

LEONTES

Break the seal and read.

The officer breaks the seal. A divine presence is felt. Apollo's ORACLE appears:

ORACLE

HERMIONE IS CHASTE
POLIXENES NO BLAME
CAMILLO A TRUE FRIEND
LEONTES BARES THE SHAME
THE BABE IS INNOCENT
MAY JOY AT LAST ABOUND
THE KING WILL LOSE AN HEIR
IF WHAT IS LOST CANNOT BE FOUND
FORGIVE AND SO FIND JOY
THE LAST WORDS OF OUR SONG
THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN HERE
YOU MUST ALWAYS RIGHT A WRONG

TRIO

APOLLO'S SPOKEN
BLESSED BE
APOLLO'S SPOKEN
BLESSED BE

LEONTES

NOW, HOLD, HOLD, NOW
HAST THOU READ THE TRUTH TO ME

COURT OFFICER

Ay, my lord, even so
As it is here set down.

LEONTES

There is no truth at all i'th'oracle.
The sessions shall proceed--this is mere falsehood.

A flash of lighting and a clap of THUNDER.

HERMIONE

YOU WILL GO THIS ALONE
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU'VE
SIGNED ON TO NOW ALONE

TRIO

YOU WILL GO THIS ALONE
AHH
AHH

[//*MUSICAL STING]

Suddenly, one of Leonte's Lords comes rushing in carrying the young prince Mamillius wrapped in a blanket.

LORD #5

My lord the king! The king!