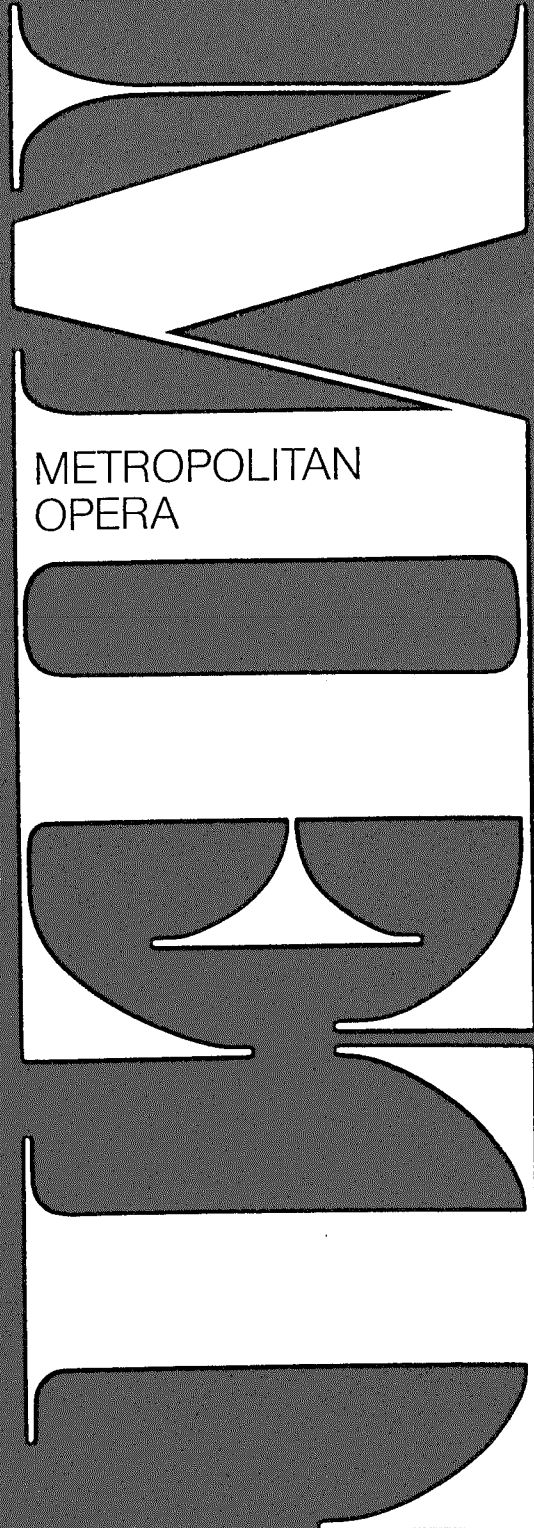


1901 Ver  
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Giuseppe Verdi

# Simon Boccanegra



**Libretto**  
Original Text and English Translation

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1857

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# SIMON BOCCANEGRA

Melodrama in Three Acts and a Prologue

Music by

*Giuseppe Verdi*

Text by

FRANCESCO MARIA PIAVE

(Based on the drama by Antonio Garcia Gutiérrez with modifications by Arrigo Boito)

English Version by

MARY ELLIS PELTZ

Ed. 2586

G. SCHIRMER  
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**G. SCHIRMER, INC.**

## SIMON BOCCANEGRA

The opera is based on a play by the Spaniard, Antonio Garcia Gutiérrez, also author of *El Trovador* and formerly Spanish consul at Genoa, where he seems to have become interested in the romantic personality of the ex-pirate who became Doge. The composer, Giuseppe Verdi, already had eighteen operas to his credit when, at the age of forty-four, he entrusted the libretto of *Boccanegra* to Francesco Piave in order to fulfill a contract made the previous year with the Fenice Theatre at Venice.

The premiere, which took place on March 12, 1857, was characterized by the composer as "almost a greater fiasco than *Traviata*" although the work was praised by the critics for "its beautiful melodies and profound philosophy." The opposition of the public was repeated later at Milan though partly reversed at Naples.

Verdi's faith in the opera is indicated by his defense of Piave and his opinion that "a higher standard of performance and a public really willing to listen" might be needed to make it successful. Twenty years later he decided to revise the score and induced Arrigo Boito to modify the text, bringing the villain's poisoning of the Doge's wine cup onto the stage and improving the first act finale. Verdi's alterations were more radical and include a new sombre prelude and opening scene, the introduction to the first act, the splendid scene of the council chamber and the last act wedding choruses.

The revised version was first presented on March 24, 1881, in Milan, only six years before Verdi's final tragic work and greatest masterpiece, *Otello*, which, in many respects, it is said to resemble.

# THE STORY

PROLOGUE. In 1339 the people of Genoa, weary of factional warfare between the Guelphs and Ghibellines, created the office of Doge to help consolidate the Genoese republic. Paolo and Pietro, leaders of the People's Party, plot to obtain the power of the aristocracy by electing the popular corsair, Simone Boccanegra, as puppet Doge. Boccanegra accepts their proposal so that he may marry Maria, daughter of the noble Jacopo Fiesco, who has imprisoned her ever since she bore Boccanegra's child. After a mob of commoners, incited by Pietro, pledges support of the corsair's cause, Fiesco emerges from his palace to the square, mourning Maria's death. Unaware of the tragedy, Boccanegra asks his friendship, but the implacable old man demands to be given his granddaughter. Boccanegra laments that the child has disappeared and despairing of further talk rushes into the deserted palace and finds Maria's casket. As he comes out a mob hails him as Doge.

ACT I. Twenty-five years have passed. In the garden of the Grimaldi palace, where the embittered Fiesco now lives in hiding under the pseudonym Andrea, his ward Amelia awaits her lover, Gabriele Adorno, who has joined Fiesco in a plot to overthrow Boccanegra. When the youth enters she tells him that the Doge wishes her to marry Paolo; at once Gabriele seeks out Fiesco to obtain the old man's blessing for himself. Suddenly Boccanegra arrives and in an interview with Amelia discovers that she is his long-lost daughter. The guardian in whose care he had placed her had died; the child had wandered to a convent where she had taken the place of the true Amelia Grimaldi, recently dead, so that the wealth of the exiled Grimaldi might not be confiscated but remain in the hands of the family. When Boccanegra learns that his daughter loves Gabriele, he refuses to give her to Paolo, who kidnaps her. While negotiating a treaty between Genoa and Venice in his council chamber, the Doge is interrupted by shouts in the streets. He bravely admits the unruly mob that has captured both Fiesco, who goes unrecognized, and Gabriele, who defiantly charges Boccanegra with Amelia's abduction and tries to stab him. Amelia herself rushes in and throws herself between them. She pleads with the Doge to forgive Gabriele, who suspects she is Boccanegra's mistress, and describes her abduction, hinting at Paolo's complicity. The Doge quiets the raging spectators and commands Paolo, as a state official, to curse the man who plotted this infamy. Sick with horror, he does so and rushes from the hall as the assembly repeats his curse. Fiesco and Gabriele are sent to prison.

ACT II. In the Doge's apartment, Paolo pours poison into Boccanegra's drinking bowl. Summoning Fiesco from his cell he vainly urges the old man to assassinate Boccanegra. Next he incites Gabriele to fury with insinuations as to the Doge's relationship with Amelia. When the youth is left to his thoughts, Amelia enters, but before she can explain to Gabriele that the Doge is her father, Boccanegra follows. Gabriele hides in the balcony. Amelia asks her father to pardon her lover; he agrees on condition that the young man promise to desert the conspirators. Left alone the weary ruler drinks Paolo's potion and falls asleep. Gabriele, who has heard nothing, emerges from hiding and draws his knife, but Amelia returns in time to stop him from murdering her father. At last Gabriele learns the truth and implores the Doge's forgiveness. As cries of rebellion are heard, the two men rush off to help defend the palace.

ACT III. All Genoa celebrates Boccanegra's victory. Magnanimously he has set most of the rebel leaders free, including Fiesco, but the traitorous Paolo is condemned to death. On his way to execution the villain informs Fiesco that he has managed to poison the Doge. A Captain announces that revels must end in memory of the fallen heroes of the revolution. Boccanegra staggers in, gravely ill. Fiesco, still bent on revenge, reveals to the Doge his true identity, whereupon he learns who Amelia really is. Stunned, Fiesco tells Boccanegra that Paolo has poisoned him. As the Doge dies, he blesses the newly married Gabriele and Amelia, asking that the youth be proclaimed the new Doge. Fiesco announces Boccanegra's death to the people.

*Courtesy Opera News.*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### Prologue

SIMON BOCCANEGRA, a corsair in the service of the Genoese republic . . . Baritone  
JACOPO FIESCO, a Genoese noble . . . . . Bass  
PAOLO ALBIANI, a gold-spinner of Genoa . . . . . Bass  
PIETRO, a commoner of Genoa . . . . . Baritone  
Sailors, populace, servants of Fiesco, etc.

### The Drama

SIMON BOCCANEGRA, first Doge of Genoa . . . . . Baritone  
AMELIA GRIMALDI, actually Maria Boccanegra, daughter of Simon . . . Soprano  
JACOPO FIESCO, known as Andrea . . . . . Bass  
GABRIELE ADORNO, a Genoese gentleman . . . . . Tenor  
PAOLO ALBIANI, favorite courtier of the Doge . . . . . Bass  
PIETRO, another courtier . . . . . Baritone  
A CAPTAIN OF ARCHERS . . . . . Tenor  
AMELIA'S MAID . . . . . Mezzo-Soprano  
Soldiers, sailors, populace, senators, the Doge's court, etc.

The action takes place in and near Genoa in the middle of the 14th Century. Twenty-five years pass between the prologue and the drama.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

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# SIMON BOCCANEGRA

## PROLOGO

Una Piazza di Genova

*Nel fondo la chiesa di San Lorenzo. A destra il palazzo dei Fieschi, con gran balcone: nel muro, di fianco al balcone, è un'immagine, davanti a cui arde un lanterino; a sinistra altre case. Varie strade conducono alla piazza. È notte.*

PAOLO

Che dicesti? All'onor di primo abate Lorenzin, l'usuriere?

PIETRO

Altro proponi di lui più degno!

PAOLO

Il prode, che dai nostri  
Mari cacciava l'african pirata,  
E al ligure vessillo  
Rese l'antica rinomanza altera.

PIETRO

Intesi . . . e il premio?

PAOLO

Oro, possanza, onore.

PIETRO

Vendo a tal prezzo il popolar favore.  
*(Si danno la mano; Pietro parte.)*

PAOLO

Abborriti, patrizî,  
Alle cime ove alberga il vostro orgoglio,  
Disprezzato plebeo, salire io voglio.

SIMONE *(entra frettoloso)*

Un amplesso . . . Che avvenne?  
Da Savona perchè qui m'appellasti?

PAOLO

All'alba eletto  
Esser vuoi nuovo abate?

SIMONE

Io? . . . No.

PAOLO

Ti tenta ducal corona?

SIMONE

Vaneggi?

PAOLO *(con intenzione)*

E Maria?

SIMONE

O vittima innocente  
Del funesto amor mio! Dimmi, di lei  
Che sai? Le favellasti?

PAOLO

*(additando il palazzo Fieschi)*  
Prigioniera geme in quella magion.

SIMONE

Maria!

PAOLO

Negarla al Doge chi potria?

SIMONE

Misera!

PAOLO

Assenti?

SIMONE

Paolo . . .

PAOLO

Tutto disposi . . . e sol ti chiedo  
Parte ai perigli e alla possanza.

SIMONE

Sia.

PAOLO

In vita ed in morte?

SIMONE

Sia.

PAOLO

S'appressa alcun . . . T'ascondi . . .  
Per poco ancor, mistero ti circondi.

*(Simone s'allontana. Paolo si trae in disparte presso il palazzo dei Fieschi. Pietro, marinai e artigiani entrano.)*

PIETRO

All'alba tutti qui verrete?

# SIMON BOCCANEGRA

## PROLOGUE

A square in Genoa

*The church of San Lorenzo is in the background. At the right stands the palace of the Fieschi with a wide balcony; in the adjoining wall a small light is seen burning in a shrine. At the left other houses line streets leading to the square. It is night.*

PAOLO

What did you say?  
For the noble post of abbot  
Lorenzin, money lender?

PIETRO

Is there a rival of equal stature?

PAOLO

The leader who has freed our ocean  
From all the bands of evil pirates  
Until our ancient banners  
Once more may raise their heads in  
pride and glory.

PIETRO

But tell me . . . your offer?

PAOLO

Money, and power, and honor.

PIETRO

Such is the price I'll take to win the  
people.

*(They shake hands; Pietro leaves.)*

PAOLO

I despise you, patricians,  
On the heights where your pride of  
place can seat you  
As a man of the people I would meet  
you.

SIMONE *(entering hurriedly)*

I salute you . . . What's happened?  
From Savona I have come as you called  
me.

PAOLO

At daybreak the people may choose you  
as abbot.

SIMONE

Abbot? No.

PAOLO

The dukedom, it does not tempt you?

SIMONE

You're raving?

PAOLO *(pointedly)*

And Maria?

SIMONE

O victim of my innocent, ill-fated devo-  
tion!

Tell me, you know her fate? You've  
spoken with her?

PAOLO

*(pointing to the Fieschi palace)*

In that palace she laments day and  
night.

SIMONE

Maria!

PAOLO

But from the Doge what man could  
keep her?

SIMONE

Wretched girl!

PAOLO

You'll take it?

SIMONE

Paolo . . .

PAOLO

Then all is settled . . .  
And my reward is sharing the dangers  
coming with power.

SIMONE

Granted.

PAOLO

Both now and forever?

SIMONE

Granted.

PAOLO

Someone is near . . . Go hide you . . .  
For just a day in mystery abide you.

*(Simone withdraws. Paolo steps back to  
another part of the Fieschi palace.  
Pietro comes in with a crowd of sail-  
ors and workmen.)*

PIETRO

At daybreak surely all are coming?

Tutti. CORO  
 PIETRO  
 Niun pei patrizi?  
 CORO  
 Niuno. A Lorenzino  
 Tutti il voto darem.  
 PIETRO  
 Venduto è ai Fieschi.  
 CORO  
 Dunque chi fia l'eletto?  
 PIETRO  
 Un prode.  
 CORO  
 Sì.  
 PIETRO  
 Un popolan.  
 CORO  
 Ben dici . . . ma fra i nostri sai l'uom?  
 PIETRO  
 Sì.  
 CORO  
 E chi? Risuoni il nome suo.  
 PAOLO (*avanzandosi*)  
 Simone Boccanegra.  
 CORO  
 Simone; Il Corsaro!  
 PAOLO  
 Sì. Il Corsaro all'alto scranno.  
 CORO  
 È qui?  
 PAOLO  
 Verrà.  
 CORO  
 E i Fieschi?  
 PAOLO  
 Taceranno.  
 (*Chiama tutti intorno a sè; quindi, indicando il palazzo dei Fieschi, dice loro con mistero.*)  
 L'atra magion vedete? De' Fieschi è  
 l'empio ostello,  
 Una beltà infelice geme sepolta in  
 quello;  
 Sono i lamenti suoi la sola voce umana  
 Che risuonar s'ascolta nell'ampia tomba  
 arcana.

CORO  
 Già volgono tre lune, che la gentil  
 sembianza  
 Non rallegrò i veroni della romita  
 stanza;  
 Passando ogni pietoso invan mirar desia  
 La bella prigioniera, la misera Maria.

PAOLO  
 Si schiudon quelle porte solo al patrizio  
 altero,  
 Che ad arte si ravvolge nell'ombre del  
 mistero . . .

CORO  
 È vero, è ver.

PAOLO  
 Ma vedi in notte cupa per le deserte  
 sale  
 Errar sinistra vampa, qual d'anima  
 infernale.

CORO  
 Par l'anfro dei fantasimi! Oh, qual  
 orror!

(*Dal palazzo Fieschi si vede il  
 riverbero d'un lume.*)

PAOLO  
 Guardate,  
 La feral vampa appare.

CORO  
 Oh ciel!

PAOLO  
 V'allontanate.  
 Si caccino i demonii col segno della  
 croce all'alba.

CORO  
 Qui.

PAOLO  
 Simone.

CORO  
 Simone ad una voce.  
 (*Partono.*)

FIESCO (*esce dal palazzo*)  
 A te l'estremo addio, palagio altero,  
 Freddo sepolcro dell'angolo mio!  
 Nè a proteggerti valse! Oh maledetto!  
 Oh vile seduttore!  
 (*volgendosi all'Immagine*)

Surely.  
 CHORUS  
 Who's for the nobles?  
 PIETRO  
 No one.  
 CHORUS  
 To Lorenzin we all have promised our vote.  
 PIETRO  
 He's sold to Fiesco.  
 CHORUS  
 Who then will be elected?  
 PIETRO  
 A leader.  
 CHORUS  
 Yes.  
 PIETRO  
 A common man . . .  
 CHORUS  
 Well spoken . . . is the man one of us?  
 PIETRO  
 Yes.  
 CHORUS  
 But who? You tell us what his name is!  
 PAOLO (*coming forward*)  
 Simone Boccanegra.  
 CHORUS  
 Simone! What, the corsair!  
 PAOLO  
 Yes, raise the corsair to the dukedom . . .  
 CHORUS  
 He's here?  
 PAOLO  
 He'll come.  
 CHORUS  
 The Fieschi?  
 PAOLO  
 They'll be silent.  
 (*He gathers the men about him, pointing mysteriously to the palace.*)  
 Dark is that evil prison, home of the Fiesco nobles.  
 Within its walls a woman sighs at her secret troubles;  
 Only her lamentations echo through walls so haunted,  
 Breaking the eerie silence, there where man's pride is flouted.

CHORUS  
 Full many a moon has passed since her gentle presence only  
 Appeared at the balcony steps of her room so sad and lonely.  
 And every kindly stranger in vain has sought to see her.  
 The prisoner so lovely, the wretched girl Maria.  
 PAOLO  
 Only one man may enter, all of the rest forbidden,  
 Noble his rank and station, deep in the shadows hidden.  
 CHORUS  
 How true. How true.  
 PAOLO  
 Through those deserted chambers,  
 bleak with a gloom nocturnal,  
 One may see lights that wander from some abode infernal.  
 CHORUS  
 A phantom from some dark abode! O dreadful sight!  
 PAOLO  
 (*pointing to a light in the palace*)  
 You see it! Sadly the flame is shining.  
 CHORUS  
 O God!  
 PAOLO  
 Let us be leaving.  
 The cross can curb the demon by all its holy powers.  
 At daybreak.  
 CHORUS  
 Here.  
 PAOLO  
 Simone.  
 CHORUS  
 We all demand Simone.  
 (*They all depart.*)  
 FIESCO  
 (*emerging from the palace*)  
 A last farewell I bid you, my haughty palace,  
 Tomb of my darling, the tomb of my angel.  
 All my care was for nothing!  
 Curses upon him, the villainous seducer!  
 (*turning toward the shrine*)

E tu, Vergin, soffristi  
 Rapita a lei la verginal corona?  
 Ah! Che dissi? Deliro! Ah, mi perdona!  
 Il lacerato spirito  
 Del mesto genitore  
 Era serbato a strazio  
 D'infamia e di dolore.

*(S'odono lamenti dall'  
 interno del palazzo.)*

DONNE

È morta! A lei s'apron le sfere!  
 Mai più non la vedremo in terra!

UOMINI

Miserere! Miserere!

FIESCO

Il serto a lei de' martiri  
 Pietoso il cielo diè . . .  
 Resa al fulgor degli angeli,  
 Prega, Maria, per me.

*(Varie persone escono dal palazzo, e  
 traversando mestamente la piazza  
 s'allontanano. Simone ritorna in  
 scena esultante.)*

SIMONE

Suona ogni labbro il mio nome.  
 O Maria! Forse in breve potrai  
 dirmi tuo sposo!

*(Scorge Fiesco.)*

Alcun veggo! Chi fia?

FIESCO

Simone?

SIMONE

Tu?

FIESCO

Qual cieco fato a oltraggiarmi ti traea?  
 Sul tuo capo io qui chiedea  
 L'ira vindice del ciel.

SIMONE

Padre mio, pietà t'imploro  
 Supplichevole a' tuoi piedi!  
 Il perdono a me concedi!

FIESCO

Tardi è omai.

SIMONE

Non sii crudel.  
 Sublimarmi a lei sperai  
 Sovra l'ali della gloria,  
 Strappai serti alla vittoria  
 Per l'altare dell'amor.

FIESCO

Io fea plauso al tuo valore,  
 Ma le offese non perdono . . .  
 Te vedessi asceso al trono.

SIMONE

Taci!

FIESCO

Segno all'odio mio  
 E all'anátema di Dio  
 È di Fiesco l'offensor.

SIMONE

Pace . . .

FIESCO

No! Pace non fora  
 Se pria l'un di noi non mora.

SIMONE

Vuoi col sangue mio placarti?  
*(Gli presenta il petto.)*

Qui ferisci . . .

FIESCO

*(ritirandosi con orgoglio)*

Assassinarti?

SIMONE

Sì, m'uccidi, e almen sepolta  
 Fia con me tant' ira.

FIESCO

Ascolta.  
 Se concedermi vorrai  
 L'innocente sventurata  
 Che nascea dimpuro amor,  
 Io, che ancor non la mirai,  
 Giuro renderla beata,  
 E tu avrai perdono allor.

SIMONE

No! poss'io.

FIESCO

Perchè?

SIMONE

Rubella sorte lei rapì.

FIESCO

Favella.

SIMONE

Del mar sul lido fra gente ostile  
 Crescea nell'ombra quella gentile;  
 Crescea lontana dagli occhi miei,  
 Vegliava annosa donna su lei.  
 Di là una notte varcando, solo  
 Dalla mia nave scesi a quel' suolo.

And you, O blessed Virgin,  
You could not safeguard her innocence  
and virtue?

Ah! What madness! Forgive me! I  
would not hurt you!

Love that has torn a father's heart  
Sad, as the fates ordained it,  
Was at the least preserved to him—  
Dishonor has not stained it.

WOMEN

*(lamenting from within the palace)*  
She's perished, and the heavens have  
opened,  
We shall see her no more among us.

MEN

Miserere! Miserere!

FIESCO

A martyr's crown will grace her brow  
As heaven hears my plea,  
Raised to the skies on angel wings,  
Pray, O my love, for me.

*(People emerge from the palace, cross-  
ing the square sadly and withdraw-  
ing. Simone returns, joyfully.)*

SIMONE

All the world cries for Simone.  
O Maria, in a moment you may call  
me your husband!

*(He perceives Fiesco.)*

Here is someone. Who are you?

FIESCO

Simon?

SIMONE

You?

FIESCO

What is the fate that has brought you  
to offend me?  
I have prayed that the Lord may send  
me  
Angry vengeance on your head.

SIMONE

At your feet I would implore you,  
Father, you alone can shield me,  
And your pardon you can yield me . . .

FIESCO

It is late.

SIMONE

You do me wrong. I had hoped to rise  
to her  
On the heights of glory winging,  
With a wreath of triumph bringing  
To the altar of our love.

FIESCO

I applaud your deeds of valor,  
But my hands will never bless you.  
On the throne I may address you . . .

SIMONE

Silence!

FIESCO

Hatred falls upon you  
And the curse of heav'n is on you,  
You who sullied Fiesco's name.

SIMONE

Pardon!

FIESCO

There's no replying  
Till one of us two men is dying.

SIMONE

Will my blood with mercy fill you?  
*(baring his breast)*  
You may strike me.

FIESCO

*(haughtily turning away)*

I will not kill you.

SIMONE

Strike me, kill me, and then your anger  
May be buried with me.

FIESCO

Now listen:  
If you wish to sue for peace  
That unhappy little daughter  
Who betokens all of your lust.  
If you promise to release her  
Every comfort will be brought her,  
I'll forgive you if I must.

SIMONE

Ah, I cannot.

FIESCO

And why?

SIMONE

The fates have stolen her away.

FIESCO

But tell me.

SIMONE

There among aliens in seaside meadows  
Grew the small maiden, deep in the  
shadows.  
Far from my keeping, steadily growing,  
While an old woman nursed her,  
unknowing.  
Sailing at night as my voyage ended,  
There on that lonely shore I descended,

Corsi alla casa . . . n'era la porta  
Serrata, muta!

FIESCO

La donna?

SIMONE

Morta!

FIESCO

E la tua figlia?

SIMONE

Misera, trista,  
Tre giorni pianse, tre giorni errò.  
Scomparve poscia, nè fu più vista,  
D'allora indarno cercata io l'ho.

FIESCO

Se il mio desire compier non puoi,  
Pace non poote esser fra noi!  
Addio, Simone!

*(Gli volge le spalle.)*

SIMONE

Coll'amor mio saprò placarti.

FIESCO

*(freddo, senza guardarlo)*

No.

SIMONE

M'odi.

FIESCO

Addio.

*(S'allontana, poi s'arresta in  
disparte ad osservare.)*

SIMONE

Oh, de' Fieschi implacata, orrida razza!  
E tra cotesti rettili nascea  
Quella pura beltà? Vederla io  
voglio . . .  
Coraggio!

*(Va alla porta del palazzo  
e batte tre colpi.)*

Muta è la magion de' Fieschi?  
Dischiuse son le porte!  
Quale mistero! Entriam.

*(Entra nel palazzo.)*

FIESCO

T'inoltra e stringi gelida salma.

SIMONE

*(compare sul balcone)*

Nessuno! Qui sempre  
Silenzio e tenebra!

*(Stacca il lanternino della Immagine  
ed entra.)*

Maria! Maria!

FIESCO

L'ora suonò del tuo castigo.

SIMONE

*( esce dal palazzo, atterrito)*

È sogno!

Si; spaventoso, atroce sogno è il mio!

VOCI *(da lontano)*

Boccanegra!

SIMONE

Quai voci!

VOCI *(più vicine)*

Boccanegra!

SIMONE

Eco d'inferno è questo!

*(Paolo, Pietro, marinai, popolo d'ambo  
i sessi, con faci accese.)*

PAOLO E PIETRO

Doge il popol t'acclama!

SIMONE

Via fantasmi! Via!

PAOLO E PIETRO

Che di' tu?

SIMONE

Paolo! Una tomba!

PAOLO

Un trono!

FIESCO *(tra sè)*

Doge Simon? M'arde l'inferno in petto!

CORO

Viva Simon, del popolo l'eletto!

*(Le campane suonano a stormo.)*

## ATTO PRIMO

### SCENA I

Giardino de' Grimaldi fuori di Genova  
*Alla sinistra il palazzo; di fronte il mare.  
Spunta l'aurora.*

AMELIA *(guardando verso il mare)*

Come in quest'ora bruna  
Sorridon gli astri e il mare!  
Come s'unisce, o luna,

Ran up to find her, her whom I cherished.

The cottage—silent!

FIESCO

The woman?

SIMONE

Perished.

FIESCO

As for your daughter?

SIMONE

No one to guide her,  
Three days she wandered, weeping  
with pain.  
Later she vanished, no one had spied  
her,  
Vainly I've sought her, sought her in  
vain.

FIESCO

If my desire you may not fulfill,  
Nothing between us follows but ill!  
Farewell, Boccanegra!

*(He turns away.)*

SIMONE

With all my heart I shall try to win  
you.

FIESCO

*(coldly, without looking at him)*

No.

SIMONE

Hatred.

FIESCO

Farewell, then.

*(He withdraws, but stands apart to  
watch Simone.)*

SIMONE

Oh those Fieschi, implacable and  
hateful!

And from the vipers they have bred  
What beauty and virtue have come!  
I wish to see her. Have courage.

*(He goes to the gates of the palace and  
knocks three times.)*

Silence in the Fieschi palace?

The portals are unbolted!

What is the answer? I'll try.

*(He enters the palace.)*

FIESCO

Go in and find a corpse that is frozen.

SIMONE

*(appearing on the balcony)*

There's no one!

But silence and black obscurity!

*(Taking the lamp from the shrine, he  
goes inside.)*

Maria! Maria!

FIESCO

This is the hour of retribution.

SIMONE

*(coming out, terrified)*

I'm dreaming! Yes, I'm frightened,  
This is a dreadful nightmare!

VOICES *(in the distance)*

Boccanegra!

SIMONE

Those voices!

VOICES *(coming nearer)*

Boccanegra!

SIMONE

Echoes of hell, I hear you!

*(Paolo and Pietro hurry in with a  
crowd of sailors and townsfolk,  
carrying lighted torches.)*

PAOLO AND PIETRO

You are Doge by acclamation!

SIMONE

Leave me you phantoms, leave me!

PAOLO AND PIETRO

What is this?

SIMONE

Paolo! I have lost her.

PAOLO

You've triumphed.

FIESCO *(aside)*

Simon as Doge? Rage is on fire within  
me!

CHORUS

Viva Simon, elected by the people!  
*(The bells ring.)*

## ACT ONE

### Scene 1

The Grimaldi gardens, near Genoa.  
*The palace at the left; opposite, the  
sea. Day is breaking.*

AMELIA *(watching the sea)*

Lovely, when day is early,  
Starlight the ocean blesses!  
See how the moon, so pearly

All'onda il tuo chiaror!  
 Amante amplesso pare  
 Di due verginei cor!  
 Ma gli astri e la marina  
 Che dicono alla mente  
 Dell'orfana meschina?  
 La notte atra, crudel,  
 Quando la pia morente  
 Sclamò: Ti guardi il ciel.  
 O altero ostel, soggiorno  
 Di stirpe ancor più altera,  
 Il tetto disadorno  
 Non obliai per te!  
 Solo in tua pompa austera  
 Amor sorride a me.  
 S'inalba il ciel, ma l'amoroso canto  
 Non s'ode ancora!  
 Ei mi terge ogni dì, come l'aurora  
 La rugiada de fior, del ciglio il pianto.

GABRIELE (*ben lontana*)

Cielo di stelle orbato,  
 Di fior vedovo prato,  
 È l'alma senza amor.

AMELIA

Ciel! La sua voce! È desso!  
 Ei s'avvicina! Oh gioia!

GABRIELE (*più vicino*)

Se manca il cor che t'ama,  
 Non empiono tua brama  
 Oro, possanza, onor.

AMELIA

Ei vien! L'amor  
 M'avvampa in sen  
 E spezza il fren  
 L'ansante cor!

GABRIELE (*in scena*)

Anima mia!

AMELIA

Perchè sì tardi giungi?

GABRIELE

Perdona, o cara . . . I lunghi indugi  
 miei  
 T'apprestano grandezza.

AMELIA

Pavento . . .

GABRIELE

Che?

AMELIA

L'arcano tuo conobbi . . .  
 A me sepolcro appresti,  
 Il patibolo a te!

GABRIELE

Che pensi?

AMELIA

Io amo  
 Andrea qual padre, il sai;  
 Pur m'atterisce! In cupa  
 Notte non vi mirai  
 Sotto le tette volte errar sovente  
 Torbidi, irrequieti?

GABRIELE

Chi?

AMELIA

Tu, e Andrea,  
 E Lorenzino ed altri . . .

GABRIELE

Ah taci . . . il vento  
 Ai tiranni potria recar tai voci!  
 Parlan le mura . . . un delator s'asconde  
 Ad ogni passo.

AMELIA

Tu tremi?

GABRIELE

I funesti fantasmi scaccia!

AMELIA

Fantasmi dicesti?  
 Vieni a mirar la cerula  
 Marina tremolante;  
 Là Genova torreggia  
 Sul talamo spumante;  
 Là i tuoi nemici imperano,  
 Vincerli indarno speri . . .  
 Ripara i tuoi pensieri  
 Al porto dell'amor.

GABRIELE

Angiol che dall'empireo  
 Piegasti a terra l'ale,  
 E come faro sfolgori  
 Sul tramite mortale,  
 Non ricercar dell'odio  
 I funebri misteri;  
 Ripara i tuoi pensieri  
 Al porto dell'amor

AMELIA

(*fissando a destra*)

Ah!

GABRIELE

Che fia?

Gives radiance to the sea  
Like lovers' fond caresses  
In virgin purity!

But stars and waves are lying  
If they profess a meaning  
To one who was deserted  
At nightfall, cruel and late,  
By her who died when crying:  
May heaven guard your fate!

For you, O noble setting  
Of those whose rank is splendid,  
I shall not be forgetting  
All that I left behind.  
My rapture is not ended,  
For love is smiling, kind.

The sun appears, surely my love is  
sleeping,  
I cannot hear him  
Yet he comes every day. When I feel  
near him  
As the sun dries the dew, he stills my  
weeping.

GABRIELE'S VOICE (*distant*)  
Heaven that never lightens,  
A meadow that never brightens,  
Is one who knows no love.

AMELIA  
God, it is his voice! He's coming!  
He's coming nearer! Oh rapture!

GABRIELE'S VOICE (*nearer*)  
If love alone be lacking  
All pleasures will be slacking:  
Power and gold and fame.

AMELIA  
He comes to rouse my burning breast,  
My heart is blessed,  
I call his name! Ah!

GABRIELE (*entering*)  
My own beloved!

AMELIA  
But why are you so tardy?

GABRIELE  
Forgive my dearest. The long delays  
that kept me  
May fill your life with grandeur.

AMELIA  
I fear it . . .

GABRIELE  
What?

AMELIA  
For I have learned your secret . . .  
For me a tomb is waiting,  
But the gallows for you.

GABRIELE  
You think so?

AMELIA  
I love him like a father—Andrea—  
And yet I fear him, for in the night I've  
seen them wander  
Beneath the gloomy portals, oh, so  
often,  
Restlessly apathetic.

GABRIELE  
Who?

AMELIA  
You, and Andrea, and Lorenzin and  
others . . .

GABRIELE  
Be careful . . . the wind can repeat what  
we whisper  
To the tyrants. Even the walls speak.  
A spy may be in hiding at every  
footstep.

AMELIA  
You tremble?

GABRIELE  
Drive away all these morbid fancies!

AMELIA  
They're fancies, you tell me?  
Look at the waves of azure hue,  
Tremulous like the ocean;  
Genoa seems to tower  
Above their gentle motion.  
There rule your deadly enemies,  
Vainly you hope to quell them . . .  
Thoughts such as these—come, dispel  
them  
And talk to me of love.

GABRIELE  
Angel, flying from heavenly heights  
With folded wings to bless me,  
How can you blaze my earthly trail,  
With gentleness caress me?  
Do not seek out to know their ways,  
Out of your mind expel them  
Thoughts such as these, dispel them,  
And talk to me of love.

AMELIA (*staring at the right*)  
Ah!

GABRIELE  
What is it?

AMELIA  
Vedi là quell'uom? Qual ombra  
Ogni di appar.

GABRIELE  
Forse un rival?

ANCELLA (*entra*)  
Del Doge un messaggier di te chiede.

AMELIA  
S'appressi.  
(*L'Ancella parte.*)

GABRIELE (*va per uscire*)  
Chi sia veder vogl'io . . .

AMELIA (*fermandolo*)  
T'arresta.

PIETRO  
(*inchinandosi ad Amelia*)  
Il Doge dalle caccie tornando di  
Savona  
Questa magion visitar brama.

AMELIA  
Il puote.  
(*Pietro parte.*)

GABRIELE  
Il Doge qui?

AMELIA  
Mia destra a chieder viene.

GABRIELE  
Per chi?

AMELIA  
Pel favorito suo. D'Andrea  
Vola in cerca . . . Affrettati . . . va . . .  
prepara  
Il rito nuzial . . . mi guida all'ara.

AMELIA E GABRIELE  
Sì, sì dell'ara il giubilo  
Contrasti il fato avverso,  
E tutto l'universo  
Io sfiderò con te.  
Innamorato anelito  
È del destin più forte;  
Amanti oltre la morte  
Sempre vivrai con me.  
(*Amelia entra in palazzo. Gabriele va  
per uscire dalla destra e incontra  
Andrea.*)

GABRIELE (*da sè*)  
Propizio ci giunge!

ANDREA  
Tu sì mattutino qui?

GABRIELE  
A dirti . . .

ANDREA  
Ch' ami Amelia.

GABRIELE  
Tu che lei vegli con paterna cura  
A nostre nozze assenti?

ANDREA  
Alto mistero sulla vergine incombe.

GABRIELE  
E qual?

ANDREA  
Se parlo, forse tu più non l'amerai.

GABRIELE  
Non teme ombra d'arcani l'amor mio!  
T'ascolto!

ANDREA  
Amelia tua d'umile stirpe nacque.

GABRIELE  
La figlia dei Grimaldi?

ANDREA  
No . . . la figlia  
Dei Grimaldi morì tra consacrate  
Vergini in Pisa. Un'orfana raccolta  
Nel chiostro il dì che fu d'Amelia  
estremo  
Ereditò sua cella.

GABRIELE  
Ma come dei Grimaldi  
Anco il nome prendea?

ANDREA  
De' fuorusciti  
Persegua le ricchezze il nuovo Doge;  
E la mentita Amelia alla rapace  
Man sottrarle potea.

GABRIELE  
L'orfana adoro.

ANDREA  
Di lei sei degno!

GABRIELE  
A me fia dunque unita?

AMELIA  
Do you see that man? That shadow  
Comes near each day.

GABRIELE  
A rival love?

SERVANT (*entering*)  
The Doge has sent a man with a  
message.

AMELIA  
Go call him.  
(*The servant leaves.*)

GABRIELE (*turning to go out*)  
I'll see who is waiting.

AMELIA (*holding him back*)  
One moment!

PIETRO  
(*entering and bowing to Amelia*)  
Our master is returning from hunting  
at Savona  
And he desires to make a visit.

AMELIA  
He's welcome.  
(*Pietro departs.*)

GABRIELE  
The Doge is here?

AMELIA  
He comes with a proposal.

GABRIELE  
For whom?

AMELIA  
For his beloved courtier.  
Go hasten to find Andrea . . . and lose  
no time . . .  
Go, our wedding must be prepared, we  
must be married.

AMELIA AND GABRIELE  
Ah yes, our plighted happiness  
Will shield us from disaster,  
No other earthly master  
I shall accept but you.  
Love that is true and passionate  
Than any fate is stronger,  
And life shall last no longer  
Than I shall live for you.  
(*Amelia enters the palace. Gabriele,  
about to depart, meets Andrea.*)

GABRIELE (*to himself*)  
A timely visit!

ANDREA  
You! How early you are here!

GABRIELE  
To tell you—

ANDREA  
Yes, Amelia.

GABRIELE  
You who have loved her with a father's  
interest,  
You will permit our marriage?

ANDREA  
There is a secret hanging over Amelia.

GABRIELE  
But what?

ANDREA  
Did you know, perhaps your love would  
quickly fade?

GABRIELE  
A love like mine does not shrink from  
any secrets.  
So tell me.

ANDREA  
Amelia's parentage was very humble.

GABRIELE  
The child of the Grimaldis?

ANDREA  
The child of the Grimaldis, she per-  
ished in a convent  
With the nuns, in Pisa. A foundling  
child was rescued  
The very same day that poor Amelia  
left us  
And took the empty lodging.

GABRIELE  
But how did the Grimaldis  
Give their name to the orphan?

ANDREA  
All of the riches any exile possessed  
were confiscated.  
Amelia, as an heiress, alone could stop  
the Doge from taking their gold.

GABRIELE  
I love the orphan.

ANDREA  
And you are worthy!

GABRIELE  
Then you will bless our marriage?

ANDREA  
In terra e in ciel!

GABRIELE  
Ah! tu mi dai la vita!

ANDREA  
Vieni a me, ti benedico  
Nella pace di quest'ora,  
Lieto vivi e fido adora  
L'angiol tuo, la patria, il ciel!

GABRIELE  
Eco pia del tempo antico.  
La tua voce è un casto incanto.  
Serberà ricordo santo  
Di quest' ora il cor fedel.

(*squilli di trombe*)  
Ie Doge vien. Partiam. Ch'ei non ti  
scorga.

ANDREA  
Ah! presto il dì della vendetta sorga!  
(*Partono. Doge, Paolo e seguito.*)

DOGE  
Paolo!

PAOLO  
Signor!

DOGE  
Ci spronano gli eventi,  
Di qua partir convien.

PAOLO  
Quando?

DOGE  
Allo squillo dell'ora.

PAOLO (*guardando Amelia*)  
Oh qual beltà!  
(*Parte col séguito.*)

DOGE  
Favella il Doge ad Amelia Grimaldi?

AMELIA  
Così nomata io sono.

DOGE  
E gli esuli fratelli tuoi non punge  
Desio di patria?

AMELIA  
Possente . . . ma . . .

DOGE  
Intendo.  
A me inchinarsi sdegnano i  
Grimaldi . . .  
Così risponde a tanto orgoglio il  
Doge . . .

(*Le porge un foglio.*)

AMELIA  
Che veggio! Il lor perdono?

DOGE  
E denno a te della clemenza il dono.  
Dinne, perchè in quest'eremo  
Tanta beltà chiudesti?  
Del mondo mai le fulgide  
Lusinghe non piangesti?  
Il tuo rossor mel dice . . .

AMELIA  
T'inganni! Io son felice.

DOGE  
Agli anni tuoi l'amore.

AMELIA  
Ah mi leggesti in core!  
Amo uno spirto angelico  
Che ardente mi riamà . . .  
Ma di me acceso, un perfido,  
L'ôr de' Grimaldi brama.

DOGE  
Paolo!

AMELIA  
Quel vil nomasti! E poichè tanta  
Pietà ti muove dei destini miei,  
Vo' svelarti il segreto che mi ammanta.  
Non sono una Grimaldi!

DOGE  
Oh ciel! Chi sei?

AMELIA  
Orfanella il tetto umile  
M'accogliea d'una meschina,  
Dove presso alla marina  
Sorge Pisa.

DOGE  
In Pisa tu?

AMELIA  
Grave d'anni quella pia  
Era solo a me sostegno;  
Io provai del ciel lo sdegno,  
Involata ella mi fu.  
Colla tremola sua mano  
Pinta effigie mi porgea.  
Le sembianze esser dicea

ANDREA  
On earth and in heaven!

GABRIELE  
You give me courage!

ANDREA  
Come to me that I may bless you  
In the peace that fills this hour.  
May your life be rich in power  
Which your love and your country  
impart.

GABRIELE  
Ancient echoes seem to possess you  
While your dear voice sounds a holy  
spell.  
Saintly memories, I tell you,  
Will inspire this faithful heart.

(*flourish of trumpets*)  
Here is the Doge. Away! He must not  
find you.

ANDREA  
Ah! Your avenger soon will stand be-  
hind you.

(*They leave.*)

DOGE  
(*entering, with Paolo and hunting  
party*)  
Paolo.

PAOLO  
My lord!

DOGE  
A crisis has arisen which causes us to  
leave.

PAOLO  
When, sir?

DOGE  
When the hour has sounded.

PAOLO (*noticing Amelia*)  
Ah, she is fair!  
(*He leaves, following the Doge's  
retinue.*)

DOGE  
Am I addressing Amelia Grimaldi?

AMELIA  
That is the name they call me.

DOGE  
Is it not true your exiled brothers  
Desire to behold their country?

AMELIA  
They do, sir, but . . .

DOGE  
I know it . . .  
They will not yield to me, these haughty  
brothers,  
And thus to meet their pride as Doge,  
I answer . . .

(*He hands her a paper.*)

AMELIA (*reading the paper*)  
A pardon? You will forgive them?

DOGE  
It is to you they owe my gift of mercy.  
Tell me, within this lonely spot,  
Why is your beauty hidden?  
Do you not mourn the worldly joys,  
The lights that are forbidden?  
I see a blush awaken . . .

AMELIA  
I'm happy. You are mistaken.

DOGE  
But love—all maidens need it.

AMELIA  
Ah, my heart, you seem to read it!  
I love a good devoted man  
Whose heart is warm and sunny . . .  
But there's a villain at my door  
Yearns for Grimaldi money.

DOGE  
Paolo!

AMELIA  
You've named the rascal.  
Since you are seeing  
So kindly to my life and future welfare,  
I will tell you the secret of my being.  
I am not a Grimaldi.

DOGE  
My God! Then who?

AMELIA  
As an orphan I lived in poverty  
Under the care of a kindly old peasant.  
It was close to the shore so pleasant,  
Near to Pisa.

DOGE  
In Pisa—you?

AMELIA  
She was old in years and feeble,  
But she fed me, gathered the fuel;  
Yet the heavens were very cruel,  
Ah! She was taken, she left me too.  
She bestowed on me a picture  
With her cold and trembling fingers,  
How the likeness quietly lingers

Della madre ignota a me.  
Mi baciò, mi benedisse,  
Levò al ciel, pregando, i rai . . .  
Quante volte la chiamai,  
L'eco sol risposta die'.

DOGE (*da sè*)

Se la speme, o ciel clemente,  
Ch'or sorride all'alma mia,  
Fosse sogno! . . . estinto io sia  
Della larva al disparir!

AMELIA

Come tetro a me dolente  
S'appressava l'avvenir!

DOGE

Dinne . . . alcun là non vedesti?

AMELIA

Uom di mar noi visitava . . .

DOGE

E Giovanna si nomava  
Lci che i fati a te rapîr?

AMELIA

Sì.

DOGE

E l'effigie non somiglia questa?  
(*Trae dal seno un ritratto, lo porge  
ad Amelia, che fa altrettanto.*)

AMELIA

Uguali son!

DOGE

Maria!

AMELIA

Il nome mio!

DOGE

Sei mia figlia.

AMELIA

Io?

DOGE

M'abbraccia, o figlia mia.

AMELIA

Padre!  
Stringi al sen Maria che t'ama.

DOGE

Figlia, figlia, il cor ti chiama.  
Figlia! a tal nome io palpito  
Qual se m'aprisse i cieli.  
Un mondo d'ineffabili  
Letizie a me riveli;

Un paradiso il tenero  
Padre ti schiuderà.  
Di mia corona il raggio  
La gloria tua sarà.

AMELIA

Padre! vedrai la vigile  
Figlia a te sempre accanto;  
Nell'ora melanconica  
Asciugherò il tuo pianto.  
Avrem gioie romite  
Soltanto note al ciel,  
Io la colomba mite  
Sarò del regio ostel.

(*Amelia, accompagnata dal padre fino  
alla soglia, entra nel palazzo.*)

PAOLO (*entra rapidamente*)

Che rispose?

DOGE

Rinunzia ogni speranza.

PAOLO

Doge, nol posso!

DOGE

Il voglio.

(*Entra nelle stanze d'Amelia.*)

PAOLO

Il vuoi! scordasti che mi devi il soglio?

PIETRO

Che disse?

PAOLO

A me negolla.

PIETRO

Che pensi tu?

PAOLO

Rapirla.

PIETRO

Come?

PAOLO

Sul lido a sera  
La troverai solinga . . .  
Sì tragga al mio naviglio;  
Di Lorenzin si rechi alla magion.

PIETRO

S'ei nega?

PAOLO

Digli che so sue trame,  
E presterammi aita . . .  
Tu gran mercede avrai.

To the mother I knew was dead.  
Then she kissed me and she blessed me,  
Praying heaven not to take her,  
Many times I tried to wake her,  
Only echoes came instead.

DOGE (*to himself*)

Ah! If the hope, O merciful Heaven,  
Smiling with joy on all that I cherish,  
Prove a dream, ah, then let me perish,  
As the phantom melts away.

AMELIA

Ah, how gloomily and sadly loomed the  
future every day!

DOGE

Tell me, you saw no human being?

AMELIA

Once a sailor came to see us.

DOGE

Was the woman's name Giovanna who  
was taken from your side?

AMELIA

Yes.

DOGE

(*taking a picture from his bosom and  
showing it to Amelia*)

And the miniature, was it like this one?

AMELIA

(*comparing it to her picture*)

The very same!

DOGE

Maria!

AMELIA

Yes, that is my name!

DOGE

You're my daughter.

AMELIA

I am?

DOGE

Embrace me, dearest daughter.

AMELIA

Father! Ah, hold me close, Maria calls  
you.

DOGE

Ah, mine, no matter what befalls you!  
Daughter! The very name I say  
Opens the heavens to me,  
Opens a world of utter bliss  
Shining with glory through me.

Gently we'll go to paradise  
And open wide the doors.  
Crowning my throne with glory,  
This glory will be yours.

AMELIA

Father, a guardian at your side  
I shall remain unsleeping;  
And if the times are sorrowful  
I will allay your weeping.  
Alone we'll taste of pleasure,  
Observed by heav'n above.  
To guard the royal treasure  
I'll be your gentle dove.  
(*They embrace and the Doge leads her  
to the palace.*)

PAOLO (*entering rapidly*)

Will she have me?

DOGE

You cannot hope to win her.

PAOLO

My Lord, I will hope.

DOGE

My orders.

(*follows Amelia to her rooms*)

PAOLO

Your wish! Your will!  
Have you forgotten what you owe me?

PIETRO

The verdict?

PAOLO

He will not yield her.

PIETRO

What is your plan?

PAOLO

To steal her.

PIETRO

Steal her?

PAOLO

She walks at evening alone beside the  
ocean.

You'll take her to my vessel  
And hurry to the palace of Lorenzin.

PIETRO

He'll take us?

PAOLO

You'll tell him I know, know all his  
plots,  
He won't be long deciding.  
You, you'll have a rich reward.

PIETRO  
Ella sarà rapita.  
(*Escono.*)

## SCENA 2

Sala del Consiglio nel Palazzo degli Abati.

(*Il Doge seduto sul seggio ducale; da un lato, dodici Consiglieri nobili; dall'altro lato, dodici Cinsiglieri popolari. Seduti a parte, quattro Consoli del Mare e i Connestabili. Paolo e Pietro stanno sugli ultimi seggi dei popolari. Un Araldo.*)

DOGE  
Messeri, il re di Tartaria vi porge Pegni di pace e ricchi doni e annunzia Schiuso l'Eusin alle liguri prore. Acconsentite?

TUTTI  
Sì.

DOGE  
Ma d'altro voto Più generoso io vi richiedo.

ALCUNI  
Parla.

DOGE  
La stessa voce che tuonò su Rienzi, Vaticinio di gloria e poi di morte, Or su Genova tuona.  
(*mostrando uno scritto*)  
Ecco un messaggio del romito di Sorga, ei per Venezia  
Supplica pace . . .

PAOLO (*interrompendolo*)  
Attenda alle sue rime  
Il cantor della bionda Avignonese.

TUTTI (*ferocemente*)  
Guerra a Venezia!

DOGE  
E con quest'urlo atroce  
Fra due liti d'Italia erge Caino  
La sua clava cruenta! Adria e Liguria  
Hanno patria comune.

TUTTI  
È nostra patria Genova.  
(*tumulto lontano*)

PIETRO  
Qual clamor!  
ALCUNI  
D'onde tai grida?

PAOLO  
(*balzando al verone*)  
Dalla piazza dei Fieschi.

TUTTI (*alzandosi*)  
Una sommossa!

PAOLO  
(*sempre alla finestra, lo ha raggiunto Pietro*)  
Ecco una turba di fuggenti.

DOGE  
Ascolta.  
(*Il tumulto si fa più forte.*)

PAOLO  
Si sperdon le parole.  
VOCE INTERNE  
Morte! Morte!

PAOLO (*a Pietro*)  
È lui?

DOGE  
Chi?

PIETRO  
Guarda!

DOGE (*guardando*)  
Ciel! Gabriele Adorno  
Dalla plebe inseguito! Accanto ad esso  
Combatte un Guelfo. A me un araldo.

PIETRO (*sommesso*)  
Paolo, fuggi o sei còlto.

DOGE  
(*guardando Paolo che s'avvia*)  
Consoli del mare,  
Custodite le soglie! Olà, chi fugge  
È un traditor.

(*Paolo confuso s'arresta.*)

VOCI (*in piazza*)  
Morte ai patrizi!

CONSIGLIERI NOBILI  
(*sguainando le spade*)  
All'armi!

PIETRO

That girl, I'll keep her well in hiding.  
(*They depart.*)

Scene 2

The council chamber

(*The Doge is seated on the ducal throne; on one side are twelve patrician councillors, on the other twelve commoners. Seated apart are four naval consuls and constables. Paolo and Pietro stand in the last ranks of the commoners. A herald is in attendance.*)

DOGE

Your lordships, from Tartary the king  
has offered tokens of peace and rich  
donations,  
Declares the Eusinian sea open now to  
our shipping.  
Do you approve it?

ALL

Yes.

DOGE

But now I ask much more in the vote  
that you will give me.

ALL

Tell us!

DOGE

The very voice that thundered on  
Rienzi with a forecast of glory and  
then destruction, thunders now on  
our city.

(*showing a document*)

Here is a message from the hermit of  
Sorga; he asks of us a treaty with  
Venice.

PAOLO (*interrupting*)

Oh give him as an answer a poem to  
some Avignon beauty!

ALL (*fiercely*)

War now with Venice!

DOGE

And through this wicked shouting  
With the quarrels of brothers, Cain is  
arising  
And his cudgel is bloody.  
Venice and Genoa are brotherly  
countries.

ALL

For us one country—Genoa!  
(*distant tumult*)

PIETRO

What a noise!  
(*runs to the balcony*)

COUNCILLORS

Where does it come from?

PAOLO

From the square of the Fieschi.

COUNCILLORS (*rising*)

It is a riot!

PAOLO (*with Pietro on the balcony*)

Listen . . . I can hear the rabble coming.

DOGE

I hear them.  
(*The tumult grows louder.*)

PAOLO (*listening*)

But what is it they're saying?

VOICES

Kill him! Kill him!

PAOLO (*to Pietro*)

It's he!

DOGE

Who?

PIETRO

See him!

DOGE (*watching*)Heavens! It's Gabriel Adorno, chased  
by the rabble!And there's a Guelph who is close  
beside him.

Now send me a herald.

PIETRO (*excitedly*)

Paolo, flee or be taken.

DOGE (*watching the fleeing Paolo*)Consuls of the navy, you will guard  
every portal!

Stop there! A traitor tries to flee.

(*Paolo, confused, stops short.*)VOICES (*from the square*)

Kill all the nobles!

COUNCILLORS

(*unsheathing their swords*)

We'll fight them!

VOCI (*in piazza*)  
Viva il popolo!

CONSIGLIERI POPOLARI  
(*sguainando le spade*)

Evviva!

DOGE  
E che? Voi pure?  
Voi, qui, vi provocate?

VOCI (*in piazza*)  
Morte al Doge!

DOGE  
(*con fierezza*)  
Morte al Doge? Sta ben.  
(*Sarà giunto l'araldo.*)  
Tu, araldo, schiudi  
Le porte del palagio e annuncia al  
volgo  
Gentileseo e plebeo ch'io non lo temo,  
Che le minacci udii, che qui li  
attendo . . .

(*ai Consiglieri che ubbidiscono*)  
Nelle guaine i brandi!

VOCI (*in piazza*)  
Armi! Saccheggio!  
Fuoco alle case!

ALTRE VOCI  
Ai trabocchi!

ALTRE  
Alla gogna!

DOGE  
Squilla la tromba dell'araldo . . .ei  
parla!  
Tutto è silenzio.

VOCI  
Evviva il Doge!

DOGE  
Ecco le plebi!  
(*Irrompe la folla dei popolani, i Con-  
siglieri, molte donne, alcuni fanciulli.  
I Consiglieri nobili sempre divisi dai  
popolani. Adorno e Fiesco afferrati  
dal popolo.*)

POPOLO  
Vendetta! Vendetta!  
Spargasi il sangue del fero uccisor!

DOGE (*ironicamente*)  
Questa è dunque del popolo la voce?  
Da lungi tuono d'uragan, da presso  
Grido di donne e di fanciulli. Adorno,  
Perchè impugni l'acciar?

GABRIELE  
Ho trucidato Lorenzino.

POPOLO  
Assassin!

GABRIELE  
Ei la Grimaldi aveca rapita.

DOGE (*tra sè*)  
Orror!

POPOLO  
Menti!

GABRIELE  
Quel vile  
Pria di morir disse che un uom possente  
Al crimine l'ha spinto.

PIETRO (*a Paolo*)  
Ah! sei scoperto!

DOGE (*con agitazione*)  
E il nome suo?

GABRIELE  
(*fissando il Doge con  
tremenda ironia*)  
T'acqueta! Il reo si spense  
Pria di svelarlo.

DOGE  
Che vuoi dir?

GABRIELE  
(*terribilmente*)  
Pel cielo!  
Uom possente sei tu!

DOGE (*a Gabriele*)  
Ribaldo!

GABRIELE  
(*al Doge slanciandosi*)  
Audace rapitor di fanciulle!

ALCUNI  
Si disarmi!

GABRIELE  
Empio corsaro incoronato! Muori!  
(*Divincolandosi corre per ferire il  
Doge.*)

VOICES (*from the square*)

Hail the people's cause!

PLEBEIAN COUNCILLORS  
(*unsheathing their swords*)

The people!

DOGE

What now? You also?

You here, you would arouse them!

VOICES (*from the square*)

Death to Simon!

DOGE (*proudly*)

Death to Simon? Amen.

(*to the herald who has entered*)

You, herald, open the gates through all  
the palace

And tell both gentlemen and people to  
come,

I do not fear them. All of their threats  
I've heard.

Here I await them. Now you may  
sheathe your weapons.

(*The councillors obey.*)

VOICES (*from the square*)

Murder and pillage! Burn all the  
houses!

OTHER VOICES

It's an ambush!

OTHERS

To the scaffold!

DOGE

Listen! The trumpet of the herald . . .  
The message. Now all is silence.

VOICES

We hail him! Our Doge is Simon!

DOGE

Here come the people!

(*A crowd of townsmen, women, children and councillors bursts into the chamber. The patrician councillors keep their distance from the commoners. Adorno and Fiesco are brought in by the mob.*)

MOB

We're crying for vengeance, avenging a  
murder!

Blood must be avenging the crime on  
his head!

DOGE (*ironically*)

Can it be that I hear the people cry-  
ing?

A tempest roaring from afar, and near  
us

Crying of women and little children.

Adorno, are you grasping your sword?

GABRIELE

I've killed the wretched Lorenzino.

MOB

He is killed.

GABRIELE

Because he carried off Amelia.

DOGE (*to himself*)

Oh, no!

MOB

Liar!

GABRIELE

He told me before he died someone  
of mighty power

Had driven him to action.

PIETRO (*to Paolo*)

Ah! You're discovered.

DOGE (*in agitation*)

What was his name?

GABRIELE

(*staring at the Doge with great irony*)

Don't worry! The wretch was silent.  
He did not tell me.

DOGE

And you mean?

GABRIELE (*with terrifying menace*)

By heaven, you're the man who's  
in power!

DOGE (*to Gabriele*)

You scoundrel!

GABRIELE (*rushing at the Doge*)

Abductor of young girls, you are  
shameless!

COUNCILLORS

We'll disarm him.

GABRIELE

(*tearing himself free and rushing  
to strike the Doge*)

Pirate, who rules our land with evil,  
Die now!

AMELIA  
*(interponendosi fra i due assalitori e il Doge)*  
 Ferisci?

DOGE, FIESCO, GABRIELE  
 Amelia!

TUTTI  
 Amelia!

AMELIA  
 O Doge! Ah! Salva.  
 Salva l'Adorno tu.

DOGE  
*(alle guardie che si sono impossessate di Gabriele per disarmarlo)*  
 Nessun l'offenda.  
 Cade l'orgoglio e al suon del suo dolore  
 Tutta l'anima mia parla d'amore . . .  
 Amelia, di' come fosti rapita  
 E come al periglio potesti scampar.

AMELIA  
 Nell'ora soave che all'estasi invita  
 Soletta men givo sul lido del mar.  
 Mi cingon tre sgherri, m'accoglie un  
 naviglio.  
 Soffocati non valsero i gridi . . .  
 Io svenni e al novello dischiuder del  
 ciglio  
 Lorenzo in sue stanze presente mi  
 vidi . . .

TUTTI  
 Lorenzo!

AMELIA  
 Mi vidi prigion dell'infame!  
 Io ben di quell'alma sapea la viltà.  
 Al Doge gli dissi, fien note tue trame,  
 Se a me sull'istante non dai libertà.  
 Confuso di tema, mi schiuse le  
 porte . . .  
 Salvarmi l'audace minaccia potea.

TUTTI  
 Ei ben meritava, quell'empio, la morte.

AMELIA  
 V'è un più nefando che illeso ancor sta.

TUTTI  
 Chi dunque?

AMELIA  
*(fissando Paolo che sta dietro un gruppo di persone)*  
 Ei m'ascolta . . . discerno le smorte  
 Sue labbra.

DOGE E GABRIELE  
 Chi dunque?

POPOLANI (*minaccioso*)  
 Un patrizio.

NOBILI (*minaccioso*)  
 Un plebeo.

POPOLANI (*ai Nobili*)  
 Abbasso le spade!

AMELIA  
 Terribili gridi!  
 NOBILI (*ai Popolani*)  
 Abbasso le scuri!

AMELIA  
 Pietà!  
 DOGE (*possentemente*)

Fratricidi!  
 Plebe! Patrizi! Popolo  
 Dalla feroce storia!  
 Erede sol dell'odio  
 Dei Spinola, dei Doria,  
 Mentre v'invita estatico  
 Il regno ampio dei mari,  
 Voi nei fraterni lari  
 Vi lacerate il cor.  
 Piango su voi, sul placido  
 Raggio del vostro clivo,  
 Là dove invan germoglia  
 Il ramo dell'ulivo.  
 Piango sulla mendace  
 Festa dei vostri fior,  
 E vo gridano: pace!  
 E vo gridano: amor!

AMELIA (*a Fiesco*)  
 Pace! lo sdegno immenso  
 Nascondi per pietà!  
 Pace! t'ispiri un senso  
 Di patria carità.

PIETRO (*a Paolo*)  
 Tutto fallì, la fuga  
 Sia tua salvezza almen!

AMELIA

(*entering and throwing herself between the Doge and his assailant*)

Strike me, then!

GABRIELE, DOGE AND FIESCO

Amelia!

COUNCILLORS AND PEOPLE

Amelia!

AMELIA

O Simon! Ah, save him . . . Let my Adorno live!

DOGE

(*to the guards who have arrested Gabriele to disarm him*)

Let no one hurt him!  
Pride is forgotten; I see the tear-drops glisten  
As she speaks of her love and I must listen . . .  
Amelia, tell us how you were abducted  
And how you escaped from the arms of the man.

AMELIA

At evening near sunset, its beauty was soothing,  
I walked by myself at the edge of the sea.

Three men fell upon me, and hastily turning

To a vessel, they stifled my crying.  
I fainted—when I opened my eyes they were burning.

Lorenzo was standing and eagerly eyeing . . .

ALL

Lorenzo!

AMELIA

His prisoner there. His prisoner, shame to behold it!

How well did I know all that cowardly heart.

This outrage, I told him,

The Doge will be told it

If now at this instant these doors do not part.

He opened the portals; anxieties fill him,

And thus my defiance was able to save me.

ALL

Indeed it was proper that someone should kill him.

AMELIA

But there is another, another more wicked, who still is at large.

ALL

Who is he?

AMELIA

(*staring at Paolo in the background*)

He can hear me. His lips have already turned pallid.

DOGE AND GABRIELE

Who is he?

COMMONERS (*threateningly*)

A patrician.

NOBLES (*equally defiant*)

A plebeian.

COMMONERS (*to the nobles*)

Then down with your daggers!

AMELIA

What horrible clamor!

NOBLES (*to the commoners*)

Then down with your axes!

AMELIA

Oh help!

DOGE (*powerfully*)

Kill your brothers!

Townfolk! Patricians!

All of you, sons of a fierce tradition,  
And heirs of Dorian hatred for Spinola's ambition,

While all about, enchanting you,  
Your wide realm is the ocean.

Gone is your fine emotion

And brothers wish to fight.

I weep for you, I weep to see the hillsides in bright illusion,

There where in vain the olive trees grow in rich profusion.

I weep—even the flowers lie unless the spirit move.

Yes, it is peace I ask for, and I appeal for love.

AMELIA (*to Fiesco*)

Quiet your mighty anger,

I beg you to be still.

Quiet! And hush your clangor

For Genoa's goodwill.

PIETRO (*to Paolo*)

Now flight alone can answer

Your need, for hope is gone.

PAOLO (*a Pietro*)  
No, l'angue che mi fruga  
È gonfio di velen!

GABRIELE (*da sè*)  
Amelia è salva, e m'ama!  
Sia ringraziato il ciel!  
Disdegna ogni altra brama  
L'animo mio fedel!

FIESCO (*tra sè*)  
O patria! a qual mi serba  
Vergogna il mio sperar!  
Sta la città superba  
Nel pugno d'un corsar!

CORO  
(*fissando il Doge*)  
Il suo commosso accento  
Sa l'ira in noi calmar;  
Vol di soave vento  
Che rasserena il mar!

GABRIELE  
(*offendo la spada al Doge*)  
Ecco la spada.

DOGE  
Questa notte prigionie sarai, finchè la  
trama  
Tutta si scopra. No, l'altera lama  
Serba, non voglio che la tua parola.

GABRIELE  
E sia!

DOGE  
(*con forza terribile*)  
Paolo!

PAOLO  
(*sbucando dalla folla allibito*)  
Mio duce!

DOGE  
(*con tremenda maestà e con violenza  
sempre più formidabile*)  
In te risiede  
L'austero dritto popolar. E accolto  
L'onore cittadin nella tua fede:  
Bramo l'ausilio tuo . . . V'è in queste  
mura  
Un vil che m'ode, e impallidisce in  
volto;  
Già la mia man l' afferra per le  
chiome.  
Io so il suo nome . . .  
È nella sua paura.  
Tu al cospetto del ciel e al mio cospetto  
Sei testimon. Sul manigoldo impuro

Piombi il tuon del mio detto.  
*Sia maledetto!*

(*con immensa forza*)  
E tu ripeti il giuro.

PAOLO  
(*atterrito e tremante*)  
*Sia maledetto!*  
(*da sè*)

Orror!  
TUTTI  
*Sia maledetto!*

## ATTO SECONDO

Stanza del Doge  
nel Palazzo Ducale in Genova

*Porte laterali. Da un poggiolo si vede  
la città. Un tavolo; un'anfora e una  
tazza. Annotta.*

PAOLO  
(*a Pietro traendolo verso  
il poggiolo*)

Quei due vedesti?

PIETRO  
Sì.

PAOLO  
Li traggi tosto  
Dal carcer loro per l'andito ascoso,  
Che questa chiave schiuderà.

PIETRO  
T'intesi.  
(*Esce.*)

PAOLO  
Me stesso ho maledetto!  
E l'anátema  
M'insegue ancor . . . e l'aura ancor ne  
trema!  
Vilipeso . . . reietto  
Dal Senato, da Genova, qui vibro  
L'ultimo stral pria di fuggir; qui libro  
La sorte tua, Doge, in quest'ansia  
estrema.  
Tu, che m'offendi e che mi devi il  
trono,  
Qui t'abbandono  
Al tuo destino  
In questa ora fatale.

(*Estrae un'ampolla, ne vuota  
il contenuto nella tazza.*)  
Qui ti stillo una lenta, atra agonia . . .

PAOLO (*to Pietro*)

A serpent like a cancer  
Drips poison flesh and bone.

GABRIELE

Amelia's safe, she loves me,  
To heav'n I'll offer praise,  
No other longing moves me,  
With her I'll end my days.

FIESCO

What bitter shame, my city,  
Without a hope, it's standing.  
Proud was its name; oh pity  
It fell to pirate hands.

CHORUS (*addressing the Doge*)

He calms us as he pleases,  
How moving is his plea,  
A breath of gentle breezes  
To still the restless sea.

GABRIELE

(*offering his sword to the Doge*)

Here is my weapon.

DOGE

For the night you remain in our hands  
Until the plot is fully uncovered.  
No, take back the sword you offer,  
I only ask your word of honor.

GABRIELE

I swear.

DOGE (*with terrific force*)

Paolo!

PAOLO

(*emerging in confusion  
from the crowd*)

My master!

DOGE

(*majestically and with  
growing violence*)

In you are vested the people's  
honorable rights,  
The honor of the citizens resides in  
your credit;  
I need your loyal aid.  
Within this chamber there stands a  
villain,  
With pallid face he listens,  
I feel my hand upon his head already.  
I know his title . . . He can be called  
a coward . . .  
You in the presence of God and in my  
presence, hear what I say.

Heavy upon this scoundrel falls a  
mighty affliction:  
May he be cursed!

(*with terrific force*)

Repeat the malediction!

(*with a sinister look toward Paolo*)

PAOLO (*trembling and terrified*)

May he be cursed!

(*to himself*)

Oh horror! Oh woe!

ALL

May he be cursed!

## ACT TWO

The Doge's apartment in the ducal  
palace in Genoa.

*Doors at the sides. The city is seen be-  
yond a balcony. A decanter and wine  
bowl stand on a table. It is night.*

PAOLO

(*drawing Pietro toward the balcony*)

You saw those two men?

PIETRO

Yes.

PAOLO

Release them quickly from prison,  
Take them by that secret passage  
Which you may open by this key.

PIETRO

I know it.

(*He goes out.*)

PAOLO

That curse was unexpected!  
The malediction hangs on me still.  
The air itself is shaken!  
I am hated, rejected  
By the Senate, by Genoa, as vermin.  
Before my flight there is this to do:  
determine  
The Doge's fate forever,  
For he must be broken.  
You, who have angered me, although  
I crowned you  
Here I shall wound you  
And fate shall lead you to this hour  
of your ruin.  
(*He empties a flask which he has  
brought into the wine bowl.*)  
Here, to kill you I pour a deadly  
poison,

Là t'armo un assassino.  
 Scelga morte sua via  
 Fra il toscano ed il pugnale.  
*(Fiesco e Gabriele condotti da Pietro,  
 che si ritira.)*

FIESCO

Prigioniero in qual loco m'adduci?

PAOLO

Nelle stanze del Doge, e favella  
 A te Paolo.

FIESCO

I tuoi sguardi son truci.

PAOLO

Io so l'odio che celasi in te.  
 Tu m'ascolta.

FIESCO

Che brami?

PAOLO

Al cimento  
 Preparasti de' Guelfi la schiera?

FIESCO

Sì.

PAOLO

Ma vano fia tanto ardimento!  
 Questo Doge, abborrito da me  
 Quanto voi l'abborrite, v'appresta  
 Nuovo scempio . . .

FIESCO

Mi tendi un agguato.

PAOLO

Un agguato? Di Fiesco la testa  
 Il tiranno segnata non ha?  
 Io t'insegno vittoria.

FIESCO

A qual patto?

PAOLO

Trucidarlo qui, mentre egli dorme.

FIESCO

Osi a Fiesco proporre un misfatto?

PAOLO

Tu rifiuti?

FIESCO

Sì.

PAOLO

Al tuo carcer ten va.  
*(Fiesco parte; Gabriele fa per seguirlo,  
 ma è arrestato da Paolo.)*

PAOLO

Udisti?

GABRIELE

Vil disegno!

PAOLO

Amelia dunque mai tu non amasti?

GABRIELE

Che dici?

PAOLO

È qui.

GABRIELE

Qui Amelia!

PAOLO

E del vegliardo  
 Segno è alle infami dilettanze.

GABRIELE

Astuto demon, cessa . . .  
*(Paolo corre a chiuder la  
 porta di destra.)*

Che fai?

PAOLO

Di qui ogni varco t'è conteso. Ardisci  
 Il colpo . . . o sepoltura  
 Avrai fra queste mura.  
*(Parte frettoloso dalla porta di  
 sinistra, che si chiude dietro.)*

GABRIELE

O inferno! Amelia qui! L'ama il  
 vegliardo!  
 E il furor che m'accende  
 M'è conteso sfogar! Tu m'uccidesti  
 Il padre . . . tu m'involi il mio tesoro . . .  
 Trema, iniquo . . . già troppa era  
 un'offesa,  
 Doppia vendetta hai sul tuo capo  
 accesa!  
 Sento avvampar nell'anima  
 Furente gelosia;  
 Tutto il mio sangue spegnerle  
 L'incendio non potria;  
 S'ei mille vite avesse,  
 E spegnerle potesse  
 D'un colpo il mio furor,  
 Non sarei sazio ancor.  
 Che parlo! Ahimè! Deliro!  
 Ah! io piango! Pietà, gran Dio, del  
 mio martiro!  
 Cielo pietoso, rendila,  
 Rendila a questo core,

There, hides an armed assassin.  
 Death may choose as your portion  
 Between the drink and dagger.  
*(Fiesco and Gabriele are led in by  
 Pietro, who retires.)*

FIESCO  
 As a prisoner, where do you lead me?

PAOLO  
 To the Doge's apartments, and you're  
 speaking to Paolo.

FIESCO  
 Your expression is cruel.

PAOLO  
 I'm aware of the hate that you feel.  
 You must hear me.

FIESCO  
 Then ask me.

PAOLO  
 Was it you who tried to summon the  
 Guelphs into action?

FIESCO  
 Yes.

PAOLO  
 And all of your boldness for nothing?  
 For this Doge, who is hated by me as  
 by you he is hated,  
 Is planning further havoc.

FIESCO  
 You're trying to trap me.

PAOLO  
 For what reason? The tyrant is waiting  
 And the axe is all ready for you.  
 I would help you to triumph.

FIESCO  
 Your conditions?

PAOLO  
 That you kill him here, when he is  
 sleeping.

FIESCO  
 Do you dare to propose this to Fiesco?

PAOLO  
 You refuse me?

FIESCO  
 Yes.

PAOLO  
 Then go back to your cell.  
*but is stopped by Paolo.*  
*(Fiesco leaves. Gabriele tries to leave*

PAOLO  
 You heard us?

GABRIELE  
 Vile intriguer!

PAOLO  
 Then it is true you never loved  
 Amelia?

GABRIELE  
 You mean it?

PAOLO  
 She's here.

GABRIELE  
 In the palace?

PAOLO  
 She is to give the old man his pleasures  
 as a wanton.

GABRIELE  
 Insidious fiend, stop now.  
*(Paolo dashes to bolt the right hand  
 door.)*

What now?

PAOLO  
 From here every door is closely  
 guarded.  
 Your hand will strike him  
 Or you will find your grave within  
 the palace.  
*(Paolo hurries out by the left hand  
 door which he fastens behind him.)*

GABRIELE  
 You devil! Amelia here? She is his  
 mistress!  
 And the rage that inflames me I'm  
 unable to vent!  
 You've done to death my father,  
 You have carried off my treasure . . .  
 Tremble, tyrant . . .  
 One crime has got you in trouble,  
 Once more you trespass, now my  
 revenge is double.  
 Now blazing with heat my soul's afire  
 And mad jealousy sears like fever;  
 All of his blood could hardly quell  
 The flames that burn forever;  
 If all his lives were legion;  
 And to the devil's region  
 I could consign them with a blow,  
 All of my torment would not be  
 quelled, ah, no!  
 What folly! Alas! What madness!  
 I'm weeping. O God, have pity on  
 my sadness!  
 Heaven have pity, bring her back,  
 Bring her back for I adore her,

Pura siccome l'angelo  
Che veglia al suo pudore;  
Ma se una nube impura  
Tanto candor m'oscura,  
Priva di sue virtù  
Ch'io non la vegga più.

AMELIA  
Tu qui?

GABRIELE  
Amelia!

AMELIA  
Chi il varco t'apria?

GABRIELE  
E tu come qui?

AMELIA  
Io . . .

GABRIELE  
Sleale!

AMELIA  
Oh crudele!

GABRIELE  
Il tiranno ferale . . .

AMELIA  
Il rispetta . . .

GABRIELE  
Egli t'ama . . .

AMELIA  
D'amor santo!

GABRIELE  
E tu?

AMELIA  
L'amo del pari.

GABRIELE  
E t'ascolto, e non t'uccido?

AMELIA  
Infelice! Mel credi, pura io son.

GABRIELE  
Favella . . .

AMELIA  
Concedi che il segreto non aprasi ancor.

GABRIELE  
Parla, in tuo cor virgineo  
Fede al diletto rendi.  
Il tuo silenzio è funebre  
Vel che su me distendi.  
Dammi la vita o il feretro,  
Sdegnò la tua pietà.

AMELIA  
Sgombra dall'alma il dubbio . . .  
Santa nel petto mio  
L'immagin tua s'accoglie  
Quale nel tempio Iddio.  
No, procellosa tenebra  
Un ciel d'amor non ha.

(S'ode uno squillo.)  
Il Doge vien. Scampo non hai.  
T'ascondi!

GABRIELE  
No.

AMELIA  
Il patibol t'aspetta!

GABRIELE  
Io non lo temo.

AMELIA  
All'ora stessa teco avrò morte . . .  
Se non ti move di me pietà.

GABRIELE  
Di te pietade?  
(da sè)

Lo vuol la sorte . . .  
Si compia il fato! Egli morrà!  
(Amelia nasconde Gabriele sul poggio.  
Il Doge entra leggendo un foglio.)

DOGE  
Figlia!

AMELIA  
Sì afflitto, padre mio?

DOGE  
T'inganni . . . Ma tu piangevi.

AMELIA  
Io?

DOGE  
La cagion m'è nota  
Delle lagrime tue . . . Già mel  
dicesti . . .  
Ami; or bene s'è degno  
Di te l'petto del tuo core.

AMELIA  
O padre,  
Fra i Liguri il più prode, il più  
gentile . . .

DOGE  
Il noma.

AMELIA  
Adorno . . .

DOGE  
Il mio nemico!

Pure as the heavenly angel who  
Can guard her virtue for her;  
But if some dark obscurity  
Once should becloud that purity  
Which no one can restore,  
May I not see her more.

AMELIA

You here?

GABRIELE

Amelia!

AMELIA

Who opened the passage?

GABRIELE

And you . . . by yourself?

AMELIA

I came . . .

GABRIELE

So faithless!

AMELIA

Oh, so cruel!

GABRIELE

That detestable tyrant!

AMELIA

You insult him!

GABRIELE

But he loves you . . .

AMELIA

Love most holy.

GABRIELE

And you?

AMELIA

I love him also.

GABRIELE

At your words I'd like to kill you.

AMELIA

Oh, unhappy, believe me, I am pure.

GABRIELE

Then tell me.

AMELIA

Then swear to keep a secret that no  
one may hear!

GABRIELE

Speak from your heart, so pure, so dear  
And nevermore deceive me,  
Over my head your silence is hanging,  
An ominous evil to grieve me.  
Give me assurance, give life to me or  
death to me,  
Pity from you I shall spurn.

AMELIA

Cleanse from your heart all doubt  
of me,

My love is pure and simple

I worship you in my heart,

A godhead within his temple.

All of the storms that cloud the sky

From love's domain shall turn.

*(flourish of trumpets)*

The Doge is there. You cannot flee.

Go quickly.

GABRIELE

No.

AMELIA

But the scaffold is waiting!

GABRIELE

I do not fear it.

AMELIA

Then I shall perish beside my lover

If nothing moves you to pity me.

GABRIELE

You ask my pity?

His life is over.

*(to himself)*

For fate demands it and he must die.

*(Amelia hides Gabriele on the balcony.*

*The Doge enters, reading a paper.)*

DOGE

Daughter!

AMELIA

You're sad, beloved father?

DOGE

No matter . . . But you were weeping.

AMELIA

Weeping?

DOGE

I can guess the reason for your

weeping, my daughter,

For there is someone you love; be

happy,

If he is the man who's good enough

to win you.

AMELIA

O father, the bravest in Liguria

And the most courtly.

DOGE

Who is he?

AMELIA

Adorno . . .

DOGE

He is a traitor!

AMELIA  
 Padre!

DOGE  
 Vedi: qui scritto il nome suo?  
 Congiura coi Guelfi!

AMELIA  
 Ciel! Perdonagli!

DOGE  
 Nol posso.

AMELIA  
 Con lui morirò.

DOGE  
 L'ami cotanto?

AMELIA  
 L'amo d'ardente, d'infinito amor. O al  
 tempio  
 Con lui mi guida, o sovra entrambi  
 cada  
 La scure del carnefice . . .

DOGE  
 O crudele destino!  
 O dileguate mie speranze!  
 Una figlia ritrovo; ed un nemico  
 A me la invola! Ascolta:  
 S'ei ravveduto . . .

AMELIA  
 Il fia . . .

DOGE  
 Forse il perdono allor . . .

AMELIA  
 Padre adorato!

DOGE  
 Ti ritraggi . . .  
 Attender qui degg'io l'aurora.

AMELIA  
 Lascia ch'io vegli al tuo fianco.

DOGE  
 No, ti ritraggi.

AMELIA  
 Padre!

DOGE  
 Il voglio.

AMELIA  
*(escendo a sinistra)*  
 Gran Dio! Come salvarlo?

DOGE  
 Doge! Ancor proveran la tua clemenza  
 I traditori? Di paura segno  
 Fora il castigo. M'ardono le fauci.  
*(Versa dall'anfora nella  
 tazza e beve.)*

Perfin l'acqua del fonte è amara al  
 labbro  
 Dell'uom che regna! O duol! La mente  
 è oppressa. . .  
*(Siede.)*

Stanche le membra . . . ohimè! . . . mi  
 vince il sonno.  
 O Amelia . . . ami un nemico!  
*(S'addormenta. Gabrielle entra con  
 precauzione, s'avvicina al Doge e lo  
 contempla.)*

GABRIELE  
 Ei dorme! Quale  
 Sento ritegno? È riverenza o tema?  
 Vacilla il mio voler? Tu dormi, o  
 veglio,  
 Del padre mio carnefice, tu mio  
 Rival . . . Figlio d'Adorno! La paterna  
 Ombra ti chiama vindice.  
*(Brandisce un pugnale e va per trafig-  
 gere il Doge, ma Amelia, che era  
 ritornata, va rapidamente a porsi tra  
 esso ed il padre.)*

AMELIA  
 Insensato!  
 Vecchio inerme il tuo braccio colpisce?

GABRIELE  
 Tua difesa mio sdegno raccende.

AMELIA  
 Santo, id giuro, è l'amor che ci unisce,  
 Nè alle nostre speranze contende.

GABRIELE  
 Che favelli?

DOGE *(destandosi)*  
 Ah!

Father!

AMELIA

DOGE

See how his name leads all the others?  
He heads the rebellion.

AMELIA

God forgive them all!

DOGE

I cannot.

AMELIA

Have mercy.

DOGE

I cannot.

AMELIA

Then I must die.

DOGE

You love him so much?

AMELIA

My heart is burning with the passion  
of love.  
Oh lead us before the altar or order  
our execution,  
We shall die together and meet a  
common punishment . . .

DOGE

Oh, the fates can be cruel!  
How I can see my hopes dissolving!  
I recover a daughter and my foe must  
take her from me!  
But listen, if he is contrite . . .

AMELIA

He will be.

DOGE

I might forgive him then . . .

AMELIA

Father, I love you!

DOGE

You must leave me.  
I shall wait here until the morning.

AMELIA

I'll stay here, watching beside you . . .

DOGE

No, you must leave me.

AMELIA

Father!

DOGE

I wish it.

AMELIA (*leaving at the left*)

Oh heavens, how can I save him?

DOGE

Once more as Doge must I prove to  
all the traitors  
I am lenient? If I punish them  
It might seem I feared them. I am  
feeling thirsty.  
(*He empties the decanter into the  
goblet and drinks.*)  
Even water is bitter on the tongue to  
the man who governs!  
Alas, my mind is weary.  
(*He sinks on a chair.*)  
My limbs are tired . . . Alas, sleep has  
overcome me.  
(*He sleeps.*)  
Amelia, you love that Adorno!  
(*Gabriele enters cautiously, approaches  
the Doge and watches him.*)

GABRIELE

He's sleeping. Why am I so reluctant?  
Is it from awe or terror? Or have I  
lost my will?  
Old man, you're sleeping, my blessed  
father's murderer!  
Rival to me, son of Adorno whose  
most tragic death  
His own son must vindicate.  
(*Brandishing a dagger he is about to  
stab the Doge when Amelia, return-  
ing, hurries between the two men.*)

AMELIA

Would you strike him,  
An old man, when he cannot defend  
him?

GABRIELE

Your defense is arousing me slowly.

AMELIA

But the love that unites us is holy,  
And will help us, if you comprehend  
him.

GABRIELE

Comprehend him?

DOGE (*waking*)

Ah!

AMELIA  
Nascondi il pugnale,  
Vien . . . ch'ei t'oda.

GABRIELE  
Prostrarmi al suo piede?

AMELIA  
Vien!

DOGE  
(*dirigendosi a Gabriele*)  
Ecco il petto . . . colpisci, sleale!

GABRIELE  
Sangue il sangue d'Adorno ti chiede.

DOGE  
E fia ver? Chi t'apria queste porte?

AMELIA  
Non io.

GABRIELE  
Niun quest'arcano saprà.

DOGE  
Il dirai fra tormenti . . .

GABRIELE  
La morte,  
Tui supplizi non temo.

AMELIA  
Ah pietà!

DOGE  
Ah! Quel padre tu ben vendicasti,  
Che da me contristato già fu . . .  
Un celeste tesor m'involasti  
La mia figlia.

GABRIELE  
Suo padre sei tu!  
Perdon, Amelia. Indomito,  
Geloso amor fu il mio.  
Doge, il velame squarciasi!  
Un assassin son io!  
Dammi la morte; il ciglio  
A te non oso alzar.

AMELIA  
Madre, che dall'empireo  
Proteggi la tua figlia,  
Del genitore all'anima  
Meco pietà consiglia!  
Ei si rendea colpevole  
Solo per troppo amor!

DOGE  
Deggio salvarlo e stendere  
La mano all'inimico?  
Sì, pace splenda ai Liguri,  
Sì plachi l'odio antico,  
Sia d'amistanze italice  
Il mio sepolcro altar.

CORO  
All'armi, all'armi, o Liguri,  
Sacro dover v'appella  
Scoppiò dell'ira il folgore;  
È notte di procella.

AMELIA  
(*corre alla finestra*)  
Quai gridi?

GABRIELE (*a Doge*)  
I tuoi nemici . . .

DOGE  
Il so.

AMELIA  
S'addensa il popolo.

DOGE  
(*a Gabriele*)  
Va! T'unisci a' tuoi!

CORO  
Le guelfe spade cingano  
Di tirannia lo spalto;  
Del coronato demone,  
Su, alla magion, l'assalto.

GABRIELE (*a Doge*)  
Ch'io pugni contro di te? Mai più.

DOGE  
Dunque messaggio  
Ti reca lor di pace,  
E il sole di domani  
Non sorga a rischiarar fraterne stragi.

GABRIELE  
Teco a pagnar ritorno,  
Se la clemenza tua non li disarmi.

DOGE  
(*accennando Amelia*)  
Sarà costei tuo premio.

GABRIELE E AMELIA  
Oh! Inaspettata gioia!

AMELIA  
Padre!

DOGE, GABRIELE E CORO  
All'armi!

AMELIA  
Your sword must be hidden, come  
address him . . .

GABRIELE  
Must I kneel before him?

AMELIA  
Come.

DOGE (*to Gabriele*)  
Here's your target, now strike me,  
you traitor!

GABRIELE  
Blood for blood is the cry of Adorno.

DOGE  
Is it true? Who permitted you to  
enter?

AMELIA  
Not I, sir.

GABRIELE  
That man will never be known.

DOGE  
You will speak under torture . . .

GABRIELE  
I fear not either torture or murder.

AMELIA  
Oh, my God.

DOGE  
Ah, your vengeance is filled in full  
measure  
For the man I attacked as his due.  
You have stolen a heavenly treasure:  
My own daughter . . .

GABRIELE  
Her father—are you?  
Forgive, forgive, Amelia.  
My love for you was raging with  
jealous passion.  
Sire, the confusion melts away.  
I am so vile, I am a vile assassin.  
You may condemn me, I dare not face  
your judgment,  
I dare not raise my eyes to yours, I  
dare not see.

AMELIA  
Mother in heaven above me, I pray  
for your protection.  
Grant to my father pity to mingle with  
his affection . . .  
He whom I love is culpable only  
through love of me.

DOGE  
Should I forgive my enemy, admit  
him to my favor?  
Yes, to placate Liguria, my purpose  
cannot waver.  
There must be peace in Italy, though  
on my grave it shall be.

CHORUS  
To arms, Ligurians, to arms!  
Your sacred duties call you!  
The bolts of wrath have struck again,  
But night shall not appall you.

AMELIA (*running to the balcony*)  
What shouting!

GABRIELE (*to the Doge*)  
Your foes are coming.

DOGE  
I know.

AMELIA  
The crowd is thickening.

DOGE (*to Gabriele*)  
Go and join your own men.

CHORUS  
Battle! Destruction!  
The Guelphs gird on their swords  
today  
To curb the tyrant's malice.  
Let us destroy the devil's crown  
And raze the Doge's palace.

GABRIELE (*to the Doge*)  
Can I then, fight against you? No  
more.

DOGE  
Go then as spokesman  
And try to pacify them,  
So that the sun, tomorrow,  
May not arise to light the strife of  
brothers.

GABRIELE  
I will fight here beside you  
If mercy still at length will not disarm  
them.

DOGE (*pointing to Amelia*)  
Your prize will be Amelia.

GABRIELE AND AMELIA  
Oh, what happiness unbounded!

AMELIA  
Father!

DOGE, GABRIELE AND CHORUS  
To battle!

## ATTO TERZO

Interno del Palazzo Ducale.

*Di prospetto grandi aperture dalle quali si scorgerà Genova illuminata a festa: in fondo il mare:*

GRIDA (*interne*)

Evviva il Doge! Vittoria! Vittoria!

CAPITANO DEI BALESTRIERI

*(rimettendo a Fiesco la sua spada)*

Libero sei. Ecco la spada.

FIESCO

E i Guelfi?

CAPITANO

Sconfitti.

FIESCO

O triste libertà!

Che? Paolo?

Dove sei tratto?

PAOLO (*arrestandosi*)

All'estremo supplizio.

Il mio demonio mi cacciò fra l'armi  
Del rivoltosi e là fui còlto; ed ora  
Mi condanna Simon; ma da me prima  
Fu il Boccanegra condannato a morte.

FIESCO

Che vuoi dir?

PAOLO

Un velen, (più nulla io temo)  
Gli divora la vita.

FIESCO

Infame!

PAOLO

Ei forse già mi precede nell'avel!

CORO (*interno*)

Dal sommo delle sfere  
Proteggili, Signor;  
Di pace sien foriere  
Le nozze dell'amor.

PAOLO

Ah, orrore!  
Quel canto nuzial, che mi persegue,  
L'odi? In quel tempio Gabriele  
Adorno  
Sposa colei ch'io trafugava!

FIESCO

*(sguainando la spada)*

Amelia?

Tu fosti il rapitor? Mostro!

PAOLO

Ferisci.

FIESCO

Non lo sperar; sei sacro alla bipenne.

*(Le guardie transcinano Paolo.)*

Inorridisco! No, Simon, non questa  
Vendetta chiesi, d'altra meta degno  
Era il tuo fato. Eccolo il Doge.  
Alfine è giunta l'ora di trovarci a  
fronte!

*(Si ritira in un angolo d'ombra. Entra il Capitano con un trombettiere.)*CAPITANO (*al verone*)

Cittadini! per ordine del Doge  
S'estinguano le faci e non s'offenda  
Col clamor del trionfo i prodi estinti.

*(Esce seguito dal trombettiere.)*DOGE (*entra*)

M'ardon le tempia . . . un'atra vampa  
sento  
Serpeggiar per le vene! Ah! ch'io  
respiri  
L'aura beata del libero cielo!  
Oh refrigerio! La marina brezza!  
Il mare! Quale in rimiarlo  
Di glorie e di sublimi rapimenti  
Mi affaccian ricordi! Il mar!  
Il mar!  
Ah perchè in suo grembo non trovai la  
tomba?

FIESCO (*avvicinandosi*)

Era meglio per te!

DOGE

Chi osò inoltrarsi?

## ACT THREE

The Doge's apartment in the ducal palace.

*Through a great window lies Genoa, lighted for a festival; in the background the sea.*

VOICES (*within*)

Long live our monarch, our victor, our victor!

CAPTAIN OF THE ARCHERS

(*returning the sword to Fiesco*)

Now you are free. Here is your weapon.

FIESCO

The Guelphs, then?

CAPTAIN

Defeated.

FIESCO

Their liberty is sad!  
What? Paolo? Where do they take you?

PAOLO (*standing*)

To my own execution.  
An evil fate pursued me to the army of the insurgents.  
There I was captured: and Simon has condemned me to die:  
But I have first condemned Boccanegra that he too may perish.

FIESCO

Tell me more!

PAOLO

There's a drug (I now fear nothing) he has drunk and is dying.

FIESCO

You villain!

PAOLO

Perhaps he now will precede me to my death!

CHORUS (*within*)

May God above be shedding  
His grace, on Him we call.  
And may this happy wedding  
Betoken peace for all.

PAOLO

Ah, how dreadful!  
The echo of that hymn, how it pursues me.

Listen, in that chapel Gabriele Adorno  
Marries the girl whom I abducted . . .

FIESCO (*unsheathing his sword*)

Amelia! Were you the wicked man? Monster!

PAOLO

Then strike me.

FIESCO

No hope for you! We'll keep you for the scaffold.

(*The guards drag Paolo away.*)

FIESCO

I'm filled with horror!  
No, Simon, this vengeance was not my doing.  
You deserved another fate as your portion.  
Here he is, our Simon. At last the hour is striking.  
We can face each other.  
(*He retires into a shadowy corner. The Captain enters, with a trumpeter.*)

CAPTAIN

(*addressing the people from the balcony*)

Hear my tidings! The Doge has given orders:  
You will put out your torches  
And not offend the heroes lying before you  
With shouts of triumph.  
(*He leaves, followed by the trumpeter.*)

DOGE (*entering*)

Fever destroys me. An evil fire is burning,  
Through my veins it is coursing.  
Would I were breathing those blessed breezes  
From wide open spaces. Oh, how refreshing!  
Breezes from the seashore!  
The ocean! The ocean! Gazing at the billows,  
My memories of glory and of rapture  
Are forever returning.  
The sea! The sea!  
Ah, but why, why could I not find  
My grave within your bosom?

FIESCO (*approaching*)

It were better for you!

DOGE

Who has dared to enter?

<p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Chi te non teme.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Guardie?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Invan le appelli. Non son qui i sgherri tuoi. M'ucciderai, ma pria m'odi.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Che vuoi?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Delle faci festanti al barlume Cifre arcane, funebri vedrai . . . Tua sentenza lamano del nume Sovra queste pareti vergò. Di tua stella s'eclissano i rai: La tua porpora in brani già cade; Vincitor tra le larve morrai Cui la tomba tua scure negò! <i>(I lumi della città e del porto comin- ciano a spegnersi.)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Quale accento?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Lo udisti un'altra volta.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Fia ver? Risorgon dalle tombe i morti?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Non mi ravvisi tu?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Fiesco!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Simone, morti ti salutano!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Gran Dio! Compito è alfin di quest'alma il desio!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Come fantasima Fiesco t'appar, Antico oltraggio a vendicar.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Di pace nunzio Fiesco sarà, Suggella un angelo nostra amistà.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Che dici?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Un tempo il tuo perdon m'offristi.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Io?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Se a te l'orfanelle concedea Che perduta per sempre allor piangea. In Amelia Grimaldi a me fu resa, E il nome porta della madre estinta.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Ceil! Perchè mi splende il ver sì tardi?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Tu piangi! Perchè volgi altrove il ciglio?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Piango, perchè mi parla In te del ciel la voce; Sento rampogna atroce Fin nella tu pietà.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Vien, ch'io ti stringa al petto, O padre di Maria; Balsamo all'alma mia Il tuo perdon sarà.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Ohimè! morte sovrasta . . . un traditore Il velèn t'apprestò.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Tutto favella, Il sento, in me d'eternità.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Crudele fato!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Ella vien!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIESCO</p> <p>Maria . . .</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOGE</p> <p>Taci, non dirle. Anco una volta vo' benedirle. <i>(S'abbandona sopra un seggiolone. Amelia, Gabriele, Senatori, Dame, Gentiluomini, Paggi con torce.)</i></p>
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FIESCO  
 A man who fears not.

DOGE  
 Guardsmen!

FIESCO  
 In vain you call them, for your men  
 are not there.  
 I may be dead, but first hear me.

DOGE  
 Then speak!

FIESCO  
 Where the torches are joyfully glowing,  
 You will soon see the glory is shaded,  
 And the fate that the gods are  
 bestowing  
 Will be written for you on the wall.  
 For the light of your star now has faded  
 And the purple is fallen to tatters,  
 Only ghosts will acclaim you as Doge,  
 For whom the tomb is the realm of  
 your fall.  
*(The lights are gradually extinguished  
 in the city.)*

DOGE  
 Who is speaking?

FIESCO  
 A voice from days long ended.

DOGE  
 How so? Do men rise up from death to  
 haunt us?

FIESCO  
 You do not know my face?

DOGE  
 Fiesco!

FIESCO  
 Simone, the dead rise up to speak  
 with you.

DOGE  
 Great heaven! At last the wish of my  
 soul has been granted!

FIESCO  
 Ghost from another world, Fiesco  
 appears,  
 Vengeance for outrage, ancient outrage  
 across the years.

DOGE  
 Peace is the message Fiesco will bear.  
 Angels will seal the pact, love we shall  
 share.

FIESCO  
 Your meaning?

DOGE  
 Long since you offered me your  
 pardon . . .

FIESCO  
 Did I?

DOGE  
 If I would give up the little orphan  
 Who was lost, so I thought as I  
 lamented.  
 In Amelia Grimaldi I have found her,  
 Though she bears the name her mother  
 gave her.

FIESCO  
 God! But why was light so long in  
 coming?

DOGE  
 You're weeping!  
 Ah, but why do your eyes avoid me?

FIESCO  
 I weep, because I hear you:  
 A voice from heaven winging;  
 Cruel remorse is stinging  
 Just because you are so good.

DOGE  
 Come, let me hold you closer,  
 Maria's loving father.  
 'Tis balm to heal me, rather  
 As your forgiveness would.

FIESCO  
 Alas, death is the master,  
 An evil wretch brewed the poison for  
 you.

DOGE  
 Everything tells me, I feel it,  
 That I am near the end.

FIESCO  
 Oh fate is cruel!

DOGE  
 She is here . . .

FIESCO  
 Maria.

DOGE  
 Silence, keep silence . . .  
 For one last time I long, long to bless  
 her.  
*(He sinks on his throne as Amelia and  
 Gabriele come in with the Senators  
 and ladies and gentlemen of the  
 court. Pages bear torches.)*

AMELIA  
(*vedendo Fiesco*)  
Chi veggo!

DOGE  
Vien . . .

GABRIELE (*tra sè*)  
Fiesco!

AMELIA (*a Fiesco*)  
Tu qui!

DOGE  
Deponi la meraviglia.  
In Fiesco il padre vedi  
Dell'ignota Maria, che ti die' vita.

AMELIA  
Egli? Fia ver?

FIESCO  
Maria!

AMELIA  
Oh gioia! Allora  
Gli odi funesti han fine!

DOGE  
Tutto finisce, o figlia!

AMELIA  
Qual ferale  
Pensier t'attrista sì sereni istanti?

DOGE  
Maria, coraggio . . . A gran dolor  
t'appresta.

AMELIA E GABRIELE  
Quali accenti! Oh terror!

DOGE  
Per me l'estrema ora suonò!  
(*sorpresa generale*)

AMELIA E GABRIELE  
Che parli?

DOGE  
Ma l'Eterno  
In tue braccia, o Maria,  
Mi concede a spirar.

AMELIA E GABRIELE  
(*cadendo a piedi del Doge*)  
Possibil fia?

DOGE  
(*sorge, e imponendo sul loro capo le  
mani, solleva gli occhi al cielo*)  
Gran Dio, li benedici  
Pietoso dall'empiro;  
A lor del mio martiro  
Cangia le spine in fior.

AMELIA  
No, non morrai, l'amore  
Vinca di morte il gelo,  
Risponderà dal cielo  
Pietade al mio dolor.

GABRIELE  
O padre, o padre, il seno  
Furia mi squarcia atroce.  
Come passò veloce  
L'ora del lieto amor!

FIESCO  
Ogni letizia in terra  
È menzognero incanto,  
D'interminato pianto  
Fonte è l'umano cor.

DOGE  
T'appresta, o figlia . . . io spiro . . .  
Stringi . . . il morente . . . al cor!

CORO  
Sì, piange è ver,  
Piange ognor la creatura;  
Si avvolge la natura  
In manto di dolor!

DOGE  
Senatori! Sancite il voto estremo.  
(*I Senatori s'appressano.*)  
Questo serto ducal la fronte cinga  
Di Gabriele Adorno.  
Tu, Fiesco, compi il mio voler . . .  
Maria!  
(*Spira.*)

AMELIA E GABRIELE  
(*s'inginocchiano davanti al cadavere*)  
Padre!

FIESCO  
(*s'avvicina al verone circondato dai  
Senatori e Paggi, che alzano  
le fiaccole*)  
Genovesi! In Gabriele  
Adorno il vostro Doge or acclamate.

VOCI (*dalla piazza*)  
No . . . Boccanegra!

FIESCO  
È morto . . .  
Pace per lui pregate!

CORO  
Pace per lui!  
(*Tutti s'inginocchiano.*)

FINE DELL' OPERA

AMELIA (*seeing Fiesco*)  
 Who is it?  
 DOGE  
 Come!  
 GABRIELE (*aside*)  
 Fiesco!  
 AMELIA (*to Fiesco*)  
 You here?  
 DOGE  
 His coming need not surprise you.  
 For Fiesco is the father of the unknown  
 Maria  
 Who was your mother.  
 AMELIA  
 And this is true?  
 FIESCO  
 Maria!  
 AMELIA  
 How joyous the tidings!  
 All of the feuds are over.  
 DOGE  
 It all is finished, daughter!  
 AMELIA  
 What a sorrowful thought  
 To darken such a happy moment!  
 DOGE  
 Maria, have courage, prepare for tragic  
 sorrow.  
 AMELIA AND GABRIELE  
 Fateful accents! I'm afraid.  
 DOGE  
 For me the final hour is at hand!  
 (*general consternation*)  
 AMELIA AND GABRIELE  
 Have pity!  
 DOGE  
 But Maria, in your arms,  
 God has granted that I may breathe  
 my last.  
 AMELIA AND GABRIELE  
 (*falling at the Doge's feet*)  
 Is death so certain?  
 DOGE  
 (*rising, placing his hands on their heads  
 and raising his eyes to heaven*)  
 O God in heaven, bless them,  
 For them my soul is crying.  
 The crown I leave them, dying—  
 Change all its thorns to flowers.

AMELIA  
 You shall not die, for loving  
 Conquers the bleakness of dying,  
 Heaven will be replying  
 With all its blessed powers.

GABRIELE  
 O father, bitter anguish  
 My very soul is tearing.  
 Brief was the joy of sharing  
 All the love that once was ours.

FIESCO  
 The joys that earth can offer,  
 Pleasures are always lying.  
 The human heart is crying  
 All of its waking hours.

DOGE  
 Come to me, daughter, I'm dying,  
 Hold me, hold me closer,  
 Hold me near your heart.

CHORUS  
 All of us weep,  
 Sorrowful creatures,  
 We clothe our human natures  
 In weeping, soothe the heart.

DOGE  
 May the Senate fulfill my final promise.  
 Place the crown of the Doge  
 Upon the head of Gabriele Adorno.  
 And Fiesco, carry out my wish. Maria!  
 (*He dies.*)

AMELIA AND GABRIELE  
 (*kneeling before his body*)  
 Father! Father!

FIESCO  
 (*He walks to the balcony, followed by  
 the Senators and pages with their  
 torches raised.*)

Men of Genoa! In Gabriele Adorno  
 you have a Doge, you may acclaim  
 him.

VOICES (*from the square*)  
 No, Boccanegra!

FIESCO  
 He is dead. Pray for his soul in heaven.  
 (*All kneel.*)

CHORUS  
 Peace be with him.

