

Titania, Bottom, Peaseblossom, Mustardseed, Cobweb, Mote

77

A Midsummer Night's Dream ACT 3. SC. 1

Enter Snout.

SNOUT O Bottom, thou art changed! What do I see on thee?

BOTTOM What do you see? You see an ass-head of your own, do you? *[Snout exits.]*

Enter Quince.

QUINCE Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee! Thou art translated! *He exits.* 120

Begin BOTTOM I see their knavery. This is to make an ass of me, to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, do what they can. I will walk up and down here, and I will sing, that they shall hear 125 I am not afraid.

[He sings.] The ouzel cock, so black of hue,

With orange-tawny bill,

The throstle with his note so true,

The wren with little quill— 130

TITANIA, *[waking up]*

What angel wakes me from my flow'ry bed?

BOTTOM *[sings]*

The finch, the sparrow, and the lark,

The plainsong cuckoo gray,

Whose note full many a man doth mark

And dares not answer "nay"— 135

for, indeed, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird? Who would give a bird the lie though he cry "cuckoo" never so?

TITANIA

I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again.

Mine ear is much enamored of thy note, 140

So is mine eye entrallèd to thy shape,

And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me

On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

BOTTOM Methinks, mistress, you should have little

reason for that. And yet, to say the truth, reason 145
and love keep little company together nowadays.
The more the pity that some honest neighbors will
not make them friends. Nay, I can gleek upon
occasion.

TITANIA

Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful. 150

BOTTOM Not so neither; but if I had wit enough to get
out of this wood, I have enough to serve mine own
turn.

TITANIA

Out of this wood do not desire to go.
Thou shalt remain here whether thou wilt or no. 155
I am a spirit of no common rate.
The summer still doth tend upon my state,
And I do love thee. Therefore go with me.
I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee,
And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep 160
And sing while thou on pressèd flowers dost sleep.
And I will purge thy mortal grossness so
That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.—
Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Mote, and Mustardseed!

*Enter four Fairies: 'Peaseblossom, Cobweb,
Mote, and Mustardseed.'*

「PEASEBLOSSOM」 Ready. 165

「COBWEB」 And I.

「MOTE」 And I.

「MUSTARDSEED」 And I.

「ALL」 Where shall we go?

TITANIA

Be kind and courteous to this gentleman. 170
Hop in his walks and gambol in his eyes;
Feed him with apricocks and dewberries,
With purple grapes, green figs, and mulberries;
The honey-bags steal from the humble-bees,

And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighs 175
And light them at the fiery glowworms' eyes
To have my love to bed and to arise;
And pluck the wings from painted butterflies
To fan the moonbeams from his sleeping eyes.
Nod to him, elves, and do him courtesies. 180

「PEASEBLOSSOM」 Hail, mortal!
「COBWEB」 Hail!
「MOTE」 Hail!
「MUSTARDSEED」 Hail!

BOTTOM I cry your Worships mercy, heartily.—I be- 185
seech your Worship's name.

COBWEB Cobweb.

BOTTOM I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good
Master Cobweb. If I cut my finger, I shall make
bold with you.—Your name, honest gentleman? 190

PEASEBLOSSOM Peaseblossom.

BOTTOM I pray you, commend me to Mistress Squash,
your mother, and to Master Peascod, your father.
Good Master Peaseblossom, I shall desire you of
more acquaintance too.—Your name, I beseech 195
you, sir?

MUSTARDSEED Mustardseed.

BOTTOM Good Master Mustardseed, I know your pa-
tience well. That same cowardly, giantlike ox-beef
hath devoured many a gentleman of your house. I 200
promise you, your kindred hath made my eyes
water ere now. I desire you 「of」 more acquaint-
ance, good Master Mustardseed.

TITANIA
Come, wait upon him. Lead him to my bower.
The moon, methinks, looks with a wat'ry eye, 205
And when she weeps, weeps every little flower,
Lamenting some enforcèd chastity.
Tie up my lover's tongue. Bring him silently.

「They」 exit.

End