

And by the crown on thy brow thou  
sworest,  
Whate'er I asked thee thou wouldst  
grant it.

THE KING.—Say on.

RADAMÉS.—Vouchsafe then, I pray, free-  
dom and life to freely grant  
Unto these Ethiop captives here.

AMNERIS.—Free all, then!

PRIESTS.—Death be the doom of Egypt's  
enemies!

PEOPLE.—Compassion to the wretched!

RAMPHIS.—Hear me, oh King! and thou  
too,  
Dauntless young hero, lost to the  
voice of prudence;  
They are foes, to battle hardened.  
Vengeance ne'er in them will die,  
Growing bolder if now pardoned,  
They to arms once more will fly!

RADAMÉS.—With Amonasro, their war-  
rior King,  
All hopes of revenge have perish'd.

RAMPHIS.—At least, as earnest of safety  
and of peace,  
Keep we back then Aida's father.

THE KING.—I yield me to thy counsel;  
Of safety now and peace a bond more  
certain will I give you.  
Radamés, to thee, our debt is un-  
bounded.  
Amneris, my daughter, shall be thy  
guerdon.  
Thou shalt hereafter o'er Egypt with  
her hold conjoint sway.

AMNERIS (*aside*).—Now let yon bond-  
maid, now let her  
Rob me of my love she dare not!

THE KING.—Glory to Egypt's gracious  
land,  
Isis hath aye protected,  
With laurel and with lotus  
Entwine proudly the victor's head.

RAMPHIS AND PRIESTS.—Praise be to  
Isis, goddess bland,  
Who hath our land protected,  
And pray that the favors granted us,  
Ever be o'er us shed.

SLAVE-PRISONERS.—Glory to Egypt's gra-  
cious land,  
She hath revenge rejected,  
And liberty hath granted us  
Once more our soil to tread.

AIDA.—Alas! to me what hope is left?  
He wed, a throne ascending,  
I left my loss to measure,  
To mourn a hopeless love.

RADAMÉS.—Now heaven's bolt the clouds  
has cleft,  
Upon my head descending,  
Ah! no, all Egypt's treasure  
Weighs not Aida's love.

AMNERIS.—Almost of every sense bereft,  
By joy my hopes transcending,  
Scarce I the triumph can measure  
Now crowning all my love.

AMONASRO (*to AIDA*).—Take heart;  
there yet some hope is left,  
Thy country's fate amending;  
Soon shalt thou see with pleasure  
Revenge light from above.

PEOPLE.—Glory to Egypt's goddess  
bland,  
Who hath our land protected!  
With laurel and with lotus,  
Entwine proudly the victor's head.

### ACT III

SCENE I.—*Shores of the Nile. Granite  
rocks overgrown with palm-trees. On  
the summit of the rocks a temple dedi-  
cated to Isis, half-hidden in foliage.  
Night; stars and a bright moon.*

(*From a boat which approaches the  
shore descend AMNERIS and RAM-  
PHIS, followed by some women  
closely veiled. Guards.*)

RAMPHIS (*to AMNERIS*).—Come to the  
fane of Isis, the eve  
Before the day of thy bridal, to pray  
the goddess

Grant thee her favor. To Isis are the  
hearts  
Of mortals open. In human hearts  
whatever  
Is hidden, full well she knoweth.

AMNERIS.—Aye; and I will pray that  
Radamés  
May give me truly his heart,  
Truly as mine to him was ever de-  
voted.

RAMPHIS.—Now enter. Thou shalt pray  
Till the daylight; I shall be near  
thee. (*All enter the temple.*)