

**THE YALE
SHAKESPEARE:
THE WINTER'S TALE**

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The Yale Shakespeare: The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare & Frederick E. Pierce

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & FREDERICK E. PIERCE

**THE YALE
SHAKESPEARE:
THE WINTER'S TALE**

∴ *The Yale Shakespeare* ∴

THE WINTER'S TALE

EDITED BY

FREDERICK E. PIERCE



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The facsimile opposite reproduces the first page of 'The Winter's Tale' from the earliest printed edition, the Shakespeare Folio of 1623. This play is there the fourteenth in order among the thirty-six in the volume and stands at the end of the division of 'Comedies.' The facsimile has been made from the Elizabethan Club copy of the Folio and is about one-third the size of the original.

[DRAMATIS PERSONÆ]

LEONTES, *King of Sicilia*
MAMILLIUS, *young Prince of Sicilia*
CAMILLO, }
ANTIGONUS, } *Four Lords of Sicilia*
CLEOMENES, }
DION, }
HERMIONE, *Queen to Leontes*
PERDITA, *Daughter to Leontes and Hermione*
PAULINA, *Wife to Antigonus*
EMILIA, *a Lady*
POLIXENES, *King of Bohemia*
FLORIZEL, *Prince of Bohemia*
Old Shepherd, *reputed Father of Perdita*
Clown, *his Son*
AUTOLYCUS, *a Rogue*
ARCHIDAMUS, *a Lord of Bohemia*
[MOPSA, } *Shepherdesses*
[DORCAS, }
Other Lords and Gentlemen and Servants
Shepherds and Shepherdesses
[A Mariner
A Gaoler
Ladies attending the Queen
Satyrs for a dance

Time, as Chorus

SCENE: *Sometimes in Sicilia, sometimes in
Bohemia.*]

Dramatis Personæ; cf. n.

The Winter's Tale

ACT FIRST

Scene One

[*Sicilia. An Antechamber in Leontes' Palace*]

Enter Camillo and Archidamus.

Arch. If you shall chance, Camillo, to visit Bohemia, on the like occasion whercon my services are now on foot, you shall see, as I have said, great difference betwixt our Bohemia and your Sicilia. 5

Cam. I think, this coming summer, the King of Sicilia means to pay Bohemia the visitation which he justly owes him. 8

Arch. Whercon our entertainment shall shame us we will be justified in our loves: for, indeed,—

Cam. Beseech you,— 11

Arch. Verily, I speak it in the freedom of my knowledge: we cannot with such magnificence—in so rare—I know not what to say. We will give you sleepy drinks, that your senses, unintelligent of our insufficiency, may, though they cannot praise us, as little accuse us. 17

Cam. You pay a great deal too dear for what's given freely.

Arch. Believe me, I speak as my understanding instructs me, and as mine honesty puts it to utterance. 22

3 on foot: *actively employed*

7 Bohemia: *the king of Bohemia*

9, 10 entertainment . . . loves; *cf. n.*

12 freedom: *privilege*

visitation: *visit*

11 Beseech: *I beseech*

15 unintelligent of: *not perceiving*

Cam. Sicilia cannot show himself over-kind to Bohemia. They were trained together in their childhoods; and there rooted betwixt them then such an affection which cannot choose but branch now. Since their more ma- 27
 ture dignities and royal necessities made separation of their society, their encounters, though not personal, have been royally attorneyed with interchange of gifts, letters, loving embassies; that they have seemed to be together, though absent, shook hands, as over a vast, and embraced, as it were, from the ends of opposed winds. The heavens continue their loves! 35

Arch. I think there is not in the world either malice or matter to alter it. You have an unspeakable comfort of your young Prince Mamil- lius: it is a gentleman of the greatest promise that ever came into my note. 40

Cam. I very well agree with you in the hopes of him. It is a gallant child; one that indeed physics the subject, makes old hearts fresh; they that went on crutches ere he was born desire yet their life to see him a man. 45

Arch. Would they else be content to die?

Cam. Yes; if there were no other excuse why they should desire to live. 48

Arch. If the king had no son, they would desire to live on crutches till he had one.

Exeunt.

23 Sicilia: *the king of Sicily*

27 branch: *put forth branches*

30 personal: *performed in person*

32 that: *so that*

34, 35 from . . . winds; *cf. n.*

43 physics the subject: *is medicine to the king's subjects*

26 which: *as*

29 encounters: *meetings*

attorneyed: *performed by proxy*

33 vast: *boundless and waste expanse*

40 note: *notice*