

**THE ORLANDO FURIOSO.  
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH  
VERSE FROM THE ITALIAN.  
WITH NOTES. VOL. II**

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The Orlando Furioso. Translated into English Verse from the Italian. With Notes. Vol. II by  
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**LUDOVICO ARIOSTO & WILLIAM STEWART ROSE**

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THE  
**ORLANDO FURIOSO**

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

FROM THE ITALIAN OF

**LUDOVICO ARIOSTO**

WITH NOTES

BY

**WILLIAM STEWART ROSE**

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VOL. II.

LONDON  
JOHN MURRAY ALBEMARLE-STREET  
MDCCCXXIV

**THE ORLANDO FURIOSO.**

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**CANTO VII.**

**VOL. II.**

**B**



#### ARGUMENT.

*Rogero, as directed by the pair,  
The glantless Eriphila o'erthrows.  
That done, he to Alcina's labyrinth, where  
More than one knight is tied and prisoned, goes.  
To him Melissa sage the secret snare,  
And remedy for that grave coil shows.  
Whence he, by her advised, with downcast eye,  
And full of shame, forthwith resolves to fly.*

# THE ORLANDO FURIOSO.

## CANTO VII.

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### I.

THE traveller, he, whom sea or mountain sunder<sup>1</sup>  
From his own country, sees things strange and new;  
That the misjudging vulgar, which lies under  
The mist of ignorance, esteems untrue:  
Rejecting whatsoever is a wonder,  
Unless 'tis palpable and plain to view:  
Hence inexperience, as I know full well,  
Will yield small credence to the tale I tell.

### II.

But be this great or small, I know not why  
The rabble's silly judgment I should fear,  
Convinced you will not think the tale a lie,  
In whom the light of reason shines so clear.  
And hence to you it is I only try  
The fruit of my fatigues to render dear.  
I ended where Eriphila in guard  
Of bridge and stream was seen, the passage barred.



## III.

Of finest metal was her armour bright,  
 With gems of many colours overspread,  
 The tawny jacinth<sup>2</sup>, yellow chrysolite,  
 The emerald green of hue, and ruby red.  
 Mounted, but not on palfrey, for the fight:  
 In place of that, she on a wolf had sped,  
 Sped on a wolf towards the pass; and rode  
 On sell, that rich beyond all custom showed.

## IV.

No larger wolf, I ween, Apulia roams<sup>3</sup>;  
 More huge than bull; unguided by her hand:  
 Although upon no bit the monster foams,  
 Docile, I know not why, to her command.  
 The accursed Plague; arrayed in surcoat, comes  
 Above her arms, in colour like the sand;  
 That, saving in its dye, was of the sort  
 Which bishops and which prelates wear at court<sup>4</sup>.

## V.

The giantess's crest and shield appear,  
 For ensign, decked with swoln and poisonous toad.  
 Her the two damsels to the cavalier  
 Before the bridge, prepared for battle, showed,  
 Threatening, as wont to some, with levelled spear,  
 To do the warrior scorn and bar the road.  
 Bidding him turn, she to Rogero cries;  
 A lance he takes, and threats her and defies<sup>5</sup>.

## VI.

As quick and daring, the gigantic Pest  
Spurred her wolf, seated well for that dread game:  
In mid career she laid her lance in rest,  
And made earth quake beneath her as she came;  
Yet at the encounter fierce the champaign pressed;  
For underneath the casque, with stedfast aim,  
So hard Rogero smote her, that he bore  
The beldam backward six good yards and more:

## VII.

And came already with his lifted blade,  
Drawn for that end, to take her haughty head;  
To him an easy task; for she was laid  
Among the grass and flowers, like one that's dead.  
But, " 'Tis enough that she is vanquished," said  
The pair: " no further press thy vengeance dread.  
" Sheathe, courteous cavalier, thy sword anew<sup>6</sup>:  
" Pass we the river, and our way pursue."

## VIII.

Along the path, which through a forest lay,  
Roughish and somedeal ill to beat, they went.  
Besides that strait and stony was the way,  
This, nigh directly, scaled a hill's ascent.  
But, when arrived upon the summit, they  
Issued upon a mead of vast extent;  
And a more pleasant palace on that green  
Beheld, and brighter than was ever seen.

## IX.

To meet the child, Alcina, fair of hue,  
 Advanced some way beyond the outer gate;  
 And, girded by a gay and courtly crew,  
 Rogero there received in lordly state:  
 While all the rest to him such honour do,  
 And on the knight with such deep reverence wait,  
 They could not have displayed more zeal and love,  
 Had Jove descended from the choirs above.

## X.

Not so much does the palace, fair to see,  
 In riches other princely domes excel,  
 As that the gentlest, fairest, company  
 Which the whole world contains, within it dwell:  
 Of either sex, with small variety  
 Between, in youth and beauty matched as well:  
 The fay alone exceeds the rest as far  
 As the bright sun outshines each lesser star.

## XI.

Her shape is of such perfect symmetry,  
 As best to feign the industrious painter knows,  
 With long and knotted tresses; to the eye  
 Not yellow gold with brighter lustre glows.  
 Upon her tender cheek the mingled dye  
 Is scattered, of the lily and the rose.  
 Like ivory smooth, the forehead gay and round  
 Fills up the space, and forms a fitting bound.