

PISANO: You mean *Liberto*?

THOMAS: *Liberto*!

PISANO: Then tell him to come in. Madmen...

Scene 9

Enter LIBERTO.

LIBERTO: How could I come to Valencia
and not call in here to see you?
Though you understand, my mission...

PISANO: *Liberto*, let me embrace you
once and a thousand times over.

LIBERTO: My dear cousin, my dearest friend.

PISANO: You must consider this your home.

LIBERTO: What do you mean? That I'm insane?

PISANO: Simply that my home is your home.
What business brings you to these parts?

LIBERTO: You've heard about Prince Reinero?

PISANO: Only some gossip here and there;
some people say he's been murdered,
others that he's safe in hiding,
a lie cooked up for reasons of state.

LIBERTO: The state never lies, not ever!
He's as dead as a piece of pork,
and every constable in Spain
has been dispatched to hunt his killer.
But the less you know the better.

PISANO: Prince Reinero was a good man.
The whole of Spain seeks justice done.

LIBERTO: Oh yes, we'll get him, mark my words.
His mistress gave us his portrait

and commended his soul to hell.
We had a hundred copies made.
But I don't want to say too much.

PISANO: Can I see?

LIBERTO: For a moment, yes.
Bear in mind it's state property.

He hands him a portrait.

PISANO: It could be anyone... you or me.
What does this say?

LIBERTO: Floriano,
aetatis suae twenty-nine,
perhaps thirty now. Remember
appearances are deceptive.

PISANO: There's a gentle look in his eye.
There's some of them in here
would kill you soon as look at you.
One of them, Orlando, believe...

LIBERTO: Is that loony there eavesdropping?
My mission must remain secret.

PISANO: He's looking at the stars and moon
and wondering where the sun's gone.
He's as empty as a virgin's bed.
Your secret will be safe with him.
But we'll go to my apartments.
No one will interrupt us there.

They leave.

Scene 10

THOMAS: The world's much too wide for secrets.
Which is why they say walls have ears
and what's known to one is known to all.