your brother Prospero.

ANTONIO

True.
And look how well my garments sit upon me,

chance to start living." If these sleeping men
were dead instead of sleeping, they'd be no
worse off than they are now. There are a lot of
men who can rule Naples just as well as this
sleeping guy here can. There are a lot of men
who babble nonsense as well as Gonzalo. I
could do it myself. Oh, I wish you understood
what I'm saying—you'd see how you're missing
out on a great opportunity for yourself! Do you
even get what I'm saying?

SEBASTIAN

I think I do.

ANTONIO

And does this prospect of good fortune make you
happy?

SEBASTIAN

I remember you took the throne from your
brother Prospero.

ANTONIO

Yes I did, and look how good I look in my new
role—much better than before. My brother's

STOP →

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