

face to face. (*The sound of war. Segismundo enters with Estrella, Rosaura and soldiers.*)

SOLDIER. The king is hiding behind the rocks of this mountain. SEGISMUNDO. Then search the whole mountain. Rock by rock.

Let no stone be unturned.

CLOTALDO. My lord, run!

BASILIO. Why should I run?

ASTOLFO. What will you do, my lord?

BASILIO. What has to be done!

(*To Segismundo.*) If you're looking for me, here I am.

I kneel before you, Prince.

You may step on my white hair

and let it be your carpet.

Tread on my neck

and trample on my crown.

You can take revenge

on my honor.

You can crush

and drag my dignity

into the dirt of this country,

and treat me as your captive.

Let fate claim its victory,

and let the words of heaven

be fulfilled at last.

SEGISMUNDO. Illustrious court,

you who have been the witness

of such great events,

be attentive and listen

to what your prince has to say.

God has his mysterious alphabet

and all that has been written

on the blue papers of heaven

is not meant to deceive.

The one who lies

and betrays us is the man

who misinterprets

and makes wrong use

of God's words.

My father, here present,

who feared my rage

tried to prevent  
my existence  
in the world.

My blood is noble

and my nature is gentle,

but he made me an animal,

a human beast.

If one were to tell a man,

"One day you will be killed

by a wild animal,"

would that man awaken

that animal

if it were asleep?

Or if one were to tell

the same man,

"That sword

you carry

will be your death,"

would that man

unsheathe his sword

and point it at his chest?

And what if he were told,

"In the depths of the silver waves

you will find your gravestone,"

would he avoid the turbulent sea?

My father wakes the beast

because it threatens him.

He stares at the point

of his sword

because he fears

his own strength.

My father feels weak

and helpless knowing

he can't restrain

the arms of the sea.

Hear me now, Father!

Even if my rage were that beast,

my fury that sword,

my wrath that unruly sea,

fate can never be defeated!

by injustice and cruelty.  
 For violence breeds  
 resentment and revenge.  
*(To the Court.)* — Now look at him  
 kneeling at his son's feet,  
 his kingdom destroyed.  
 He took all measures  
 to prevent a prophecy  
 that threatened him and failed.  
 I'm younger in age,  
 less brave, less wise than the king  
 and I wonder how I'm going  
 to overcome that fate.  
*(To the King.)* Get up, Father, give me your hand.  
 Life has shown you your mistakes.  
 I humbly kneel before you.  
 I'm at your mercy.

BASILIO. My son, you have proven your nobility  
 and have secured your place in this kingdom.  
 You are a prince and you deserve  
 the laurel crown, and the royal palm branch  
 of victory.

ALL. Long live Segismundo!  
 SEGISMUNDO. There are other victories  
 I need to win. *(He looks at Rosaura.)*  
 The most difficult one  
 is to have victory  
 over myself — my heart.  
 For the moment  
 let us set in order  
 the dreams that soon fade  
 like breath on a piece of glass. *(The lights begin to change.)*

Astolfo, give your hand to Rosaura.

ASTOLFO. But, sir,  
 SEGISMUNDO. Give your hand to Rosaura.

ASTOLFO. But, Your Majesty ...  
 SEGISMUNDO. It is a debt of honor you owe her.

ASTOLFO. It's true that I owe her some obligations.  
 But, my lord, Rosaura does not have  
 her father's name.

It would be improper for me  
 to marry a woman ...

CLOTALDO. Rosaura is as noble as you are, Astolfo.  
 ASTOLFO. She doesn't even know who her father was.  
 CLOTALDO. I am her father.  
 I can prove she's my daughter  
 with my sword in a duel.

ASTOLFO. I don't understand ...

CLOTALDO. I didn't want to reveal who she was  
 until she was properly married.

ASTOLFO. Then I'll keep my word.

SEGISMUNDO. In that case you'll be our queen, Estrella.  
 Give me your hand.

ESTRELLA. I'm fortunate to gain such honor.  
 SEGISMUNDO. Clotaldo, who has been so loyal to my father,  
 come to my arms and let me embrace you.

BASILIO. How you've changed!  
 SEGISMUNDO. Why do you seem surprised?  
 My teacher was nothing but a dream.  
 So let us dream!  
 Tomorrow, life will become dust,  
 and love a breeze that passes unnoticed.  
 Out in the world no one is awake.  
 No one. So let us dream! Let us dream!  
 And if someone can't sleep  
 let them open their windows,  
 so they can gaze at the moving skies  
 and dream with open eyes.  
 Let them listen to music,  
 so they can dream through  
 the sweet sound that  
 enters their soul.  
 I've learned that human happiness  
 passes by like a dream,  
 so we must enjoy it  
 before it fades away,  
 and we must ask  
 noble hearts  
 to forgive us  
 if we make

mistakes. (The lights become very bright. All of the characters suddenly gasp as if they had just woken up from a dream. Blackout.)

**End of Play**

**PROPERTY LIST**

- Swords
- Ring
- Daggers
- Small portrait
- Chains