

Don John and Borachio Side

Context: The villains of the play scheme to destroy the engagement of the young lovers, Hero and Claudio.

Enter DON JOHN and BORACHIO

DON JOHN It is so; the Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato.

BORACHIO Yea, my lord; but I can cross it.

DON JOHN Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be medicinal to me: I am sick in displeasure to him.

How canst thou cross this marriage?

BORACHIO Not honestly, my lord; but so covertly that no dishonesty shall appear in me.

DON JOHN Show me briefly how.

BORACHIO I think I told your lordship a year since, how much I am in the favour of Margaret, the waiting gentlewoman to Hero.

DON JOHN I remember.

BORACHIO I can, at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber window.

DON JOHN What life is in that, to be the death of this marriage?

BORACHIO The poison of that lies in you to temper. Go you to the prince your brother; spare not to tell him that he hath wronged his honour in marrying the renowned Claudio--whose estimation do you mightily hold up--to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero.

DON JOHN What proof shall I make of that?

BORACHIO Proof enough to misuse the prince, to vex Claudio, to undo Hero and kill Leonato. Look you for any other issue?

DON JOHN Only to despise them, I will endeavour any thing.

BORACHIO Go, then; find me a meet hour to draw Don Pedro and the Count Claudio alone: tell them that you know that Hero loves me; intend a kind of zeal both to the prince and Claudio, as,--in love of your brother's honour, who hath made this match, and his friend's reputation, who is thus like to be cozened with the semblance of a maid,--that you have discovered thus. They will scarcely believe this without trial: offer them instances; which shall bear no less likelihood than to see me at her chamber-window, hear me call Margaret Hero, hear Margaret term me Borachio; and bring them to see this the very night before the intended wedding,--for in the meantime I will so fashion the matter that Hero shall be absent,--and there shall appear such seeming truth of Hero's disloyalty that jealousy shall be called assurance and all the preparation overthrown.

DON JOHN Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will put it in practise. Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducats.

BORACHIO Be you constant in the accusation, and my cunning shall not shame me.

DON JOHN I will presently go learn their day of marriage.

Exeunt

BEATRICE and BENEDICK SIDE

Context: Beatrice and Benedick have always hated each other, constantly fighting and matching wits. But do they hate each other? Over the course of the play, they start to realize that they are actually in love!

In this scene, Beatrice's cousin has just been accused of cheating on her fiancé and was left at the altar. Beatrice is devastated for her cousin... until Benedick shows up and confesses his feelings.

BENEDICK Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?

BEATRICE Yea, and I will weep a while longer.

BENEDICK I will not desire that.

BEATRICE You have no reason; I do it freely.

BENEDICK Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged.

BEATRICE Ah, how much might the man deserve of me that would right her!

BENEDICK Is there any way to show such friendship?

BEATRICE A very even way, but no such friend.

BENEDICK May a man do it?

BEATRICE It is a man's office, but not yours.

(a moment of silence as Benedick can't hold it in any longer)

BENEDICK I do love nothing in the world so well as you!

Is not that strange?

BEATRICE As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you: but believe me not; and yet I lie not; I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my cousin.

BENEDICK By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me.

BEATRICE Do not swear, and eat it.

BENEDICK I will swear by it that you love me; and I will make him eat it that says I love not you.

BEATRICE Will you not eat your word?

BENEDICK With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.

BEATRICE Why, then, God forgive me!

BENEDICK What offence, sweet Beatrice?

BEATRICE You have stayed me in a happy hour: I was about to protest I loved you.

BENEDICK And do it with all thy heart.

BEATRICE I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.

BENEDICK Come, bid me do any thing for thee.

BEATRICE Kill Claudio.

BENEDICK Not for the wide world.

BEATRICE You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

Benedick and Claudio Side

Context: Claudio just returned home after war to discover that a young woman, Hero, has captured his heart. His buddy Benedick thinks love is stupid.

CLAUDIO Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signor Leonato?

BENEDICK I noted her not; but I looked on her.

CLAUDIO Is she not a modest young lady?

BENEDICK Do you question me, as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgment; or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a professed tyrant to their sex?

CLAUDIO No; I pray thee speak in sober judgment.

BENEDICK I do not like her.

CLAUDIO Thou thinkest I am in sport: I pray thee tell me truly how thou likest her.

BENEDICK Would you buy her, that you inquire after her?

CLAUDIO Can the world buy such a jewel?
In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.

BENEDICK I can see yet without spectacles and I see no such matter: there's her cousin, an she were not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in beauty as the first of May doth the last of December. But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?

CLAUDIO I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.

BENEDICK Is't come to this? In faith, hath not the world one man but he will wear his cap with suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of three-score again? Go to, i' faith; an thou wilt needs thrust thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it and sigh away Sundays. Look Don Pedro is returned to seek you.

Benedick Side

Context: Benedick's friend Claudio has fallen in love. Benedick has sworn he'll never fall in love, but he's starting to maybe feel some things for Beatrice... feelings that he's fighting off in this monologue!

BENEDICK

I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn by failing in love: and such a man is Claudio. I have known when there was no music with him but the drum and the fife; and now had he rather hear the tabour and the pipe: I have known when he would have walked ten mile a-foot to see a good armour; and now will he lie ten nights awake, carving the fashion of a new doublet. He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest man and a soldier; and now is he turned orthography; his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so many strange dishes. May I be so converted and see with these eyes? I cannot tell; I think not:

One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well; another virtuous, yet I am well; but till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace. Rich she shall be, that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen her; fair, or I'll never look on her; mild, or come not near me; noble, or not I for an angel; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall be of what colour it please God. Ha! the prince and Monsieur Love! I will hide me in the arbour.

DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, and BENEDICK SIDE

Context: Benedick has just fallen in love with Beatrice, but hasn't told anybody – not even Beatrice herself - and is a bit freaked out by it. Don Pedro (a Prince) and Claudio (a young man) are the ones who hatched the plan to get him to fall in love, so they are enjoying Benedick's discomfort. At the start of this scene, Don Pedro is telling Claudio he'll leave town after Claudio's marriage.

DON PEDRO I do but stay till your marriage be consummate, and then go I toward Aragon.

CLAUDIO I'll bring you thither, my lord, if you'll vouchsafe me.

DON PEDRO Nay, that would be as great a soil in the new gloss of your marriage as to show a child his new coat and forbid him to wear it. I will only be bold with Benedick for his company; for, from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot, he is all mirth: he hath twice or thrice cut Cupid's bow-string and the little hangman dare not shoot at him; he hath a heart as sound as a bell and his tongue is the clapper, for what his heart thinks his tongue speaks.

BENEDICK Gallants, I am not as I have been.

DON PEDRO So say I methinks you are sadder.

CLAUDIO I hope he be in love.

DON PEDRO Hang him, truant! there's no true drop of blood in him, to be truly touched with love: if he be sad, he wants money.

BENEDICK I have the toothache.

DON PEDRO Draw it.

BENEDICK Hang it!

CLAUDIO You must hang it first, and draw it afterwards.

DON PEDRO What! sigh for the toothache?

BENEDICK Well, every one can master a grief but he that has it.

CLAUDIO Yet say I, he is in love.

DON PEDRO There is no appearance of fancy in him, unless it be a fancy that he hath to strange disguises.

CLAUDIO If he be not in love with some woman, there is no believing old signs:

DON PEDRO Hath any man seen him at the barber's?

CLAUDIO No, but the barber's man hath been seen with him!

DON PEDRO Nay, he rubs himself with civet: can you smell him out by that?

CLAUDIO And when was he wont to wash his face?

DON PEDRO Yea, or to paint himself? for the which, I hear what they say of him.

CLAUDIO Conclude-

DON PEDRO Conclude- he is in love.

URSULA and HERO SIDE

Context: Hero is a young woman and Ursula is her handmaid. They are trying to trick Hero's cousin Beatrice into falling in love with Benedick, so they are having a loud conversation in a room where Beatrice is hiding in order to plant the idea in her mind. Ursula and Hero pretend they don't know Beatrice is there.

- URSULA** But are you sure
That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?
- HERO** So says the prince and my new-trothed lord.
- URSULA** And did they bid you tell her of it, madam?
- HERO** They did entreat me to acquaint her of it;
But I persuaded them, if they loved Benedick,
To wish him wrestle with affection,
And never to let Beatrice know of it.
- URSULA** Why did you so? Doth not the gentleman
Deserve as full as fortunate a bed
As ever Beatrice shall couch upon?
- HERO** O god of love! I know he doth deserve
As much as may be yielded to a man:
But Nature never framed a woman's heart
Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice;
Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes,
Misprising what they look on, and her wit
Values itself so highly that to her
All matter else seems weak: she cannot love,
Nor take no shape nor project of affection,
She is so self-endear'd.
- URSULA** And therefore certainly it were not good
She knew his love, lest she make sport at it.

DOGBERRY and the neighborhood watch Side

Context: Dogberry is the leader of the local neighborhood watch. He/she takes their role a bit seriously, almost like the leader of an army ...despite not being very good at it! In this version of the play, the entire neighborhood watch are young children, like a troupe of Cub Scouts called the Princes' Watch.

Enter DOGBERRY and VERGES with the Watch

DOGBERRY Neighbours! Being chosen for the Prince's Watch, are you good men and true?

ALL YEA!

VERGES Well, give them their charge, neighbour Dogberry.

DOGBERRY First, who think you the most desertless man to be constable?

VERGES Neighbour Otecake, sir, or Neighbor Seacole; for they can write and read.

DOGBERRY Come hither, neighbour Seacole. God hath blessed you with a good name: to be well-favoured is the gift of fortune; but to write **and** read comes by nature.

You are thought here to be the most senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch; therefore bear you the lantern. This is your charge: you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to bid any man stand, in the prince's name.

ALL In the Prince's Name!

SEACOLE How if they will not stand?

DOGBERRY Why, then, let them go!

BEATRICE and BENEDICK SIDE

Context: Beatrice and Benedick have always hated each other, constantly fighting and matching wits. But do they hate each other? Over the course of the play, they start to realize that they are actually in love!

In this scene, they haven't seen each other in a while and so are having fun insulting each other.

BEATRICE I wonder that you will still be talking, Signor Benedick: nobody marks you.

BENEDICK What, my dear Lady Disdain! are you yet living?

BEATRICE Is it possible disdain should die while she hath such meet food to feed it as Signor Benedick? Courtesy itself must convert to disdain, if you come in her presence.

BENEDICK Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted: and I would I could find in my heart that I had not a hard heart; for, truly, I love none.

BEATRICE A dear happiness to women: I thank God and my cold blood, I am of your humour for that: I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me.

BENEDICK God keep your ladyship still in that mind! so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate scratched face.

BEATRICE Scratching could not make it worse, an 'twere such a face as yours were.

BENEDICK Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.

BEATRICE A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.