

HEROD ANTIPAS

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Herod Antipas by John Istorum

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JOHN Istorum

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BY
JOHN ISTORUM

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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

HEROD ANTIPAS.

HERODIAS, wife of Herod Philip, afterwards of Herod Antipas.

SALOME, daughter of Herod Philip and Herodias.

LUCIUS, in love with Salome.

MARCUS, a favourite of Herod Antipas.

MATTHIAS, a Court humorist.

ELBAZAR, Steward of Herod Philip.

JOHANAN, an old domestic of Herod Philip.

ZADOK, an aged Counsellor.

LORDS.

COUNSELLORS.

COURTIERS.

A CAPTAIN.

A DOCTOR.

A WARDER.

TWO SOLDIERS.

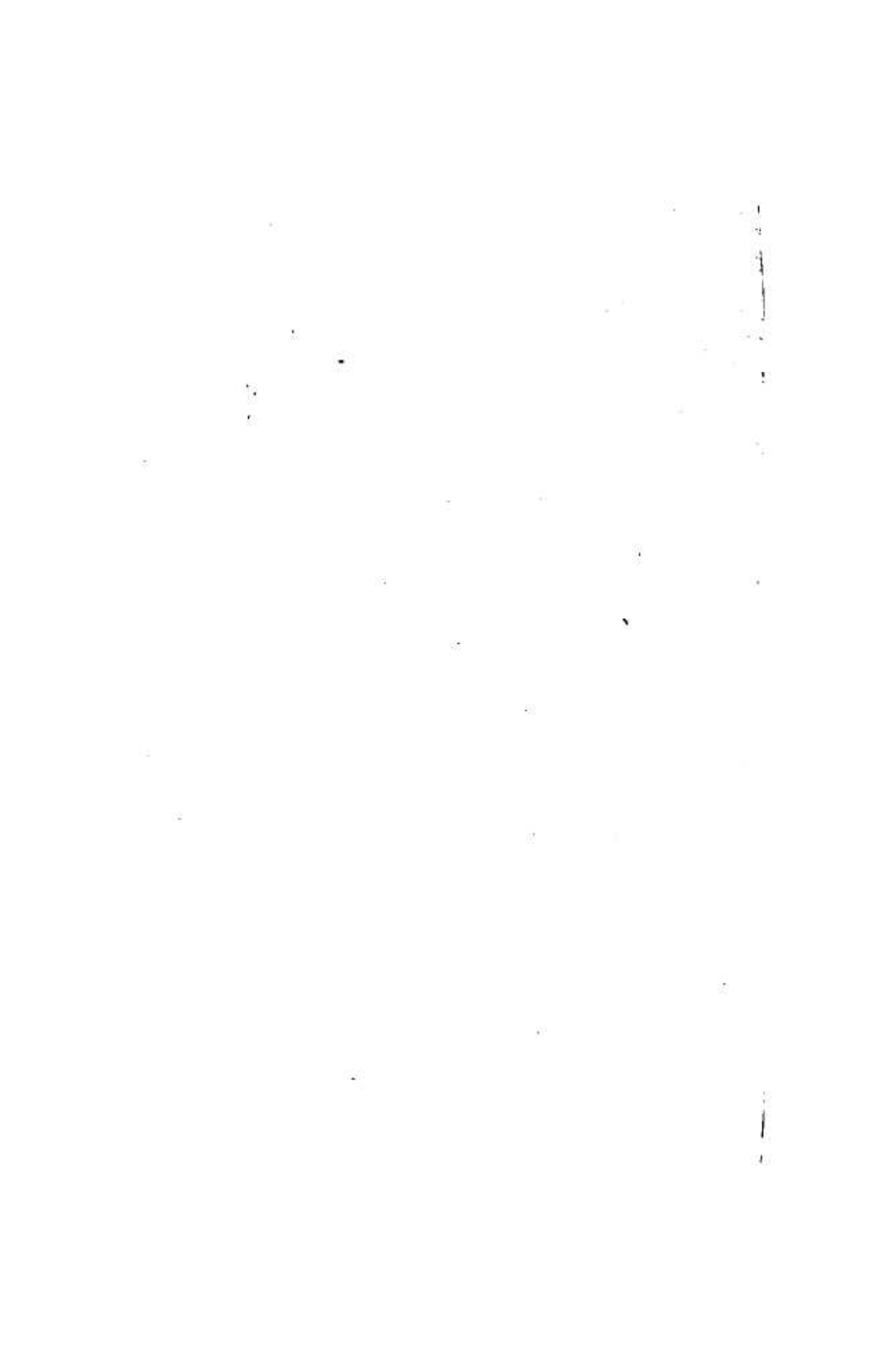
PAGES.

MIRIAM, a Waiting-maid to Herodias.

LYDIA, another Waiting-maid to Herodias.

A SIEVL.

DANCING GIRLS.



HEROD ANTIPAS.

ACT I.

SCENE I.

The house of Herod Philip.

*Enter ELEAZAR, PHILIP'S Steward; and JOHANAN,
an old Domestic.*

ELEAZAR. The times are merry, good Johanan.

JOHANAN. Ay,

Merry indeed. This house scarce knows itself.

These revels and these Pagan doings sort

But ill with my old joints. Night now is day.

For my part let me sleep o' nights.

ELEAZAR. Why, true ;

'Tis a sound theory.

JOHANAN. Theory, say you? Yes.

Give me a bit of practice. Words and words.

Sound theory, sound? Give me sound sleep, I say.

But here, amid this rout, one snatches food
Desperately, as a thief at noon, and sleep
By panic shreds, like a scared sailor-boy
In his first tempest.

ELEAZAR. True, my good old friend ;
But 'tis a point of wisdom, when you deal
With princes and their ways, to let your speech
Be sweeter than your thoughts. Be sib with silence.
Hatch treasons in your mind ;—your head is safe ;
But whisper one word in another's ear,
And far off in his echoing kingdom, Death
May take it as his summons unto you.

JOHANAN. God meant thee for a courtier. 'Tis
a trade

Whose gain is loss at best.

ELEAZAR. Thou hast a tongue,
Old friend, that's blunt. And yet—I would not say
So much to any other—there is truth
And wisdom in thy rough words ; I have known
For thrice seven years the weariness and ache
Of heart and limb, that are the master pay
Of a courtier's service.

(HERODIAS passes at the other end of the hall.)

Ha ! Whisht ! Didst thou see ?

JOHANAN. See? Yes, I saw. Have I not eyes?
I would

'Twere the last time they looked on that.

ELEAZAR. Soft, soft,
I pray she heard not; but these women's ears
Are sharper than a watchdog's in the night;
Or a blind man's when peril is at hand.
I fear mischance. Last night I dream'd a bolt
Fell from the heavens upon this house, and all
That morning saw was a charr'd heap; and then
I dream'd again, and this time came a snake
And stole towards Philip's bed, and he upstarting
Shriek'd with such frantic cries that I awoke.

JOHANAN. Thou hast hit it there;—serpent and
Eve in one.

ELEAZAR. What dost thou say? Speak soft,
Johanán, soft;
In a palace nought is deaf.

JOHANAN. But some are blind.

ELEAZAR. Blind! Who is blind?

JOHANAN. Those who have greatest need
To see. Is it not ever so? This house
Is but a picture of the mighty world;—
Dim, blear-ey'd Philips, such perceiving souls,
That look with great wide gaze on scheming friends