

And overlooks the highest-peering hills;  
 So Tamora:  
 Upon her wit doth earthly honour wait, 10  
 And virtue stoops and trembles at her frown.  
 Then, Aaron, arm thy heart, and fit thy thoughts,  
 To mount aloft with thy imperial mistress,  
 And mount her pitch, whom thou in triumph long  
 Hast prisoner held, fetter'd in amorous chains  
 And faster bound to Aaron's charming eyes  
 Than is Prometheus tied to Caucasus.  
 Away with slavish weeds and servile thoughts!  
 I will be bright, and shine in pearl and gold,  
 To wait upon this new-made empress. 20  
 To wait, said I? to wanton with this queen,  
 This goddess, this Semiramis, this nymph,  
 This siren, that will charm Rome's Saturnine,  
 And see his shipwreck and his commonweal's.  
 Holloa! what storm is this?

*Enter DEMETRIUS and CHIRON, braving.*

*Dem.* Chiron, thy years want wit, thy wit  
 wants edge,  
 And manners, to intrude where I am graced;  
 And may, for aught thou know'st, affected be.

*Chi.* Demetrius, thou dost over-ween in all;  
 And so in this, to bear me down with braves. 30  
 'Tis not the difference of a year or two  
 Makes me less gracious or thee more fortunate:  
 I am as able and as fit as thou  
 To serve, and to deserve my mistress' grace;  
 And that my sword upon thee shall approve,  
 And plead my passions for Lavinia's love.

*Aar.* [*Aside*] Clubs, clubs! these lovers will  
 not keep the peace.

*Dem.* Why, boy, although our mother, un-  
 advised,

Gave you a dancing-rapier by your side,  
 Are you so desperate grown, to threat your friends?  
 Go to; have your lath glued within your sheath 41  
 Till you know better how to handle it.

*Chi.* Meanwhile, sir, with the little skill I have,  
 Full well shalt thou perceive how much I dare.

*Dem.* Ay, boy, grow ye so brave? [*They draw.*]

*Aar.* [*Coming forward*] Why, how now, lords!  
 So near the emperor's palace dare you draw,  
 And maintain such a quarrel openly?

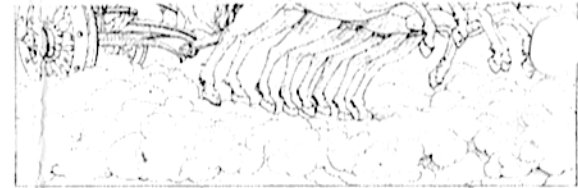
Full well I wot the ground of all this grudge:  
 I would not for a million of gold

The cause were known to them it most concerns;  
 Nor would your noble mother for much more 51  
 Be so dishonour'd in the court of Rome.

For shame, put up.

*Dem.* Not I, till I have sheathed  
 My rapier in his bosom and withal  
 Thrust these reproachful speeches down his throat  
 That he hath breathed in my dishonour here.

*Chi.* For that I am prepared and full resolved.



Aaron: 'As when the golden sun salutes the morn . . .'  
 Engraving from a painting by Dominiquin, 1803

10 wit. Whim.

17 Prometheus. In mythology, chained to Mount  
 Caucasus in punishment for stealing fire from heaven.

22 Semiramis. Legendary queen of great beauty and  
 sensuality.

28 affected. Loved.

30 braves. Threats.

35 approve. Prove.

37 Clubs . . . peace. See introduction.

41 lath. Toy sword.

46-47 So near . . . openly. See introduction.

Titus Andronicus by William Shakespeare  
 M/M BS, S&S, R&D, SS, SmS