

“Allons, il le faut...Adieu, notre petite table” (Courage; I must do it for his sake...Farewell, our dearest little table) Recitative and aria:, Act II, MANON by Jules Massenet, 1884

SYNOPSIS: Manon, a capricious young woman on her way to the convent, meets and falls in love with Des Grieux. The two run away and live together for a time but Manon is tempted to pursue a more luxurious life as a courtesan and knows that she and Des Grieux will soon be parted.

MANON

Allons!... il le faut! Pour lui-même!	Courage...I must do it for his sake!
Mon pauvre chevalier!	My poor chevalier...
Oh! Oui, c'est lui que j'aime!	Oh, yes, I truly love him!
Et pourtant, j'hésite aujourd'hui!	And yet, I hesitate right now...
Non! non! je ne suis plus digne de lui!	No! No! I'm no longer worthy of him!
J'entends cette voix qui m'entraîne	I hear that voice that pulls me away
Contre ma volonté:	against my very will:
"Manon, tu seras reine,	"Manon, you shall be a queen,
reine par la beauté!" ...	a queen because of your beauty!"...
Je ne suis que faiblesse	I'm nothing but weakness
et que fragilité!	and fragility.
Ah! malgré moi,	Ah! against my will,
je sens couler mes larmes	I feel the flow of tears
devant ces rêves effacés!	before these soon-forgotten dreams!
L'avenir aura-t-il les charmes	Will the future hold the same charms
de ces beaux jours déjà passés?	of these lovely days that we lived?

Adieu, notre petite table,	Farewell, our dearest little table,
qui nous réunit si souvent!	which we both shared so many times!
Adieu, notre petite table,	Farewell, dearest little table;
si grande pour nous cependant!	you seemed so large for him and me.
On tient, c'est inimaginable,	One needs, you hardly can imagine,
si peu de place... en se serrant...	so little space... when sitting close...
Adieu, notre petite table!	Farewell, our dearest little table!
Un même verre était le nôtre.	One glass alone served us both well.
Chacun de nous, quand il buvait,	Each one in turn, when we would drink,
y cherchait les lèvres de l'autre...	looked for a trace of the other's lips...
Ah! Pauvre ami, comme il m'aimait!	Ah! My poor friend, he loved me so!
Adieu... notre petite table, adieu!	Farewell, our dearest little table, farewell!

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