

# Salome



Salome Dancing before Herod by Gustave Moreau, 1876

by [Michael Shindler](#) (January 2022)

**Salome is** dancing  
In the variety of her veils  
With bare feet like doves in the dust  
Over the Roman stonework  
In the humidity of Herod's air  
—There, where the angel is advancing  
With all that his advance entails  
Into the rhythm of lust.

But beauty is not a bulwark  
Against a word's snare.

What hot-blooded men swear  
In the midst of their romancing  
A saint's prayer  
Says more in blessing:

'Beautiful—Beautiful—Beautiful  
Is the variety of her veils,  
Like a dove over the Roman stonework.'

And Herod is dutiful to his word  
And gives the command.

And hark, the angel advancing—heard,  
Swooping where his wings had fanned.

'Beautiful—Beautiful—Beautiful  
Is the variety of the dove's veils.'

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