

back. As a final resort, Arias bribes the slave, Mathilde, to admit the King at night when Bustos is away.

Bustos' unexpected return and attack on the unknown intruder force the King to reveal his identity. When lights brought by the servants confirm the truth of his statement, he is, of course, allowed to depart unharmed but nursing a burning hatred for the man who has exposed his unkingly actions. Not daring to have Bustos killed openly on account of his high standing in Seville, His Majesty consults Arias as to whom he may find with sufficient bravery and discretion for the deed. Arias recommends Don Sancho Ortiz and so it comes about that Don Sancho on his wedding morning receives the royal command to kill his best friend, brother of the girl he loves.

Since Sancho has no choice but to accept the royal command and the royal assurance of his personal safety, he inveigles Bustos into a quarrel and kills him, after which he promptly surrenders to the authorities. His refusal to tell the reason for his actions puts the King in a dilemma. Either the royal word of honor must be broken or the King must reveal his own dastardly part in the affair. A solution seems to offer itself when Stella appears in the royal presence to beg that vengeance for her brother's death be put in her hands. She uses the royal permission, however, only to free Sancho, a freedom which he refuses as soon as he learns the identity of his savior.

Thus finally the King is forced to acknowledge his own responsibility and Sancho's honor is cleared. But the barrier of a brother's blood cannot be overcome nor forgotten and Stella and Sancho part forever.

#### **Characters:**

- Stella – beautiful and virtuous woman, the Star of Seville.
- Bustos – brother of Stella, killed by his own friend, Sancho.
- Don Sancho Ortiz – friend of Bustos, supposed to be married to Stella.
- King of Castile – fascinated to Stella, ordered Sancho to kill Bustos.
- Arias – The King's informant and confidant
- Mathilde – Stella's house servant

**Setting:** Seville

#### **Themes:**

- Frustration
- Loyalty
- Revenge

#### **Conventions/Characteristics:**

1. Principal characters are always displayed,
2. Each circumstance developed in its proper place;
3. The lively strains of musical instruments and of the human voice are heard on every side;
4. dances are made up before the audience;
5. the nobility of the kingdom partake in the diversions of the people, or avail themselves of that opportunity to carry on their intrigues
6. Characters are introduced in a manner sufficiently striking to awaken general curiosity