

# *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

## Act V, sc. 1

### QUINCE

**Quince.** If we offend, it is with our good will.

That you should think, we come not to offend,

But with good will. To show our simple skill,

That is the true beginning of our end.

Consider then we come but in despite.

We do not come as minding to contest you,

Our true intent is. All for your delight

We are not here. That you should here repent you,

The actors are at hand and by their show

You shall know all that you are like to know.

~~**Theseus.** This fellow doth not stand upon points.~~

~~**Lysander.** He hath rid his prologue like a rough colt; he knows~~

~~not the stop. A good moral, my lord: it is not~~

~~enough to speak, but to speak true.~~

~~**Hippolyta.** Indeed he hath played on his prologue like a child~~

~~on a recorder; a sound, but not in government.~~

~~**Theseus.** His speech, was like a tangled chain; nothing~~

~~impaired, but all disordered. Who is next?~~

[Enter Pyramus and Thisbe, Wall, Moonshine, and Lion]

**Quince.** Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show;

But wonder on, till truth make all things plain.

This man is Pyramus, if you would know;

This beauteous lady Thisby is certain.  
This man, with lime and rough-cast, doth present  
Wall, that vile Wall which did these lovers sunder;  
And through Wall's chink, poor souls, they are content  
To whisper. At the which let no man wonder.  
This man, with lanthorn, dog, and bush of thorn,  
Presenteth Moonshine; for, if you will know,  
By moonshine did these lovers think no scorn  
To meet at Ninus' tomb, there, there to woo.  
This grisly beast, which Lion hight by name,  
The trusty Thisby, coming first by night,  
Did scare away, or rather did affright;  
And, as she fled, her mantle she did fall,  
Which Lion vile with bloody mouth did stain.  
Anon comes Pyramus, sweet youth and tall,  
And finds his trusty Thisby's mantle slain:  
Whereat, with blade, with bloody blameful blade,  
He bravely broach'd his boiling bloody breast;  
And Thisby, tarrying in mulberry shade,  
His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,  
Let Lion, Moonshine, Wall, and lovers twain  
At large discourse, while here they do remain.