

## L'Etoile by Emmanuel Chabrier

**NOTE:** This is a translation made by a combination of Google translate and my own work based on the original 1877 libretto as published by A. Allouard, Libraire-Editeur, Paris. This libretto contains a great deal more dialogue than was given in later performances of the opera, certainly a lot more dialogue than is performed today, but I left it all in to give the reader the full flavor of the original libretto as written by Eugène Leterrier and Albert Vanloo. —Lynn René Bayley

### Cast of Characters

Ouf [Oof] the 1st, King of 36 Realms (tenor)  
Prince Hérisson de Porc-Epic [Hedgehog the Porcupine] (baritone)  
Sirocco, the Royal Astrologer (bass)  
Lazuli, a poor peddler (mezzo-soprano)  
Tapioca, Hérisson's Secretary (tenor)  
Aloès, Hérisson's wife (mezzo-soprano)  
Princess Laoula, daughter of King Matakini (soprano)  
The Chief of Police (speaker)  
Patacha, a commoner (tenor)  
Zalzal, a commoner (baritone)  
Oasis (soprano)  
Asphodèle (soprano)  
Youka (soprano)  
Zinnia (mezzo-soprano)  
Koukoula (mezzo-soprano)  
Adza (mezzo-soprano)

} members of King Ouf's household

**Sung text** in black print

**Spoken text** in dark red print

## ACT ONE

*A public place – At right foreground, a kind of observatory ends with a platform – To the left, also in the foreground, the entry of a passable hotel with balcony. – To the right, under a tree, a grassy bank.*

### FIRST SCENE

MEN OF THE PEOPLE, then OUF.

### INTRODUCTION.

*(Daybreak. Everyone comes and goes with a kind of mysterious agitation.)*

### CHORUS

Mercy save us...It is said in the city  
That under a disguise,  
Leaving his home,  
Our good King this morning  
Is sneaking and sliding around!

### TWO MEN OF THE PEOPLE

PATACHA  
What are you doing?

ZALZAL  
I'm staying wary. And you?

PATACHA  
I'm keeping quiet!

BOTH  
Let us beware!  
Let us beware!

REPRISE  
Mercy save us...It is said in the city etc.  
*They exit*

OUF, *entering in a long coat.*  
You see...it's me!  
The king...Silence and mystery!  
My plan is dark  
My plan is adventurous;  
But I have to shut up!  
It's me...the King!  
Silence and mystery...  
*(Looking around)*  
In the world...This is the moment  
To execute my plan!  
*(Stopping Patacha, eagerly)*  
Excuse me, my dear fellow,  
But would you like a swig of wine?

PATACHA, *apart*  
Let us beware!

OUF.  
Come, my dear, do you like it?  
This little wine goes to your head,  
IT is as fresh as it is sweet!

PATACHA  
Sir, you are very honest!

OUF  
But a word, tell me,  
What do you think of the King?

PATACHA  
Long live Ouf!

ALL  
Long live Ouf!

OUF, *aside*  
Ah! I have bad luck!  
I must try again!  
*(Stopping another man, he takes his arm.)*

Allow me to stop you, sir,  
You have an honest face!

ZALZAL, *aside*.  
Let us beware!

OUF.  
See this cigar in my hand, sir?  
Will you accept it from me without conditions?  
It's from London and quite expensive.

ZALZAL  
Yes, that tobacco is very rare.

OUF  
But one word, please:  
What do you say of the government?

ZALZAL, *quickly throwing the cigar away and moving*.  
Long live Ouf!

ALL  
Long live Ouf!

OUF  
I have bad luck,  
I'm losing patience!

CHORUS  
Mercy save us...It is said in the city, etc.  
(*Everyone in the distance looks concerned...the day has dawned gradually.*)

## SCENE II

OUF, *looking away*  
Oh, yes! When I think that there is not one of these fellows who think the government is evil! But why am I, Ouf the First, King of the 36 Realms, sorry not to find a single dissatisfied person in my estates? Why? Here it is: a few hours separate us from the day of my birthday, which all my people wish me with heart and excitement. For my part, I usually respond with some courtesies: fireworks, sack-races, and finally, the usual ceremony. This is not incidental, no, it is the most important part of my festival. Every year I, Ouf, offer my subjects the spectacle of a small execution...it was I who had the idea. It's enormous fun! I even remember, last year it was very gay! Even the condemned was delighted...he told me, "Well, it's very nice, I'll be back next year!" Unfortunately, he did not return! Oh, yes, sadly! For behold my situation: all is ready, the fireworks are in place, the games are waiting with rabbits for the winners...but not the condemned! I have the rabbits, but not my condemned! This is a party that will fail to go! Then I say to myself,

"If no one is guilty, I will try to make one!" I have either hidden under my cloak for the sole purpose of finding a dissenter or a criminal...but nothing! Absolutely nothing! Well, I'll go to another neighborhood...but first...(*calls out*) Siroco!

SIROCO, *appearing on a platform to the right*.  
Your Majesty calls me?

OUF  
Who...come down...

SIROCO  
In a moment, Majesty! (*he disappears*)

OUF  
This is my astrologer! I never start my day without having spoken to him....

SCENE III  
OUF, SIROCO

SIROCO, *arriving on the scene*.  
Great Prince, I bow...

OUF  
Do you have my horoscope for today?

SIROCO  
It is not yet quite finished. I was held up a little late by orders for the city.

OUF  
Orders for the city?

SIROCO  
Yes, some individual horoscopes for the bourgeois...Your Majesty knows you authorized me, to bolster my small profits...

OUF  
That's right...You're very low paid.

SIROCO  
Exceedingly little, Majesty.

OUF  
How much are you paid per year?

SIROCO  
Twelve hundred francs.

OUF  
The fact is, that's not a lot.

SIROCO, *hopefully*  
Is it not, Majesty? (*hopefully*) Will you give me a raise?

OUF

We can count on a good dedication at that price, can we not?

SIROCO

A dedication of twelve hundred francs?

OUF

Yes... Well, Siroco, I just found a way to be absolutely sure of you... I have my will in my coat...

SIROCO, *joyously*

Really?

OUF

You would probably not be sorry to know the clause that concerns you...

SIROCO

If it was not abuse...

OUF

Not at all... It is very good for you. I'll tell you: "A quarter of an hour after my death, the astrologer of the court, Siroco, will follow me to the grave. Such is my express wish, to be carried out accordingly."

SIROCO, *paling*

Huh?

OUF

I thought it would please you not to leave your master. (*severely*) Does it not make you happy?

SIROCO

Yes! Yes!

OUF

Well and good! ... Do you see, my good Siroco, your interest is to keep me going as long as possible ... Also, I am certain that you will watch on my life like yours and when you interrogates the stars in my account, you will do so conscientiously.

SIROCO

But, Majesty...

OUF

It is enough ... Do not thank me... (*Looking at him with a good smile.*) This good, Siroco! ... (*Taking his arm.*) And now seriously ... You know in a few days I'm getting married?

SIROCO

Yes... to Princess Laloula, the daughter of your neighbor, King Matakina...

OUF.

You said ... The princess is on the way so til will soon happen ... This union, you know the reasons ... For some time, diplomatic relations with Matakina became very tense, my Foreign Office receiving notes increasingly sour, that war could burst from one day to another ... disaster to disaster, I prefer the thing arranged by marriage ... as there will be no loss of life. - On the contrary...

SIROCO *without understanding.*

On the contrary?

OUF.

I hope the mothers ... The constitution of the Thirty-Six Kingdoms expresses the wish that the sovereign does not exceed Quarantine without giving an heir to the throne ... I have thirty-nine spring, I must therefore consider refer the wish of the Constitution ... Do the stars permit me? ... That's what I charge you to clarify,

SIROCO.

So Your Majesty wants to know? ...

OUF.

If I aspire to the honor of being a father myself, yes, Siroco ... And you will soon begin your observations today...

SIROCO.

Is that, Majesty ...

OUF.

What?

SIROCO.

The thing is very delicate and I do know that with resources I have ... your observatory contains that fairly primitive instruments and it seems an additional credit...

OUF.

This is a carrot? ...

SIROCO.

No! No! ... But I'll tell you: I have a dioptic telescope but to do serious work, I would need at least one catoptric telescope and convex glasses ... I've just seen a very fine one yesterday at an optician's ...

OUF.

How much ?

SIROCO.

Ah! almost nothing, Majesty... Sixty thousand francs ... (*Aside.*) I split it with the salesman.

OUF.  
How is that almost nothing? ... That's very expensive  
for a telescope!

SIROCO.  
Science has made so much progress ...  
OUF

Finally! (*Aside.*) He steals from me, but times it right ...  
Dioptric, catoptric, impossible to discuss this ...  
(*Aloud.*) Thou shalt bring.

SIROCO.  
Thank you, Your Majesty! ... - - -

OUF, *apart.*  
Now it is to continue my hunt for the guilty ...  
(*Aloud.*) Adieu, Siroco, I'll take a walk in the city ...

SIROCO.  
I will go with Your Majesty to the banks, I will  
take in the optician ...

OUF, *going with him.*  
Right ... On the way, I will make you part of the purpose  
of my walk ... and remember, "A quarter of an hour  
after my death, the astrologer of the court, named  
Siroco, will follow me to the grave. That is my express  
wish." (*They exit to the left. - Music. - From right*)

#### SCENE IV

HERISSON, TAPIOCA, PRINCESS LAOULA,  
ALOÈS.

QUARTET.

TOGETHER  
We travel incognito,  
Without telling anyone.  
And we're going undercover,  
Without anyone suspecting us;  
We travel incognito!

HERISSON.  
And do not forget our roles,  
It is to be insidious  
Let us remember the words  
To placate the curious. ...

ALOES AND TAPIOCA.  
It is to be insidious.

LAOULA.  
Role playing for the curious!

HERISSON.  
(*Speaking*) You first, Princess!

LALOULA, *as if reciting a lesson.*  
We travel for our business  
Through cities and through towns,  
We are salesmen and saleswomen  
Of a new department store.

HERISSON.  
(*Speaking*) Very good! ... (*To Aloès and Tapioca*) Now  
you!

ALOES and TAPIOCA, *also.*  
We travel for our business, etc.

HERISSON.  
(*Speaks.*) Perfect! Now, all together!

ALL FOUR.  
We travel for our business, etc.

HERISSON.  
(*Spoken.*) Not bad! Now, you remember the song of the  
clerks ... with gestures?

SONG I.  
HERISSON  
As soon as the dawn, its gloved fingers of pink,  
Shines on its rising institutions,  
Our goods and novelties are based  
On the taste of our customers.  
Every article and its price are exposed  
In the windows where they are arrayed  
We see them stop and stare as they pass by,  
The old ladies blush and say:  
"Who can these pretty people be?  
How I wish one would wait on me!

ALL FOUR  
Selling chintz and Persian lace,  
We are the pretty employees  
All the ladies are impressed.  
By the nice employees!

II  
LALOULA  
With curly hair and flaming eyes,  
Ladies glance at shelves full of charms  
We know how to say, "And for you, Madame?"  
It is a talent that is not given.  
Before their eyes, a "poor me" fern,  
Buy, buy, besides,  
We sell wholesale, we dare not haggle!

ALL FOUR  
Selling chintz and Persian lace, etc.

HERISSON, *with an angry air.*  
Tapioca, do you have umbrellas?

TAPIOCA *without understanding.*  
Boss?...

HERISSON.  
I asked you if you have umbrellas! ...

TAPIOCA, *checking.*  
Umbrellas, yes, boss. (*Aside.*) He's still angry, this man ...

HERISSON.  
And my wife's purse?

TAPIOCA.  
Boss?

HERISSON.  
I ask you if you have my wife's handbag! ...

TAPIOCA, *apart.*  
What a character! ... (*Aloud.*) The bag? ... Yes, boss.

HERISSON, *imitating.*  
Yes, boss! ... To say that this is my private secretary! ...  
As secretary, you are pathetic, my poor boy! ...  
Fortunately, you provide me other services ...  
my wife also ...

TAPIOCA.  
Yes, Boss.

HERISSON.  
She loves you enough, my wife ... Also, in the concerned, I appeal to you for many things ...

ALOES, *strongly.*  
And you are right, my friend ...

TAPIOCA.  
Oh! Yes, Boss !

HERISSON.  
But enough of that. My children, I have the satisfaction of announcing that we've arrived ...

ALL.  
Ah!

ALOES.  
Well! this is not unhappy! ... Here's one trip !

LAOULA.  
The fact is ... we went for a walk on the main roads, and took no action under borrowed costumes, the Instead of saying aloud that we are ...

ALOES.  
I just ask that you have common sense!

HERISSON.  
Silence, madame! ... These are things you don't not understand ... Good King Matakine, our Master, a position of trust, and carrying a terrible ultimatum in case it doesn't succeed, I can't protect myself too carefully ... I'm a diplomat ... This is diplomacy.

ALOES.  
And that's why all along this route you have passed off the princess as your wife, while it's really it's me?

HERISSON.  
Not for any other reason! ... It's obvious that I could say to everyone: I am Prince Herisson the Porcupine, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of King Matakine. Aloes is my wife and my private secretary Tapioca.

HERISSON, *shrugging his shoulders.*  
Yes, boss! ... (*Returning.*) As to Miss Laoula, the charming princess, daughter of the king, my Master ... I could say all this ... Another in my place looks the same

LAOULA.  
It would be easier...

HERISSON.  
Precisely, princess ... That's why I don't say it ... The day when we would simply become statesmen and diplomats? ...

ALOES.  
Well! They would become like other men and it doesn't get any worse.

HERISSON, *furious.*  
Here, you'll never understand anything of diplomacy!

LAOULA.  
But you are responsible for this mission!

HERISSON.  
When the time comes, Princess, I'll let you know.

LAOULA.  
After all, I don't know why I came here, me ... Dad told me: Prince Herisson the Porcupine will take a trip with his wife, accompanying you ...It will do you good and I hope that you will not return as you've gone ...Dad has forbidden you to tell me?

HERISSON.  
Not at all, Princess ... Another my instead you say the same ...

LAOULA.  
Well ?

HERISSON.  
That's why I do not tell you ...

LAOULA.  
Ah!

HERISSON.  
Meanwhile, here is an inn where we can rest ...Tapioca,  
offer your arm to Madame Herisson.

TAPIOCA, *strongly*.  
Yes, Boss!

HERISSON at LAOULA.  
Princess ... (*repentant.*) My wife ...

LALOULA, *laughing*.  
My husband ... (*She takes his arm.*) You know I  
hate to go as your wife ...

HERISSON.  
I understand that, but it is necessary, princess ... the  
diplomacy. Do not forget that ...

REPRISE.  
We travel incognito, etc ...  
(*They enter the inn.*)

## SCENE V

LAZULI, *a peddler, arrives. He carries a box with a  
shoulder strap, under his arm a large folding chair.*  
Unable to join them ...I lost their trail ...Too bad! Well!  
What is Lazuli? A sigh ... as if you would not do better  
to take care of your business! ... Here are just a place I  
can install my little traveling shop ... (*He starts to  
unfold his case.*)

## RONDO

I.  
I'm called Lazuli,  
Yes, Lazuli!  
The pretty peddler,  
The supplier of the ladies!  
And I sell at the right price  
Jewelry, perfume, powder.  
All the ladies come to me  
For their complexion.  
To be exact I am engaged  
To counteract effects of age.  
For I say, in truth,  
Through art, I embellish beauty  
I take them and I make them  
Up to perfection!

If you listen to my program,  
The essence of a woman  
You can find it, I am sure,  
In my portable store.  
Those eyes that flame with love  
Throw confusion into our soul,  
These bright eyes under the eyebrow,  
Only need a pencil ... here!  
If you want fresh lips, so pink,  
That say such sweet things,  
You only need a carmine lipstick  
Or a red pot for the complexion!  
Also see this magical water,  
These bottles of a unique effect,  
Through them I can change your hair  
Give the color you want!  
Also, without making demands,  
Modestly I proclaim,  
Thanks to all my winning potions,  
Mother and daughter look like sisters! ...  
Ah! ah!  
Lazuli! Lazuli!  
I am Lazuli etc ...

(*He carries his box near the tree, with a sigh.*)  
Oh ... never mind, I'm done, I can not deviate from my  
memory ... A league from here, or about, I met  
passengers, two women and two men ...The two  
women were carefully veiled, but for a moment the  
wind - was it the wind? – Pushed back a veil and let me  
see the prettiest face in the world, a laughing face so  
nice, so adorable, that I, Lazuli, here I am ... well! Yes!  
here I am in love, as in the novels I followed the  
travelers, but they disappeared through the gates of the  
city ... O my beautiful stranger! Will I see you again? ...

## SCENE VI

LAZULI, SIROCO.

SIROCO, *entering with a telescope*.  
I paid 75 francs for something very nice ...

LAZULI.  
What is that one? (*Approaching him.*)  
Gentleman scholar?

SIROCO, *snapping*.  
Mr. is not?

LAZULI, *laughing*.  
No...

SIROCO.  
Too bad for you ... If you knew how sweet it is to  
observe the stars, to read there the future!

LAZULI.  
The future ! You read the future?

SIROCO.  
It's my job ... And even if you were curious  
to question your star ...

LAZULI.  
But certainly...

SIROCO.  
In this case ... *(He extends his hand.)*

LAZULI.  
Ah! my hand ... here it is ...

SIROCO, examining.  
Beautiful lines, young man ... you will live a hundred  
years ... if you do not stop on the way ... but my stars  
say much more, when you have ...

LAZULI.  
What? ... *(Siroco makes a sign for him to pay.)* Ah! it is  
necessary to pay in advance?

SIROCO.  
Yes ... Because after, you never know ...

LAZULI.  
Here ...

SIROCO.  
Thank you, young man ... I go to my observatory and  
I'll take care of you ... *(He exits to the right.)*

#### SCENE VII

LAZULI alone.  
With all that, I gave him my last gold coin and I only  
have enough for lunch ... Bah! Who needs dinner? ...  
I'll stretch myself under the tree and make a sum  
pending the practice ... *(He tries to stretch, dreamily.)*  
The future? ... What does he see and  
tell me my star? ...*(He looks upward and sings.)*

ROMANCE.  
O little star!  
My fate follows you,  
I'll lift the veil!  
O little star!  
Answer me,  
And tell me  
Tell the future, little star!  
You can, kind prophetess,  
Say what fate will come;  
Or promise to do my wishes  
For the power and pleasures.

You can, according to your whim,  
You can, protective star,  
Make me  
A prince or a king!  
O little star etc ...  
Come sleep! ...

#### SCENE VIII

LAZULI *asleep*, HERISSON, TAPIOCA.

HERISSON, *out with Tapioca hospitality.*  
Above all, is not it? ... Do not leave here before  
I come back ... *(To Tapioca.)* Maybe I should allow you  
to sit with my wife ...

TAPIOCA, *strongly.*  
I'll go, boss ...

HERISSON, *holding him.*  
No, in fact ... as a diplomat, I have accompanied my  
private secretary ... poor Aloes will get bored.

TAPIOCA, *sadly.*  
Oh, yes!...

HERISSON.  
But duty first ... Your ultimatum?

TAPIOCA.  
Here it is.

HERISSON.  
Give it to me ... I must not part with it. And now,  
the palace ... *(He goes, Tapioca follows suit.)*

#### SCENE IX

LAZULI *asleep* LAOULA, ALOES.  
*(Once they have their backs turned, ALOES appears at  
the door of the hotel.)*

ALOES.  
They are gone! ... Princess! Princess!...

LALOULA *at the door.*  
But I was forbidden to go out ...

ALOES.  
All the more reason! ... When the cats are away ...

LALOULA.  
I do not dare ...

ALOES, *going to take her by the hand.*  
But come ... I don't understand you ... *(She  
leads her to the middle of theatre.)*



LALOULA *perceiving Lazuli.*  
Ah! my God !

ALOES.  
What ?

LALOULA.  
Look ...

ALOES.  
A young man asleep ... but he's not bad at all ...

LALOULA.  
I think not! ... He is lovely ...

ALOES.  
He seems to me favorably blessed.

LALOULA.  
Yes ... It was he who followed us on the road ...

ALOES.  
Did anyone notice?

LALOULA.  
Without a doubt...

ALOES.  
Do you see that?

LALOULA.  
Let's go soon ... I am afraid ... if he awakes ...

ALOES.  
But I count well, he will wake up ... And I'll  
even help him ... *(She goes to leave the hotel where  
she finds a bundle of straw.)*

LALOULA.  
What are you doing?

ALOES.  
You'll see ... *(She takes several straws and returns to  
Lazuli.)*

DUO, TRIO AND VERSES.

ALOES.  
It must tickle,  
But we have to wake him up!

LAOULA.  
Now what? Tickle!

ALOES.  
Better for him to wake up.

LAOULA.  
No! no! Let's go, I implore you!

ALOES.  
Abandon this adventure!  
I do not promise too much fun.

LAOULA.  
Ah! You make me die laughing!  
*(Aloes hides behind the tree and over a short music  
scene, she walks with her straw in front of Lazuli in the  
stage set.)*

ALOES, *laughing.*  
Ah! ah! the funny face! He's grinning!

LAOULA  
You're too bold! Let's go! I implore you!  
*(She looks at the scene and laughs despite herself.)* Ah!  
ah! ah! Ah ... my turn to do it!

ALOES.  
You will enjoy it!  
*(Laoula goes to join her behind the tree and starts to  
torment Lazuli.)*

LAOULA and ALOES.  
Ah! ah! What the funny face! ...  
It must tickle,  
We must wake him!  
*(Laoula, leaving the tree and going back down.)*

VERSES

I  
LAOULA  
My God! but in fact, I think,  
If you could see me now! ...  
Neither my place nor my birth  
Allows me to do this ...  
My faith! Never mind! To be told  
Me what thy will,  
That may be a mistake:  
But I enjoy it! ...  
I won't let them spoil my fun!  
*(She goes back to Lazuli, then stops suddenly.)*  
Ah! It's bad  
For a princess of my royal blood  
To do this,  
Yes, this is very bad, in short,  
To tickle a young man!

II  
ALOES.  
It is to laugh at history,  
If he was not asleep  
Our actions, I must say,  
Would not be so bold!



But as he sleeps, it gives us  
The courage we need.  
Are we hurting anyone?  
And is laughter a fault? ...  
What if he tickles back?  
Ah! this equals etc ...  
ALOES.  
Come on!  
Let's go on!

LAOULA.  
Let's go on !  
*(At this point Lazuli gently awakes and sees them.)*

LAZULI, *aside*.  
Ah! What have I seen?  
*(He drops it.)*

LALOULA, *frightened*.  
Looks like he awakens,  
Have you not heard?

ALOES, *leaning on Lazuli who pretended to sleep*.  
More than ever he sleeps ..  
Let's go on !

LALOULA.  
Let's go on.

LAZULI *apart*.  
Wait!

TOGETHER.  
It must tickle, etc ...

LAZULI, *rising, extending both arms and grabbing both*. Cuckoo! ... You are taken, my beautiful! ...

LALOULA and ALOES, *with a cry*.  
Ah!

LAZULI, *leading them to the front of the stage and in a strong voice*.  
Now, come here! ... Who are you?

LALOULA, *shy, stammering*.  
I don't know...

ALOES, *coming to his rescue*.  
We are shop girls! ...

LALOULA, *strongly*.  
Yes! yes! ... First Grand Mogol Department Store, we  
travel ...for business ...

LAZULI.  
Are you free or married?

LALOULA.  
But, sir...

LAZULI.  
The two men who accompanied you?  
ALOES.  
Are simple store employees, like us!

LALOULA, *strongly*.  
Yes, yes ... the First Great Mogul ... They travel  
for business ...

LAZULI.  
Very good! ... Can I cause a ... *(to Laoula.)* What is  
your name?

LAOULA.  
Me? ... Laoula.

LAZULI.  
Well! Laoula, I love you! ...

LAOULA.  
Good God! already?...

LAZULI.  
You do not know that I had already seen you ... I  
know your face ...

LAOULA.  
But if! .. Since it's me that you have shown ...

LAZULI.  
You! ... Ah, miss! *(He kisses her.)*

LAOULA, *losing the head*.  
A kiss!

ALOES, *apart*.  
Ah! It's going wrong! ...  
*(steps up, separating them.)* And you? Who are you ?

LAZULI.  
Me? ... Lazuli, a trader.

LAOULA and ALOES.  
A trader! ...

LAZULI, *showing them the box*.  
Here are my stores ...

LAOULA *looking*.  
Ah! my God ... Behold therefore, Aloes! ... Perfumes!  
red, rich powder! ... *(At Lazuli.)* Can we touch them?

LAZULI.  
Don't be shy !

LAOULA.  
What luck! ... I so love it, primping myself! ...  
(*They look and turn the box upside down.*  
*Laoula grabs a nice huge powder puff.*)

SCENE XI

THE SAME, plus HERRISSON, TAPIOCA.

HERRISSON, *returning with Tapioca.*  
No one in the palace! ... I'm furious ... (*Seeing*  
*Laoula and Aloes.*) What do I see? ... The princess  
made up in the company of a young man of few! ...  
(*advancing.*) Ladies ...

LALOULA and ALOES.  
Ah!

HERRISSON.  
I told you not to go! ... (*To Lazuli.*) As to you, young  
prole, I cannot let you kiss my wife! ... (*He leads*  
*Laoula.*)

LAZULI.  
His wife!...

LAOULA, *protesting.*  
But I'm not...

HERRISSON, *down.*  
Silence, Princess! ... In the name of diplomacy! ...  
So you want me to lose my place? ... (*Top.*) Let's go ...  
Tapioca, offer your arm to Madame ...

TAPIOCA.  
Yes, boss ... (*He offers his arm to Aloes.*)

HERRISSON, *offering his to Laoula.*  
And we, dear friend ...

LAOULA, *in part,*  
Oh ! Herisson is so annoying! (*They go into the hotel*  
*business.*)

SCENE XI  
LAZULI and OUF.

LAZULI.  
His wife! ... She was married! ... And she made me  
believe she was free! ... (*He drops despairingly on the*  
*bench.*)

OUF, *falling apart.*  
I come from the School district, on the other side of

the water ... it's pretty turbulent here ... Ah, good! yes!  
... All quiet ... I return empty-handed ...

LAZULI, *rising and putting himself to survey the*  
*scene.*  
Oh! Yes! I forget! ... I will go far away, well  
away! ... I want to see her! ...

OUF, *seeng him.*  
A young and restless man ... but Ah! ...what hope! ...  
(*Going up to Lazuli.*) Young man! ...

LAZULI, *angrily.*  
Go on your way!...

OUF, *apart.*  
He's rude ... What hope! ... (*Aloud.*) Sorry! I ...wanted  
to ask you if the government ...

LAZULI.  
Eh! I don't care a bit about the government.

OUF.  
He mocks the government! ... You're laughing at the  
government?.. .

LAZULI.  
And if you don't leave me alone, I'll lie you low with a  
blow, you hear? ...

OUF.  
A blow! ... You would?

LAZULI.  
Yes!...

OUF, *apart.*  
What hope! ... (*Aloud.*) No, really? word of honor,  
you'd do that? ...

LAZULI, *giving him a blow.*  
I'll say even more: it's done! . .

OUF, *drunk with joy.*  
Ah! a blow! ... He gave me a slap! ... what hope!... A  
bit strong, for example, but hey! ... (*To Lazuli,*  
*effusively.*) Ah! thank you, young man, thank you! ...  
You do not know how happy you make me! ...

LAZULI.  
He makes fun of me! ... Look! ... (*He gives him another*  
*blow.*)

OUF, *more joyfully.*  
Two!... That's two!... I have a pair! O immense joy! I  
want my man! (*Calling.*) Siroco! Siroco!

SIROCO, *appearing at the observatory*  
Grand Prince?

OUF.  
I want my man!

SIROCO.  
Ah! So much the better ... But I beg your pardon, I'm  
watching ... *(He withdraws.)*

OUF, *returning to Lazuli.*  
Finally! the party will not miss an execution! ... It will  
be gay! ... We'll laugh ...you'll see how we'll laugh!

LAZULI.  
Oh, that! What is it then? ... What do you have? ...

OUF, *becoming serious.*  
You're going to find out! ... *(Calling.)* Hey! Guards!  
Come to me ...Everyone! ... *(Music.)*

## SCENE XII

THE SAME, GUARDS, PEOPLE, then LAOULA,  
ALOES and TAPIOCA.

FINALE.  
*{Everybody rushes in. - At the sound, Laoula, Aloes  
and Tapioca appear on the balcony of the hotel.}*

OUF.  
Young man! You just slapped the king!

ALL.  
O heavens! He [I] slapped the king!

TAPIOCA, ALOES and LAOULA, *on the balcony.*  
He slapped the king!

LAZULI.  
I slapped the king!

OUF.  
A dreadful thing, to slap the king!  
Such an offense  
Calls for early revenge  
And today, you will die!

LAZULI, *apart.*  
My time! better to die  
So I longer suffer!

OUF, *to the people.*  
And you, be happy, good topics for my party  
As it will at last be complete:  
You will see a complete party!

ALL, *gaily.*  
We will see a complete party!  
Cut his head off today!

OUF, *returning to the guard*  
Not a moment to spare, we will show him the chair!

ALL.  
The chair! The chair!

LAZULI.  
The chair, that torture rare!

OUF.  
My dear friend, here is the chair

CHOIR  
The chair! The chair!  
It's very, very painful,  
And least filled with delights!  
*(They bring the instrument of execution, a golden chair  
with a velvet cushion.)*

OUF *at Lazuli.*

VERSES.  
I  
This chair, which has the air of nothing,  
It seems an ordinary chair;  
Well! my dear, well listen,  
It's a very special chair.  
At first it seems nothing in your eyes,  
It is not until you seat yourself  
By an ingenious trick,  
You'll feel a little prick,  
It includes the entire system ..  
. .  
Take a seat...  
Take a seat ...  
And soon you'll comprehend,  
The chair will get you in the end!

II  
*(Taking a crank, that gives him a guard.)*  
Look at me, without much effort  
I'll turn this crank,  
And quickly by means of a spring,  
You'll feel this great enormous spike!  
I then, in a twinkling,  
Here upping the thing  
One centimeter, or ten, or twenty;  
It's a matter of degree! ...  
*(He cranks up on the chair and proceeds to the  
turn,)*  
Seat yourself ...  
Seat yourself ...

And soon you'll comprehend,  
Trouble yourself to sit down,  
And you'll get it in the end!!

ALL.  
Give yourself the trouble to sit down,  
My good friend, you'll see! ...  
You'll get it in the end!  
*(At this point, Siroco appears all upset on the platform.  
Music continues in the orchestra.)*

SIROCO.  
Stop! Stop! ...

LAZULI.  
A diversion! ... Ah ... this will not hurt! ...

SCENE XIII  
THE SAME; SIROCO.

OUF to SIROCO, *who runs in.*  
Well? What? ... What is it?

SIROCO, *choking, taking him aside.*  
Ah! great prince! ... You were going to work  
beautifully! ...

OUF.  
How?

SIROCO.  
This young man ... he commanded his horoscope ...

OUF.  
Well?...!

SIROCO.  
I was about to see the stars ... Suddenly ...

OUF.  
What?...!

SIROCO.  
What I saw!

OUF.  
Speak!

SIROCO.  
It's horrible!

OUF.  
Go on, then!

SIROCO.  
I see that his star is intimately linked with yours ...  
They cannot separate ...

OUF.  
How?

SIROCO.  
So that when the two of you will have ceased to be, his  
death ...

OUF.  
Ends ... The other? ...

SIROCO.  
The other, you, will follow him one day later ...

OUF.  
Eh! ... What are you telling me?

SIROCO.  
The truth, Majesty! ... And like me, for in the terms of  
your will I have to die fifteen minutes after you, so you  
understand what importance I attach to this ...

OUF.  
Damn! And I was going to ... *(current guards who take  
Lazuli.)* Stop! Stop! ... Everything is changed...*(He lets  
go to the fauleuil, mopping his forehead.)* My God ...  
*(Standing up quickly.)*  
Ah! Take that! ...But so remove it! ... I'm protecting this  
young man! ...*(Movement.)*

LAZULI and LAOULA, *joyfully.*  
Thanks! ...

OUF,  
There will be no execution this year ...

ALL, *disappointed.*  
Awww! ...

OUF.  
But there will be two next year ...

ALL, *with joy.*  
Hooray! ...

OUF, to LAZULI.  
As for you, I bring you to take pleasure with me.

LAOULA, *aside.*  
The palace! ... Him! ... Ah! what happiness!...  
*(The song resumes.)*

OUF.  
Hello! That suddenly brings  
Instead of a pal, my palanquin!  
[Ed. note: a palanquin is a litter used in Asia to bear a  
governor or prince on the shoulders of four bearers.]

ALL.  
Let them take his palanquin!  
(*They bring the palanquin.*)

OUF, *very graciously to Lazuli.*  
Give yourself the trouble to sit down,  
At home I will receive you.

ALL.  
Give yourself the trouble to sit down,  
For the king will see you.  
(*Lazuli is carried in the palanquin. General Parade.  
Curtain.*)

## ACT TWO

*The throne room. – In the foreground, front doors and right left. - In the background, left cutaway door hidden in the wall. Just in just to the right, also in pan cut, a monumental gateway - In broad background windows overlooking a lake.*

### FIRST SCENE

LAZULI, OASIS, ASPHODEL, YOUKA, ZINNIA,  
KOUKOULI, ADZA.  
*Lazuli, metamorphosed and wearing rich garments, is sitting on cushions with food and drink, served by bridesmaids.*

### INTRODUCTION.

### CHOIR

Ah! the charming boy!  
He's so pretty! he's so cute !  
What easy grace.  
And a lovely face!  
He drives us mad.  
Ah! the lovely boy!  
Here, sir! You are adorable!

LAZULI.

BRINDISI.

I  
Dear God! This is an enchanting dream,  
What was I yesterday? A poor devil,  
Having to treasure all her heart,  
And never eating at the table.  
Today, I am a lord,  
I taste delicious dishes,  
Surrounded by charming women ...  
Ah! I'm having an enchanting dream!

ALL  
Lord, your cup is empty, Hand it to us!

LAZULI, *a little gray, rising.*  
II  
I drink ... Yes, but ... if you knew.  
This little wine, oh my God,  
Me better see your little feet,  
Your eyes and your fine sizes! ...  
It stuns me with its warmth,  
Ah! let me, let me take  
At each kiss is tender,  
Finally my dream enchanting!

LAZULI *increasingly gay.*  
By God! I must kiss you! ... (*He rushes to Oasis.*)

OASIS, *escaping.*  
Ah! (*As if defending herself.*) No! no!

LAZULI, *kissing.*  
No, it means yes ...

OASIS, *moved.*  
Ah!

LAZULI  
Your name ?

OASIS.  
Oasis...

LAZULI.  
Oasis ... Well! Oasis, I like you ...

OASIS.  
Really!

LAZULI.  
And I can prove it. (*He kisses her.*) Who's next?

ASPHODEL.  
Oh! not for me!...

LAZULI.  
Since you insist, my beautiful ... voilà .. (*He kisses her. - At Zinnia.*) And you?

ZINNIA.  
Me! Oh! I ask nothing better! ...

LAZULI, *kissing.*  
All in good time!

YOUKA.  
Well! And I did not save me, I think ...

LAZULI, *kissing.*  
You see that! ... Look, my beautiful, you are delicious,

and, if I had to choose, I think I would eat you up...

ALL, *surrounding him.*

This is nice! *(At this time, the left door opens and Ouf and Siroco enter.)*

OUF.

Well! well!

OASIS.

Ah! the king!

ALL.

The king ! . . . *(They separate.)*

LAZULI.

I've been caught early!

SCENE II

THE SAME, OUF, SIROCO.

SIROCO *to Ouf, pointing to Lazuli.*

You see, we take good care of him.

OUF.

Yes, I see ... just too many women around him; I said three or four at most, to keep him company ...

SIROCO.

I thought it good to have a half-dozen, for symmetry.

OUF.

It is imprudent, the number is too high ... Ladies, go away...

OASIS.

Oh! sire ... There is barely half an hour ...

OUF, *severely.*

So you'll always be the same, miss Oasis?...

OASIS.

But...

ALL, *surrounding him.*

My good little king ...

OUF, *watching them apart.*

You are alluring! ...*(Aloud.)* Well! Listen!...You will come back ... But now we have to talk seriously...Let us...

ASPHODEL, *petulantly.*

But we can return?

OUF.

Yes, Yes !...

ALL, *joyfully.*

Ah! *(They go out.)*

OUF, *looking away.*

Decidedly, I'll remove two or three ...

SCENE III

LAZULI, OUF, SIROCO.

LAZULI, *sadly apart.*

They've left... It's a shame ... Finally! ...We must thank the king! ... *(Advancing to him.)* Grand King ...

OUF, *interrupting him.*

Shut up ... *(Lazuli stops amazed. - At Siroco, below.)*

Siroco, I'm worried ... worried ... When I excessively dwell on the fact that my fate depends on this yong man's existence...

SIROCO.

And mine, by-blow against.

OUF.

Oh! yours, it has not the slightest importance ... *(Looking to Lazuli.)* Provided it is well made!

SIROCO.

Hopefully, my God! *(They go to Lazuli.)*

LAZULI, *advancing.*

Great king!

OUF.

Shut up ... stay like this ...

SIROCO.

Don't move!

LAZULI, *surprised.*

Ah!

*(Ouf and Siroco do pirouettes to the right and left.)*

OUF, *approaching Lazuli.*

Sorry ... I think there is no indiscretion. *(He places his ear on the chest of Lazuli. - To Siroco.)*

Pat him on the back. *(Siroco obeys.)*

LAZULI, *bewildered.*

Ah! here, what are you doing?

OUF.

Nothing, I'm listening ... breathe ... stronger ... Very good ...

SIROCO, *low.*

Well ?

OUF, *quietly*.  
Very strong chest ... He will live long ... (to Lazuli.)  
You'll go far, dear child.

SIROCO.  
Dear young man! (*The two embrace warmly.*)

LAZULI, *to himself*.  
They are good.

OUF.  
Now suffering I commit to you some questions.  
Of course, you wear flannels?

LAZULI.  
Me? No!

OUF.  
He doesn't wear flannels!

SIROCO.  
It will do! ...

LAZULI.  
But...

OUF.  
You must, though! Starting tomorrow you'll be covered  
from head to toe in them ... No flannels! What do your  
parents think?

LAZULI.  
My parents? ... I have none ... I lost them.

SIROCO.  
Ah! my God !

OUF, *worried*.  
When, young man ?

LAZULI.  
At the age of four.

OUF, *sorry*.  
His parents died at the age of four!...One does not live  
long in his family!

SIROCO.  
Good Lord!

OUF, *to tears*.  
It's horrible !

SIROCO *even play*.  
This is terrible!

LAZULI, *apart*.  
There is no denying they are very good! ...

OUF.  
And what is the disease that killed them? ...

LAZULI.  
Oh! it wasn't a disease. . . I lost them after  
a car accident!

OUF *with explosion*.  
A car accident? ... Ah! Siroco!

SIROCO.  
Majesty!

TOGETHER.  
It was just a car accident! ... (*They start jumping for  
joy.*)

LAZULI, *apart*.  
Their conversation is crazy!

OUF.  
Now, tell me honestly ... Are you happy in your new  
position?

LAZULI.  
Am I happy? Oh! I believe so!...And thank you ...Your  
Majesty can count on the fact that you're not dealing  
with an ingrate or that I'll confused the kindness you  
have for me.

OUF.  
How? Are you leaving ?

SIROCO.  
He goes!

OUF.  
Or are you?.

LAZULI.  
I'll just take a walk.

OUF.  
Alone? ...

LAZULI.  
Damn!

OUF.  
But you are not dreaming! ...

SIROCO.  
It's impossible !



LAZULI.  
How impossible? .

OUF.  
Starting today, your life will be as settled as music paper: .. The regularity in your vital functions, everything is there ... You will live here ... you will do it all as you like, provided you comply with my will ...

LAZULI.  
Ah! but let ...

OUF.  
You'll be out! The walk is hygienic ...you will always be accompanied by five or six people, at least, who will not let you go beyond five or six kilometers at the most...

LAZULI.  
Ah! but! Ah! but...

OUF.  
All this in your interest, that something bad may not happen to you ...So you don't meet with cars, like your family! ...Dear children!

SIROCO.  
Dear young man! ... *(They kiss)*

LAZULI *apart.*  
But what do they have?

OUF.  
Well, we'll leave together ... We'll come to take you on your walk ...

LAZULI.  
My walk ...

OUF.  
Yes, every day for an hour two. Goodbye ... *(They kiss.)* Dear children!

SIROCO *even play.*  
Dear young man! ...

OUF.  
The regularity of your vital functions, all here!

SIROCO.  
Here and there. *(They go out. We hear the locks turn from outside.)*

#### SCENE IV

LAZULI, *alone.*  
What? They lock me in! Ah! so it's serious? ...They

pretend to keep me here to view as a little girl ... and they believe that I will stay here because they gave me beautiful clothes and a good lunch ... Ah! not that! ... I prefer my poverty for example ... And then there's something else ... Now my stomach has nothing to say I begin to remember that I have a heart ... This adorable little woman I love ... She is married, it is true, but I do not care ... I want to see her at all costs but I know well I can't get through the bars of my cage! ... See! ... this door is closed! but this one? ... *(He goes to the door on the left.)* Also! And that one? ... *(He goes to the right door.)* Also ... Ah! then the window ... Devil! It's a little high and there is water below ... Bah, what does that matter? I swim like a fish ... come, come ... *(Seeing a tablecloth on the table.)* Here, that will serve me as a scale rope ... It's a little short, but I'll jump ... I'll attach it firmly ... *(He attaches it to the table on the balcony of the window.)* That's it ... And now by the grace of God! *(He disappears slowly in the trees.)*

SCENE V  
LAZULI SIROCO and OUF.

SIROCO, *coming home and seeing.*  
Ah! - Fire! Fire!

OUF, *running noise.*  
What's the matter?

SIROCO, *still crying.*  
Fire!

OUF, *putting also screaming.*  
Fire? ... *(Stopping.)* What's on fire?

SIROCO, *leading him to the window.*  
Look!

OUF.  
Ah!

SIROCO.  
He tumbles ...

OUF.  
But it is I who tumbles through it too! ...

SIROCO.  
And me! ... We're goners!

OUF.  
Two floors!

SIROCO.  
And the lake below!

OUF *explosively.*

And I can't swim!

SIROCO.

We'll drown! ...

OUF.

It's horrible! (*Leaning on the balcony.*) Lazuli, my friend, my child, my son, reassemble yourself, I beg you, come back ...Do it for me.

SIROCO.

Do it for us.

OUF.

Listen, since you are so worthy, you'll be free, free as a bird ... (*to Siroco.*) Ah! he goes! ...(*At Lazuli.*) Take care ... go slowly ... My God! the table creaked! ... (*Lazuli reappears.*) Ah! here he is! here he is! (*Ouf and Siroco seize him.*)

LAZULI.

But I'll be free ... you promised me? ...

OUF.

I swear on your head ... .. Aaah! ...Ah! alive! ... I'm alive!

SIROCO.

I cry ... I'm nervous! (*They fall into each other's arms.*)

LAZULI, *aside.*

But what have I done to make them love me like this?

OUF.

Naughty child! We did fear ... going to expose yourself so! And why, I ask you? ... Again, do you have a reason?

LAZULI.

I have a reason, I have one. (*With energy.*) A good reason! ... I'm in love! ...

OUF.

Love! ... It's nothing more than that! ...

SIROCO.

He does everything he can to thwart us?

LAZULI, *surprised.*

How...

OUF.

Finally, it's ... you marry her ...

LAZULI.

Who?...

OUF.

The one you love.

LAZULI.

But it is not possible ... She's married ...

OUF.

Bride! ... There is a husband! ... Jealous, perhaps ...

SIROCO.

It's done for us! ...

LAZULI.

Oh! But a husband doesn't bother me. ...

VERSES.

I

When one loves, it is useful  
From racking the brain  
Over this trivial obstacle  
Called a husband!  
With some eloquence,  
Know your chances,  
The husband in the balance  
Doesn't weigh very heavily ...

.

A husband, big deal!  
This is not an embarrassment!  
A husband hardly matters,  
A husband does not matter!

II

For my part, I'm sincere,  
I understand the husband,  
And still I know to call him,  
My ally, my friend.  
If the woman one day bothers me  
Why should I avoid boredom?  
Who's out? Who wanders?  
This is my friend's husband!  
A husband! big deal!, Etc.  
And if that one is not happy, the first time  
I meet him, I'll pull his ears and tease him!

OUF.

A duel!

SIROCO.

How unfortunate!

OUF.

You did not smite!

LAZULI

But I will fight...

SIROCO.  
No!

LAZULI.  
Yes! if! if!

OUF.  
Ah! that boy will drive me crazy ... He jumps through windows! He is in love ... He wants to fight! ... I am the hen that hatched a duck! ...

SCENE VI  
THE SAME, plus HERISSON the PORCUPINE

DOMESTIC, *announcing.*  
His Excellency Prince Herisson the Porcupine requests to be introduced ...

OUF.  
That's right, I forgot ... the Ambassador brings me my royal bride ... *(to Lazuli.)* It's your fault ... I forgot all my stuff because of you ... *(At home.)* We do get ...

HERISSON, *with outside noise.*  
I never ask the others ... I do not like that which makes me ask.

LAZULI.  
Heavens! That voice!...

OUF.  
What?...

LAZULI.  
Look ...

HERISSON, *entering agitated by the liveliest anger.*  
If there was not, he'd bite my fingers ... *(Turning to Ouf.)* There he is! ... *(To Ouf.)* Here you are! good for you ... *(He remains by the door and bows respectfully.)*  
Sire...

LAZULI, *brightly.*  
It's him!...

OUF.  
Who him?

LAZULI.  
The husband!... The husband of the woman I love!

OUF.  
Good God!

LAZULI.  
He told me he was in the novelty business, but he's an Ambassador!

OUF.  
Calm down!

HERISSON, *rising furiously at Ouf,*  
Ah! here, say so, you do not mind me?

OUF.  
Yes, yes...

HERISSON.  
Ah! good!... *(He bends again.)*

LAZULI.  
I'll fix him! ...

OUF.  
Ah! don't do that! don't do that! a man so violent! ...

HERISSON, *at the height of anger, a few steps.*  
But you do not mind me! ...

OUF, *bewildered, to Herisson.*  
On the contrary, I do it, *(to Lazuli.)* No public outburst! *(to Herisson.)* You see, I'm listening. *(to Lazuli.)* Give me five minutes, just five minutes...

LAZULI.  
Five minutes are ...

HERISSON.  
But you do not mind me! ...

OUF.  
I tell you that I don't do that!...*(He takes a chair and sits in the midst of the theater. Herisson does the same.)*

LAZULI, *also sitting down.*  
What will he say?

OUF, *at Herisson very graciously.*  
So go on ...

HERISSON.  
I said nothing.

OUF.  
Continue anyway.

HERISSON.  
*(Rising.)* Just before starting negotiations, I ask to say a few preliminary words ...*(He sits down.)*

OUF, *rising.*  
Stay ... *(He sits down.)*

HÉRISSON, *standing up, waving his chair and putting it down noisily.*

I came here with conciliatory ideas ...

OUF.

It shows ... *(Aside.)* And to think that this is the man whose wife he wants ! ...

HERISSON.

But I warn you of one thing, I have an ultimatum in my pocket...

OUF.

Ah! *(Aside.)* It is brittle ... your sword must be very safe.

HERISSON, *sitting back and very friendly.*

Now that you have been warned, we can begin...

OUF *even more lovable.*

That is, yes, let's talk ...

HERISSON.

Let's talk .. *(He hits his knee nervously with his closed hand.)*

OUF, *examining apart.*

He seems to have hurt his wrist. *(Aloud.)* Do you shoot well?

HERISSON.

What did you say?

OUF.

I said: Do you shoot well..or are you a fine swordsman?

HÉRISSON.

Why do you ask?

OUF.

No reason...

HERISSON.

For nothing? *(aside.)* He is a great diplomat ... Let's play right! ... *(Aloud.)* We come now to the big question ... Your marriage with the princess ...

OUF, *apart.*

I have to have the heart for it!

*(He goes to the bottom left of the wall where two wooden swords are attached. Returning to Herisson, he offers him one.)* Take it ...

HERISSON, *very surprised.*

What?

OUF, *putting his sword in hand.*

TAKE it!! ...

HERISSON.

But...

OUF, *making a call.*

Warning! *{Lazuli and Siroco have left.}*

HERISSON, *is coming apart*

What a strange audience! ...

OUF, *engaging.*

One! two! ...

HERISSON, *lowering his sword*

Sorry ... the princess ... *(Ouf gives him a blow on the head, Herisson remains stunned for a moment.)*

OUF, *to Lazuli.*

He is soft ... *(Returning.)* En garde! One! two! ...

*(Same game as above.)*

HERISSON, *continuing his idea and again lowering his saber.* And especially commercial treaties ...

OUF, *giving it a new saber in hand.*

This lack of response ...

LAZULI.

I can defend better than that!

HERISSON, *infuriated.*

Ah! but! ah! But! ... it annoys me! *(Stopping short.)*

Wait! ...

OUF.

What are you doing ?

HERISSON, *bringing his coat that hangs right.*

I start out comfortably ...

OUF.

How he gets in shirtsleeves ... an ambassador! ...

*(thinking.)* In fact, it's an idea. *(He takes off his habit and hangs it in the background. Going down, he finds Herisson guard. – Aside)* The low guard is an Italian ...

HERISSON, *hitting him during this aside.*

Are you sure?

OUF, *troubled.*

Wait...

HERISSON, *continuing to beat him.*

Just so! ...

OUF, *falling.*

Wait! ...

HERISSON, *increasingly strong*.  
Just so!

OUF, *distraught*.  
Wait! ...

HERISSON.  
And therefore just so! ... (*Ouf falls on a cushion.*) That's  
it East! (*Needless remeltre his coat.*)

OUF, *suffocating*.  
Button! ... He buttoned me! ... (*Down to Lazuli.*) You  
do smite thee not with him!

LAZULI.  
But...

OUF.  
It's very hard ... He buttoned me! Do not kill me! ...

HERISSON, *to Ouf*.  
Ah! that, say, then, when you have finished speaking to  
the corners ...

OUF.  
To the corners! ...

LAZULI *furious*.  
To the corners! ...

HERISSON, *with force*.  
Yes, to the corners! ... (*He prepares again to take off  
his coat.*)

OUF, *scared, continuing to Lazuli*.  
Yes, yes ... in the corners ...

HERISSON.  
On my honor, I'm tired, I'm too ... I've been in many  
classes; often poorly received, never have I been forced  
to do fencing there ... Never! I ... negotiations break  
down ... (*Looking in his pocket.*) Where is my  
ultimatum?

OUF.  
His ultimatum! Stop! ... I apologize to you.

HERISSON.  
So you put up your thumbs?

OUF.  
I know I have two ... If I had three,  
I would put up all three ...

HERISSON.  
Well and good! ... (*Again becoming humble.*) Sire, I run  
to find the princess. In ten minutes presentation

and official approval of my letters of credit ...

OUF.  
I'm waiting for you...

HERISSON.  
I count the ... (*going away.*) Humans shall audience! ...

## SCENE VII

THE SAME less HERISSON.

OUF at LAZULI.  
And that's the man you want to provoke!

SIROCO.  
This is madness!

LAZULI.  
And then after ?

OUF.  
Unhappy child, what are you thinking? ... When he  
began buttoning me before you ... He buttoned it up! ...

LAZULI.  
That to me is equal ... and I will ...

OUF.  
No! ... No! ... Listen! Listen to me ... Don't bother him  
any more! ... It's his wife that you want, is it not?

LAZULI.  
Yes !...

OUF.  
Eh well! you'll have her!....

LAZULI.  
How...

OUF.  
I will put in the shade ... Like this it hinders you more.

LAZULI.  
Ah! perfect!

SIROCO.  
Great!... (*Struck by an idea.*) Ah! but no! You can't! An  
ambassador... After the presentation is made, his person  
is sacred ...

OUF.  
Sapriste! it's true. But then ... suppress the presentation.

SIROCO.  
That's a great idea! ...

OUF.  
Quickly order not to let in anyone! ...

HERISSON, *outside*.  
Advertise Ambassador!

SIROCO.  
Ah! By Jove! ...

OUF.  
Hide us quickly, we have the time! ...  
(*They come strongly through the left foreground.*)

SCENE VIII  
HERISSON, TAPIOCA, LAOULA, ALOESS and  
SIROCO, and Two Guards.

(HERISSON, TAPIOCA, LAOULA and ALOES *enter*  
*ceremoniously and bow to the throne.*)

HERISSON, *after a moment*.  
You don't mind me! ...

LAOULA, *who notes the head, laughing*.  
But no one! ...

HERISSON.  
Well, it's true.

ALOES.  
If that's what you call a presentation official! ...

HERISSON.  
Shut up, Mrs. ... we are ahead, and that's everything ...  
(*Seeing the left door open.*) Hold on ...just ... Stand  
right there ... and you tilt ... (*Between Siroco with two  
guards.*)

SIROCO, *going to him*.  
It is you who are prince Herisson the Porcupine? ...

HERISSON, *saluting*.  
Myself ... (*camping.*) Commissioned by the King my  
master on a confidential mission, and carrying a terrible  
ultimatum in case it does not succeed, I just ...

SIROCO, *very graceful*.  
On behalf of the King, I arrest you ...

HERISSON, *surprised*.  
Me? ... but there must be an error ... It is I who am the  
ambassador ...I come to the trade agreements and the  
marriage of the princess ...

LALOULA.  
My wedding!

HERISSON.  
Yes, King Ouf!

LALOULA.  
With the king! ... We want to marry the King! ...

HERISSON.  
How! I do not say you have! ... It is you who are the  
extra commercial treaty ...

LALOULA, *sorry*.  
The extra ... for example! ... But I do not want to be  
extra! ...

HERISSON.  
It must be, Princess ...

LALOULA, *staggering*.  
Oh my God !...

ALOES, *holding her in her arms*.  
But she is going to faint ... Tapioca! ... (*They sit.*  
*Meanwhile, Herisson has recovered to discuss Siroco.*)

HERISSON.  
I tell you that there is an error ...

SIROCO.  
No comment! ... (*To the guards.*) Take this gentleman  
away to a cell! ...

HERISSON, *struggling*.  
Arrest me? me? I've been in many classes ... We often  
poorly treat me, but we never made me prisoner!  
Never! ... (*He exits right. Siroco follows.*)

SCENE IX

TAPIOCA, LALOULA, ALOES and LAZULI.

TAPIOCA.  
Poor boss ... we will complete the ...

ALOES.  
It is good for him! (*Pointing to Laoula, who has  
fainted.*) The Princess did not return to it ... Help me  
help him.

TAPIOCA.  
Is that I do not know many ... (*Seeing Lazuli who just  
left.*) Ah! the little peddler! ...

ALOES.  
It happens about ... (*The caller.*) Mr. Lazuli ...

LALOULA, *opening one eye and apart*.  
Lazuli ...

LAZULI, *running*.  
Here! ... (*Seeing Laoula.*) Laoula! ... But she fainted ...  
Oh! let me help her...

ALOES.  
Are you a doctor ?

LAZULI  
A little ... for these diseases here ...

QUARTET.

I

LAZULI.

When one wants to revive a beauty,  
There is, it's said, a special way;  
You have to approach her very closely,  
And kiss her tenderly and fairly.

ALOES.

Ah! the gentle way!

TAPIOCA and ALOES.

If it were us, God! He is better!

LAOULA, *apart*.

Ah! the gentle way!

It would do me so much good.

LAZULI, *approaching Laoula and taking her hand*.

Laoula, darling ...

LAOULA, *apart*.

Here I am.

LAZULI, *kissing*.

Laoula!

ALOES has TAPIOCA, *and tenderly as if she would faint*.

Tapioca!...

(*Tapioca leaves the seated on cushions.*)

LAZULI.

Laoula, my darling ...It'll be better!

(*He kisses her.*)

LAOULA, *weakly*.

Ah! ah!

TAPIOCA *even game with ALOES*.

It'll be better!

ALOES, *same play*.

Ah! ah!

TOGETHER.

That's better, thanks to that kiss there! ...

II

LAZULI to TAPIOCA

But I believe the gentle remedy.

Has succeeded twice as well,

The kiss was a bit warm,

Start again without appearing too eager.

ALOES.

Ah! This rascal is gentle!

TAPIOCA.

Start again, it does not last ...

LALOULA, *apart*.

Ah! the gentle way!

It already felt good.

LAZULI, *same game above*.

Laoula, darling ....

LAOULA, *apart*.

He comes here, here

.

LAZULI, *kissing*.

Laoula!

ALOES, *to Tapioca*.

Tapioca.

LAZULI.

Laoula, my darling,

It'll be better!

(*Kiss.*)

LAOULA.

Ah! Ah!

TAPIOCA, *playing laong*.

It'll be better!

ALOES, *playing along*.

Ah! ah!

TOGETHER.

This will be better through this kiss!

LAOULA.

Ah! Lazuli, if you knew what that does to me! ...

LAZULI.

What?

LAOULA.

I want to get married!

LAZULI.

How? Since you're already ...



LAOULA.  
But no, I'm not!

LAZULI.  
You aren't the wife of the ambassador?

ALOES.  
No, that's me.

TAPIOCA.  
It's her.

LAZULI, *showing Laoula.*  
Well, but her? ...

ALOES.  
She, she's the princess ...

LAZULI.  
Princess!...

LAOULA.  
Alas! yes! ... And they want me to marry the King! ...

LAZULI.  
The king!...

LAOULA, *,pleurant.*  
It seems that this marriage is necessary ... because of trade agreements ... It is I who am the booster.

LAZULI.  
The extra! ... Oh, my poor Laoula! ...

LAOULA, *throwing herself into his arms.*  
My poor Lazuli! ...

ALOES, *even game with Tapioca.*  
My poor Tapioca! ...

TAPIOCA.  
Poor patron! ...

SCENE X

THE SAME, plus OUF.

OUF, *entering through the left apart.*  
Herisson is locked ... Lazuli will be happy ... It will be the woman he loves ... {The sighting.} He already has! ... Poor Herisson! It did not take long.

LAZULI, *perceiving.*  
Ah! the king...

ALL, *separating.*  
The king !...

OUF *with a good smile.*  
Do not bother ... You are kind ...

ALL, *surprised.*  
What?! ...

OUF, *at Laoula.*  
Well ! that's it ... your husband is locked up.

LAOULA,  
My husband!...

LAZULI, *das and strongly.*  
He believes she is the wife of Herisson! ...

LAOULA.  
But...

LAZULI *low.*  
Leave it ... It saves us ... (*Aloud.*) Yes! Yes!

ALL.  
Yes! Yes!... .

OUF.  
They are nice! ... Poor Herisson! ... All the same, it has not dragged ... (*Looking at ALOESs.*) But then this divine child is my royal bride ...

ALOES AND TAPIOCA.  
Huh!

LAZULI *strongly*  
Yes! Yes!...

ALL  
Yes! Yes!

OUF, *eyeing Aloes.*  
She is very successful ... miss, you trèsréussie. I you might have preferred brown, ash blonde being myself ... Anyway ... since there is no way ... But I think ... I have to do these young people a communication to which your rank, your ingenuity, do not allow you to attend ... I'll take you in the apartment that is for you ...

ALOES.  
Ah!

TAPIOCA, *strongly, offering his arm to Aloes.*  
If His Majesty will allow, I'll save him the trouble ....

ALOES, *taking his arm.*  
Yes.

OUF.  
What does this one say?

TAPIOCA.  
Tapioca replaces the Ambassador ... I ...

ALOES.  
My childhood friend...

TAPIOCA.  
His brother almost ...

ALOES.  
Oh! yes ... (*He pauses with a languorous sigh that Tapioca repeats.*)

OUF.  
Oh! then ... Make, made ...

TAPIOCA.  
Your Majesty may rely upon me ...

ALOES.  
Oh! yes ... (*She exits.*)

OUF, *accompanying*  
Make no mistake ... Chamber 27, corridor B.  
(*Revenait.*) It inspires all my confidence, young Tapioca.

SCENE XI

LAZULI, LAOULA, OUF.

OUF, *watching them, apart.*  
Poor Herisson! ... But I'm not sorry for what happened to him! ... (*Taking Laoula by the hand.*) My child, my child ... I have good news to announce to you ... I took care of you ... you will both benefit...

LAZULI and LAOULA.  
How?

OUF at LAOULA.  
I will remove myself ...

LAOULA.  
Remove yourself!

LAZULI, *apart.*  
He wants me to take his bride! ... Ah! good!

LAOULA, *choking with laughter.*  
And ... that's why you are busy?

OUF.  
Yes ... it's me ... I've wanted to say this in person...

LAOULA, *bottom Lazuli.*  
The poor man!

LAZULI *as well.*  
It makes me sad ...

OUF.  
Hold! Here is my purse ... You will lack nothing...

LAOULA.  
Ah! You are good!

OUF.  
I know it...

LAZULI.  
Oh ! I know you more than you think ...

OUF.  
Well! To my sorrow, I ask you only one thing ... A little recognition ...

LAOULA, *laughing.*  
As for that, you can be sure ...

LAZULI.  
Oh! Yes!...

VERSES.

LAZULI, LAOULA

I  
I'm not an ungrateful soul,  
I admit that right away,  
Your conduct is delicate,  
Your protection so touching!  
Though my lover thinks,  
You will have your reward  
My faith never wavers and if he is jealous,  
I always think of you!

II  
Grace to you alone, we will be,  
Me all to himself, him to me  
This troubles me a little, perhaps be,  
But I feel a tender emotion ...  
Well, in all circumstances,  
Count on my gratitude,  
For in the sweetest moments ...  
We always think of you!

OUF, *clenching his heart.*  
Dear children, kiss me! ...

LAOULA.  
Oh! wholeheartedly! ...

LAZULI, *apart.*  
Certainly it makes me sad. .

OUF, *opening a door on the left.*

Now whisk yourself away through this door ... You will find a boat down by the lake ... And on the other side a post chaise and whips check! ...

LAZULI and LAOULA.  
Oh! wholeheartedly!  
Whips check!

TRIO.

OUF.  
Now you must go quickly!

LAZULI.  
Yes, we go quickly.

LAOULA.  
Oh! the delightful escape!

LAZULI.  
As goes the happy heart!

LAOULA.  
Throughout our extreme joy,  
Every moment in the way.

LAZULI.  
We will go hand in hand  
By telling you softly: I love you

LAOULA.  
I love you!

LAZULI.  
I love you!

OUF.  
Let's scoot!  
Go, in disguise.

LAOULA and LAZULI, *beginning to laugh.*  
Ah! ah! ah!

OUF.  
Eh! Well, what will you have!

LAOULA and LAZULI.  
Ah! ah! ah!  
It's the husband who made us laugh  
The husband when he knows that,  
I can see the poor creature,  
The good head he has!

TOGETHER.  
It is the husband who made us laugh, etc.  
(*At cemoment big noise outside and voice Herisson.*)

HERISSON, *outside.*  
Leave me! I'll teach him a lesson!

OUF.  
My God! Him!

LAOULA.  
Herisson!

OUF.  
He escaped ... Sneaked away fast! ... (*He brings them out*)

HERISSON, *outside.*  
I'll teach him a lesson! ... (*Knocking Siroco and trying to bar his way.*)

SCENE XII

OUF, HERISSON, SIROCO.

OUF.  
My God ... As it is red! ...

HERISSON, *arriving.*  
Ah! you here ... I'll make a killing! ...

OUF.  
Prince! Calm down ... I know ... it's a misunderstanding, a terrible misunderstanding ...

HERISSON.  
But...

OUF.  
Let's see! Calm down...

HERISSON.  
But this presentation that has not occurred.

OUF.  
It will take place at the same time. I will receive my fiancée ... I would have preferred a brunette or ash blonde woman myself ... Finally, by using dye ...

HERISSON.  
I'll go to the hotel ...

OUF.  
Useless, here it is ... in her apartment ...

HERISSON.  
Ah!

OUF.  
Yes ... I entrusted to your replacement ... Hold ... take there, room 27, corridor B.

HERISSON, *outgoing*.  
I'm running...

OUF.  
That's right, run. (*To Siroco.*) You may admit everyone!

SCENE XIII  
OUF, SIROCO, THE COURT then HERISSON,  
ALOES and TAPIOCA.  
(*Music. General admission.*)

CHOIR.  
Soon we'll see the beautiful princess,  
And the great ambassador.  
Torrents of joy will  
Flow from our hearts!  
(*The music stops. Nobody moves. A surprise movement.*)

OUF.  
Now, staff ... Well! And the princess? ...

HERISSON, *entering with messy clothes, spiky hair*.  
*He is pale and cannot find the words.*  
Ah! Princess! Princess!...

OUF, *apart*.  
My God! As sharp at present! ... (*Aloud.*) Well!  
Princess?

HERISSON.  
She is gone!

OUF.  
Kidnapped! It's not possible ... I told you: room 27...

HERISSON.  
I did find that my wife ... was being kissed by Tapioca  
... Look! ... (*Enter Aloes, Tapioca with eyes down -.*  
*Herisson, with a threat*) We explain, Mrs!...

ALOES.  
My friend, this is not what you think ...

OUF.  
Ah! No? what do you say? ... here is the princess!

HERISSON.  
She ... Princess? ... That's my wife!

OUF.  
Your wife?

HERISSON.  
Yes, the princess, is the other ..

OUF, *brightly*.  
The other! You mean that? ... I mistook ...

HERISSON  
How, this is you ... why?

OUF.  
I thought Laoula was your wife!

HERISSON, *vexed*.  
What reason! ...

OUF.  
But why didn't they tell me that Madame was the  
princess and the princess was your wife? ...

HERISSON.  
Ah ... well ... it's me ... it's me who puts that notion out  
... for diplomacy ...

OUF.  
Are you *stupid*? ...

HERISSON.  
What?!

OUF.  
It's stupid! ... That's why, at this moment, I'm playing  
the role of a fool ... a patsy ... yes, a ninny! ... When I  
think ... I sang with them ... "It is the husband who  
makes me laugh!" And now, my royal bride has gone  
afield with a young man!

HERISSON  
Gone afield? They're in a boat.

OUF.  
Egad! ... It was I who provided that! ...

HERISSON.  
But rest assured, all is not lost ....

OUF.  
What do you mean ?

HERISSON.  
I've given order to your guards to go in pursuit of the  
kidnapper and shoot him ...

OUF, *a cry*.  
*What?!*

SIROCO.  
Oh!

ALOES and TAPIOCA.  
God!

HERISSON.  
He will be sniped at ...

OUF.  
Sniped at!... How awful! ... But you don't know that  
my life is at stake!... Ah!... (*He stops due to weakness.*)

SIROCO *as well.*  
Ah!

HERISSON  
They're crazy!...

OUF.  
Run! ... As long as we arrive in time! ... (*At that  
moment, a shot is heard.*)

ALL.  
Heavens!

FINALE.

CHORUS.  
A shot!  
Yes, it's unmistakable,  
A shot!  
Unexpected, suspenseful,  
It sounded, my God! my God!  
A shot!

OUF.  
I remain stupified!

SIROCO.  
My eyes are wet with tears!

OUF.  
Is he slain?

SIROCO.  
Is he slain?  
Or is he not slain?

HERISSON.  
Well, too bad  
If he is slain!

ALL.  
Is he slain?  
Or is he not slain?

RESUMPTION OF CHORUS.  
A shot! etc.

THE CHORUS. (*Spoken*)  
Ah! Here comes the princess ...

OUF, *worried.*  
Siroco ... She's alone! ...

SIROCO.  
She is sad!

OUF.  
I'm shaking!

SCENE XIV  
THE SAME, LAOULA.  
(*Between Laoula are several bridesmaids.*)

ALOES.  
Ah! tell us, princess!  
Let us know  
This moving drama,  
All that matters!

LAOULA.  
VERSES.  
I  
Both sitting in the boat,  
We stared in silence  
As we were sailing, driven by water,  
Towards the Land of Hope:  
We advanced slowly,  
Nature seemed cheerful  
And the sun shone merrily ...  
Ah! my God! that I was happy! ...  
And then crack! And another crack!  
Everything changed in one minute,  
My lover was tumbling  
And disappeared in the lake!

ALL.  
And then crack! And another crack!  
Everything changed in a minute, etc.

LAOULA.  
II  
In my heart I made an oath,  
That in front of you I renew,  
There will be no replacement ...  
I will always be faithful!  
And if one wishes to force me,  
To force me into marriage,  
I will leave without protest  
Come the moment of the ceremony ...  
And then crack! And then crack!  
I'll disappear in a minute!  
I'll do a quick somersault,  
And join him in the lake!

ALL.  
And then crack! And then crack!  
He disappeared in a minute, etc.

OUF and SIROCO, *with great despair.*  
And then crack! And then crack!

CHORUS, *with indifference.*  
My faith! That we should care!  
But nevertheless, the princess  
Is not merely a compliment;  
So wills politeness ...  
(*Advancing to the princess, grimly.*)  
It is a misfortune!  
We say so from the heart:  
Princess, it is a misfortune!  
A terrible misfortune!  
... Frightful!  
... Frightful!  
... Frightful ...

OUF, *explosively.*  
Heavens! I have only one day to live!

SIROCO, *the same.*  
Fifteen minutes after and I will follow you!

CHORUS, *same game above.*  
My faith! that we not care!  
But nevertheless, to His Highness,  
Let mere compliment;  
So wills politeness ...  
(*They approach the King sadly.*)  
It is a misfortune!  
We say from the heart:  
Highness, it is a misfortune!  
A terrible misfortune!  
... . Frightful!  
... . Frightful!  
... . Frightful!  
(*Then, very gaily.*)  
Is it a misfortune?  
A great misfortune?  
A regrettable misfortune?  
A small tear,  
A small tear,  
That's all it takes for this peddler!  
He's dead!  
Well, for him it is a great pity!  
He's dead!  
Since he died, there's no more to say!  
His fate...  
Why whine any more?  
Our regrets are superfluous! ...  
He's dead!  
Since he died, no more about it! ...  
(*The chorus ends with a pattern of joyous gallop during which Aloes, Herisson and Tapioca support Laoula and Ouf, and Siroco defaulters fall into the arms of one another.*)  
(*Curtain.*)

## ACT THREE

*A summerpavilion. – Basically, three large windows opening on one level on a lake –Between the left and the middle, a large clock – Pan doors and cut the sides.*

### FIRST SCENE

OUF, SIROCO.  
(*Ouf and Siroco, very absorbed, are each seated on a chair. – Grand Silence. – We hear the regular ticking of the clock.*)

SIROCO, *after a moment.*  
Majesty? ...

OUF.  
Siroco?

SIROCO.  
Would you like to walk?

OUF.  
I will, walk!

SIROCO.  
Let's walk ! (*They walk. - The clock strikes one hour.*)

OUF, *with a jolt.*  
One hour!

SIROCO.  
Already! ...

OUF.  
And yesterday we still found nothing! ...

SIROCO.  
Yet the lake was ... We probe it, yet ...

OUF.  
Unfathomable mystery! I declare, Siroco, and the police chief who had promised to hasten that there would be news ... He's not in any rush.

SIROCO.  
Maybe there is no news.

OUF, *sadly.*  
Why, are you the police chief, then? ... By the time the fatal shot rang out, it was five o'clock.... And by your astronomical calculations, I have to follow Lazuli twenty-four hours after. Meanwhile, I leave, to me, therefore would perform at five.

SIROCO.  
And me at a quarter past five!

OUF.  
At that rate, I would not have four hours left on this earth ...

SIROCO.  
And I, four and a quarter hours.

OUF.  
It is short, too short ... This clock must advance ... Let it be late ... *(He sets the clock back an hour.)*

SIROCO, *even play.*  
A little more!

OUF, *with relief.*  
This gives us a little room ... *(Resuming walking.)* Oh! no no! I cannot stand it ...

SIROCO, *who went to the bottom.*  
Ah! here he is !...

OUF, *strongly.*  
Who?...

SIROCO.  
The chief of police!

OUF.  
I hope he has some news.

SCENE II

THE SAME, THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE, *all out of breath, but very happy.*  
Majesty, I bring you news!

OUF.  
Finally!...And...You are happy?

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
Majesty! I will not conceal that I am very happy.

OUF, *joyfully.*  
Ah! *(Very nicely.)* Sit down ...

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
Willingly. *(He sits.)* Imagine ... I can tell you now what happened ... Imagine that there was a time when I was afraid.

OUF.  
Really!

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
Yes ... I thought we would not succeed ...

OUF.  
I confess that for my part I was not without anxiety ...

SIROCO.  
And me too!

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
It was enough! ... We had very few clues that allowed us to make presumptions, but certainty ... the certainty escaped us.

OUF.  
Well ... sure ...

POLICE CHIEF.  
And without certainty the chief of police, you see, is not a police chief.

OUF.  
That makes sense ... Whereas now?

THE CHIEF OF POLICE, *standing.*  
Now, Your Majesty will be satisfied!

OUF.  
Ah!

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
I know absolutely at this moment where I stand on the case of Lazuli.

OUF.  
Ah ...

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
Yes...Doubt is not allowed ... He is indeed dead ...

SIROCO, *leaping.* Huh?

OUF.  
What do you say?

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
Here, however, is the complete evidence to convince you ... *(He makes a sign and is given a small package.)* The hat and coat of the young man which were found in the lake.

OUF, *with despair.*  
Unfortunate that I am!

SIROCO.  
My God! My God!

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
I hope Your Majesty is quite happy to know this.



OUF, *bursting*.  
You fool!

SIROCO.  
Idiot!

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
What?

OUF.  
Get out!

SIROCO.  
Go away!

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
But...

OUF.  
Will you go?

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
For what? I bring certainty. Everything is here. (*Angry, he moves towards Ouf*) I'll go, I'll go! ... (*Going out.*)  
What do they need, then? (*Ouf and Siroco are crushed at the bottom of the scene.*)

OUF, *after a pause*.  
Siroco!

SIROCO.  
Majesty!

OUF.  
How do you feel?

SIROCO.  
Not good ... not good at all.

OUF.  
I have no legs, I need to take something strong to recover.

SIROCO, *delighted with the idea*.  
Yes ... a cordial!

OUF.  
A good hearty ... just ...

SIROCO.  
This is what I want anymore.

OUF.  
As we depend on each other,, Slowly ... there ... Hold me, I will support you. (*He trudges.*) This time the question is no longer permitted.

SIROCO.  
It is a certainty ... (*They leave. The reeds of the lake part, and one sees the head of Lazuli.*)

### SCENE III

LAZULI, *alone, looking cautiously around him*.  
Yes! ... I can risk it. This isn't bad! (*He comes out completely and descends on the scene.*)

### VERSES.

I  
Finally, I feel better!  
I can see heaven  
From this swamp!  
Among the reeds,  
Swimming between two waters,  
Ah! what an ugly trip!  
Here I am soaked,  
Hardly revived  
And – most importantly – very cold!  
*Atchi! ... Atchi! ... Atch! ...*  
*Atch!* The sad thing  
Is a head cold!  
*Atchi!* All is not rosy  
At the bottom of the water!

II  
It was across the lake,  
A terrible mishmash  
When they saw me go down.  
Frogs and fish,  
Few facts in the way,  
They could understand nothing.  
Their astonishment  
I could laugh for a while,  
But in the end, it's embarrassing!  
*Atch! ... Atch! ... Atch! ...*  
*Atchi!* The sad thing, etc.

Yes, but in the meantime, we must be very careful ...  
When I saw they were going to shoot me, I dropped into the water and dove, making them believe me dead and I was quiet for a moment ... But soon they started to look for me in the lake and I had to spend some fairly unpleasant hours hiding in the reeds... Obviously, the king is furious at my getaway and would be delighted to make me pay ... this is therefore not to give him that satisfaction and ... noise! ... Let's go quickly in my residence in the water ... (*He returns.*)

### SCENE IV

OUF, SIROCO.  
OUF, *slowly returning, a small box under his arm*.  
I just had a glass of chartreuse ... but I don't feel very well yet ... (*Stopping in front of the clock.*) Oh! two

o'clock! Ah! that it has to move like that, this clock? ... It should not be more than half past one ... And yet! ... (*He delays.*) The! ... (*Looking at the balance.*) and that balance! ... I cannot see it! ... (*He violently closes the door of the clock and sits right at a small table.*)

SIROCO, *entering.*

Ah! it goes a little better! ... (*stopping in front of the clock.*) An hour and a half! ... No way! What a woozy! ... (*Delaying.*) An hour and a quarter at the most! ... (*He goes down slowly, trailing his feet noisily.*)

OUF, *absorbed.*

Yet this balance! ... (*He returns*) Here is Siroco! ...

SIROCO, *after a moment.*  
Majesty! ...

OUF.  
Siroco?

SIROCO.  
I've just had an idea ...

OUF.  
What?

SIROCO, *very insinuating.*  
You, your moments are numbered, you can't do anything ... but I ...

OUF.  
You?

SIROCO.  
If you would please ... You have only to cross out that little clause in your will ...

OUF, *rising.*  
Delete the clause! ...

SIROCO, *kneeling.*  
Be good, Majesty! ... It may bring good luck ...

OUF.  
Desertion, then! You're leaving me?

SIROCO, *still kneeling.*  
But, Majesty, what's it to you? ...

OUF.  
What do I care? Do you think it's not comforting for me to have a traveling companion ... at least I tell myself: I will not be alone ...

SIROCO.  
But...

OUF.  
One more word, and I will skip the quarter of an hour.

SIROCO.  
No, no ... I am silent ...

OUF.  
All in good time ... Come! Now, help me ... I want to put some order in my business ... This box contains all my bills! ... we'll read together.

SIROCO.  
Read all your bills?

OUF.  
We'll tear up those that aren't paid ... It will simplify matters ... Come! ... (*They begin to read.*)

SCENE V  
THE SAME, LAZULI, HERISSON and TAPIOCA.

LAZULI, *appearing again.*  
I hear nothing more ... (*Seeing Ouf and Siroco*) Ah! the King! (*Looking behind the scenes.*) And the ambassador coming this way ... save us! ... just, let us know what they are going to say .. (*He disappears.*)

HERISSON, *going left, followed by Tapioca.*  
Come, follow me ... .. and try to keep up!

TAPIOCA.  
But boss...

HERISSON, *severely.*  
I forbid you to call me BOSS! ... call me sir! ... One that I found yesterday kissing my wife!

TAPIOCA.  
She was bored.

HERISSON.  
That's not an excuse!

TAPIOCA, *begging.*  
But boss! ...

HERISSON.  
I told you to call me sir ...

TAPIOCA.  
Yes, boss...

HERISSON, *seeing Ouf.*  
The King ... the two of them (*He takes a few steps.*)

SIROCO, *quietly*.

Ah! Majesty! ... The Ambassador ...

OUF, *who has stopped tearing his bills*.

It's good! ... If he thinks I'll bother with him at such a moment ... (*Aloud*.) Tell him I'm not here.

HERISSON, *surprised*.

Huh?

SIROCO, *rising*.

You heard ... His Majesty is absent for the moment. He regrets it much ...

HERISSON, *angrily*

How he will regret! .. What is this joke? ... (*Advancing to Ouf who doesn't listen*.) Sire, I have business ... I have a treaty to discuss with you ... I received letters from my government on horseback...

TAPIOCA, *between his teeth*.

That isn't true!

HERISSON, *approaching Ouf*.

I beg your pardon! .. It was recommended that I be firm.

TAPIOCA, *even play*.

That isn't true ...

HERISSON, *furiously*.

I beg your pardon! ... That's two rebuffs that you've given me! You are not polite! ...

OUF, *falling about and looked into his eyes*.

Not polite!... Ah! you bore me... I'm not talking to you anymore! You're a fool ...

LAZULI, *who had advanced to listen, to share*.

Oh! we argue...

HERISSON.

A fool! Repeat that again! ...

OUF.

I repeat and I support ... (*He stretches his leg to kick him*.) You're a fool! ...

ALL.

Oh!

LAZULI, *apart*.

Touché!...

HERISSON, *pale with rage*.

I've been in many situations ... I was often ill received ... but never like this... You will regret having such

forgetfulness of propriety ... in such a place ... (*With cold dignity*.) I'll catch him again! ...but in the meantime, it's war.

OUF.

War! ... I do not laugh at the evil of war!

HERISSON.

Huh?

OUF.

For the time I have left to live! ...

TAPIOCA and HERISSON.

How?

OUF.

Four hours at most ...

HERISSON.

Four hours !

LAZULI, *apart*.

What is he saying ?

OUF.

And because of you again ... for you I do that! ...

HERISSON.

For me?

OUF.

Yes, you! ... You who fired at poor Lazuli.

LAZULI *aside*.

Him! ... The old scoundrel! ...

HERISSON.

Well ?

OUF.

Well! we share the same star ... my existence depended on his ...

HERISSON.

How?

LAZULI, *apart*.

What have I learned here? ...

OUF.

Since he's gone, I have only enough time to put my papers in order; do you understand now?

HERISSON, *moved*.

Poor King!

SIROCO.

And His Majesty does not tell you is that I, indirectly...

OUF, *repulsed*.

Oh! you, are not of the slightest importance!

SIROCO, *apart*.

I think I am! ...

LAZULI, *aside*.

Now I understand why he was so interested in me! ...

HERISSON, *with great gentleness*.

Sire, loyal to these explanations, things completely change their complexion... and I beg you to accept my apologies for the kick that I attracted to me ...

OUF, *waving his hand*.

Forget everything!

HERISSON.

But then what of marriage to the princess? ...

OUF.

You can imagine that I no longer think ...

LAZULI, *apart*.

What happiness!

OUF.

You speak to her father expressing my regrets for not being able to marry her.

HERISSON.

Sire, count on me ... but I retire ... I would not want to intrude on your last moments ... Just now, though, I'll present my passports for your signature, the last you may give ...

OUF, *bored*.

It's good, it's good ...

HERISSON.

I'll keep it as a souvenir ... Goodbye, unhappy Ouf! goodbye...

TAPIOCA.

Farewell, good Ouf! *(They go out on tiptoe.)*

OUF, *after a time*.

Ah! that scene broke my heart ...

SIROCO, *timidly*.

Would you like another cordial?

OUF, *almost gaily*.

That sounds good ... a glass of chartreuse ... From the cellar, this time ... *(They go back and arrange the bottom, then stop and turn.)*

DUETTO.

I

OUF.

Alas, I don't feel anything! ...

SIROCO.

I'm feeling weak and sick!

OUF.

This liquor, I guess,

SIROCO.

Will restore the heart ...

TOGETHER.

It warms a man's heart, even when you're upset,

No, nothing like a little glass

Of Chartreuse 'ver-

Of Chartreuse 'ver-

Of Chartreuse 'ver-

You!

II

OUF.

We have pains in the chest,

SIROCO. .

We suffer from seasickness,

OUF.

Whether you have bad headaches

SIROCO.

Let them come to pass. ..

TOGETHER.

We'll drink another glass, etc. *(They go out.)*

SCENE VI

LAZULI alone.

Ah! but! ah! but! I just heard interesting things ... Now

I'm sure of my Laoula! ... *(Looking behind the scenes.)*

But I'm not mistaken ... this is what comes from the

side ... my Laoula! ... she looks like she cried. *(Sending*

*kisses.)* Look! here! like! ... but do not show it right

away ... *(He hides on the left, behind a curtain.)*

SCENE VII

LAZULI, hidden LAOULA, ALOES.

LAOULA, *along the shores of the lake, arrives followed by Aloes. - With a sigh.*  
Ah!

ALOES.  
Come, Princess, what's the matter? ...

LAOULA, *sighing.*  
Ah! Aloes, I'm inconsolable! ...

LAZULI, *apart.*  
What an angel!

ALOES.  
I would not let you go near the lake.

LAOULA .  
Ah! but I want to ... (*breaks into tears and runs to the lake.*) Oh!

ALOES.  
This is what I feared! (*Going to her and bringing her back.*) Listen, princess, it's not common sense, to love a young man who is dead! ...

VERSES AND TRIO.

ALOES.  
A lover, princess,  
Must cry – okay?  
And show her sorrow  
Sits well when he died.  
Yes, but, weary of war  
I'm weeping  
I must console myself ...  
For, grief, it goes,  
It goes,  
It goes !...

II  
Look, some time ago  
I loved him so tenderly:  
Ah! with extreme heat,  
In the beginning!  
One day, tired of war,  
I found him less beautiful  
And sought the new ...  
Because, as a husband, he goes,  
He goes,  
He goes !...

LAOULA.  
Ah! it's not nice,  
To say so!

LAZULI, *apart.*  
No, it is not nice,  
To talk of me like this!

LAOULA, *sorry, advancing to the lakeside.*  
Lazuli, my darling,  
Lazuli, I love you!

LAZULI, *aside.*  
O extreme joy!

LAOULA, *back down*  
Lazuli, my darling!

LAZULI, *aloud but softly.*  
Little lover,  
Little lover,  
Your little lover is not dead!  
Little lover,  
Little lover,  
Your little lover lives again!

LAOULA, *hearing him*  
O heavens! O skies! Is it a ghost?

ALOES.  
What?

LAOULA.  
He answered me!

ALOES.  
But no! but no!

LAOULA.  
Did you not come to hear  
His voice, his voice so tender  
At the call of his name?

ALOES.  
But no! but no!

LAOULA.  
Ah! I really thought I heard it!  
Let's start again!

ALOES.  
Yes.

LAOULA.  
Lazuli, my darling!  
Lazuli, I love you!

LAZULI, *aloud.*  
O extreme joy!

LAOULA and ALOES.  
Lazuli! Lazuli!

LAZULI, *appearing.*  
Little lover,

Little lover,  
Your little lover is not dead, etc.  
*(Attracted by his voice, Aloes and Laoula back up until Lazuli is among them.)*

LAOULA, *with a cry of joy.*  
Ah! it's him!  
It's him! Lazuli is...  
*(She throws herself in his arms.)*

REPEAT ALL.  
Little lover,  
Etc., etc.

LAOULA.  
Ah! Lazuli my dear!

LAZULI.  
My little Laoula! ...

LAOULA.  
Living! He's alive!

LAZULI.  
Yes! ... But no, wait a bit ... I live in secret ...

LAOULA.  
What?

LAZULI.  
Say I'm dead!

LAOULA.  
Huh?

LAZULI, *mysteriously.*  
Shhh ... You have to say I'm dead ... It's because of this that I could maybe marry you.

LAOULA, *with joy.*  
Ah!

LAZULI.  
If I were alive, I could not ... but since I'm dead ... you understand ...

LAOULA.  
Not at all.

LAZULI.  
It doesn't matter.

LAOULA.  
But the king? ...

LAZULI.  
The king ... He'll marry you first.

LAOULA.  
How?

LAZULI.  
In the moment you leave the court to return to your father ... I leave before you ... Once outside the gates of the city, I meet up with you, and it will be the devil to pay if the abduction that failed yesterday fails today.

LAOULA.  
You think?

LAZULI.  
I'm sure! ... but for this it's necessary for me to hurry ... Come soon, my love ... and let us do the events ... I'll answer for everything.

LAOULA.  
But...

LAZULI, *escaping her.*  
Soon ... soon. *(He quickly goes out to the right.)*

#### SCENE VIII

LAOULA, ALOES, then OUF.

LAOULA.  
Do you understand, Aloes? ...

ALOES.  
No! ... But since he says to let the events happen ... Ah! Here's the king.

LAOULA.  
The king! How boring!  
*(They take away the bottom – Ouf doesn't see them coming.)*

OUF, *almost perky, humming the motif of the duet.*  
Decidedly, that cordial was good ... I prefer green to yellow ... it has more body. Say, Siroco! Well, where did he go? ... *(Turning around, he sees Laoula and Aloes.)* Well, well, well ... the two little women ...

ALOES to LAOULA.  
He saw us ...

OUF, *going to Laoula and looking with melancholy.*  
So she, the blonde child with whom I was happy traveling the long road of life ... both, hand in hand, we will walk a long time, until the oldest age ... Ah! it was a beautiful dream! ... Wrinkles ... we would have gone through life together ...

LAOULA.  
But...

OUF.  
There must be more thinking! ... We cannot go on a hunch ... It's a pity ... (*Looking at her.*) She's pretty ... Her hair is fine ... it's beautiful hair. .. (*He caresses a curl.*)

LAOULA.  
Oh ... Majesty! ...

OUF, *sounding discouraged.*  
Oh! I do not care, go! ... I do not care! ... (*Continuing his review.*) Well, here you have a small dimple ...

LAOULA, *looking down.*  
Yes...

OUF.  
I loved them once, the little dimples ...

LAOULA, *troubled.*  
Ah!

ALOES.  
And now?

OUF, *with concentrated sadness.*  
Now ... I do not have the right to love them ... I do not have the ... (*Looking at her with one eye that animates gradually.*) But in fact, why not? Why not?

LAOULA.  
Huh?

ALOES:  
What is it?

OUF, *with great excitement.*  
Princess, I just had an idea that will change many things! ...

LAOULA.  
My God!...

OUF.  
Porcupine! Sometimes pick.

SCENE IX

THE SAME, HERISSON, TAPIOCA.

HERISSON, *his passport in hand from the king.*  
Majesty, I just ...

OUF.  
For your departure? . . . It's useless, you aren't going ... I'm marrying the princess ...

ALL.  
Princess!

LAOULA.  
Me!...

OUF.  
Perfectly so...

HERISSON.  
But that is impossible ... didn't you tell me that you no longer had very few moments to be alive in this world?

LAOULA.  
How?

OUF.  
That's right...

LAOULA.  
Ah! my God!

HERISSON.  
Well, then you can't get married.

OUF.  
Why this ... By pressing a bit I have a little time ... Do I have time? ... (*He looks at the clock.*) Four hours ... I have one hour ... an hour and a half, even as if beforehand ... You see me pressing.

LAOULA.  
How pressing! ... Oh! Herisson! You will oppose ...

OUF.  
No comment! The nuptial ceremony will take place in fifteen minutes ... Come on, leave me alone with my fiancée. I must do my business ... (*Going to the right door.*) Let them bring the mayor here in fifteen minutes with everything he needs to perform a marriage! ...

LAOULA.  
Oh! Herisson, do not leave me ...

HERISSON.  
Princess, I'm sorry ... but ...

OUF, *returning.*  
Go! ... (*He turns to Aloes, Herisson and Tapioca.*)

LAOULA, *apart.*  
Oh! my God, my God! Lazuli is waiting for me! ..

SCENE X

OUF, LAOULA.



*(Laoula desperately throws Ouf a look of apprehension- Moment of silence.)*

LAOULA, *aside*.

Oh! I'll be alone with Ouf! ...

OUF, *looking at Laoula, to the public*.

Well, why not? ... Why not? ... *(Looking at the clock.)*  
How much time do I have left? damn, a quarter past one, it's a bit short! ... well, we'll shorten the ceremony ... *(Going to Laoula with élan.)* Princess ...

LAOULA, *falling scared and hiding behind the table*.  
Prince ... *(Imploringly.)* You're not serious, are you? ...  
You don't really intend to? ...

OUF.

I certainly do, Princess ...

LAOULA.

But in any special situation where you find ...

OUF.

What situation?...I'm a bit limited as to time, that's all ... that's precisely why I must hasten to offer you all the good things I have on hand ...

LAOULA.

Oh!

OUF.

Short and sweet, this must now be my motto ... Laoula, I swear to make you happy!

LAOULA.

Happy! when you have to leave so soon?

OUF.

Exactly! ... So we have to mix ...

LAOULA.

For example?...

OUF.

And there is one point to which I draw your attention: with no more restrictions when you're a widow...

LAOULA, *cheerfully*.

Ah! Yes.

OUF.

You can love another.

LAOULA, *ven happier*.

That is true!

OUF.

You see, it makes you happy

LAOULA.

Oh! I did not say that...

OUF.

But if ... if ... why are you defensive? ...it's such a natural feeling ... Come, be frank ... You'll marry...

LAOULA.

Certainly ... However ... it will still have its drawbacks, go! ...

VERSES.

LAOULA

I.

Consider the pretty pink roses  
When the harvest is made,  
So I see it as  
The fading brilliance that adorns me.  
In the water you put the rose,  
It takes a moment to show  
Freshness the first time,  
But it's not the same thing!

II

Certainly this marriage  
Will not last very long,  
For me the trouble of cleaning  
Will have very short moments.  
But I will be like the rose:  
My brilliance, once pale,  
Will take a new husband,  
Though it's not the same thing! ...

OUF.

Oh! this is a matter of detail, it's too subtle for me.

LAOULA.

How subtle?

OUF.

Oh, go! ... Go! ... Laoula, time is tight ... Enough preamble ... you love me ...

LAOULA.

I like you.

OUF.

Like me! ... I tell you, you love me! And you'll love me more when I whisper in your ear one last word.  
*(Pulling her.)* Laoula, my bride, my wife, I cherish a dream, a dream expected by article 14 of the Constitution, that dream is ...

LAOULA.

What?...

OUF.

To leave a memory, O my beloved!

LAOULA.

What memory?

OUF.

You do not guess! ... A little Ouf! Ouf ... II!

LAOULA, a cry.

Oh!

OUF, *brightly*.

A son ... a little Ouf! ... I can see him already ... He'll be the picture of his father! ... Ah! you cannot deny me this little Ouf? ...

LAOULA, *frightened, escaping*.

My God! my God ... This scares me! ..

OUF, *holding her and falling on his knees*.

Princess! ... Just this idea drives me crazy! ... *(At this moment, we hear a noise outside.)* Who dares disturb us? ... Ah! it's the court coming to the ceremony.

LAOULA.

I'm lost!...

SCENE XI

THE SAME HERISSON, TAPIOCA, ALOES,  
everybody, then THE MAYOR, then SIROCO.

*Music. – The whole court between cheerfully and parade before the king and the princess.*

CHOIR.

Here comes the mayor! ...

Our hearts are beating faster!

Where is he? What's keeping him?

We need him to marry the King!

We're in a sticky situation!

OUF.

Let him come quickly! ...

ALL.

Enter, Mr. Mayor,

We need your ministry! ... *(Between the Mayor and will settle close to the table which was arranged two chairs. The music stops.)*

OUF.

*(Speaks.)* Princess! ... Your hand ...

LAOULA.

My God! ... *(Ouf leads her to the chair intended for them. He also runs when Siroco enters.)*

SIROCO.

Ah! Great God! Majesty! Majesty ...! ...

OUF.

What is it?

SIROCO.

Here we are! It's time ... it's the last of the five hours.

OUF.

Huh? *(Looking at the clock.)* But no ... four minus five hours ... We still have an hour ... You're crazy! ...

SIROCO, *showing him his watch*.

See for yourself. . . the time of the Observatory...

OUF, *striking his forehead*.

Ah! I'm stupid! It's true ... I forgot I delayed the clock all this time.

SIROCO.

And me too!...

OUF.

Come on! We must re-sign ... *(To Laoula.)* Princess, I give you back your freedom ...

LAOULA.

What happiness!

OUF, *holding her hand*

Thank you!

LAOULA, *confused*.

Oh! Sorry! ... It's stronger than me ...

OUF, *to Siroco*.

And we, my friend, let us prepare! *(Turning to a domestic)* My coat ... *(He is given his music coat .- Sitting down.)* And all of you, see how Ouf dies ... *(He wraps his head. Siroco, imitating him, hides his face as well –The orchestra plays a muted air, "Ah, come in partrie another! ... ")*

SIROCO, *after a while, pulling off his coat*.

Sire?....

OUF, *uncovering his head*.

What?

SIROCO.

If you want to ... There's still time for you to strike out that little clause ... see? ...

OUF.  
Steel yourself, then! ... You have fifteen minutes more than me ... (*We hear a clock chiming in the distance.*)  
Ah! The time ... (*He holds his head as five o'clock strikes successively on all the clocks -... General Recueillement - . After a moment, the chimes stop. - Ouf spreads out his coat. – The music stops.*)

OUF, *looking around in bewilderment.*  
Well?...

SIROCO.  
Nothing!

OUF, *rising.*  
I think I live ...

SIROCO  
Are you sure?

OUF.  
Well, no ... Let's see! ... Am I alive? ... (*To Herisson.*)  
Pinch me, Herisson ... (*Herisson starts to obey, but changes his mind and kicks him.*)

OUF, *with a cry.*  
Ouch!...

HERISSON.  
I knew I could make you feel that! ...

OUF.  
No doubt! ... I suffer, therefore I live! ...

SIROCO.  
What does it mean?

OUF.  
That means you're a cardboard astrologer who deceived me!

SIROCO.  
Me?

OUF.  
But don't worry ... There will be no change for you! At a quarter past five, you will cease to be an imbecile! ...

SIROCO.  
Thanks! thanks!

## SCENE XII

THE SAME plus THE CHIEF OF POLICE, GUARDS,  
and LAZULI.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE, *running.*  
Ah! Majesty, Majesty! ... .. We have him! ...

OUF.  
Who ?

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
Lazuli, the young man ... a patrolman arrested him at the gates of the city ...

OUF.  
Huh? ...

THE CHIEF OF POLICE.  
We took him ... here .... (*Brings in Lazuli.*)

ALL.  
Lazuli! ....

LAOULA.  
My little Lazuli!

SIROCO.  
Alive! ... (*Stares at him.*) Ah! young man, thank you!  
You don't know what you've done ...

OUF.  
He's alive ... well, then we can start the marriage ceremony ...

LAOULA.  
Oh, no! Not again!

LAZULI.  
What, a wedding? ...

LAOULA, *in tears.*  
Yes, but with the King ...

LAZULI.  
You ... Ah! I'd rather die ...

OUF.  
Eh! ... No! No! ... no nonsense ... I prefer to give her to you ... She's yours ... (*He hands her to him.*)

ALL.  
Ah!

LAOULA, *in Lazuli's arms.*  
My Lazuli!

LAZULI.  
My Laoula! ...

HERISSON, *to Ouf.*  
But sire ... my instructions ...

OUF.

What is it like? I name my successor and my heir.  
*(Aside.)* Since he has to die before me ... *(Lazuli and  
Laoula advance toward the audience.)*

FINAL VERSES.

LAOULA.

Here we are, gentlemen, in the end,  
And in this moment everyone trembles;  
We come, hand in hand,  
To have you love us both together.

LAZULI.

You are good, you told me,  
You will forgive my youthful age:  
In this room of many smiles  
For a hundred hundred days ...

BOTH.

Give yourself ...  
Give yourself ...  
Give yourself the trouble to escort them  
Good gentlemen, come see us!

GENERAL RETURN.

Give yourself ... etc.

END