

“Che mai vegg’io!...Infelice! e tuo credevi”(My eyes deceive me!...What misfortune! I thought she loved me...) *Ernani*, Act I; music by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Francisco Piave, 1844, based on the play, *Hernani*, by Victor Hugo.

SYNOPSIS: Don Ruy Gomez de Silva, guardian of Elvira, has arranged to marry her, despite the differences in their ages. He comes to her quarters late at night, only to find her with Ernani, a bandit whom she loves and who has come to abduct her before the forced marriage. As if this weren’t enough to shock the would-be bridegroom, Silva finds King Carlos, disguised as a peasant, hiding in Elvira’s room; he is in love with her, too, and has come to woo her. Infuriated and desperate, Silva expresses his mixed emotions as an aside.

SILVA

RECITATIVE

Che mai veggio! Nel penetral più sacro di mia magione, presso a lei che sposa esser dovrà d’un Silva , due sedutori io scorgo? Entrate, olà, miei fidi cavaliere! Sia ognun testimone del disonore, dell’onta che si reca al suo signore!	My eyes deceive me! In the deepest, most sacred recess of my palace, by the side of one destined to be wed to a Silva, two vile seducers I find lurking? To arms! Come here, my faithful cavaliers! May you bear witness to this dishonor, to this shame that has been brought on your master!
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ARIA (*as an aside, out of the hearing of the courtiers*)

(Infelice! e tuo credevi si bel giglio immacolato ! Del tuo crine fra le nevi piomba invece, il dishonor. Ah, perchè l’etade in seno giovin core m’ha serbato? *Mi dovean li anni almeno far di gelo ancora il cor.)*	(What misfortune! I thought she loved me, pure and gentle, fairest maiden! But my head with snow is laden, so dishonor is my fate instead. * Oh, but why, but why, when age assails me does my heart stay sentimental?*
	Had the years dealt with me fairly, my emotions would be dead.)

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