

A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Fantasy

Situation: Bottom, the weaver from Athens, whose head had been converted to one of a jackass, awakens and reflects on his indescribable adventure with Titania and her attendants, having had a midsummer night's dream "beyond the wit of man to say what it was." He gets back to business.

BOTTOM: When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer. My next is "Most fair Pyramus." Hey-ho! Peter Quince.

Bottom to himself

My life stolen hence and left me asleep.
A most rare vision I've had that did leap
Out at me in a dream, a dream beyond
The wit of man to say what it was. A
Man be must an ass to try to upon
This dream expound. Any man be but the
Fool to offer to say what methought I
Had. The ear of man hath not seen, the eye
Of man hath not heard, man's hand not able
To taste, his tongue to conceive nor his heart
To report what I believe in my soul
I was. I'll ask Quince of this dream and start
To write some ballads and call them in sum
"Bottom's Dream," dreaming this murky bottom.