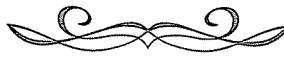

The Complete Works of Shakespeare

Fifth Edition



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sixpence in earnest of the bearward, and lead his apes 37
 into hell. 38
 LEONATO Well, then, go you into hell?
 BEATRICE No, but to the gate; and there will the devil
 meet me, like an old cuckold, with horns on his head,
 and say, "Get you to heaven, Beatrice, get you to
 heaven, here's no place for you maids." So deliver I up
 my apes, and away to Saint Peter, for the heavens; he 44
 shows me where the bachelors sit, and there live we 45
 as merry as the day is long.
 ANTONIO [to Hero] Well, niece, I trust you will be ruled
 by your father.
 BEATRICE Yes, faith, it is my cousin's duty to make
 curtsy and say, "Father, as it please you." But yet for
 all that, cousin, let him be a handsome fellow, or else
 make another curtsy and say, "Father, as it please me."
 LEONATO Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted
 with a husband.
 BEATRICE Not till God make men of some other metal 55
 than earth. Would it not grieve a woman to be over-
 mastered with a piece of valiant dust? To make an
 account of her life to a clod of wayward marl? No, 58
 uncle, I'll none. Adam's sons are my brethren, and
 truly I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.
 LEONATO [to Hero] Daughter, remember what I told 60
 you. If the Prince do solicit you in that kind, you know 62
 your answer.
 BEATRICE The fault will be in the music, cousin, if you 63
 be not wooed in good time. If the Prince be too 65
 important, tell him there is measure in everything, 66
 and so dance out the answer. For, hear me, Hero:
 wooing, wedding, and repenting is as a Scotch jig, and 68
 a measure, and a cinquepace. The first suit is hot and 69
 hasty, like a Scotch jig, and full as fantastical; the
 wedding, mannerly-modest, as a measure, full of state 71
 and ancientry; and then comes Repentance, and with 72
 his bad legs falls into the cinquepace faster and faster
 till he sink into his grave.
 LEONATO Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly. 75
 BEATRICE I have a good eye, uncle; I can see a church by 76
 daylight. 77
 LEONATO The revelers are entering, brother. Make good
 room. [The men put on their masks.]

37 in earnest in token advance payment for. bearward one who
 keeps and exhibits a bear (and sometimes apes) 37-8 lead ... hell
 (An ancient proverb says, "Such as die maids do all lead apes in
 hell.") 44 for the heavens (A common interjection, like "Good heav-
 ens!" but here also carrying its literal meaning, i.e., bound for
 heaven.) 45 bachelors unmarried persons of either sex 55 metal
 substance. (With play on "mettle.") 58 marl clay, earth (such as was
 used by God to make Adam in Genesis 2). 59-60 Adam's ... kind-
 red (Beatrice jests that since men and women are all descended from
 Adam, it would be incestuous for her to marry a man.) 62 in that
 kind to that effect (i.e., to marriage) 65 in good time (1) soon (2) in
 time to the music, rhythmically. 66 important importunate, urgent.
 measure (1) moderation (2) rhythm, dance 68-9 a measure a formal
 dance 69 cinquepace five-step lively dance, galliard. (The pun on
 "sink apace," as it was pronounced, is evident in lines 72-4: repen-
 tance will sink faster and faster, with a suggestion of detumescence.)
 71-2 state and ancientry dignity and traditional stateliness
 75 apprehend passing shrewdly understand with unusual perspicac-
 ity. 76-7 see ... daylight i.e., see something as plain as the nose on
 your face.

Enter [as maskers] Prince [Don] Pedro, Clau-
 dio, and Benedick, and Balthasar, [Borachio,]
 and Don John.
 DON PEDRO Lady, will you walk a bout with your 80
 friend? [The couples pair off for the dance.] 81
 HERO So you walk softly and look sweetly and say
 nothing, I am yours for the walk, and especially when
 I walk away.
 DON PEDRO With me in your company?
 HERO I may say so, when I please.
 DON PEDRO And when please you to say so?
 HERO When I like your favor, for God defend the lute 88
 should be like the case! 89
 DON PEDRO My visor is Philemon's roof; within the 90
 house is Jove.
 HERO Why, then, your visor should be thatched. 92
 DON PEDRO Speak low, if you speak love. 93
 [They dance to one side.]
 BALTHASAR Well, I would you did like me. 94
 MARGARET So would not I for your own sake, for I have
 many ill qualities.
 BALTHASAR Which is one?
 MARGARET I say my prayers aloud.
 BALTHASAR I love you the better. The hearers may cry
 Amen.
 MARGARET God match me with a good dancer!
 BALTHASAR Amen.
 MARGARET And God keep him out of my sight when
 the dance is done! Answer, clerk. 104
 BALTHASAR No more words. The clerk is answered. 105
 [They dance to one side.]
 URSULA I know you well enough. You are Signor
 Antonio.
 ANTONIO At a word, I am not. 108
 URSULA I know you by the wagging of your head.
 ANTONIO To tell you true, I counterfeit him.
 URSULA You could never do him so ill-well unless you 111
 were the very man. Here's his dry hand up and down. 112
 You are he, you are he.
 ANTONIO At a word, I am not.
 URSULA Come, come, do you think I do not know you
 by your excellent wit? Can virtue hide itself? Go to,
 mum, you are he. Graces will appear, and there's an 117
 end. [They dance to one side.] 118

80 walk a bout take a turn, join in a section of a dance. (Here proba-
 bly a slow, stately pavane.) 81 friend wooer. 88 favor face
 88-9 God ... case! i.e., God forbid the face within should be as
 unhandsome as its cover, your visor! 90 Philemon's roof i.e., the
 humble cottage in which the peasants Philemon and Baucis enter-
 tained Jove, or Jupiter, unawares. (See Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, 8.)
 90-3 My ... love (A fourteen-syllable rhymed couplet, the verse form
 of Arthur Golding's translation of the *Metamorphoses*, 1567.) 92 visor
 mask. thatched i.e., whiskered, to resemble the thatch of a humble
 cottage. 94-105 BALTHASAR (The speech prefixes in the Quarto text
 for Balthasar's lines read *Benz.* and *Balth.* Some editors speculate that
Borachio is intended.) 104 clerk (So addressed because of Balthasar's
 repeatedly answering "Amen" like the parish clerk saying the
 responses.) 108 At a word In short 111 do ... ill-well imitate his
 imperfections so perfectly 112 dry hand (A sign of age.) up and
 down up exactly. 117 mum be silent 117-18 an end no more to
 be said.

- 165
Claudio.
- 174
lio.
- 175
gues.
- 176
od.
- 177
ero!
- 181
our own
- 182
the gar-
- 183
tain? Or
- 184
ou must
- 185
Hero.
- 187
over; so
- 188
e would
- 191
n. 'Twas
- 192
he post.
- 193
Exit.
- 194
eep into
- 195
ow me,
- 196
ay be I
- 197
so I am
- 198
It is the
- 199
puts the
- 200
ll, I'll be
- 146
DON PEDRO Now, signor, where's the Count? Did you see him?
- 147
BENEDICK Troth, my lord, I have played the part of Lady Fame. I found him here as melancholy as a lodge in a warren. I told him, and I think I told him true, that Your Grace had got the good will of this young lady, and I offered him my company to a willow tree, either to make him a garland, as being forsaken, or to bind him up a rod, as being worthy to be whipped.
- 148
DON PEDRO To be whipped! What's his fault?
- 149
BENEDICK The flat transgression of a schoolboy, who, being overjoyed with finding a bird's nest, shows it his companion, and he steals it.
- 150
DON PEDRO Wilt thou make a trust a transgression? The transgression is in the stealer.
- 151
BENEDICK Yet it had not been amiss the rod had been made, and the garland too; for the garland he might have worn himself, and the rod he might have bestowed on you, who, as I take it, have stolen his bird's nest.
- 152
DON PEDRO I will but teach them to sing and restore them to the owner.
- 153
BENEDICK If their singing answer your saying, by my faith, you say honestly.
- 154
DON PEDRO The Lady Beatrice hath a quarrel to you. The gentleman that danced with her told her she is much wronged by you.
- 155
BENEDICK Oh, she misused me past the endurance of a block! An oak but with one green leaf on it would have answered her. My very visor began to assume life and scold with her. She told me, not thinking I had been myself, that I was the Prince's jester, that I was duller than a great thaw; huddling jest upon jest with such impossible conveyance upon me that I stood like a man at a mark, with a whole army shooting at me. She speaks poniards, and every word stabs. If her breath were as terrible as her terminations, there were no living near her; she would infect to the North Star. I would not marry her, though she were endowed with all that Adam had left him before he transgressed. She would have made Hercules have turned spit, yea, and have cleft his club to make the fire, too. Come, talk not of her. You shall find her the infernal Ate in good
- 204
Troth By my faith
- 204-5
Lady Fame Dame Rumor
- 205-6
lodge in a warren isolated gamekeeper's hut in a large game preserve.
- 208
offered . . . to offered to accompany him to
- 209-10
bind . . . rod tie several willow switches into a scourge for him
- 212
flat plain
- 215
a trust a trusted assignment (here, the Prince's having taken in trust the wooing of Hero for Claudio, not himself)
- 222
them i.e., the young birds in the nest
- 224
answer your saying correspond to what you say
- 226
to with
- 230
block (of wood).
- 234
great thaw i.e., time when roads are muddy and impassable, obliging one to stay dully at home.
- huddling piling, heaping up
- 235
impossible conveyance incredible dexterity
- 236
at a mark at the target, marking where the arrows hit
- 237
poniards daggers
- 238
terminations terms, expressions
- 239
North Star (Popularly supposed to be the most remote of stars.)
- 241
all . . . him i.e., Paradise before the fall of man
- 242
Hercules . . . spit (The Amazon Omphale forced the captive Hercules to wear women's clothing and spin; turning the spit would be an even more menial kitchen duty.)
- 243
cleft split
- 244
Ate goddess of discord
- 245
scholar . . . conjure (Scholars were supposed to be able to conjure evil spirits back into hell by addressing them in Latin.)
- 246
here i.e., on earth. (As long as Beatrice is on earth, hell will seem like a place of refuge.)
- 253
Antipodes people and region on the opposite side of the earth
- 254
toothpicker toothpick
- 255
Prester John a legendary Christian king of the Far East
- 256
great Cham the Khan of Tartary, ruler of the Mongols
- 257
Pygmies legendary small race thought to live in India
- 258
harpy legendary creature with a woman's face and body and a bird's wings and claws.
- 265-7
he . . . dice (Beatrice refers seemingly to a previous courtship in which she feels that Benedick prevailed over her unfairly, in return for which she now has paid him back with *use* or interest, two to one.)
- 269
put him down got the better of him. (But Beatrice plays with the phrase in its literal and sexual sense.)
- 280
civil serious, grave. (Punning on *Seville* for the city in Spain whence came bitter-tasting oranges.)
- 280-1
something somewhat
- 281
jealous complexion, i.e., yellow, associated with melancholy and symbolic of jealousy.
- 282
blazon description. (A heraldic term.)
- 283
conceit (1) notion, idea (2) heraldic device. (Continuing the metaphor of *blazon*.)
- 245
apparel. I would to God some scholar would conjure her, for certainly, while she is here, a man may live as quiet in hell as in a sanctuary, and people sin upon purpose because they would go thither; so indeed all disquiet, horror, and perturbation follows her.
- Enter Claudio and Beatrice.
- DON PEDRO Look, here she comes.
- BENEDICK Will Your Grace command me any service to the world's end? I will go on the slightest errand now to the Antipodes that you can devise to send me on; I will fetch you a toothpicker now from the furthest inch of Asia, bring you the length of Prester John's foot, fetch you a hair off the great Cham's beard, do you any embassy to the Pygmies, rather than hold three words' conference with this harpy. You have no employment for me?
- DON PEDRO None but to desire your good company.
- BENEDICK Oh, God, sir, here's a dish I love not! I cannot endure my Lady Tongue. Exit.
- DON PEDRO Come, lady, come, you have lost the heart of Signor Benedick.
- BEATRICE Indeed, my lord, he lent it me awhile, and I gave him use for it, a double heart for his single one. Marry, once before he won it of me with false dice; therefore Your Grace may well say I have lost it.
- DON PEDRO You have put him down, lady, you have put him down.
- BEATRICE So I would not he should do me, my lord, lest I should prove the mother of fools. I have brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me to seek.
- DON PEDRO Why, how now, Count? Wherefore are you sad?
- CLAUDIO Not sad, my lord.
- DON PEDRO How then? Sick?
- CLAUDIO Neither, my lord.
- BEATRICE The Count is neither sad, nor sick, nor merry, nor well; but civil count, civil as an orange, and something of that jealous complexion.
- DON PEDRO I'faith, lady, I think your blazon to be true, though I'll be sworn, if he be so, his conceit is false. Here, Claudio, I have wooed in thy name, and fair

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That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?

HERO
So says the Prince and my new-trothèd 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,
Misprizing 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-endearèd.

URSULA
Sure I think so,
And therefore certainly it were not good
She knew his love, lest she'll make sport at it.

HERO
Why, you speak truth. I never yet saw man,
How wise, how noble, young, how rarely featured,
But she would spell him backward. If fair-faced,
She would swear the gentleman should be her
sister;

If black, why, Nature, drawing of an antic,
Made a foul blot; if tall, a lance ill-headed;
If low, an agate very vilely cut;
If speaking, why, a vane blown with all winds;
If silent, why, a block movèd with none.
So turns she every man the wrong side out
And never gives to truth and virtue that
Which simpleness and merit purchaseth.

URSULA
Sure, sure, such carping is not commendable.

HERO
No, not to be so odd and from all fashions
As Beatrice is cannot be commendable.
But who dare tell her so? If I should speak,
She would mock me into air; oh, she would laugh me
Out of myself, press me to death with wit.

Therefore let Benedick, like covered fire,
Consume away in sighs, waste inwardly.
It were a better death than die with mocks,
Which is as bad as die with tickling.

URSULA
Yet tell her of it. Hear what she will say.

HERO
No, rather I will go to Benedick
And counsel him to fight against his passion.
And truly, I'll devise some honest slanders
To stain my cousin with. One doth not know
How much an ill word may empoison liking.

URSULA
Oh, do not do your cousin such a wrong!
She cannot be so much without true judgment—
Having so swift and excellent a wit
As she is prized to have—as to refuse
So rare a gentleman as Signor Benedick.

HERO
He is the only man of Italy,
Always excepted my dear Claudio.

URSULA
I pray you, be not angry with me, madam,
Speaking my fancy: Signor Benedick,
For shape, for bearing, argument, and valor,
Goes foremost in report through Italy.

HERO
Indeed, he hath an excellent good name.

URSULA
His excellence did earn it ere he had it.
When are you married, madam?

HERO
Why, every day, tomorrow. Come, go in.
I'll show thee some attires and have thy counsel
Which is the best to furnish me tomorrow.
[*They walk away.*]

URSULA [*to Hero*]
She's limed, I warrant you. We have caught her,
madam.

HERO [*to Ursula*]
If it prove so, then loving goes by haps;
Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.
[*Exeunt Hero and Ursula.*]

BEATRICE [*coming forward*]
What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?
Stand I condemned for pride and scorn so much?
Contempt, farewell, and maiden pride, adieu!
No glory lives behind the back of such.
And Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,
Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand.

45-6 as full . . . upon i.e., as good a wife as Beatrice. 52 Misprizing undervaluing, despising 54 weak unimportant. 55 project conception, idea 56 self-endearèd full of self-love. 60 How however. rarely excellently 61 spell him backward i.e., speak contrarily of him by characterizing his virtues as vices. 63 black dark. antic buffoon, grotesque figure 65 agate i.e., diminutive person. (Alluding to the small figures cut in agate for rings.) 70 simpleness integrity, plainness. purchaseth earn, deserve. 72 from contrary to 75-6 she . . . myself she would mockingly put me down 76 press me to death (Pressing to death with weights was the usual punishment for those accused of crimes who refused to plead either guilty or not guilty.)

78 Consume . . . sighs (An allusion to the belief that each sigh cost the heart a drop of blood.) 84 honest slanders i.e., slanders that do not involve her virtue 90 prized esteemed 96 argument skill in discourse 101 every day, tomorrow tomorrow and every day thereafter. 104 limed caught, like a bird in birdlime, a sticky substance spread on branches to trap the birds that perch on them 105 by haps by chance 106 Some Cupid kills Cupid kills some 107 What . . . ears? (An allusion to the old saying that a person's ears burn when one is being discussed in one's absence.) 110 No . . . such Nothing is gained by hiding behind such defenses. 112 Taming . . . hand (A figure derived from the taming of the hawk by the hand of the falconer.)

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