

And saw the lion's shadow ere himself,
And ran dismay'd away.

Lor.

In such a night
Stood Dido¹ with a willow in her hand
Upon the wild sea banks, and waft her love
To come again to Carthage.

10

Jes.

In such a night
Medea² gather'd the enchanted herbs
That did renew old Æson.

Lor.

In such a night
Did Jessica steal³ from the wealthy Jew
And with an unthrift love did run from Venice
As far as Belmont.

15

Jes.

In such a night
Did young Lorenzo swear he loved her well,
Stealing her soul with many vows of faith
And ne'er a true one.

Lor.

In such a night
Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,
Slander her love, and he forgave it her.

20

Jes. I would out-night you, did no body come;
But, hark, I hear the footing of a man.

Enter STEPHANO.

Lor. Who comes so fast in silence of the night?

25

Steph. A friend.

Lor. A friend! what friend? your name, I pray you,
friend?

Steph. Stephano is my name; and I bring word
My mistress will before the break of day
Be here at Belmont: she doth stray about
By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays
For happy wedlock hours.⁴

30

¹ *Dido*—Dido, queen of Carthage, hospitably entertained Æneas after the destruction of Troy. He won her love and then forsook her to found Rome. Shakespeare used the willow wand as an emblem of unrequited affection.

² *Medea*—Medea helped Jason steal the golden fleece from her father, eloped with him, and rejuvenated his father, old Æson.

³ *Steal*—Like Medea, Jessica stole her father's wealth and eloped.

⁴ *She doth hours*—Crosses set up on the highroads invited passers-by to spend a few moments in prayer.