

# FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER

THE DEATH OF  
WALLENSTEIN

**Friedrich Schiller**  
**The Death of Wallenstein**

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*The Death of Wallenstein:*

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# Friedrich Schiller

## The Death of Wallenstein

### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

WALLENSTEIN, Duke of Friedland, Generalissimo of the Imperial Forces in the Thirty Years' War.

DUCHESS OF FREIDLAND, Wife of Wallenstein.

THEKLA, her Daughter, Princess of Friedland.

THE COUNTESS TERZKY, Sister of the Duchess.

LADY NEUBRUNN.

OCTAVIO PICCOLOMINI, Lieutenant-General.

MAX. PICCOLOMINI, his Son, Colonel of a Regiment of Cuirassiers.

COUNT TERZKY, the Commander of several Regiments, and Brother-in-law of Wallenstein.

ILLO, Field-Marshal, Wallenstein's Confidant.

ISOLANI, General of the Croats.

BUTLER, an Irishman, Commander of a Regiment of Dragoons.

GORDON, Governor of Egra.

MAJOR GERALDIN.

CAPTAIN DEVEREUX.

CAPTAIN MACDONALD.

AN ADJUTANT.

NEUMANN, Captain of Cavalry, Aide-de-Camp to  
TERZKY.

COLONEL WRANGEL, Envoy from the Swedes.

ROSENBURG, Master of Horse.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN.

SENI.

BURGOMASTER of Egra.

ANSPESSADE of the Cuirassiers.

GROOM OF THE CHAMBER. | Belonging

A PAGE. | to the Duke.

Cuirassiers, Dragoons, and Servants.

# ACT I

## SCENE I

A room fitted up for astrological labors, and provided with celestial charts, with globes, telescopes, quadrants, and other mathematical instruments. Seven colossal figures, representing the planets, each with a transparent star of different color on its head, stand in a semicircle in the background, so that Mars and Saturn are nearest the eye. The remainder of the scene and its disposition is given in the fourth scene of the second act. There must be a curtain over the figures, which may be dropped and conceal them on occasions.

[In the fifth scene of this act it must be dropped; but in the seventh scene it must be again drawn up wholly or in part.]

WALLENSTEIN at a black table, on which, a speculum astrologicum is described with chalk. SENI is taking observations through a window.

**WALLENSTEIN**



All well – and now let it be ended, Seni. Come,  
The dawn commences, and Mars rules the hour;  
We must give o'er the operation. Come,  
We know enough.

## SENI

Your highness must permit me  
Just to contemplate Venus. She is now rising  
Like as a sun so shines she in the east.

## WALLENSTEIN

She is at present in her perigee,  
And now shoots down her strongest influences.

[Contemplating the figure on the table.

Auspicious aspect! fateful in conjunction,  
At length the mighty three corradiate;  
And the two stars of blessing, Jupiter  
And Venus, take between them the malignant  
Slyly-malicious Mars, and thus compel  
Into my service that old mischief-founder:

For long he viewed me hostilely, and ever  
With beam oblique, or perpendicular,  
Now in the Quartile, now in the Secundan,  
Shot his red lightnings at my stars, disturbing  
Their blessed influences and sweet aspects:  
Now they have conquered the old enemy,  
And bring him in the heavens a prisoner to me.

## **SENI (who has come down from the window)**

And in a corner-house, your highness – think of that!  
That makes each influence of double strength.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

And sun and moon, too, in the Sextile aspect,  
The soft light with the vehement – so I love it.  
Sol is the heart, Luna the head of heaven,  
Bold be the plan, fiery the execution.

## SENI

And both the mighty Lumina by no  
Maleficus affronted. Lo! Saturnus,  
Innocuous, powerless, in cadente Domo.

## WALLENSTEIN

The empire of Saturnus is gone by;  
Lord of the secret birth of things is he;  
Within the lap of earth, and in the depths  
Of the imagination dominates;  
And his are all things that eschew the light.  
The time is o'er of brooding and contrivance,  
For Jupiter, the lustrous, lordeth now,  
And the dark work, complete of preparation,  
He draws by force into the realm of light.  
Now must we hasten on to action, ere  
The scheme, and most auspicious posture  
Parts o'er my head, and takes once more its flight,  
For the heaven's journey still, and adjourn not.

[There are knocks at the door.

There's some one knocking there. See who it is.

**TERZKY (from without)**

Open, and let me in.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Ay – 'tis Terzky.

What is there of such urgency? We are busy.

**TERZKY (from without)**

Lay all aside at present, I entreat you;

It suffers no delaying.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Open, Seni!

**[While SENI opens the door for TERZKY,  
WALLENSTEIN draws the curtain over the figures**

## SCENE II

WALLENSTEIN, COUNT TERZKY.

**TERZKY (enters)**

Hast thou already heard it? He is taken.  
Gallas has given him up to the emperor.

[SENI draws off the black table, and exit.

**WALLENSTEIN (to TERZKY)**

Who has been taken? Who is given up?

**TERZKY**

The man who knows our secrets, who knows every  
Negotiation with the Swede and Saxon,  
Through whose hands all and everything has passed —

## **WALLENSTEIN (drawing back)**

Nay, not Sesina? Say, no! I entreat thee.

### **TERZKY**

All on his road for Regensburg to the Swede  
He was plunged down upon by Gallas' agent,  
Who had been long in ambush, lurking for him.  
There must have been found on him my whole packet  
To Thur, to Kinsky, to Oxenstiern, to Arnheim:  
All this is in their hands; they have now an insight  
Into the whole – our measures and our motives.

## SCENE III

To them enters ILLO.

**ILLO (to TERZKY)**

Has he heard it?

**TERZKY**

He has heard it.

**ILLO (to WALLENSTEIN)**

Thinkest thou still  
To make thy peace with the emperor, to regain  
His confidence? E'en were it now thy wish  
To abandon all thy plans, yet still they know  
What thou hast wished: then forwards thou must press;  
Retreat is now no longer in thy power.



## **TERZKY**

They have documents against us, and in hands,  
Which show beyond all power of contradiction —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Of my handwriting – no iota. Thee  
I punish or thy lies.

## **ILLO**

And thou believest,  
That what this man, and what thy sister's husband,  
Did in thy name, will not stand on thy reckoning?  
His word must pass for thy word with the Swede,  
And not with those that hate thee at Vienna?

## **TERZKY**

In writing thou gavest nothing; but bethink thee,  
How far thou venturedst by word of mouth  
With this Sesina! And will he be silent?  
If he can save himself by yielding up  
Thy secret purposes, will he retain them?

## **ILLO**

Thyself dost not conceive it possible;  
And since they now have evidence authentic  
How far thou hast already gone, speak! tell us,  
What art thou waiting for? Thou canst no longer  
Keep thy command; and beyond hope of rescue  
Thou'rt lost if thou resign'st it.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

In the army  
Lies my security. The army will not

Abandon me. Whatever they may know,  
The power is mine, and they must gulp it down  
And if I give them caution for my fealty,  
They must be satisfied, at least appear so.

## ILLO

The army, duke, is thine now; for this moment  
'Tis thine: but think with terror on the slow,  
The quiet power of time. From open violence  
The attachment of thy soldiery secures thee  
To-day, to-morrow: but grant'st thou them a respite,  
Unheard, unseen, they'll undermine that love  
On which thou now dost feel so firm a footing,  
With wily theft will draw away from thee  
One after the other —

## WALLENSTEIN

'Tis a cursed accident!  
Oh! I will call it a most blessed one,  
If it work on thee as it ought to do,  
Hurry thee on to action – to decision.  
The Swedish general?

## WALLENSTEIN

He's arrived! Know'st  
What his commission is —

## ILLO

To thee alone  
Will he intrust the purpose of his coming.

## WALLENSTEIN

A cursed, cursed accident! Yes, yes,  
Sesina knows too much, and won't be silent.

## TERZKY

He's a Bohemian fugitive and rebel,  
His neck is forfeit. Can he save himself  
At thy cost, think you he will scruple it?  
And if they put him to the torture, will he,  
Will he, that dastardling, have strength enough —

## **WALLENSTEIN (lost in thought)**

Their confidence is lost, irreparably!  
And I may act which way I will, I shall  
Be and remain forever in their thought  
A traitor to my country. How sincerely  
Soever I return back to my duty,  
It will no longer help me —

## **ILLO**

Ruin thee,  
That it will do! Not thy fidelity,  
Thy weakness will be deemed the sole occasion —

**WALLENSTEIN (pacing up  
and down in extreme agitation)**

What! I must realize it now in earnest,  
Because I toyed too freely with the thought!  
Accursed he who dallies with a devil!  
And must I – I must realize it now —  
Now, while I have the power, it must take place!

**ILLO**

Now – now – ere they can ward and parry it!

**WALLENSTEIN (looking  
at the paper of Signatures)**

I have the generals' word – a written promise!  
Max. Piccolomini stands not here – how's that?

## **TERZRY**

It was – he fancied —

## **ILLO**

Mere self-willedness.  
There needed no such thing 'twixt him and you.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

He is quite right; there needed no such thing.  
The regiments, too, deny to march for Flanders  
Have sent me in a paper of remonstrance,  
And openly resist the imperial orders.  
The first step to revolt's already taken.

## **ILLO**

Believe me, thou wilt find it far more easy  
To lead them over to the enemy  
Than to the Spaniard.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

I will hear, however,  
What the Swede has to say to me.

## **ILLO (eagerly to TERZKY)**

Go, call him,  
He stands without the door in waiting.

## **WALLENSTEIN**



Stay!  
Stay but a little. It hath taken me  
All by surprise; it came too quick upon me;  
'Tis wholly novel that an accident,  
With its dark lordship, and blind agency,  
Should force me on with it.

## ILLO

First hear him only,  
And then weigh it.

[Exeunt TERZKY and ILLO.]

## SCENE IV

### WALLENSTEIN (in soliloquy)

Is it possible?

Is't so? I can no longer what I would?

No longer draw back at my liking? I

Must do the deed, because I thought of it?

And fed this heart here with a dream?

Because I did not scowl temptation from my presence,

Dallied with thoughts of possible fulfilment,

Commenced no movement, left all time uncertain,

And only kept the road, the access open?

By the great God of Heaven! it was not

My serious meaning, it was ne'er resolved.

I but amused myself with thinking of it.

The free-will tempted me, the power to do

Or not to do it. Was it criminal

To make the fancy minister to hope,

To fill the air with pretty toys of air,

And clutch fantastic sceptres moving toward me?

Was not the will kept free? Beheld I not

The road of duty close beside me – but

One little step, and once more I was in it!

Where am I? Whither have I been transported?

No road, no track behind me, but a wall,  
Impenetrable, insurmountable,  
Rises obedient to the spells I muttered  
And meant not – my own doings tower behind me.

[Pauses and remains in deep thought.

A punishable man I seem, the guilt,  
Try what I will, I cannot roll off from me;  
The equivocal demeanor of my life  
Bears witness on my prosecutor's party.  
And even my purest acts from purest motives  
Suspicion poisons with malicious gloss.  
Were I that thing for which I pass, that traitor,  
A goodly outside I had sure reserved,  
Had drawn the coverings thick and double round me,  
Been calm and chary of my utterance;  
But being conscious of the innocence  
Of my intent, my uncorrupted will,  
I gave way to my humors, to my passion:  
Bold were my words, because my deeds were not.  
Now every planless measure, chance event,  
The threat of rage, the vaunt of joy and triumph,  
And all the May-games of a heart overflowing,  
Will they connect, and weave them all together  
Into one web of treason; all will be plan,  
My eye ne'er absent from the far-off mark,  
Step tracing step, each step a politic progress;  
And out of all they'll fabricate a charge

So specious, that I must myself stand dumb.  
I am caught in my own net, and only force,  
Naught but a sudden rent can liberate me.

[Pauses again.

How else! since that the heart's unbiased instinct  
Impelled me to the daring deed, which now  
Necessity, self-preservation, orders.  
Stern is the on-look of necessity,  
Not without shudder may a human hand  
Grasp the mysterious urn of destiny.  
My deed was mine, remaining in my bosom;  
Once suffered to escape from its safe corner  
Within the heart, its nursery and birthplace,  
Sent forth into the foreign, it belongs  
Forever to those sly malicious powers  
Whom never art of man conciliated.

[Paces in agitation through the chamber, then pauses, and,  
after the pause, breaks out again into audible soliloquy.

What is thy enterprise? thy aim? thy object?  
Hast honestly confessed it to thyself?  
Power seated on a quiet throne thou'dst shake,  
Power on an ancient, consecrated throne,  
Strong in possession, founded in all custom;  
Power by a thousand tough and stringy roots  
Fixed to the people's pious nursery faith.

This, this will be no strife of strength with strength.  
That feared I not. I brave each combatant,  
Whom I can look on, fixing eye to eye,  
Who, full himself of courage, kindles courage  
In me too. 'Tis a foe invisible  
The which I fear – a fearful enemy,  
Which in the human heart opposes me,  
By its coward fear alone made fearful to me.  
Not that, which full of life, instinct with power,  
Makes known its present being; that is not  
The true, the perilously formidable.  
O no! it is the common, the quite common,  
The thing of an eternal yesterday.  
Whatever was, and evermore returns,  
Sterling to-morrow, for to-day 'twas sterling!  
For of the wholly common is man made,  
And custom is his nurse! Woe then to them  
Who lay irreverent hands upon his old  
House furniture, the dear inheritance  
From his forefathers! For time consecrates;  
And what is gray with age becomes religion.  
Be in possession, and thou hast the right,  
And sacred will the many guard it for thee!

[To the PAGE, – who here enters.

The Swedish officer? Well, let him enter.

[The PAGE exit, WALLENSTEIN fixes his eye in deep

thought on the door.

Yet, it is pure – as yet! – the crime has come  
Not o'er this threshold yet – so slender is  
The boundary that divideth life's two paths.

# SCENE V

WALLENSTEIN and WRANGEL.

**WALLENSTEIN (after having  
fixed a searching look on him)**

Your name is Wrangel?

**WRANGEL**

Gustave Wrangel, General  
Of the Sudermanian Blues.

**WALLENSTEIN**

It was a Wrangel  
Who injured me materially at Stralsund,  
And by his brave resistance was the cause  
Of the opposition which that seaport made.

## **WRANGEL**

It was the doing of the element  
With which you fought, my lord! and not my merit,  
The Baltic Neptune did assert his freedom:  
The sea and land, it seemed were not to serve  
One and the same.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

You plucked the admiral's hat from off my head.

## **WRANGEL**

I come to place a diadem thereon.



**WALLENSTEIN (makes the motion for  
him to take a seat, and seats himself)**

And where are your credentials  
Come you provided with full powers, sir general?

**WRANGEL**

There are so many scruples yet to solve —

**WALLENSTEIN (having read the credentials)**

An able letter! Ay – he is a prudent,  
Intelligent master whom you serve, sir general!  
The chancellor writes me that he but fulfils  
His late departed sovereign's own idea  
In helping me to the Bohemian crown.

## WRANGEL

He says the truth. Our great king, now in heaven,  
Did ever deem most highly of your grace's  
Pre-eminent sense and military genius;  
And always the commanding intellect,  
He said, should have command, and be the king.

## WALLENSTEIN

Yes, he might say it safely. General Wrangel,

[Taking his hand affectionately.

Come, fair and open. Trust me, I was always  
A Swede at heart. Eh! that did you experience  
Both in Silesia and at Nuremberg;  
I had you often in my power, and let you  
Always slip out by some back door or other.  
'Tis this for which the court can ne'er forgive me,  
Which drives me to this present step: and since  
Our interests so run in one direction,  
E'en let us have a thorough confidence  
Each in the other.

## **WRANGEL**

Confidence will come  
Has each but only first security.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

The chancellor still, I see, does not quite trust me;  
And, I confess – the game does not lie wholly  
To my advantage. Without doubt he thinks,  
If I can play false with the emperor,  
Who is my sovereign, I can do the like  
With the enemy, and that the one, too, were  
Sooner to be forgiven me than the other.  
Is not this your opinion, too, sir general?

## **WRANGEL**

I have here a duty merely, no opinion.

## WALLENSTEIN

The emperor hath urged me to the uttermost  
I can no longer honorably serve him.  
For my security, in self-defence,  
I take this hard step, which my conscience blames.

## WRANGEL

That I believe. So far would no one go  
Who was not forced to it.

[After a pause.

What may have impelled  
Your princely highness in this wise to act  
Toward your sovereign lord and emperor,  
Beseems not us to expound or criticise.  
The Swede is fighting for his good old cause,  
With his good sword and conscience. This concurrence,  
This opportunity is in our favor,  
And all advantages in war are lawful.  
We take what offers without questioning;  
And if all have its due and just proportions —

## WALLENSTEIN

Of what then are ye doubting? Of my will?  
Or of my power? I pledged me to the chancellor,  
Would he trust me with sixteen thousand men,  
That I would instantly go over to them  
With eighteen thousand of the emperor's troops.

## WRANGEL

Your grace is known to be a mighty war-chief,  
To be a second Attila and Pyrrhus.  
'Tis talked of still with fresh astonishment,  
How some years past, beyond all human faith,  
You called an army forth like a creation:  
But yet —

## WALLENSTEIN

But yet?

## **WRANGEL**

But still the chancellor thinks  
It might yet be an easier thing from nothing  
To call forth sixty thousand men of battle,  
Than to persuade one-sixtieth part of them —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What now? Out with it, friend?

## **WRANGEL**

To break their oaths.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

And he thinks so? He judges like a Swede,  
And like a Protestant. You Lutherans  
Fight for your Bible. You are interested  
About the cause; and with your hearts you follow  
Your banners. Among you whoe'er deserts  
To the enemy hath broken covenant  
With two lords at one time. We've no such fancies.

## **WRANGEL**

Great God in heaven! Have then the people here  
No house and home, no fireside, no altar?

## **WALLENSTEIN**

I will explain that to you, how it stands:  
The Austrian has a country, ay, and loves it,  
And has good cause to love it – but this army  
That calls itself the imperial, this that houses  
Here in Bohemia, this has none – no country;  
This is an outcast of all foreign lands,  
Unclaimed by town or tribe, to whom belongs  
Nothing except the universal sun.  
And this Bohemian land for which we fight

Loves not the master whom the chance of war,  
Not its own choice or will, hath given to it.  
Men murmur at the oppression of their conscience,  
And power hath only awed but not appeased them.  
A glowing and avenging memory lives  
Of cruel deeds committed on these plains;  
How can the son forget that here his father  
Was hunted by the bloodhound to the mass?  
A people thus oppressed must still be feared,  
Whether they suffer or avenge their wrongs.

## **WRANGEL**

But then the nobles and the officers?  
Such a desertion, such a felony,  
It is without example, my lord duke,  
In the world's history.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

They are all mine —  
Mine unconditionally – mine on all terms.  
Not me, your own eyes you must trust.

[He gives him the paper containing the written oath.]



WRANGEL reads

it through, and, having read it, lays it on the table, –  
remaining  
silent.

So then;  
Now comprehend you?

## **WRANGEL**

Comprehend who can!  
My lord duke, I will let the mask drop – yes!  
I've full powers for a final settlement.  
The Rhinegrave stands but four days' march from here  
With fifteen thousand men, and only waits  
For orders to proceed and join your army.  
These orders I give out immediately  
We're compromised.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What asks the chancellor?

## **WRANGEL (considerately)**

Twelve regiments, every man a Swede – my head  
The warranty – and all might prove at last  
Only false play —

## **WALLENSTEIN (starting)**

Sir Swede!

## **WRANGEL (calmly proceeding)**

Am therefore forced  
To insist thereon, that he do formally,  
Irrevocably break with the emperor,  
Else not a Swede is trusted to Duke Friedland.

## WALLENSTEIN

Come, brief and open! What is the demand?

## WRANGEL

That he forthwith disarm the Spanish regiments  
Attached to the emperor, that he seize on Prague,  
And to the Swedes give up that city, with  
The strong pass Egra.

## WALLENSTEIN

That is much indeed!  
Prague! – Egra's granted – but – but Prague! 'Twon't do.  
I give you every security  
Which you may ask of me in common reason —  
But Prague – Bohemia – these, sir general,  
I can myself protect.

## **WRANGEL**

We doubt it not.  
But 'tis not the protection that is now  
Our sole concern. We want security,  
That we shall not expend our men and money  
All to no purpose.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

'Tis but reasonable.

## **WRANGEL**

And till we are indemnified, so long  
Stays Prague in pledge.

## WALLENSTEIN

Then trust you us so little?

## WRANGEL (rising)

The Swede, if he would treat well with the German,  
Must keep a sharp lookout. We have been called  
Over the Baltic, we have saved the empire  
From ruin – with our best blood have we sealed  
The liberty of faith and gospel truth.  
But now already is the benefaction  
No longer felt, the load alone is felt.  
Ye look askance with evil eye upon us,  
As foreigners, intruders in the empire,  
And would fain send us with some paltry sum  
Of money, home again to our old forests.  
No, no! my lord duke! it never was  
For Judas' pay, for chinking gold and silver,

That we did leave our king by the Great Stone.<sup>1</sup> No, not for

---

<sup>1</sup> A great stone near Luetzen, since called the Swede's Stone, the body of their great king having been found at the foot of it, after the battle in which he lost his life.

gold and silver have there bled

So many of our Swedish nobles – neither  
Will we, with empty laurels for our payment,  
Hoist sail for our own country. Citizens  
Will we remain upon the soil, the which  
Our monarch conquered for himself and died.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Help to keep down the common enemy,  
And the fair border land must needs be yours.

## **WRANGEL**

But when the common enemy lies vanquished,  
Who knits together our new friendship then?  
We know, Duke Friedland! though perhaps the Swede  
Ought not to have known it, that you carry on  
Secret negotiations with the Saxons.  
Who is our warranty that we are not  
The sacrifices in those articles  
Which 'tis thought needful to conceal from us?

## **WALLENSTEIN (rises)**

Think you of something better, Gustave Wrangel!  
Of Prague no more.

## **WRANGEL**

Here my commission ends.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Surrender up to you my capital!  
Far lieber would I force about, and step  
Back to my emperor.

## **WRANGEL**

If time yet permits —

## WALLENSTEIN

That lies with me, even now, at any hour.

## WRANGEL

Some days ago, perhaps. To-day, no longer;  
No longer since Sesina's been a prisoner.

[WALLENSTEIN is struck, and silenced.

My lord duke, hear me – we believe that you  
At present do mean honorably by us.  
Since yesterday we're sure of that – and now  
This paper warrants for the troops, there's nothing  
Stands in the way of our full confidence.  
Prague shall not part us. Hear! The chancellor  
Contents himself with Alstadt; to your grace  
He gives up Ratschin and the narrow side.  
But Egra above all must open to us,  
Ere we can think of any junction.



## WALLENSTEIN

You,  
You therefore must I trust, and not you me?  
I will consider of your proposition.

## WRANGEL

I must entreat that your consideration  
Occupy not too long a time. Already  
Has this negotiation, my lord duke!  
Crept on into the second year. If nothing  
Is settled this time, will the chancellor  
Consider it as broken off forever?

## WALLENSTEIN

Ye press me hard. A measure such as this  
Ought to be thought of.

# WRANGEL

Ay! but think of this too,  
That sudden action only can procure it.  
Success – think first of this, your highness.

[Exit WRANGEL.]

## SCENE VI

WALLENSTEIN, TERZKY, and ILLO (re-enter).

**ILLO**

Is't all right?

**TERZKY**

Are you compromised?

**ILLO**

This Swede  
Went smiling from you. Yes! you're compromised.

## WALLENSTEIN

As yet is nothing settled; and (well weighed)  
I feel myself inclined to leave it so.

## TERZKY

How? What is that?

## WALLENSTEIN

Come on me what will come,  
The doing evil to avoid an evil  
Cannot be good!

## TERZKY

Nay, but bethink you, duke.

## WALLENSTEIN

To live upon the mercy of these Swedes!  
Of these proud-hearted Swedes! – I could not bear it.

## ILLO

Goest thou as fugitive, as mendicant?  
Bringest thou not more to them than thou receivest?

## WALLENSTEIN

How fared it with the brave and royal Bourbon  
Who sold himself unto his country's foes,  
And pierced the bosom of his father-land?  
Curses were his reward, and men's abhorrence  
Avenge'd the unnatural and revolting deed.

## ILLO

Is that thy case?

## WALLENSTEIN

True faith, I tell thee,  
Must ever be the dearest friend of man  
His nature prompts him to assert its rights.  
The enmity of sects, the rage of parties,  
Long-cherished envy, jealousy, unite;  
And all the struggling elements of evil  
Suspend their conflict, and together league  
In one alliance 'gainst their common foe —  
The savage beast that breaks into the fold,  
Where men repose in confidence and peace.  
For vain were man's own prudence to protect him.  
'Tis only in the forehead nature plants  
The watchful eye; the back, without defence,  
Must find its shield in man's fidelity.

## TERZKY

Think not more meanly off thyself than do  
Thy foes, who stretch their hands with joy to greet thee.  
Less scrupulous far was the imperial Charles,  
The powerful head of this illustrious house;  
With open arms he gave the Bourbon welcome;  
For still by policy the world is ruled.

## **SCENE VII**

To these enter the COUNTESS TERZKY.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Who sent for you? There is no business here  
For women.

**COUNTESS**

I am come to bid you joy.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Use thy authority, Terzky; bid her go.



## COUNTESS

Come I perhaps too early? I hope not.

## WALLENSTEIN

Set not this tongue upon me, I entreat you:  
You know it is the weapon that destroys me.  
I am routed, if a woman but attack me:  
I cannot traffic in the trade of words  
With that unreasoning sex.

## COUNTESS

I had already  
Given the Bohemians a king.

## **WALLENSTEIN (sarcastically)**

They have one,  
In consequence, no doubt.

## **COUNTESS (to the others)**

Ha! what new scruple?

## **TERZKY**

The duke will not.

## **COUNTESS**

He will not what he must!

## ILLO

It lies with you now. Try. For I am silenced  
When folks begin to talk to me of conscience  
And of fidelity.

## COUNTESS

How? then, when all  
Lay in the far-off distance, when the road  
Stretched out before thine eyes interminably,  
Then hadst thou courage and resolve; and now,  
Now that the dream is being realized,  
The purpose ripe, the issue ascertained,  
Dost thou begin to play the dastard now?  
Planned merely, 'tis a common felony;  
Accomplished, an immortal undertaking:  
And with success comes pardon hand in hand,  
For all event is God's arbitrament.

**SERVANT (enters)**

The Colonel Piccolomini.

**COUNTESS (hastily)**

– Must wait.

**WALLENSTEIN**

I cannot see him now. Another time.

**SERVANT**

But for two minutes he entreats an audience  
Of the most urgent nature is his business.

## WALLENSTEIN

Who knows what he may bring us! I will hear him.

## COUNTESS (laughs)

Urgent for him, no doubt? but thou may'st wait.

## WALLENSTEIN

What is it?

## COUNTESS

Thou shalt be informed hereafter.  
First let the Swede and thee be compromised.

[Exit SERVANT.]

## WALLENSTEIN

If there were yet a choice! if yet some milder  
Way of escape were possible – I still  
Will choose it, and avoid the last extreme.

## COUNTESS

Desirest thou nothing further? Such a way  
Lies still before thee. Send this Wrangel off.  
Forget thou thy old hopes, cast far away  
All thy past life; determine to commence  
A new one. Virtue hath her heroes too,  
As well as fame and fortune. To Vienna  
Hence – to the emperor – kneel before the throne;  
Take a full coffer with thee – say aloud,  
Thou didst but wish to prove thy fealty;  
Thy whole intention but to dupe the Swede.

## ILLO

For that too 'tis too late. They know too much;  
He would but bear his own head to the block.

## COUNTESS

I fear not that. They have not evidence  
To attain him legally, and they avoid  
The avowal of an arbitrary power.  
They'll let the duke resign without disturbance.  
I see how all will end. The King of Hungary  
Makes his appearance, and 'twill of itself  
Be understood, and then the duke retires.  
There will not want a formal declaration.  
The young king will administer the oath  
To the whole army; and so all returns  
To the old position. On some morrow morning  
The duke departs; and now 'tis stir and bustle  
Within his castles. He will hunt and build;  
Superintend his horses' pedigrees,  
Creates himself a court, gives golden keys,  
And introduceth strictest ceremony  
In fine proportions, and nice etiquette;  
Keeps open table with high cheer: in brief,  
Commenceth mighty king – in miniature.  
And while he prudently demeans himself,  
And gives himself no actual importance,

He will be let appear whate'er he likes:  
And who dares doubt, that Friedland will appear  
A mighty prince to his last dying hour?  
Well now, what then? Duke Friedland is as others,  
A fire-new noble, whom the war hath raised  
To price and currency, a Jonah's gourd,  
An over-night creation of court-favor,  
Which, with an undistinguishable ease,  
Makes baron or makes prince.

## **WALLENSTEIN (in extreme agitation)**

Take her away.  
Let in the young Count Piccolomini.

## **COUNTESS**

Art thou in earnest? I entreat thee!  
Canst thou consent to bear thyself to thy own grave,  
So ignominiously to be dried up?  
Thy life, that arrogated such an height  
To end in such a nothing! To be nothing,  
When one was always nothing, is an evil  
That asks no stretch of patience, a light evil;



But to become a nothing, having been —

## **WALLENSTEIN (starts up in violent agitation)**

Show me a way out of this stifling crowd,  
Ye powers of aidance! Show me such a way  
As I am capable of going. I  
Am no tongue-hero, no fine virtue-prattler;  
I cannot warm by thinking; cannot say  
To the good luck that turns her back upon me  
Magnanimously: "Go; I need thee not."  
Cease I to work, I am annihilated.  
Dangers nor sacrifices will I shun,  
If so I may avoid the last extreme;  
But ere I sink down into nothingness,  
Leave off so little, who began so great,  
Ere that the world confuses me with those  
Poor wretches, whom a day creates and crumbles,  
This age and after ages<sup>2</sup> speak my name  
With hate and dread; and Friedland be redemption  
For each accursed deed.

---

<sup>2</sup> Could I have hazarded such a Germanism as the use of the word afterworld for posterity, – "Es spreche Welt und Nachwelt meinen Namen" – might have been rendered with more literal fidelity: Let world and afterworld speak out my name, etc.

## COUNTESS

What is there here, then,  
So against nature? Help me to perceive it!  
Oh, let not superstition's nightly goblins  
Subdue thy clear, bright spirit! Art thou bid  
To murder? with abhorred, accursed poniard,  
To violate the breasts that nourished thee?  
That were against our nature, that might aptly

**Make thy flesh shudder, and thy whole heart  
sicken.<sup>3</sup> Yet not a few, and for a meaner object,**

Have ventured even this, ay, and performed it.  
What is there in thy case so black and monstrous?  
Thou art accused of treason – whether with  
Or without justice is not now the question —  
Thou art lost if thou dost not avail thee quickly  
Of the power which thou possessest – Friedland! Duke!  
Tell me where lives that thing so meek and tame,  
That doth not all his living faculties

---

<sup>3</sup> I have not ventured to affront the fastidious delicacy of our age with a literal translation of this line,werthDie Eingeweide schaudernd aufzuregen.

Put forth in preservation of his life?  
What deed so daring, which necessity  
And desperation will not sanctify?

## WALLENSTEIN

Once was this Ferdinand so gracious to me;  
He loved me; he esteemed me; I was placed  
The nearest to his heart. Full many a time  
We like familiar friends, both at one table,  
Have banqueted together – he and I;  
And the young kings themselves held me the basin  
Wherewith to wash me – and is't come to this?

## COUNTESS

So faithfully preservest thou each small favor,  
And hast no memory for contumelies?  
Must I remind thee, how at Regensburg  
This man repaid thy faithful services?  
All ranks and all conditions in the empire  
Thou hadst wronged to make him great, – hadst loaded on  
thee,  
On thee, the hate, the curse of the whole world.

No friend existed for thee in all Germany,  
And why? because thou hadst existed only  
For the emperor. To the emperor alone  
Clung Friedland in that storm which gathered round him  
At Regensburg in the Diet – and he dropped thee!  
He let thee fall! he let thee fall a victim  
To the Bavarian, to that insolent!  
Deposed, stripped bare of all thy dignity  
And power, amid the taunting of thy foe  
Thou wert let drop into obscurity.  
Say not, the restoration of thy honor  
Has made atonement for that first injustice.  
No honest good-will was it that replaced thee;  
The law of hard necessity replaced thee,  
Which they had fain opposed, but that they could not.

## WALLENSTEIN

Not to their good wishes, that is certain,  
Nor yet to his affection I'm indebted  
For this high office; and if I abuse it,  
I shall therein abuse no confidence.

## COUNTESS

Affection! confidence! – they needed thee.  
Necessity, impetuous remonstrant!  
Who not with empty names, or shows of proxy,  
Is served, who'll have the thing and not the symbol,  
Ever seeks out the greatest and the best,  
And at the rudder places him, e'en though  
She had been forced to take him from the rabble —  
She, this necessity, it was that placed thee  
In this high office; it was she that gave thee  
Thy letters-patent of inauguration.  
For, to the uttermost moment that they can,  
This race still help themselves at cheapest rate  
With slavish souls, with puppets! At the approach  
Of extreme peril, when a hollow image  
Is found a hollow image and no more,  
Then falls the power into the mighty hands  
Of nature, of the spirit-giant born,  
Who listens only to himself, knows nothing  
Of stipulations, duties, reverences,  
And, like the emancipated force of fire,  
Unmastered scorches, ere it reaches them,  
Their fine-spun webs, their artificial policy.

## WALLENSTEIN

'Tis true! they saw me always as I am —  
Always! I did not cheat them in the bargain.  
I never held it worth my pains to hide  
The bold all-grasping habit of my soul.

## COUNTESS

Nay rather – thou hast ever shown thyself  
A formidable man, without restraint;  
Hast exercised the full prerogatives  
Of thy impetuous nature, which had been  
Once granted to thee. Therefore, duke, not thou,  
Who hast still remained consistent with thyself,  
But they are in the wrong, who, fearing thee,  
Intrusted such a power in hands they feared.  
For, by the laws of spirit, in the right  
Is every individual character  
That acts in strict consistence with itself:  
Self-contradiction is the only wrong.  
Wert thou another being, then, when thou  
Eight years ago pursuedst thy march with fire,  
And sword, and desolation, through the circles

Of Germany, the universal scourge,  
Didst mock all ordinances of the empire,  
The fearful rights of strength alone exertedst,  
Trampledst to earth each rank, each magistracy,  
All to extend thy Sultan's domination?  
Then was the time to break thee in, to curb  
Thy haughty will, to teach thee ordinance.  
But no, the emperor felt no touch of conscience;  
What served him pleased him, and without a murmur  
He stamped his broad seal on these lawless deeds.  
What at that time was right, because thou didst it  
For him, to-day is all at once become  
Opprobrious, foul, because it is directed  
Against him. O most flimsy superstition!

## **WALLENSTEIN (rising)**

I never saw it in this light before,  
'Tis even so. The emperor perpetrated  
Deeds through my arm, deeds most unorderly.  
And even this prince's mantle, which I wear,  
I owe to what were services to him,  
But most high misdemeanors 'gainst the empire.

## COUNTESS

Then betwixt thee and him (confess it, Friedland!)  
The point can be no more of right and duty,  
Only of power and the opportunity.  
That opportunity, lo! it comes yonder  
Approaching with swift steeds; then with a swing  
Throw thyself up into the chariot-seat,  
Seize with firm hand the reins ere thy opponent  
Anticipate thee, and himself make conquest  
Of the now empty seat. The moment comes;  
It is already here, when thou must write  
The absolute total of thy life's vast sum.  
The constellations stand victorious o'er thee,  
The planets shoot good fortune in fair junctions,  
And tell thee, "Now's the time!" The starry courses  
Hast thou thy life-long measured to no purpose?  
The quadrant and the circle, were they playthings?  
[Pointing to the different objects in the room.  
The zodiacs, the rolling orbs of heaven,  
Hast pictured on these walls and all around thee.  
In dumb, foreboding symbols hast thou placed  
These seven presiding lords of destiny —  
For toys? Is all this preparation nothing?  
Is there no marrow in this hollow art,  
That even to thyself it doth avail



Nothing, and has no influence over thee  
In the great moment of decision?

**WALLENSTEIN (during this last speech  
walks up and down with inward struggles,  
laboring with passion; stops suddenly, stands  
still, then interrupting the COUNTESS)**

Send Wrangel to me – I will instantly  
Despatch three couriers —

**ILLO (hurrying out)**

God in heaven be praised!

**WALLENSTEIN**

It is his evil genius and mine.  
Our evil genius! It chastises him  
Through me, the instrument of his ambition;

And I expect no less, than that revenge  
E'en now is whetting for my breast the poinard.  
Who sows the serpent's teeth let him not hope  
To reap a joyous harvest. Every crime  
Has, in the moment of its perpetration,  
Its own avenging angel – dark misgiving,  
An ominous sinking at the inmost heart.  
He can no longer trust me. Then no longer  
Can I retreat – so come that which must come.  
Still destiny preserves its due relations,  
The heart within us is its absolute  
Vicegerent. [To TERZKY.

Go, conduct you Gustave Wrangel  
To my state cabinet. Myself will speak to  
The couriers. And despatch immediately  
A servant for Octavio Piccolomini.

[To the COUNTESS, who cannot conceal her triumph.

No exultation! woman, triumph not!  
For jealous are the powers of destiny,  
Joy premature, and shouts ere victory,  
Encroach upon their rights and privileges.  
We sow the seed, and they the growth determine.

[While he is making his exit the curtain drops.

# ACT II

## SCENE I

SCENE as in the preceding Act.

WALLENSTEIN, OCTAVIO PICCOLOMINI.

**WALLENSTEIN (coming forward in conversation)**

He sends me word from Linz that he lies sick;  
But I have sure intelligence that he  
Secretes himself at Frauenberg with Gallas.  
Secure them both, and send them to me hither.  
Remember, thou takest on thee the command  
Of those same Spanish regiments, – constantly  
Make preparation, and be never ready;  
And if they urge thee to draw out against me,  
Still answer yes, and stand as thou went fettered.  
I know, that it is doing thee a service  
To keep thee out of action in this business.  
Thou lovest to linger on in fair appearances;  
Steps of extremity are not thy province,  
Therefore have I sought out this part for thee.

Thou wilt this time be of most service to me  
By thy inertness. The meantime, if fortune  
Declare itself on my side, thou wilt know  
What is to do.

[Enter MAX. PICCOLOMINI.]

Now go, Octavio.  
This night must thou be off, take my own horses  
Him here I keep with me – make short farewell —  
Trust me, I think we all shall meet again  
In joy and thriving fortunes.

**OCTAVIO (to his son)**

I shall see you  
Yet ere I go.

## SCENE II

WALLENSTEIN, MAX. PICCOLOMINI.

**MAX. (advances to him)**

My general!

**WALLENSTEIN**

That I am no longer, if  
Thou stylest thyself the emperor's officer.

**MAX**

Then thou wilt leave the army, general?

## WALLENSTEIN

I have renounced the service of the emperor.

## MAX

And thou wilt leave the army?

## WALLENSTEIN

Rather hope I  
To bind it nearer still and faster to me.

[He seats himself.]

Yes, Max., I have delayed to open it to thee,  
Even till the hour of acting 'gins to strike.  
Youth's fortunate feeling doth seize easily  
The absolute right, yea, and a joy it is  
To exercise the single apprehension  
Where the sums square in proof;

But where it happens, that of two sure evils  
One must be taken, where the heart not wholly  
Brings itself back from out the strife of duties,  
There 'tis a blessing to have no election,  
And blank necessity is grace and favor.  
This is now present: do not look behind thee, —  
It can no more avail thee. Look thou forwards!  
Think not! judge not! prepare thyself to act!  
The court – it hath determined on my ruin,  
Therefore I will be beforehand with them.  
We'll join the Swedes – right gallant fellows are they,  
And our good friends.

[He stops himself, expecting PICCOLOMINI's answer.

I have taken thee by surprise. Answer me not:  
I grant thee time to recollect thyself.

[He rises, retires to the back of the stage. MAX. remains for a long time motionless, in a trance of excessive anguish.

At his first motion WALLENSTEIN returns, and places himself before him.

**MAX**

My general, this day thou makest me  
Of age to speak in my own right and person,

For till this day I have been spared the trouble  
To find out my own road. Thee have I followed  
With most implicit, unconditional faith,  
Sure of the right path if I followed thee.  
To-day, for the first time, dost thou refer  
Me to myself, and forcest me to make  
Election between thee and my own heart.

## WALLENSTEIN

Soft cradled thee thy fortune till to-day;  
Thy duties thou couldst exercise in sport,  
Indulge all lovely instincts, act forever  
With undivided heart. It can remain  
No longer thus. Like enemies, the roads  
Start from each other. Duties strive with duties,  
Thou must needs choose thy party in the war  
Which is now kindling 'twixt thy friend and him  
Who is thy emperor.

## MAX

War! is that the name?  
War is as frightful as heaven's pestilence,



Yet it is good, is it heaven's will as that is.  
Is that a good war, which against the emperor  
Thou wagest with the emperor's own army?  
O God of heaven! what a change is this.  
Beseems it me to offer such persuasion  
To thee, who like the fixed star of the pole  
Wert all I gazed at on life's trackless ocean?  
O! what a rent thou makest in my heart!  
The ingrained instinct of old reverence,  
The holy habit of obedience,  
Must I pluck life asunder from thy name?  
Nay, do not turn thy countenance upon me —  
It always was as a god looking upon me!  
Duke Wallenstein, its power has not departed;  
The senses still are in thy bonds, although  
Bleeding, the soul hath freed itself.

## WALLENSTEIN

Max., hear me.

**MAX**

Oh, do it not, I pray thee, do it not!

There is a pure and noble soul within thee,  
Knows not of this unblest unlucky doing.  
Thy will is chaste, it is thy fancy only  
Which hath polluted thee – and innocence,  
It will not let itself be driven away  
From that world-awing aspect. Thou wilt not,  
Thou canst not end in this. It would reduce  
All human creatures to disloyalty  
Against the nobleness of their own nature.  
'Twill justify the vulgar misbelief,  
Which holdeth nothing noble in free will,  
And trusts itself to impotence alone,  
Made powerful only in an unknown power.

## WALLENSTEIN

The world will judge me harshly, I expect it.  
Already have I said to my own self  
All thou canst say to me. Who but avoids  
The extreme, can he by going round avoid it?  
But here there is no choice. Yes, I must use  
Or suffer violence – so stands the case,  
There remains nothing possible but that.

## MAX

Oh, that is never possible for thee!  
'Tis the last desperate resource of those  
Cheap souls, to whom their honor, their good name,  
Is their poor saving, their last worthless keep,  
Which, having staked and lost, they staked themselves  
In the mad rage of gaming. Thou art rich  
And glorious; with an unpolluted heart  
Thou canst make conquest of whate'er seems highest!  
But he who once hath acted infamy  
Does nothing more in this world.

## WALLENSTEIN (grasps his hand)

Calmly, Max.!

Much that is great and excellent will we  
Perform together yet. And if we only  
Stand on the height with dignity, 'tis soon  
Forgotten, Max., by what road we ascended.  
Believe me, many a crown shines spotless now,  
That yet was deeply sullied in the winning.  
To the evil spirit doth the earth belong,  
Not to the good. All that the powers divine

Send from above are universal blessings  
Their light rejoices us, their air refreshes,  
But never yet was man enriched by them:  
In their eternal realm no property  
Is to be struggled for – all there is general.  
The jewel, the all-valued gold we win  
From the deceiving powers, depraved in nature,  
That dwell beneath the day and blessed sunlight.  
Not without sacrifices are they rendered  
Propitious, and there lives no soul on earth  
That e'er retired unsullied from their service.

## MAX

Whate'er is human to the human being  
Do I allow – and to the vehement  
And striving spirit readily I pardon  
The excess of action; but to thee, my general!  
Above all others make I large concession.  
For thou must move a world and be the master —  
He kills thee who condemns thee to inaction.  
So be it then! maintain thee in thy post  
By violence. Resist the emperor,  
And if it must be force with force repel;  
I will not praise it, yet I can forgive it.  
But not – not to the traitor – yes! the word

Is spoken out —  
Not to the traitor can I yield a pardon.  
That is no mere excess! that is no error  
Of human nature – that is wholly different,  
Oh, that is black, black as the pit of hell!

[WALLENSTEIN betrays a sudden agitation.

Thou canst not hear it named, and wilt thou do it?  
O turn back to thy duty. That thou canst,  
I hold it certain. Send me to Vienna;  
I'll make thy peace for thee with the emperor.  
He knows thee not. But I do know thee. He  
Shall see thee, duke! with my unclouded eye,  
And I bring back his confidence to thee.

## WALLENSTEIN

It is too late! Thou knowest not what has happened.

## MAX

Were it too late, and were things gone so far,  
That a crime only could prevent thy fall,

Then – fall! fall honorably, even as thou stoodest,  
Lose the command. Go from the stage of war!  
Thou canst with splendor do it – do it too  
With innocence. Thou hast lived much for others,  
At length live thou for thy own self. I follow thee.  
My destiny I never part from thine.

## WALLENSTEIN

It is too late! Even now, while thou art losing  
Thy words, one after another, are the mile-stones  
Left fast behind by my post couriers,  
Who bear the order on to Prague and Egra.

[MAX. stands as convulsed, with a gesture and countenance  
expressing the most intense anguish.

Yield thyself to it. We act as we are forced.  
I cannot give assent to my own shame  
And ruin. Thou – no – thou canst not forsake me!  
So let us do, what must be done, with dignity,  
With a firm step. What am I doing worse  
Than did famed Caesar at the Rubicon,  
When he the legions led against his country,  
The which his country had delivered to him?  
Had he thrown down the sword, he had been lost.

As I were, if I but disarmed myself.  
I trace out something in me of this spirit.  
Give me his luck, that other thing I'll bear.

[MAX. quits him abruptly. WALLENSTEIN startled and overpowered, continues looking after him, and is still in this posture when TERZKY enters.

## SCENE III

WALLENSTEIN, TERZKY.

**TERZKY**

Max. Piccolomini just left you?

**WALLENSTEIN**

Where is Wrangel?

**TERZKY**

He is already gone.



# WALLENSTEIN

In such a hurry?

## TERZKY

It is as if the earth had swallowed him.  
He had scarce left thee, when I went to seek him.  
I wished some words with him – but he was gone.  
How, when, and where, could no one tell me.  
Nay, I half believe it was the devil himself;  
A human creature could not so at once  
Have vanished.

## ILLO (enters)

Is it true that thou wilt send  
Octavio?

## **TERZKY**

How, Octavio! Whither send him?

## **WALLENSTEIN**

He goes to Frauenberg, and will lead hither  
The Spanish and Italian regiments.

## **ILLO**

No!  
Nay, heaven forbid!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

And why should heaven forbid?

## **ILLO**

Him! – that deceiver! Wouldst thou trust to him  
The soldiery? Him wilt thou let slip from thee,  
Now in the very instant that decides us —

## **TERZKY**

Thou wilt not do this! No! I pray thee, no!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Ye are whimsical.

## **ILLO**

O but for this time, duke,  
Yield to our warning! Let him not depart.

## WALLENSTEIN

And why should I not trust him only this time,  
Who have always trusted him? What, then, has happened  
That I should lose my good opinion of him?  
In complaisance to your whims, not my own,  
I must, forsooth, give up a rooted judgment.  
Think not I am a woman. Having trusted him  
E'en till to-day, to-day too will I trust him.

## TERZKY

Must it be he – he only? Send another.

## WALLENSTEIN

It must be he, whom I myself have chosen;  
He is well fitted for the business.  
Therefore I gave it him.

## ILLO

Because he's an Italian —  
Therefore is he well fitted for the business!

## WALLENSTEIN

I know you love them not, nor sire nor son,  
Because that I esteem them, love them, visibly  
Esteem them, love them more than you and others,  
E'en as they merit. Therefore are they eye-blights,  
Thorns in your footpath. But your jealousies,  
In what affect they me or my concerns?  
Are they the worse to me because you hate them?  
Love or hate one another as you will,  
I leave to each man his own moods and likings;  
Yet know the worth of each of you to me.

## ILLO

Von Questenberg, while he was here, was always

Lurking about with this Octavio.

**WALLENSTEIN**

It happened with my knowledge and permission.

**ILLO**

I know that secret messengers came to him  
From Gallas —

**WALLENSTEIN**

That's not true.

**ILLO**

O thou art blind,

With thy deep-seeing eyes!

## WALLENSTEIN

Thou wilt not shake  
My faith for me; my faith, which founds itself  
On the profoundest science. If 'tis false,  
Then the whole science of the stars is false;  
For know, I have a pledge from Fate itself,  
That he is the most faithful of my friends.

## ILLO

Hast thou a pledge that this pledge is not false?

## WALLENSTEIN

There exist moments in the life of man,  
When he is nearer the great Soul of the world  
Than is man's custom, and possesses freely  
The power of questioning his destiny:

And such a moment 'twas, when in the night  
Before the action in the plains of Luetzen,  
Leaning against a tree, thoughts crowding thoughts,  
I looked out far upon the ominous plain.  
My whole life, past and future, in this moment  
Before my mind's eye glided in procession,  
And to the destiny of the next morning  
The spirit, filled with anxious presentiment,  
Did knit the most removed futurity.  
Then said I also to myself, "So many  
Dost thou command. They follow all thy stars,  
And as on some great number set their all  
Upon thy single head, and only man  
The vessel of thy fortune. Yet a day  
Will come, when destiny shall once more scatter  
All these in many a several direction:  
Few be they who will stand out faithful to thee."  
I yearned to know which one was faithfulest  
Of all, my camp included. Great destiny,  
Give me a sign! And he shall be the man,  
Who, on the approaching morning, comes the first  
To meet me with a token of his love:  
And thinking this, I fell into a slumber,  
Then midmost in the battle was I led  
In spirit. Great the pressure and the tumult!  
Then was my horse killed under me: I sank;  
And over me away, all unconcernedly,  
Drove horse and rider – and thus trod to pieces  
I lay, and panted like a dying man;



Then seized me suddenly a savior arm;  
It was Octavio's – I woke at once,  
'Twas broad day, and Octavio stood before me.  
"My brother," said he, "do not ride to-day  
The dapple, as you're wont; but mount the horse  
Which I have chosen for thee. Do it, brother!  
In love to me. A strong dream warned me so."  
It was the swiftness of this horse that snatched me  
From the hot pursuit of Bannier's dragoons.  
My cousin rode the dapple on that day,  
And never more saw I or horse or rider.

## ILLO

That was a chance.

## WALLENSTEIN (significantly)

There's no such thing as chance  
And what to us seems merest accident  
Springs from the deepest source of destiny.  
In brief, 'tis signed and sealed that this Octavio  
Is my good angel – and now no word more.

[He is retiring.

## TERZKY

This is my comfort – Max. remains our hostage.

## ILLO

And he shall never stir from here alive.

## WALLENSTEIN (stops and turns himself round)

Are ye not like the women, who forever  
Only recur to their first word, although  
One had been talking reason by the hour!  
Know, that the human being's thoughts and deeds  
Are not like ocean billows, blindly moved.  
The inner world, his microcosmus, is  
The deep shaft, out of which they spring eternally.  
They grow by certain laws, like the tree's fruit —  
No juggling chance can metamorphose them.  
Have I the human kernel first examined?

Then I know, too, the future will and action.

[Exeunt.]

## SCENE IV

Chamber in the residence of Piccolomini: OCTAVIO  
PICCOLOMINI (attired for travelling), an ADJUTANT.

**OCTAVIO**

Is the detachment here?

**ADJUTANT**

It waits below.

**OCTAVIO**

And are the soldiers trusty, adjutant?  
Say, from what regiment hast thou chosen them?

## ADJUTANT

From Tiefenbach's.

## OCTAVIO

That regiment is loyal,  
Keep them in silence in the inner court,  
Unseen by all, and when the signal peals  
Then close the doors, keep watch upon the house.  
And all ye meet be instantly arrested.

[Exit ADJUTANT.]

I hope indeed I shall not need their service,  
So certain feel I of my well-laid plans;  
But when an empire's safety is at stake  
'Twere better too much caution than too little.

## SCENE V

A chamber in PICCOLOMINI's dwelling-house:  
OCTAVIO, PICCOLOMINI, ISOLANI, entering.

### ISOLANI

Here am I – well! who comes yet of the others?

### OCTAVIO (with an air of mystery)

But, first, a word with you, Count Isolani.

### ISOLANI (assuming the same air of mystery)

Will it explode, ha? Is the duke about  
To make the attempt? In me, friend, you may place  
Full confidence – nay, put me to the proof.

## OCTAVIO

That may happen.

## ISOLANI

Noble brother, I am  
Not one of those men who in words are valiant,  
And when it comes to action skulk away.  
The duke has acted towards me as a friend:  
God knows it is so; and I owe him all;  
He may rely on my fidelity.

## OCTAVIO

That will be seen hereafter.

## **ISOLANI**

Be on your guard,  
All think not as I think; and there are many  
Who still hold with the court – yes, and they say  
That these stolen signatures bind them to nothing.

## **OCTAVIO**

Indeed! Pray name to me the chiefs that think so;

## **ISOLANI**

Plague upon them! all the Germans think so  
Esterhazy, Kaunitz, Deodati, too,  
Insist upon obedience to the court.



**OCTAVIO**

I am rejoiced to hear it.

**ISOLANI**

You rejoice?

**OCTAVIO**

That the emperor has yet such gallant servants,  
And loving friends.

**ISOLANI**

Nay, jeer not, I entreat you.  
They are no such worthless fellows, I assure you.

## **OCTAVIO**

I am assured already. God forbid  
That I should jest! In very serious earnest,  
I am rejoiced to see an honest cause  
So strong.

## **ISOLANI**

The devil! – what! – why, what means this?  
Are you not, then – For what, then, am I here?

## **OCTAVIO**

That you may make full declaration, whether  
You will be called the friend or enemy  
Of the emperor.

## **ISOLANI (with an air of defiance)**

That declaration, friend,  
I'll make to him in whom a right is placed  
To put that question to me.

## **OCTAVIO**

Whether, count,  
That right is mine, this paper may instruct you.

## **ISOLANI (stammering)**

Why, – why – what! this is the emperor's hand and seal

[Reads.

"Whereas the officers collectively  
Throughout our army will obey the orders  
Of the Lieutenant-General Piccolomini,  
As from ourselves." – Hem! – Yes! so! – Yes! yes!

I – I give you joy, lieutenant-general!

**OCTAVIO**

And you submit to the order?

**ISOLANI**

I —

But you have taken me so by surprise  
Time for reflection one must have —

**OCTAVIO**

Two minutes.

**ISOLANI**

My God! But then the case is —

## OCTAVIO

Plain and simple.

You must declare you, whether you determine  
To act a treason 'gainst your lord and sovereign,  
Or whether you will serve him faithfully.

## ISOLANI

Treason! My God! But who talks then of treason?

## OCTAVIO

That is the case. The prince-duke is a traitor —  
Means to lead over to the enemy  
The emperor's army. Now, count! brief and full —  
Say, will you break your oath to the emperor?  
Sell yourself to the enemy? Say, will you?

## **ISOLANI**

What mean you? I – I break my oath, d'ye say,  
To his imperial majesty?  
Did I say so! When, when have I said that?

## **OCTAVIO**

You have not said it yet – not yet. This instant  
I wait to hear, count, whether you will say it.

## **ISOLANI**

Ay! that delights me now, that you yourself  
Bear witness for me that I never said so.

## **OCTAVIO**

And you renounce the duke then?

**ISOLANI**

If he's planning  
Treason – why, treason breaks all bonds asunder.

**OCTAVIO**

And are determined, too, to fight against him?

**ISOLANI**

He has done me service – but if he's a villain,  
Perdition seize him! All scores are rubbed off.

**OCTAVIO**

I am rejoiced that you are so well disposed.  
This night break off in the utmost secrecy  
With all the light-armed troops – it must appear  
As came the order from the duke himself.  
At Frauenberg's the place of rendezvous;  
There will Count Gallas give you further orders.

## **ISOLANI**

It shall be done. But you'll remember me  
With the emperor – how well disposed you found me.

## **OCTAVIO**

I will not fail to mention it honorably.

[Exit ISOLANI. A SERVANT enters.]

What, Colonel Butler! Show him up.



## **ISOLANI (returning)**

Forgive me too my bearish ways, old father!  
Lord God! how should I know, then, what a great  
Person I had before me.

## **OCTAVIO**

No excuses!

## **ISOLANI**

I am a merry lad, and if at time  
A rash word might escape me 'gainst the court  
Amidst my wine, – you know no harm was meant.

## **OCTAVIO**

You need not be uneasy on that score.  
That has succeeded. Fortune favor us  
With all the others only but as much.

[Exit.

# SCENE VI

OCTAVIO PICCOLOMINI, BUTLER.

**BUTLER**

At your command, lieutenant-general.

**OCTAVIO**

Welcome, as honored friend and visitor.

**BUTLER**

You do me too much honor.

## **OCTAVIO (after both have seated themselves)**

You have not  
Returned the advances which I made you yesterday —  
Misunderstood them as mere empty forms.  
That wish proceeded from my heart – I was  
In earnest with you – for 'tis now a time  
In which the honest should unite most closely.

## **BUTLER**

'Tis only the like-minded can unite.

## **OCTAVIO**

True! and I name all honest men like-minded.  
I never charge a man but with those acts  
To which his character deliberately  
Impels him; for alas! the violence  
Of blind misunderstandings often thrusts  
The very best of us from the right track.

You came through Frauenberg. Did the Count Gallas  
Say nothing to you? Tell me. He's my friend.

## **BUTLER**

His words were lost on me.

## **OCTAVIO**

It grieves me sorely  
To hear it: for his counsel was most wise.  
I had myself the like to offer.

## **BUTLER**

Spare  
Yourself the trouble – me the embarrassment.  
To have deserved so ill your good opinion.

## OCTAVIO

The time is precious – let us talk openly.  
You know how matters stand here. Wallenstein  
Meditates treason – I can tell you further,  
He has committed treason; but few hours  
Have past since he a covenant concluded  
With the enemy. The messengers are now  
Full on their way to Egra and to Prague.  
To-morrow he intends to lead us over  
To the enemy. But he deceives himself;  
For prudence wakes – the emperor has still  
Many and faithful friends here, and they stand  
In closest union, mighty though unseen.  
This manifesto sentences the duke —  
Recalls the obedience of the army from him,  
And summons all the loyal, all the honest,  
To join and recognize in me their leader.  
Choose – will you share with us an honest cause?  
Or with the evil share an evil lot?

## BUTLER (rises)

His lot is mine.

## **OCTAVIO**

Is that your last resolve?

## **BUTLER**

It is.

## **OCTAVIO**

Nay, but bethink you, Colonel Butler.  
As yet you have time. Within my faithful breast  
That rashly uttered word remains interred.  
Recall it, Butler! choose a better party;  
You have not chosen the right one.

**BUTLER (going)**

Any other  
Commands for me, lieutenant-general?

**OCTAVIO**

See your white hairs; recall that word!

**BUTLER**

Farewell!

**OCTAVIO**

What! Would you draw this good and gallant sword  
In such a cause? Into a curse would you  
Transform the gratitude which you have earned



By forty years' fidelity from Austria?

**BUTLER (laughing with bitterness)**

Gratitude from the House of Austria!

[He is going.]

**OCTAVIO (permits him to go as far as the door, then calls after him)**

Butler!

**BUTLER**

What wish you?

**OCTAVIO**

How was't with the count?

**BUTLER**

Count? what?

**OCTAVIO (coldly)**

The title that you wished, I mean.

**BUTLER (starts in sudden passion)**

Hell and damnation!

**OCTAVIO (coldly)**

You petitioned for it —  
And your petition was repelled – was it so?

## **BUTLER**

Your insolent scoff shall not go by unpunished.  
Draw!

## **OCTAVIO**

Nay! your sword to its sheath! and tell me calmly  
How all that happened. I will not refuse you  
Your satisfaction afterwards. Calmly, Butler!

## **BUTLER**

Be the whole world acquainted with the weakness  
For which I never can forgive myself,  
Lieutenant-general! Yes; I have ambition.  
Ne'er was I able to endure contempt.  
It stung me to the quick that birth and title  
Should have more weight than merit has in the army.  
I would fain not be meaner than my equal,

So in an evil hour I let myself  
Be tempted to that measure. It was folly!  
But yet so hard a penance it deserved not.  
It might have been refused; but wherefore barb  
And venom the refusal with contempt?  
Why dash to earth and crush with heaviest scorn  
The gray-haired man, the faithful veteran?  
Why to the baseness of his parentage  
Refer him with such cruel roughness, only  
Because he had a weak hour and forgot himself?  
But nature gives a sting e'en to the worm  
Which wanton power treads on in sport and insult.

## **OCTAVIO**

You must have been calumniated. Guess you  
The enemy who did you this ill service?

## **BUTLER**

Be't who it will – a most low-hearted scoundrel!  
Some vile court-minion must it be, some Spaniard;  
Some young squire of some ancient family,  
In whose light I may stand; some envious knave,

Stung to his soul by my fair self-earned honors!

**OCTAVIO**

But tell me, did the duke approve that measure?

**BUTLER**

Himself impelled me to it, used his interest  
In my behalf with all the warmth of friendship.

**OCTAVIO**

Ay! are you sure of that?

**BUTLER**

I read the letter.

## OCTAVIO

And so did I – but the contents were different.

[BUTLER is suddenly struck.

By chance I'm in possession of that letter —  
Can leave it to your own eyes to convince you.  
[He gives him the letter.

## BUTLER

Ha! what is this?

## OCTAVIO

I fear me, Colonel Butler,  
An infamous game have they been playing with you.  
The duke, you say, impelled you to this measure?  
Now, in this letter, talks he in contempt

Concerning you; counsels the minister  
To give sound chastisement to your conceit,  
For so he calls it.

[BUTLER reads through the letter; his knees tremble, he  
seizes a chair, and sinks clown in it.

You have no enemy, no persecutor;  
There's no one wishes ill to you. Ascribe  
The insult you received to the duke only.  
His aim is clear and palpable. He wished  
To tear you from your emperor: he hoped  
To gain from your revenge what he well knew  
(What your long tried fidelity convinced him)  
He ne'er could dare expect from your calm reason.  
A blind tool would he make you, in contempt  
Use you, as means of most abandoned ends.  
He has gained his point. Too well has he succeeded  
In luring you away from that good path  
On which you had been journeying forty years!

**BUTLER (his voice trembling)**

Can e'er the emperor's majesty forgive me?

## OCTAVIO

More than forgive you. He would fain compensate  
For that affront, and most unmerited grievance  
Sustained by a deserving gallant veteran.  
From his free impulse he confirms the present,  
Which the duke made you for a wicked purpose.  
The regiment, which you now command, is yours.

[BUTLER attempts to rise, sinks down again. He labors inwardly with violent emotions; tries to speak and cannot. At length he takes his sword from the belt, and offers it to PICCOLOMINI.]

## OCTAVIO

What wish you? Recollect yourself, friend.

## BUTLER

Take it.



## **OCTAVIO**

But to what purpose? Calm yourself.

## **BUTLER**

O take it!  
I am no longer worthy of this sword.

## **OCTAVIO**

Receive it then anew, from my hands – and  
Wear it with honor for the right cause ever.

## **BUTLER**

Perjure myself to such a gracious sovereign?

**OCTAVIO**

You'll make amends. Quick! break off from the duke!

**BUTLER**

Break off from him.

**OCTAVIO**

What now? Bethink thyself.

**BUTLER (no longer governing his emotion)**

Only break off from him? He dies! he dies!

## OCTAVIO

Come after me to Frauenberg, where now  
All who are loyal are assembling under  
Counts Altringer and Gallas. Many others  
I've brought to a remembrance of their duty  
This night be sure that you escape from Pilsen.

**BUTLER (strides up and down in  
excessive agitation, then steps up to  
OCTAVIO with resolved countenance)**

Count Piccolomini! dare that man speak  
Of honor to you, who once broke his troth.

## OCTAVIO

He who repents so deeply of it dares.

**BUTLER**

Then leave me here upon my word of honor!

**OCTAVIO**

What's your design?

**BUTLER**

Leave me and my regiment.

**OCTAVIO**

I have full confidence in you. But tell me  
What are you brooding?

## **BUTLER**

That the deed will tell you.  
Ask me no more at present. Trust me.  
Ye may trust safely. By the living God,  
Ye give him over, not to his good angel!  
Farewell.

[Exit BUTLER.

## **SERVANT (enters with a billet)**

A stranger left it, and is gone.  
The prince-duke's horses wait for you below.

[Exit SERVANT.

## **OCTAVIO (reads)**

"Be sure, make haste! Your faithful Isolani."  
– O that I had but left this town behind me.  
To split upon a rock so near the haven!  
Away! This is no longer a safe place

For me! Where can my son be tarrying!

## SCENE VII

OCTAVIO and MAX. PICCOLOMINI.

MAX. enters almost in a state of derangement, from extreme agitation; his eyes roll wildly, his walk is unsteady, and he appears not to observe his father, who stands at a distance, and gazes at him with a countenance expressive of compassion. He paces with long strides through the chamber, then stands still again, and at last throws himself into a chair, staring vacantly at the object directly before him.

**OCTAVIO (advances to him)**

I am going off, my son.

[Receiving no answer, he takes his hands

My son, farewell.

**MAX**

Farewell.

## OCTAVIO

Thou wilt soon follow me?

## MAX

I follow thee?

Thy way is crooked – it is not my way.

[OCTAVIO drops his hand and starts back.

Oh, hadst thou been but simple and sincere,  
Ne'er had it come to this – all had stood otherwise.  
He had not done that foul and horrible deed,  
The virtuous had retained their influence over him  
He had not fallen into the snares of villains.  
Wherefore so like a thief, and thief's accomplice  
Didst creep behind him lurking for thy prey!  
Oh, unblest falsehood! Mother of all evil!  
Thou misery-making demon, it is thou  
That sinkest us in perdition. Simple truth,  
Sustainer of the world, had saved us all!  
Father, I will not, I cannot excuse thee!  
Wallenstein has deceived me – oh, most foully!



But thou has acted not much better.

## OCTAVIO

Son

My son, ah! I forgive thy agony!

**MAX. (rises and contemplates  
his father with looks of suspicion)**

Was't possible? hadst thou the heart, my father,  
Hadst thou the heart to drive it to such lengths,  
With cold premeditated purpose? Thou —  
Hadst thou the heart to wish to see him guilty  
Rather than saved? Thou risest by his fall.  
Octavio, 'twill not please me.

## OCTAVIO

God in heaven!

## MAX

Oh, woe is me! sure I have changed my nature.  
How comes suspicion here – in the free soul?  
Hope, confidence, belief, are gone; for all  
Lied to me, all that I e'er loved or honored.  
No, no! not all! She – she yet lives for me,  
And she is true, and open as the heavens  
Deceit is everywhere, hypocrisy,  
Murder, and poisoning, treason, perjury:  
The single holy spot is our love,  
The only unprofaned in human nature.

## OCTAVIO

Max.! – we will go together. 'Twill be better.

## MAX

What? ere I've taken a last parting leave,  
The very last – no, never!

## **OCTAVIO**

Spare thyself  
The pang of necessary separation.  
Come with me! Come, my son!  
[Attempts to take him with him.]

## **MAX**

No! as sure as God lives, no!

## **OCTAVIO (more urgently)**

Come with me, I command thee! I, thy father.

## **MAX**

Command me what is human. I stay here.

## OCTAVIO

Max.! in the emperor's name I bid thee come.

## MAX

No emperor has power to prescribe  
Laws to the heart; and wouldst thou wish to rob me  
Of the sole blessing which my fate has left me,  
Her sympathy? Must then a cruel deed  
Be done with cruelty? The unalterable  
Shall I perform ignobly – steal away,  
With stealthy coward flight forsake her? No!  
She shall behold my suffering, my sore anguish,  
Hear the complaints of the disparted soul,  
And weep tears o'er me. Oh! the human race  
Have steely souls – but she is as an angel.  
From the black deadly madness of despair  
Will she redeem my soul, and in soft words  
Of comfort, plaining, loose this pang of death!

## OCTAVIO

Thou wilt not tear thyself away; thou canst not.  
Oh, come, my son! I bid thee save thy virtue.

## MAX

Squander not thou thy words in vain.  
The heart I follow, for I dare trust to it.

## **OCTAVIO (trembling, and losing all self-command)**

Max.! Max.! if that most damned thing could be,  
If thou – my son – my own blood – (dare I think it?)  
Do sell thyself to him, the infamous,  
Do stamp this brand upon our noble house,  
Then shall the world behold the horrible deed,  
And in unnatural combat shall the steel  
Of the son trickle with the father's blood.

## **MAX**

Oh, hadst thou always better thought of men,  
Thou hadst then acted better. Curst suspicion,  
Unholy, miserable doubt! To him  
Nothing on earth remains unwrenched and firm  
Who has no faith.

## **OCTAVIO**

And if I trust thy heart,  
Will it be always in thy power to follow it?

## **MAX**

The heart's voice thou hast not o'erpowered – as little  
Will Wallenstein be able to o'erpower it.

## OCTAVIO

O, Max.! I see thee never more again!

## MAX

Unworthy of thee wilt thou never see me.

## OCTAVIO

I go to Frauenberg – the Pappenheimers  
I leave thee here, the Lothrings too; Tsokana  
And Tiefenbach remain here to protect thee.  
They love thee, and are faithful to their oath,  
And will far rather fall in gallant contest  
Than leave their rightful leader and their honor.

**MAX**

Rely on this, I either leave my life  
In the struggle, or conduct them out of Pilsen.

**OCTAVIO**

Farewell, my son!

**MAX**

Farewell!

**OCTAVIO**

How! not one look  
Of filial love? No grasp of the hand at parting?  
It is a bloody war to which we are going,



And the event uncertain and in darkness.

So used we not to part – it was not so!

Is it then true? I have a son no longer?

[MAX. falls into his arms, they hold each other for a long time

in a speechless embrace, then go away at different sides.

**(The curtain drops.)**

# ACT III

## SCENE I

A chamber in the house of the Duchess of Friedland.

COUNTESS TERZKY, THEKLA, LADY  
NEUBRUNN (the two latter sit at the same table at work).

**COUNTESS (watching them from the opposite side)**

So you have nothing to ask me – nothing?  
I have been waiting for a word from you.  
And could you then endure in all this time  
Not once to speak his name?

[THEKLA remaining silent, the COUNTESS rises and  
advances to her.

Why, how comes this?  
Perhaps I am already grown superfluous,  
And other ways exist, besides through me  
Confess it to me, Thekla: have you seen him?

**THEKLA**

To-day and yesterday I have not seen him.

**COUNTESS**

And not heard from him, either? Come, be open.

**THEKLA**

No Syllable.

**COUNTESS**

And still you are so calm?

## **THEKLA**

I am.

## **COUNTESS**

May it please you, leave us, Lady Neubrunn.

[Exit LADY NEUBRUNN.]

## **SCENE II**

The COUNTESS, THEKLA.

**COUNTESS**

It does not please me, princess, that he holds  
Himself so still, exactly at this time.

**THEKLA**

Exactly at this time?

**COUNTESS**

He now knows all  
'Twere now the moment to declare himself.

## **THEKLA**

If I'm to understand you, speak less darkly.

## **COUNTESS**

'Twas for that purpose that I bade her leave us.  
Thekla, you are no more a child. Your heart  
Is no more in nonage: for you love,  
And boldness dwells with love – that you have proved  
Your nature moulds itself upon your father's  
More than your mother's spirit. Therefore may you  
Hear what were too much for her fortitude.

## **THEKLA**

Enough: no further preface, I entreat you.  
At once, out with it! Be it what it may,  
It is not possible that it should torture me  
More than this introduction. What have you  
To say to me? Tell me the whole, and briefly!

## **COUNTESS**

You'll not be frightened —

## **THEKLA**

Name it, I entreat you.

## **COUNTESS**

Lies within my power to do your father  
A weighty service —

## **THEKLA**

Lies within my power.

## **COUNTESS**

Max. Piccolomini loves you. You can link him  
Indissolubly to your father.

## **THEKLA**

I?

What need of me for that? And is he not  
Already linked to him?

## **COUNTESS**

He was.

## **THEKLA**

And wherefore



Should he not be so now – not be so always?

## **COUNTESS**

He cleaves to the emperor too.

## **THEKLA**

Not more than duty  
And honor may demand of him.

## **COUNTESS**

We ask  
Proofs of his love, and not proofs of his honor.  
Duty and honor!  
Those are ambiguous words with many meanings.  
You should interpret them for him: his love  
Should be the sole definer of his honor.

## **THEKLA**

How?

## **COUNTESS**

The emperor or you must he renounce.

## **THEKLA**

He will accompany my father gladly  
In his retirement. From himself you heard,  
How much he wished to lay aside the sword.

## **COUNTESS**

He must not lay the sword aside, we mean;  
He must unsheath it in your father's cause.

## **THEKLA**

He'll spend with gladness and alacrity  
His life, his heart's blood in my father's cause,  
If shame or injury be intended him.

## **COUNTESS**

You will not understand me. Well, hear then:  
Your father has fallen off from the emperor,  
And is about to join the enemy  
With the whole soldiery —

## **THEKLA**

Alas, my mother!

## COUNTESS

There needs a great example to draw on  
The army after him. The Piccolomini  
Possess the love and reverence of the troops;  
They govern all opinions, and wherever  
They lead the way, none hesitate to follow.  
The son secures the father to our interests —  
You've much in your hands at this moment.

## THEKLA

Ah,  
My miserable mother! what a death-stroke  
Awaits thee! No! she never will survive it.

## COUNTESS

She will accommodate her soul to that  
Which is and must be. I do know your mother:  
The far-off future weighs upon her heart

With torture of anxiety; but is it  
Unalterably, actually present,  
She soon resigns herself, and bears it calmly.

## **THEKLA**

O my foreboding bosom! Even now,  
E'en now 'tis here, that icy hand of horror!  
And my young hope lies shuddering in its grasp;  
I knew it well – no sooner had I entered,  
An heavy ominous presentiment  
Revealed to me that spirits of death were hovering  
Over my happy fortune. But why, think I  
First of myself? My mother! O my mother!

## **COUNTESS**

Calm yourself! Break not out in vain lamenting!  
Preserve you for your father the firm friend,  
And for yourself the lover, all will yet  
Prove good and fortunate.

## **THEKLA**

Prove good! What good?  
Must we not part; part ne'er to meet again?

## **COUNTESS**

He parts not from you! He cannot part from you.

## **THEKLA**

Alas, for his sore anguish! It will rend  
His heart asunder.

## **COUNTESS**

If indeed he loves you.  
His resolution will be speedily taken.

## **THEKLA**

His resolution will be speedily taken —  
Oh, do not doubt of that! A resolution!  
Does there remain one to be taken?

## **COUNTESS**

Hush!  
Collect yourself! I hear your mother coming.

## **THERLA**

How shall I bear to see her?

## **COUNTESS**

Collect yourself.



## SCENE III

To them enter the DUCHESS.

### DUCHESS (to the COUNTESS)

Who was here, sister? I heard some one talking,  
And passionately, too.

### COUNTESS

Nay! there was no one.

### DUCHESS

I am growing so timorous, every trifling noise  
Scatters my spirits, and announces to me  
The footstep of some messenger of evil.  
And you can tell me, sister, what the event is?  
Will he agree to do the emperor's pleasure,

And send the horse regiments to the cardinal?  
Tell me, has he dismissed von Questenberg  
With a favorable answer?

## COUNTESS

No, he has not.

## DUCHESS

Alas! then all is lost! I see it coming,  
The worst that can come! Yes, they will depose him;  
The accursed business of the Regensburg diet  
Will all be acted o'er again!

## COUNTESS

No! never!  
Make your heart easy, sister, as to that.

[THEKLA, in extreme agitation, throws herself upon her

mother, and enfolds her in her arms, weeping.

## **DUCHESS**

Yes, my poor child!

Thou too hast lost a most affectionate godmother  
In the empress. Oh, that stern, unbending man!  
In this unhappy marriage what have I  
Not suffered, not endured? For even as if  
I had been linked on to some wheel of fire  
That restless, ceaseless, whirls impetuous onward,  
I have passed a life of frights and horrors with him,  
And ever to the brink of some abyss  
With dizzy headlong violence he bears me.  
Nay, do not weep, my child. Let not my sufferings  
Presignify unhappiness to thee,  
Nor blacken with their shade the fate that waits thee.  
There lives no second Friedland; thou, my child,  
Hast not to fear thy mother's destiny.

## **THEELA**

Oh, let us supplicate him, dearest mother!  
Quick! quick! here's no abiding-place for us.  
Here every coming hour broods into life

Some new affrightful monster.

## DUCHESS

Thou wilt share  
An easier, calmer lot, my child! We, too,  
I and thy father, witnessed happy days.  
Still think I with delight of those first years,  
When he was making progress with glad effort,  
When his ambition was a genial fire,  
Not that consuming flame which now it is.  
The emperor loved him, trusted him; and all  
He undertook could not but be successful.  
But since that ill-starred day at Regensburg,  
Which plunged him headlong from his dignity,  
A gloomy, uncompanionable spirit,  
Unsteady and suspicious, has possessed him.  
His quiet mind forsook him, and no longer  
Did he yield up himself in joy and faith  
To his old luck and individual power;  
But thenceforth turned his heart and best affections  
All to those cloudy sciences which never  
Have yet made happy him who followed them.

## COUNTESS

You see it, sister! as your eyes permit you,  
But surely this is not the conversation  
To pass the time in which we are waiting for him.  
You know he will be soon here. Would you have him  
Find her in this condition?

## DUCHESS

Come, my child!  
Come, wipe away thy tears, and show thy father  
A cheerful countenance. See, the tie-knot here  
Is off; this hair must not hang so dishevelled.  
Come, dearest! dry thy tears up. They deform  
Thy gentle eye. Well, now – what was I saying?  
Yes, in good truth, this Piccolomini  
Is a most noble and deserving gentleman.

## COUNTESS

That is he, sister!

**THEKLA (to the COUNTESS, with marks of great oppression of spirits)**

Aunt, you will excuse me?  
(Is going).

**COUNTESS**

But, whither? See, your father comes!

**THEKLA**

I cannot see him now.

**COUNTESS**

Nay, but bethink you.

**THEKLA**

Believe me, I cannot sustain his presence.

**COUNTESS**

But he will miss you, will ask after you.

**DUCHESS**

What, now? Why is she going?

**COUNTESS**

She's not well.

**DUCHESS (anxiously)**

What ails, then, my beloved child?

[Both follow the PRINCESS, and endeavor to detain her. During this WALLENSTEIN appears, engaged in conversation with ILLO.]



## SCENE IV

WALLENSTEIN, ILLO, COUNTESS, DUCHESS,  
THEKLA.

**WALLENSTEIN**

All quiet in the camp?

**ILLO**

It is all quiet.

**WALLENSTEIN**

In a few hours may couriers come from Prague  
With tidings that this capital is ours.  
Then we may drop the mask, and to the troops  
Assembled in this town make known the measure  
And its result together. In such cases

Example does the whole. Whoever is foremost  
Still leads the herd. An imitative creature  
Is man. The troops at Prague conceive no other,  
Than that the Pilsen army has gone through  
The forms of homage to us; and in Pilsen  
They shall swear fealty to us, because  
The example has been given them by Prague.  
Butler, you tell me, has declared himself?

## ILLO

At his own bidding, unsolicited,  
He came to offer you himself and regiment.

## WALLENSTEIN,

I find we must not give implicit credence  
To every warning voice that makes itself  
Be listened to in the heart. To hold us back,  
Oft does the lying spirit counterfeit  
The voice of truth and inward revelation,  
Scattering false oracles. And thus have I  
To entreat forgiveness for that secretly.  
I've wronged this honorable gallant man,

This Butler: for a feeling of the which  
I am not master (fear I would not call it),  
Creeps o'er me instantly, with sense of shuddering,  
At his approach, and stops love's joyous motion.  
And this same man, against whom I am warned,  
This honest man is he who reaches to me  
The first pledge of my fortune.

## **ILLO**

And doubt not  
That his example will win over to you  
The best men in the army.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Go and send  
Isolani hither. Send him immediately.  
He is under recent obligations to me:  
With him will I commence the trial. Go.

[Exit ILLO.]

**WALLENSTEIN (turns  
himself round to the females)**

Lo, there's the mother with the darling daughter.  
For once we'll have an interval of rest —  
Come! my heart yearns to live a cloudless hour  
In the beloved circle of my family.

**COUNTESS**

'Tis long since we've been thus together, brother.

**WALLENSTEIN (to the COUNTESS, aside)**

Can she sustain the news? Is she prepared?

**COUNTESS**

Not yet.

## WALLENSTEIN

Come here, my sweet girl! Seat thee by me,  
For there is a good spirit on thy lips.  
Thy mother praised to me thy ready skill;  
She says a voice of melody dwells in thee,  
Which doth enchant the soul. Now such a voice  
Will drive away from me the evil demon  
That beats his black wings close above my head.

## DUCHESS

Where is thy lute, my daughter? Let thy father  
Hear some small trial of thy skill.

## THEKLA

My mother

I —

## **DUCHESS**

Trembling? Come, collect thyself. Go, cheer  
Thy father.

## **THEKLA**

O my mother! I – I cannot.

## **COUNTESS**

How, what is that, niece?

## **THEKLA (to the COUNTESS)**

O spare me – sing – now – in this sore anxiety,  
Of the overburdened soul – to sing to him

Who is thrusting, even now, my mother headlong  
Into her grave.

## **DUCHESS**

How, Thekla! Humorsome!  
What! shall thy father have expressed a wish  
In vain?

## **COUNTESS**

Here is the lute.

## **THEKLA**

My God! how can I —

[The orchestra plays. During the ritornello THEKLA expresses in her gestures and countenance the struggle of her feelings; and at the moment that she should begin to sing, contracts herself together, as one shuddering, throws the

instrument down, and retires abruptly.

## **DUCHESS**

My child! Oh, she is ill —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What ails the maiden?  
Say, is she often so?

## **COUNTESS**

Since then herself  
Has now betrayed it, I too must no longer  
Conceal it.

## **WALLENSTEIN**



What?

## **COUNTESS**

She loves him!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Loves him? Whom?

## **COUNTESS**

Max. does she love! Max. Piccolomini!  
Hast thou never noticed it? Nor yet my sister?

## **DUCHESS**

Was it this that lay so heavy on her heart?

God's blessing on thee, – my sweet child! Thou needest  
Never take shame upon thee for thy choice.

## **COUNTESS**

This journey, if 'twere not thy aim, ascribe it  
To thine own self. Thou shouldst have chosen another  
To have attended her.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

And does he know it?

## **COUNTESS**

Yes, and he hopes to win her.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Hopes to win her!  
Is the boy mad?

## **COUNTESS**

Well – hear it from themselves.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

He thinks to carry off Duke Friedland's daughter!  
Ay? The thought pleases me.  
The young man has no groveling spirit.

## **COUNTESS**

Since

Such and such constant favor you have shown him —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

He chooses finally to be my heir.  
And true it is, I love the youth; yea, honor him.  
But must he therefore be my daughter's husband?  
Is it daughters only? Is it only children  
That we must show our favor by?

## **DUCHESS**

His noble disposition and his manners —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Win him my heart, but not my daughter.

## **DUCHESS**

Then  
His rank, his ancestors —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Ancestors! What?  
He is a subject, and my son-in-law  
I will seek out upon the thrones of Europe.

## **DUCHESS**

O dearest Albrecht! Climb we not too high  
Lest we should fall too low.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What! have I paid  
A price so heavy to ascend this eminence,  
And jut out high above the common herd,  
Only to close the mighty part I play  
In life's great drama with a common kinsman?  
Have I for this —

[Stops suddenly, repressing himself.

She is the only thing  
That will remain behind of me on earth;  
And I will see a crown around her head,  
Or die in the attempt to place it there.  
I hazard all – all! and for this alone,  
To lift her into greatness.  
Yea, in this moment, in the which we are speaking

[He recollects himself.

And I must now, like a soft-hearted father,  
Couple together in good peasant fashion  
The pair that chance to suit each other's liking —  
And I must do it now, even now, when I  
Am stretching out the wreath that is to twine  
My full accomplished work – no! she is the jewel,  
Which I have treasured long, my last, my noblest,  
And 'tis my purpose not to let her from me  
For less than a king's sceptre.

## **DUCHESS**

O my husband!  
You're ever building, building to the clouds,  
Still building higher, and still higher building,  
And ne'er reflect, that the poor narrow basis  
Cannot sustain the giddy tottering column.

## **WALLENSTEIN (to the COUNTESS)**

Have you announced the place of residence  
Which I have destined for her?

## **COUNTESS**

No! not yet,  
'Twere better you yourself disclosed it to her.

**DUCHESS**

How? Do we not return to Carinthia then?

**WALLENSTEIN**

No.

**DUCHESS**

And to no other of your lands or seats?

**WALLENSTEIN**

You would not be secure there.



## **DUCHESS**

Not secure.  
In the emperor's realms, beneath the emperor's  
Protection?

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Friedland's wife may be permitted  
No longer to hope that.

## **DUCHESS**

O God in heaven!  
And have you brought it even to this!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

In Holland  
You'll find protection.

## **DUCHESS**

In a Lutheran country?  
What? And you send us into Lutheran countries?

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Duke Franz of Lauenburg conducts you thither.

## **DUCHESS**

Duke Franz of Lauenburg?  
The ally of Sweden, the emperor's enemy.

# WALLENSTEIN

The emperor's enemies are mine no longer.

**DUCHESS (casting a look of terror  
on the DUKE and the COUNTESS)**

Is it then true? It is. You are degraded  
Deposed from the command? O God in heaven!

**COUNTESS (aside to the DUKE)**

Leave her in this belief. Thou seest she cannot  
Support the real truth.

## SCENE V

To them enter COUNT TERZKY.

### COUNTESS

Terzky!

What ails him? What an image of affright!  
He looks as he had seen a ghost.

**TERZKY (leading WALLENSTEIN aside)**

Is it thy command that all the Croats —

### WALLENSTEIN

Mine!

**TERZKY**

We are betrayed.

**WALLENSTEIN**

What?

**TERZKY**

They are off! This night  
The Jaegers likewise – all the villages  
In the whole round are empty.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Isolani!

**TERZKY**

Him thou hast sent away. Yes, surely.

**WALLENSTEIN**

I?

**TERZKY**

No? Hast thou not sent him off? Nor Deodati?  
They are vanished, both of them.

# SCENE VI

To them enter ILLO.

**ILLO**

Has Terzky told thee?

**TERZKY**

He knows all.

**ILLO**

And likewise  
That Esterhatzy, Goetz, Maradas, Kaunitz,  
Kolatto, Palfi, have forsaken thee.

## **TERZKY**

Damnation!

**WALLENSTEIN (winks at them)**

Hush!

**COUNTESS (who has been watching them anxiously  
from the distance and now advances to them)**

Terzky! Heaven! What is it? What has happened?

**WALLENSTEIN (scarcely suppressing his emotions)**

Nothing! let us be gone!



**TERZKY (following him)**

Theresa, it is nothing.

**COUNTESS (holding him back)**

Nothing? Do I not see that all the life-blood  
Has left your cheeks – look you not like a ghost?  
That even my brother but affects a calmness?

**PAGE (enters)**

An aide-de-camp inquires for the Count Terzky.

[TERZKY follows the PAGE.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Go, hear his business.

[To ILLO.

This could not have happened  
So unsuspected without mutiny.  
Who was on guard at the gates?

**ILLO**

'Twas Tiefenbach.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Let Tiefenbach leave guard without delay,  
And Terzky's grenadiers relieve him.

[ILLO is going.

Stop!  
Hast thou heard aught of Butler?

## **ILLO**

Him I met  
He will be here himself immediately.  
Butler remains unshaken,

[ILLO exit. WALLENSTEIN is following him.]

## **COUNTESS**

Let him not leave thee, sister! go, detain him!  
There's some misfortune.

## **DUCHESS (clinging to him)**

Gracious Heaven! What is it?

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Be tranquil! leave me, sister! dearest wife!  
We are in camp, and this is naught unusual;  
Here storm and sunshine follow one another  
With rapid interchanges. These fierce spirits  
Champ the curb angrily, and never yet  
Did quiet bless the temples of the leader;  
If I am to stay go you. The plaints of women  
Ill suit the scene where men must act.

[He is going: TERZKY returns.

## **TERZKY**

Remain here. From this window must we see it.

## **WALLENSTEIN (to the COUNTESS)**

Sister, retire!

## **COUNTESS**

No – never!

# WALLENSTEIN

'Tis my will.

**TERZKY (leads the COUNTESS aside, and drawing her attention to the DUCHESS)**

Theresa!

**DUCHESS**

Sister, come! since he commands it.

# SCENE VII

WALLENSTEIN, TERZKY.

**WALLENSTEIN (stepping to the window)**

What now, then?

**TERZKY**

There are strange movements among all the troops,  
And no one knows the cause. Mysteriously,  
With gloomy silentness, the several corps  
Marshal themselves, each under its own banners;  
Tiefenbach's corps make threatening movements; only  
The Pappenheimers still remain aloof  
In their own quarters and let no one enter.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Does Piccolomini appear among them?

**TERZKY**

We are seeking him: he is nowhere to be met with.

**WALLENSTEIN**

What did the aide-de-camp deliver to you?

**TERZKY**

My regiments had despatched him; yet once more  
They swear fidelity to thee, and wait  
The shout for onset, all prepared, and eager.

**WALLENSTEIN**

But whence arose this larum in the camp?  
It should have been kept secret from the army  
Till fortune had decided for us at Prague.

## **TERZKY**

Oh, that thou hadst believed me! Yester-evening  
Did we conjure thee not to let that skulker,  
That fox, Octavio, pass the gates of Pilsen.  
Thou gavest him thy own horses to flee from thee.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

The old tune still! Now, once for all, no more  
Of this suspicion – it is doting folly.

## **TERZKY**

Thou didst confide in Isolani too;  
And lo! he was the first that did desert thee.



## WALLENSTEIN

It was but yesterday I rescued him  
From abject wretchedness. Let that go by;  
I never reckoned yet on gratitude.  
And wherein doth he wrong in going from me?  
He follows still the god whom all his life  
He has worshipped at the gaming-table. With  
My fortune and my seeming destiny  
He made the bond and broke it, not with me.  
I am but the ship in which his hopes were stowed,  
And with the which, well-pleased and confident,  
He traversed the open sea; now he beholds it  
In eminent jeopardy among the coast-rocks,  
And hurries to preserve his wares. As light  
As the free bird from the hospitable twig  
Where it had nested he flies off from me:  
No human tie is snapped betwixt us two.  
Yea, he deserves to find himself deceived  
Who seeks a heart in the unthinking man.  
Like shadows on a stream, the forms of life  
Impress their characters on the smooth forehead,  
Naught sinks into the bosom's silent depth:  
Quick sensibility of pain and pleasure  
Moves the light fluids lightly; but no soul  
Warmeth the inner frame.

## **TERZKY**

Yet, would I rather  
Trust the smooth brow than that deep furrowed one.

# SCENE VIII

WALLENSTEIN, TERZKY, ILLO.

**ILLO (who enters agitated with rage)**

Treason and mutiny!

**TERZKY**

And what further now?

**ILLO**

Tiefenbach's soldiers, when I gave the orders.  
To go off guard – mutinous villains!

**TERZKY**

Well!

**WALLENSTEIN**

What followed?

**ILLO**

They refused obedience to them.

**TERZKY**

Fire on them instantly! Give out the order.

# WALLENSTEIN

Gently! what cause did they assign?

## ILLO

No other,  
They said, had right to issue orders but  
Lieutenant-General Piccolomini.

## WALLENSTEIN (in a convulsion of agony)

What? How is that?

## ILLO

He takes that office on him by commission,  
Under sign-manual from the emperor.

## **TERZKY**

From the emperor – hearest thou, duke?

## **ILLO**

At his incitement  
The generals made that stealthy flight —

## **TERZKY**

Duke, hearest thou?

## **ILLO**

Caraffa too, and Montecuculi,  
Are missing, with six other generals,

All whom he had induced to follow him.  
This plot he has long had in writing by him  
From the emperor; but 'twas finally concluded,  
With all the detail of the operation,  
Some days ago with the Envoy Questenberg.

[WALLENSTEIN sinks down into a chair and covers his face.]

## **TERZKY**

Oh, hadst thou but believed me!

## **SCENE IX**

To them enter the COUNTESS.

### **COUNTESS**

This suspense,  
This horrid fear – I can no longer bear it.  
For heaven's sake tell me what has taken place?

### **ILLO**

The regiments are falling off from us.

### **TERZKY**

Octavio Piccolomini is a traitor.



## COUNTESS

O my foreboding!

[Rushes out of the room.]

## TERZKY

Hadst thou but believed me!  
Now seest thou how the stars have lied to thee.

## WALLENSTEIN

The stars lie not; but we have here a work  
Wrought counter to the stars and destiny.  
The science is still honest: this false heart  
Forces a lie on the truth-telling heaven,  
On a divine law divination rests;  
Where nature deviates from that law, and stumbles  
Out of her limits, there all science errs.  
True I did not suspect! Were it superstition  
Never by such suspicion to have affronted

The human form, oh, may the time ne'er come  
In which I shame me of the infirmity.  
The wildest savage drinks not with the victim,  
Into whose breast he means to plunge the sword.  
This, this, Octavio, was no hero's deed  
'Twas not thy prudence that did conquer mine;  
A bad heart triumphed o'er an honest one.  
No shield received the assassin stroke; thou plungest  
Thy weapon on an unprotected breast —  
Against such weapons I am but a child.

## SCENE X

To these enter BUTLER.

**TERZKY (meeting him)**

Oh, look there, Butler! Here we've still a friend!

**WALLENSTEIN (meets him with outspread  
arms and embraces him with warmth)**

Come to my heart, old comrade! Not the sun  
Looks out upon us more revivingly,  
In the earliest month of spring,  
Than a friend's countenance in such an hour.

**BUTLER**

My general; I come —

## **WALLENSTEIN (leaning on BUTLER'S shoulder)**

Knowest thou already  
That old man has betrayed me to the emperor.  
What sayest thou? Thirty years have we together  
Lived out, and held out, sharing joy and hardship.  
We have slept in one camp-bed, drank from one glass,  
One morsel shared! I leaned myself on him,  
As now I lean me on thy faithful shoulder,  
And now in the very moment when, all love,  
All confidence, my bosom beat to his  
He sees and takes the advantage, stabs the knife  
Slowly into my heart.

[He hides his face on BUTLER's breast.]

## **BUTLER**

Forget the false one.  
What is your present purpose?

# WALLENSTEIN

Well remembered!

Courage, my soul! I am still rich in friends,  
Still loved by destiny; for in the moment  
That it unmask the plotting hypocrite  
It sends and proves to me one faithful heart.  
Of the hypocrite no more! Think not his loss  
Was that which struck the pang: Oh, no! his treason  
Is that which strikes the pang! No more of him!  
Dear to my heart, and honored were they both,  
And the young man – yes – he did truly love me,  
He – he – has not deceived me. But enough,  
Enough of this – swift counsel now beseems us.  
The courier, whom Count Kinsky sent from Prague,  
I expect him every moment: and whatever  
He may bring with him we must take good care  
To keep it from the mutineers. Quick then!  
Despatch some messenger you can rely on  
To meet him, and conduct him to me.

[ILLO is going.

**BUTLER (detaining him)**

My general, whom expect you then?

**WALLENSTEIN**

The courier  
Who brings me word of the event at Prague.

**BUTLER (hesitating)**

Hem!

**WALLENSTEIN**

And what now?

**BUTLER**

You do not know it?

**WALLENSTEIN**

Well?

**BUTLER**

From what that larum in the camp arose?

**WALLENSTEIN**

From what?

**BUTLER**

That courier —

**WALLENSTEIN (with eager expectation)**

Well?

**BUTLER**

Is already here.

**TERZKY and ILLO (at the same time)**

Already here?

**WALLENSTEIEN**

My courier?



**BUTLER**

For some hours.

**WALLENSTEIN**

And I not know it?

**BUTLER**

The sentinels detain him  
In custody.

**ILLO (stamping with his foot)**

Damnation!

## **BUTLER**

And his letter  
Was broken open, and is circulated  
Through the whole camp.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

You know what it contains?

## **BUTLER**

Question me not.

## **TERZKY**

Illo! Alas for us.

## WALLENSTEIN

Hide nothing from me – I can bear the worst.  
Prague then is lost. It is. Confess it freely.

## BUTLER

Yes! Prague is lost. And all the several regiments  
At Budweiss, Tabor, Braunau, Koenigingratz,  
At Brunn, and Znaym, have forsaken you,  
And taken the oaths of fealty anew  
To the emperor. Yourself, with Kinsky, Terzky,  
And Illo have been sentenced.

[TERZKY and ILLO express alarm and fury.  
WALLENSTEIN remains firm and collected.

## WALLENSTEIN

'Tis decided! 'Tis well! I have received a sudden cure  
From all the pangs of doubt: with steady stream  
Once more my life-blood flows! My soul's secure!

In the night only Friedland stars can beam.  
Lingering irresolute, with fitful fears  
I drew the sword – 'twas with an inward strife,  
While yet the choice was mine. The murderous knife  
Is lifted for my heart! Doubt disappears!  
I fight now for my head and for my life.

[Exit WALLENSTEIN; the others follow him.]

## SCENE XI

COUNTESS TERZKY (enters from a side room).

I can endure no longer. No!

[Looks around her.

Where are they!

No one is here. They leave me all alone,  
Alone in this sore anguish of suspense.  
And I must wear the outward show of calmness  
Before my sister, and shut in within me  
The pangs and agonies of my crowded bosom.  
It is not to be borne. If all should fail;  
If – if he must go over to the Swedes,  
An empty-handed fugitive, and not  
As an ally, a covenanted equal,  
A proud commander with his army following,  
If we must wander on from land to land,  
Like the Count Palatine, of fallen greatness  
An ignominious monument. But no!  
That day I will not see! And could himself  
Endure to sink so low, I would not bear  
To see him so low sunken.

## SCENE XII

COUNTESS, DUCHESS, THEKLA.

**THEKLA (endeavoring to hold back the DUCHESS)**

Dear mother, do stay here!

**DUCHESS**

No! Here is yet  
Some frightful mystery that is hidden from me.  
Why does my sister shun me? Don't I see her  
Full of suspense and anguish roam about  
From room to room? Art thou not full of terror?  
And what import these silent nods and gestures  
Which stealthwise thou exchangest with her?

**THEKLA**

Nothing  
Nothing, dear mother!

## **DUCHESS (to the COUNTESS)**

Sister, I will know.

## **COUNTESS**

What boots it now to hide it from her? Sooner  
Or later she must learn to hear and bear it.  
'Tis not the time now to indulge infirmity;  
Courage beseems us now, a heart collect,  
And exercise and previous discipline  
Of fortitude. One word, and over with it!  
Sister, you are deluded. You believe  
The duke has been deposed – the duke is not  
Deposed – he is —

**THEKLA (going to the COUNTESS),**

What? do you wish to kill her?

## COUNTESS

The duke is —

**THEKLA (throwing her arms round her mother)**

Oh, stand firm! stand firm, my mother!

## COUNTESS

Revolted is the duke; he is preparing  
To join the enemy; the army leave him,  
And all has failed.



## SCENE XIII

A spacious room in the Duke of Friedland's palace.

### WALLENSTEIN (in armor)

Thou hast gained thy point, Octavio! Once more am I  
Almost as friendless as at Regensburg.  
There I had nothing left me but myself;  
But what one man can do you have now experience.  
The twigs have you hewed off, and here I stand  
A leafless trunk. But in the sap within  
Lives the creating power, and a new world  
May sprout forth from it. Once already have I  
Proved myself worth an army to you – I alone!  
Before the Swedish strength your troops had melted;  
Beside the Lech sank Tilly, your last hope;  
Into Bavaria, like a winter torrent,  
Did that Gustavus pour, and at Vienna  
In his own palace did the emperor tremble.  
Soldiers were scarce, for still the multitude  
Follow the luck: all eyes were turned on me,  
Their helper in distress; the emperor's pride  
Bowed itself down before the man he had injured.  
'Twas I must rise, and with creative word

Assemble forces in the desolate camps.  
I did it. Like a god of war my name  
Went through the world. The drum was beat; and, to  
The plough, the workshop is forsaken, all  
Swarm to the old familiar long loved banners;  
And as the wood-choir rich in melody  
Assemble quick around the bird of wonder,  
When first his throat swells with his magic song,  
So did the warlike youth of Germany  
Crowd in around the image of my eagle.  
I feel myself the being that I was.  
It is the soul that builds itself a body,  
And Friedland's camp will not remain unfilled.  
Lead then your thousands out to meet me – true!  
They are accustomed under me to conquer,  
But not against me. If the head and limbs  
Separate from each other, 'twill be soon  
Made manifest in which the soul abode.

(ILLO and TERZKY enter.)

Courage, friends! courage! we are still unvanquished;  
I feel my footing firm; five regiments, Terzky,  
Are still our own, and Butler's gallant troops;  
And an host of sixteen thousand Swedes to-morrow.  
I was not stronger when, nine years ago,  
I marched forth, with glad heart and high of hope,  
To conquer Germany for the emperor.

## SCENE XIV

WALLENSTEIN, ILLO, TERZKY.

(To them enter NEUMANN, who leads TERZKY aside,  
and talks with him.)

**TERZKY**

What do they want?

**WALLENSTEIN**

What now?

**TERZKY**

Ten cuirassiers  
From Pappenheim request leave to address you  
In the name of the regiment.

**WALLENSTEIN (hastily to NEUMANN)**

Let them enter.

[Exit NEUMANN.]

This

May end in something. Mark you. They are still  
Doubtful, and may be won.

## SCENE XV

WALLENSTEIN, TERZKY, ILLO, ten  
CUIRASSIERS (led by an ANSPESSADE<sup>4</sup>, march up and  
arrange themselves, after the word of command, in one  
front before the DUKE, and make their obeisance. He takes  
his hat off, and immediately covers himself again).

### ANSPESSADE

Halt! Front! Present!

WALLENSTEIN (after he has run through them with his eye,  
to the

### ANSPESSADE)

I know thee well. Thou art out of Brueggen in Flanders:  
Thy name is Mercy.

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<sup>4</sup> Anspessade, in German, Gefreiter, a soldier inferior to a corporal, but above the sentinels. The German name implies that he is exempt from mounting guard.

## ANSPESSADE

Henry Mercy.

WALLENSTEIN. Thou were cut off on the march, surrounded by the Hessians, and didst fight thy way with an hundred and eighty men through their thousand.

ANSPESSADE. 'Twas even so, general!

WALLENSTEIN. What reward hadst thou for this gallant exploit?

ANSPESSADE. That which I asked for: the honor to serve in this corps.

WALLENSTEIN (turning to a second). Thou wert among the volunteers that seized and made booty of the Swedish battery at Altenburg.

SECOND CUIRASSIER. Yes, general!

WALLENSTEIN. I forget no one with whom I have exchanged words.

(A pause.) Who sends you?

ANSPESSADE. Your noble regiment, the cuirassiers of Piccolomini.

WALLENSTEIN. Why does not your colonel deliver in your request according to the custom of service?

ANSPESSADE. Because we would first know whom we serve.

WALLENSTEIN. Begin your address.

ANSPESSADE (giving the word of command). Shoulder your arms!

WALLENSTEIN (turning to a third). Thy name is Risbeck; Cologne is thy birthplace.

THIRD CUIRASSIER. Risbeck of Cologne.

WALLENSTEIN. It was thou that broughtest in the Swedish colonel Duebald, prisoner, in the camp at Nuremberg.

THIRD CUIRASSIER. It was not I, general.

WALLENSTRIN. Perfectly right! It was thy elder brother: thou hadst a younger brother, too: where did he stay?

THIRD CUIRASSIER. He is stationed at Olmutz, with the imperial army.

WALLENSTEIN (to the ANSPESSADE). Now then – begin.

## **ANSPESSADE**

There came to hand a letter from the emperor  
Commanding us —

## **WALLENSTEIN (interrupting him)**

Who chose you?

## **ANSPESSADE**

Every company  
Drew its own man by lot.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Now! to the business.

## **ANSPESSADE**

There came to hand a letter from the emperor  
Commanding us, collectively, from thee  
All duties of obedience to withdraw,  
Because thou wert an enemy and traitor.

## **WALLENSTEIN**



And what did you determine?

## **ANSPESSADE**

All our comrades  
At Braunau, Budweiss, Prague, and Olmutz, have  
Obeyed already; and the regiments here,  
Tiefenbach and Toscano, instantly  
Did follow their example. But – but we  
Do not believe that thou art an enemy  
And traitor to thy country, hold it merely  
For lie and trick, and a trumped-up Spanish story!

[With warmth.

Thyself shall tell us what thy purpose is,  
For we have found thee still sincere and true  
No mouth shall interpose itself betwixt  
The gallant general and the gallant troops.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Therein I recognize my Pappenheimers.

## ANSPESSADE

And this proposal makes thy regiment to thee:  
Is it thy purpose merely to preserve  
In thine own hands this military sceptre,  
Which so becomes thee, which the emperor  
Made over to thee by a covenant!  
Is it thy purpose merely to remain  
Supreme commander of the Austrian armies?  
We will stand by thee, general! and guarantee  
Thy honest rights against all opposition.  
And should it chance, that all the other regiments  
Turn from thee, by ourselves we will stand forth  
Thy faithful soldiers, and, as is our duty,  
Far rather let ourselves be cut to pieces  
Than suffer thee to fall. But if it be  
As the emperor's letter says, if it be true,  
That thou in traitorous wise wilt lead us over  
To the enemy, which God in heaven forbid!  
Then we too will forsake thee, and obey  
That letter —

WALLENSTEIN

Hear me, children!

## **ANSPESSADE**

Yes, or no,  
There needs no other answer.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Yield attention.  
You're men of sense, examine for yourselves;  
Ye think, and do not follow with the herd:  
And therefore have I always shown you honor  
Above all others, suffered you to reason;  
Have treated you as free men, and my orders  
Were but the echoes of your prior suffrage.

## **ANSPESSADE**

Most fair and noble has thy conduct been  
To us, my general! With thy confidence

Thou has honored us, and shown us grace and favor  
Beyond all other regiments; and thou seest  
We follow not the common herd. We will  
Stand by thee faithfully. Speak but one word —  
Thy word shall satisfy us that it is not  
A treason which thou meditatest — that  
Thou meanest not to lead the army over  
To the enemy; nor e'er betray thy country.

## WALLENSTEIN

Me, me are they betraying. The emperor  
Hath sacrificed me to my enemies,  
And I must fall, unless my gallant troops  
Will rescue me. See! I confide in you.  
And be your hearts my stronghold! At this breast  
The aim is taken, at this hoary head.  
This is your Spanish gratitude, this is our  
Requital for that murderous fight at Luetzen!  
For this we threw the naked breast against  
The halbert, made for this the frozen earth  
Our bed, and the hard stone our pillow! never stream  
Too rapid for us, nor wood too impervious;  
With cheerful spirit we pursued that Mansfeldt  
Through all the turns and windings of his flight:  
Yea, our whole life was but one restless march:

And homeless, as the stirring wind, we travelled  
O'er the war-wasted earth. And now, even now,  
That we have well-nigh finished the hard toil,  
The unthankful, the curse-laden toil of weapons,  
With faithful indefatigable arm  
Have rolled the heavy war-load up the hill,  
Behold! this boy of the emperor's bears away  
The honors of the peace, an easy prize!  
He'll weave, forsooth, into his flaxen locks  
The olive branch, the hard-earned ornament  
Of this gray head, grown gray beneath the helmet.

## **ANSPESSADE**

That shall he not, while we can hinder it!  
No one, but thou, who has conducted it  
With fame, shall end this war, this frightful war.  
Thou leadest us out to the bloody field  
Of death; thou and no other shalt conduct us home,  
Rejoicing, to the lovely plains of peace —  
Shalt share with us the fruits of the long toil.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What! Think you then at length in late old age  
To enjoy the fruits of toil? Believe it not.  
Never, no never, will you see the end  
Of the contest! you and me, and all of us,  
This war will swallow up! War, war, not peace,  
Is Austria's wish; and therefore, because I  
Endeavored after peace, therefore I fall.  
For what cares Austria how long the war  
Wears out the armies and lays waste the world!  
She will but wax and grow amid the ruin  
And still win new domains.

[The CUIRASSIERS express agitation by their gestures.

Ye're moved – I see  
A noble rage flash from your eyes, ye warriors!  
Oh, that my spirit might possess you now  
Daring as once it led you to the battle  
Ye would stand by me with your veteran arms,  
Protect me in my rights; and this is noble!  
But think not that you can accomplish it,  
Your scanty number! to no purpose will you  
Have sacrificed you for your general.

[Confidentially.

No! let us tread securely, seek for friends;  
The Swedes have proffered us assistance, let us  
Wear for a while the appearance of good-will,

And use them for your profit, till we both  
Carry the fate of Europe in our hands,  
And from our camp to the glad jubilant world  
Lead peace forth with the garland on her head!

## **ANSPESSADE**

'Tis then but mere appearances which thou  
Dost put on with the Swede! Thou'lt not betray  
The emperor? Wilt not turn us into Swedes?  
This is the only thing which we desire  
To learn from thee.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What care I for the Swedes?  
I hate them as I hate the pit of hell,  
And under Providence I trust right soon  
To chase them to their homes across their Baltic.  
My cares are only for the whole: I have  
A heart – it bleeds within me for the miseries  
And piteous groanings of my fellow-Germans.  
Ye are but common men, but yet ye think  
With minds not common; ye appear to me

Worthy before all others, that I whisper thee  
A little word or two in confidence!  
See now! already for full fifteen years,  
The war-torch has continued burning, yet  
No rest, no pause of conflict. Swede and German,  
Papist and Lutheran! neither will give way  
To the other; every hand's against the other.  
Each one is party and no one a judge.  
Where shall this end? Where's he that will unravel  
This tangle, ever tangling more and more  
It must be cut asunder.  
I feel that I am the man of destiny,  
And trust, with your assistance, to accomplish it.



# SCENE XVI

To these enter BUTLER.

**BUTLER (passionately)**

General! this is not right!

**WALLENSTEIN**

What is not right?

**BUTLER**

It must needs injure us with all honest men.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

But what?

## **BUTLER**

It is an open proclamation  
Of insurrection.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Well, well – but what is it?

## **BUTLER**

Count Terzky's regiments tear the imperial eagle  
From off his banners, and instead of it  
Have reared aloft their arms.

## **ANSPESSADE (abruptly to the CUIRASSIERS)**

Right about! March!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Cursed be this counsel, and accursed who gave it!

[To the CUIRASSIERS, who are retiring.

Halt, children, halt! There's some mistake in this;  
Hark! I will punish it severely. Stop  
They do not hear. (To ILLO). Go after them, assure them,  
And bring them back to me, cost what it may.

[ILLO hurries out.

This hurls us headlong. Butler! Butler!  
You are my evil genius, wherefore must you  
Announce it in their presence? It was all  
In a fair way. They were half won! those madmen  
With their improvident over-readiness —

A cruel game is Fortune playing with me.  
The zeal of friends it is that razes me,  
And not the hate of enemies.

## SCENE XVII

To these enter the DUCHESS, who rushes into the chamber;

THEKLA and the COUNTESS follow her.

### DUCHESS

O Albrecht!  
What hast thou done?

### WALLENSTEIN

And now comes this beside.

### COUNTESS

Forgive me, brother! It was not in my power —  
They know all.

**DUCHESS**

What hast thou done?

**COUNTESS (to TERZKY)**

Is there no hope? Is all lost utterly?

**TERZKY**

All lost. No hope. Prague in the emperor's hands,  
The soldiery have taken their oaths anew.

**COUNTESS**

That lurking hypocrite, Octavio!  
Count Max. is off too.

## **TERZKY**

Where can he be? He's  
Gone over to the emperor with his father.

[THEKLA rushes out into the arms of her mother, hiding her face in her bosom.

## **DUCHESS (enfolding her in her arms)**

Unhappy child! and more unhappy mother!

## **WALLENSTEIN (aside to TERZKY)**

Quick! Let a carriage stand in readiness  
In the court behind the palace. Scherfenberg,  
Be their attendant; he is faithful to us.  
To Egra he'll conduct them, and we follow.

[To ILLO, who returns.

Thou hast not brought them back?

## **ILLO**

Hear'st thou the uproar?  
The whole corps of the Pappenheimers is  
Drawn out: the younger Piccolomini,  
Their colonel, they require: for they affirm,  
That he is in the palace here, a prisoner;  
And if thou dost not instantly deliver him,  
They will find means to free him with the sword.

[All stand amazed.]

## **TERZKY**

What shall we make of this?

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Said I not so?  
O my prophetic heart! he is still here.  
He has not betrayed me – he could not betray me.



I never doubted of it.

## **COUNTESS**

If he be  
Still here, then all goes well; for I know what

[Embracing THEKLA.

Will keep him here forever.

## **TERZKY**

It can't be.  
His father has betrayed us, is gone over  
To the emperor – the son could not have ventured  
To stay behind.

**THEKLA (her eye fixed on the door)**

There he is!



## SCENE XVIII

To these enter MAX. PICCOLOMINI.

**MAX**

Yes, here he is! I can endure no longer  
To creep on tiptoe round this house, and lurk  
In ambush for a favorable moment:  
This loitering, this suspense exceeds my powers.

[Advancing to THEKLA, who has thrown herself into her mother's arms.

Turn not thine eyes away. O look upon me!  
Confess it freely before all. Fear no one.  
Let who will hear that we both love each other.  
Wherefore continue to conceal it? Secrecy  
Is for the happy – misery, hopeless misery,  
Needeth no veil! Beneath a thousand suns  
It dares act openly.

[He observes the COUNTESS looking on THEKLA with expressions of triumph.

No, lady! No!  
Expect not, hope it not. I am not come  
To stay: to bid farewell, farewell forever.  
For this I come! 'Tis over! I must leave thee!  
Thekla, I must – must leave thee! Yet thy hatred  
Let me not take with me. I pray thee, grant me  
One look of sympathy, only one look.  
Say that thou dost not hate me. Say it to me, Thekla!

[Grasps her hand.

O God! I cannot leave this spot – I cannot!  
Cannot let go this hand. O tell me, Thekla!  
That thou dost suffer with me, art convinced  
That I cannot act otherwise.

[THEKLA, avoiding his look, points with her hand to her father.

MAX. turns round to the DUKE, whom he had not till then perceived.

Thou here? It was not thou whom here I sought.  
I trusted never more to have beheld thee,  
My business is with her alone. Here will I  
Receive a full acquittal from this heart;  
For any other I am no more concerned.

## WALLENSTEIN

Think'st thou that, fool-like, I shall let thee go,  
And act the mock-magnanimous with thee?  
Thy father is become a villain to me;  
I hold thee for his son, and nothing more  
Nor to no purpose shalt thou have been given  
Into my power. Think not, that I will honor  
That ancient love, which so remorselessly  
He mangled. They are now passed by, those hours  
Of friendship and forgiveness. Hate and vengeance  
Succeed – 'tis now their turn – I too can throw  
All feelings of the man aside – can prove  
Myself as much a monster as thy father!

### MAX (calmly)

Thou wilt proceed with me as thou hast power.  
Thou knowest I neither brave nor fear thy rage.  
What has detained me here, that too thou knowest.

[Taking THEKLA by the hand.

See, duke! All – all would I have owed to thee,

Would have received from thy paternal hand  
The lot of blessed spirits. That hast thou  
Laid waste forever – that concerns not thee.  
Indifferent thou tramplest in the dust  
Their happiness who most are thine. The god  
Whom thou dost serve is no benignant deity,  
Like as the blind, irreconcilable,  
Fierce element, incapable of compact.  
Thy heart's wild impulse only dost thou follow.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> I have here ventured to omit a considerable number of lines. I fear that I should not have done amiss had I taken this liberty more frequently. It is, however, incumbent on me to give the original, with a literal translation. "Weh denen, die auf Dich vertraun, an DichDie sichre Huette ihres Glueckes lehnen,Gelockt von deiner geistlichen Gestalt.Schnell unverhofft, bei naechtlich stiller Weile,Gaehrts in dem tueckschen Feuerschlunde, ladet,Sich aus mit tobender Gewalt, und wegTreibt ueber alle Pflanzungen der MenschenDer wilde Strom in grausender Zerstoerung."WALLENSTEIN"Du schilderst deines Vaters Herz. Wie Du'sBeschreibst, so ist's in seinem Eingeweide,In dieser schwarzen Heuchlers Brust gestaltet.Oh, mich hat Hoellenkunst getaeuscht! Mir sandteDer Abgrund den verflecktesten der Geister,Den Luegenkundigsten herauf, und stellt' ihnAls Freund an meiner Seite. Wer vermagDer Hoelle Macht zu widersthn! Ich zogDen Basilisken auf an meinem Busen,Mit meinem Herzblut naehrt' ich ihn, er sogSich schwelgend voll an meiner Liebe Bruesten,Ich hatte nimmer Arges gegen ihn,Weit offen liess ich des Gedankens Thore,Und warf die Schluessel weiser Vorsicht weg,Am Sternenhimmel," etc.LITERAL TRANSLATION"Alas! for those who place their confidence on thee, against thee lean their secure hut of their fortune, allured by thy hospitable form. Suddenly, unexpectedly, in a moment still as night, there is a fermentation in the treacherous gulf of fire; it discharges itself with raging force, and away over all the plantations of men drives the wild stream in frightful devastation."WALLENSTEIN. – "Thou art portraying thy father's heart; as thou describest, even so is it shaped in its entrails, in this black hypocrite's breast. Oh, the art of hell has deceived me! The abyss sent up to me the most the most spotted of the spirits, the most skilful in lies,

## WALLENSTEIN

Thou art describing thy own father's heart.  
The adder! Oh, the charms of hell o'erpowered me  
He dwelt within me, to my inmost soul  
Still to and fro he passed, suspected never.  
On the wide ocean, in the starry heaven  
Did mine eyes seek the enemy, whom I  
In my heart's heart had folded! Had I been  
To Ferdinand what Octavio was to me,  
War had I ne'er denounced against him.  
No, I never could have done it. The emperor was  
My austere master only, not my friend.  
There was already war 'twixt him and me  
When he delivered the commander's staff  
Into my hands; for there's a natural  
Unceasing war twixt cunning and suspicion;  
Peace exists only betwixt confidence  
And faith. Who poisons confidence, he murders  
The future generations.

---

and placed him as a friend by my side. Who may withstand the power of hell? I took the basilisk to my bosom, with my heart's blood I nourished him; he sucked himself glutfull at the breasts of my love. I never harbored evil towards him; wide open did I leave the door of my thoughts; I threw away the key of wise foresight. In the starry heaven, etc." We find a difficulty in believing this to have been written by Schiller.

## MAX

I will not  
Defend my father. Woe is me, I cannot!  
Hard deeds and luckless have taken place; one crime  
Drags after it the other in close link.  
But we are innocent: how have we fallen  
Into this circle of mishap and guilt?  
To whom have we been faithless? Wherefore must  
The evil deeds and guilt reciprocal  
Of our two fathers twine like serpents round us?  
    Why must our fathers'  
Unconquerable hate rend us asunder,  
Who love each other?

## WALLENSTEIN

Max., remain with me.  
Go you not from me, Max.! Hark! I will tell thee —  
How when at Prague, our winter quarters, thou  
Wert brought into my tent a tender boy,  
Not yet accustomed to the German winters;  
Thy hand was frozen to the heavy colors;  
Thou wouldst not let them go.



At that time did I take thee in my arms,  
And with my mantle did I cover thee;  
I was thy nurse, no woman could have been  
A kinder to thee; I was not ashamed  
To do for thee all little offices,  
However strange to me; I tended thee  
Till life returned; and when thine eyes first opened,  
I had thee in my arms. Since then, when have  
Altered my feelings toward thee? Many thousands  
Have I made rich, presented them with lands;  
Rewarded them with dignities and honors;  
Thee have I loved: my heart, my self, I gave  
To thee; They all were aliens: thou wert  
Our child and inmate.<sup>6</sup> Max.! Thou canst not leave me;  
It cannot be; I may not, will not think  
That Max. can leave me.

## MAX

Oh, my God!

---

<sup>6</sup> This is a poor and inadequate translation of the affectionate simplicity of the original —*Sie alle waren Fremdlinge, Du warst Das Kind des Hauses.* Indeed the whole speech is in the best style of Massinger. *O si sic omnia!*

# WALLENSTEIN

I have  
Held and sustained thee from thy tottering childhood.  
What holy bond is there of natural love,  
What human tie that does not knit thee to me?  
I love thee, Max.! What did thy father for thee,  
Which I too have not done, to the height of duty?  
Go hence, forsake me, serve thy emperor;  
He will reward thee with a pretty chain  
Of gold; with his ram's fleece will he reward thee;  
For that the friend, the father of thy youth,  
For that the holiest feeling of humanity,  
Was nothing worth to thee.

## MAX

O God! how can I  
Do otherwise. Am I not forced to do it,  
My oath – my duty – my honor —

# WALLENSTEIN

How? Thy duty?

Duty to whom? Who art thou? Max.! bethink thee  
What duties may'st thou have? If I am acting  
A criminal part toward the emperor,  
It is my crime, not thine. Dost thou belong  
To thine own self? Art thou thine own commander?  
Stand'st thou, like me, a freeman in the world,  
That in thy actions thou shouldst plead free agency?  
On me thou art planted, I am thy emperor;  
To obey me, to belong to me, this is  
Thy honor, this a law of nature to thee!  
And if the planet on the which thou livest  
And hast thy dwelling, from its orbit starts.  
It is not in thy choice, whether or no  
Thou'lt follow it. Unfelt it whirls thee onward  
Together with his ring, and all his moons.  
With little guilt steppest thou into this contest;  
Thee will the world not censure, it will praise thee,  
For that thou held'st thy friend more worth to thee  
Than names and influences more removed  
For justice is the virtue of the ruler,  
Affection and fidelity the subject's.  
Not every one doth it beseem to question  
The far-off high Arcturus. Most securely

Wilt thou pursue the nearest duty: let  
The pilot fix his eye upon the pole-star.

## SCENE XIX

To these enter NEUMANN.

**WALLENSTEIN**

What now?

**NEUMANN**

The Pappenheimers are dismounted,  
And are advancing now on foot, determined  
With sword in hand to storm the house, and free  
The count, their colonel.

**WALLENSTEIN (to TERZKY)**

Have the cannon planted.  
I will receive them with chain-shot.

[Exit TERZKY.

Prescribe to me with sword in hand! Go, Neumann!  
'Tis my command that they retreat this moment,  
And in their ranks in silence wait my pleasure.

[NEUMANN exit. ILLO steps to the window.

## **COUNTESS**

Let him go, I entreat thee, let him go.

## **ILLO (at the window)**

Hell and perdition!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What is it?

## **ILLO**

They scale the council-house, the roof's uncovered,  
They level at this house the cannon —

## **MAX**

Madmen

## **ILLO**

They are making preparations now to fire on us.

## **DUCHESS and COUNTESS**

Merciful heaven!

**MAX. (to WALLENSTEIN)**

Let me go to them!

**WALLENSTEIN**

Not a step!

**MAX. (pointing to THEKLA and the DUCHESS)**

But their life! Thine!

**WALLENSTEIN**

What tidings bringest thou, Terzky?



## SCENE XX

To these TERZKY returning.

### TERZKY

Message and greeting from our faithful regiments.  
Their ardor may no longer be curbed in.  
They entreat permission to commence the attack;  
And if thou wouldst but give the word of onset  
They could now charge the enemy in rear,  
Into the city wedge them, and with ease  
O'erpower them in the narrow streets.

### ILLO

Oh come  
Let not their ardor cool. The soldiery  
Of Butler's corps stand by us faithfully;  
We are the greater number. Let us charge them  
And finish here in Pilsen the revolt.

## WALLENSTEIN

What? shall this town become a field of slaughter,  
And brother-killing discord, fire-eyed,  
Be let loose through its streets to roam and rage?  
Shall the decision be delivered over  
To deaf remorseless rage, that hears no leader?  
Here is not room for battle, only for butchery.  
Well, let it be! I have long thought of it,  
So let it burst then!

[Turns to MAX.

Well, how is it with thee?  
Wilt thou attempt a heat with me. Away!  
Thou art free to go. Oppose thyself to me,  
Front against front, and lead them to the battle;  
Thou'rt skilled in war, thou hast learned somewhat under  
me,  
I need not be ashamed of my opponent,  
And never hadst thou fairer opportunity  
To pay me for thy schooling.

## COUNTESS

Is it then,  
Can it have come to this? What! Cousin, cousin!  
Have you the heart?

## MAX

The regiments that are trusted to my care  
I have pledged my troth to bring away from Pilsen  
True to the emperor; and this promise will I  
Make good, or perish. More than this no duty  
Requires of me. I will not fight against thee,  
Unless compelled; for though an enemy,  
Thy head is holy to me still,

[Two reports of cannon. ILLO and TERZKY hurry to the window.]

## WALLENSTEIN

What's that?

## **TERZBY**

He falls.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Falls! Who?

## **ILLO**

Tiefenbach's corps  
Discharged the ordnance.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Upon whom?

## **ILLO**

On – Neumann,  
Your messenger.

## **WALLENSTEIN (starting up)**

Ha! Death and hell! I will —

## **TERZKY**

Expose thyself to their blind frenzy?

## **DUCHESS and COUNTESS**

No!  
For God's sake, no!

## **ILLO**

Not yet, my general!  
Oh, hold him! hold him!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Leave me —

## **MAX**

Do it not;  
Not yet! This rash and bloody deed has thrown them  
Into a frenzy-fit – allow them time —

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Away! too long already have I loitered.

They are emboldened to these outrages,  
Beholding not my face. They shall behold  
My countenance, shall hear my voice —  
Are they not my troops? Am I not their general,  
And their long-feared commander! Let me see,  
Whether indeed they do no longer know  
That countenance which was their sun in battle!  
From the balcony (mark!) I show myself  
To these rebellious forces, and at once  
Revolt is mounded, and the high-swollen current  
Shrinks back into the old bed of obedience.

[Exit WALLENSTEIN; ILLO, TERZKY, and BUTLER  
follow.]

# SCENE XXI

COUNTESS, DUCHESS, MAX., and THEKLA.

**COUNTESS (to the DUCHESS)**

Let them but see him – there is hope still, sister.

**DUCHESS**

Hope! I have none!

**MAX. (who during the last scene  
has been standing at a distance, in a  
visible struggle of feelings advances)**

This can I not endure.



With most determined soul did I come hither;  
My purposed action seemed unblamable  
To my own conscience – and I must stand here  
Like one abhorred, a hard, inhuman being:  
Yea, loaded with the curse of all I love!  
Must see all whom I love in this sore anguish,  
Whom I with one word can make happy – O!  
My heart revolts within me, and two voices  
Make themselves audible within my bosom.  
My soul's benighted; I no longer can  
Distinguish the right track. Oh, well and truly  
Didst thou say, father, I relied too much  
On my own heart. My mind moves to and fro —  
I know not what to do.

## COUNTESS

What! you know not?  
Does not your own heart tell you? Oh! then I  
Will tell it you. Your father is a traitor,  
A frightful traitor to us – he has plotted  
Against our general's life, has plunged us all  
In misery – and you're his son! 'Tis yours  
To make the amends. Make you the son's fidelity  
Outweigh the father's treason, that the name  
Of Piccolomini be not a proverb

Of infamy, a common form of cursing  
To the posterity of Wallenstein.

## MAX

Where is that voice of truth which I dare follow!  
It speaks no longer in my heart. We all  
But utter what our passionate wishes dictate:  
Oh that an angel would descend from heaven,  
And scoop for me the right, the uncorrupted,  
With a pure hand from the pure Fount of light.

[His eyes glance on THEKLA.

What other angel seek I? To this heart,  
To this unerring heart, will I submit it;  
Will ask thy love, which has the power to bless  
The happy man alone, averted ever  
From the disquieted and guilty – canst thou  
Still love me, if I stay? Say that thou canst,  
And I am the duke's —

## COUNTESS

Think, niece —

**MAX**

Think nothing, Thekla!  
Speak what thou feelest.

**COUNTESS**

Think upon your father.

**MAX**

I did not question thee, as Friedland's daughter.  
Thee, the beloved and the unerring God  
Within thy heart, I question. What's at stake?  
Not whether diadem of royalty  
Be to be won or not – that mightest thou think on.  
Thy friend, and his soul's quiet are at stake:  
The fortune of a thousand gallant men,  
Who will all follow me; shall I forswear

My oath and duty to the emperor?  
Say, shall I send into Octavio's camp  
The parricidal ball? For when the ball  
Has left its cannon, and is on its flight,  
It is no longer a dead instrument!  
It lives, a spirit passes into it;  
The avenging furies seize possession of it,  
And with sure malice, guide it the worst way.

## THEKLA

Oh! Max. —

### MAX. (interrupting her)

Nay, not precipitately either, Thekla.  
I understand thee. To thy noble heart  
The hardest duty might appear the highest.  
The human, not the great part, would I act.  
Even from my childhood to this present hour,  
Think what the duke has done for me, how loved me  
And think, too, how my father has repaid him.  
Oh likewise the free lovely impulses  
Of hospitality, the pious friend's

Faithful attachment, these, too, are a holy  
Religion to the heart; and heavily  
The shudderings of nature do avenge  
Themselves on the barbarian that insults them.  
Lay all upon the balance, all – then speak,  
And let thy heart decide it.

## **THEKLA**

Oh, thy own  
Hath long ago decided. Follow thou  
Thy heart's first feeling —

## **COUNTESS**

Oh! ill-fated woman!

## **THEKLA**

Is it possible, that that can be the right,  
The which thy tender heart did not at first

Detect and seize with instant impulse? Go,  
Fulfil thy duty! I should ever love thee.  
Whate'er thou hast chosen, thou wouldst still have acted  
Nobly and worthy of thee – but repentance  
Shall ne'er disturb thy soul's fair peace.

## **MAX**

Then I  
Must leave thee, must part from thee!

## **THEKLA**

Being faithful  
To thine own self, thou art faithful, too, to me:  
If our fates part, our hearts remain united.  
A bloody hatred will divide forever  
The houses Piccolomini and Friedland;  
But we belong not to our houses. Go!  
Quick! quick! and separate thy righteous cause  
From our unholy and unblest one!  
The curse of heaven lies upon our head:  
'Tis dedicate to ruin. Even me  
My father's guilt drags with it to perdition.

Mourn not for me:

My destiny will quickly be decided.

[MAX. clasps her in his arms in extreme emotion. There is heard from behind the scene a loud, wild, long-continued cry, Vivat Ferdinandus! accompanied by warlike instruments. MAX. and THEKLA remain without motion in each other's embraces.

## SCENE XXII

To the above enter TERZKY.

**COUNTESS (meeting him)**

What meant that cry? What was it?

**TERZKY**

All is lost!

**COUNTESS**

What! they regarded not his countenance?



**TERZKY**

'Twas all in vain.

**DUCHESS**

They shouted Vivat!

**TERZKY**

To the emperor.

**COUNTESS**

The traitors?

## **TERZKY**

Nay! he was not permitted  
Even to address them. Soon as he began,  
With deafening noise of warlike instruments  
They drowned his words. But here he comes.

## SCENE XXIII

To these enter WALLENSTEIN, accompanied by ILLO and BUTLER.

**WALLENSTEIN (as he enters)**

Terzky!

**TERZKY**

My general!

**WALLENSTEIN**

Let our regiments hold themselves  
In readiness to march; for we shall leave  
Pilsen ere evening.

[Exit TERZKY.]

Butler!

**BUTLER**

Yes, my general.

**WALLENSTEIN**

The Governor of Egra is your friend  
And countryman. Write him instantly  
By a post courier. He must be advised,  
That we are with him early on the morrow.  
You follow us yourself, your regiment with you.

**BUTLER**

It shall be done, my general!

**WALLENSTEIN (steps between MAX.  
and THEKLA, who have remained  
during this time in each other's arms)**

Part!

**MAX**

O God!

[CUIRASSIERS enter with drawn swords, and assemble in the background. At the same time there are heard from below some spirited passages out of the Pappenheim March, which seem to address MAX.

**WALLENSTEIN (to the CUIRASSIERS)**

Here he is, he is at liberty: I keep him  
No longer.

[He turns away, and stands so that MAX. cannot pass by him

nor approach the PRINCESS.

## MAX

Thou know'st that I have not yet learnt to live  
Without thee! I go forth into a desert,  
Leaving my all behind me. Oh, do not turn  
Thine eyes away from me! Oh, once more show me  
Thy ever dear and honored countenance.

[MAX. attempts to take his hand, but is repelled: he turns to the COUNTESS.

Is there no eye that has a look of pity for me?

[The COUNTESS turns away from him; he turns to the DUCHESS.

My mother!

## DUCHESS

Go where duty calls you. Haply  
The time may come when you may prove to us

A true friend, a good angel at the throne  
Of the emperor.

## MAX

You give me hope; you would not  
Suffer me wholly to despair. No! no!  
Mine is a certain misery. Thanks to heaven!  
That offers me a means of ending it.

[The military music begins again. The stage fills more and more with armed men. MAX. sees BUTLER and addresses him.

And you here, Colonel Butler – and will you  
Not follow me? Well, then, remain more faithful  
To your new lord, than you have proved yourself  
To the emperor. Come, Butler! promise me.  
Give me your hand upon it, that you'll be  
The guardian of his life, its shield, its watchman.  
He is attainted, and his princely head  
Fair booty for each slave that trades in murder.  
Now he doth need the faithful eye of friendship,  
And those whom here I see —

[Casting suspicious looks on ILLO and BUTLER.

## ILLO

Go – seek for traitors  
In Gallas', in your father's quarters. Here  
Is only one. Away! away! and free us  
From his detested sight! Away!

[MAX. attempts once more to approach THERLA. WALLENSTEIN prevents him. MAX. stands irresolute, and in apparent anguish, In the meantime the stage fills more and more; and the horns sound from below louder and louder, and each time after a shorter interval.

## MAX

Blow, blow! Oh, were it but the Swedish trumpets,  
And all the naked swords, which I see here,  
Were plunged into my breast! What purpose you?  
You come to tear me from this place! Beware,  
Ye drive me not to desperation. Do it not!  
Ye may repent it!

[The stage is entirely filled with armed men.



Yet more! weight upon weight to drag me down  
Think what ye're doing. It is not well done  
To choose a man despairing for your leader;  
You tear me from my happiness. Well, then,  
I dedicate your souls to vengeance. Mark!  
For your own ruin you have chosen me  
Who goes with me must be prepared to perish.

[He turns to the background; there ensues a sudden and violent movement among the CUIRASSIERS; they surround him, and carry him off in wild tumult. WALLENSTEIN remains immovable. THERLA sinks into her mother's arms. The curtain falls. The music becomes loud and overpowering, and passes into a complete war-march – the orchestra joins it – and continues during the interval between the third and fourth acts.

# ACT IV

## SCENE I

The BURGOMASTER's house at Egra.

**BUTLER (just arrived)**

Here then he is by his destiny conducted.  
Here, Friedland! and no further! From Bohemia  
Thy meteor rose, traversed the sky awhile,  
And here upon the borders of Bohemia  
Must sink.

Thou hast forsworn the ancient colors,  
Blind man! yet trustest to thy ancient fortunes.  
Profaner of the altar and the hearth,  
Against thy emperor and fellow-citizens  
Thou meanest to wage the war. Friedland, beware —  
The evil spirit of revenge impels thee —  
Beware thou, that revenge destroy thee not!

## SCENE II

BUTLER and GORDON.

**GORDON**

Is it you?

How my heart sinks! The duke a fugitive traitor!

His princely head attainted! Oh, my God!

Tell me, general, I implore thee, tell me

In full, of all these sad events at Pilsen.

**BUTLER**

You have received the letter which I sent you

By a post-courier?

**GORDON**

Yes: and in obedience to it

Opened the stronghold to him without scruple,  
For an imperial letter orders me  
To follow your commands implicitly.  
But yet forgive me! when even now I saw  
The duke himself, my scruples recommenced.  
For truly, not like an attained man,  
Into this town did Friedland make his entrance;  
His wonted majesty beamed from his brow,  
And calm, as in the days when all was right,  
Did he receive from me the accounts of office.  
'Tis said, that fallen pride learns condescension.  
But sparing and with dignity the duke  
Weighed every syllable of approbation,  
As masters praise a servant who has done  
His duty and no more.

## BUTLER

'Tis all precisely  
As I related in my letter. Friedland  
Has sold the army to the enemy,  
And pledged himself to give up Prague and Egra.  
On this report the regiments all forsook him,  
The five excepted that belong to Terzky,  
And which have followed him, as thou hast seen.  
The sentence of attainder is passed on him,

And every loyal subject is required  
To give him in to justice, dead or living.

## GORDON

A traitor to the emperor. Such a noble!  
Of such high talents! What is human greatness?  
I often said, this can't end happily.  
His might, his greatness, and this obscure power  
Are but a covered pitfall. The human being  
May not be trusted to self-government.  
The clear and written law, the deep-trod footmarks  
Of ancient custom, are all necessary  
To keep him in the road of faith and duty.  
The authority intrusted to this man  
Was unexampled and unnatural,  
It placed him on a level with his emperor,  
Till the proud soul unlearned submission. Woe is me!  
I mourn for him! for where he fell, I deem  
Might none stand firm. Alas! dear general,  
We in our lucky mediocrity  
Have ne'er experienced, cannot calculate,  
What dangerous wishes such a height may breed  
In the heart of such a man.

## BUTLER

Spare your laments  
Till he need sympathy; for at this present  
He is still mighty, and still formidable.  
The Swedes advance to Egra by forced marches,  
And quickly will the junction be accomplished.  
This must not be! The duke must never leave  
This stronghold on free footing; for I have  
Pledged life and honor here to hold him prisoner,  
And your assistance 'tis on which I calculate.

## GORDON

O that I had not lived to see this day!  
From his hand I received this dignity,  
He did himself intrust this stronghold to me,  
Which I am now required to make his dungeon.  
We subalterns have no will of our own:  
The free, the mighty man alone may listen  
To the fair impulse of his human nature.  
Ah! we are but the poor tools of the law,  
Obedience the sole virtue we dare aim at!

## **BUTLER**

Nay! let it not afflict you, that your power  
Is circumscribed. Much liberty, much error!  
The narrow path of duty is securest.  
And all then have deserted him you say?  
He has built up the luck of many thousands  
For kingly was his spirit: his full hand  
Was ever open! Many a one from dust

[With a sly glance on BUTLER.

Hath he selected, from the very dust  
Hath raised him into dignity and honor.  
And yet no friend, not one friend hath he purchased,  
Whose heart beats true to him in the evil hour.

## **BUTLER**

Here's one, I see.

## GORDON

I have enjoyed from him  
No grace or favor. I could almost doubt,  
If ever in his greatness he once thought on  
An old friend of his youth. For still my office  
Kept me at distance from him; and when first  
He to this citadel appointed me,  
He was sincere and serious in his duty.  
I do not then abuse his confidence,  
If I preserve my fealty in that  
Which to my fealty was first delivered.

## BUTLER

Say, then, will you fulfil the attainder on him,  
And lend your aid to take him in arrest?  
GORDON (pauses, reflecting – then as in deep dejection).  
If it be so – if all be as you say —  
If he've betrayed the emperor, his master,  
Have sold the troops, have purposed to deliver  
The strongholds of the country to the enemy —  
Yea, truly! – there is no redemption for him!  
Yet it is hard, that me the lot should destine



To be the instrument of his perdition;  
For we were pages at the court of Bergau  
At the same period; but I was the senior.

## BUTLER

I have heard so —

## GORDON

'Tis full thirty years since then,  
A youth who scarce had seen his twentieth year  
Was Wallenstein, when he and I were friends  
Yet even then he had a daring soul:  
His frame of mind was serious and severe  
Beyond his years: his dreams were of great objects  
He walked amidst us of a silent spirit,  
Communing with himself; yet I have known him  
Transported on a sudden into utterance  
Of strange conceptions; kindling into splendor  
His soul revealed itself, and he spake so  
That we looked round perplexed upon each other,  
Not knowing whether it were craziness,  
Or whether it were a god that spake in him.

## BUTLER

But was it where he fell two story high  
From a window-ledge, on which he had fallen asleep  
And rose up free from injury? From this day  
(It is reported) he betrayed clear marks  
Of a distempered fancy.

## GORDON

He became  
Doubtless more self-enwrapped and melancholy;  
He made himself a Catholic.<sup>7</sup> Marvellously  
His marvellous preservation had transformed him.  
Thenceforth he held himself for an exempted  
And privileged being, and, as if he were  
Incapable of dizziness or fall,  
He ran along the unsteady rope of life.  
But now our destinies drove us asunder;  
He paced with rapid step the way of greatness,

---

<sup>7</sup> It appears that the account of his conversion being caused by such a fall, and other stories of his juvenile character, are not well authenticated.

Was count, and prince, duke-regent, and dictator,  
And now is all, all this too little for him;  
He stretches forth his hands for a king's crown,  
And plunges in unfathomable ruin.

## **BUTLER**

No more, he comes.

## SCENE III

To these enter WALLENSTEIN, in conversation with the BURGOMASTER of Egra.

### WALLENSTEIN

You were at one time a free town. I see  
Ye bear the half eagle in your city arms.  
Why the half eagle only?

### BURGOMASTER

We were free,  
But for these last two hundred years has Egra  
Remained in pledge to the Bohemian crown;  
Therefore we bear the half eagle, the other half  
Being cancelled till the empire ransom us,  
If ever that should be.

## WALLENSTEIN

Ye merit freedom.  
Only be firm and dauntless. Lend your ears  
To no designing whispering court-minions.  
What may your imposts be?

## BURGOMASTER

So heavy that  
We totter under them. The garrison  
Lives at our costs.

## WALLENSTEIN

I will relieve you. Tell me,  
There are some Protestants among you still?

[The BURGOMASTER hesitates.]

Yes, yes; I know it. Many lie concealed

Within these walls. Confess now, you yourself —

[Fixes, his eye on him. The BURGOMASTER alarmed.

Be not alarmed. I hate the Jesuits.  
Could my will have determined it they had  
Been long ago expelled the empire. Trust me —  
Mass-book or Bible, 'tis all one to me.  
Of that the world has had sufficient proof.  
I built a church for the Reformed in Glogau  
At my own instance. Hark ye, burgomaster!  
What is your name?

## **BURGOMASTER**

Pachhalbel, may it please you.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Hark ye! But let it go no further, what I now  
Disclose to you in confidence.

[Laying his hand on the BURGOMASTER'S shoulder with a

certain

solemnity.

The times

Draw near to their fulfilment, burgomaster!

The high will fall, the low will be exalted.

Hark ye! But keep it to yourself! The end

Approaches of the Spanish double monarchy —

A new arrangement is at hand. You saw

The three moons that appeared at once in the heaven?

## **BURGOMASTER**

With wonder and affright!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Whereof did two

Strangely transform themselves to bloody daggers,

And only one, the middle moon, remained

Steady and clear.

## **BURGOMASTER**

We applied it to the Turks.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

The Turks! That all? I tell you that two empires  
Will set in blood, in the East and in the West,  
And Lutherism alone remain.

[Observing GORDON and BUTLER.

I'faith,  
'Twas a smart cannonading that we heard  
This evening, as we journeyed hitherward:  
'Twas on our left hand. Did ye hear it here?

## **GORDON**

Distinctly. The wind brought it from the south.



## **BUTLER**

It seemed to come from Weiden or from Neustadt.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

'Tis likely. That's the route the Swedes are taking.  
How strong is the garrison?

## **GORDON**

Not quite two hundred  
Competent men, the rest are invalids.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Good! And how many in the vale of Jochim?

## **GORDON**

Two hundred arquebusiers have I sent thither  
To fortify the posts against the Swedes.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Good! I commend your foresight. At the works too  
You have done somewhat?

## **GORDON**

Two additional batteries  
I caused to be run up. They were needless;  
The Rhinegrave presses hard upon us, general!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

You have been watchful in your emperor's service.  
I am content with you, lieutenant-colonel.

[To BUTLER.

Release the outposts in the vale of Jochim,  
With all the stations in the enemy's route.

[To GORDON.

Governor, in your faithful hands I leave  
My wife, my daughter, and my sister. I  
Shall make no stay here, and wait but the arrival  
Of letters to take leave of you, together  
With all the regiments.

## **SCENE IV**

To these enter COUNT TERZKY.

**TERZKY**

Joy, general, joy! I bring you welcome tidings.

**WALLENSTEIN**

And what may they be?

**TERZKY**

There has been an engagement  
At Neustadt; the Swedes gained the victory.

## WALLENSTEIN

From whence did you receive the intelligence?

## TERZKY

A countryman from Tirschenreut conveyed it.  
Soon after sunrise did the fight begin  
A troop of the imperialists from Tachau  
Had forced their way into the Swedish camp;  
The cannonade continued full two hours;  
There were left dead upon the field a thousand  
Imperialists, together with their colonel;  
Further than this he did not know.

## WALLENSTEIN

How came  
Imperial troops at Neustadt? Altringer,  
But yesterday, stood sixty miles from there.  
Count Gallas' force collects at Frauenberg,

And have not the full complement. Is it possible  
That Suys perchance had ventured so far onward?  
It cannot be.

## **TERZKY**

We shall soon know the whole,  
For here comes Illo, full of haste, and joyous.

# SCENE V

To these enter ILLO.

**ILLO (to WALLENSTEIN)**

A courier, duke! he wishes to speak with thee.

**TERZKY (eagerly)**

Does he bring confirmation of the victory?

**WALLENSTEIN (at the same time)**

What does he bring? Whence comes he?

## ILLO

From the Rhinegrave,  
And what he brings I can announce to you  
Beforehand. Seven leagues distant are the Swedes;  
At Neustadt did Max. Piccolomini  
Throw himself on them with the cavalry;  
A murderous fight took place! o'erpowered by numbers  
The Pappenheimers all, with Max. their leader,

[WALLENSTEIN shudders and turns pale.

Were left dead on the field.

**WALLENSTEIN (after a pause, in a low voice)**

Where is the messenger? Conduct me to him.

[WALLENSTEIN is going, when LADY NEUBRUNN  
rushes into the room.

Some servants follow her and run across the stage.



**NEUBRUNN**

Help! Help!

**ILLO and TERZKY (at the same time)**

What now?

**NEUBRUNN**

The princess!

**WALLENSTEIN and TERZKY**

Does she know it?

## **NEUBRUNN (at the same time with them)**

She is dying!

[Hurries off the stage, when WALLENSTEIN and TERZKY follow her.]

## SCENE VI

BUTLER and GORDON.

**GORDON**

What's this?

**BUTLER**

She has lost the man she loved —  
Young Piccolomini, who fell in the battle.

**GORDON**

Unfortunate lady!

## **BUTLER**

You have heard what Illo  
Reporteth, that the Swedes are conquerers,  
And marching hitherward.

## **GORDON**

Too well I heard it.

## **BUTLER**

They are twelve regiments strong, and there are five  
Close by us to protect the duke. We have  
Only my single regiment; and the garrison  
Is not two hundred strong.

**GORDON**

'Tis even so.

**BUTLER**

It is not possible with such small force  
To hold in custody a man like him.

**GORDON**

I grant it.

**BUTLER**

Soon the numbers would disarm us,  
And liberate him.

## **GORDON**

It were to be feared.

## **BUTLER (after a pause)**

Know, I am warranty for the event;  
With my head have I pledged myself for his,  
Must make my word good, cost it what it will,  
And if alive we cannot hold him prisoner,  
Why – death makes all things certain!

## **GORDON**

Sutler! What?  
Do I understand you? Gracious God! You could —

**BUTLER**

He must not live.

**GORDON**

And you can do the deed?

**BUTLER**

Either you or I. This morning was his last.

**GORDON**

You would assassinate him?

**BUTLER**

'Tis my purpose.

**GORDON**

Who leans with his whole confidence upon you!

**BUTLER**

Such is his evil destiny!

**GORDON**

Your general!  
The sacred person of your general!



## **BUTLER**

My general he has been.

## **GORDON**

That 'tis only  
An "has been" washes out no villany,  
And without judgment passed.

## **BUTLER**

The execution  
Is here instead of judgment.

## **GORDON**

This were murder,

Not justice. The most guilty should be heard.

## **BUTLER**

His guilt is clear, the emperor has passed judgment,  
And we but execute his will.

## **GORDON**

We should not  
Hurry to realize a bloody sentence.  
A word may be recalled, a life never can be.

## **BUTLER**

Despatch in service pleases sovereigns.

## **GORDON**

No honest man's ambitious to press forward  
To the hangman's service.

## **BUTLER**

And no brave man loses  
His color at a daring enterprise.

## **GORDON**

A brave man hazards life, but not his conscience.

## **BUTLER**

What then? Shall he go forth anew to kindle  
The unextinguishable flame of war?

## **GORDON**

Seize him, and hold him prisoner – do not kill him.

## **BUTLER**

Had not the emperor's army been defeated  
I might have done so. But 'tis now passed by.

## **GORDON**

Oh, wherefore opened I the stronghold to him?

## **BUTLER**

His destiny, and not the place destroys him.

## **GORDON**

Upon these ramparts, as beseemed a soldier —  
I had fallen, defending the emperor's citadel!

## **BUTLER**

Yes! and a thousand gallant men have perished!

## **GORDON**

Doing their duty – that adorns the man!  
But murder's a black deed, and nature curses it.  
BUTLER (brings out a paper).  
Here is the manifesto which commands us  
To gain possession of his person. See —  
It is addressed to you as well as me.  
Are you content to take the consequences,  
If through our fault he escape to the enemy?

**GORDON**

I? Gracious God!

**BUTLER**

Take it on yourself.  
Come of it what may, on you I lay it.

**GORDON**

Oh, God in heaven!

**BUTLER**

Can you advise aught else  
Wherewith to execute the emperor's purpose?  
Say if you can. For I desire his fall,

Not his destruction.

## **GORDON**

Merciful heaven! what must be  
I see as clear as you. Yet still the heart  
Within my bosom beats with other feelings!

## **BUTLER**

Mine is of harder stuff! Necessity  
In her rough school hath steeled me. And this Illo,  
And Terzky likewise, they must not survive him.

## **GORDON**

I feel no pang for these. Their own bad hearts  
Impelled them, not the influence of the stars.  
'Twas they who strewed the seeds of evil passions  
In his calm breast, and with officious villany  
Watered and nursed the poisonous plants. May they

Receive their earnest to the uttermost mite!

## **BUTLER**

And their death shall precede his!  
We meant to have taken them alive this evening  
Amid the merrymaking of a feast,  
And keep them prisoners in the citadel,  
But this makes shorter work. I go this instant  
To give the necessary orders.



## SCENE VII

To these enter ILLO and TERZKY.

### TERZKY

Our luck is on the turn. To-morrow come  
The Swedes – twelve thousand gallant warriors, Illo!  
Then straightwise for Vienna. Cheerily, friend!  
What! meet such news with such a moody face?

### ILLO

It lies with us at present to prescribe  
Laws, and take vengeance on those worthless traitors  
Those skulking cowards that deserted us;  
One has already done his bitter penance,  
The Piccolomini: be his the fate  
Of all who wish us evil! This flies sure  
To the old man's heart; he has his whole life long  
Fretted and toiled to raise his ancient house  
From a count's title to the name of prince;  
And now must seek a grave for his only son.

## **BUTLER**

'Twas pity, though! A youth of such heroic  
And gentle temperament! The duke himself,  
'Twas easily seen, how near it went to his heart.

## **ILLO**

Hark ye, old friend! That is the very point  
That never pleased me in our general —  
He ever gave the preference to the Italians.  
Yea, at this very moment, by my soul!  
He'd gladly see us all dead ten times over,  
Could he thereby recall his friend to life.

## **TERZKY**

Hush, hush! Let the dead rest! This evening's business  
Is, who can fairly drink the other down —  
Your regiment, Illo! gives the entertainment.

Come! we will keep a merry carnival  
The night for once be day, and 'mid full glasses  
Will we expect the Swedish avant-garde.

## **ILLO**

Yes, let us be of good cheer for to-day,  
For there's hot work before us, friends! This sword  
Shall have no rest till it is bathed to the hilt  
In Austrian blood.

## **GORDON**

Shame, shame! what talk is this,  
My lord field-marshal? Wherefore foam you so  
Against your emperor?

## **BUTLER**

Hope not too much  
From this first victory. Bethink you, sirs!

How rapidly the wheel of fortune turns;  
The emperor still is formidably strong.

## **ILLO**

The emperor has soldiers, no commander,  
For this King Ferdinand of Hungary  
Is but a tyro. Gallas? He's no luck,  
And was of old the ruiner of armies.  
And then this viper, this Octavio,  
Is excellent at stabbing in the back,  
But ne'er meets Friedland in the open field.

## **TERZKY**

Trust me, my friends, it cannot but succeed;  
Fortune, we know, can ne'er forsake the duke! —  
And only under Wallenstein can Austria  
Be conqueror.

## ILLO

The duke will soon assemble  
A mighty army: all come crowding, streaming  
To banners, dedicate by destiny  
To fame, and prosperous fortune. I behold  
Old times come back again! he will become  
Once more the mighty lord which he has been.  
How will the fools, who've how deserted him,  
Look then? I can't but laugh to think of them,  
For lands will he present to all his friends,  
And like a king and emperor reward  
True services; but we've the nearest claims.

[To GORDON.

You will not be forgotten, governor!  
He'll take from you this nest, and bid you shine  
In higher station: your fidelity  
Well merits it.

## GORDON

I am content already,

And wish to climb no higher; where great height is,  
The fall must needy be great. "Great height, great depth."

## **ILLO**

Here you have no more business, for to-morrow  
The Swedes will take possession of the citadel.  
Come, Terzky, it is supper-time. What think you?  
Nay, shall we have the town illuminated  
In honor of the Swede? And who refuses  
To do it is a Spaniard and a traitor.

## **TERZKY**

Nay! nay! not that, it will not please the duke —

## **ILLO**

What; we are masters here; no soul shall dare  
Avow himself imperial where we've the rule.  
Gordon! good-night, and for the last time take

A fair leave of the place. Send out patrols  
To make secure, the watchword may be altered.  
At the stroke of ten deliver in the keys  
To the duke himself, and then you've quit forever  
Your wardship of the gates, for on to-morrow  
The Swedes will take possession of the citadel.

**TERZKY (as he is going, to BUTLER)**

You come, though, to the castle?

**BUTLER**

At the right time.

[Exeunt TERZKY and ILLO.]

## SCENE VIII

GORDON and BUTLER.

### **GORDON (looking after them)**

Unhappy men! How free from all foreboding  
They rush into the outspread net of murder  
In the blind drunkenness of victory;  
I have no pity for their fate. This Illo,  
This overflowing and foolhardy villain,  
That would fain bathe himself in his emperor's blood.

### **BUTLER**

Do as he ordered you. Send round patrols,  
Take measures for the citadel's security;  
When they are within I close the castle-gate  
That nothing may transpire.



## **GORDON (with earnest anxiety)**

Oh! haste not so!  
Nay, stop; first tell me —

## **BUTLER**

You have heard already,  
To-morrow to the Swedes belongs. This night  
Alone is ours. They make good expedition.  
But we will make still greater. Fare you well.

## **GORDON**

Ah! your looks tell me nothing good. Nay, Butler,  
I pray you promise me!

## BUTLER

The sun has set;  
A fateful evening doth descend upon us,  
And brings on their long night! Their evil stars  
Deliver them unarmed into our hands,  
And from their drunken dream of golden fortunes  
The dagger at their hearts shall rouse them. Well,  
The duke was ever a great calculator;  
His fellow-men were figures on his chess-board  
To move and station, as his game required.  
Other men's honor, dignity, good name,  
Did he shift like pawns, and made no conscience of  
Still calculating, calculating still;  
And yet at last his calculation proves  
Erroneous; the whole game is lost; and low!  
His own life will be found among the forfeits.

## GORDON

Oh, think not of his errors now! remember  
His greatness, his munificence; think on all  
The lovely features of his character,  
On all the noble exploits of his life,

And let them, like an angel's arm, unseen,  
Arrest the lifted sword.

## BUTLER

It is too late.  
I suffer not myself to feel compassion,  
Dark thoughts and bloody are my duty now.

[Grasping GORDON's hand.

Gordon! 'tis not my hatred (I pretend not  
To love the duke, and have no cause to love him).  
Yet 'tis not now my hatred that impels me  
To be his murderer. 'Tis his evil fate.  
Hostile occurrences of many events  
Control and subjugate me to the office.  
In vain the human being meditates  
Free action. He is but the wire-worked<sup>8</sup> puppet  
Of the blind Power, which, out of its own choice,  
Creates for him a dread necessity.  
What too would it avail him if there were  
A something pleading for him in my heart —  
Still I must kill him.

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<sup>8</sup> We doubt the propriety of putting so blasphemous a statement in the mouth of any character. — T.

## **GORDON**

If your heart speak to you  
Follow its impulse. 'Tis the voice of God.  
Think you your fortunes will grow prosperous  
Bedewed with blood – his blood? Believe it not!

## **BUTLER**

You know not. Ask not! Wherefore should it happen  
That the Swedes gained the victory, and hasten  
With such forced marches hitherwards? Fain would I  
Have given him to the emperor's mercy. Gordon!  
I do not wish his blood, – but I must ransom  
The honor of my word, – it lies in pledge —  
And he must die, or —

[Passionately grasping GORDON's hand.

Listen, then, and know  
I am dishonored if the duke escape us.

**GORDON**

Oh! to save such a man —

**BUTLER**

What!

**GORDON**

It is worth  
A sacrifice. Come, friend! Be noble-minded!  
Our own heart, and not other men's opinions,  
Forms our true honor.

**BUTLER (with a cold and haughty air)**

He is a great lord,

This duke, and I am of but mean importance.  
This is what you would say! Wherein concerns it  
The world at large, you mean to hint to me,  
Whether the man of low extraction keeps  
Or blemishes his honor —  
So that the man of princely rank be saved?  
We all do stamp our value on ourselves:  
The price we challenge for ourselves is given us.  
There does not live on earth the man so stationed  
That I despise myself compared with him.  
Man is made great or little by his own will;  
Because I am true to mine therefore he dies!

## **GORDON**

I am endeavoring to move a rock.  
Thou hadst a mother, yet no human feelings.  
I cannot hinder you, but may some God  
Rescue him from you!

[Exit GORDON.]

## BUTLER<sup>9</sup> (alone)

I treasured my good name all my life long;  
The duke has cheated me of life's best jewel,  
So that I blush before this poor weak Gordon!  
He prizes above all his fealty;  
His conscious soul accuses him of nothing;  
In opposition to his own soft heart  
He subjugates himself to an iron duty.  
Me in a weaker moment passion warped;  
I stand beside him, and must feel myself  
The worst man of the two. What though the world  
Is ignorant of my purposed treason, yet  
One man does know it, and can prove it, too —  
High-minded Piccolomini!  
There lives the man who can dishonor me!  
This ignominy blood alone can cleanse!  
Duke Friedland, thou or I. Into my own hands  
Fortune delivers me. The dearest thing a man has is himself.

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<sup>9</sup> [This soliloquy, which, according to the former arrangement, constituted the whole of scene ix., and concluded the fourth act, is omitted in all the printed German editions. It seems probable that it existed in the original manuscript from which Mr. Coleridge translated. — ED.]

## SCENE IX

[A gothic and gloomy apartment at the DUCHESS FRIEDLAND's.

THEKLA on a seat, pale, her eyes closed. The DUCHESS and LADY NEUBRUNN busied about her. WALLENSTEIN and the COUNTESS in conversation.

### WALLENSTEIN

How knew she it so soon?

### COUNTESS

She seems to have  
Foreboded some misfortune. The report  
Of an engagement, in which had fallen  
A colonel of the imperial army, frightened her.  
I saw it instantly. She flew to meet  
The Swedish courier, and with sudden questioning,  
Soon wrested from him the disastrous secret.  
Too late we missed her, hastened after her,  
We found her lying in his arms, all pale,



And in a swoon.

## WALLENSTEIN

A heavy, heavy blow!  
And she so unprepared! Poor child! how is it?

[Turning to the DUCHESS.

Is she coming to herself?

## DUCHESS

Her eyes are opening —

## COUNTESS

She lives!

**THEKLA (looking around her)**

Where am I?

**WALLENSTEIN (steps to her,  
raising her up in his arms)**

Come, cheerly, Thekla! be my own brave girl!  
See, there's thy loving mother. Thou art in  
Thy father's arms.

**THEKLA (standing up)**

Where is he? Is he gone?

**DUCHESS**

Who gone, my daughter?

## **THEKLA**

He – the man who uttered  
That word of misery.

## **DUCHESS**

Oh, think not of it!  
My Thekla!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Give her sorrow leave to talk!  
Let her complain – mingle your tears with hers,  
For she hath suffered a deep anguish; but  
She'll rise superior to it, for my Thekla  
Hath all her father's unsubdued heart.

## **THEKLA**

I am not ill. See, I have power to stand.  
Why does my mother weep? Have I alarmed her?  
It is gone by – I recollect myself.

[She casts her eyes round the room, as seeking some one.

Where is he? Please you, do not hide him from me.  
You see I have strength enough: now I will hear him.

## **DUCHESS**

No; never shall this messenger of evil  
Enter again into thy presence, Thekla!

## **THEKLA**

My father —

## WALLENSTEIN

Dearest daughter!

## THEKLA

I'm not weak.  
Shortly I shall be quite myself again.  
You'll grant me one request?

## WALLENSTEIN

Name it, my daughter.

## THEKLA

Permit the stranger to be called to me,  
And grant me leave, that by myself I may

Hear his report and question him.

## **DUCHESS**

No, never!

## **COUNTESS**

'Tis not advisable – assent not to it.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Hush! Wherefore wouldst thou speak with him, my daughter?

## **THEKLA**

Knowing the whole, I shall be more collected;

I will not be deceived. My mother wishes  
Only to spare me. I will not be spared —  
The worst is said already: I can hear  
Nothing of deeper anguish!

## **COUNTESS and DUCHESS**

Do it not.

## **THEKLA**

The horror overpowered me by surprise,  
My heart betrayed me in the stranger's presence:  
He was a witness of my weakness, yea,  
I sank into his arms; and that has shamed me.  
I must replace myself in his esteem,  
And I must speak with him, perforce, that he,  
The stranger, may not think ungently of me.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

I see she is in the right, and am inclined  
To grant her this request of hers. Go, call him.

[LADY NEUBRUNN goes to call him.

## DUCHESS

But I, thy mother, will be present —

## THEKLA

'Twere  
More pleasing to me if alone I saw him;  
Trust me, I shall behave myself the more  
Collectedly.

## WALLENSTEIN

Permit her her own will.  
Leave her alone with him: for there are sorrows,  
Where of necessity the soul must be  
Its own support. A strong heart will rely



On its own strength alone. In her own bosom,  
Not in her mother's arms, must she collect  
The strength to rise superior to this blow.  
It is mine own brave girl. I'll have her treated  
Not as the woman, but the heroine.

[Going.]

### **COUNTESS (detaining him)**

Where art thou going? I heard Terzky say  
That 'tis thy purpose to depart from hence  
To-morrow early, but to leave us here.

### **WALLENSTEIN**

Yes, ye stay here, placed under the protection  
Of gallant men.

### **COUNTESS**

Oh, take us with you, brother.

Leave us not in this gloomy solitude.  
To brood o'er anxious thoughts. The mists of doubt  
Magnify evils to a shape of horror.

## WALLENSTEIN

Who speaks of evil? I entreat you, sister,  
Use words of better omen.

## COUNTESS

Then take us with you.  
Oh leave us not behind you in a place  
That forces us to such sad omens. Heavy  
And sick within me is my heart —  
These walls breathe on me like a churchyard vault.  
I cannot tell you, brother, how this place  
Doth go against my nature. Take us with you.  
Come, sister, join you your entreaty! Niece,  
Yours too. We all entreat you, take us with you!

## WALLENSTEIN

The place's evil omens will I change,  
Making it that which shields and shelters for me  
My best beloved.

## LADY NEUBRUNN (returning)

The Swedish officer.

## WALLENSTEIN

Leave her alone with me.

## DUCHESS (to THEKLA, who starts and shivers)

There – pale as death! Child, 'tis impossible  
That thou shouldst speak with him. Follow thy mother.

## **THEKLA**

The Lady Neubrunn then may stay with me.

[Exeunt DUCHESS and COUNTESS.]

## SCENE X

THEKLA, THE SWEDISH CAPTAIN, LADY  
NEUBRUNN.

**CAPTAIN (respectfully approaching her)**

Princess – I must entreat your gentle pardon —  
My inconsiderate rash speech. How could! —

**THEKLA (with dignity)**

You have beheld me in my agony.  
A most distressful accident occasioned  
You from a stranger to become at once  
My confidant.

**CAPTAIN**

I fear you hate my presence,

For my tongue spake a melancholy word.

## **THEKLA**

The fault is mine. Myself did wrest it from you.  
The horror which came o'er me interrupted  
Your tale at its commencement. May it please you,  
Continue it to the end.

## **CAPTAIN**

Princess, 'twill  
Renew your anguish.

## **THEKLA**

I am firm, —  
I will be firm. Well – how began the engagement?

## CAPTAIN

We lay, expecting no attack, at Neustadt,  
Intrenched but insecurely in our camp,  
When towards evening rose a cloud of dust  
From the wood thitherward; our vanguard fled  
Into the camp, and sounded the alarm.  
Scarce had we mounted ere the Pappenheimers,  
Their horses at full speed, broke through the lines,  
And leaped the trenches; but their heedless courage  
Had borne them onward far before the others —  
The infantry were still at distance, only  
The Pappenheimers followed daringly  
Their daring leader —

[THEKLA betrays agitation in her gestures. The officer pauses till she makes a sign to him to proceed.]

## CAPTAIN

Both in van and flanks  
With our whole cavalry we now received them;  
Back to the trenches drove them, where the foot  
Stretched out a solid ridge of pikes to meet them.

They neither could advance, nor yet retreat;  
And as they stood on every side wedged in,  
The Rhinegrave to their leader called aloud,  
Inviting a surrender; but their leader,  
Young Piccolomini —

[THEKLA, as giddy, grasps a chair.

Known by his plume,  
And his long hair, gave signal for the trenches;  
Himself leaped first: the regiment all plunged after.  
His charger, by a halbert gored, reared up,  
Flung him with violence off, and over him  
The horses, now no longer to be curbed, —

[THEKLA, who has accompanied the last speech with all the marks of increasing agony, trembles through her whole frame and is falling. The LADY NEUBRUNN runs to her, and receives her in her arms.

## NEUBRUNN

My dearest lady!



## CAPTAIN

I retire.

## THERLA

'Tis over.  
Proceed to the conclusion.

## CAPTAIN

Wild despair  
Inspired the troops with frenzy when they saw  
Their leader perish; every thought of rescue  
Was spurned; they fought like wounded tigers; their  
Frantic resistance roused our soldiery;  
A murderous fight took place, nor was the contest  
Finished before their last man fell.  
THEKLA (faltering).  
And where —  
Where is — you have not told me all.

## **CAPTAIN (after a pause)**

This morning  
We buried him. Twelve youths of noblest birth  
Did bear him to interment; the whole army  
Followed the bier. A laurel decked his coffin;  
The sword of the deceased was placed upon it,  
In mark of honor by the Rhinegrave's self,  
Nor tears were wanting; for there are among us  
Many, who had themselves experienced  
The greatness of his mind and gentle manners;  
All were affected at his fate. The Rhinegrave  
Would willingly have saved him; but himself  
Made vain the attempt – 'tis said he wished to die.

## **NEUBRUNN (to THEKLA, who has hidden her countenance)**

Look up, my dearest lady —

## **THEKLA**

Where is his grave?

## **CAPTAIN**

At Neustadt, lady; in a cloister church  
Are his remains deposited, until  
We can receive directions from his father.

## **THEKLA**

What is the cloister's name?

## **CAPTAIN**

Saint Catherine's.

**THEKLA**

And how far is it thither?

**CAPTAIN**

Near twelve leagues.

**THEKLA**

And which the way?

**CAPTAIN**

You go by Tirschenreut  
And Falkenberg, through our advanced posts.

## **THEKLA**

Who  
Is their commander?

## **CAPTAIN**

Colonel Seckendorf.

[THEKLA steps to the table, and takes a ring from a casket.

## **THEKLA**

You have beheld me in my agony,  
And shown a feeling heart. Please you, accept

[Giving him the ring.

A small memorial of this hour. Now go!

## **CAPTAIN (confusedly)**

Princess —

[THEKLA silently makes signs to him to go, and turns from him.]

The captain lingers, and is about to speak. LADY NEUBRUNN repeats the signal, and he retires.

# SCENE XI

THEKLA, LADY NEUBRUNN.

**THEKLA (falls on LADY NEUBRUNN's neck)**

Now gentle Neubrunn, show me the affection  
Which thou hast ever promised – prove thyself  
My own true friend and faithful fellow-pilgrim.  
This night we must away!

**NEUBRUNN**

Away! and whither?

**THEKLA**

Whither! There is but one place in the world.  
Thither, where he lies buried! To his coffin!

## **NEUBRUNN**

What would you do there?

## **THEKLA**

What do there?

That wouldst thou not have asked, hadst thou e'er loved.  
There, that is all that still remains of him!  
That single spot is the whole earth to me.

## **NEUBRUNN**

That place of death —

## **THEKLA**

Is now the only place



Where life yet dwells for me: detain me not!  
Come and make preparations; let us think  
Of means to fly from hence.

## **NEUBRUNN**

Your father's rage

## **THEKLA**

That time is past —  
And now I fear no human being's rage.

## **NEUBRUNN**

The sentence of the world! The tongue of calumny!

## **THEKLA**

Whom am I seeking? Him who is no more.  
Am I then hastening to the arms – O God!  
I haste – but to the grave of the beloved.

## **NEUBRUNN**

And we alone, two helpless, feeble women?

## **THEKLA**

We will take weapons: my arm shall protect thee.

## **NEUBRUNN**

In the dark night-time?

## **THEKLA**

Darkness will conceal us.

## **NEUBRUNN**

This rough tempestuous night —

## **THEKLA**

Had he a soft bed  
Under the hoofs of his war-horses?

## **NEUBRUNN**

Heaven!  
And then the many posts of the enemy!

## **THEKLA**

They are human beings. Misery travels free  
Through the whole earth.

## **NEUBRUNN**

The journey's weary length —

## **THEKLA**

The pilgrim, travelling to a distant shrine  
Of hope and healing doth not count the leagues.

## **NEUBRUNN**

How can we pass the gates?

## **THEKLA**

Gold opens them.  
Go, do but go.

## **NEUBRUNN**

Should we be recognized —

## **THEKLA**

In a despairing woman, a poor fugitive,  
Will no one seek the daughter of Duke Friedland.

## **NEUBRUNN**

And where procure we horses for our flight?

## **THEKLA**

My equerry procures them. Go and fetch him.

## **NEUBRUNN**

Dares he, without the knowledge of his lord?

## **THEKLA**

He will. Go, only go. Delay no longer.

## **NEUBRUNN**

Dear lady! and your mother?

## **THEKLA**

Oh! my mother!

## **NEUBRUNN**

So much as she has suffered too already;  
Your tender mother. Ah! how ill prepared  
For this last anguish!

## **THEKLA**

Woe is me! My mother!

[Pauses.

Go instantly.

## **NEUBRUNN**

But think what you are doing!

## **THEKLA**

What can be thought, already has been thought.

## **NEUBRUNN**

And being there, what purpose you to do?

## **THEKLA**

There a divinity will prompt my soul.



## NEUBRUNN

Your heart, dear lady, is disquieted!  
And this is not the way that leads to quiet.

## THEKLA

To a deep quiet, such as he has found,  
It draws me on, I know not what to name it,  
Resistless does it draw me to his grave.  
There will my heart be eased, my tears will flow.  
Oh hasten, make no further questioning!  
There is no rest for me till I have left  
These walls – they fall in on me – a dim power  
Drives me from hence – oh mercy! What a feeling!  
What pale and hollow forms are those! They fill,  
They crowd the place! I have no longer room here!  
Mercy! Still more! More still! The hideous swarm,  
They press on me; they chase me from these walls —  
Those hollow, bodiless forms of living men!

## NEUBRUNN

You frighten me so, lady, that no longer  
I dare stay here myself. I go and call  
Rosenberg instantly.

[Exit LADY NEUBRUNN.]

## SCENE XII

### THEKLA

His spirit 'tis that calls me: 'tis the troop  
Of his true followers, who offered up  
Themselves to avenge his death: and they accuse me  
Of an ignoble loitering – they would not  
Forsake their leader even in his death; they died for him,  
And shall I live?  
For me too was that laurel garland twined  
That decks his bier. Life is an empty casket:  
I throw it from me. Oh, my only hope;  
To die beneath the hoofs of trampling steeds —  
That is a lot of heroes upon earth!

[Exit THEKLA.<sup>10</sup>

**(The Curtain drops.)**

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<sup>10</sup> 10 The soliloquy of Thekla consists in the original of six-and-twenty lines twenty of which are in rhymes of irregular recurrence. I thought it prudent to abridge it. Indeed the whole scene between Thekla and Lady Neubrunn might, perhaps, have been omitted without injury to the play. – C.

## **SCENE XIII**

THEKLA, LADY NEUBRUNN, and ROSENBERG.

**NEUBRUNN**

He is here, lady, and he will procure them.

**THEKLA**

Wilt thou provide us horses, Rosenberg?

**ROSENBERG**

I will, my lady.

**THEKLA**

And go with us as well?

**ROSENBERG**

To the world's end, my lady.

**THEKLA**

But consider,  
Thou never canst return unto the duke.

**ROSENBERG**

I will remain with thee.

## **THEKLA**

I will reward thee.  
And will commend thee to another master.  
Canst thou unseen conduct us from the castle?

## **ROSENBERG**

I can.

## **THEKLA**

When can I go?

## **ROSENBERG**

This very hour.  
But whither would you, lady?

**THEKLA**

To – Tell him, Neubrunn.

**NEUBRUNN**

To Neustadt.

**ROSENBERG**

So; I leave you to get ready.

[Exit.

**NEUBRUNN**

Oh, see, your mother comes.

# THEKLA

Indeed! O Heaven!



## SCENE XIV

THEKLA, LADY NEUBRUNN, the DUCHESS.

**DUCHESS**

He's gone! I find thee more composed, my child.

**THEKLA**

I am so, mother; let me only now  
Retire to rest, and Neubrunn here be with me.  
I want repose.

**DUCHESS**

My Thekla, thou shalt have it.  
I leave thee now consoled, since I can calm  
Thy father's heart.

## **THEKLA**

Good night, beloved mother!

(Falling on her neck and embracing her with deep emotion).

## **DUCHESS**

Thou scarcely art composed e'en now, my daughter.  
Thou tremblest strongly, and I feel thy heart  
Beat audibly on mine.

## **THEKLA**

Sleep will appease

Its beating: now good-night, good-night, dear mother.

(As she withdraws from her mother's arms the curtain falls).

# ACT V

## SCENE I

Butler's Chamber.

BUTLER, and MAJOR GERALDIN.

### BUTLER

Find me twelve strong dragoons, arm them with pikes  
For there must be no firing —  
Conceal them somewhere near the banquet-room,  
And soon as the dessert is served up, rush all in  
And cry – "Who is loyal to the emperor?"  
I will overturn the table – while you attack  
Illo and Terzky, and despatch them both.  
The castle-palace is well barred and guarded,  
That no intelligence of this proceeding  
May make its way to the duke. Go instantly;  
Have you yet sent for Captain Devereux  
And the Macdonald?

## **GERALDIN**

They'll be here anon.

[Exit GERALDIN.]

## **BUTLER**

Here's no room for delay. The citizens  
Declare for him – a dizzy drunken spirit  
Possesses the whole town. They see in the duke  
A prince of peace, a founder of new ages  
And golden times. Arms, too, have been given out  
By the town-council, and a hundred citizens  
Have volunteered themselves to stand on guard.  
Despatch! then, be the word; for enemies  
Threaten us from without and from within.

## **SCENE II**

BUTLER, CAPTAIN DEVEREUX, and  
MACDONALD.

**MACDONALD**

Here we are, general.

**DEVEREUX**

What's to be the watchword?

**BUTLER**

Long live the emperor!

## **BOTH (recoiling)**

How?

## **BUTLER**

Live the house of Austria.

## **DEVEREUX**

Have we not sworn fidelity to Friedland?

## **MACDONALD**

Have we not marched to this place to protect him?

## **BUTLER**

Protect a traitor and his country's enemy?

## **DEVEREUX**

Why, yes! in his name you administered  
Our oath.

## **MACDONALD**

And followed him yourself to Egra.

## **BUTLER**

I did it the more surely to destroy him.

## **DEVEREUX**

So then!

## **MACDONALD**

An altered case!

## **BUTLER (to DEVEREUX)**

Thou wretched man  
So easily leavest thou thy oath and colors?

## **DEVEREUX**

The devil! I but followed your example;  
If you could prove a villain, why not we?



## **MACDONALD**

We've naught to do with thinking – that's your business.  
You are our general, and give out the orders;  
We follow you, though the track lead to hell.

## **BUTLER (appeased)**

Good, then! we know each other.

## **MACDONALD**

I should hope so.

## **DEVEREUX**

Soldiers of fortune are we – who bids most  
He has us.

**MACDONALD**

'Tis e'en so!

**BUTLER**

Well, for the present  
You must remain honest and faithful soldiers.

**DEVEREUX**

We wish no other.

**BUTLER**

Ay, and make your fortunes.

**MACDONALD**

That is still better.

**BUTLER**

Listen!

**BOTH**

We attend.

**BUTLER**

It is the emperor's will and ordinance  
To seize the person of the Prince-Duke Friedland  
Alive or dead.

## **DEVEREUX**

It runs so in the letter.

## **MACDONALD**

Alive or dead – these were the very words.

## **BUTLER**

And he shall be rewarded from the state  
In land and gold who proffers aid thereto.

## **DEVEREUX**

Ay! that sounds well. The words sound always well  
That travel hither from the court. Yes! yes!  
We know already what court-words import.

A golden chain perhaps in sign of favor,  
Or an old charger, or a parchment-patent,  
And such like. The prince-duke pays better.

## **MACDONALD**

Yes,  
The duke's a splendid paymaster.

## **BUTLER**

All over  
With that, my friends. His lucky stars are set.

## **MACDONALD**

And is that certain?

**BUTLER**

You have my word for it.

**DEVEREUX**

His lucky fortune's all passed by?

**BUTLER**

Forever.  
He is as poor as we.

**MACDONALD**

As poor as we?

## **DEVEREUX**

Macdonald, we'll desert him.

## **BUTLER**

We'll desert him?  
Full twenty thousand have done that already;  
We must do more, my countrymen! In short —  
We – we must kill him.

## **BOTH (starting back)**

Kill him!

## **BUTLER**

Yes, must kill him;

And for that purpose have I chosen you.

**BOTH**

Us!

**BUTLER**

You, Captain Devereux, and thee, Macdonald.

**DEVEREUX (after a pause)**

Choose you some other.

**BUTLER**

What! art dastardly?  
Thou, with full thirty lives to answer for —



Thou conscientious of a sudden?

**DEVEREUX**

Nay

To assassinate our lord and general —

**MACDONALD**

To whom we swore a soldier's oath —

**BUTLER**

The oath

Is null, for Friedland is a traitor.

**DEVEREUX**

No, no! it is too bad!

**MACDONALD**

Yes, by my soul!  
It is too bad. One has a conscience too —

**DEVEREUX**

If it were not our chieftain, who so long  
Has issued the commands, and claimed our duty —

**BUTLER**

Is that the objection?

**DEVEREUX**

Were it my own father,  
And the emperor's service should demand it of me,  
It might be done perhaps – but we are soldiers,  
And to assassinate our chief commander,  
That is a sin, a foul abomination,  
From which no monk or confessor absolves us.

## **BUTLER**

I am your pope, and give you absolution.  
Determine quickly!

## **DEVEREUX**

'Twill not do.

## **MACDONALD**

'Twont do!

**BUTLER**

Well, off then! and – send Pestalutz to me.

**DEVEREUX (hesitates)**

The Pestalutz —

**MACDONALD**

What may you want with him?

**BUTLER**

If you reject it, we can find enough —

## **DEVEREUX**

Nay, if he must fall, we may earn the bounty  
As well as any other. What think you,  
Brother Macdonald?

## **MACDONALD**

Why, if he must fall,  
And will fall, and it can't be otherwise,  
One would not give place to this Pestalutz.

## **DEVEREUX (after some reflection)**

When do you purpose he should fall?

## **BUTLER**

This night.  
To-morrow will the Swedes be at our gates.

## **DEVEREUX**

You take upon you all the consequences?

## **BUTLER**

I take the whole upon me.

## **DEVEREUX**

And it is  
The emperor's will, his express absolute will?  
For we have instances that folks may like  
The murder, and yet hang the murderer.

## **BUTLER**

The manifesto says – "alive or dead."  
Alive – 'tis not possible – you see it is not.

## **DEVEREUX**

Well, dead then! dead! But how can we come at him.  
The town is filled with Terzky's soldiery.

## **MACDONALD**

Ay! and then Terzky still remains, and Illo —

## **BUTLER**

With these you shall begin – you understand me?

## **DEVEREUX**

How! And must they too perish?

## **BUTLER**

They the first.

## **MACDONALD**

Hear, Devereux! A bloody evening this.

## **DEVEREUX**

Have you a man for that? Commission me —



## **BUTLER**

'Tis given in trust to Major Geraldin;  
This is a carnival night, and there's a feast  
Given at the castle – there we shall surprise them,  
And hew them down. The Pestalutz and Lesley  
Have that commission. Soon as that is finished —

## **DEVEREUX**

Hear, general! It will be all one to you —  
Hark ye, let me exchange with Geraldin.

## **BUTLER**

'Twill be the lesser danger with the duke.

## **DEVEREUX**

Danger! The devil! What do you think me, general,  
'Tis the duke's eye, and not his sword, I fear.

## **BUTLER**

What can his eye do to thee?

## **DEVEREUX**

Death and hell!

Thou knowest that I'm no milksop, general!  
But 'tis not eight days since the duke did send me  
Twenty gold pieces for this good warm coat  
Which I have on! and then for him to see me  
Standing before him with the pike, his murderer.  
That eye of his looking upon this coat —  
Why – why – the devil fetch me! I'm no milksop!

## **BUTLER**

The duke presented thee this good warm coat,  
And thou, a needy wight, hast pangs of conscience  
To run him through the body in return,  
A coat that is far better and far warmer  
Did the emperor give to him, the prince's mantle.  
How doth he thank the emperor? With revolt  
And treason.

## **DEVEREUX**

That is true. The devil take  
Such thankers! I'll despatch him.

## **BUTLER**

And would'st quiet  
Thy conscience, thou hast naught to do but simply  
Pull off the coat; so canst thou do the deed  
With light heart and good spirits.

## **DEVEREUX**

You are right,  
That did not strike me. I'll pull off the coat —  
So there's an end of it.

## **MACDONALD**

Yes, but there's another  
Point to be thought of.

## **BUTLER**

And what's that, Macdonald?

## **MACDONALD**

What avails sword or dagger against him?  
He is not to be wounded – he is —

## **BUTLER (starting up)**

What!

## **MACDONALD**

Safe against shot, and stab, and flash! Hard frozen.  
Secured and warranted by the black art  
His body is impenetrable, I tell you.

## **DEVEREUX**

In Ingolstadt there was just such another:  
His whole skin was the same as steel; at last  
We were obliged to beat him down with gunstocks.

## **MACDONALD**

Hear what I'll do.

## **DEVEREUX**

Well.

## **MACDONALD**

In the cloister here  
There's a Dominican, my countryman.  
I'll make him dip my sword and pike for me  
In holy water, and say over them  
One of his strongest blessings. That's probatum!  
Nothing can stand 'gainst that.

## **BUTLER**

So do, Macdonald!  
But now go and select from out the regiment  
Twenty or thirty able-bodied fellows,  
And let them take the oaths to the emperor.  
Then when it strikes eleven, when the first rounds  
Are passed, conduct them silently as may be  
To the house. I will myself be not far off.

## **DEVEREUX**

But how do we get through Hartschier and Gordon,  
That stand on guard there in the inner chamber?

## **BUTLER**

I have made myself acquainted with the place,  
I lead you through a back door that's defended  
By one man only. Me my rank and office  
Give access to the duke at every hour.

I'll go before you – with one poinard-stroke  
Cut Hartschier's windpipe, and make way for you.

## **DEVEREUX**

And when we are there, by what means shall we gain  
The duke's bed-chamber, without his alarming  
The servants of the court? for he has here  
A numerous company of followers.

## **BUTLER**

The attendants fill the right wing: he hates bustle,  
And lodges in the left wing quite alone.

## **DEVEREUX**

Were it well over – hey, Macdonald! I  
Feel queerly on the occasion, devil knows.



## **MACDONALD**

And I, too. 'Tis too great a personage.  
People will hold us for a brace of villains.

## **BUTLER**

In plenty, honor, splendor – you may safely  
Laugh at the people's babble.

## **DEVEREUX**

If the business  
Squares with one's honor – if that be quite certain.

## **BUTLER**

Set your hearts quite at ease. Ye save for Ferdinand

His crown and empire. The reward can be  
No small one.

## **DEVEREUX**

And 'tis his purpose to dethrone the emperor?

## **BUTLER**

Yes! Yes! to rob him of his crown and life.

## **DEVEREUX**

And must he fall by the executioner's hands,  
Should we deliver him up to the emperor  
Alive?

## **BUTLER**

It were his certain destiny.

## **DEVEREUX**

Well! Well! Come then, Macdonald, he shall not  
Lie long in pain.

[Exeunt BUTLER through one door, MACDONALD and  
DEVEREUX through the other.]

## SCENE III

A saloon, terminated by a gallery, which extends far into the background.

WALLENSTEIN sitting at a table. The SWEDISH CAPTAIN standing before him.

### WALLENSTEIN

Commend me to your lord. I sympathize  
In his good fortune; and if you have seen me  
Deficient in the expressions of that joy,  
Which such a victory might well demand,  
Attribute it to no lack of good-will,  
For henceforth are our fortunes one. Farewell,  
And for your trouble take my thanks. To-morrow  
The citadel shall be surrendered to you  
On your arrival.

[The SWEDISH CAPTAIN retires. WALLENSTEIN sits lost in thought, his eyes fixed vacantly, and his head sustained by his hand. The COUNTESS TERZKY enters, stands before him for awhile, unobserved by him; at length he starts, sees her and recollects himself.

## WALLENSTEIN

Comest thou from her? Is she restored? How is she?

## COUNTESS

My sister tells me she was more collected  
After her conversation with the Swede.  
She has now retired to rest.

## WALLENSTEIN

The pang will soften  
She will shed tears.

## COUNTESS

I find thee altered, too,

My brother! After such a victory  
I had expected to have found in thee  
A cheerful spirit. Oh, remain thou firm!  
Sustain, uphold us! For our light thou art,  
Our sun.

## WALLENSTEIN

Be quiet. I ail nothing. Where's  
Thy husband?

## COUNTESS

At a banquet – he and Illo.

**WALLENSTEIN (rises and strides across the saloon)**

The night's far spent. Betake thee to thy chamber.

## COUNTESS

Bid me not go, oh, let me stay with thee!

### **WALLENSTEIN (moves to the window)**

There is a busy motion in the heaven,  
The wind doth chase the flag upon the tower,  
Fast sweep the clouds, the sickle<sup>11</sup> of the moon,  
Struggling, darts snatches of uncertain light.  
No form of star is visible! That one  
White stain of light, that single glimmering yonder,  
Is from Cassiopeia, and therein

---

<sup>11</sup> These four lines are expressed in the original with exquisite felicity: —Am Himmel ist geschaeftige Bewegung. Des Thurmes Fahne jagt der Wind, schnell geht Der Wolken Zug, die Mondessichel wankt Und durch die Nacht zuckt ungewisse Helle. The word "moon-sickle" reminds me of a passage in Harris, as quoted by Johnson, under the word "falcated." "The enlightened part of the moon appears in the form of a sickle or reaping-hook, which is while she is moving from the conjunction to the opposition, or from the new moon to the full: but from full to a new again the enlightened part appears gibbous, and the dark falcated." The words "wanken" and "schweben" are not easily translated. The English words, by which we attempt to render them, are either vulgar or antic, or not of sufficiently general application. So "der Wolken Zug" – The Draft, the Procession of Clouds. The Masses of the Clouds sweep onward in swift stream.

Is Jupiter. (A pause.) But now  
The blackness of the troubled element hides him!

[He sinks into profound melancholy, and looks vacantly into the distance.

**COUNTESS (looks on him  
mournfully, then grasps his hand)**

What art thou brooding on?

**WALLENSTEIN**

Methinks

If I but saw him, 'twould be well with me.  
He is the star of my nativity,  
And often marvellously hath his aspect  
Shot strength into my heart.

**COUNTESS**

Thou'lt see him again.



**WALLENSTEIN (remains for awhile with  
absent mind, then assumes a livelier manner,  
and turning suddenly to the COUNTESS)**

See him again? Oh, never, never again!

**COUNTESS**

How?

**WALLENSTEIN**

He is gone – is dust.

**COUNTESS**

Whom meanest thou, then?

## WALLENSTEIN

He, the more fortunate! yea, he hath finished!  
For him there is no longer any future,  
His life is bright – bright without spot it was,  
And cannot cease to be. No ominous hour  
Knocks at his door with tidings of mishap,  
Far off is he, above desire and fear;  
No more submitted to the change and chance  
Of the unsteady planets. Oh, 'tis well  
With him! but who knows what the coming hour  
Veiled in thick darkness brings us?

## COUNTESS

Thou speakest of Piccolomini. What was his death?  
The courier had just left thee as I came.

[WALLENSTEIN by a motion of his hand makes signs to her  
to be silent.

Turn not thine eyes upon the backward view,

Let us look forward into sunny days,  
Welcome with joyous heart the victory,  
Forget what it has cost thee. Not to-day,  
For the first time, thy friend was to thee dead;  
To thee he died when first he parted from thee.

## WALLENSTEIN

This anguish will be wearied down<sup>12</sup>, I know;  
What pang is permanent with man? From the highest,  
As from the vilest thing of every day,  
He learns to wean himself: for the strong hours  
Conquer him. Yet I feel what I have lost  
In him. The bloom is vanished from my life,  
For oh, he stood beside me, like my youth,  
Transformed for me the real to a dream,  
Clothing the palpable and the familiar  
With golden exhalations of the dawn,  
Whatever fortunes wait my future toils,  
The beautiful is vanished – and returns not.

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<sup>12</sup> A very inadequate translation of the original: —Verschmerzen werd' ich diesen Schlag, das weiss ich, Denn was verschmerzte nicht der Mensch! LITERALLY I shall grieve down this blow, of that I'm conscious: What does not man grieve down?

## COUNTESS

Oh, be not treacherous to thy own power.  
Thy heart is rich enough to vivify  
Itself. Thou lovest and prizest virtues in him,  
The which thyself didst plant, thyself unfold.

## WALLENSTEIN (stepping to the door)

Who interrupts us now at this late hour?  
It is the governor. He brings the keys  
Of the citadel. 'Tis midnight. Leave me, sister!

## COUNTESS

Oh, 'tis so hard to me this night to leave thee;  
A boding fear possesses me!

## WALLENSTEIN

Fear! Wherefore?

## COUNTESS

Shouldst thou depart this night, and we at waking  
Never more find thee!

## WALLENSTEIN

Fancies!

## COUNTESS

Oh, my soul  
Has long been weighed down by these dark forebodings,  
And if I combat and repel them waking,

They still crush down upon my heart in dreams,  
I saw thee, yesternight with thy first wife  
Sit at a banquet, gorgeously attired.

## WALLENSTHIN

This was a dream of favorable omen,  
That marriage being the founder of my fortunes.

## COUNTESS

To-day I dreamed that I was seeking thee  
In thy own chamber. As I entered, lo!  
It was no more a chamber: the Chartreuse  
At Gitschin 'twas, which thou thyself hast founded,  
And where it is thy will that thou shouldst be  
Interred.

## WALLENSTEIN

Thy soul is busy with these thoughts.

## COUNTESS

What! dost thou not believe that oft in dreams  
A voice of warning speaks prophetic to us?

## WALLENSTEIN

There is no doubt that there exist such voices,  
Yet I would not call them  
Voices of warning that announce to us  
Only the inevitable. As the sun,  
Ere it is risen, sometimes paints its image  
In the atmosphere, so often do the spirits  
Of great events stride on before the events,  
And in to-day already walks to-morrow.  
That which we read of the fourth Henry's death  
Did ever vex and haunt me like a tale  
Of my own future destiny. The king  
Felt in his breast the phantom of the knife  
Long ere Ravaillac armed himself therewith.  
His quiet mind forsook him; the phantasma  
Started him in his Louvre, chased him forth  
Into the open air; like funeral knells

Sounded that coronation festival;  
And still with boding sense he heard the tread  
Of those feet that even then were seeking him  
Throughout the streets of Paris.

## COUNTESS

And to thee  
The voice within thy soul bodes nothing?

## WALLENSTEIN

Nothing.  
Be wholly tranquil.

## COUNTESS

And another time  
I hastened after thee, and thou rann'st from me  
Through a long suite, through many a spacious hall.  
There seemed no end of it; doors creaked and clapped;



I followed panting, but could not overtake thee;  
When on a sudden did I feel myself  
Grasped from behind, – the hand was cold that grasped me;  
'Twas thou, and thou didst kiss me, and there seemed  
A crimson covering to envelop us.

## WALLENSTEIN

That is the crimson tapestry of my chamber.

## COUNTESS (gazing on him)

If it should come to that – if I should see thee,  
Who standest now before me in the fulness  
Of life —

[She falls on his breast and weeps.

## WALLENSTEIN

The emperor's proclamation weighs upon thee —  
Alphabets wound not – and he finds no hands.

## COUNTESS

If he should find them, my resolve is taken —  
I bear about me my support and refuge.

[Exit COUNTESS.]

## SCENE IV

WALLENSTEIN, GORDON.

**WALLENSTEIN**

All quiet in the town?

**GORDON**

The town is quiet.

**WALLENSTEIN**

I hear a boisterous music! and the castle  
Is lighted up. Who are the revellers?

## GORDON

There is a banquet given at the castle  
To the Count Terzky and Field-Marshal Illo.

## WALLENSTEIN

In honor of the victory – this tribe  
Can show their joy in nothing else but feasting.

[Rings. The GROOM OF THE CHAMBER enters.

Unrobe me. I will lay me down to sleep.

[WALLENSTEIN takes the keys from GORDON.

So we are guarded from all enemies,  
And shut in with sure friends.  
For all must cheat me, or a face like this

[Fixing his eyes on GORDON.

Was ne'er a hypocrite's mask.

[The GROOM OF THE CHAMBER takes off his mantle, collar, and scarf.

## WALLENSTEIN

Take care – what is that?

## GROOM OF THE CHAMBER

The golden chain is snapped in two.

## WALLENSTEIN

Well, it has lasted long enough. Here – give it.

[He takes and looks at the chain.

'Twas the first present of the emperor.

He hung it round me in the war of Friule,

He being then archduke; and I have worn it

Till now from habit —

From superstition, if you will. Belike,

It was to be a talisman to me;

And while I wore it on my neck in faith,  
It was to chain to me all my life-long  
The volatile fortune, whose first pledge it was.  
Well, be it so! Henceforward a new fortune  
Must spring up for me; for the potency  
Of this charm is dissolved.

[GROOM OF THE CHAMBER retires with the vestments.  
WALLENSTEIN rises, takes a stride across the room, and stands  
at last before GORDON in a posture of meditation.

How the old time returns upon me! I  
Behold myself once more at Burgau, where  
We two were pages of the court together.  
We oftentimes disputed: thy intention  
Was ever good; but thou were wont to play  
The moralist and preacher, and wouldst rail at me —  
That I strove after things too high for me,  
Giving my faith to bold, unlawful dreams,  
And still extol to me the golden mean.  
Thy wisdom hath been proved a thriftless friend  
To thy own self. See, it has made thee early  
A superannuated man, and (but  
That my munificent stars will intervene)  
Would let thee in some miserable corner  
Go out like an untended lamp.

## GORDON

My prince  
With light heart the poor fisher moors his boat,  
And watches from the shore the lofty ship  
Stranded amid the storm.

## WALLENSTEIN

Art thou already  
In harbor, then, old man? Well! I am not.  
The unconquered spirit drives me o'er life's billows;  
My planks still firm, my canvas swelling proudly.  
Hope is my goddess still, and youth my inmate;  
And while we stand thus front to front almost,  
I might presume to say, that the swift years  
Have passed by powerless o'er my unblanched hair.

[He moves with long strides across the saloon, and remains on the opposite side over against GORDON.]

Who now persists in calling fortune false?  
To me she has proved faithful; with fond love

Took me from out the common ranks of men,  
And like a mother goddess, with strong arm  
Carried me swiftly up the steps of life.  
Nothing is common in my destiny,  
Nor in the furrows of my hand. Who dares  
Interpret then my life for me as 'twere  
One of the undistinguishable many?  
True, in this present moment I appear  
Fallen low indeed; but I shall rise again.  
The high flood will soon follow on this ebb;  
The fountain of my fortune, which now stops,  
Repressed and bound by some malicious star,  
Will soon in joy play forth from all its pipes.

## **GORDON**

And yet remember I the good old proverb,  
"Let the night come before we praise the day."  
I would be slow from long-continued fortune  
To gather hope: for hope is the companion  
Given to the unfortunate by pitying heaven.  
Fear hovers round the head of prosperous men,  
For still unsteady are the scales of fate.



## WALLENSTEIN (smiling)

I hear the very Gordon that of old  
Was wont to preach, now once more preaching;  
I know well, that all sublunary things  
Are still the vassals of vicissitude.  
The unpropitious gods demand their tribute.  
This long ago the ancient pagans knew  
And therefore of their own accord they offered  
To themselves injuries, so to atone  
The jealousy of their divinities  
And human sacrifices bled to Typhon.

[After a pause, serious, and in a more subdued manner.]

I too have sacrificed to him – for me  
There fell the dearest friend, and through my fault  
He fell! No joy from favorable fortune  
Can outweigh the anguish of this stroke.  
The envy of my destiny is glutted:  
Life pays for life. On his pure head the lightning  
Was drawn off which would else have shattered me.

## SCENE V

To these enter SENI.

**WALLENSTEIN**

Is not that Seni! and beside himself,  
If one can trust his looks? What brings thee hither  
At this late hour, Baptista?

**SENI**

Terror, duke!  
On thy account.

**WALLENSTEIN**

What now?

## **SENI**

Flee ere the day break!  
Trust not thy person to the Swedes!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What now  
Is in thy thoughts?

## **SENI (with louder voice)**

Trust not thy person to the Swedes.

## **WALLENSTEIN**

What is it, then?

## **SENI (still more urgently)**

Oh, wait not the arrival of these Swedes!  
An evil near at hand is threatening thee  
From false friends. All the signs stand full of horror!  
Near, near at hand the net-work of perdition —  
Yea, even now 'tis being cast around thee!

## **WALLENSTEIN**

Baptista, thou art dreaming! – fear befools thee.

## **SENI**

Believe not that an empty fear deludes me.  
Come, read it in the planetary aspects;  
Read it thyself, that ruin threatens thee  
From false friends.

## WALLENSTEIN

From the falseness of my friends  
Has risen the whole of my unprosperous fortunes.  
The warning should have come before! At present  
I need no revelation from the stars  
To know that.

## SENI

Come and see! trust thine own eyes.  
A fearful sign stands in the house of life —  
An enemy; a fiend lurks close behind  
The radiance of thy planet. Oh, be warned!  
Deliver not up thyself to these heathens,  
To wage a war against our holy church.

## WALLENSTEIN (laughing gently)

The oracle rails that way! Yes, yes! Now  
I recollect. This junction with the Swedes

Did never please thee – lay thyself to sleep,  
Baptista! Signs like these I do not fear.

**GORDON (who during the whole of this  
dialogue has shown marks of extreme  
agitation, and now turns to WALLENSTEIN)**

My duke and general! May I dare presume?

**WALLENSTEIN**

Speak freely.

**GORDON**

What if 'twere no mere creation  
Of fear, if God's high providence vouchsafed  
To interpose its aid for your deliverance,  
And made that mouth its organ?

## WALLENSTEIN

Ye're both feverish!  
How can mishap come to me from the Swedes?  
They sought this junction with me – 'tis their interest.

### **GORDON (with difficulty suppressing his emotion)**

But what if the arrival of these Swedes —  
What if this were the very thing that winged  
The ruin that is flying to your temples?  
[Flings himself at his feet.  
There is yet time, my prince.

## SENI

Oh hear him! hear him!

## **GORDON (rises)**

The Rhinegrave's still far off. Give but the orders,  
This citadel shall close its gates upon him.  
If then he will besiege us, let him try it.  
But this I say; he'll find his own destruction,  
With his whole force before these ramparts, sooner  
Than weary down the valor of our spirit.  
He shall experience what a band of heroes,  
Inspired by an heroic leader,  
Is able to perform. And if indeed  
It be thy serious wish to make amend  
For that which thou hast done amiss, – this, this  
Will touch and reconcile the emperor,  
Who gladly turns his heart to thoughts of mercy;  
And Friedland, who returns repentant to him,  
Will stand yet higher in his emperor's favor  
Then e'er he stood when he had never fallen.

**WALLENSTEIN (contemplates him with surprise,  
remains silent a while, betraying strong emotion)**

Gordon – your zeal and fervor lead you far.



Well, well – an old friend has a privilege.  
Blood, Gordon, has been flowing. Never, never  
Can the emperor pardon me: and if he could,  
Yet I – I ne'er could let myself be pardoned.  
Had I foreknown what now has taken place,  
That he, my dearest friend, would fall for me,  
My first death offering; and had the heart  
Spoken to me, as now it has done – Gordon,  
It may be, I might have bethought myself.  
It may be too, I might not. Might or might not  
Is now an idle question. All too seriously  
Has it begun to end in nothing, Gordon!  
Let it then have its course.

[Stepping to the window.

All dark and silent – at the castle too

All is now hushed. Light me, chamberlain?

[The GROOM OF THE CHAMBER, who had entered during the last dialogue, and had been standing at a distance and listening to it with visible expressions of the deepest interest, advances in extreme agitation and throws himself at the DUKE's feet.

And thou too! But I know why thou dost wish

My reconcilment with the emperor.

Poor man! he hath a small estate in Carinthia,

And fears it will be forfeited because

He's in my service. Am I then so poor

That I no longer can indemnify  
My servants? Well! to no one I employ  
Means of compulsion. If 'tis thy belief  
That fortune has fled from me, go! forsake me.  
This night for the last time mayst thou unrobe me,  
And then go over to the emperor.  
Gordon, good-night! I think to make a long  
Sleep of it: for the struggle and the turmoil  
Of this last day or two was great. May't please you  
Take care that they awake me not too early.

[Exit WALLENSTEIN, the GROOM OF THE CHAMBER lighting him. SENI follows, GORDON remains on the darkened stage, following the DUKE with his eye, till he disappears at the further end of the gallery:

then by his gestures the old man expresses the depth of his anguish, and stands leaning against a pillar.

## SCENE VI

GORDON, BUTLER (at first behind the scenes).

**BUTLER (not yet come into view of the stage)**

Here stand in silence till I give the signal.

**GORDON (starts up)**

'Tis he! he has already brought the murderers.

**BUTLER**

The lights are out. All lies in profound sleep.

## **GORDON**

What shall I do, shall I attempt to save him?  
Shall I call up the house? alarm the guards?

## **BUTLER (appears, but scarcely on the stage)**

A light gleams hither from the corridor.  
It leads directly to the duke's bed-chamber.

## **GORDON**

But then I break my oath to the emperor;  
If he escape and strengthen the enemy,  
Do I not hereby call down on my head  
All the dread consequences.

**BUTLER (stepping forward)**

Hark! Who speaks there?

**GORDON**

'Tis better, I resign it to the hands  
Of Providence. For what am I, that I  
Should take upon myself so great a deed?  
I have not murdered him, if he be murdered;  
But all his rescue were my act and deed;  
Mine – and whatever be the consequences  
I must sustain them.

**BUTLER (advances)**

I should know that voice.

**GORDON**

Butler!

**BUTLER**

'Tis Gordon. What do you want here?  
Was it so late, then, when the duke dismissed you?

**GORDON**

Your hand bound up and in a scarf?

**BUTLER**

'Tis wounded.  
That Illo fought as he were frantic, till  
At last we threw him on the ground.

**GORDON (shuddering)**

Both dead?

**BUTLER**

Is he in bed?

**GORDON**

Ah, Butler!

**BUTLER**

Is he? speak.

## **GORDON**

He shall not perish! Not through you! The heaven  
Refuses your arm. See – 'tis wounded!

## **BUTLER**

There is no need of my arm.

## **GORDON**

The most guilty  
Have perished, and enough is given to justice.

[The GROOM OF THE CHAMBER advances from the  
gallery with his finger on his mouth commanding silence.]

## **GORDON**



He sleeps! Oh, murder not the holy sleep!

**BUTLER**

No! he shall die awake.

[Is going.

**GORDON**

His heart still cleaves  
To earthly things: he's not prepared to step  
Into the presence of his God!

**BUTLER (going)**

God's merciful!

**GORDON (holds him)**

Grant him but this night's respite.

**BUTLER (hurrying of)**

The next moment  
May ruin all.

**GORDON (holds him still)**

One hour!

**BUTLER**

Unhold me! What  
Can that short respite profit him?

## **GORDON**

Oh, time

Works miracles. In one hour many thousands  
Of grains of sand run out; and quick as they  
Thought follows thought within the human soul.  
Only one hour! Your heart may change its purpose,  
His heart may change its purpose – some new tidings  
May come; some fortunate event, decisive,  
May fall from heaven and rescue him. Oh, what  
May not one hour achieve!

## **BUTLER**

You but remind me  
How precious every minute is!

[He stamps on the floor.]

## SCENE VII

To these enter MACDONALD and DEVEREUX, with the HALBERDIERS.

**GORDON (throwing himself between him and them)**

No, monster!  
First over my dead body thou shalt tread. I will  
Not live to see the accursed deed!

**BUTLER (forcing him out of the way)**

Weak-hearted dotard!  
[Trumpets are heard in the distance.]

**DEVEREUX and MACDONALD**

Hark! The Swedish trumpets!  
The Swedes before the ramparts! Let us hasten!

**GORDON (rushes out)**

Oh, God of mercy!

**BUTLER (calling after him)**

Governor, to your post!

**GROOM OF THE CHAMBER (hurries in)**

Who dares make larum here? Hush! The duke sleeps.

**DEVEREUX (with loud, harsh voice)**

Friend, it is time now to make larum.  
GROOM OF THE CHAMBER.

Help!

Murder!

**BUTLER**

Down with him!

**GROOM OF THE CHAMBER (run  
through the body by DEVEREUX,  
falls at the entrance of the gallery)**

Jesus Maria!

**BUTLER**

Burst the doors open.

[They rush over the body into the gallery – two doors are heard to crash one after the other. Voices, deadened by the distance – clash of arms – then all at once a profound silence:

## SCENE VIII

### COUNTESS TERZKY (with a light)

Her bedchamber is empty; she herself  
Is nowhere to be found! The Neubrunn too,  
Who watched by her, is missing. If she should  
Be flown – but whither flown? We must call up  
Every soul in the house. How will the duke  
Bear up against these worst bad tidings? Oh,  
If that my husband now were but returned  
Home from the banquet! Hark! I wonder whether  
The duke is still awake! I thought I heard  
Voices and tread of feet here! I will go  
And listen at the door. Hark! what is that?  
'Tis hastening up the steps!

## SCENE IX

COUNTESS, GORDON.

**GORDON (rushes in out of breath)**

'Tis a mistake!

'Tis not the Swedes; ye must proceed no further —  
Butler! Oh, God! where is he?

[Observing the COUNTESS.

Countess! Say —

**COUNTESS**

You're come then from the castle? Where's my husband?

**GORDON (in an agony of affright)**



Your husband! Ask not! To the duke —

## COUNTESS

Not till  
You have discovered to me —

## GORDON

On this moment  
Does the world hang. For God's sake! to the duke.  
While we are speaking —

[Calling loudly.

Butler! Butler! God!

## COUNTESS

Why, he is at the castle with my husband.

[BUTLER comes from the gallery.

## **GORDON**

'Twas a mistake. 'Tis not the Swedes – it is  
The imperialists' lieutenant-general  
Has sent me hither – will be here himself  
Instantly. You must not proceed.

## **BUTLER**

                  He comes  
Too late.

[GORDON dashes himself against the wall.

## **GORDON**

Oh, God of mercy!

# COUNTESS

What, too late?  
Who will be here himself? Octavio  
In Egra? Treason! Treason! Where's the duke?

[She rushes to the gallery.]

## **SCENE X**

Servants run across the stage full of terror. The whole scene must be spoken entirely without pauses.

### **SENI (from the gallery)**

Oh, bloody, frightful deed!

### **COUNTESS**

What is it, Seni?

### **PAGE (from the gallery)**

Oh, piteous sight!

[Other servants hasten in with torches.]

## COUNTESS

What is it? For God's sake!

## SENI

And do you ask?  
Within the duke lies murdered – and your husband  
Assassinated at the castle.

[The COUNTESS stands motionless.

**FEMALE SERVANT (rushing across the stage)**

Help! help! the duchess!

**BURGOMASTER (enters)**

What mean these confused

Loud cries that wake the sleepers of this house?

## **GORDON**

Your house is cursed to all eternity.  
In your house doth the duke lie murdered!

## **BURGOMASTER (rushing out)**

Heaven forbid!

## **FIRST SERVANT**

Fly! fly! they murder us all!

## **SECOND SERVANT (carrying silver-plate)**

That way! the lower

Passages are blocked up.

**VOICE (from behind the scene)**

Make room for the lieutenant-general!

[At these words the COUNTESS starts from her stupor, collects herself, and retires suddenly.]

**VOICE (from behind the scene)**

Keep back the people! Guard the door!

## SCENE XI

To these enter OCTAVIO PICCOLOMINI with all his train. At the same time DEVEREUX and MACDONALD enter from out the corridor with the Halberdiers. WALLENSTEIN's dead body is carried over the back part of the stage, wrapped in a piece of crimson tapestry.

### **OCTAVIO (entering abruptly)**

It must not be! It is not possible!

Butler! Gordon!

I'll not believe it. Say no!

[GORDON, without answering, points with his hand to the body of WALLENSTEIN as it is carried over the back of the stage. OCTAVIO looks that way, and stands overpowered with horror.

### **DEVEREUX (to BUTLER)**

Here is the golden fleece – the duke's sword —



## MACDONALD

Is it your order —

**BUTLER (pointing to OCTAVIO)**

Here stands he who now  
Hath the sole power to issue orders.

[DEVEREUX and MACDONALD retire with marks of obeisance. One drops away after the other, till only BUTLER, OCTAVIO, and GORDON remain on the stage.]

**OCTAVIO (turning to BUTLER)**

Was that my purpose, Butler, when we parted?  
Oh, God of Justice!  
To thee I lift my hand! I am not guilty  
Of this foul deed.

## **BUTLER**

Your hand is pure. You have  
Availed yourself of mine.

## **OCTAVIO**

Merciless man!  
Thus to abuse the orders of thy lord —  
And stain thy emperor's holy name with murder,  
With bloody, most accursed assassination!

## **BUTLER (calmly)**

I've but fulfilled the emperor's own sentence.

## **OCTAVIO**

Oh, curse of kings,  
Infusing a dread life into their words,  
And linking to the sudden, transient thought  
The unchanging, irrevocable deed.  
Was there necessity for such an eager  
Despatch? Couldst thou not grant the merciful  
A time for mercy? Time is man's good angel.  
To leave no interval between the sentence,  
And the fulfilment of it, doth beseem  
God only, the immutable!

## **BUTLER**

For what  
Rail you against me? What is my offence?  
The empire from a fearful enemy  
Have I delivered, and expect reward.  
The single difference betwixt you and me  
Is this: you placed the arrow in the bow;  
I pulled the string. You sowed blood, and yet stand  
Astonished that blood is come up. I always  
Knew what I did, and therefore no result  
Hath power to frighten or surprise my spirit.  
Have you aught else to order; for this instant  
I make my best speed to Vienna; place  
My bleeding sword before my emperor's throne,

And hope to gain the applause which undelaying  
And punctual obedience may demand  
From a just judge.

[Exit BUTLER.

## SCENE XII

To these enter the COUNTESS TERZKY, pale and disordered.

Her utterance is slow and feeble, and unimpassioned.

### OCTAVIO (meeting her)

Oh, Countess Terzky! These are the results  
Of luckless, unblest deeds.

### COUNTESS

They are the fruits  
Of your contrivances. The duke is dead,  
My husband too is dead, the duchess struggles  
In the pangs of death, my niece has disappeared;  
This house of splendor, and of princely glory,  
Doth now stand desolated: the affrighted servants  
Rush forth through all its doors. I am the last  
Therein; I shut it up, and here deliver  
The keys.

## **OCTAVIO (with a deep anguish)**

Oh, countess! my house, too, is desolate.

## **COUNTESS**

Who next is to be murdered? Who is next  
To be maltreated? Lo! the duke is dead.  
The emperor's vengeance may be pacified!  
Spare the old servants; let not their fidelity  
Be imputed to the faithful as a crime —  
The evil destiny surprised my brother  
Too suddenly: he could not think on them.

## **OCTAVIO**

Speak not of vengeance! Speak not of maltreatment!  
The emperor is appeased; the heavy fault  
Hath heavily been expiated – nothing  
Descended from the father to the daughter,  
Except his glory and his services.

The empress honors your adversity,  
Takes part in your afflictions, opens to you  
Her motherly arms. Therefore no further fears.  
Yield yourself up in hope and confidence  
To the imperial grace!

## **COUNTESS (with her eye raised to heaven)**

To the grace and mercy of a greater master  
Do I yield up myself. Where shall the body  
Of the duke have its place of final rest?  
In the Chartreuse, which he himself did found  
At Gitschin, rests the Countess Wallenstein;  
And by her side, to whom he was indebted  
For his first fortunes, gratefully he wished  
He might sometime repose in death! Oh, let him  
Be buried there. And likewise, for my husband's  
Remains I ask the like grace. The emperor  
Is now the proprietor of all our castles;  
This sure may well be granted us – one sepulchre  
Beside the sepulchres of our forefathers!

**OCTAVIO**

Countess, you tremble, you turn pale!

**COUNTESS (reassembles all her powers,  
and speaks with energy and dignity)**

You think  
More worthily of me than to believe  
I would survive the downfall of my house.  
We did not hold ourselves too mean to grasp  
After a monarch's crown – the crown did fate  
Deny, but not the feeling and the spirit  
That to the crown belong! We deem a  
Courageous death more worthy of our free station  
Than a dishonored life. I have taken poison.

**OCTAVIO**

Help! Help! Support her!

**COUNTESS**



Nay, it is too late.  
In a few moments is my fate accomplished.

[Exit COUNTESS.

## **GORDON**

Oh, house of death and horrors!

[An OFFICER enters, and brings a letter with the great seal.  
GORDON steps forward and meets him.

What is this  
It is the imperial seal.

[He reads the address, and delivers the letter to OCTAVIO  
with a look of reproach, and with an emphasis on the word.

To the Prince Piccolomini.

[OCTAVIO, with his whole frame expressive of sudden  
anguish, raises his eyes to heaven.

**The Curtain drops**