

The Tempest abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Confidence

Situation: Upbeat Gonzalo, one of the men caught up in the shipwreck, the man who twelve years earlier had been so helpful to Prospero and his then three-year old daughter when they were being put out to sea, tries to put the best face on a dour situation during a discussion with Alonso.

Gonzalo to Alonso

Sir, we need be merry. We all have cause
For joy, for our escape, if we show pause,
Far exceeds our loss. Our occasions for
Woe are common; everyday some sailor's
Wife has an issue, the officers have more
Than their men can do, and the distant owners
Of the goods complain. Few in a million
Can speak like us, for our preservation
Is our fortune; weigh our comfort to be
Here. Our garments, being drenched in the sea,
Methinks are now as fresh as when we
Put them on first in Africa for the
Marriage we fortunately did not miss
Of Claribel to the King of Tunis.

SEBASTIAN ASIDE TO ANTONIO: He receives comfort like cold porridge.

GONZALO TO ALONSO: Therefore, my lord ---

ANTONIO: Fie, what a spendthrift is he of his tongue.

ALONZO TO GONZALO: I prithee, spare.

SEBASTIAN ASIDE TO ANTONIO: He will be talking.

GONZALO: Here is everything advantageous to life.

ANTONIO: True, save means to live.