

The ARGUMENT.

At the Time that the Empress Ariadne, Widow of Zenon, raised Anastasius to the Empire, Vitalian the younger stirred up Asia Minor, and coming with a powerful Army, pass'd the Thracian Bosphorus, and besieged Constantinople. At the same Juncture Justin, leaving the Plow, entered the Field in favour of the Greek Emperor ; and taking Vitalian Prisoner, he was deservedly crowned with the Imperial Lawrel. On the foregoing Passages the present Drama is wrought.

Text in Blue is taken from the Score. It is absent from both Italian and English Libretti.

Text in Red – omitted by Handel.

# ACT I.

## SCENE I.

*A magnificent Hall, prepared for the Coronation of Anastasius:  
Anastasius and Ariadne seated on the Imperial Throne.  
A Court of Knights and Ladies — Guards and Populace. —  
A Band of Instruments on the Stage ; and afterwards Amansius.*

ARIADNE      Now let the daring Enemy be aw'd,  
                 And all our Realm exult with general Joy,  
                 Since the Imperial Lawrel crowns my Hero,  
                 And our New Rome receives a greater Cæsar.

*Whilst Ariadne is crowning Anastasius with the Imperial Lawrel, the Chorus is sung.*

### CHORUS.

Long may our Emperor Augustus live,  
And in his Reign the golden Age revive ;  
May no sad Star shed balefull Rays,  
To interrupt our happy Days.

*[Enter Amansius.*

AMANSIUS    My Royal Lord; oh ! most renown'd Augustus,  
                 While this great Empire feels a tott'ring State,  
                 And all Bizantium dreads Vitalian's Power,  
                 Here will you lie in Love's ensnaring Toils,  
                 And see your sacred Lawrels drop away,  
                 And deadly Cypress cast a broader Shade ?

ANASTASIUS   No, let us fly to Arms. —

*[Goes to rise, but Ariadne witholds him.*

AMANSIUS    Dread Sir, the barbarous Enemy has sent  
                 A Messenger, who now awaits your Presence.

ANASTASIUS   Let him appear and offer his Demands.

## SCENE II.

*To them Polidartes with Attendants.*

POLIDARTES   The Great Vitalian, whose resounding Fame  
                 Outstrips the Measure of Alcides' Honours,  
                 (Your hostile Arms depos'd) greets you with Peace ;  
                 And but demands that beauteous Ariadne  
                 Be giv'n a Partner to his Bed and Throne.

ARIADNE      Unheard of Insolence !

ANASTASIUS   Oh impious Wretch ! yet hear me, Messenger,  
                 Back to thy Tyrant Master, and thus say,  
                 That a vile Robber, one ignobly born,  
                 Can ne'er deserve to wed a lovely Queen ;  
                 And that I haste to meet his Rebel Powers,  
                 To satiate with his Blood my dire Revenge,  
                 And make him dearly pay his foolish Pride.

*[Exit Polidartes with his Attendants.*

ARIADNE      Oh ! my lov'd Lord, restrain this noble Ardour.

ANASTASIUS Smile on me, Fair, and Vict'ry's mine secure.

[ARIA] By one Smile's kind Influence warm'd,  
I shall go more strongly arm'd,  
Than if in shining Mail array'd :  
And aided by one tender Look,  
Such Force shall wait on every Stroke,  
No Mortal but shall fly with Dread.  
By, &c. [Exit with Amansius.

### SCENE III.

ARIADNE *alone.*

Oh Ariadne, how will you resolve ?  
Shall I remain here trembling and alone,  
Whilst my dear Lord runs the dread chance of War ?  
Ah ! no; I fear not Slav'ry or Death,  
And gladly will partake my Cæsar's Fate.

[ARIA] To me, My Life, you secretly impart  
The mighty Power, the wond'rous Art  
To fire unknown each Gazer's Heart. }  
Yet let not this affect my Love,  
For soon my Faith I'll fully prove,  
When I your impious Rival meet,  
And by my Vengeance force his Fate.  
To me, &c. [Exit.

### SCENE IV.

*A Country with Fruit-Trees.*

JUSTIN *with his Plow.*

[SINFONIA AND ARIA]

A Noble Greatness you may find  
Stamp'd on the lowly Peasant's Mind,  
Our Births, capricious Fortune rules,  
But Heav'n inspires Heroic Souls ;  
And bless'd is he, and truly bless'd,  
Who feels the glorious Ardour in his Breast.  
A Noble, &c.

Why may I not forsake the crooked Plow,  
And dress me in the Warrior's glitt'ring Arms,  
Since, here within, I feel the bright Ambition,  
And all my Soul swells high to Martial Deeds ? —  
But now the heavy Weight of sudden Sleep  
Steals on my Mind, and calms my troubled Thoughts.  
Here, by my adverse Fates, am I confin'd  
To break the harden'd Glibe, inglorious Toil !  
Am Ceres' Slave, and cannot follow Mars.

[Lies down on his Plow to sleep.

[CAVATINA]

Thou only Ease of the Distress'd,  
Sweet Sleep thy downy Wings o'er me display ;  
Sink my soaring Thoughts to rest,  
And drive intruding Cares away.

## SCENE V.

*A gay Symphony, the Scene is suddenly brightned,  
and Fortune sitting on a Wheel which turns, descends in a grand Machine  
attended by Genii, who bring in their Hands Sceptres, Crowns, and Treasures.*

FORTUNE [CAVATINA]

Go, mighty Conqueror, pursue  
The Paths which Fate has fix'd for you ;  
Both Gods and Men your Arms will bless,  
And crown your Valour with Success.  
Go, &c.

[ACCOMPAGNATO]

Justin, break off these heavy Chains of Sleep,  
Go plant Thee Lawrels in the hostile Field ;  
Fortune, indulgent, smiles upon thy Merit,  
And promises succeeding Crowns and Treasures ;  
Forsake the Cottage and the furrow'd Field,  
To grace a Palace and adorn a Throne :  
Break off this Sleep, and meet thy better Fate.

CHORUS OF GENII.

Go, mighty Conqueror, pursue  
The Paths which Fate has fix'd for you ;  
Both Gods and Men your Arms will bless,  
And crown your Valour with Success.

*[Fortune disappears, and Justin awakes and rises hastily.]*

JUSTIN [ACCOMPAGNATO]

What happy Genius bids me rise to Glory,  
Joyous I hear the Destinies invite,  
And fly to gather the victorious Palm. —  
But when shall I begin ? — Ah vain Illusion !  
Yet sure it was the Summons of my Fate,  
And I the bless'd Injunction shou'd obey.  
Ye Sylvan Scenes and Cottages adieu,  
No more I'll follow the inglorious Plow ;  
My Heart dilates to the imagin'd Sounds  
Of the shrill Trumpet, and the warlike Drum  
That seem to call to Arms and Victory.

[ARIA]

Within my lab'ring Breast I feel  
A sudden noble Greatness swell,  
Sure Fate the glorious Will inspires !  
And free from Doubt, or from Delay,  
With eager Joy I shou'd obey  
The Call which most my Soul desires.  
Within, &c.

*[Going out, meets Leocasta pursued by a Bear.]*

## SCENE VI.

*Justin and Leocasta followed by a Bear.*

LEOCASTA Ye pitying Pow'rs send down some speedy Aid !

JUSTIN See, see your Succour near, and cease your Fears.  
Yield, rugged Monster, to my pow'rful Arm ;  
In vain you toss and grind your foaming Jaws.

*[Attacks the Bear and kills him.]*

LEOCASTA Thanks to the Gods, and you, oh brave Unknown;  
How much I owe to this your gen'rous Courage !

JUSTIN The Glory of the Deed be my Reward.

LEOCASTA But tell me who my great Deliv'rer is.

JUSTIN One who alone delights in Martial Deeds,  
Whose vast Ambition is a Hero's Name.

LEOCASTA (Methinks I trace in him a noble Greatness,  
A Soul ill-suited to his homely Dress;  
And in my Heart I feel a struggling Passion.) *Aside.*  
Know, you have sav'd the Sister of your Emperor,  
And to the Palace you shall haste with me.

JUSTIN Illustrious Princess, I attend your Will —

LEOCASTA Your Valour there shall meet its due Reward,  
And shine conspicuous with distinguish'd Lustre.

[ARIA] From the painted Mead arose,  
E'er fostring Art improv'd the Birth,  
Each Flour that now so proudly blows,  
And scorns its native common Earth :  
So you, whom innate Valour warms,  
Tho' in th' ignoble Cottage born,  
Approv'd by Heav'n, may rise in Arms,  
And Laurels may your Brows adorn.  
From, &c. *[Exeunt.]*

## SCENE VII.

*An Apartment.*

*Ariadne and Amansius.*

ARIADNE Amansius !

AMANSIUS Illustrious Queen ! what are your high Commands ?

ARIADNE With Speed prepare to join the Emperor.  
With you, great Chief, I'll to my Hero's Camp,  
To share his Fate in Death or Victory :  
I lead the Way, Love is a hasty Guide.  
*[Exit Ariadne.]*

AMANSIUS And I with Joy will follow.  
My daring Soul was surely born for Greatness ;  
Oh! Fortune, smile this once on my Designs.

[ARIA] The happy Fraud that Mortals use  
In stately and aspiring Views,  
Bears bright Ambition's Name ;  
And tho' my Birth a Crown deny'd,  
I merit it by daring Pride,  
And Arts shall reach the noble Aim.  
The happy, &c. *[Exit.]*

## SCENE VIII.

*Anastasius and Justin.*

ANASTASIUS I trace thro' all the Cloud of your Disguise  
A noble Soul, and more than common Valour.  
I owe you much ; from hence be you my Champion,  
An Earnest of Reward. Go, gird the Sword,  
To bring my dearest Ariadne back,  
Now made the Prey of an unruly Tribe :  
Revenge my Wrongs, and ease my raging Love.

JUSTIN May Heaven thro' me compleat your Wishes ;  
Nor doubt, my Lord, but, to revenge your Wrongs,  
I'll boldly rush upon impending Death.

[ARIA] When by successful Deeds I've won  
New Laurels to adorn your Throne,  
You gave the Power, be yours the Praise :  
But if I fall, my dying Breath  
Shall justly boast unspotted Faith ;  
No other Fame I wish to raise.  
When by, &c. [Exit.

## SCENE IX.

ANASTASIUS *alone.*

Be Fate propitious to so brave a Hero,  
And favour me in him who boldly fights  
To fix my Empire, and maintain my Love.

[ARIA] Let not the Wretch so daring prove  
As to offend a Monarch's Love,  
And rob him of his Right.  
Wrong'd Majesty now fires my Blood,  
And injur'd Honour calls aloud  
To deal Revenge, and prove my Might.  
Let, &c. [Exit.

## SCENE X.

*A vast Plain under Constantinople,  
cover'd with the Military Encampments of Vitalian.*

*Vitalian and then Polidartes.*

VITALIAN [CAVATINA]

To Arms, my Warriors, to Arms,  
No longer let Bizantium wait your coming.

POLIDARTES

Great Sir, the Fates are bounteous to your Wish.  
At Dead of Night the Grecian Emperor  
Alarm'd our sleeping Camp with fierce Assault,  
But was repuls'd with an unusual Vigour :  
Himself he sav'd by Flight ; yet in the Fray,  
Amidst the thickest Troops I seiz'd the Fair,  
Whom now, an Offering of my ardent Zeal,  
I humbly bring before the great Vitalian.

## SCENE XI.

*To them Ariadne guarded.*

VITALIAN     Ye friendly Powers ! what meets my ravish'd Sight !  
                 And is not this the much-lov'd Ariadne,  
                 Joy of my Eyes, and Idol of my Heart ?

ARIADNE     Do not delude thy self, presumptuous Wretch,  
                 That my Misfortunes may advance thy Wishes ;  
                 The Wicked find at best but short-liv'd Joys.

VITALIAN     I offer with my Hand unbounded Empire.

ARIADNE     Give back my dearest Lord, I ask no more.

VITALIAN     Will not my Pray'rs prevail ?

ARIADNE     I hear 'em not.

VITALIAN     Then by my Power I'll try —

ARIADNE     Thy Power I scorn.

VITALIAN     Think that I am —

ARIADNE     A most perfidious Traitor.  
                 My Constancy shall live to after Times,  
                 And be a Pattern of unspotted Love.

VITALIAN [ARIA]   In vain for Pity you will sue,  
                 My Heart you never shall subdue,  
                 If my Love no Favour gain.  
                 I'll triumph o'er your falling Tears,  
                 Nor hear your Sighs, nor heed your Pray'rs;  
                 A just Revenge for your Disdain.  
                 In vain, &c.            *[Goes apart.]*

## SCENE XII.

*Polidartes, Ariadne and Vitalian apart.*

POLIDARTES   And are you then so proudly resolute  
                 As to condemn an angry Conqu'ror's Power ?  
                 For Pity of yourself forgoe this Rigour.

ARIADNE     Peace, thou vile Flatt'rer of as vile a Master.

*[Vitalian comes forward in a Rage.]*

VITALIAN     Haste, drag her hence, to be expos'd a Prey  
                 To the dread Rage of the voracious Monster,  
                 Who spreads with human Spoils the neigh'bring Shores :  
                 Yours be the Charge, my faithful Polidartes ;  
                 Now call up all your noblest Fortitude.

*[To Ariadne, as he goes out.]*

ARIADNE     E'er with his odious Love I'll blot my Fame,  
                 I'll fly to Death, and hug the pallid Friend.

[ARIA]        My dearest Lord, my only Joy,  
                 Content and resolute I'll die,  
                 Great in the Fame of Constancy.

                 This only can my Quiet kill,  
                 This only Pain in Death I feel,  
                 To go, without one kind Farewell.

                 My, &c.    *[Exit.]*

*[Is led off by the Guards.]*

THE END OF THE FIRST ACT.





JUSTIN           What loud complaining Cry is this that breaks  
                  Along the Caverns of these dreary Cliffs,  
                  And mournful trembles in my frightened Ears !

ARIADNE [ARIETTA]   Have not the Heav'ns for me  
                          One Drop of Pity ?

1ST ECCHO.           One Drop of Pity ?

2D ECCHO.           Pity ———

JUSTIN           Again ! What sad reiterated Voice  
                  Of deep Distress thus calls aloud for Pity?  
                  What dreadful Monster rises from the Deep ?

ARIADNE [ARIETTA]   Ah ! give me speedy Aid,

1ST ECCHO.           Speedy Aid.

2D ECCHO.           Aid.

JUSTIN           Yes, fair distress'd unknown, I'll boldly fly,  
                  And face a thousand Deaths in your Defence.

*[Attacks the Monster.*

[ARIOSO]           In vain you roll and shake your scaly Form,  
                  Redouble all thy Rage, receive new Strength,  
                  Fear ne'er can draw the Brave from generous Deeds.

*[Kills the Monster, and unlooses Ariadne.*

ARIADNE           Again I live, Thanks to thy noble Aid.

JUSTIN           But who are you, black with what mighty Crimes,  
                  That could deserve this most detested Death !

ARIADNE           Th' unhappy Bride of mighty Anastasius.

JUSTIN           How bless'd am I ! Thanks to my happy Fate,  
                  That sent me in this Hour to your Deliverance.

## SCENE IV.

*To them Anastasius.*

ANASTASIUS   Am I awake? or is it all Illusion ?  
                  Do I not see the dear, the long-sought Form  
                  Of my lov'd Fair, the Spring of all my Joys?

ARIADNE       I am the same, thy fond transported Wife.

*They embrace.*

[DUET]

ARIADNE       Darling Treasure of my Heart !

ANASTASIUS   Dear Delight, my Soul's best Part !

A.2.           { Happy Source of Joy and Rest,  
                  { Come again unto my Breast.

ANASTASIUS   With Thee my Peace returns again.

ARIADNE       At Sight of Thee I lose my Pain.

A.2.           And my Soul is fully bless'd.

*[Darling, &c.]*

ANASTASIUS   What horrid Monster thus distended lies,  
                  A lifeless Length, along the rocky Shore?

JUSTIN         The happy Trophy of my powerful Arm.

ARIADNE His Valour sav'd me from the Hands of Death,  
And from the bold Usurper's Rage.

ANASTASIUS Each Day renews my Debt, to you I owe,  
Oh matchless Hero, all my Heart held dear. *[Embraces Justin]*

## SCENE V.

*To them Amansius, who disembarks on the Shore.*

AMANSIUS Dread Sir!

ANASTASIUS What friendly Fortune, to compleat my Joys,  
Has cast Thee with us on this foreign Coast ?

AMANSIUS I put to Sea to seek your scatter'd Fleet,  
When Tempests drove us on this unknown Land ;  
But with what joy I see my Empress safe ! —

ARIADNE There, there's my Hero ! Now let's hasten hence ;

ALL [A.4] And love and Glory shall command the Helm.

*[They imbark whilst the Mariners sing the Chorus.*

### CHORUS.

For you may ev'ry gentle Breeze  
Skim lightly o'er th' unruffled Seas ;  
May ev'ry guiding Star arise,  
And brighter light the azure Skies.

The Waves are laid, the Winds are still,  
No Storm to dread, no threatning Ill ;  
The guardian Fates your Loves befriend,  
And to the Port your Course attend.

For, &c.

## SCENE VI.

VITALIAN *and Soldiers.*

Oh, frantick Passion ! I've too soon obey'd  
The thoughtless Dictates of ungovern'd Rage !  
My dearest Ariadne is no more ! ———  
But what do I behold ? the bloody Monster  
Extended on the Shore ! She yet may live.  
I'll fly on Wings of Love and of Impatience,  
To search some certain Tidings of the Fair ;  
Once found, her Rigour may at last be calm'd. *[Exeunt.]*

## SCENE VII.

*A Garden.*

LEOCASTA *alone.*

What bitter Anguish feels the faithful Lover,  
When absent from the Object of his Wish !  
My Heart for ever flies to Justin's Breast ;  
But still in secret keeps the struggling Love  
With nought to cherish it but slender Hope.

[ARIA] The Ship that once has born the Shocks  
Of furious Tempests, dreads the Rocks.

My Love as dangerous Course does steer,  
In stormy Seas, 'twixt Hope and Fear.

The, &c. *[Exit.]*

## SCENE VIII.

*Anastasius with a Crown of Laurels, and then Justin with Vitalian in Chains.*

ANASTASIUS [CAVATINA]

Victorious Palms, for me you grow,  
Ye Laurels, to adorn my Brow.

JUSTIN Approach, thou haughty Wretch, inhuman Tyrant,  
And let my Emperor see thy fallen Pride,  
Thy humbled Fortune, and dejected Brow.

VITALIAN Fate has subdued me —

JUSTIN 'Tis most basely false,  
My Valour has subdu'd thee.

ANASTASIUS Oh, noble Soldier, for so vast a Conquest [*embracing Justin*  
The Grecian Empire owes its greatest Honours.

AMANSIUS (Accursed Sound ! what, shall a base-born Peasant  
Reap the full Glory of the Victory ?)

JUSTIN Sir, let your Emp'ress too partake the Triumph,  
And in the haughty Prisoner see compleated  
Her Pomp, your Glory, and my highest Wishes.

ANASTASIUS Drag him before my Queen.

*[The Guards lead off Vitalian.]*

JUSTIN Be it your Pleasure that I now depart,  
To give the Enemy a final Blow,  
To quell their least Alarms, and kill their Hopes.

ANASTASIUS Go, and o'ercome, thy Sword directs my Fate.  
*[Putting his Hand on his Sword.*  
*[Exit with Amansius.]*

JUSTIN [ARIA] On th' Altar of this Deity  
Soon th' admiring World shall see  
My Victory and Triumphs shine  
With a thousand Rays divine :  
  
And, happy in a virtuous Name,  
So firmly will I fix my Fame,  
That all succeeding Times shall hear  
My Deeds, and hearing shall revere.  
On, &c. *[Exit.]*

## SCENE IX.

*Ariadne, then Vitalian chain'd and guarded.*

ARIADNE The valiant Justin has at last o'ercome  
The Rebel Tyrant ; and my dearest Lord,  
To chase my Fears, and to compleat his Triumph,  
Now close in Chains confines the desperate Foe.

*[Sits down.]*

VITALIAN See, beauteous Emp'ress, prostrate at your Feet,  
The poor oppress'd, yet ever-fond Vitalian,  
Sighs out the Anguish of his constant Soul.

VITALIAN (My Soul is full of Shame, and Rage, and Grief.)

ARIADNE Hence, barb'rous Traitor, from my Sight !

VITALIAN      Oh, bright Augusta ! I confess my Crimes,  
Then by my Death your Hands may glut your Vengeance.

ARIADNE      No, by thy sentenc'd ignominious End  
My Vengeance will the better be compleated.

VITALIAN      Ah, cruel Fair ! at least before I die,  
*[Approaching Ariadne.]*  
Bestow one tender Look, one kind Farewel.

ARIADNE      Presumptuous Traitor !  
*[Rises hastily, and says to the Guards,*  
Deep in a Dungeon, guiltless of the Light,  
Streight let him be confin'd ; there wait his Doom —

VITALIAN      I die with Pleasure that I once have lov'd thee.  
*[He is led off.]*

ARIADNE [ARIA]

As o'er the Rivers Banks  
The Torrent breaks,  
And in the Ocean's lost  
To which it makes,  
His Love that gave me so much Pain,  
Will thus be lost in my Disdain.  
As, &c. *[Exit.]*

THE END OF THE SECOND ACT.

## ACT III.

### SCENE I.

*A Wood near the City with a Tower.*

*Vitalian can be seen dropping from the tower on a rope,  
helped by a group of his men disguised as peasants, who were hiding in the wood.*

*A Closet.*

*Anastasius and Amansius.*

AMANSIUS     Dread Sir, my Heart rejoices in your Triumphs ;  
                 But that a Peasant should usurp the Glory,  
                 And that Vitalian thus should wound your Love,  
                 And rob my Cæsar of his beauteous Bride,  
                 Forgive my Zeal, if at the very nought  
                 Your faithful Servant's Breast o'erflows with Rage ;  
                 And Fear prevails, lest that one Rebel quell'd  
                 Another may not have as lofty Aims.  
                 (Now let this Poison work, and I am bless'd.)

*[Anastasius stands in Suspence.*

ANASTASIUS (Distrustful Policy and growing Fears  
                 Shoot all their venom'd Arrows in my Breast !)

AMANSIUS     My Lord, accept this Offering from your Servant,  
                 This Girdle which the haughty Foe had on ;  
                 Its Lustre even emulates the Sun.

*[Gives him a Diamond Girdle.*

ANASTASIUS With Joy I take this Proof of thy Affection ;  
                 And now, Amansius, hasten to the Palace,  
                 Watch Justin's every Act and inmost Thoughts.

*[Exit Amansius.*

How many are the Fears of Love and Empire !

[ARIA]         Black Jealousy, thou tort'ring Pain,  
                 Forego in me thy cruel Reign ;  
                 Nor wreck my Thoughts with deep Despair,  
                 Leave Love alone to enter there.

                 Let no sad Cares disturb my Breast  
                 But Love, the sweetest and the best ;  
                 Nor think that Heav'n can ever prove  
                 Unjust to so much Truth and Love.

                 Black, &c.         *[Exit.*

VITALIAN     Your Zeal, my Friends, has given me second Life ;  
                 And now I feel no more obstructing Chains,  
                 Let's hasten to revenge our mighty Wrongs.  
                 Aided by your Affections, and your Valour,  
                 I seem already full of Victory,  
                 And mounted on the Throne of Anastasius.

[ARIA]         Revenge in Prospect now delights,  
                 And all my eager Soul excites  
                 To appease offended Love.

                 Honour within spreads fierce Alarms,  
                 Rowsing every Thought to Arms,  
                 And to Conquest bids me move.

                 Revenge, &c.         *[Exeunt omnes.*

## SCENE II.

*An Apartment.*

*Ariadne, Justin, and Amansius apart.*

ARIADNE      Ne'er, generous Justin, can I praise enough  
The matchless Greatness of thy warlike Soul,  
Since by your Valour we are fix'd secure,  
And our Greek Empire shines with right added Glory.

JUSTIN        The Honour of the Deed's too great Reward.

ARIADNE      Well you deserve to wear a Royal Crown,  
And rule the Empire of extended Realms.

JUSTIN        Permit me, Madam, to depart from hence,  
And wait observant on my Emp'ror's Will.

ARIADNE      Go, matchless Hero; first let me bestow  
This Gift, tho' small, a Token of Reward.

*[Gives him the Girdle she had of Anastasius.]*

AMANSIUS     (Is this the Faith of an Imperial Dame ?)

*[Exit Amansius.]*

JUSTIN        With humble Awe I kiss the noble Gift,

*[Exit Ariadne.]*

And may not Envy, sick'ning with my Honours,  
Lift its accursed Head, and cloud my Glory.

*[Puts on the Girdle.]*

[ARIA]        As at first the gentle Breeze  
                 Lightly skims along the Meads,  
But gathering Strength by fast Degrees,  
                 All around its Ravage spreads ;  
  
So the Breath of blind Distrust,  
                 Rising once within the Breast,  
Soon dilates a fiercer Gust,  
                 And destroys the Seat of Rest.

*[As, &c.    Exit.]*

## SCENE III.

*Anastasius, Amansius; then Ariadne, Justin, and Leocasta.*

ANASTASIUS   Forbid it, Gods, that faithless Ariadne  
Should thus dispose the Gift my Love bestow'd !

AMANSIUS     She gave it as the Pledge of her Affection,  
And the bold Hero swell'd with sudden Pride.

ANASTASIUS   A Monarch can revenge, whene'er he's wronged.  
But see the Guilty come !

*[Enter Ariadne, Justin, and Leocasta.]*

JUSTIN        My Great Augustus, Victory's yours compleat ;  
Yet if new Kingdoms you would add to yours,  
Pursue your Conquest while our Fortune smiles.

ANASTASIUS   Not by thy fatal Sword —

ARIADNE      My Husband ! —

LEOCASTA     Oh, my Brother ! —

ARIADNE      The valiant Justin ! —

LEOCASTA    The generous Hero ! —

ANASTASIUS   Enough I am inform'd of all his Conduct ;  
Say who bestow'd on you this Royal Gift ?  
*[To Justin.]*

JUSTIN        The Great Augusta —

ARIADNE      Hear me, my once-kind Lord —

ANASTASIUS   Traitress, Ingrate, be gone, I'll hear no more.  
*[To Ariadne.]*  
Lay down thy Sword, and yield it to Amansius.  
*[To Justin.]*

JUSTIN        Here only will I lay the Glorious Weapon.  
*[Lays down the Sword at the Feet of Anastasius.]*

ANASTASIUS   Now let the common Minister of Death  
Strike off the Traitor's guilty Head.

JUSTIN        I die contented, as I know my Truth.  
*[Justin is led off]*

ARIADNE      Let me, my Love, but prove my innocence.

ANASTASIUS   Fly, hence, thou Faithless, fly my injur'd Sight,  
Unworthy Partner of my Bed and Throne.

[ARIA]        A Monarch's Anger is to dread,  
When urged by injur'd Honour's Call.  
I go and leave you to the Fears  
Of Torments doom'd on you to fall.  
A Monarch, &c.      *[Exit.]*

## SCENE IV.

*Ariadne and Leocasta.*

ARIADNE      What frantick Jealousy disturbs my Lord,  
And spreads its Venom thro' his raging Breast ?

LEOCASTA    I fear to find the Traitor in Amansius.

ARIADNE [ARIA]

My Heart no longer can forbear,  
Beneath so great a great Weight of Care, }  
In secret not to drop a Tear :  
But Female Pride forbids to show  
A settled Sorrow on our Brow ;  
And tho' with Anguish we are torn,  
We must conceal how much we mourn.  
My Heart, &c.      *[Exit.]*

SCENE V.

**LEOCASTA** *alone.*

Oh, Justin, worthy Object of my Love !  
Scarce had the Passion, struggling in thy Heart,  
Burst out to view, and prove the dear Existence,  
But the mad Rage of groundless Jealousy  
Disturb'd our Loves, and tore thee from my Sight !  
Ah, cruel Fate ! yet oh, my darling Treasure,  
Thy Liberty and Life shall be my Care :  
Your generous Aid snatch'd me from threatening Death,  
And my fond Heart will pay thee with thy Life.

[ARIA]  
Ye warbling Birds, that tuneful fly,  
With your plaintive Melody  
Ye sigh out kind and amorous Tales  
To the soft partaking Gales,  
  
While they seem t' approve your Strains,  
And bid us share Love's pleasing Pains ;  
But so ill-starr'd my Passion is,  
I've all the Pains without the Bliss,  
And only seek my Love to save,  
Tho' I no other Joy should have.  
  
Ye, &c. *[Exit.*

SCENE VI.

AMANSIUS *alone.*

Oh, may the fair, the great Design succeed,  
Which Lust of Empire in my Mind has form'd :  
Let Anastasius, Justin, Ariadne  
All, all be Victims to my bright Ambition.  
Indulgent Fortune seems t'approve my Arts.

[ARIA] From the East to Western Climes  
All Nations, all succeeding Times,  
Shall hear and praise my Name. }  
My Daring Pride, my Noble Aim, }  
Shall raise e'en Perfidy to Fame. }  
From, &c. [Exit.

SCENE VII.

*A horrid Mountain.*

**JUSTIN** *alone.*

[ACCOMPAGNATO]

By Thee, oh fickle Fortune, I'm betrayed !  
Where is thy promis'd Wealth and regal Greatness ?  
By Favour of the gentle Leocasta,  
My much-lov'd Fair, I've scap'd a shameful Death ;  
But live, alas ! to rove a forlorn Exile ! —  
My weary'd Body and dejected Mind  
Calls for the needy Balm of healing Sleep :  
Oh, Love ! at least do thou allay my Griefs.

[Lies down to sleep on a Stone.



SCENE VIII.

*Vitalian and Justin sleeping.*

VITALIAN      E'er the new Sun shall gild the Eastern Skies,  
I'll to the Turrets of the proud Bizantium.

*[Sees Justin asleep]*

But what do I behold ! is it not he  
Who drove me thro' the Field, and curs'd my Greatness ?  
Auspicious Fortune designs a second Smile,  
And sends this Victim to my injur'd Valour.

*As he goes to stab him,  
a sudden Flash of Lightning darts on the Mountain,  
which opens and discovers the Sepulchre of Vitalian the Elder,  
and a Voice issues from the Sepulchre.*

FROM WITHIN. [ACCOMPAGNATO]

With-hold the fatal Steel, and know you raise  
The deadly Weapon 'gainst a Brother's Life.  
Save him, for he alone  
Can give you Life and Empire —

**VITALIAN**      What Voice is this ? Against a Brother's Life !  
If the same Royal Blood flows in our Veins,  
On his left Arm is mark'd a starry Form ;  
Th' unalterable Witness of our Race.

*[Looks at Justin's Arm; then rouses him.*

Ye Gods, 'tis here: Rouse up, break off this Sleep.

JUSTIN        Say what thou art, and what you seek of me ?

VITALIAN I am Vitalian, once your Enemy,  
Your Enemy no more, but now a Brother.

JUSTIN Can Justin boast so Noble a Descent ?

**VITALIAN** That I'm convinc'd, let this Embrace declare.

*[They embrace.]*

JUSTIN      Let us delay our Joy, and hear me, Brother,  
We now are call'd by Honour's strong Impulse,  
Deliver'd down to all Vitalian's Stock.  
And is their best, their noblest Heritage,  
The injur'd Anastasius to revenge,  
And give Amansius' Crimes their due Reward ?

**VITALIAN** Come on ; and now the World shall be convinc'd,  
That Heroism inspires Vitalian's Race.

JUSTIN [ARIA]

To aid the Weak, and raise the Oppress'd,  
 Declares a brave and virtuous Mind ;  
 And nearest Jove he stands, confess'd,  
 Who to Compassion's most inclin'd.

[To aid, &c.                      *[Exeunt.*

## SCENE IX.

*A Garden of Pleasure, with a Machine in Prospect,  
representing the Temple of Fame,  
and a Throne on which Amansius goes to sit.*

*Amansius crown'd with Laurel,  
then Anastatius, Ariadne, and Leocasta chain'd.*

AMANSIUS [CAVATINA]

Since I with Success am crown'd,  
And with sacred Laurels bound ;  
Since I tread th' Imperial Seat,  
All my Wishes are compleat.

ANASTASIUS

Where would ye drag me, ye inhumane Slaves ?

AMANSIUS

To Punishments, and to those bitter Pains  
Which Tyrants justly draw upon their Heads.

## SCENE THE LAST.

*Within is heard a Sound of Drums and Trumpets, and Noise of Arms.*

*To them Justin and Vitalian with Soldiers,  
and Polidartes, all with their drawn Swords.*

AMANSIUS      Whence is this Noise of War which breaks upon us ?

[VOICES] WITHIN    — Live, Justin, live.

AMANSIUS      How shall I 'scape this all-subduing Hero !

ANASTASIUS, ARIADNE, LEOCASTA    A. 3.

Traitor, thy Pride is quell'd as soon as born.

*[As Amansius goes to fly,  
Justin holds his Sword at his Breast, and hinders him.]*

JUSTIN           Stay, stay and render up thy self to me —  
Drag the perfidious Wretch in heavy Bonds,  
The publick View of all the Populace.

*[The Soldiers put Amansius in chains]*

Be gone, aspiring Traitor, thou usurp'st  
A mighty Empire, but thy Reign was short.

*The Soldiers lead away Amansius, and Justin unlooses Anastasius, Ariadne, and Leocasta,  
and offering to kneel to Anastasius, he rises and embraces him.*

And now, great Cæsar, cast a kind Regard  
On a distress'd and weeping Innocent :

ARIADNE        Turn, my lov'd Lord, and prostrate at your Feet  
Behold your injur'd Love, your faithful Wife.

*[As she kneels, he raises her.]*

ANASTASIUS    My Life, my Friend, th' accursed Traitor's Arts  
Ensnar'd my credulous Soul to act these Wrongs.

ARIADNE [ARIA]    To your Breast my Heart returns,  
And with double Ardour burns,  
Full of Love and Constancy.  
Again our friendly Stars arise,  
Fears now cease, and Anguish flies,  
Yielding to succeeding Joy. To, &c.

JUSTIN            If I am not a Stranger to your Favour,  
                     I now implore your Peace and Pardon here,  
                     And let my Brother's Sorrows clear his Fame. *[Brings forward Vitalian*

ANASTASIUS    Are you his Brother ? I embrace you both,  
                     And in Oblivion bury all that's past.        *[They embrace.*

VITALIAN        From hence I vow to you eternal Truth.

ANASTASIUS    Justin, my Friend,  
                     I now salute you by the Name of Cæsar,  
                     Companion and Successor of my Throne ;  
                     And as a better Pledge of Royal Faith,  
                     I give fair Leocasta to your Arms :  
                     This Day shall Love and Hymen join your Hands.

[CHORUS]

ARIADNE, ANASTASIUS A.2.    } Thus leaning on thy faithful Breast,  
    } Every anxious Thought at Rest.  
    } My Dear !/My Life ! I'm now compleatly bless'd.

JUSTIN, LEOCASTA A.2.        } Thus encircled in thy Arms,  
    } Love fills me with its soft Alarms.

VITALIAN            Who e'er beheld a happier Day ?  
ARIADNE            By your Valour you impart —  
JUSTIN              By your Favour you impart —  
ARIADNE            Perfect Peace unto my Heart.  
JUSTIN              Perfect Glory to my Heart.  
ANASTASIUS        Again revives the Golden Age,  
AR, JUS             Again revives the Golden Age.

GRAND CHORUS.

Let Pleasure only crown this Day,  
And Sounds of Gladness fill the Air,  
Since, all the Clouds now blown away,  
The Heav'ns again more bright appear,  
And shed a peaceful Ray.

No more the dreadful Tempests rage,  
Our ruling Stars at last are kind :  
Succeeding Joys past Ills assuage,  
Soft smiling Peace fills every Mind,  
And gives a second GOLDEN AGE.

THE END OF THE OPERA.