

Falstaff Translation

"Sul fil d'un soffio etesio"

Nanetta's Aria

Sul fil d'un soffio etesio
scorrete, agili larve;
fra i rami un baglior cesio
d'alba lunare apparve.
Danzate! E il passo blando
misuri un blando suon,
la magiche accoppiando carole
alla canzon.

Erriam sotto la luna
scegliendo fior da fiore;
ogni corolla in core
porta la sua fortuna.
Coi gigli e le viole
scriviam de' nomi arcani;
dalle fatate mani
germogolino parole...
parole alluminate di puro argento
e d'or...
carmi e malie.
Le fate hanno, per cifre,
i fior.

On the breath of an etesian breeze
scurry, agile shadows
among the branches a bluish-grey glow
of the rising moon has appeared.
Dance! And may the gentle steps
measure a gentle sound,
combining the magical dances
with the song.

Let us wander beneath the moon,
choosing flower by flower;
each crown of petals, in its heart,
brings its good fortune.
With the lilies and the violets,
let us write secret names;
from our enchanted hands
may words blossom...
words illuminated by pure silver
and gold...
Magic incantations and charms.
The Faeries have, for alphabet letters,
flowers.

Translated by Jennifer Silberberg