

- BLAN. I, madam, on Abstract Philosophy.  
 There I propose considering, at length,  
 Three points – The Is, the Might Be, and the Must:  
 Whether the Is, from being actual fact,  
 50 Is more important than the vague Might Be,  
 Or the Might Be, from taking wider scope,  
 Is for that reason greater than the Is:  
 And lastly, how the Is and Might Be stand  
 Compared with the inevitable Must!
- 55 PRIN. The subject's deep – how do you treat it, pray?  
 BLAN. Madam, I take three possibilities,  
 And strike a balance, then, between the three!  
 As thus: The Princess Ida Is our head,  
 The Lady Psyche Might Be, Lady Blanche –  
 60 Neglected Blanche – inevitably Must.  
 Given these three hypotheses – to find  
 The actual betting against each of them!
- PRIN. Your theme's ambitious: pray you bear in mind  
 Who highest soar fall farthest. Fare you well,  
 65 You and your pupils! Maidens, follow me.

*(Exeunt PRINCESS and Maidens singing a refrain of chorus 'And thus to empyrean heights,' etc. Manet LADY BLANCHE.)*