

ACT I - SCENE I

Time - Twenty years later; late afternoon in early fall;

Place - A leafy glade in the royal park

In the background the walls of a cottage are seen; the house of the gatekeeper.

Enter a Crowd of Harvesters, returning from the field.

Some are dancing, others walking and talking.

First Rustic

Fine weather for the harvest work

Second Rustic

Yes, and for our Lady's birthday ball.

Third Rustic

If it do but last till then.

Peasant Woman

It is sure to last.

First Rustic

And why then?

Woman

Because our Princess is good to everybody and even the weather is good to her. Did you never notice how she is always favored with fine weather when she gives parties?

Fourth Rustic

Dost think the wether has a mind?