

L'Erismena, Act II, sc iv

Abandoned by her lover, Idraspe, Erismena has disguised herself as a soldier and gone to war. She is wounded in battle and captured, then nursed back to health by the king's mistress, Aldimira, who falls in love with this handsome soldier. Alone in Aldimira's rooms, Erismena muses on this awkward turn of events. Then she sees a picture of Aldimira's former lover—who, to her astonishment, she recognizes as Idraspe.

<p>Simplicetta Aldimira, Sitibonda d'Amore, Tu ricorri ad un fonte Ch'il bramato liquore Dar non ti può, ne à tu pietosa quiete Rampollo tien per satollar tua sete.</p>	<p>Naive Aldimira, thirsty for love, you turn to a spring that cannot give you what you desire, nor to your loving rest offer anything to satisfy your thirst.</p>
<p>Effigi sventurate, Se da un core incostante Voi foste abbandonate, Me incolpar non dovrete; O Dei, che veggio? Luci mie, che mirate? Come in questo rittrato Del traditor Idraspe L'immagine contemplate? Chi sà, ch'in questa reggia D'Aldimira invaghito Non sia il felon, ch'altra beltà vagheggia?</p>	<p>Unlucky images, if you by an inconstant heart have been abandoned, you should not blame me; O Gods, what do I see? O my eyes, what to you behold? How, in painting do you see the image of the traitor Idraspe? Who knew, that at this court, charmed by Aldimira, would be that villain who charmed another beauty.</p>
<p>Ostinato mio cor, Ancor tu speri?</p>	<p>My stubborn heart, Do you still hope?</p>
<p>Speranze voi Che siete avvezze à lusingar Dal seno mio partitevi, Non mi state à inganar. Ah nò, fermate il volo! Voglio viver sperando è mi consolo.</p>	<p>You hopes, which always flatter, leave my heart, do not stay to deceive me. Oh, no, stop your flight! I want to live hoping, and to console myself.</p>
<p>Sento il cor che Mi dice soffri in Amor; La sorte un Di mutabile Ti sanerà il dolor. Ah si, statemi in seno! Vi trattengo, speranze, e v'in cateno.</p>	<p>I hear my heart, which tells me: suffer in love! Fate, a changeable god, will heal your grief. Oh, yes, stay in my heart! I clasp you, hopes, and enchain you.</p>