

WILLIAM YEATS

MOSADA: A
DRAMATIC
POEM

William Yeats

Mosada: A dramatic poem

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William Butler Yeats

Mosada: A dramatic poem

MOSADA

"And my Lord Cardinal hath had strange days in his youth."

Extract from a Memoir of the Fifteenth Century

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Mosada, | A Moorish Lady. |
| Ebrema, | A Monk. |
| Cola, | A Lame Boy. |
| Monks and Inquisitors. | |

Scene I

A Little Moorish Room in the Village of Azubia

In the centre of the room a chafing dish

Mosada. [alone] Three times the roses have grown less and less,
As slowly Autumn climbed the golden throne
Where sat old Summer fading into song,
And thrice the peaches flushed upon the walls,
And thrice the corn around the sickles flamed,
Since 'mong my people, tented on the hills,
He stood a messenger. In April's prime
(Swallows were flashing their white breasts above
Or perching on the tents, a-weary still
From waste seas cross'd, yet ever garrulous)
Along the velvet vale I saw him come:
In Autumn, when far down the mountain slopes
The heavy clusters of the grapes were full,
I saw him sigh and turn and pass away;
For I and all my people were accurst
Of his sad God; and down among the grass
Hiding my face, I cried long, bitterly.
Twas evening, and the cricket nation sang
Around my head and danced among the grass;
And all was dimness till a dying leaf
Slid circling down and softly touched my lips
With dew as though 'twere sealing them for death.
Yet somewhere in the footsore world we meet
We two before we die, for Azolar
The star-taught Moor said thus it was decreed
By those wan stars that sit in company
Above the Alpujarras on their thrones,
That when the stars of our nativity
Draw star to star, as on that eve he passed
Down the long valleys from my people's tents,
We meet – we two.

**[She opens the casement – the mingled sound of the
voices and laughter of the apple gatherers floats in.]**

How merry all these are

Among the fruit. But yon, lame Cola crouches
Away from all the others. Now the sun —
A-shining on the little crucifix
Of silver hanging round lame Cola's neck —
Sinks down at last with yonder minaret
Of the Alhambra black athwart his disk;
And Cola seeing, knows the sign and comes.
Thus do I burn these precious herbs whose smoke
Pours up and floats in fragrance o'er my head
In coil on coil of azure.

[*Enter Cola.*] All is ready.

Cola. Mosada, it is then so much the worse.
I will not share your sin.

Mosada. It is no sin
That you shall see on yonder glowing cloud
Pictured, where wander the beloved feet
Whose footfall I have longed for, three sad summers —
Why these new fears?

Cola. The servant of the Lord,
The dark still man, has come, and says 'tis sin.

Mosada. They say the wish itself is half the sin.
Then has this one been sinned full many times,
Yet 'tis no sin – my father taught it me.
He was a man most learned and most mild,
Who, dreaming to a wondrous age, lived on
Tending the roses round his lattice door.
For years his days had dawned and faded thus
Among the plants; the flowery silence fell
Deep in his soul, like rain upon a soil
Worn by the solstice fierce, and made it pure.
Would he teach any sin?

Cola. Gaze in the cloud
Yourself.

Mosada. None but the innocent can see.

Cola. They say I am all ugliness; lame-footed
I am; one shoulder turned awry – why then
Should I be good? But you are beautiful.

Mosada. I cannot see.

Cola. The beetles, and the bats,

And spiders, are my friends, I'm theirs, and they are
Not good; but you are like the butterflies.

Mosada. I cannot see! I cannot see! but you
Shall see a thing to talk on when you're old,
Under a lemon tree beside your door;
And all the elders sitting in the sun,
Will wondering listen, and this tale shall ease
For long, the burthen of their talking griefs.

Cola. Upon my knees I pray you, let it sleep,
The vision.

Mosada. You're pale and weeping, child.
Be not afraid, you'll see no fearful thing.
Thus, thus I beckon from her viewless fields —
Thus beckon to our aid a Phantom fair
And calm, robed all in raiment moony white.
She was a great enchantress once of yore,
Whose dwelling was a tree-wrapt island, lulled
Far out upon the water world and ringed
With wonderful white sand, where never yet
Were furred the wings of ships. There in a dell

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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