

## EL NARCISO EN SU OPINIÓN

### Jornada primera:

Don Gutierre, the ultimate narcissist, dresses himself and makes frequent pauses to admire his handsomeness while Tadeo, his servant, makes witty asides, simultaneously approving of and teasing Gutierre's obsession with himself. Don Gonzalo, Gutierre's cousin, comes onto the scene and makes fun of Gutierre's vanity.

Marqués and doña Brianda confess their deep love for one another. Brianda, however, is terrified that her father has already pre-arranged her marriage. Tadeo and Lucia are introduced and announce the arrival of Gutierre. Before Gutierre appears, Marqués questions Tadeo on Gutierre's riches. Tadeo reemphasizes the fact that Gutierre is obsessed with himself, seeking only to improve his own image.

Don Pedro, Brianda's father, arrives and greets Gutierre and Gonzalo when they enter and confirms Brianda's fears by indicating that she is to choose between Gutierre or Gonzalo as a husband.

Marqués comes onto the scene and is informed of Pedro's decision to wed Brianda. Marqués is horrified but pretends to be joyful in order to please Pedro. The *jornada* finishes with Marqués and Brianda lamenting their misfortune.

### Jornada segunda:

Pedro is adamant that Brianda wed one of her cousins. Brianda pleads her case, begging her father to recognize the injustice of forcing her to marry someone that she does not love. Fed up with her obstinacy, Pedro allows Brianda only an hour to choose between Gutierre or Gonzalo.

Marqués is distraught because of Pedro's decision. Tadeo plots with Marqués, suggesting that Lucia, the criada, disguise herself as Inés, the sister of Marqués. In so doing, she could flatter Gutierre, make him fall in love with "Inés," and refuse Brianda's hand.

Tadeo meets with Gutierre and hints to him that Inés has been checking him out in the court. Gutierre, being a narcissist, loves the attention and begins to fall in love with Inés (whom he still has never seen).

Gonzalo and doña Mencía, Brianda's cousin, begin discussing the current situation and Mencía fears that she will not be able to wed Gonzalo, her true love. In the mean time, Tadeo has been helping Lucía get dressed, making her into an idealized "Inés."

Gutierre makes a trip to Marqués's home to pay a visit to "Inés," who is actually Lucía in disguise. "Inés" sweet-talks Gutierre with words and flirtatious gestures, professing her undying love. Gutierre falls head over heels in love with "Inés" and begs her hand in marriage. "Inés" accepts his hand on one condition: that Marqués marry Mencía, Gutierre's sister. Gutierre leaves, obsessed with marrying "Inés" and convincing his sister to marry Marqués.

Tadeo congratulates Lucía for her impeccable performance and asks for her hand. Lucía, who is also in love with Tadeo, accepts.

Gutierre meets up with Gonzalo and explains to him his great fortune. Gonzalo feigns happiness for Gutierre, but is truly terrified that he is going to give Mencía to Marqués.

Gutierre informs Pedro that he no longer seeks to wed Brianda. Pedro is rather upset and demands that Brianda choose between the two cousins. Fortunately for Pedro, Brianda accepts Gonzalo.

Gonzalo arrives on the scene, enraged that he cannot marry Mencía. Pedro offers his congratulations, explaining that Brianda has chosen Gonzalo. Gonzalo half-heartedly thanks Pedro, resigning himself to his fate. Pedro leaves and Gonzalo and Brianda are both very upset.

Brianda thought that by accepting Gonzalo, he would have expressed his love for Mencía to Pedro, thereby allowing Brianda the chance to marry Marqués. Gonzalo, however, felt betrayed by Mencía and accepted Brianda's hand. Mencía enters the scene and Gonzalo bemoans his loss.

Mencía, unaware that Gutierre plans to give her hand to Marqués, is at a loss for words when Gonzalo accuses her of betraying their love. Marqués appears and is completely heartbroken because Brianda has accepted Gonzalo as her fiancée. In a fury, Gonzalo attacks Marqués just as Gutierre arrives on the scene.

Gutierre is confused because of Gonzalo's aggressiveness and asks why he is in such a rage. Gonzalo blames Gutierre for all his misfortune when Pedro enters and is shocked to see Gonzalo and Marqués at swordpoint. The *jornada* ends as each character storms off the stage, infuriated one with another.

### Jornada tercera:

Gutierre goes to visit Inés (the *real* Inés) at her home and is shocked to discover that she is not the same person that he proposed to. Gutierre refuses to believe that she is Inés, having already seen Lucía (disguised as "Inés") and fallen in love. At the peak of his confusion, the Marqués appears and convinces Inés to play along, claiming that she is his cousin. Gutierre demands to see "Inés," but they inform him that she is not home. He leaves in search of "Inés."

Gonzalo arrives at Marqués's home and they discuss their misfortunes. Marqués explains that Gutierre saw his "sister" and fell in love, but that "Inés" will only wed Gutierre as long as Mencía marry Marqués. Together Gonzalo and Gutierre despair their losses.

Mencía and Brianda lament their own difficulties and Mencía decides to speak directly with her uncle, explaining her love for Gonzalo. Lucía arrives on the scene and tells Brianda that Marqués still trusts that Brianda will marry him. While Lucía is explaining this to Brianda, Tadeo and Gutierre appear, forcing Tadeo to try and hide Lucía so that Gutierre does not recognize her.

Gutierre, however, does spot Lucía and is flabbergasted as to why "Inés" is dressed as a criada. Lucía quickly invents a great story involving the need to disguise herself as a criada. Gutierre is content with her story and leaves the scene.

Tadeo and Brianda make plans to run away, fleeing the sticky situation that they have created. They embrace just as Gutierre comes back. Shocked that "Inés", his love,

is cuddling with his *criado*, Gutierre flies into a rage. Tadeo invents another clever story about his interaction with “Inés” that saves his life.

Gutierre tells Pedro about his great fortune of marrying “Inés”. Mencía then confronts Pedro and demands that she wed Gonzalo. Pedro, moved by compassion, grants Mencía her desires. Marqués also appears and reveals his love for Brianda. Pedro decides to allow Marqués and Brianda to get married, also. Gutierre recognizes Lucía as the *criada* and finishes the play as he began, a narcissist (en su opinión).