

Enter, from opposite sides, a Fairy, and PUCK

PUCK

How now, spirit! Where are you going?

Wandering Fairy

Over hill, over dale,
Through bush, through brier,
Over park, over fence,
Thorough flood, thorough fire,
I do wander everywhere,
I serve the fairy Queen!

PUCK

The King is celebrating here tonight;
Make sure the Queen comes not within his sight –

Wandering Fairy

Either I'm mistaken by your features
Or you're that most mischievous of creatures
Called Robin Goodfellow. Have you not made
the maidens of the village all afraid?
And sometimes mislead night travelers, laughing at their fear?
"Hobgoblin" they call you, and "Sweet Puck,"
Are not you he?

PUCK

You've got it right.
I am that merry wanderer of the night.
I am Oberon's jester. I make him laugh.
But, stand aside, fairy! Here comes Oberon!

Wandering Fairy

And here my mistress! If only Oberon were gone!

OBERON

How unfortunate to meet you here in the moonlight, proud Titania.
(she starts to walk away)

Not so fast! Am not I your husband?

TITANIA

Then I must be your wife -
 but I know that never, since the middle summer's spring,
 we met to dance our fairy rings to the music of the winds -
 without you ruining our enjoyment by your misbehavior.

OBERON

I'm only asking for the little changeling boy,
 to be my henchman.

TITANIA

Put your mind at rest.
 I wouldn't sell my child for all fairyland.
 His mother was a dedicated follower of mine,
 But, being a mere mortal, she died in childbirth,
 and for her sake I am bringing up her boy,
 and for her sake I will not part with him.

OBERON

How long within this wood do you intend to stay?

TITANIA

Perhaps till after Theseus' wedding-day.
 If you'll be reasonable and dance with us in our fairy ring,
 and watch our moonlight merrymaking, come with us.
 If not, keep away from me, and I'll give your territory a wide berth.

OBERON

Give me that boy, and I will go with thee.

TITANIA

Not for your fairy Kingdom. Fairies, let's away!
 We'll have a nasty scene if I stay any longer.

Exit TITANIA

OBERON

Well, go then: You won't leave this grove till I've made you suffer for this insult!
 I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,
 and put a droplet in her eyes of this love potion. (holds something up)
 Then the next thing she sees when she awakes -
 whether it's a lion, a bear, a wolf, or a bull,
 a mischievous monkey, or an active ape -
 she'll follow it madly in love:
 And before I remove the spell from her sight,
 which I can do with another plant,
 I'll make her give up her page to me.