

“Ha, welch ein Augenblick! “(Ah! What a good moment!) FIDELIO, Act I,
Ludwig von Beethoven, 1805.

SYNOPSIS: Pizarro, cruel governor of a prison, has illegally imprisoned his political enemy, Florestan, hiding him away in a dungeon. Alarmed at the impending visit of Don Fernando, the Prime Minister, Pizarro decides to quickly rid himself of Florestan before the dignitary’s arrival, to avoid discovery of his crime.

PIZARRO

Ha! Welch' ein Augenblick!
Die Rache werd' ich kühlen,
Dich rufet dein Geschick!
In seinem Herzen wühlen,
O Wonne, grosses Glück!
Schon war ich nah' im Staube,
Dem lauten Spott zum Raube,
Dahin gestreckt zu sein.
Nun ist es mir geworden,
Den Mörder selbst zu morden.
In seiner letzten Stunde,
Den Stahl in seiner Wunde,
Ihm noch ins Ohr zu schrei'n:
Triumph! Der Sieg ist mein!

Ah! What a good moment!
I'll cool my burning revenge!
Your destiny is calling you!
Go live within its heart.
Oh, live in wondrous joy!
Soon I'd be groveling in the dirt,
derided, deemed a robber,
ready to be dispatched.
But now it's in my power
to commit the murder myself.
And in his final moments,
my dagger in his wounds,
to still shout loudly in his ear:
"Triumph! Victory is mine!"

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