

Johanna L. Owens

Dr. Kristen Welch

ENG 300-B01

3 February 2023

Dialogue Essay

Agamemnon: Prospero! Virgil and I have traveled great distances to suddenly appear and be held captive here at your behest. You have commanded we now dine together on this desolate island. I am in the middle of a lifetime war with the Acheans; what is the meaning of this?

Virgil: Surely, Prospero, you will be held accountable for your actions. God has provided a hedge of protection for me as I traveled here and has allowed this egregious act to occur.

Nevertheless, be warned that there are consequences. Fellowship with the truth and divulge it here so that we may know the purpose of this rouse.

Prospero: You two are my captives and will help secure a future for myself, even though my daughter may believe this is also about her and her happiness. Pray, let me tell you the awful place I find myself. You see, it happened this way:

My brother...called Antonio, I pray thee, mark me – that a brother should be so
perfidious! – He whom next thyself / Of all the world I loved, and to him put /
The manage of my state, as at that time / Through all the signories it was the first,
And Prospero the prime duke, being so reputed / In dignity, and for the liberal arts
Without a parallel. Those being all my study, The government I cast upon my brother
And to my state grew stranger, being transported / And rapt in secret studies.

[My] false [brother] — (Shakespeare 16; emphasis added). Nice!

I was duped, punished for educating myself, and banished into exile because I desired continuing education and personal fulfillment in life. Therefore, I procured your capture through my magic powers -- those connected with military power, the Greek gods, and the heavenly realms -- to ensure I will be king again and to secure my seat in Heaven. After all, everything is about me.

Virgil: Are you out of your mind? You cannot expect to fight battles and win wars with such a deceitful strategy! Have you not heard that God will ultimately judge these actions within the nine circles of Hell?

Agamemnon: I am not afraid of Hell. Bring it on. And I quite like the idea of this war; however, only if the battle plan is mine alone. If you can ensure victory over Troy, I will help you. I also demand to receive all credit for any gains in this battle, great or small. Further, If I am to be held captive here, I have personal needs and conditions that must be met.

Prospero: This is not how I planned this coup to retake the thrown of Milan from my brother. You have no authority or strength over my spells. As you will see, "my high charms work, / And these mine enemies are all knit up / In their distractions; they now are in my power; And in these fits I leave them..." (Shakespeare 87)

Virgil: Since I am no longer alive, your actions will not affect me. I am awaiting my fate in purgatory. However, heed my words. If you choose to overtake one another for pride, taking innocent lives, and not following God, your actions will have lasting outcomes. I can help you both navigate a fair and rightly thorough resolution so you will be blameless before God regarding your judgment.

Agamemnon: Virgil, I am not concerned with your God or any afterlife. I determine my destiny and eternal fate as they are of no consequence to you or anyone else. I am here to live in the moment. As to you, Prospero, your sorcery is no match for me. I am the greatest warrior that

ever lived, and this capture has allowed me to break free from those who think I am a weak leader. What's more, I am immune to "[t]hy rough-hewn rages, but instead, I thus far threaten thee:...." I will turn all those under your power against you, summon the gods and demigods, and rule the kingdom you covet (Homer 37; emphasis added).

You do a good job of bringing each character to life.

Virgil: You two are out of control!

Prospero: Your pride and your confidence are ill-founded. Do you not know I have been perfecting my craft within sorcery and can thwart your efforts with all manner of weather? My wand alone holds immense energy. You cannot go against me and have no power outside the European political world.

Agamemnon: Once I take your throne, Prospero, and the women of this island, with the help of the gods, nothing will stop me. Milan will be mine, and once Troy is firmly secure, what will stop me? I will take all of Europe, sparing no one. My honor lies in taking prizes of war, and I will start here on this island.

Virgil: You both must stop this conniving at once, as you have little room for choices that will further separate you from God. I bear witness to the permanent cries of those who have chosen this path. I am not permitted to enter Heaven due to my absence of baptism; however, I can at least dutifully inform you of actions that will derail you from it.

Prospero: I fear I have met my match in you, Agamemnon. Your intentions are evil and prideful. If what Virgil says is true, I will indeed feel pity for the fate you will eternally suffer. You may not know that I do, in fact, have a heart. I am not killing people for sport and treating women like property. "I have with such provision in mine art / So safely ordered that there is no soul – No,

not so much perdition as an hair, / Betid to any creature..." (Shakespeare 13). After all, Agamemnon, are we not merely playing games here?

Virgil: Pity? "Art though, too, of the other fools? / Here pity lives when it is wholly dead; / Who is a greater reprobate than he / Who feels compassion at the doom divine? (Shakespeare 160) Do not feel sorry for any soul who is punished in any form in Hell. A sinful life apart from God will perfectly align with a divine punishment from Him. Steel your hearts, men, but not to each other.

Agamemnon: I fight for myself and my honor alone.

Prospero: I cannot believe it has come to this. I am losing yet another power struggle, and my beloved magic seems to have little to no power here.

Virgil: Remember, Prospero, this is why you brought me here, to help with an emotional and spiritual understanding of your journey and for this perceived battle ahead. You both may receive God's Justice and spend an eternity bound to Hell for these sinful choices.

Agamemnon: "In war, the first casualty is truth," and all truth is relative. I make my own rules and will make those bow to me so they can abide by them. I believe there is nothing for further discussion at this table. I have already summoned the gods, and they will soon ascend here and take all captive.

Prospero: You will regret this, Agamemnon!

Virgil: A final plea on behalf of Heaven I will leave with you both. Turn from your wicked ways. If you believe you are strong here, you do not know anything of strength until you have seen and experienced eternal damnation. "And he to me, as one experienced: / Here all suspicion needs to be abandoned, / All cowardice must needs be here extinct" (Alighieri 24). Therefore, make a

wise choice. As your intentions are here, so will they be for eternity. We have a loving and just God in that order, who will match a life with its rightful eternity.

Works Cited

Alighieri, Dante. *The Inferno*, Quarto Publishing Group USA, 2013. *ProQuest Ebook Central*,

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/liberty/detail.action?docID=4800961>.

Homer, and Andrew Hadfield. *George Chapman: Homer's Iliad*. Edited by Robert S. Miola,

Translated by George Chapman, Modern Humanities Research Association,

2017. *DOI.org (Crossref)*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt1vjqnfp>.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*, Lerner Publishing Group, 2011. *ProQuest Ebook Central*,

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/liberty/detail.action?docID=5444930>.