The Tempest Epilogue

(In the epilogue of The Tempest, Prospero steps forward alone and speaks directly to the audience, breaking the fourth wall. Having renounced his magical powers, forgiven his enemies, and ensured a peaceful future for his daughter Miranda and her new husband Ferdinand, Prospero prepares to leave the island and return to Milan to reclaim his dukedom. He asks the audience for their applause to symbolically set him free, since his magic is gone and only their approval can release him. The speech reflects themes of mercy, redemption, and closure, ending the play on a hopeful and reflective note.)

Original	Translation by litcharts
Now my charms are all o'erthrown, And what strength I have's mine own, Which is most faint.	Now my spells are all finished, and the strength that I have left is just my own—which is quite weak.
Now, 'tis true, I must be here confined by you, Or sent to Naples.	Now, it's true, I'll either be kept in this place by you, the audience, or get to go to Naples.
Let me not, Since I have my dukedom got And pardoned the deceiver, dwell In this bare island by your spell,	Please, since I have gotten back my dukedom and forgiven the one who betrayed me, do not keep me here on this deserted island with your spells.
But release me from my bands With the help of your good hands.	Instead, use your hands to applaud, and free me from my constraints.
Gentle breath of yours my sails Must fill, or else my project fails, Which was to please.	Your kind cheers will fill the sails of my ship, or else I will have failed to reach my goal, which was to please you.
Now I want Spirits to enforce, art to enchant,	Now I lack both spirits to command, and also the ability to do magic.
And my ending is despair, Unless I be relieved by prayer, Which pierces so that it assaults Mercy itself and frees all faults.	I'll end up in despair unless my request touches your compassion, and you forgive all the faults of this production.
As you from crimes would pardoned be, Let your indulgence set me free.	Just as you would be forgiven for your sins, be generous in your response to our play, and set me free.