

DUEL BETWEEN ORLANDO AND RINALDO FOR THEIR LOVE OF ANGELICA

1ª SCENE: ROYAL PALACE OF PARIS

Charlemagne has gathered the council of paladins to announce that his nephew Orlando and other knights have abandoned their own duties in order to search for Angelica, a beautiful Oriental princess. A soldier informs about the siege imposed by Rodomonte, the king of Algiers. Charlemagne sends his paladins to fight under the orders of prince Rinaldo.

2ª SCENE: PAGAN FIELD

Rodomonte tells his giants and knights they will soon conquer Paris. All of them get ready to fight while shouting warlike words “to arms”.

3ª SCENE : PARIS WALL

Christians and Saracens clash in a battle. Rodomonte shows great courage, but he is put to flight by Rinaldo, who was run after Rodomonte to kill him.

4ª SCENE: WOODS

Orlando is looking for Angelica. He encounters a big snake and kills it. A boy praises his bravery, and asks him to free a young woman held captive by a wicked giant. Orlando leaves, heading for that place where she’s prisoner in order to release the maiden.

5ª SCENE: SEA-SCAPE

A gigantic thief has kidnapped Angelica and wants to take her to the fair of Salonika, Greece, and sell her as a slave. Orlando gets there and frees her. The two are talking about love, when Rinaldo arrives looking for Rodomonte. When he sees Angelica, he falls in love with her once again. But since Orlando doesn’t let him approach her, the two paladins start fighting.

6ª SCENE: ENTRANCE TO HELL

Malagigi the enchanter learns from Nacalone, one of his demons, that Orlando and Rinaldo have been fighting for three days in the Woods of Leaf, as they are both in love with Angelica. Malagigi also learns of a prophecy according to which Rinaldo is risking to die. Malagigi remembers his teacher Merlin’s warning that he should always fight against the sorcerers who oppose Christianity and protect paladins’ lives. Malagigi knows that the two cousins, worn out by the long duel, will not listen to him. Hence he orders Nacalone to change himself into the aspect of Namo duke of Bavaria, while he himself will take the looks of Charlemagne. Then, he orders Nacalone to go and meet Angelica and convince her to mount a fast steed and run to her home-land, India. Finally, they direct their steps toward the duellists in order to stop the fight.

7ª SCENE: PARIS WALLS

Some Soldier on guard around the walls notice Orlando and Rinaldo approaching, and give the alarm. The two armies clash, and the outcome is tragic.