

During this song the Fairies, who at the commencement were scattered over the stage, have very gradually crept nearer and nearer to her, until, at the finish, they are grouped closely around her.

Darine. Why, what have we in all our Fairyland
To bear comparison with such a gift!

Zayda. Oh for one hour of such a love as that,
O'er all things paramount! Why, after all,
That wicked world is the true Fairyland!

Zara Why, who can wonder that poor, erring Man
Clings to the world, all poisoned though it be,
When on it grows this glorious antidote!

Zayda. And may we never love as mortals love?

Selene. No, that can never be. Of earthly things,
This love of theirs ranks as the earthliest.
We do not need it in our perfect land.
Moreover, there's this gulf 'tween it and us -
Only a mortal can inspire such love,
And mortal foot may never touch our land.

Zayda. But - is that so?

Selene. *(surprised)*. Of course!

Zayda. Yet I have heard
That there's a half-forgotten law which says
That, when a fairy quits his fairy home
To visit earth, those whom he leaves behind
May summon from that wicked world below
That absent fairy's mortal counterpart,
And that that mortal counterpart may stay
In Fairyland and fill that fairy's place
Till he return. Is there not some such law?

Selene. *(horrificed)*. And if there were, wouldst put that law in force?

Zayda. *(frightened)*. No, not for all the love of all the world!

Selene. A man in Fairyland! Oh, horrible!
He would exhale the poison of his soul,
And we should even be as mortals are -
Hating as man hates!

Darine. *(enthusiastically)*. Loving as man loves!

SELENE looks at her in blank surprise.

