

CLAUDIO

Thus answer I in name of Benedick
But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio.
'Tis certain so. The Prince woos for himself.
Friendship is constant in all other things
Save in the office and affairs of love.
Therefore all hearts in love use their own tongues ;
Let every eye negotiate for itself
And trust no agent ; for beauty is a witch
Against whose charms faith melteth into blood.
This is an accident of hourly proof,
Which I mistrusted not. Farewell therefore Hero !

(II i : 154 - 164)

BENEDICK O, 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 my-
self, that I was the Prince's jester, that I was duller than
a great thaw ; huddling jest upon jest with such impos-
sible 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.

(II i : 214 - 223)

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 em-
bassage to the Pygmies - rather than hold three words'
conference with this harpy. You have no employment
for me ?

PEDRO None, but to desire your good company.

BENEDICK O God, sir, here's a dish I love not ! I cannot
endure my Lady. Tongue. *Exit.*

(II i : 236 - 247)

PEDRO

And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband
that I know. Thus far can I praise him : he is of a noble
strain, of approved valor, and confirmed honesty. I will
teach you how to humor your cousin, that she shall fall
in love with Benedick ; and I, *[to Leonato and Claudio]*
with your two helps, will so practice on Benedick that, in
despite of his quick wit and his queasy stomach, he shall
fall in love with Beatrice. If we can do this, Cupid is no
longer an archer ; his glory shall be ours, for we are the
only love-gods.

(II i : 335 - 344)

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

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

JOHN Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be medi-
cinable to me. I am sick in displeasure to him, and what-
soever comes athwart his affection ranges evenly with
mine. *(II ii : 1-7)*

CLAUDIO O, ay ! - *[aside to Pedro]* Stalk on, stalk on ; the
fowl sits. - I did never think that lady would have loved
any man.

LEONATO No, nor I neither ; but most wonderful that
she should so dote on Signior Benedick, whom she hath
in all outward behaviors seemed ever to abhor.

BENEDICK *[aside]* Is't possible ? Sits the wind in that
corner ?

LEONATO By my troth, my lord, I cannot tell what to
think of it, but that she loves him with an enraged
affection, it is past the infinite of thought.

PEDRO May be she doth but counterfeit.

CLAUDIO Faith, like enough.

LEONATO O God, counterfeit ? There was never counter-
feit of passion came so near the life of passion as she
discovers it.

PEDRO Why, what effects of passion shows she ?

CLAUDIO *[aside]* Bait the hook well ! This fish will bite.

LEONATO What effects, my lord ? She will sit you - you
heard my daughter tell you how.

CLAUDIO She did indeed.

PEDRO How, how, I pray you ? You amaze me. I would
have thought her spirit had been invincible against all
assaults of affection.

(II ii : 90 - 112)