

**ORLANDO FURIOSO:
TRANSLATED FROM THE
ITALIAN, WITH NOTES.
IN SIX VOLUMES. VOL. IV**

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Orlando Furioso: Translated From the Italian, With Notes. In Six Volumes. Vol. IV by
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LODOVICO ARIOSTO & JOHN HOOLE

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FRONTISPIECE TO VOL. IV.



JOHN HOOLE.

Published by Vernor & Hood, Dec. 1, 1798.

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TRANSLATED

FROM THE ITALIAN

OF

LUDOVICO ARIOSTO;

WITH

NOTES,

BY JOHN HOOLE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

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1807.

THE
TWENTY-SIXTH BOOK
OF
ORLANDO FURIOSO.

THE ARGUMENT.

ROGERO, Richardetto, and Aldiger, meet an unknown warrior, who joins their party. They attack the troops of Maganza and the Moor, and defeat them. Rogero and Marphisa signalize their valour. The prisoners, Malagigi and Vivian are set at liberty. The warriors reposing themselves after the battle, Malagigi explains to the rest the mystical sculpture on the fountain made by Merlin. Hippalca arrives, and gives an account to Richardetto and Rogero of her losing Frontino, which was taken away by Rodomont. Rogero departs to revenge the affront. Arrival of Rodomont, Mandricardo, and Dorais: Mandricardo jousts with all the knights, and overthrows them: His battle with Marphisa. Rogero returns to the fountain. Strange dissensions amongst the warriors. Rogero claims his horse of Rodomont; and Mandricardo wrangles with Rogero for the device on his shield. Rodomont, Mandricardo, and Rogero fight: Marphisa takes part with Rogero. Malagigi, fearing for the safety of Richardetto, attacked by Rodomont, causes, by his magic art, a demon to enter the horse of Dorais, which, carrying her away, she is immediately followed by Mandricardo and Rodomont, who are afterwards pursued by Rogero and Marphisa.

THE
TWENTY-SIXTH BOOK
OF
ORLANDO FURIOSO.

THE generous dames, of ancient time, despis'd
The charms of wealth, and virtue only priz'd :
In this our age we see the female train
Scarce bend a wish to aught but sordid gain.
Yet those who, blest with inbred goodness, shun 5
That love of gold which has the sex undone,
Living, content and peace may justly claim ;
And, dead, should find the meed of endless fame.
For ever, sure, must Bradamant be prais'd,
Who not her thoughts to power or riches rais'd, 10
But lov'd, whate'er bespoke the noble mind,
Grace, courage, honour, in Rogero join'd ;
And well deserv'd a knight of such desert
Should bear her image in his constant heart ;
And for her sake those valorous deeds achieve, 15
Which after-ages scarcely could believe.

Rogero, with the two, as late I told,
With Aldiger and Richardetto bold,

(The knights of Clarmont) bright in steel array'd,
 Prepar'd to give the brother-prisoners aid. 20
 I told you how a warrior cross'd the field,
 Of fearless gesture, bearing on his shield
 The bird that from its ashes springs to birth,
 And (strange to tell) but one appears on earth.
 Soon as the knight unknown, advancing, view'd 25
 Where each brave chief prepar'd for combat stood,
 Eager he burn'd to prove, in martial deed,
 How far their valour with their looks agreed.
 Is there amongst you one who dares (he cries)
 With me in single fight dispute the prize? 30
 With spear or sword in rough encounter meet,
 Till one shall fall, while one retains his seat?
 That man were I—(thus Aldiger reply'd)
 With thee the sword to wield, the spear to guide:
 But (as thyself shalt see) far other task 35
 Bids us refuse what courage bids thee ask;
 A task, that scarce permits these few short words,
 Much less the time to run at tilt affords.
 Behold, where station'd here we three prepare,
 At least six hundred men in arms to dare, 40
 That by our love and valour may be freed
 Two wretched friends, to cruel bonds decreed.
 He said; and to the brave unknown reveal'd
 The cause at full that brought them to the field.
 Well hast thou urg'd such reasons as suffice 45
 For just excuse, (the stranger thus replies)
 And sure three knights you seem whose dauntless worth
 Scarce meets its equal through the spacious earth.
 With you I sought, erewhile, to run the course
 On equal terms, for proof of either's force: 50

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But since on others I shall see your might
Far better try'd—I claim no more the fight:
But this I claim—my arms with yours to wield,
With yours to join this helmet, lance and shield,
And trust to prove, when on your side I stand, 55
Not undeserving of so brave a band.

Some here may wish to learn the warrior's name,
Who thus, a fearless candidate for fame,
Would with Rogero and his fellows meet
The dreadful hazards of their hardy feat. 60
SHE then (no longer *ux* this champion call)
Was bold Marphisa, from whose hand his fall
Zerbino suffer'd, sworn by her to guard,
Gabrina foul, for every ill prepar'd.

The good Rogero, and each noble lord 65
Of Clarmont's house, receiv'd with one accord
The proffer'd aid of her, whom all esteem'd
Of manly sex, as by her dress she seem'd.

Not long they stay'd, ere Aldiger beheld,
And show'd his friends at distance on the field, 70
A banner rais'd, that to the breezes flow'd,
And round the banner throng'd a mingled crowd.
When now advanc'd, so near in sight they drew,
That by their Moorish garb the warriors knew
The hostile band; amid the shouting throng 75
They saw the hapless brethren borne along
On two low steeds, expecting to behold,
For sums of wealth their persons chang'd and sold.

Then thus Marphisa—Wherefore such delay,
When these are present, to begin the fray? 80