

# The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

Act 1, sc. 2 (line 230 - Verse - Intercut)

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## Ariel

I boarded the king's ship; now on the beak,  
Now in the waist, the deck, in every cabin,  
I flamed amazement: sometime I'd divide,  
And burn in many places; on the topmast,  
The yards and bowsprit, would I flame distinctly,  
Then meet and join. Jove's lightnings, the precursors  
O' the dreadful thunder-claps, more momentary  
And sight-outrunning were not; the fire and cracks  
Of sulphurous roaring the most mighty Neptune  
Seem to besiege and make his bold waves tremble,  
Yea, his dread trident shake.

*PROSPERO*

*My brave spirit!*

*Who was so firm, so constant, that this coil  
Would not infect his reason?*

## ARIEL

Not a soul

But felt a fever of the mad and play'd  
Some tricks of desperation. All but mariners  
Plunged in the foaming brine and quit the vessel,  
Then all afire with me: the king's son, Ferdinand,  
With hair up-staring,--then like reeds, not hair,--  
Was the first man that leap'd; cried, 'Hell is empty  
And all the devils are here.'