Lecture on: A Midsummer Night’s Dream

I. Four plots and two settings:

Plots:
1) Theseus and Hippolyta
2) the two sets of lovers: indistinguishable
3) the fairy world: Oberon and Titania and Puck
4) the "rude mechanicals": Peter Quince and Co.

Settings:
1) Athens
2) the forest

II. Theseus as Stage Manager

III. "There are fairies at the bottom of my garden."
What they are--and what they are not

IV. Amateur theatricals, or getting down to fundamentals

V. Bottom's Dream

That we speake of, is wysdome amonge them that are perfecte: not the wysedome of this worlde nether of the rulars of this worlde (which go to nought) but we speake the wysdome of God, which is in secrete and lieth hyd, which God ordeyned before the worlde unto our glory; which wysdome none of the rulars of the worlde knewe. For had they knowne it, they wolde not have crucified the Lorde of glory. But as it is written: The eye hath not sene, and the eare hath not hearde, nether have entred into the herte of men, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath opened them unto us by his sprete. For the sprete searcheth all things, ye the bottome of Goddes secretes.

I Corinthians, 2.6-10

VI. The Play of Pyramus and Thisbe, or, a second look at Romeo and Juliet