

## Exemplar Drama- Tartuffe

Moliere, Jean-Baptiste Poquelin. *Tartuffe*. *The Project Gutenberg eBook of Tartuffe*.  
Translated by Jeffrey D. Hoeper. Release Date: April 3, 2009 [eBook #28488] (1664) From Act  
III, Scene VI

Orgon. What do I hear? Good God! Is it credible?

Tartuffe. Yes, brother, I'm wicked and culpable,

A sorry sinner, full of iniquity,

As great a wretch as there ever could be.

My entire life has been soiled with evil;

It's nothing but a mass of sinful upheaval.

And I see that God has, for my punishment,

Chosen to mortify me with this event.

Let them connect any crime with my name;

I waive all defense and take all the blame.

Believe what they tell you, stoke up your wrath,

And drive me like a felon from your path.

The shame that I bear cannot be too great,

For I know I deserve a much worse fate.

Orgon [to his son]. Traitor! Do you dare, by your duplicity,

To taint both his virtue and purity?

Damis. What? Can the false meekness of this hypocrite

Cause you to belie . . .

Orgon. Shut up, you misfit.

Tartuffe. Oh, let him go on. You are wrong to scold,

And you'd be wise to believe the story he's told.

In light of his claims, why should you favor me?

What do you know of my culpability?

Why put your faith in my exterior?

Why should you think that I'm superior?

No, no, appearances are fooling you,

I am the kind of man you should eschew.

The whole world thinks that I have earned God's blessing,

But the plain truth is . . . that I'm worth nothing.