

Pericles abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Introspection

Situation: Pericles has safely returned to Tyre. He thoughtfully reflects on what he learned while in Antioch. He comes to realize that he has put himself, his land and his people in a frightening position. He knows that Antiochus will pursue him and will run roughshod over Tyre if he believes he's there.

Pericles has returned to Tyre. Pericles and an Attendant are on stage.

PERICLES: Let not disturb us.
Attendant exits.

Pericles to Himself, No. 2

Antiochus, being great, is able
To make his will his act, we unable
To contend, being too little. He will
Think me speaking though I swear to silence;
Be suspect of my honor if I'm still,
Fearing I'll dishonor him. If he sense
He might be known, he'll with hostile forces
O'er spread the land to stop the feared sources.
His onslaught of soldiers will look so grand
That the mere presence of forces unleashed
Will cause our young men to be vanquished, and
Our innocent subjects to be punished.
As the tops of trees protect the roots, I
Am here to protect what people grow by.

Helicanus and two Lords enter.