

Life is a Dream by Calderon de la Barca
M/M Kn, R&D, SmS, BS

LIFE IS A DREAM Calderón de la Barca

(He approaches.)

SEGISMUNDO

You've provoked me once again,
you crazy, weak old man.
Do my cruelty and fury
mean so little to you?
How did you get in here?

CLOTALDO

This woman's cries brought me here
to urge you to be more moderate
if you wish to rule, and not be cruel
because you see yourself
the master of everything about you,
for all this may only be a dream.

SEGISMUNDO

Spouting that way about illusions
makes me fighting mad! Now let's see if
killing you is real or just a dream.

(As SEGISMUNDO tries to draw his dagger, CLOTALDO stops him, falling to his knees.)

CLOTALDO

Going down upon my knees,
I hope to save my life.

SEGISMUNDO

Take your crazy hand off my dagger!

CLOTALDO

I won't let go till someone comes
to check your outrageous fury.

ROSAURA

Oh God in Heaven!

SEGISMUNDO

Hands off me,
I tell you—enemy, doddering
old idiot, or you'll see

(They fight.)

these arms of mine crushing you to death!

Act Two SCENE I

ROSAURA

Help, oh, come and help him!
Clotaldo is being murdered!

(She leaves. Just as CLOTALDO falls to the ground, ASTOLFO appears and stands between them.)

ASTOLFO

Well, what's this, magnanimous Prince?
Is this the way to stain your keen blade,
in an old man's frozen blood?
Come, sheathe that shining knife of yours.

SEGISMUNDO

Not till it runs with your putrid blood.

ASTOLFO

Having put his life in
my protection should do him
some further good.

SEGISMUNDO

Your own death
will be that further good.
Now I can avenge myself
for your piquing me before,
by killing you as well.

ASTOLFO

The law justifies my fighting
royalty in self-defense.

(ASTOLFO draws his sword and they duel.)

CLOTALDO

Do not injure him, my lord.

(BASILIO appears with ESTRELLA and retinue.)

BASILIO

What, drawn swords in my presence?

ESTRELLA *(aside)*

There's Astolfo! I'm full
of terrible misgivings.

BASILIO

Well, what's the reason for this?