

Next, Prospero summons Caliban, the son of Sycorax, who now serves as his slave. Caliban curses Prospero, expressing his resentment at being enslaved. He feels the island rightfully belongs to him and laments how Prospero initially treated him kindly, only to enslave him later. Prospero and Miranda counter that Caliban's behaviour, including an attempt to violate Miranda, justified his punishment.

Miranda and Ferdinand meet

Ariel, invisible, leads Ferdinand, Alonso's son, to Prospero and Miranda. Ferdinand believes his father has perished in the storm and is deeply mournful. Upon seeing Miranda, he is instantly captivated by her beauty, and she reciprocates his feelings. Prospero, however, pretends to be suspicious of Ferdinand, accusing him of being a spy and threatens him with imprisonment. This is part of Prospero's plan to test Ferdinand's character and his intentions towards Miranda.

Conclusion of Act 1

Act 1 sets the stage for the unfolding drama, establishing the primary characters and their relationships. It introduces the central conflict involving Prospero's desire for justice and reconciliation, as well as the budding romance between Miranda and Ferdinand. Through Prospero's manipulation and the storm, Shakespeare begins to weave a tale of magic, revenge, and redemption.