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Molière
THE
IMAGINARY
INVALID



THE IMAGINARY INVALID.

(*LE MALADE IMAGINAIRE*).

ECLOGUE WITH MUSIC AND DANCING.

The Scene represents a rustic, pleasant spot.

Scene I.—Flora, Two Zephyrs, dancing.

FLO. Leave, leave your flocks ;
 Come shepherds, shepherdesses all ;
 Assemble 'neath these youthful elms :
 I have come to announce to you sweet tidings,
 Wherewith these hamlets to rejoice.
 Leave, leave your flocks ;
 Come shepherds, shepherdesses all ;
 Assemble 'neath these youthful elms.

*Scene II.—Flora, Two Zephyrs dancing ; Climène,
 Daphné, Tircis, Dorilas.*

CLI. (*To Tircis*). DAPH. (*To Dorilas*).
 Leave your protestations, shepherd :
 It is Flora who now calls.

TIR. (*To Climène*). DOR. (*To Daphné*).
 But cruel one, tell me at least,
 If by a little friendship, you will repay my vows.

TIR. If you will be sensible of my faithful ardour.

CLI. AND DAPH. It is Flora who now calls.

TIR. AND DOR. It is but a word, a word, a word only that I crave.

TIR. Shall I for ever languish in my mortal pain?

DOR. May I hope that one day you shall make me happy?

CLI. AND DAPH. It is Flora who now calls.

Scene III. — Flora, Two Zephyrs dancing; Climène, Daphné, Tircis, Dorilas, Shepherds and Shepherdesses, of the suite of Tircis and Dorilas, dancing and singing.

First Entry of the Ballet.

All the Shepherds and Shepherdesses place themselves around Flora, keeping time to the music.

CLI. What news is that, O goddess,
That amongst us is to diffuse so much joy?

DAPH. We burn to learn from you,
These important tidings.

DOR. Eagerly we all sigh for it.

CLI., DAPH., TIR., DOR.

With impatience we die for it.

FLO. Here it is; silence, silence,
Your prayers have been granted, Louis is
returned;

In these spots he brings back pleasures and
love,

And you behold an end to your mortal alarms.
By his vast exploits, he sees everything sub-
jected:

He lays down his arms,
Failing foes.

CHORUS. Ah! what sweet news!

How grand it is, how beautiful it is!

What pleasure! what laughter! what sports!
what happy successes!

And how well Heaven has fulfilled our wishes!

Ah! what sweet news!

How grand it is! how beautiful it is!

Second Entry of the Ballet.

*All the Shepherds and Shepherdesses express by their dances,
the transports of their joy.*

FLO. From your rural pipes
Evoke the sweetest sounds ;
Louis offers to your songs
The most beautiful subject.
After a hundred battles,
In which his arm
Reaps an ample victory,
Form amongst you
A hundred battles still more sweet,
To sing his glory.

CHORUS. Let us form amongst us
A hundred battles still more sweet,
To sing his glory.

FLO. My youthful lover, in these woods,
From my empire prepares a present,
As a prize for the voice
Who shall best succeed in telling us
The virtue and the exploits
Of the most august of kings.

CLI. If Tircis has the advantage.

DAPH. If Dorilas conqueror be.

CLI. To cherish him I promise.

DAPH. To his ardour I will give myself.

TIR. Oh hope too dear !

DOR. Oh word replete with sweetness !

TIR. AND DOR. Could grander subject, sweeter reward
animate a heart ?

The violins play an air to animate the two shepherds to the competition, while Flora, as umpire, places herself, with two Zephyrs, at the foot of a beautiful tree in the middle of the stage, and the rest occupy the two sides, as spectators.

TIR. When the melted snow swells a famous torrent,
Against the sudden effort of its frothy waves
There is nothing sufficiently solid ;
Dykes, castles, towns, and woods,

Molière THE IMAGINARY INVALID

The greatest writer of French classic comedy, the seventeenth-century playwright Molière was one of the most brilliant satirists in the history of literature. His keen observations and barbed wit deflated the pretensions of society in his day and focused a brilliant light on the universal frailties of humanity.

The Imaginary Invalid, one of Molière's funniest and most incisive satires, is also among the most performed worldwide and perennially studied in world literature courses. In this entertaining gem, a hypochondriac, victimized by two pompous doctors, tests his daughter's loyalty and discovers the greed and contempt of his scheming wife.

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