

THE STONE GUEST

By Giacinto Andrea CICOGNINI

1640



CHARACTERS

The King of Naples
Don Pietro: *Uncle of Don Giovanni*
Don Giovanni: *Nephew of Don Pietro*
The court nobles
Passarino: *Servant to Don Giovanni*
Duke Ottavio
Fichetto: *Servant to Duke Ottavio*
Donna Isabella

Commander Oliola
Donna Anna: *Daughter of Commander Oliola*
The King of Castile
Rosalba: *Fisherwoman*
The Doctor
Brunetta : *the Doctor's daughter*
Pantalone: *Brunetta's husband*
Guards

The scene opens in Naples, Italy and then shifts to Castile, Spain.

Le festin de pierre avant Molière. Paris: Société des textes français modernes, 1907

Translated from the Italian by Elizabeth Blood © 2004

ACT I

SCENE I

Isabella with Don Giovanni, holding his hand tightly

Isabella I won't let you go, even if my life is in danger.
D.Giovanni Unfaithful woman, I'm telling you, unhand me !
Isabella At least let me see who you are.
D.Giovanni I arrived incognito and incognito I prefer to leave.
Isabella I'll yell so loud it will wake up the Heavens.
D.Giovanni You mean the dead.
Isabella Make yourself known, traitor.
D.Giovanni Shut up, you stupid woman.
Isabella Despite the situation that I'm in, I will make sure that you are punished.
D.Giovanni Let me go ! To Hell with you !
Isabella Oh ! Down there in the Royal Palace, a light ! Is anyone coming ?
D.Giovanni You seek help in vain. ... Oh my God ! There is his Majesty with a torch.

Don Giovanni leaves the scene. Isabella also leaves without saying a word.

SCENE II

The King of Naples, D. Giovanni

The King of Naples Ho there ! What is the cause of all that noise we hear in the royal apartments ? A woman shouting here ? Who thinks so much of himself that he lacks respect for his own King ?

Don Giovanni, hidden, uses his sword to knock the lamp from the King's hand and leaves.

The King of Naples Oh my God ! And this traitor, not content with ruining the reputation of a lady in my apartments, now knocks the torch from my hand ? Who's there !

SCENE III

D. Pietro Tenorio, The King of Naples, D. Giovanni (off to the side)

The King of Naples Don Pietro, it is your duty to find the delinquent who was just in my apartments and who tried to dishonor a woman whose name, at present, is not known to me, and then knocked the lamp in my hand to the ground with the sword that was hanging by his side. Do you understand ? Dead or alive, I want to capture this man.

D. Pietro I understand, my Lord, and I will do all that is required. But what reckless way of thinking could have driven this perverse soul to commit such an offense in the apartments of Your Majesty ? Ho there, whomever you are, evil knight, turn yourself in to me, unless you want to die by the sword in my right hand !

D. Giovanni I will surrender to no one, except Don Pietro Tenorio.

D. Pietro If I'm not mistaken, that is the voice of my nephew Don Giovanni.

D. Giovanni That's Don Pietro, my uncle.

D. Pietro Don Pietro ? Yes, it's me.

D. Giovanni It's to him who, defeated, I will surrender.

D. Pietro Don Giovanni, my nephew ?

D. Giovanni Don Pietro, my uncle ?

D. Pietro What perverse twist of fate led you to commit such an act ? Escape is impossible; your destiny is decided; your death is certain.

D. Giovanni Don Pietro, I do not fear escaping, I do not despair my fate, I am not afraid of death, as long as I am with you, as you are my safe haven.

D. Pietro But how is that possible when His Majesty demands your capture?

D. Giovanni I will be able, thanks to you, to escape.

D. Pietro Do you hate me, Don Giovanni, hate an uncle who because of you is shedding a sea of tears : leave this place, escape from this country where your mistakes can only lead to your death. Go back inside the palace and try to escape from the balcony that you'll find on the right-hand side, and I will bring you letters of reference and money to facilitate the departure of you and your servant, so that you can go with him to Castile where you will escape the harsh judgment of His Majesty, preserving both your honor and your life.

D. Giovanni I accept your advice and am ready to leave.

D. Pietro But, wait a minute, Don Giovanni, tell me, before you leave...Who was the woman you forced yourself upon?

D. Giovanni It was Donna Isabella ...

D. Pietro I ask nothing more of you, go, I'll take care of everything.

D. Giovanni Beloved uncle, I'm leaving.

D. Pietro My dear nephew, adieu.

D. Giovanni Only God knows how much it hurts me to ...

D. Pietro Only God knows how much I regret ...

D. Giovanni To leave an uncle I love so much.

He leaves.

D. Pietro To see the departure of a nephew I love so much. But why am I crying ? Why should I complain ? Tears are the excuse of a coward ; I don't want to miss the chance to talk to Donna Isabella, to ask her if she knows who attacked her honor and, by some pretext, to offer an excuse for the actions of the guilty party. Ho there, in the royal palace, Donna Isabella ?

SCENE IV

D. Pietro, D. Isabella.

D. Isabella Who is calling me? Oh, is it you, Don Pietro?

D. Pietro Donna Isabella, His Majesty has already heard that you were forcefully assaulted by a violent enemy this very evening and that you were raped; His Majesty, wanting to know who the guilty party is so that he may impose the proper punishment, has sent me to you. Speak your mind freely so that I may share the information with His Majesty, for whom I act as mediator in this situation.

D. Isabella D. Pietro, I swear to you on the honor that I once had, I did not recognize him.

D. Pietro How could you not have recognized him? Couldn't you identify him by his voice?

D. Isabella Not even by that.

D. Pietro Is there a nobleman in the court who is your lover?

D. Isabella Oh, yes, of course !

D. Pietro Who is it?

D. Isabella It's Duke Ottavio.

D. Pietro D. Isabella ?

D. Isabella Go ahead, D. Pietro.

D. Pietro I know who it was.

D. Isabella You know who it was?

D. Pietro Oh, yes, it's clear.

D. Isabella Tell me, D. Pietro, who violated my honor ?

D. Pietro Duke Ottavio.

D. Isabella I don't want to believe otherwise, but he did not want to reveal himself.

D. Pietro You can be sure that it was him.

D. Isabella I'm leaning towards him more than any other.

D. Pietro All you need to do, when His Majesty questions you, is to tell him these words, and leave it up to me to arrange that Duke Ottavio becomes your husband.

D. Isabella If that is all you want, I am ready to do it.

D. Pietro Leave now and wait for me.

D. Isabella I'm leaving and I trust in you.

D. Pietro And I'm staying, and I'm not upset. Already things are going well : when I see His Majesty, I'll call in D. Isabella and will make it so that he accepts the whole deal. In fact, here he is.

SCENE V

The King of Naples, D. Pietro, noblemen

The King of Naples Well then, D. Pietro, have you found out who the traitor is?
D. Pietro Yes, my Lord, and the woman offended will be able to affirm it for you beyond a shadow of a doubt.
The King of Naples Who is the woman in question?
D. Pietro Donna Isabella.
The King of Naples Call her, and have her come to me.
D. Pietro Right away.
The King of Naples What impudence, for a nobleman to disrespect his King. The rape of a woman is an offense that warrants the penalty of death.

SCENE VI

D. Pietro, D. Isabella et The King of Naples.

D. Isabella At the feat of your greatness, which deserves to conquer more crowns and scepters than there are stars in the sky and grains of sand in the sea, humbly bows the most unhappy woman in your court.
The King of Naples Stand up, Donna Isabella, it is indecent of a woman of your quality to be prostrate at my feet ; stand up, I say.
D. Isabella The orders of His Majesty are inviolable laws for me.
The King of Naples I have heard of your misfortunes, and that is why I gave Don Pietro the order to call you to me ; tell me, did you recognize the impudent one who defiled your reputation ?
D. Isabella No, my Lord, but the only idea I can accept with any certitude is that it must have been Duke Ottavio.
The King of Naples Duke Ottavio ?
D. Isabella Yes, my King.
The King of Naples And this man thinks he merits the title of knight ? Is it possible that such a reckless man, an enemy of honor, lives in my court ? D. Pietro.
D. Pietro My Lord ?
The King of Naples It is your duty to pursue this matter with diligence so that this unfaithful be delivered to me, dead or alive ; as for you, Donna Isabella, go with the assurance that I would not be a King if I did not declare a vendetta worthy of such a crime. Come with me to court ...
D. Isabella I will not disobey the orders of His Majesty, whom I beg not to let such an offense go unpunished, reminding His Majesty that a person's honor is the most precious of treasures in this world.
The King of Naples Come, D. Isabella, and fear nothing.
D. Isabella I follow your footsteps as a humble vassal.
D. Pietro Thanks be to God, the plan will have a happy ending. Donna Isabella couldn't have played it better with His Majesty. I'll go find the Duke ; knowing that he is innocent, I'll warn him of His Majesty's orders and then, imploring his departure, I will save his life ... Yes, yes, I'll do that. Then, I'll return to the court, reveal he was wrongly accused, and make it so that his departure is not delayed.

SCENE VII

Passarino and D. Giovanni

Passarino Walking at night is a horrible thing ; I say that nighttime is for nightingales, and me, because of my master who all day and all night wants to go to ... to ... I have to walk

; and then, me, I have no idea where he is ; and he's gonna say that I don't care where he is and then I'm gonna be pissed.
D. Giovanni There go some people, and my servant, if I'm not mistaken ; but whoever it is, who goes there ?
Passarino No one, my Lord.
D. Giovanni What do you mean, no one ? Speak your name or you're a dead man.
Passarino Dead ? Crap !
D. Giovanni Quick, I say!
Passarino It's the one who doesn't fear your temper ; who goes there ?
D. Giovanni En garde !
Passarino Alas ! What a mess, oh fiddlesticks !

*He seizes his sword then lies down on the ground, the sword naked and pointing up;
D. Giovanni advances with is sword up, until they are face to face.*

D. Giovanni Traitor, is this how you treat a prince of my distinction ?
Passarino Go on, fiddlesticks, go on, ha ha ha ha.
D. Giovanni You're still making jokes ? ... Passarino ?

He recognizes him.

Passarino Sir D. Giovanni.
D. Giovanni Is it really you ?
Passarino It's really you ?
D. Giovanni Yes, why ?
Passarino Good thing you revealed yourself because I swear you were about to be a dead man.
D. Giovanni But why didn't you reveal your identity to me ?
Passarino But me, I didn't know how to handle a sword like you.
D. Giovanni Come on, just drop it ; do you know what we have to do ?
Passarino Sure enough, I do.
D. Giovanni What ?
Passarino What what ! Why don't you tell me ?
D. Giovanni What an idiot !
Passarino Anything for my master.
D. Giovanni We have to leave Naples.
Passarino You're kidding, sir.
D. Giovanni What do you mean, I'm kidding ? I'm very serious.
Passarino How come ?
D. Giovanni No reason, just for fun.
Passarino Go find another servant, I'm not staying with you anymore.
D. Giovanni Repeat that, Passarino, because I will hurt you.
Passarino Oh, that's a beauty. Me, I'm forced to travel.
D. Giovanni Stay with me. You must obey me.
Passarino You made the mess and me, poor me, I'm the one that's going to have to suffer. Boo hoo hoo.
D. Giovanni Why are you crying ?
Passarino Because I won't get to eat any more macaroni.
D. Giovanni Even in Castile they have good cheese and good butter.
Passarino Really ?
D. Giovanni Of course, and wherever Don Giovanni is, there is nothing to fear.
Passarino When do I have to leave ?
D. Giovanni Now, right away.
Passarino But, me, I don't have any boots.
D. Giovanni We're going by boat.
Passarino Does your boat have good wheels ?
D. Giovanni We're going on the water.
Passarino Will there be wine ?
D. Giovanni There'll be everything. Let's go, I don't want to waste any more time.

Passarino Between bad and worse, I guess it's best like this ; if I had said no, he would have beat me. Alas, Naples, if I never see you again, protect me and remember that I always loved you. Adieu, my dear Naples, adieu.

SCENE VIII

Duke Ottavio and Fichetto, who is dressing the Duke.

Duke Ottavio Come, come Fichetto, and do not be shocked if I go out, since my business requires it. Dress me well.

Fichetto Me, it doesn't bother me if you go out or if I dress you. Me, what works for me, it's to work my ass off and to never make it to mealtime.

Duke Ottavio What do you mean ? Am I some kind of chameleon who only lives on fresh air ?

Fichetto Yeah, something like that: you're sort of like an ant who lives all year off of one little crumb of food.

Duke Ottavio Stop this line of talk ! How dare you, impudent ass, when I do more for you than you deserve !

Fichetto As soon as it turns to eating and to telling the truth, he gets all worked up ... for that, you have to be cool-headed.

SCENE IX

D. Pietro, Duke Ottavio, Fichetto

D. Pietro I heard the voice of the Duke speaking with his servant Fichetto. I don't want to waste any time. I want to tell him what His Majesty has ordered.

Duke Ottavio D. Pietro ?

D. Pietro Duke Ottavio, what good fortune brings you here ?

Duke Ottavio To tell the truth, it's a lucky break that brings me here where I find my dearest friend, the most faithful of all those who ever lived in this country.

Fichetto Me too, I bow before you and tip my hat to you, my Lord D. Pietro.

D. Pietro The only thing that brings me here, oh Duke, is to inform you of some bad news, fatal to your happiness.

Duke Ottavio What are you saying, D. Pietro ?

D. Pietro Tell me : where were you last night ?

Duke Ottavio In my apartments, and no where else ; but why this question ?

D. Pietro I'll explain, Duke : His Majesty heard that you, last night, recklessly (excuse me, Duke, for speaking of you like this) entered the apartments of Donna Isabella, asking her and begging her to gratify you in that joy, that is her honor, and that then (seeing that she didn't agree and caused you some difficulties) you forced her to do it. That's why His Majesty, whose heart is full of anger and disdain, ordered me to take you prisoner.

Duke Ottavio I swear to you, on the faith that I've always professed and that I've always shown to my Lord the King, that I did not set foot outside of my room, and my servant here will testify to it.

Fichetto It's true, sir, and that's why I went to bed without dinner last night.

D. Pietro So you're innocent ?

Duke Ottavio I have been wrongly accused.

D. Pietro To show you how much I care for you, I want you, in order to escape the wrath of His Majesty, to leave for Castile. As the proverb says, out of sight out of mind. Then, I'll take care of calming down His Majesty. Leave then, oh Duke, and don't waste time so that your life will no longer be in danger.

Duke Ottavio I am indebted to you, D. Pietro.

D. Pietro And my feelings of friendship towards you, Duke, continue to grow !

Duke Ottavio D. Pietro, adieu.

He leaves.

D. Pietro Adieu Duke.

He leaves.

SCENE X

*Countryside and sea
Rosalba, singing while fishing*

Rosalba Oh how my happiness
Flourishes.
Serene and lucky day.
How happy am I
When I come here
In the grass, among the flowers,
Amid the delights of nymphs and shepherds.
Kiss me,
Kiss me, Momolo, as much as you want.

Oh what endless happiness is mine! A simple shepherdess, I live in the country as happy has can be ; I cam here, to the seaside, to see if I could catch myself a nice fat fish.

Sounds are heard from the sea.

I hear people, yelling out on the sea ; oh, the poor people, there they are, oh my, it's so upsetting ! Here, here, you poor souls ; here, here, let them come to the shore, come, come !

They emerge from the water.

SCENE XI

D.Giovanni, Passarino, Rosalba who welcomes them

Rosalba You poor people, there must have been a shipwreck, and the poor soul fell into the water. Oh, how wonderful !
D. Giovanni I'm starting to catch my breath.
Passarino And me, I feel like shit.
Rosalba *(To Passarino)* Watch out that you don't croak. *(To D. Giovanni)* Up, young man, stand up with joy.
D. Giovanni Cursed fate, what are you doing to me?
Passarino Ungrateful villain, are you trying to kill me?
Rosalba They're talking, they're talking.
D. Giovanni straightens himself up and takes a seat.
D. Giovanni However, in the depth of my misery, I find compassion for my unhappy state of affairs. Greetings, beautiful nymph.
Rosalba Good day, young man, be assured that however I can be of service to you, I will not let you down.
Passarino Oh, oh, oh, oh, my wits are coming back to me ! But what hell have we landed in ? My master fled by sea and fell into a shithole even worse than the one we left.
D. Giovanni Passarino ?
Passarino Sir ?
D. Giovanni Look at that tasty dish.
Passarino She'll be added to your menu, no doubt.
D. Giovanni You know, I'm feeling pretty good ?
Passarino Me too, seeing that I'm not dead.
Rosalba Are you feeling better ?
D. Giovanni Yes, madam. But who are you ?
Rosalba I am but a simple peasant girl who lives alone in these woods and who happened to come to the sea to fish today. I heard your cries from across the water and I wanted to come to your aid.
Passarino What compassion for humanity.
Rosalba And you, who are you ? You have the air of a nobleman.
D. Giovanni I am Don Giovanni, the unhappy nephew of D. Pietro Tenorio of the court of the King of Naples, and the victim of fate, I was almost swallowed by the sea.

Rosalba Didn't I say so ? I am even more concerned for you now that I know you are a prince by birth. But don't worry, Don Giovanni, because I can help. There, in my humble nearby cottage, I will not fail to make the impossible possible ... But who is that man by your side ?

Passarino I am Don Giovanni's brother.

Rosalba Oh, poor unlucky brothers ! So, he is your brother ?

D. Giovanni Who ?

Rosalba That man.

D. Giovanni What nerve !

Passarino What, I can't even joke around anymore ?

D. Giovanni Listen : I made a vow when I was out in the sea that if I survived, I would marry a poor peasant woman. You are the one who brought me back to life, so you should be the lucky beneficiary.

Passarino Oh, how many he's married !

Rosalba Oh, how happy, how lucky I would be if I were worthy of such a precious gift!

Passarino If he had stayed in the water a little longer, he might have fallen in love with a whale.

D. Giovanni You alone will be my love, you will control my destiny.

Passarino Sir Don Giovanni, what are you doing ? Do you not see that she is a peasant and you are a noble ?

D. Giovanni If I do not marry her, may I be struck down by a man, but only by a man of stone, right Passarino ?

Passarino Stones can make heads roll too sometimes.

Rosalba Let's go, my dear, for I have two suits that some foreigners left me and I want you to be well dressed even though I'm not of your same social class ; but accept, in any case, this small token for the great gift that you deserve.

Passarino And soon he'll turn you into a whore.

D. Giovanni Let's go. I can't wait to hold you tight in my arms.

Passarino And me, I can't wait to eat.

SCENE XII

Doctor, Brunetta, Pantalone

Doctor Come on, since we're here and talk is cheap, Sir Pantalone, I would like to give her to you, this girl here ; she can tell you what she thinks and what she wants, and what will distance her from her father's rules.

Pantalone Speak, my dear Brunetta, you seem so melancholy now that the moment of our wedding has arrived ; are you happy to become my wife ? Speak, my precious treasure, my golden honey sweetie.

Brunetta If I jumped feet first, as they say, into this affair, I would seem more like a poor woman than an honorable one, and, anyway, don't you know how the saying goes? When you don't say no, you're saying yes. I will not speak on this matter, and you can guess that I won't back down.

Doctor I know that my daughter is one of those who like to play games, and if you've ever tried ... Come on, you're here to have fun and to tell each other riddles. You can cure boredom and melancholy with those.

Pantalone Sure, sure, but I'd like the bride to give her opinion.

Doctor Why don't you start, Sir Pantalone

Pantalone No, as a Doctor, you should start.

Doctor Come on, let the bride go first !

Brunetta Since you ask, I'll start :
It thrusts and it thrusts,
On the thighs of the housekeeper ;
And so often it thrusts,
That eventually it finds the hole.
What is it?

Pantalone Doctor, this is dirty.

Doctor Oh, go on !
Pantalone Alright, I'll take a guess. It's a carriage.
Brunetta Oh, go on, go on !
Doctor What an idiot, a carriage doesn't thrust ! I'll tell you what it is. You know what it is ?
It's a porter who lost a fist fight.
Brunetta Oh, shut up, both of you stink at riddles ! You know what it is ? It's the bunch of
keys that the housekeeper wears tied around her waist, and when she wants to open
a door, she tries all the keys until she finds the one that works.
Doctor Oh, yeah. That's true.
Pantalone I would never have thought of that.
Doctor Alright, my turn now:
If there's water, it drinks water ;
If there were water, there would be wine to drink.
What is it?
Brunetta I know: it's a fresh water spring.
Doctor Oh, say now!
Pantalone I'll tell you : it's a barrel of bad wine.
Doctor What a loser ! You know what it is ? It's a mill, idiot.
Brunetta You're right, father.
Pantalone My turn now:
It's got five wings and five bones,
But it can't jump across a ditch.
Doctor I know, it's a falcon, right?
Pantalone A falcon? What a dumb doctor you are !
Brunetta You know what it is, my dear husband ? It's a horn.
Pantalone Drop it, don't even try to guess, because in marriage this what you'll have. It's the
nave of the church.
Doctor To tell you the truth, that's what I was going to say but I just couldn't remember it.
Well then, let's go celebrate your wedding and have a little fun !
Pantalone Let's go, let's go, my lovely lady.

SCENE XIII

D. Giovanni, Passarino, Rosalba

D. Giovanni Come on, Rosalba, we have plenty of time to enjoy ourselves and to do it again one
more time.
Rosalba What ? What are you saying D. Giovanni ?
Passarino He's saying that he wants to take off.
Rosalba But, that's not the promise that he made me.
Passarino If he had to fulfill all the promises he's made to women, he'd have been married four
thousand times.
D. Giovanni Come, Passarino.
Rosalba D. Giovanni, remember the vow that you made.
D. Giovanni What vow ? I can't take care of you.

The servant pulls out a long list.

Passarino Look at the hundreds who are on this list, my dear.

They leave. She stays, in despair.

Rosalba Stop, wait, where are you going, my husband ? If you leave me, I will certainly die.
You're leaving me, you're going, and I'm left here alone and abandoned. You're
leaving, I see that now, and you're taking with you my most treasured possession :
my honor. Stop, wait, where are you going, dear husband ? If you leave me, I will
surely die. Oh my God ! Why weren't you swallowed by the waves when I went to
save you, since in return for all my love I have only your betrayal. I would have
been happy here, I wouldn't have had any reason to complain, to lament my
behavior or despair in the face of your savagery. My God, stop, wait, where are you
going, husband ? If you leave me, I will die. I cry in vain, I despair in vain ; by
yelling into the wind, I only increase my sorrow. He is like a viper and doesn't hear

me, as I call to him in desperation. He is enjoying his triumph, while I, betrayed, shed tears in misery. What am I going to do now? Poor Rosalba, robbed of her honor, abandoned by her husband ! There, there, you take my soul with you anyway, barbarous traitor. Stop, wait, where are you going, my husband ? If you leave me, I will certainly die.

ACT II

SCENE I

D. Giovanni, Duke Ottavio, Fichetto and Passarino.

D. Giovanni Your actions, Duke, are so memorable that no one can forget them. All minds admire them and all souls appreciate them.

Duke Ottavio I could not be happier, D. Giovanni, to find you here in Castile in such good health, and it's clear that your actions are due only to good fortune and to your own merit. Your merit is so renowned throughout the world that everyone expresses their astonishment of it in their admiration of you. That's why I don't dare add my voice to theirs, because I lack the eloquence to do so, and, as a wise man once said, he who knows not how to praise another enough can only look on quiet and be amazed.

D. Giovanni Let's drop all of these compliments, Duke. They are unnecessary. Tell me instead : since your arrival in Castile, have you met any women ?

Duke Ottavio Yes, sir, and someone worthwhile.

D. Giovanni Could I know, since we're friends, who it is ?

Duke Ottavio The daughter of Commander Oliola, Donna Anna.

D. Giovanni A woman worthy of your stature, Duke.

Duke Ottavio No less than of yours, Don Giovanni.

D. Giovanni I envy you.

Duke Ottavio I've even ordered that she be serenaded at two o'clock in the morning.

D. Giovanni There's something else ...

Duke Ottavio At your service.

D. Giovanni I'd like to ask a favor of you, Duke.

Duke Ottavio Anything you desire.

D. Giovanni Your coat and your hat, because I'm planning on playing a trick on someone tonight.

Duke Ottavio Sure, here you go.

D. Giovanni I'll be back shortly, sir Duke.

Duke Ottavio Take your time.

He leaves.

Passarino Fichetto, I have some things to do. Sorry there's no time to stop and chat.

Fichetto Yeah, yeah, go ahead. We have some things to do too.

Duke Ottavio I'm filled with suspicions that trouble my soul ; I fear there's something rotten behind Don Giovanni's request to use my hat and my sword. But, shut up, Duke, he's a prince ; he could not possibly be driven by malicious motives. Even thoughts sometimes falter. Here is His Majesty.

SCENE II

The King of Castile, Duke Ottavio, Commander Oliola, Fichetto.

The King of Castile Duke Ottavio ?

Fichetto Yes, Sire.

Duke Ottavio What pleases my King ?

The King of Castile How do you like this city ?

Duke Ottavio Oh, my Sire, the question that His Majesty asks fills me with embarrassment. Who, in is right mind, wouldn't sing the praises of this place ? His Majesty's country is splendid.

The King of Castile So, you are satisfied with our city, Duke ?

The King of Castile What's that noise ? Duke, go and see what is going on.

A knock at the door.

Duke Ottavio Yes, Your Majesty.
The King of Castile Who could possibly be so insolent as to disturb me like this in my apartments ? Did you see who it was ?

Duke Ottavio I did.
The King of Castile And who is it ?
Duke Ottavio It's Commander Oliola who, having just arrived, requests an audience with His Majesty.
The King of Castile Commander, come in; let our Atlantis, the defender of our Empire, come in.
The Commander enters.

Commander Offer him a seat.
The King of Castile I bow reverently at the most eminent feet of His Majesty.
Commander Sit down, Commander.
The King of Castile I should rather genuflect.
Commander Your humility inspires in me the utmost regard. Tell us the story of your journey.
After leaving this city, I headed to Lisbon, having accepted the title of ambassador that His Majesty so graciously bestowed upon me. Upon arrival there, I obtained for His Majesty ten thousand infantrymen and five thousand horses to serve Christianity, as attested in this document.
He gives him a letter.

The King of Castile And what did you think of the city of Lisbon ?
Commander The city of Lisbon is so beautiful and so wealthy that it's clear why it is called the eighth wonder of the world. The city is divided by the river Tago, which is so wide and imposing that, before joining the sea, it expands to nine miles wide, which is not surprising since this is the river that winds through most of Spain. There is also, between two mountains, a port where one finds a continuous arrival of all sorts of boats, ships, transports and vessels, which to see them together, appear a whole other superb city. There are two unassailable fortresses that suffice to overwhelm and overcome any enemy, no matter how powerful. There are palaces so high that they seem to reach the stars. There are magnificent streets ; one of them, called Ruscio, is said to be worth twelve million. I'd need a tongue of steel and lungs of bronze to tell you of all of the parties, the balls, the entertainment and the engagements I attended ; and, as ambassador of His Majesty, I was accompanied by a great number of soldiers to the border where the rumble of artillery and the sounds of horns and drums made us think that happiness had spread across the whole world. As he asked me to speak, this is what I can tell His Majesty.

The King of Castile Well said. I am extremely pleased with these triumphs and these honors, Commander, and to honor your family appropriately, tell me : do you have any children ?

Commander Yes, great Sire, my daughter : Donna Anna.
The King of Castile Shortly you will be admitted to the Court, where I will ensure you will be treated well. Until then, return home and shower your daughter with love.
Commander I will obey His Majesty's orders.
He leaves.

The King of Castile Duke.
Duke Ottavio My King.
The King of Castile Follow me, for night is falling, and I need to put my plan into action.
Duke Ottavio I follow in His Majesty's footsteps.

SCENE III

Night.

D. Giovanni, Passarino

D. Giovanni The time has come, and the night is with me ; I hope to enter Donna Anna's house with the help of this coat and the music. She'll think I'm the Duke, and I will satisfy my desire.
Music plays, and D. Giovanni quietly enters Donna Anna's place.

Passarino Boss, boss, where are you ? You see, the devil has taken him away. Well, I'd might as well just go to sleep ; he must have gone into the house, and it's better for the servant to stay outside.

SCENE IV

Duke Ottavio, Fichetto who is playing the serenade

Duke Ottavio I'm on time for my rendezvous with Donna Anna. Go on, start playing. *He plays.*
Psst, psst ... No one is answering. Maybe her father's arrival is going to forestall my enjoyment ; I'll come back later.
Fichetto Let's go, Master, my body is yearning for sleep.
Duke Ottavio You're right, let's go.

SCENE V

D. Giovanni who is fighting with the Commander

Commander Traitor, is this how you act ?
D. Giovanni What traitor ? I'll have your head. *They fight ; the Commander falls. D. Giovanni leaves.*
Commander Oh God, I can't hang on any longer, I am dy...ing ; alas, I am dy...ing ...

SCENE VI

D. Anna, holding a light over the dead body.

D. Anna My God, what's this ? Is this my own blood spattered, my father dead ? Could anyone be more upset or more miserable than me ? What other plaything of destiny could have more reasons to weep than me ? And can it be true (oh God) that, even dead, you continue to be my beloved father ? What perverse being could have attacked an innocent man ? In what school, traitor, whoever you are, did you learn such savagery ? What wild beast breastfed you ? What tiger fed you ? In what cave were you born, you animal ? Go, live on, though dead to an infinity of joys, my dear father, so that from Heaven you will witness my vengeance. Ho there !
A Servant What do you need ?
D. Anna Bring my expired Sun into the house: that I may observe his passing with my tears. *They bring the body inside.*

SCENE VII

Duke Ottavio, Fichetto

Duke Ottavio And so, when I hope to find a few hours of peace in the silent obscurity of the night, a few hours of rest, I find myself tormented more than ever with unusual fears. I hope to God that these feelings are not a premonition of a storm coming to disturb the pleasures I hope for.
Fichetto Can I tell you something, sir ? I, too, have spent the night tormented by a feeling unlike any I've ever known, and since I don't know its origin, I can't tell if it's love or hunger.
Duke Ottavio You always say the stupidest things. Here comes D. Giovanni.

SCENE VIII

D. Giovanni, Passarino, Duke Ottavio, Fichetto

D. Giovanni Excuse me, Duke, if I'm tardy in returning your sword and your coat after having been so honored by you ; I owe you infinite thanks for having done me such a great favor.

Duke Ottavio Ah! D. Giovanni, if only I could show you as much gratitude as I feel inside, you would know the respect that I have always had for you and that I have for you still ; but I see that you, Don Giovanni, are trying to confuse me rather than to show me that your sentiments equal mine.

D. Giovanni At present, I am unable to continue this discussion, for urgent affairs demand my attention ; excuse me, Duke, I must take my leave.

Duke Ottavio Go in peace, and may God protect you.

Passarino Excuse me, if his Lordship did not uphold his duty, on my word, we've done worse.
They leave.

Fichetto What an idiot, trying to pay a compliment, and he's lost his mind.

SCENE IX

Duke, Fichetto

Duke I'm haunted by growing suspicions. I pray to God and to the Heavens that my worries are unfounded. Here comes His Majesty.

SCENE X

The King of Castile, Duke Ottavio, Fichetto

The King of Castile So, Duke, what's new ? How are things going ?

Duke Ottavio Well, as His Majesty wishes. But, who is that coming towards us ? Donna Anna dressed in black ? My God, what has happened ?
D. Anna approaches, dressed in black.

SCENE XI

D. Anna, Duke, the King, Fichetto

D. Anna Here I am at your feet, good King, to ask for justice to be done to the rogue who, this night, entered my house, attempted to steal my well-guarded honor from its fortress ; and I cried out to the Heavens, which awakened my father, who came out sword in hand and, after a long battle, fell victim to the evil rogue. So, I beg you, if you are King, if you are just, to revenge me in the way that such a crime demands.

The King Heavens, what's this I hear ? Oh ! It was Don Giovanni.

Duke Ottavio Oh God, hold me back.

The King The Commander is dead ?

Duke Ottavio Yes, Sire.

The King Miserable human condition, so full of evil, when a flower just in bloom so languidly dies. I charge you, Duke, to spread the word as quickly as possible that anyone who can provide information of the whereabouts of this murderer will receive ten thousand crowns and four bandits' heads. Don't delay, for I want vengeance. As for you, Donna Anna, return to your apartments, be prudent and try to find some peace.
He leaves.

D. Anna A King wishes me peace, and a traitor steals it from me.
She leaves. Passarino observes the announcement.

SCENE XII

Duke Ottavio, Fichetto, Passarino off to the side.

Duke Ottavio It's your job, Fichetto, to publicize this announcement, that whoever can provide information to His Majesty on the whereabouts of the assassin of the Commander will earn ten thousand crowns and four bandits' heads. You understand, now carry it out.

Fichetto I won't let you down, my Lord ; filthy scum, I'd like to be your executioner. Murdering a gentleman of such accomplishment, you bastard. This announcement is for you: "On behalf of His Majesty, whoever provides news of the location of mister

what's-his-name who killed Commander Oliola will earn ten thousand crowns and four bandits' heads."

Passarino Hello, hello, good man.
Fichetto Hello, Passarino.
Passarino What are you doing here ?
Fichetto I'm supposed to find out who killed Commander Oliola. If you know the assassin, you will earn ten thousand crowns and four bandits' heads.
Passarino But who could profit from four bandits' heads?
Fichetto It means that four people who are robbers will be freed. For that, one will give you three thousand crowns, another four thousand, more or less. You see?
Passarino Oh, I get it. I know.
Fichetto You know ?
Passarino Yes, in my conscience.
Fichetto Who is it ?
Passarino I'm supposed to tell you ?
Fichetto Tell me, if you want the reward.
Passarino It won't be a bother to you ?
Fichetto Why would it be bother me, since His Majesty ordered it.
Passarino Alright, it's Fichetto.
Fichetto Go to hell ! If you go say that, they'll send me straight to Picardie.

He leaves.

Passarino Ha, ha, ha ! In good conscience, I don't know, and if I did know, I wouldn't say... Damn, ten thousand crowns and four bandits' heads, that's a score. I wouldn't be poor anymore and if my master died, they say a dead guy can't fight back, and I would make a heck of a gentleman, and screw you. Oh God, here he comes.

SCENE XIII

D. Giovanni looking at Passarino

D. Giovanni Ah! Good-for-nothing, rogue, do you think I don't know everything you're thinking and doing ? I'll slit your throat, scumbag.

Passarino *(On his knees)* Oh Master, master, in the name of my father, my mother, all of my relatives, let me explain.

D. Giovanni And what is your defense ?

Passarino Listen, listen to me first, then you can kill me, Sire. Do you think I didn't see you come in ?

D. Giovanni You saw me ?

Passarino I swear I saw you, and that's the only reason why I was playing around like that.

D. Giovanni Listen, I want to test you. If you, by chance, happened to fall into the hands of the justice system, would you be able to withstand torture out of love of your master ?

Passarino Oh, of course, poor Passarino would rather die of torture than to say anything.

D. Giovanni Imagine I'm the lawyer and you're the one being questioned. Well, Passarino, you refuse to divulge who killed Commander Oliola ? Well, then, what do you have to say ?

Passarino No, sir, no sir.

D. Giovanni String him up.

Passarino Wait, I'll tell you.

D. Giovanni What do you have to say ?

Passarino You want to hang me ?

D. Giovanni It's just pretend. Listen up : who killed the Commander ? You know.

Passarino I'm telling you, I don't know.

D. Giovanni I'm warning you. You're going to prison.

Passarino Prison ! Ah ! I'll tell you everything I know !

D. Giovanni So, what's his name ?

Passarino It's D. Giovanni, I tell you.

D. Giovanni Ah, good-for-nothing. That's what you're going to do ?

Passarino But, they're talking about prison !

D. Giovanni It's just pretend, I tell you. Alright, from the top, because this is a very important matter. Passarino, I know everything ; I know that you know the name of the person who killed the Commander. Now, you're going to tell us.

Passarino What a bunch of cretins, even you, my Lord, how can you say that when I've told you that I know nothing.

D. Giovanni I'm warning you, you're going to prison.

Passarino Prison, prison ! What do I care about prison !

D. Giovanni Passarino, I'll have you killed in a jail cell.

Passarino Drop dead, asshole !

D. Giovanni Ah. Good, very good, that's how you're supposed to answer. Alright, give me your coat and your hat, and you take my sword and my hat.

Passarino I'm being forced into being a gentleman. Here they are, sir.

They exchange clothes.

D. Giovanni Follow me, Passarino

SCENE XIV

Guards with a torch stop D. Giovanni then Passarino

Guards Halt! In the name of the Court!

D. Giovanni I'm halted already. Can't you see I'm Passarino.

He leaves.

Guards Go home.

They stop Passarino.

Guards Halt! In the name of the Court!

Passarino I'm halted.

Guards Who is that man over there wearing your clothes ?

Passarino It's the King who's going ...

The guards leave.

Passarino Ha ha ha ! I got you this time, cuckolds !

He leaves.

SCENE XV

In the countryside

Doctor, Pantalone, Brunetta are fishing

Doctor Ah ! This is all I need. I've got my hammock, and that does it ; those who want to fish should do so, since the sea is calm. Oh, it's a big fish, pull, pull !

The Doctor pulls out a belt.

Oh boy, this belt is really quite a fish ! Now it's your turn, Signor Pantalone, maybe you'll have better luck ?

Pantalone I am Venetian, so I know the right way to fish. Let me handle it.

He pulls out a horn.

Pantalone Wow, this horn is quite a fish.

Doctor About the wedding, it's time to establish the dowry. Go ahead and fish, daughter.

Brunetta I think I'll get a beauty, because I'm a beauty too.

She pulls out a radish.

Doctor Here, you fish salad. Come on, let's forget about fishing for a while and start dancing. I hear music.

Music plays and they dance.

SCENE XVI

Passarino sees them and calls Don Giovanni, who starts to dance with Passarino.

Finally, he grabs Brunetta and leaves with her.

The Doctor and Pantalone are yelling as the second act ends.

ACT III

SCENE I

In the city

D. Giovanni, Passarino.

D. Giovanni Really, I must have been born under a lucky star, because whenever I'm in need, things work out. Did you see that trick I used to get out of the Court ? Ah !
Passarino Passarino, it was genius !
Passarino Oh sir, don't let your guard down, all you need is one mistake to make you pay for all the rest.
D. Giovanni And what do you think, that someone is going to turn against a prince of my distinction ? Fortune herself is lighting my way and granting my wishes.
Passarino Watch out that the lights and wishes don't turn into a smelly river.
D. Giovanni I'm telling you that I can do whatever I want, and I don't need to hear any more out of you.
Passarino I'm telling you this for your own good.
D. Giovanni For my own good or not, I'm telling you that's enough ; I don't need your criticisms.
Passarino Time, time will tell.
D. Giovanni To hell with you !

SCENE II

Inside a grotto

D. Giovanni, Passarino

D. Giovanni What's this I see ? Is that a tomb before my eyes ?
Passarino It's a beautiful marble tomb.
D. Giovanni Do you like this grotto ?
Passarino My goodness, it's beautiful, but I don't like it because it's a place of death.
D. Giovanni I think I recognize that one.
Passarino I think I know him too.
D. Giovanni Who do you think you know ?
Passarino It seems to be the old man you killed the other day, Commander Oliola.
D. Giovanni You're right, Passarino; I'm sure of it now. Oh, reckless old man, you deserve better, now that you're dead, than the construction of a beautiful tomb in a grotto to immortalize you ! But there's an epitaph inscribed at his feet. Let's read it.

EPITAPH

To the one who sent me, wrongly, to my death,
From Heaven, I await my revenge.

Passarino Read, Passarino, is that what it says ?
Passarino To the one who sent me, wrongly, to my death,
From the inn, Marco the tailor, sends.
D. Giovanni And you think you can get revenge ? I swear to God if it wasn't insane to attack a marble statue, I'd kill you all over again.

He throws down his glove.

Passarino You shouldn't play around with the dead, Master.
D. Giovanni Better yet, to show him that I fear nothing, invite him to dinner.
Passarino That's just plain crazy.
D. Giovanni Invite him, I tell you.
Passarino He'll come, sir.
D. Giovanni No more, I tell you.
Passarino Signor Commander, my Master told me to ask you if you'd like to have dinner with him.

The statue shakes his head "yes" and the servant faints.

Passarino Are you hungry, sir ?
D. Giovanni If I weren't hungry, I wouldn't be sitting at the table.
Passarino Do you remember when we were in Naples, that pretty young thing you slept with ?
D. Giovanni Oh, yeah, she was beautiful.
Passarino Have you eaten, sir ? I haven't.
D. Giovanni With her, it was sheer happiness !
Passarino And that fisherwoman who gave us clothes when we fell in the sea, you liked her, right ?
D. Giovanni A lot, to tell the truth, though she was poor.
Passarino Have you eaten, sir ?
D. Giovanni Did you see how she cried when we left ?
Passarino I saw, I saw. But, have you eaten, sir ?
D. Giovanni Pour me something to drink.

Trumpets sound.

Passarino Do you know what the Florentines say at mealtime ?
D. Giovanni What do they say ?
Passarino Take a seat, sit down. Have you eaten, sir ?
D. Giovanni You're hungry, huh, Passarino ?
Passarino I'm starving to death.
D. Giovanni Hurry up, bring him a chair.
Passarino Quickly, cuckold servants, a chair.

They bring him a stool.

D. Giovanni Give him some macaroni.

*They bring some macaroni and a dozen eggs.
For each egg they eat, they pour a glass of wine.*

Passarino Give me something to drink.

As he drinks, he farts, along with the sound of trumpets.

D. Giovanni Eat, drink, Passarino.

*A knock at the door. A servant with a candle goes to see who's there.
We here him collapse on the ground. He gets up, stumbling, with the candle in hand.*

D. Giovanni What's going on ?

Passarino He smashed his face in, that one.

Another knock at the door.

Passarino But what the hell is this ? When people are eating, it's not polite to disturb them.

D. Giovanni Go see who it is, Passarino.

Passarino It's no one, let him go to hell !

Another knock at the door.

D. Giovanni Hear that : they're still knocking. Go see who it is, I tell you.

Passarino, carrying a candle, goes to the door.

Passarino Alas, poor me !

D. Giovanni What is it ?

Passarino It's the old man.

*D. Giovanni takes the candle and goes to greet the statue,
whom he leads to the table, then says:*

D. Giovanni If I had believed, Commander, that you were coming, I would have pillaged Seville for all of its bread, Arcadia for its meats, Sicily for its fish, Phoenicia for its birds, Naples for its fruits, Spain for its gold, England for its silver, Babylonia for its rugs, Bologna for its silk, Flanders for its lace, and Arabia for its perfumes to set a table that would be worthy of your greatness, but accept this, which from the bottom of my heart, is given to you generously. Eat, my guest.

The Statue He who is beyond mortal life has no need for worldly nourishment.

D. Giovanni Passarino, where are you ?

Passarino is hiding under the table.

Passarino I'm in the wine cellar, sir, what is it ?

D. Giovanni Say, would you like to hear some singing ?

The Statue Do as you please.

The servant starts singing.

Passarino Since you want me to sing, Don Giovanni, I'm telling you, this whole thing seems fishy to me. Please, send him away, or else my soul is going to fly out of my body. Oh, my dear sir, make him leave, because I can't eat when he's there looking at me like that.

The Statue D. Giovanni, you invited me to dine with you and I came ; now, I invite you to dinner. Will you come ?

D. Giovanni I'll come, yes.

The Statue Come with your servant.

Passarino Sorry, I can't make it. I have things to do.

The statue stands up to go.

D. Giovanni Say, do you want a candle to light your way ?

The Statue I need no worldly light.

He leaves.

Passarino After all this, screw it ! Master, pay me my wages because I'm not staying with you any more.

D. Giovanni And why not ?

Passarino What do you mean, why not ! If you want to play with dead guys, go ahead ! But me, I don't like the way they talk.

D. Giovanni I promised him, and I'm going to fulfill my promise. I gave him my word as a nobleman.

Passarino And on my word as a poor man, I say I'm not going with you.

D. Giovanni Follow me.

Passarino Only because I have no choice.

They go.

SCENE VI

Duke Ottavio, Fichetto

Duke Ottavio I've given the orders and reinforced the guards at the city gates to try to catch Don Giovanni. Who are these people ?

SCENE VII

Doctor, Pantalone, Duke Ottavio, Fichetto

Duke Ottavio What news brings you here, Doctor ?

Doctor I want justice to be done to the cuckold who kidnapped my daughter who was to be married to Signor Pantalone here.

Pantalone He gave me the horns ahead of my time.

Duke Ottavio Did you recognize him ?

Doctor It's D. Giovanni.

Duke Ottavio D. Giovanni ... Fear not, and come with me to speak to His Majesty.

Doctor Let's go, may I get my honor back this way.

Pantalone And may I see this villain hung from the gallows.

SCENE VIII

D. Giovanni, Passarino

D. Giovanni I don't want the Commander to be able to hold anything against me, Passarino, that's why I want us to be on time.

Passarino I'll tell you the truth, I'm not really in a hurry ; and if I hardly ate at all before, for sure, this time I won't be able to even swallow one bite.

D. Giovanni Let's go, let's go.

The door opens, the statue is standing by a black table.

D. Giovanni Stop, there he is waiting for us.

Passarino Cursed is the moment of my arrival.

D. Giovanni I want to go up to him. Hold my sword, Passarino.

Passarino Go ahead, if you dare.

D. Giovanni My God, what's this ? Everything is in mourning ?
The Statue Eat D. Giovanni.
D. Giovanni What kind of food is this ?

He breaks off a piece and throws it to Passarino.

D. Giovanni Catch, Passarino.
Passarino Yes, Master.
The Statue Would you like some music, D. Giovanni ?
D. Giovanni As you wish.

The following song is heard.

Your final hour has come,
Wicked rascal and rogue,
You will have no more lascivious cravings,
And if you have violated the honor of others,
From God, rest assured, your punishment will come.
You must, at this moment,
Pay the price of your misdeeds ; for you know
What Father Time says,
At the end of the day,
He who lives badly, dies badly.

The statue turns around and holds out his hand.

The Statue D. Giovanni, give me your hand.
D. Giovanni Here you go, but my God, what's this I feel ? A glacial cold, the coolness of marble
... Let me go, traitor.

D. Giovanni grabs a stick and throws it at his chest.

The Statue Repent, D. Giovanni.
D. Giovanni Unhand me, I say ! Ah !
The Statue Repent, D. Giovanni.
D. Giovanni Alas, I'm dying, help !
The Statue Repent, D. Giovanni.

D. Giovanni falls and curls up.

SCENE IX

Passarino

Passarino Oh, my poor master ! My wages have gone to the devil ! Help, help, my master has
fallen ! Ho there ! Someone ! Will no one help ?

Everyone arrives.

SCENE X

The King, Duke Ottavio, Doctor, Pantalone, all the others.

The King What's happening, Passarino ?
Passarino It's my master, Don Giovanni. He had invited an old man to dinner ; he came ; then
the old man invited my master ; me, I told him not to go, but he wanted to go
anyway ; when he arrived here, the other one took his hand, and him, he yelled and
yelled, and then he was taken away by the Devil.

The King D. Giovanni has died ? The Heavens, who justly revenge those whose innocence
was betrayed, save this punishment for rogues. It's the decree of God : he who lives
badly, dies badly. Follow me, all of you.

Duke Ottavio He who hates God and mocks the Heavens dies as he lived.

FINAL SCENE

In Hell

D. Giovanni

D. Giovanni Oh cruel monsters !

Too savage, without pity,
Who in the flames and in chains
Will shred my innards ;
Have pity on me,
If pity exists in you.
Calm your fires,
Eternal torturers,
And tell me, out of pity,
When will my torments end ?
Never.
Painful response, cruel accents,
Unjust words, and strange,
That in my unhappy soul,
Double my sorrows.
Run, run then,
Hydras, Sphinx and Gargoyles,
To increase my pain.
Take pleasure in it,
In inflicting flames and fire on my chest.
Go, go, cross of Hell,
Rip apart this heart,
Receptacle of sensuality,
Nest of infamy and of betrayals too.
In you reigns nothing, nothing else
But cruelty, except savagery.
And to my impious heart,
To its errors,
Inflict sorrow and pain.
Cursed be the world
In which I was born.
Cursed be the milk
That I drank,
Milk of mortal sin.
May those who live learn
To look for well-being,
To flee this sorrow,
For evil flows from evil,
And good comes from good.

THE END