

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF
ST. EULALIA OF MERIDA

BY

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Place: The town of Merida in Spain and its environs.
Time: A. D. 303.

SCENE I.—*The Lily blossoms.*
A Room in LIBERIUS' House at MERIDA.

SCENE II.—*The Sun shines.*
A Wood near the country house of LIBERIUS

SCENE III.—*The Clouds gather*
The Garden of the country house. Evening.

SCENE IV.—*The Storm breaks.*
EULALIA'S Bedchamber

SCENE V.—*The Lily is gathered.*
The Market-place at MERIDA.

Tableau—The Snow falls.
The same.

CHARACTERS

LIBERIUS, *a noble citizen of MERIDA.*

EULALIA, *his little daughter.*

DONATUS, *a priest, tutor to EULALIA.*

JULIA, *child-companion to EULALIA.*

CALPURNIUS, *Governor of MERIDA, a pagan.*

FRONTO, *a little goatherd.*

Six Pagan children.

Christians of Merida.

Soldiers of the Governor's Guard.

Angels.

A LILY OF THE SNOW

THE LILY BLOSSOMS

*A Room in LIBERIUS' House. EULALIA with a great Book
on her knees. DONATUS.*

EULALIA

(Reading) "Then unto His disciples Jesus said
'If any man will follow Me, let him
Deny himself, take up his cross, and come,
For whosoever seeks to save his life
Shall lose it.' *(To DONATUS)* Since Our Lord said that
to us,
And said that when men lost their lives for Him,
—For that comes after—they should save their lives,
The best thing we can do is just to say,
"I am a Christian," and so die for Christ.

DONATUS

Not quite, my child, for, who would preach the Faith
Were all the Christians martyred? Christ said, too,
"When they shall persecute you in one town,
Take refuge in another." "Simple be
As doves, yet wise as serpents." So He taught
His first disciples and through them the world.

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE I

EULALIA

For you, Donatus, yes; you are a priest,
And have God's work to do; but not for me,
I can do nothing, I, a little girl,
But die for Christ,—and that I long to do.

DONATUS

You can do much, even a child like you;
You can be strong and pure, and true and brave
Amongst the little things of every day.
The gifts of life and death are in God's Hands:
He gives you life, then use it well for Him.
Should He send death, then glorify His Name;
But leave the choice to God, for He alone
Knows what is best, and can give grace for all.

EULALIA

Is it not right to wish for martyrdom?

DONATUS

Better to will what God wills, life or death.

EULALIA

Then what God wills I will; but all the same
I still can keep that longing in my heart,
Where God will see it and may grant it yet.

SCENE I

A LILY OF THE SNOW

DONATUS

And pray, my child, for strength for those who bear
The strong temptation and the fiery trial,
Who do not wish to die, yet have to choose
Between a bitter death for Christ, or life
Purchased by base denial of their Lord;
For such as these are falling every day
Into the tempter's snare. Pray much for them.

EULALIA

If I could give my blood to strengthen them!

DONATUS

(Smiling) Why, there, again! I thought we had agreed
That what God gives is best.

EULALIA

I know it is.

I was not thinking. I will try to be
Unselfish, patient, gentle, as you say,
That I may win God's blessing and His grace.

(Enter LIBERIUS.)

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE I

LIBERIUS

(*To EULALIA*) Julia is calling everywhere for you,
So run away and find her. (*To DONATUS*) Well, what
news?

DONATUS

(*Rising*) Bad news; so bad it hardly could be worse.
At Saragossa they have lately seized
The Bishop Valens and imprisoned him
With Vincent his archdeacon; Dacian raged
At their most brave confession of the Faith,
And swears that he will torture them till death.

LIBERIUS

What of this man Calpurnius, whom he left
Behind him here to do his evil work?

DONATUS

He has done nothng yet but watch and wait,
And scheme our ruin. Soon the blow will fall.
God grant us grace to conquer in the fight.

LIBERIUS

In Him I put my trust; my only dread
Is for Eulalia—you know the child,

SCENE I

A LILY OF THE SNOW

Her burning love of Christ, her valiant heart.
I fear she may at any moment say
What best were left unsaid in these dark days.

DONATUS

Could you not send her to your country house
Until the storm blows over? Safely there
She would be hidden from Calpurnius' spies,
And no one could report her childish words
To her undoing.

LIBERIUS

What a happy thought!
I certainly will do so.

DONATUS

Do not say
You send her there for safety—better not—
Nor tell her of the danger we are in,
For she will wish to share it.

LIBERIUS

Yes, I know.
I'll find another reason. She will go
Tomorrow at the latest.

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SCENE I

DONATUS

There she is

With Julia at the door.

(*Calling*)

Eulalia!

EULALIA

Yes, Father dear. You called me, did you not?

LIBERIUS

My little daughter, it has seemed to me
Your cheeks have lost their roses since you left
The country life you loved and came to town.
Would you not like to see the hills, the woods,
And meadows once again?

EULALIA

(*Delighted.*)

And Fronto! Yes!

LIBERIUS

Pray, who is Fronto?

EULALIA

Why, the little boy
Who keeps the goats; he did not know a word
About our Lord; he worshipped heathen gods

SCENE I

A LILY OF THE SNOW

Until I told him he would lose his soul
Unless he learnt to worship Jesus Christ;
And so I taught him. It was very hard,
For Fronto is not clever; but at last
We got it in by working very hard,
Until poor Fronto knew what he must know
Before he is baptised—he is to be
Baptised next Easter; but I am afraid
He may forget it all before the time
Now that I cannot help him.

LIBERIUS

You shall go
Tomorrow if you like, and catechise
Your Fronto till his slow wits learn to skip
As nimbly as his goats.

EULALIA

(Laughing) They never will!

It does not matter, if he saves his soul.
God does not mind if people are not bright,
And Fronto loves Him.

LIBERIUS

Well, tomorrow, then.

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE I

EULALIA

Are you not coming, Father?

LIBERIUS

Not just now.

My duty keeps me here in Merida;
But I will come from time to time and stay
A day or two with you; and now and then
Donatus will come down to visit us
And bring us news of all that passes here.

EULALIA

Julia will come?

LIBERIUS

Julia will go with you
You would be dull without her, and she loves
The country, too.

EULALIA

(Clapping her hands) Then I am very glad,
And Julia will be glad—and Fronto too.

CURTAIN.

Scene II. THE SUN SHINES.

A wood near the country house of LIBERIUS At the back of the scene on a little eminence stands a rustic shrine with a small statue of APOLLO.

(Enter EULALIA)

EULALIA

Fronto is late, and Julia has not come.

Ah! Here is Fronto!

(The little goatherd comes in from the other side.)

Are the goats all safe?

FRONTO

I left them, little lady, on the hill.

They will not stray.

EULALIA

Now, Fronto, let me see

If you have not forgotten what you learnt?

And first of all, the prayers.

FRONTO

No, not a word!

I say them every morning, every night,

And when I sit upon the hill and watch

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SCENE II

The goats, I say aloud all I have learnt
For fear I should forget.

EULALIA

The hymn to Christ,
Do you remember that?

FRONTO

Why, every day
I sing it, and the merry lilting tune
You sang it to, I play upon my pipes.
The goats come crowding round to listen, too;
They like it best of all the tunes I play!

EULALIA

They are God's creatures, Fronto, so they like
To hear His praises. I have happy news,
Father is coming here to stay with us.

FRONTO

Then I am glad, because your heart is glad,
My little lady. Comes the holy priest
Who promised me that I should be baptised?

EULALIA

Donatus? Not just now; some time, I hope.
(*Enter JULIA.*)

Ah, here she comes!

SCENE II

A LILY OF THE SNOW

JULIA

(Looking round and pointing to the shrine)

Eulalia, what is that?

I never saw that little shrine before.

EULALIA

(Turning round)

A heathen shrine! Why, how did it come there?

FRONTO

'Twas Dacian bade the people set them up
Throughout the country, for he said the gods
Were all dishonored now the Christian faith
Had drawn so many people from their cult.

EULALIA

(Throwing down the statue)

A pretty god, who cannot hear nor help,
A devil-god, if he exists at all!

JULIA

(Aghast) Eulalia! It was Dacian set it up!
If he should hear . . . !

EULALIA

If Dacian set it up
It is Eulalia who has thrown it down.

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SCENE II

Come, let us bury it, lest pagan folks
Should do it honor. (*The three children bury the statue.*)
Now let us make a cross and set it up
Within the shrine (*She takes two sticks and makes a cross*)
to show we worship Christ.
(*She fixes the cross in the shrine.*)
There, Dacian! We shall see who will prevail.
(*Six pagan children enter carrying flowers.*)

FIRST CHILD

(*Looking at the shrine*) Where is the god? We come to
honor him,
To wreath our garlands and to sing our hymn
And dance before the shrine, and now the shrine
Is empty.

EULALIA

He was but a sorry god;
He could not hear nor help you. Now, *my* God
Is Lord of Heaven and earth and you and me.
He died for us on earth and lives in Heaven.
Come, wreath your garlands, sing your song for Him.
(*She points to the cross.*)

SECOND CHILD

Is that your God, Eulalia? Two crossed sticks?

SCENE II

A LILY OF THE SNOW

EULALIA

No, but it is the emblem of my God
And of the bitter death He died to save
The world He loved so much. He healed the sick,
And blessed the little children, and He raised
The dead to life. He was so sweet and kind
That none who looked on Him could help but love,
And those who loved were saved for evermore.

THIRD CHILD

I wish we should have seen Him. Is it long
Since He is dead?

EULALIA

He died, but rose again;
Men saw and touched Him ere He went to Heaven;
And now, although He is in Heaven above,
He still is here with us; He loved us so,
He could not leave us; so since He was God,
And could do all the wondrous things He chose,
He chose to be with us down here on earth
As well as up in Heaven.

FOURTH CHILD

Where is He?
In Merida?

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SCENE II

EULALIA

Ah, that I may not say;
But He is in the hearts of those who love
And know Him. Dance in praise of Him,
And He will look on you with loving eyes,
And bless you, though you will not see His face.

FOURTH CHILD

I like your God, Eulalia!

FIFTH CHILD

So do I!
But it is hard to understand it all.

EULALIA

You need not understand. See! Fronto here
Will play upon his pipes and we will sing
Our hymn of praise.

SIXTH CHILD

We do not know the words.

EULALIA

That does not matter; there is a refrain
Which is not difficult: "Christ is my King,"
And you can dance and join in the refrain.
Can you remember it?

SCENE II

A LILY OF THE SNOW

CHILDREN

(*All together*)

“Christ is my King,”

We can remember that, it is not hard.

(FRONTO *sits down on the little eminence and plays his pipes; EULALIA and JULIA stand behind him and sing. The little girls dance with their garlands of flowers, singing the refrain of the song, and bowing as they pass the Cross.*)

Hymn

Daylight has come again,

Birds sweetly sing.

I raise my heart to God,

Christ is my King.

Sunshine or rain or storm,

What will it bring?

Nothing can trouble me,

Christ is my King.

Fierce is the noonday sun,

How everything

Faints 'neath its burning rays!

Christ is my King.

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SCENE II

Rising, the thirsty stag
Seeketh the spring;
Christ is the Well of Life,
Christ is my King.

Sweet is the sunset hour,
Night following;
Cool is the evening breeze,
Christ is my King.
Hometh the lark to nest
On weary wing,
Christ is my heart's sweet peace,
Christ is my King.

(The curtain falls on the children dancing.)

SCENE III. THE CLOUDS GATHER.

The garden of LIBERIUS' country house. LIBERIUS seated. EULALIA with a little basket gathering flowers. She stops from time to time and looks at her father; then puts down her basket, goes up behind him and puts her arms round his neck.)

EULALIA

Father, I know that something troubles you;
Is it not so?

LIBERIUS

(Hastily) No, no, my dearest child,
I was but thinking. When Donatus comes
—He should be here by now—I wish to see
Him here alone.

EULALIA

May I not stay with you?

LIBERIUS

Not just at first. He has to speak to me
Of weighty matters, such as little maids
Would neither understand nor care to hear.

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SCENE III

EULALIA

How long will all these weighty matters take?

LIBERIUS

Not very long; ten minutes at the most.

EULALIA

Well, I will go and get some pretty leaves
To set my flowers off.

*(As she goes out at one side DONATUS comes in at
the other. LIBERIUS grasps him by both hands
and looks apprehensively into his face.)*

LIBERIUS

Bad news, I know.

I see it in your face.

DONATUS

Vincent has died
The martyr's death, and Valens. Gloriously
They both bore witness to the faith of Christ,
And now they swell the noble martyr-band
And stand before His Throne. Calpurnius
Has kept his spies so busy that he knows
The names of all the Christians in the town.

(The two sit down.)

SCENE III

A LILY OF THE SNOW

You must remain here for a little time,
For he has sworn to make us sacrifice
Or suffer torture.

LIBERIUS

Ah! but what of you?

There's not a child in Merida but knows
The priest Donatus.

DONATUS

I go back tonight

For I am needed there—I am afraid,—
For there are some who love this world too well,
And others who are weak, and when they hear
The dreaded order, "Sacrifice or die,"
There must be one at hand to strengthen them,
To set against the torture and the pain
The glory of the crown of martyrdom,
And bid them die for Him who died for them.

LIBERIUS

But you, Donatus, if they seize you too?

DONATUS

I put my trust in God; since Dacian came
I never greet the morning light without

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE III

The solemn thought, "This day may be my last,"
And when the evening falls, "I may not live
To see the morning light." Christ is my Hope.

LIBERIUS

You do not think that I should go with you?
I wish to go, if you should think it right.

DONATUS

Why should you take the risk? No duty calls
You back again. 'Tis otherwise with me.
What would Eulalia do without you? Stay,
Yet hold yourself in readiness to die,
Because we do not know the day nor hour.

LIBERIUS

If death should come, I trust in God for strength
To meet it bravely.

DONATUS

Things are even worse
In other cities. This I heard today—

(EULALIA comes in softly, unperceived by the two men, and sits down on a little stool beside them but a little behind. She follows the story with breathless interest.)

SCENE III

A LILY OF THE SNOW

A maiden of Toledo whom they took,
Named Leocadia, brought to Dacian's court
And bidden offer incense to his gods
Defied the tyrant to his face. "How mad
To serve a god so worthy of contempt,"
He said, "a maid of noble birth like you—
'Tis only fit for slaves!" The maid replied,
"To be His servant is my greatest joy!
Now do your worst to me. I do not fear
Your tortures, no, nor death, nor any pain
You can inflict on me." The Governor
Was mad with rage and had the maiden scourged
Until her body was one gaping wound.
There were some there whom terror had made weak;
They drew fresh courage from her valiant words,
And set themselves to suffer.

LIBERIUS

God be praised,
Who gives the weakest strength to overcome!

EULALIA

(*Breathlessly*) And Leocadia? Did she win her crown?
(LIBERIUS *starts violently*, but DONATUS *makes him a sign*
to be quiet.)

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE III

DONATUS

You silent little mouse—how came you there?
Who bade you listen to your elders' talk?

EULALIA

Why, Father said I might come presently
When all the weighty matters were discussed—
I gave you quite ten minutes.

LIBERIUS

(*Anxiously*) Did you hear

All that we said

EULALIA

I heard Donatus tell

How Leocadia would not sacrifice,
But braved the tyrant Dacian to his face.
Ah! Tell me if she won the martyr's crown?

LIBERIUS

(*Anxiously*) And nothing else?

EULALIA

(*Impatiently*) No, nothing else at all—
Donatus, tell me!

SCENE III

A LILY OF THE SNOW

DONATUS

Leocadia died
Confessing Christ. Praised be His Holy Name!

EULALIA

Ah me! I wish I had not promised you.
The thing I promised just the other day.
You know I told you that I could not help
It staying in my heart, and God can see
My heart and yours, and knows that it is there.

LIBERIUS

What does she mean?

DONATUS

We spoke the other day
Of what 'twere best to wish and not to wish.

EULALIA

Donatus said 'twas better not to wish
To die for Christ, for He knows what is best;
But when I heard how Leocadia died,
The wish ached in me long before I knew
That I was wishing. *That* I could not help.

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE III

LIBERIUS

I think that it is time for little girls
To be in bed and sound asleep, instead
Of bothering their foolish little heads
With thoughts of martyrdom. Goodnight, my pet.

EULALIA

Goodnight. (*She kisses him*) Donatus, bless me.
(*She kneels at the priest's feet.*)

DONATUS

(*Laying his hands on her head*) May God bless
This lamb of His, and keep her safe from harm.

CURTAIN.

Scene IV. THE STORM BREAKS.

Eulalia's bedchamber. The moonlight streams in through the window.

EULALIA

(Sitting on her bed) Oh, happy Leocadia! In your heart
Perhaps you kept a hidden wish like mine,
And then God saw it, and He granted you
To die for Him. I know that it is best
To will what He wills; yet how glorious
To shed one's blood in witness to the Faith!
Well, He knows best, and Leocadia dies
While poor Eulalia has to serve Him here
As best she can. *(She kneels)* Ah, give me work to do
For Thee, O Christ! That I may glorify
Thy Name in just the little way Thou wilt,
And strengthen those, who, happier than I,
Are called to suffer, yet who fear the pain
Of losing life and all that life holds dear;
Ah! give them grace to conquer for Thy love,
That they may not be lost for evermore.

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE IV

And bless Thy little child, Eulalia,
And keep us all from dangers of the dark.

(She lies down and sleeps. Two Angels appear at the head of her bed, one at each side; they lean over her, their great white wings gleaming in the moonlight. EULALIA sleeps on.)

FIRST ANGEL

Dost hear the triumph-song, O child of God,
That ringeth through the happy courts of Heaven,
Where through the golden streets the River flows
Of living water? Virgin souls as pure
As fresh-blown lilies stand around the Throne
And welcome Leocadia, newly born
To Christ, who is the Light and Life and Peace
Of that sweet country where the Blessed dwell
In everlasting bliss. Ah! who shall tell
To mortal ears the glory of the life
Which is eternal? How can mortal mind
Conceive the fulness of the joy of Christ?
Yet lift thy spirit's eyes to where He stands
And list one moment to the angels' song,
And gaze one moment on the loveliness
Of that fair city of the living God.

SCENE IV

A LILY OF THE SNOW

There are the prophets, martyrs, virgins; there
The holy penitents who turned to Christ;
There is the Mother-Maid, immaculate,
Enthroned in glory. There no shadows fall,
But daylight is eternal, for the Lamb
Is light thereof, and there shall be no pain,
Nor tears, nor strife, nor death for evermore.

SECOND ANGEL

Now turn thine eyes to earth, Eulalia; see
How God's beloved are treated, how the wolf
Harries the flock of Christ. At Merida
Calpurnius hath sworn that all shall die
Who will not sacrifice to heathen gods;
He seeks to force them to deny their Lord,
And some are weak and some are full of fear,
And dread the torture and the martyr's death;
But God has heard thee plead that they may stand,
And knows thy soul's desire and grants it thee,
Oh, strong child-heart that seekest only Christ,
Go, teach them how to suffer and to die!

(The Angels vanish in a soft strain of music.)

EULALIA sits up and passes her hand over her eyes.)

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE IV

EULALIA

How strange a dream I had! It seemed to me
I was in Heaven, and, when I rejoiced
In God's sweet Presence, someone said to me,
"Christ's people are in danger on the earth."

(The door opens gently and JULIA comes in.)

JULIA

Are you asleep, Eulalia?

EULALIA

No; I was;

I had the strangest dream.

JULIA

I could not sleep;
The slave Marcella told me such a tale!
It seems Donatus brought them word tonight
That all the Christian folk in Merida
Are to be forced to offer sacrifice
To heathen idols in the market-place.

EULALIA

My dream!

SCENE IV

A LILY OF THE SNOW

JULIA

If they refuse, Calpurnius
Will put them to the torture. It begins
Tomorrow with the dawning of the day.
I could not sleep, I cannot bear to think
Of what will happen, so I came to you;
I thought that if we prayed together, God
Would hear our prayer and save them.

EULALIA

(Rising) Julia,
I think that God has sent me work to do,
And you must help me. I must go tonight
To Merida. I shall be there by dawn
For God will lead me, since He bids me go.

JULIA

Tonight! Alone!

EULALIA

Tomorrow were too late;
Calpurnius does not know, perhaps, the harm
That he is doing by this act of his;
He is a heathen and a wicked man,
But I shall tell him.

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SCENE IV

JULIA

You!

EULALIA

Yes, I.

JULIA

But what

If he should punish you and have you racked?

EULALIA

I do not fear, for God is my defence.

JULIA

Then I will go with you, you shall not go
Alone, in the dark night, to Merida,
And if they kill you, they shall kill me too.

EULALIA

Then come at once; the little garden door
Is open, and the moon is at the full;
It will be dawn before the moonlight dies,
And we shall find our way quite easily.

(The two children go out.)

CURTAIN.

SCENE V

A LILY OF THE SNOW

Scene V. THE LILY IS GATHERED.

The Market-place at MERIDA

CALPURNIUS *sits on a kind of throne at the back of the scene. Behind it stand the statue of a god, a brazier, and incense. A little group of Christians stand on one side. Soldiers of the Guard are in attendance. An officer is at the Governor's side.*

CALPURNIUS

Begin the process, bring the prisoners up!

OFFICER

(Aside) We have the information you desire,
My lord, and so we only brought at first
Those who we thought would surely sacrifice
For fear of torture.

CALPURNIUS

'Tis the wisest course.

Such an example will depress the rest.
Bring up these people one by one.

(A woman is led up, looking very frightened)

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE V

(In a savage voice)

Defy the laws of Cæsar? and insult
The gods by worshipping a slave? Your name?

You dare

WOMAN

(Tremblingly) Valeria.

CALPURNIUS

(Rudely)

Here! offer sacrifice

To Jupiter, or it will be the worse

For you, Valeria.

*(A soldier reaches her the incense; she bursts into tears
and hides her face in her hands.)*

VALERIA

Ah no! Ah no!

I cannot! Christ, have pity on my soul!

I dare not face the torture. Help! oh help!

*(EULALIA enters, makes her way through the people
and comes out before the Governor's throne.)*

EULALIA

Calpurnius, what are you doing here?

Why do you vex the faithful flock of Christ?

Before you came we served our God in peace.

SCENE V

A LILY OF THE SNOW

You are His enemy ; far better be
His friend.

CALPURNIUS

(Laughing) Who is this little girl who speaks
So boldly to my very face?

EULALIA

'Tis true

That I am little, I am only twelve ;
But I am old enough to wish to live
Eternally with God ; and old enough
To tell you that I do not fear your threats.

CALPURNIUS

(Drawing her towards him)

Come, little maid, I shall not threaten you ;
I think you are so wise a little girl
That you must know and love your country's gods.
Stretch out your hand, and take a tiny pinch
Of incense—just like this *(he takes some in his hand)*
and scatter it

Upon the fire in honor of great Jove.

EULALIA

(Striking Calpurnius, who has put his arm round her)
I would not stretch a hand to sacrifice

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE V

Unto your gods, though you should give me all
The riches of the world. (*Overthrowing the brazier*)

See, that is what

I think of all your gods. I worship Christ,
And I am his for all eternity.

CALPURNIUS

(*Furious*) Here, take this little vixen to the gaol
And scourge her soundly. Set the brazier up.

(*EULALIA is dragged off by a soldier, another sets up
the brazier.*)

(*To VALERIA*) Here you Valeria, come and sacrifice!

VALERIA

(*Who has been watching the scene and has dried her eyes.*)
I will not offer incense to your gods.
The child was right; eternity is long,
And life is short. So do your worst to me.

CALPURNIUS

(*More furious still*) What! all my plans subverted by a
child?

(*Pointing to VALERIA*) Take her to prison. (*To officer*)
Said I not to you

I would not have this sort till all the rest

SCENE V

A LILY OF THE SNOW

Had done my will? And did not you, a fool,
And all unfit to serve the Emperor,
Tell me that all you brought would sacrifice?

OFFICER

I did, my lord; you saw the woman's tears.
It was the child who made her obstinate.

(The soldier who had taken out EULALIA comes in.)

SOLDIER

My Lord, we beat the child, but all our blows
Seem only to delight her. So it is
Sometimes with these strange people.

CALPURNIUS

(To soldier) Bring her back. *(Soldier goes out.)*

(To the officer) A beating has effect—though they pretend
It does not hurt them. Which shall we take next
Of your fine prisoners? If all the rest
Are like that woman, it will go hard with you!
The men who serve me must have common sense.

(Enter soldier with EULALIA.)

(To EULALIA) Well, are you cured of worshipping your
Christ?

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE V

EULALIA

It is no use, Calpurnius, to try
To cure me; it is only waste of time;
For all your tortures cannot touch my soul
But only hurt my body; and my soul
Is wholly Christ's. I hate your heathen gods,
And hate your Emperor who worships them—
At least, I do not know—Donatus says
We must not hate the sinner, but the sin.
I do not hate him then, but what he does
I hate.

CALPURNIUS

You think perhaps you have escaped
With just a beating? You are much deceived.
(*To the soldier*) Go, take her to the torture and the rack,
Then burn her sides with torches till she yields
Or dies. We'll see who is the master here!

EULALIA

Blessed be Thou, O Christ, who grantest me
My heart's desire! (*To CALPURNIUS*) Calpurnius, look well
At me, that thou mayest know me in the day
When we shall stand before the judgment seat
Of Christ, and He shall judge us, you and me.

SCENE V

A LILY OF THE SNOW

CALPURNIUS

Take her away!

SOLDIER

There is a little girl

Who hangs about the prison door and says
She is this child's companion.

CALPURNIUS

She too shall sacrifice to love or die. Hold her fast.

(Exit soldier with EULALIA)

(To the officers) Now bring them up.

(The officer makes a sign to the foremost man in the group of Christians.)

MAN

I will not sacrifice!

THE REST

Nor we! It is no use, we worship Christ
And we will die for Him!

CALPURNIUS

(Furious) *(To officer)* You fool! My plan
Is wholly ruined. The important thing

A LILY OF THE SNOW

SCENE V

Was to begin with those who would give way
And influence the others. These are not
That kind at all; these men will never yield.

OFFICER

I do assure you that these very men
Were said to be the weakest in the town.
It is that child! I saw their faces set
The while they watched her.

CALPURNIUS

Take them all away
To prison. As for that accursed child,
I order that her body be exposed
Here in the market-place all day and night,
That men may see what kind of punishment
Is meted out to those who slight the gods.

CURTAIN.

Tableau

SCENE V

A LILY OF THE SNOW

THE SNOW FALLS

The Market-place at MERIDA. The Saint's body lies carelessly thrown down in the middle of the scene. The snow has fallen and partially covers it. Four Angels watch, two on either side. The snow falls softly. The Angels sing:

The pain is over,
The torment done;
The fight is ended,
The crown is won.
Eulalia standeth
Before the Throne,
For Christ hath chosen
And knows His own.

O strong child-spirit,
Thou hast prevailed
Where rich and mighty
And wise have failed.
The simple-hearted
Christ loveth best;
Eulalia enters
Into her rest.

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