### The Explanatory Notes

The notes that appear on the pages facing the text are designed to provide readers with the help that they may need to enjoy the play. Whenever the meaning of a word in the text is not readily accessible in a good contemporary dictionary, we offer the meaning in a note. Sometimes we provide a note even when the relevant meaning is to be found in the dictionary but when the word has acquired since Shakespeare's time other potentially confusing meanings. In our notes, we try to offer modern synonyms for Shakespeare's words. We also try to indicate to the reader the connection between the word in the play and the modern synonym. For example, Shakespeare sometimes uses the word head to mean source, but, for modern readers, there may be no connection evident between these two words. We provide the connection by explaining Shakespeare's usage as follows: "head: fountainhead, source." On some occasions, a whole phrase or clause needs explanation. Then we rephrase in our own words the difficult passage, and add at the end synonyms for individual words in the passage. When scholars have been unable to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, we acknowledge the uncertainty.

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

# Characters in the Play

HELEN, a gentlewoman of Rossillion
BERTRAM, Count of Rossillion

COUNTESS of Rossillion, Bertram's mother

STEWARD

in the Countess's household

FOOL PAGE

PAROLLES, companion to Bertram

KING of France

LAFEW, a French lord

FIRST LORD | later Captains in the

SECOND LORD | army of the Duke of Florence

Other LORDS in the court of the King of France

FIRST GENTLEMAN

SECOND GENTLEMAN

GENTLEMAN, a "gentle Astringer"

from the court of the King of France

FIRST SOLDIER, interpreter

The DUKE of Florence

A widow of Florence

DIANA, the Widow's daughter

MARIANA, the Widow's neighbor

Attendants, Soldiers, Citizens of Florence, Servants

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

ACT 1

- 1.1 Bertram, having become a ward of the court upon his father's death, departs from Rossillion. Helen, whose own physician-father has recently died, knows that her hidden love for Bertram can never be requited because of their difference in social rank, but decides that the King's disease may offer her a chance to "show her merit."
- 0 SD. Rossillion: a region in the south of France, on the border with Spain and near the Mediterranean
- 1. **delivering:** sending forth, handing over, surrendering (with wordplay on "giving birth")
  - 4. attend: pay heed to
- 5. in ward: legally subject (Under feudal law, fatherless heirs to estates came under the guardianship of the king until reaching legal age.)
  - 7. of: i.e., in the person of
  - 8. so generally: without exception
  - 9. hold: keep unbroken; to: toward
  - 10. wanted: i.e., was lacking
  - 14. abandoned: renounced
- 15. **practices:** professional attentions (though perhaps with wordplay on the more general sense of trickery and treacherous dealings); **persecuted time:** i.e., made his days miserable
  - 19. passage: (1) event; (2) death
- 20-21. had . . . would: i.e., if his skill had matched his integrity, it would
  - 22. have play: be idle; Would: i.e., I wish

#### ACT 1

#### Scene 1

Enter young Bertram Count of Rossillion, his mother The Countess, and Helen, Lord Lafew, all in black.

COUNTESS In delivering my son from me, I bury a second husband.

BERTRAM And I in going, madam, weep o'er my father's death anew; but I must attend his Majesty's command, to whom I am now in ward, evermore in subjection.

LAFEW You shall find of the King a husband, madam; you, sir, a father. He that so generally is at all times good must of necessity hold his virtue to you, whose worthiness would stir it up where it wanted rather than lack it where there is such abundance.

COUNTESS What hope is there of his Majesty's amendment?

LAFEW He hath abandoned his physicians, madam, under whose practices he hath persecuted time 15 with hope, and finds no other advantage in the process but only the losing of hope by time.

countess This young gentlewoman had a father—O, that "had," how sad a passage 'tis!—whose skill was almost as great as his honesty; had it stretched so far, would have made nature immortal, and death should have play for lack of work. Would for

- 23. he: i.e., the gentlewoman's father (line 18)
- 32. set up: incited
- 35. **fistula:** long, pipelike ulcer in any part of the body (though in the story that served as Shake-speare's source, the **fistula** was on the King's breast)
  - 37. notorious: public knowledge
  - 40. overlooking: supervision
  - 41. dispositions: mental tendencies, qualities
- 45–46. **simpleness:** innocence (i.e., not carried by **an unclean mind** [lines 42–43])
- 50. **season:** preserve, keep fresh (**Brine** is saltwater used for preserving food.)
  - 53. livelihood: liveliness
  - 54. Go to: an expression of impatience
- 55. affect a sorrow: (1) i.e., enjoy grieving; (2) display your grief ostentatiously; have—: The Folio's dash here may indicate that the Countess pauses under the effect of her own grief, since it is highly unlikely that Helen would interrupt the Countess.
- 56. affect a sorrow indeed: See longer note, page 221.

| the King's sake he were living! I think it would be the death of the King's disease. |    |
|--|----|
| LAFEW How called you the man you speak of,   | *  |
| madam?   | 25 |
| COUNTESS He was famous, sir, in his profession, and it                               |    |
| was his great right to be so: Gerard de Narbon.                                      |    |
| LAFEW He was excellent indeed, madam. The King                                       |    |
| very lately spoke of him admiringly, and mourn-                                      |    |
| ingly. He was skillful enough to have lived still, if                                | 30 |
| knowledge could be set up against mortality.   |    |
| BERTRAM What is it, my good lord, the King lan-                                      |    |
| guishes of?  |    |
| LAFEW A fistula, my lord.  | 22 |
| BERTRAM I heard not of it before   | 35 |
| LAFEW I would it were not notorious.—Was this gen-                                   |    |
| dewoman the daughter of Gerard de Narbon?  |    |
| COUNTESS His sole child, my lord and bequeathed to                                   |    |
| my overlooking. I have those hopes of her good                                       | 40 |
| ulat her education promises. Her dispositions sha                                    | 40 |
| innerits, which makes fair gifts fairer; for where an                                | Ů. |
| unclean mind carries virtuous qualities there  |    |
| commendations go with pity—they are virtues and                                      |    |
| uallors too. In her they are the better for their sim                                | 45 |
| pieness. She derives her honesty and achieves her                                    |    |
| goodness.  |    |
| LAFEW Your commendations, madam, get from her  |    |
| tears.   |    |
| COUNTESS 'Tis the best brine a maiden can season her                                 | 50 |
| praise in. The remembrance of her father never                                       |    |
| approaches her heart but the tyranny of her sor-                                     |    |
| rows takes all livelihood from her cheek.—No   |    |
| more of this, Helena. Go to. No more, lest it be                                     |    |
| rather thought you affect a sorrow than to have—                                     | 55 |
| muccu, but I have it too   |    |
| LAFEW Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead,                                 |    |
|  |    |

59. be enemy to: i.e., resist

60. makes . . . mortal: i.e., quickly destroys it

62. **How . . . that:** Editors have not solved the mystery of why Lafew asks this question.

63-66. **succeed** . . . **birthright:** i.e., may your acquired qualities resemble your inherited graces **manners:** behavior, moral character **shape:** appearance **blood:** i.e., noble birth

67. Be able for: i.e., have enough power (to

defeat)

68. Rather . . . use: i.e., in potentiality rather than in action

69, 70. checked, taxed: reproved, reprimanded

70. more will: i.e., determines in addition

75. want: lack; best: perhaps, best advice

80. comfortable: comforting, consoling

82. hold: uphold; credit: reputation

84. on: of

85. **grace his remembrance:** honor his memory (Helen may be referring to Bertram, though if so the point would have to be conveyed to the audience through a gesture, since she has not yet mentioned Bertram's name.)

86. for him: i.e., for my father at his death

88. favor: face, countenance

89. undone: lost, destroyed

90. 'Twere all one: i.e., it would be the same

91. That I should love: i.e., if I loved

| COUNTESS If the living be enemy to the grief, the         |   |
|---|---|
| excess makes it soon mortal.                              |   |
| BERTRAM Madam, I desire your holy wishes.                 |   |
| LAFEW How understand we that?                             |   |
| COUNTESS  |   |
| Be thou blessed, Bertram, and succeed thy father          |   |
| In manners as in shape. Thy blood and virtue              |   |
| Contend for empire in thee, and thy goodness              |   |
| Share with thy birthright. Love all, trust a few,         |   |
| Do wrong to none. Be able for thine enemy                 |   |
| Rather in power than use, and keep thy friend             |   |
| Under thy own life's key. Be checked for silence,         |   |
| But never taxed for speech. What heaven more will,        |   |
| That thee may furnish and my prayers pluck down,          |   |
| Fall on thy head. To Lafew. Farewell, my lord.            |   |
| Tis an unseasoned courties Conduction Conduction          |   |
| Tis an unseasoned courtier. Good my lord, Advise him.     |   |
|   |   |
| Affew He cannot want the best that shall Attend his love. |   |
|   |   |
| COUNTESS Heaven bless him.—Farewell, Bertram.             |   |
| BERTRAM The best wishes that can be forged in your        |   |
| thoughts be servants to you. [Countess exits.]            |   |
| To Helen. Be comfortable to my mother, your               |   |
| mistress, and make much of her.                           |   |
| AFEW Farewell, pretty lady. You must hold the credit      |   |
| of your father.     Bertram and Lafew exit.               |   |
| HELEN   |   |
| O, were that all! I think not on my father,               |   |
| And these great tears grace his remembrance more          | 1 |
| Than those I shed for him. What was he like?              |   |
| I have forgot him. My imagination                         |   |
| Carries no favor in 't but Bertram's.                     |   |
| I am undone. There is no living, none,                    | 7 |
| If Bertram be away. Twere all one                         | 9 |
| That I should love a bright particular star               |   |
| And think to wed it, he is so above me.                   |   |

105

110

93. collateral: attendant, accompanying

94. his sphere: i.e., the transparent hollow globe which carries the star around the earth (in the Ptolemaic image of the universe) See page xxxiv.

96. hind: female deer (but with possible word-

play on hind as "servant")

97. pretty: pleasing; a plague: i.e., distressing, painful

99. hawking: hawklike, keen

100. **table:** perhaps, the board on which a picture is painted; or, perhaps, a table-book or tablet (See Sonnet 24: "Mine eye hath played the painter and hath stelled / Thy beauty's form in **table** of my heart.") See picture, page 120.

100-101. capable / Of: able to (1) take in, hold;

or (2) perceive

101. trick: characteristic expression

106. a great way fool: i.e., largely a fool

107. fit: fitly, suitably

108. take place: find acceptance

109. Looks: i.e., look; Withal: besides

111. Save: i.e., God save

116. stain: slight trace or tinge

118. barricado it: i.e., fortify it as with barricades

121. Unfold: disclose, explain

124. blow you up: wordplay on (1) "destroy you by means of an explosion" and (2) "impregnate you" (Sexual double-meanings are present throughout much of this dialogue.)

In his bright radiance and collateral light
Must I be comforted, not in his sphere.
Th' ambition in my love thus plagues itself:
The hind that would be mated by the lion
Must die for love. 'Twas pretty, though a plague,
To see him every hour, to sit and draw
His archèd brows, his hawking eye, his curls
In our heart's table—heart too capable
Of every line and trick of his sweet favor.
But now he's gone, and my idolatrous fancy
Must sanctify his relics. Who comes here?

#### Enter Parolles.

One that goes with him. I love him for his sake, And yet I know him a notorious liar, Think him a great way fool, solely a coward. Yet these fixed evils sit so fit in him That they take place when virtue's steely bones Looks bleak i' th' cold wind. Withal, full oft we see Cold wisdom waiting on superfluous folly. PAROLLES Save you, fair queen.

HELEN And you, monarch.

PAROLLES No.

HELEN And no.

PAROLLES Are you meditating on virginity?
HELEN Av You have some stain of soldier in you

HELEN Ay. You have some stain of soldier in you; let me ask you a question. Man is enemy to virginity. How may we barricado it against him?

PAROLLES Keep him out.

HELEN But he assails, and our virginity, though 120 valiant in the defense, yet is weak. Unfold to us some warlike resistance.

PAROLLES There is none. Man setting down before you will undermine you and blow you up.

HELEN Bless our poor virginity from underminers and blowers-up! Is there no military policy how virgins might blow up men?

155

129. Marry: i.e., indeed (originally a mild oath on the name of the Virgin Mary)

131. politic: judicious; expedient

133. rational increase: a puzzling phrase, for which editors have proposed the following meanings: (1) reasonable increase; (2) increase in the number of rational beings; (3) sensible profit-making

134. got: begotten

134-35. That you were: i.e., that which you are

135. metal: (1) substance, stuff (with wordplay on mettle meaning "disposition" or "temperament"); (2) precious metal, used to make coins (The connection between reproduction and coining, a familiar one, leads to further economic metaphors in lines 153-55.)

139. stand for: uphold, support

141. in 't: i.e., in its defense

142. on the part of: in behalf of

143. infallible: certain

144. He . . . virgin: i.e., a virgin is like one who commits suicide

145-46. buried . . . limit: Suicides were forbidden burial in consecrated ground. limit: i.e., ground

149. paring: rind; his: i.e., its

151. inhibited: forbidden, prohibited

151-52. the canon: i.e., ecclesiastical law

153. Out with 't: (1) get rid of it; (2) put it out for interest

158. ill: unhappily, unfortunately (Parolles responds as if Helen's How might one do [line 156] had meant "in what condition or state might one be" rather than "by what means might one.")

160. lving: remaining unused or untouched

(continued)

PAROLLES Virginity being blown down, man will quicklier be blown up. Marry, in blowing him down again, with the breach yourselves made you 130 lose your city. It is not politic in the commonwealth of nature to preserve virginity. Loss of virginity is rational increase, and there was never virgin [got] till virginity was first lost. That you were made of is metal to make virgins. Virginity by 135 being once lost may be ten times found; by being ever kept, it is ever lost. Tis too cold a companion. Away with 't.

HELEN I will stand for 't a little, though therefore I die a virgin.

140 PAROLLES There's little can be said in 't. 'Tis against the rule of nature. To speak on the part of virginity is to accuse your mothers, which is most infallible disobedience. He that hangs himself is a virgin: virginity murders itself and should be buried in 145 highways out of all sanctified limit as a desperate offendress against nature. Virginity breeds mites, much like a cheese, consumes itself to the very paring, and so dies with feeding his own stomach. Besides, virginity is peevish, proud, idle, made of 150 self-love, which is the most inhibited sin in the canon. Keep it not; you cannot choose but lose by 't. Out with 't! Within ten year it will make itself

itself not much the worse. Away with 't! HELEN How might one do, sir, to lose it to her own liking?

two, which is a goodly increase, and the principal

PAROLLES Let me see. Marry, ill, to like him that ne'er it likes. 'Tis a commodity will lose the gloss with lying; the longer kept, the less worth. Off with 't 160 while 'tis vendible; answer the time of request. Virginity, like an old courtier, wears her cap out of fashion, richly suited but unsuitable, just like the

161. **answer... request:** i.e., sell when there is demand

162. out of: i.e., when it is no longer in

163: suited: attired

164. **wear not now:** i.e., are no longer fashionable (The **toothpick** was for a time worn in the hat as an ornament.)

165-66. Your date ... cheek: wordplay (on date as a fruit and as a season or period of time) that means, roughly, it is better to use dates in your cooking than to have age wrinkle your cheeks

170. Will you: do you desire or intend

172. **There:** perhaps a reference to **the court** (line 183) or perhaps to her **virginity** (Words or lines may be missing from the text after Helen's "yet" [line 171].)

173–79. **mother . . . disaster:** an echo of love poetry of the period, in which the **mistress** is described through extravagant figures of speech (including such oxymora as **his discord dulcet**) **phoenix:** a bird so rare that only one exists at any given time (See picture, page 40.)

179-81. a world...gossips: i.e., a vast quantity of fine, foolish names as if given by blind Cupid at the christenings of adopted children fond: foolish christendoms: giving of names, "christenings" Cupid: Roman god of love (See picture, page 36.) gossips: stands godfather to, gives names to

182. send him: i.e., grant that he may be

187. had not: i.e., does not have

188. felt: perceived

(continued)

brooch and the toothpick, which wear not now. Your date is better in your pie and your porridge 165 than in your cheek. And your virginity, your old virginity, is like one of our French withered pears: it looks ill, it eats dryly; marry, 'tis a withered pear. It was formerly better, marry, yet 'tis a withered pear. Will you anything with it? 170 HELEN Not my virginity, yet-There shall your master have a thousand loves, A mother, and a mistress, and a friend, A phoenix, captain, and an enemy. A guide, a goddess, and a sovereign, 175 A counselor, a traitress, and a dear: His humble ambition, proud humility, His jarring concord, and his discord dulcet, His faith, his sweet disaster, with a world Of pretty, fond adoptious christendoms 180 That blinking Cupid gossips. Now shall he-I know not what he shall. God send him well. The court's a learning place, and he is one— PAROLLES What one, i' faith? HELEN That I wish well. 'Tis pity-185 PAROLLES What's pity? HELEN That wishing well had not a body in 't Which might be felt, that we, the poorer born, Whose baser stars do shut us up in wishes, Might with effects of them follow our friends 190 And show what we alone must think, which never Returns us thanks.

#### Enter Page.

PAGE Monsieur Parolles, my lord calls for you.

PAROLLES Little Helen, farewell. If I can remember thee, I will think of thee at court.

HELEN Monsieur Parolles, you were born under a charitable star.

195

| 189. baser stars: i.e., destiny, which has con-    |
|--|
| demned one to a baser (i.e., lower-class) life (In |
| astrological thinking, the position of the stars,  |
| moon, and planets at the moment of one's birth     |
| determines the course of one's life.) See picture, |
| page 134.  |

190. effects: outward manifestations

191. alone must think: i.e., can only think

191-92. which . . . thanks: i.e., for which we never receive thanks

196-97. under . . . star: i.e., when a star that governs kindness was in the ascendant (See note about astrology, line 189.)

198. Mars: i.e., the planet, which is named for

the Roman god of war

201. so kept you under: i.e., held you in such subjection

202. needs: necessarily, inevitably

207. for advantage: i.e., to gain a superior position (Helen, in the following lines, plays on advantage as "personal benefit, increased well-being.")

209. composition: combination, mixture (with

probable wordplay on "truce")

210. virtue . . . wing: i.e., power or quality of strong flight (with possible wordplay on wing as the name of an epaulet or shoulder flap, as is suggested in Helen's reference to his wear, line 211)

214. naturalize: familiarize, accustom

215. capable of: able to receive

218. makes thee away: i.e., does away with you, destroys you .

223. fated sky: i.e., the heavens, to which we ascribe the power of fate

(continued)

PAROLLES Under Mars. I. HELEN I especially think under Mars. PAROLLES Why under Mars? HELEN The wars hath so kept you under that you must needs be born under Mars. PAROLLES When he was predominant. HELEN When he was retrograde, I think rather. PAROLLES Why think you so? 205 HELEN You go so much backward when you fight. PAROLLES That's for advantage. HELEN So is running away, when fear proposes the safety. But the composition that your valor and fear makes in you is a virtue of a good wing, and I 210 like the wear well. PAROLLES I am so full of businesses I cannot answer thee acutely. I will return perfect courtier, in the which my instruction shall serve to naturalize thee, so thou wilt be capable of a courtier's counsel 215 and understand what advice shall thrust upon thee, else thou diest in thine unthankfulness, and thine ignorance makes thee away. Farewell. When thou hast leisure, say thy prayers; when thou hast none, remember thy friends. Get thee a good hus- 220 band, and use him as he uses thee. So, farewell. [Parolles and Page exit.] HELEN Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie Which we ascribe to heaven. The fated sky Gives us free scope, only doth backward pull

Our slow designs when we ourselves are dull. 225 What power is it which mounts my love so high, That makes me see, and cannot feed mine eye? The mightiest space in fortune nature brings To join like likes and kiss like native things. Impossible be strange attempts to those 230 That weigh their pains in sense and do suppose

5

10

224. doth backward pull: i.e., checks or retards

225. dull: slow in motion or action

226. mounts . . . high: i.e., raises the aim of my love to an object that is so high

228. **mightiest . . . fortune:** i.e., largest social disparity; **brings:** perhaps, **brings** them across or through (The syntax is awkward, but the line seems to mean "Nature brings together even those widely separated in social status.")

229. **like likes:** i.e., as if they were equals; **native:** naturally connected

230. **be strange attempts:** i.e., are rare or exceptionally great efforts

231. **in sense:** i.e., rationally; or, perhaps, in terms of what they would suffer in the attempt

1.2 The King of France refuses to take sides in the war between Siena and Florence, giving his courtiers permission to fight on either side. He welcomes Bertram to court, lamenting his own failing strength.

O SD. Flourish cornets: i.e., cornets sound a fanfare; letters: i.e., a letter (Latin litterae)

1. **Senoys:** i.e., Sienese; **by th' ears:** i.e., enemies (See longer note, page 221.)

3. **braving war: war** marked by defiance and daring

5. **We:** i.e., I (the royal "we"); **here:** a reference to the letter in his hand

6. **cousin:** a title given by princes to other princes and noblemen

(continued)

20

KING

What hath been cannot be. Who ever strove
To show her merit that did miss her love?
The King's disease—my project may deceive me,
But my intents are fixed and will not leave me.

She exits.

#### 「Scene 27

Flourish cornets. Enter the King of France with letters, two Lords, and divers Attendants.

#### KING The Florentines and Senoys are by th' ears, Have fought with equal fortune, and continue A braving war. FIRST LORD So 'tis reported, sir. KING Nay, 'tis most credible. We here receive it A certainty vouched from our cousin Austria. With caution that the Florentine will move us For speedy aid, wherein our dearest friend Prejudicates the business and would seem To have us make denial. FIRST LORD His love and wisdom, Approved so to your Majesty, may plead

For amplest credence.

KING

He hath armed our answer,

And Florence is denied before he comes.

Yet for our gentlemen that mean to see

The Tuscan service, freely have they leave To stand on either part.

A nursery to our gentry, who are sick
For breathing and exploit.

Enter Bertram, Lafew, and Parolles.

What's he comes here?

7. **the Florentine:** i.e., the Duke of Florence; **move us:** appeal to me

8. our dearest friend: presumably a reference to

the Duke of Austria

9. Prejudicates: condemns in advance; would seem: i.e., thinks fit

12. Approved: demonstrated

15. Florence: i.e., the Duke of Florence

16-17. to see . . . service: i.e., to take part in the **Tuscan** war (Both Florence and Siena are in Tuscany.)

18. To stand . . . part: i.e., to participate on either side To stand: to take up an offensive or

defensive position against an enemy

19. **serve:** i.e., **serve** as 20. **nursery to:** learning place for

20–21. **sick...exploit:** perhaps, (1) longing for exercise and military enterprise; or, perhaps, (2) in poor condition because of the lack of such activities or exertions

26. Frank: bounteous, generous; curious: careful, attentive

27. parts: qualities

30. would: i.e., wish

32. tried: put to the test

32–33. **look** . . . **service**: perhaps, have deep insight into, or long experience of, the art of warfare

33–34. was / Discipled of: perhaps, was trained by; or, perhaps, trained

35. haggish: i.e., hag-like, ugly, malicious

36. out of act: i.e., into inactivity

40. unnoted: not noticed, unremarked

(continued)

22

| FIRST LORD  |       |
|---|-------|
| It is the Count Rossillion, my good lord,         |       |
| Young Bertram.                                    |       |
| KING Youth, thou bear'st thy father's face.       | 25    |
| Frank nature, rather curious than in haste,       | 23    |
| Hath well composed thee. Thy father's moral parts | +     |
| Mayst thou inherit too. Welcome to Paris.         |       |
| BERTRAM   |       |
| My thanks and duty are your Majesty's.            |       |
| KING  |       |
| I would I had that corporal soundness now         | 30    |
| As when thy father and myself in friendship       |       |
| First tried our soldiership. He did look far      |       |
| Into the service of the time and was              |       |
| Discipled of the bravest. He lasted long,         |       |
| But on us both did haggish age steal on           | 35    |
| And wore us out of act. It much repairs me        |       |
| To talk of your good father. In his youth         |       |
| He had the wit which I can well observe           |       |
| Today in our young lords; but they may jest       |       |
| Till their own scorn return to them unnoted       | 40    |
| Ere they can hide their levity in honor.          |       |
| So like a courtier, contempt nor bitterness       |       |
| Were in his pride or sharpness; if they were,     |       |
| His equal had awaked them, and his honor,         |       |
| Clock to itself, knew the true minute when        | 45    |
| Exception bid him speak, and at this time         | 99.55 |
| His tongue obeyed his hand. Who were below him    |       |
| He used as creatures of another place             |       |
| And bowed his eminent top to their low ranks,     |       |
| Making them proud of his humility,                | 50    |
| In their poor praise he humbled. Such a man       |       |
| Might be a copy to these younger times,           |       |
| Which, followed well, would demonstrate them now  |       |
| But goers backward.                               |       |
| BERTRAM His good remembrance, sir.                | 55    |

41. **hide . . . honor:** i.e., win, by their deeds, a glory that eclipses their frivolity

42–43. **contempt . . . sharpness:** i.e., there was no **contempt** in his **pride** nor **bitterness** (i.e., asperity) in his **sharpness** (i.e., intellectual acuteness)

46. Exception: adverse criticism (of him)

47. **obeyed his hand:** perhaps, said no more than **his hand** was ready to put into action; **Who:** i.e., those **who** 

48. **used:** treated; **as . . . place:** perhaps, as if they were of his own or higher rank; or, perhaps, with the courtesy due a foreign visitor

49. top: head

51. In . . . humbled: perhaps, he being humbled in the presence of their praises

52. copy: pattern, example

54. **But goers backward:** i.e., to be merely lapsing into a less perfect or developed state

55. **His good remembrance:** wordplay on **remembrance** as (1) the surviving memory of a person and (2) a memorial inscription

57. So in approof . . . epitaph: i.e., the inscription on his tomb is nowhere so confirmed

60. plausive: pleasing; commendable

64-65. On . . . was out: i.e., when sport or amusement was ended (See longer note, page 221.)

66. **snuff:** charred part of the wick (of a lamp or candle)

67. apprehensive: i.e., quick

68-69. are . . . garments: i.e., beget nothing but fashion

71. I, after him: i.e., I, succeeding him; after him wish: i.e., wish like him

(continued)

24

| Lies richer in your thoughts than on his tomb.          |       |
|---|-------|
| So in approof lives not his epitaph                     |       |
| As in your royal speech.                                |       |
| KING  |       |
| Would I were with him! He would always say—             |       |
| Methinks I hear him now; his plausive words             |       |
| He scattered not in core but to find his plausive words | 60    |
| He scattered not in ears, but grafted them              |       |
| To grow there and to bear. "Let me not live"—           |       |
| This his good melancholy oft began                      |       |
| On the catastrophe and heel of pastime,                 |       |
| When it was out—"Let me not live," quoth he,            | 65    |
| "After my flame lacks oil, to be the snuff              |       |
| Of younger spirits, whose apprehensive senses           |       |
| All but new things disdain, whose judgments are         |       |
| Mere fathers of their garments, whose constancies       |       |
| Expire before their fashions." This he wished           | 70    |
| I, after him, do after him wish too,                    |       |
| Since I nor wax nor honey can bring home,               |       |
| I quickly were dissolved from my hive                   |       |
| To give some laborers room.                             |       |
| SECOND LORD You're loved, sir.                          | 75    |
| They that least lend it you shall lack you first.       |       |
| ALING .   |       |
| I fill a place, I know 't.—How long is 't, count,       |       |
| Since the physician at your father's died?              | 22 28 |
| He was much famed.                                      |       |
| Some six months since, my lord.                         | 80    |
| KING  | 00    |
| If he were living, I would try him yet.—                | *     |
| Lend me an arm.—The rest have worn me out               |       |
| with several applications. Nature and sickness          | 8     |
| Debate it at their leisure. Welcome, count              |       |
| My son's no dearer.                                     | 85    |
| BERTRAM Thank your Majesty.                             | 03    |
| They exit. Flourish.                                    |       |
| ,                 |       |

15

. 20

73. dissolvèd: set free, detached

76. lend it you: perhaps, grant you room; lack: miss

83. several applications: separate, distinct medical treatments

86 SD. Flourish: a fanfare (of cornets)

1.3 Bertram's mother, the Countess of Rossillion, learns of Helen's love for Bertram and forces Helen to confess this secret. When Helen reveals her plan to try to cure the King with medicines left her by her father, the Countess gives Helen permission to go to court, promising to support her in her "attempt."

O SD. Fool: a servant who makes his living by amusing his aristocratic patron (The character is called Clown in the Folio. See longer note, page 221.) He enters after the Countess and the Steward, or through a different entrance.

3-4. even your content: i.e., make your life unruffled or equable

4. calendar: register

9. sirrah: term of address to a male social inferior

10. slowness: lack of acuteness, stupidity

19. go to the world: i.e., get married

20. woman: i.e., serving-woman, female attendant; do as we may: i.e., get along as best we can (with possible wordplay on do as copulate)

(continued)

26

#### Scene 37

## Enter Countess, Steward, and Fool.

COUNTESS I will now hear. What say you of this gentlewoman?

STEWARD Madam, the care I have had to even your content I wish might be found in the calendar of my past endeavors, for then we wound our modesty and make foul the clearness of our deservings when of ourselves we publish them.

COUNTESS What does this knave here? To Fool. Get you gone, sirrah. The complaints I have heard of you I do not all believe. Tis my slowness that I do 10 not, for I know you lack not folly to commit them and have ability enough to make such knaveries yours.

FOOL 'Tis not unknown to you, madam, I am a poor fellow.

COUNTESS Well, sir.

FOOL No, madam, 'tis not so well that I am poor, though many of the rich are damned. But if I may have your Ladyship's good will to go to the world, Isbel the woman and I will do as we may.

COUNTESS Wilt thou needs be a beggar?

FOOL I do beg your good will in this case.

COUNTESS In what case?

FOOL In Isbel's case and mine own. Service is no heritage, and I think I shall never have the blessing of 25 God till I have issue o' my body, for they say bairns are blessings.

COUNTESS Tell me thy reason why thou wilt marry. FOOL My poor body, madam, requires it. I am driven on by the flesh, and he must needs go that the devil 30 drives.

COUNTESS Is this all your Worship's reason? FOOL Faith, madam, I have other holy reasons, such as they are.

70

24. **Isbel's case:** possible wordplay on **case** as genitals

24–25. **Service is no heritage:** proverbial, meaning "servants have little to bequeath"

26. issue o' my body: i.e., offspring

26-27. bairns are blessings: See Psalm 127.3: "children are an inheritance of the Lord and the fruit of the womb his reward."

30-31. he . . . drives: proverbial

33. **holy reasons:** possible wordplay on "hole" as "vagina" and **reasons** as "raisings" or erections

43. shallow . . . in: not deeply versed in, not

knowledgeable about

45. ears my land: ploughs my field (i.e., copulates with my wife); team: draught animals (i.e., genitals) See picture, page 200.

46. in the crop: harvest the grain (i.e., claim the offspring); cuckold: a man whose wife is unfaithful

to him (See picture, page 204.)

47-50. **He . . . friend:** See Ephesians 5.28-31: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies; he that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it. . . . [A] man . . . shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh."

50. Ergo: therefore (Latin)

52. what they are: i.e., cuckolds

53. Charbon: i.e., chair bonne (good meat)

54. Poysam: i.e., poisson (fish); howsome'er: however

55. one: the same

56. **jowl:** knock, strike; **horns:** In popular thought, the **cuckold** sprouts horns on his forehead. (See longer note, page 222, and picture, page 204.)

(continued)

28

COUNTESS May the world know them? FOOL I have been, madam, a wicked creature, as you and all flesh and blood are, and indeed I do marry that I may repent. COUNTESS Thy marriage sooner than thy wickedness. FOOL I am out o' friends, madam, and I hope to have 40 friends for my wife's sake. COUNTESS Such friends are thine enemies, knave. FOOL You're shallow, madam, in great friends, for the knaves come to do that for me which I am aweary of. He that ears my land spares my team and gives 45 me leave to in the crop; if I be his cuckold, he's my drudge. He that comforts my wife is the cherisher of my flesh and blood; he that cherishes my flesh and blood loves my flesh and blood; he that loves my flesh and blood is my friend. Ergo, he that 50 kisses my wife is my friend. If men could be contented to be what they are, there were no fear in marriage, for young Charbon the Puritan and old Poysam the Papist, howsome'er their hearts are severed in religion, their heads are both one; they 55 may jowl horns together like any deer i' th' herd. COUNTESS Wilt thou ever be a foul-mouthed and calumnious knave? FOOL A prophet I, madam, and I speak the truth the next way: Sings. For I the ballad will repeat Which men full true shall find: Your marriage comes by destiny; Your cuckoo sings by kind. COUNTESS Get you gone, sir. I'll talk with you more 65 anon. STEWARD May it please you, madam, that he bid Helen come to you. Of her I am to speak. COUNTESS Sirrah, tell my gentlewoman I would speak

with her-Helen, I mean.

FOOL Sings?

"Was this fair face the cause," quoth she,

"Why the Grecians sacked Troy?

Fond done, done fond.

75

80

90

60. next: most direct

64. Your cuckoo . . . kind: i.e., the cuckoo, by

nature, sings (See longer note, page 222.)

71. face: i.e., the face of Helen (Helen of Troy was considered the cause of the Trojan War.) See longer note, page 222, and picture, page 94.

73. Fond: foolishly; amorously

74. King Priam's joy: probably alluding to Paris, one of Priam's many sons and Helen of Troy's lover

75. she: perhaps Queen Hecuba, Priam's wife

77. sentence: opinion

81-82. corrupt the song: perhaps, change the words of the song (presumably about Priam's sons, only one of whom was not good)

84. Would: i.e., if only

86. tithe-woman: i.e., the "one woman in ten" (A tithe is a tenth part of anything, but specifically refers to the part of one's goods given to the church. Hence the reference to the parson.)

87. quoth he: i.e., did he say; An: if

88. or every blazing star: before every comet

89. mend the lottery: i.e., improve the odds (The words draw and pluck continue the image of drawing lots.) Proverbial: Marriage is a lottery.

94-96. Though . . . heart: The Fool is perhaps saying that he will hide his rebelliousness under humble obedience. (See longer note, page 223.)

big heart: i.e., proud spirit

102-4. Her . . . finds: She was entrusted (bequeathed) to me by her father and she herself can claim the right to my love. (The Countess plays on specifically economic meanings of bequeathed [bestowed like property], advantage [pecuniary profit, interest on money lent], and title [legal right to the possession of property].)

Was this King Priam's joy?" With that she sighed as she stood, With that she sighed as she stood, And gave this sentence then: "Among nine bad if one be good, Among nine bad if one be good, There's yet one good in ten." COUNTESS What, one good in ten? You corrupt the song, sirrah. FOOL One good woman in ten, madam, which is a purifying o' th' song. Would God would serve the world so all the year! We'd find no fault with the 85 tithe-woman if I were the parson. One in ten, quoth he? An we might have a good woman born but for every blazing star or at an earthquake, 'twould mend the lottery well. A man may draw his

heart out ere he pluck one. countess You'll be gone, sir knave, and do as I command you!

FOOL That man should be at woman's command, and yet no hurt done! Though honesty be no Puritan, yet it will do no hurt; it will wear the surplice of 95 humility over the black gown of a big heart. I am going, forsooth. The business is for Helen to come hither. He exits.

COUNTESS Well, now.

STEWARD I know, madam, you love your gentlewoman 100 entirely.

COUNTESS Faith, I do. Her father bequeathed her to me, and she herself, without other advantage, may lawfully make title to as much love as she finds. There is more owing her than is paid, and more 105 shall be paid her than she'll demand.

107. very late: i.e., quite recently

111. stranger sense: i.e., ears not her own

112. Fortune: i.e., the goddess Fortuna, who personifies the cause of events in one's life (See picture, page 42.)

113. estates: ranks, fortunes

114. Love: i.e., Cupid, the Roman god of love (See picture, page 36.) only: except

115. qualities: ranks; Dian: i.e., Diana, goddess

of chastity (See picture, page 148.)

116. suffer: allow; knight: In Much Ado About Nothing (5.3.13), a young woman is called Diana's "virgin knight." surprised: captured without warning (a military term, as are rescue, assault, and ransom in line 117)

118. touch: note or strain

120. withal: with

121. sithence: since; loss: perhaps, Helen's death (a fate often predicted for virgins hopelessly in love)

122. something: somewhat, to some degree

123. discharged: performed

124. likelihoods: signs

126. misdoubt: doubt

127. Stall: place

131. these: referring, perhaps, to the things the Countess has just been told of Helen; or perhaps to the gestures or appearance of Helen as she enters

133. Our blood to us: i.e., just as we have blood in our veins; to our blood: i.e., to us (with wordplay on blood as sexual desire)

134. show and seal: i.e., visible evidence

136. our: The Countess may be referring to herself in the plural.

138. on: i.e., of

STEWARD Madam, I was very late more near her than I think she wished me. Alone she was and did communicate to herself her own words to her own ears; she thought, I dare vow for her, they touched 110 not any stranger sense. Her matter was she loved your son. Fortune, she said, was no goddess, that had put such difference betwixt their two estates; Love no god, that would not extend his might only where qualities were level; Dian no queen of vir- 115 gins, that would suffer her poor knight surprised without rescue in the first assault or ransom afterward. This she delivered in the most bitter touch of sorrow that e'er I heard virgin exclaim in, which I held my duty speedily to acquaint you withal, 120 sithence in the loss that may happen it concerns you something to know it.

COUNTESS You have discharged this honestly. Keep it to yourself. Many likelihoods informed me of this before, which hung so tott'ring in the balance that 125 I could neither believe nor misdoubt. Pray you leave me. Stall this in your bosom, and I thank you for your honest care. I will speak with you further Steward exits.

### Enter Helen.

[Aside.]

Even so it was with me when I was young. If ever we are nature's, these are ours. This thorn 130

Doth to our rose of youth rightly belong.

Our blood to us, this to our blood is born.

It is the show and seal of nature's truth, Where love's strong passion is impressed in youth.

By our remembrances of days foregone,

Such were our faults, or then we thought them none.

Her eye is sick on 't, I observe her now. HELEN What is your pleasure, madam?

147. enwombèd mine: i.e., carried in my womb

148. strives with: rivals

148-49. choice . . . seeds: Adoption is pictured here in the metaphor of grafting a slip (twig) from a different plant (foreign seeds) onto tree stock, where it becomes part of the tree (native).

150. a mother's groan: i.e., the pains of childbirth

154-55. That this . . . eye: i.e., that you have tears in your eyes distempered: stormy; troubled Iris: the rainbow, messenger of the gods (with wordplay on the iris of the eye) See below.

157. That I am not: Helen plays with the mean-

ing of daughter (line 156) as daughter-in-law.

162. No note . . . parents: i.e., no fame or distinction attaching to my ancestors

169. both our mothers: i.e., mother of us both

171. Can 't no other: i.e., is there no other option



Iris, goddess of the rainbow. (1.3.155) From Natale Conti, ... Mythologiae ... (1616).

All's Well That Ends Well ACT 1. sc. 3 COUNTESS You know, Helen, I am a mother to you. HELEN 140 Mine honorable mistress. COUNTESS Nay, a mother. Why not a mother? When I said "a mother," Methought you saw a serpent. What's in "mother" That you start at it? I say I am your mother And put you in the catalogue of those 145 That were enwombed mine. Tis often seen Adoption strives with nature, and choice breeds A native slip to us from foreign seeds. You ne'er oppressed me with a mother's groan, Yet I express to you a mother's care. 150 God's mercy, maiden, does it curd thy blood To say I am thy mother? What's the matter, That this distempered messenger of wet, The many-colored Iris, rounds thine eye? Why? That you are my daughter? 155 HELEN That I am not. COUNTESS I say I am your mother. HELEN Pardon, madam. The Count Rossillion cannot be my brother. I am from humble, he from honored name;. 160 No note upon my parents, his all noble. My master, my dear lord he is, and I His servant live and will his vassal die. He must not be my brother. COUNTESS 165 Nor I your mother? HELEN You are my mother, madam. Would you were— So that my lord your son were not my brother-Indeed my mother! Or were you both our mothers, I care no more for than I do for heaven, So I were not his sister. Can 't no other 170

35

|         | catched:     | caught; | fondness: | (1) | love | for |
|---------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----|------|-----|
| Bertrai | n; (2) fooli | shness  |           |     |      |     |

177. mystery: secret; loneliness: solitariness

178. head: fountainhead, source; gross: obvious, evident

179. Invention: i.e., fabrication (of lies)

180. Against: in the face of

184. grossly: clearly, plainly

185. in their kind: according to their nature

187. suspected: doubted

188. goodly clew: fine ball of yarn

189. howe'er: i.e., in any case, at all events

192. **pardon me:** a phrase used in asking to be excused from doing something

197. Go not about: i.e., don't be evasive

200. appeached: given accusatory evidence

203. before you: i.e., even more than I do you



Cupid (1.1.181; 1.3.114)
From an anonymous engraving tipped into Jacques Callot,

[La petite passion, n.d.].

But, I your daughter, he must be my brother? COUNTESS Yes, Helen, you might be my daughter-in-law. God shield you mean it not! "Daughter" and "mother" So strive upon your pulse. What, pale again? 175 My fear hath catched your fondness! Now I see The mystery of your \[ \text{loneliness} \] and find Your salt tears' head. Now to all sense 'tis gross: You love my son. Invention is ashamed Against the proclamation of thy passion 180 To say thou dost not. Therefore tell me true, But tell me then 'tis so, for, look, thy cheeks Confess it th' one to th' other, and thine eves See it so grossly shown in thy behaviors That in their kind they speak it. Only sin 185 And hellish obstinacy tie thy tongue That truth should be suspected. Speak. Is 't so? If it be so, you have wound a goodly clew: If it be not, forswear 't; howe'er, I charge thee. As heaven shall work in mé for thine avail, 190 To tell me truly. Good madam, pardon me. HELEN COUNTESS Do you love my son? Your pardon, noble mistress. HELEN COUNTESS Love you my son? 195 Do not you love him, madam? HELEN COUNTESS Go not about. My love hath in 't a bond Whereof the world takes note. Come, come, disclose The state of your affection, for your passions Have to the full appeached. 200 HELEN, [kneeling] Then I confess Here on my knee before high heaven and you That before you and next unto high heaven

205. friends: relatives, family

208. By: with; suit: entreaty, courtship

211. hope: what can reasonably be expected

212. **captious . . . sieve:** i.e., capacious **sieve** (see below, and page 108), incapable of holding anything

213. still: continue to

214. lack...still: perhaps, (1) do not fail to continue losing; or, perhaps, (2) have no limit to my love and so can go on losing; Indian-like: See longer note, page 223.

218. encounter with: oppose

220. cites: attests to, gives evidence of

222–23. **that your Dian / . . . Love:** i.e., so that your love was both chaste and fervent

226. that her: i.e., that which her

231. Wherefore: why

234. prescriptions: medicines

237. **sovereignty:** excellence, efficacy; **willed:** desired, intended (with possible wordplay on *will* as bequeath)



A sieve. (1.3.212) From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

I love your son. My friends were poor but honest; so 's my love. 205 Be not offended, for it hurts not him That he is loved of me. I follow him not By any token of presumptuous suit. Nor would I have him till I do deserve him. Yet never know how that desert should be. 210 I know I love in vain, strive against hope, Yet in this captious and intenible sieve I still pour in the waters of my love And lack not to lose still. Thus, Indian-like, Religious in mine error, I adore 215 The sun that looks upon his worshipper But knows of him no more. My dearest madam, Let not your hate encounter with my love For loving where you do; but if yourself, Whose aged honor cites a virtuous youth. 220 Did ever in so true a flame of liking Wish chastely and love dearly, that your Dian Was both herself and Love, O then give pity To her whose state is such that cannot choose But lend and give where she is sure to lose; 225 That seeks not to find that her search implies, But riddle-like lives sweetly where she dies. COUNTESS Had you not lately an intent-speak truly-To go to Paris? HELEN Madam, I had. 230 COUNTESS Wherefore? Tell true. HELEN, [standing] I will tell truth, by grace itself I swear. You know my father left me some prescriptions Of rare and proved effects, such as his reading 235 And manifest experience had collected For general sovereignty; and that he willed me

238. In heedfull'st . . . them: i.e., to keep them carefully to myself and to employ them bestow: employ

239. faculties: powers, properties; inclusive: comprehensive, all-embracing

240. note: reputation

241. approved: tested, demonstrated

242. languishings: attacks of languor or faintness

243. rendered: said to be, described as being

254. schools: universities

255. Emboweled: i.e., disemboweled, emptied; doctrine: learning, knowledge; left off: abandoned

256. danger to itself: i.e., disease to its own course

259. that: i.e., so that; receipt: means of cure, remedy

263. try success: i.e., see what success I might have



"A phoenix." (1.1.174)
From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

In heedfull'st reservation to bestow them As notes whose faculties inclusive were More than they were in note. Amongst the rest 240 There is a remedy, approved, set down. To cure the desperate languishings whereof The King is rendered lost. COUNTESS This was your motive for Paris, was it? Speak. HELEN My lord your son made me to think of this; 245 Else Paris, and the medicine, and the King Had from the conversation of my thoughts Haply been absent then. COUNTESS But think you, Helen, If you should tender your supposed aid, 250 He would receive it? He and his physicians Are of a mind: he that they cannot help him, They that they cannot help. How shall they credit A poor unlearned virgin, when the schools Emboweled of their doctrine have left off 255 The danger to itself? HELEN There's something in 't More than my father's skill, which was the great'st Of his profession, that his good receipt Shall for my legacy be sanctified 260 By th' luckiest stars in heaven; and would your Honor But give me leave to try success, I'd venture The well-lost life of mine on his Grace's cure By such a day, an hour. 265 COUNTESS Dost thou believe 't? HELEN Ay, madam, knowingly. COUNTESS Why, Helen, thou shalt have my leave and love. Means and attendants, and my loving greetings To those of mine in court. I'll stay at home 270

40

271. **into:** unto, on 273. **miss:** lack



Fortune. (1.3.112)
From Fortunes tennis-ball...(1640).

And pray God's blessing into thy attempt. Be gone tomorrow, and be sure of this: What I can help thee to thou shalt not miss.

They exit.

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

ACT 2

2.1 The King bids farewell to the French courtiers going off to war, having commanded Bertram to remain behind. Helen arrives at court and, after promising to forfeit her own life should she fail, persuades the King to let her try to cure his fatal disease. She asks, as her reward should she succeed, the hand in marriage of whichever courtier she chooses.

O SD. **the Florentine war:** i.e., the **war** between Florence and Siena (See longer note to 1.2.1.)

- 2. And you: It is possible that one group of lords is joining the Florentine army and the other is joining the Sienese. (See 1.2.16–18.)
  - 4. betwixt: between
- 8. After well-entered soldiers: i.e., when we have been duly initiated as soldiers
  - 11. he owes: i.e., it owns or possesses
- 14. higher Italy: perhaps, northern Italy; or, perhaps, Italy's social elite
  - 15. bated: excepted
- 16. **the last monarchy:** perhaps, the Roman Empire
  - 17. Not: i.e., not merely
- 18. The bravest questant: i.e., even the bravest searcher
- 19. **cry you loud:** i.e., proclaim **you** loudly (See picture of **Fame**, page 104.)

ACT 2

#### 「Scene 17

Flourish cornets. Enter the King, 「attended,」 with divers young Lords, taking leave for the Florentine war; 「Bertram」 Count Rossillion, and Parolles.

KING

Farewell, young lords. These warlike principles Do not throw from you.—And you, my lords, farewell.

Share the advice betwixt you. If both gain all, The gift doth stretch itself as 'tis received And is enough for both.

5

10

15

FIRST LORD Tis our hope, sir,

After well-entered soldiers, to return And find your Grace in health.

KING

No, no, it cannot be. And yet my heart
Will not confess he owes the malady
That doth my life besiege. Farewell, young lords.
Whether I live or die, be you the sons
Of worthy Frenchmen. Let higher Italy—
Those bated that inherit but the fall
Of the last monarchy—see that you come
Not to woo honor but to wed it. When
The bravest questant shrinks, find what you seek,
That fame may cry you loud. I say farewell.

23-24. Beware . . . serve: wordplay on captives and serve as both military language and language from courtship, where "to serve" meant to be the lover of a lady

29. brave: fine, splendid

31. here: i.e., to remain here; kept a coil: i.e., annoved

34. An: if; stand to 't: i.e., remains constant

35. forehorse: lead horse in a team of horses: smock: i.e., woman (literally, a woman's undergarment)

36. plain: flat, level (as opposed to an uneven battlefield) See below.

41. accessory: assistant, helper



"Creaking my shoes on the plain masonry." (2.1.36) From Fabritio Caroso, Il ballarino . . . (1581).

FIRST LORD Health at your bidding serve your Majesty! 20 KING Those girls of Italy, take heed of them. They say our French lack language to deny If they demand. Beware of being captives Before you serve. LORDS Our hearts receive your warnings. KING Farewell.—Come hither to me. The King speaks to Attendants, while Bertram, Parolles, and other Lords come forward. FIRST LORD, To Bertram O my sweet lord, that you will stay behind us! PAROLLES 'Tis not his fault, the spark. SECOND LORD O, 'tis brave wars. PAROLLES Most admirable. I have seen those wars. 30 BERTRAM I am commanded here and kept a coil With "Too young," and "The next year," and "Tis too early." PAROLLES An thy mind stand to 't, boy, steal away bravely. BERTRAM I shall stay here the forehorse to a smock, 35 Creaking my shoes on the plain masonry Till honor be bought up, and no sword worn But one to dance with. By heaven, I'll steal away! FIRST LORD There's honor in the theft. PAROLLES Commit it, count. SECOND LORD I am your accessory. And so, farewell. BERTRAM I grow to you, and our parting is a tortured body.

| 47. metals: wordplay on the association of  | metal |
|---|-------|
| with swords and therefore swordsmen, and on | metal |
| as mettle, i.e., character, spirit          |       |

49. cicatrice: scar

50. sinister: left

52. **reports:** commendations; or, perhaps, responses

56. Stay: wait upon, serve

58. list: limit

60. **wear . . . time:** i.e., are **themselves** ornaments on **the cap** of the present age

61. muster true gait: i.e., display the true course

62. **influence:** i.e., astrological power; **received:** i.e., popular or fashionable

63. measure: dance

64. After: i.e., go after, follow; dilated: prolonged, protracted

67. **like:** i.e., likely 73. **would:** i.e., wish

FIRST LORD Farewell, captain. SECOND LORD Sweet Monsieur Parolles PAROLLES Noble heroes, my sword and yours are kin. Good sparks and lustrous, a word, good metals, You shall find in the regiment of the Spinii one Captain Spurio [with] his cicatrice, an emblem of war, here on his sinister cheek. It was this very 50 sword entrenched it. Say to him I live, and observe his reports for me. FIRST LORD We shall, noble captain. PAROLLES Mars dote on you for his novices. 「Lords exit. ¬ To Bertram. What will you do? 55 BERTRAM Stay the King. PAROLLES Use a more spacious ceremony to the noble lords. You have restrained yourself within the list of too cold an adieu. Be more expressive to them, for they wear themselves in the cap of the time; 60 there do muster true gait; eat, speak, and move under the influence of the most received star, and, though the devil lead the measure, such are to be followed. After them, and take a more dilated farewell. 65 BERTRAM And I will do so. PAROLLES Worthy fellows, and like to prove most sinewy swordmen. 「Bertram and Parolles ] exit. Enter Lafew, \(\tau\_to the King\) LAFEW, [kneeling] Pardon, my lord, for me and for my tidings. KING I'll fee to stand up. 70 LAFEW, [standing] Then here's a man stands that has brought his pardon. I would you had kneeled, my lord, to ask me mercy,

And that at my bidding you could so stand up.

KING

LAFEW

KING

KING

LAFEW

But, my good lord, 'tis thus: will vou be cured

O, will you eat

I would I had, so I had broke thy pate

No.

And asked thee mercy for 't.

Of your infirmity?

Good faith, across.

THe goes to bring in Helen.

75

80

75. broke thy pate: i.e., cut open your head

77. **across:** If **across** is a response to the King's attempt at humor, it may mean "a clumsy hit" (a fencing term); if **across** is instead a continuation of Lafew's wish for the King's health (lines 73–74), it may describe the wound that Lafew is willing to sustain. (In *The Comedy of Errors*, 2.1.83, the words "break **thy pate across**" are followed by wordplay on **across** as "a cross.")

81-84. O... reach them: an allusion to the fox in Aesop's fable who, unable to reach the grapes he wants, declares them sour (See picture, page 60.) will: i.e., will eat an if: i.e., if

84. medicine: (1) medicament; (2) doctor

86. **canary:** i.e., the canaries, a lively Spanish dance (See picture, page 72.)

88. **araise:** i.e., raise from the dead; **King Pippen:** i.e., King Pepin, who died in 768 (See picture, page 100.)

89. Charlemagne: Charles the Great, emperor of the West (800–814) and son of King Pepin; pen in 's hand: Many editors suggest a sexual meaning here, and in such words as touch and araise.

95. **light:** frivolous; **deliverance:** manner of speaking

96. **profession:** declaration (of what she is able to do)

98. dare . . . weakness: perhaps, can attribute to my infirmities as an old man

99. demand: request

102. admiration: object of wonder (line 103)

103. take off: do away with

(continued)

No grapes, my royal fox? Yes, but you will My noble grapes, an if my royal fox Could reach them. I have seen a medicine That's able to breathe life into a stone. 85 Quicken a rock, and make you dance canary With sprightly fire and motion, whose simple touch Is powerful to araise King Pippen, nay, To give great Charlemagne a pen in 's hand And write to her a love line. 90 What "her" is this? KING LAFEW Why, Doctor She. My lord, there's one arrived. If you will see her. Now, by my faith and honor, If seriously I may convey my thoughts In this my light deliverance, I have spoke 95 With one that in her sex, her years, profession, Wisdom, and constancy hath amazed me more Than I dare blame my weakness. Will you see her-For that is her demand—and know her business? That done, laugh well at me. 100 KING Now, good Lafew. Bring in the admiration, that we with thee May spend our wonder too, or take off thine By wond'ring how thou took'st it. LAFEW Nay, I'll fit you. 105 And not be all day neither.

Thus he his special nothing ever prologues.

52

104. **took'st:** i.e., caught (with wordplay on **take** in line 103)

105. fit: i.e., provide

107. **nothing:** trivial or trifling remark; **prologues:** introduces, prefaces

107 SD. **Enter Helen:** Some editors have Helen enter here in disguise, thus solving the problem presented in 2.3, where Lafew seems not to have known the identity of "Doctor She."

108. come your ways: i.e., come along

113. **Cressid's uncle:** In the story of Troilus and Cressida, **Cressid's uncle** Pandarus served as gobetween for the lovers. He thus became the type of the male bawd or "pander."

115. follow us: i.e., aim at me (the royal "we")

118. well found: of proven merit

120. The rather: the more readily

122. receipts: remedies, prescriptions

124. th' only: i.e., the most precious

125. triple: third

127. touched: infected

128. cause: disease

130. appliance: willing service

131. bound: i.e., dutiful

134. leave us: i.e., abandon me

135. **congregated college:** probably a reference to a body such as the London College of Physicians or the Faculty of Medicine in Paris

136. art: learning, skill (often set in opposition to nature)

137. her inaidible estate: i.e., its helpless condition; we: i.e., I

#### Enter Helen.

LAFEW, to Helen Nay, come your ways. KING This haste hath wings indeed. LAFEW Nay, come your ways. 110 This is his Majesty. Say your mind to him. A traitor vou do look like, but such traitors His Majesty seldom fears. I am Cressid's uncle That dare leave two together. Fare you well. He exits. KING Now, fair one, does your business follow us? 115 HELEN Ay, my good lord. Gerard de Narbon was my father. In what he did profess well found. KING I knew him. HELEN The rather will I spare my praises towards him. 120 Knowing him is enough. On 's bed of death Many receipts he gave me, chiefly one Which, as the dearest issue of his practice. And of his old experience th' only darling. He bade me store up as a triple eye, 125 Safer than mine own two, more dear. I have so. And hearing your high Majesty is touched With that malignant cause wherein the honor Of my dear father's gift stands chief in power, I come to tender it and my appliance 130 With all bound humbleness. KING We thank you, maiden, But may not be so credulous of cure, When our most learned doctors leave us and The congregated college have concluded 135 That laboring art can never ransom nature From her inaidible estate. I say we must not So stain our judgment or corrupt our hope

| 139. | To | prostitute: | i.e., | by | surrendering |
|------|----|-------------|-------|----|--------------|
|      |    |             |       |    |              |

140. empirics: untrained practitioners, quacks

141. to esteem: i.e., by regarding as valuable

142. when help . . . deem: i.e., when I judge any remedy as beyond what is reasonable

143. My duty: perhaps, my sense of having attempted to serve you

144. office: service, attention

146. A modest one: i.e., a moderate thought (with possible wordplay on modest with reference to her decorous behavior); bear me back again: i.e., carry back with me

150. at full: fully

151. art: learning

153. set up your rest: i.e., bet everything (a term

from the game of primero)

154–59. **He . . . denied:** These lines seem to allude to biblical passages in which the young or the weak proved wise or powerful. (See longer note, page 223.) **minister:** agent

162. **shifts:** succeeds (Many editors since the early 18th century have changed this word to "sits" or "fits," words that more easily fit the context and that maintain the rhymed couplets that dominate from line 150 until the end of the scene.)

166. **Inspired merit:** i.e., good works infused by divine power; **so by breath:** i.e., thus **by** words of judgment or will

168. guess: i.e., suppositions, conjectures

To prostitute our past-cure malady To empirics, or to dissever so 140 Our great self and our credit to esteem A senseless help when help past sense we deem. HELEN My duty, then, shall pay me for my pains. I will no more enforce mine office on you, Humbly entreating from your royal thoughts 145 A modest one to bear me back again. KING I cannot give thee less, to be called grateful. Thou thought'st to help me, and such thanks I give As one near death to those that wish him live. But what at full I know, thou know'st no part, 150 I knowing all my peril, thou no art. HELEN What I can do can do no hurt to try Since you set up your rest 'gainst remedy. He that of greatest works is finisher Oft does them by the weakest minister. 155 So holy writ in babes hath judgment shown When judges have been babes. Great floods have flown From simple sources, and great seas have dried When miracles have by the great'st been denied. Oft expectation fails, and most oft there 160 Where most it promises, and oft it hits Where hope is coldest and despair most shifts. KING I must not hear thee. Fare thee well, kind maid. Thy pains, not used, must by thyself be paid. Proffers not took reap thanks for their reward. 165 HELEN Inspirèd merit so by breath is barred. It is not so with Him that all things knows As 'tis with us that square our guess by shows;

But most it is presumption in us when

| 174. against aim: i.e., contrary to what I           |
|--|
| intend (level here meaning, literally, the action of |
| aiming a missile weapon)                             |

176. past power: without power

177. space: i.e., of time

179. The greatest . . . grace: i.e., if God lends divine aid

180–81. **Ere...ring:** The sun's apparent circling of the earth was often pictured as the sun-god's chariot being drawn across the sky by **horses.** (See picture, page 106.) **torcher:** one who gives light, as by carrying a torch

183. **Hesperus:** the name given by the Greeks to the planet Venus in its appearance as the evening star

184. pilot's glass: i.e., the hourglass used on

shipboard

185. told: counted, reckoned; thievish minutes: an allusion to the commonplace that time is a thief (See Shakespeare's Sonnet 77, line 8: "Time's thievish progress to eternity.")

186. sound parts: i.e., parts that would then

become sound

187. freely: readily

190. Tax: accusation

193. **otherwise:** in other ways (i.e., not only in **ballads**); **extended:** (1) stretched on an instrument of **torture** called a rack; (2) prolonged (in duration)

199. rate: reckon, calculate

200. in thee hath estimate: i.e., has a claim to be considered in your value

202. happy: fortunate

| The help of heaven we count the act of men.      | 170       |
|--|-----------|
| Dear sir, to my endeavors give consent.          |           |
| Of heaven, not me, make an experiment.           | *         |
| I am not an impostor that proclaim               |           |
| Myself against the level of mine aim.            |           |
| But know I think and think I know most sure      | 175       |
| My art is not past power nor you past cure.      | 1,5       |
| KING   |           |
| Art thou so confident? Within what space         |           |
| Hop'st thou my cure?                             |           |
| HELEN The greatest grace lending grace,          |           |
| Ere twice the horses of the sun shall bring      | 180       |
| Their fiery torcher his diurnal ring;            | 100       |
| Ere twice in murk and occidental damp            |           |
| Moist Hesperus hath quenched her sleepy lamp;    |           |
| Or four and twenty times the pilot's glass       |           |
| Hath told the thievish minutes, how they pass,   | 105       |
| What is infirm from your sound parts shall fly,  | 185       |
| Health shall live free, and sickness freely die. |           |
| KING   |           |
| Upon thy certainty and confidence                |           |
| What dar'st thou venture?                        |           |
| HELEN Tax of impudence,                          | 100       |
| A strumpet's boldness, a divulgèd shame;         | 190       |
| Traduced by odious ballads, my maiden's name     |           |
| Seared otherwise; nay, worse of worst, extended  |           |
| With vilest torture let my life be ended.        |           |
| KING   |           |
| Methinks in thee some blessed spirit doth speak  | 12/22/257 |
| His powerful sound within an organ weak,         | 195       |
| And what impossibility would slay                |           |
| In common sense, sense saves another way.        |           |
| Thy life is dear, for all that life can rate     |           |
| Worth name of life in thee hath estimate:        |           |
| Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, all              | 200       |
| That happiness and prime and large               |           |
| That happiness and prime can happy call.         |           |

204. or monstrous: i.e., or that you are very

205. practicer: practitioner; physic: medicine

207. break time: i.e., fail to keep time (musical terminology); flinch: give way, draw back; property: i.e., any attribute or quality

212. make it even: i.e., balance our accounts

216. Exempted: i.e., far removed

219. branch . . . state: i.e., descendant of the roval family

222. premises: foregoing matters (legal terminology)

225. still: constantly

228. rest: remain

229. Unquestioned: uninterrogated (but with wordplay on unquestionably, without doubt): undoubted: i.e., undoubtedly

231. word: i.e., your promise



A fox reaching for grapes. (2.1.81-84) From Aesop, Fabulae . . . [1590].

Thou this to hazard needs must intimate Skill infinite or monstrous desperate. Sweet practicer, thy physic I will try, 205 That ministers thine own death if I die. HELEN If I break time or flinch in property Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die, And well deserved. Not helping, death's my fee. But if I help, what do you promise me? 210 KING Make thy demand. But will you make it even? HELEN KING Ay, by my scepter and my hopes of heaven. HELEN Then shalt thou give me with thy kingly hand What husband in thy power I will command. 215 Exempted be from me the arrogance To choose from forth the royal blood of France. My low and humble name to propagate With any branch or image of thy state; But such a one, thy vassal, whom I know 220 Is free for me to ask, thee to bestow. KING Here is my hand. The premises observed. Thy will by my performance shall be served. So make the choice of thy own time, for I, Thy resolved patient, on thee still rely. 225 More should I question thee, and more I must, Though more to know could not be more to trust: From whence thou cam'st, how tended on; but rest Unquestioned welcome and undoubted blessed .-Give me some help here, ho!—If thou proceed 230 As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed. Flourish. They exit, the King assisted.

20

2.2 The Countess sends the Fool to the court with a letter for Helen

1. put you to: i.e., make you show

3. highly . . . taught: "Better fed than taught" was a proverbial description of a spoiled child.

5-6. make you special: i.e., do you have a high opinion of

6. put off: dismiss

9. put it off: perhaps, foist or palm it off

10. a leg: i.e., an elaborate bow

17. barber's chair: Proverbial: "common as a barber's chair."

18. pin-buttock: narrow buttock; quatchbuttock: The meaning of quatch is not known.

18-19. brawn-buttock: fleshy buttock

21. ten groats: A groat was worth four pence. (See picture, page 64.)

22. French crown: (1) coin; (2) head bald from "the French disease" (syphilis); taffety punk: i.e., overdressed prostitute (See picture, page 170.)

23. Tib's . . . forefinger: Tib and Tom meant "lass and lad." rush: i.e., a ring made from the rush plant

24. Shrove Tuesday: the day before Lent, often called "pancake day"; morris: i.e., morris dance

25. his hole: i.e., its hole; cuckold to his horn: See longer note to 1.3.56, and picture, page 204.

26. quean: female (a term of disparagement)

26-27. nun's . . . mouth: A salacious distortion of the proverb "As fit as a pudding for a friar's mouth."

(continued)

## 62

### Scene 27

#### Enter Countess and Fool?

COUNTESS Come on, sir. I shall now put you to the height of your breeding.

FOOL I will show myself highly fed and lowly taught. I know my business is but to the court.

COUNTESS "To the court"? Why, what place make you special when you put off that with such contempt? "But to the court"?

FOOL Truly, madam, if God have lent a man any manners, he may easily put it off at court. He that cannot make a leg, put off's cap, kiss his hand, and say nothing, has neither leg, hands, lip, nor cap; and indeed such a fellow, to say precisely, were not for the court. But, for me, I have an answer will serve all men.

COUNTESS Marry, that's a bountiful answer that fits all 15 questions.

FOOL It is like a barber's chair that fits all buttocks: the pin-buttock, the quatch-buttock, the brawnbuttock, or any buttock.

COUNTESS Will your answer serve fit to all questions? FOOL. As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an attorney. as your French crown for your taffety punk, as Tib's rush for Tom's forefinger, as a pancake for Shrove Tuesday, a morris for May Day, as the nail to his hole, the cuckold to his horn, as a scolding 25 quean to a wrangling knave, as the nun's lip to the friar's mouth, nay, as the pudding to his skin.

COUNTESS Have you, I say, an answer of such fitness for all questions?

FOOL From below your duke to beneath your constable, it will fit any question.

COUNTESS It must be an answer of most monstrous size that must fit all demands.

27. pudding to his skin: i.e., sausage to its skin

34. But a trifle neither: i.e., nothing but a trifle

38. To be young again: As a response to "It shall do you no harm to learn," the Countess's words remind one of Portia's "she is not yet so old / But she may learn" (Merchant of Venice 3.2.164-65).

41. **O Lord, sir:** This empty expression used at court was mocked by other writers in Shakespeare's

day. putting off: evasion

45. Thick: quickly, faster

46-47. homely meat: simple food

48. put me to 't: challenge me; warrant: assure

53. very sequent to: i.e., a proper consequence of

53-54. **answer...to:** wordplay on (1) reply to; and (2) suffer the consequences of

54. bound to 't: wordplay on (1) obliged to

answer; and (2) tied up, in bonds

- 57. **I play . . . time:** an ironic way of saying "I'm wasting **time**" **huswife:** housewife, i.e., thrifty and efficient household manager (pronounced "hussif")
  - 61. a present: an immediate
  - 67. again: i.e., back again



The obverse and reverse of a groat. (2.2.21)
From Edward Hawkins, *The silver coins of England* . . . (1841).

FOOL But a trifle neither, in good faith, if the learned should speak truth of it. Here it is, and all that 35 belongs to 't. Ask me if I am a courtier; it shall do vou no harm to learn. COUNTESS To be young again, if we could! I will be a fool in question, hoping to be the wiser by your answer. I pray you, sir, are you a courtier? FOOL O Lord, sir!—There's a simple putting off. More, more, a hundred of them. COUNTESS Sir, I am a poor friend of yours that loves you. FOOL O Lord, sir!—Thick, thick. Spare not me. COUNTESS I think, sir, you can eat none of this homely meat. FOOL O Lord, sir!—Nay, put me to 't, I warrant you. COUNTESS You were lately whipped, sir, as I think. FOOL O Lord, sir!—Spare not me. COUNTESS Do you cry "O Lord, sir!" at your whipping, and "spare not me"? Indeed your "O Lord, sir!" is very sequent to your whipping. You would answer very well to a whipping if you were but bound to 't. FOOL I ne'er had worse luck in my life in my "O Lord, 55 sir!" I see things may serve long but not serve ever. COUNTESS I play the noble huswife with the time to entertain it so merrily with a fool. FOOL O Lord, sir!—Why, there 't serves well again. COUNTESS, \( \sigma iving him a paper \) [An] end, sir. To your business. Give Helen this, And urge her to a present answer back. Commend me to my kinsmen and my son. This is not much. FOOL Not much commendation to them? COUNTESS Not much employment for you. You understand me. 65 FOOL Most fruitfully. I am there before my legs. COUNTESS Haste you again. They exit.

- 2.3 Having cured the King, Helen is given several courtiers from whom to choose a husband as her reward. When she selects Bertram, he objects strongly to marrying "a poor physician's daughter," but the King insists on the marriage. Bertram privately vows never to "bed" Helen and, immediately following the marriage ceremony, makes his plans to escape to the wars.
- 1. miracles are past: It was Protestant doctrine that miracles ceased soon after the establishment of the Christian church.

2. modern: commonplace, ordinary

3. causeless: not to be explained by any natural cause

4-5. ensconcing . . . knowledge: i.e., taking shelter behind apparent knowledge

6. unknown fear: (1) i.e., the unknown, which is what we most fear; or, (2) acknowledgment that the world is terrifyingly mysterious

7. argument: theme, subject

8. shot out: i.e., appeared like a "shooting star"; latter times: i.e., the time since miracles have ceased

10. of the artists: i.e., by the physicians

- 11. of Galen and Paracelsus: i.e., of the schools of ancient and "modern" medicine (Galen was a 2nd-century anatomist, physiologist, and physician; Paracelsus was an early-16th-century Swiss physician and alchemist.)
  - 12. authentic: legally qualified, licensed

21. in showing: i.e., narrated

(continued)

#### Scene 37

Enter Count [Bertram,] Lafew, and Parolles.

LAFEW They say miracles are past, and we have our philosophical persons to make modern and familiar things supernatural and causeless. Hence is it that we make trifles of terrors, ensconcing ourselves into seeming knowledge when we should submit ourselves to an unknown fear. PAROLLES Why, 'tis the rarest argument of wonder that hath shot out in our latter times. BERTRAM And so 'tis LAFEW To be relinquished of the artists— 10 PAROLLES So I say, both of Galen and Paracelsus. LAFEW Of all the learned and authentic fellows-PAROLLES Right, so I say. LAFEW That gave him out incurable— PAROLLES Why, there 'tis. So say I too. 15 LAFEW Not to be helped. PAROLLES Right, as 'twere a man assured of a-LAFEW Uncertain life and sure death. PAROLLES Just. You say well. So would I have said. LAFEW I may truly say it is a novelty to the world. 20 PAROLLES It is indeed. If you will have it in showing, you shall read it in what-do-you-call there. THe points to a paper in Lafew's hand. LAFEW [reads] A showing of a heavenly effect in an earthly actor. PAROLLES That's it. I would have said the very same. 25 LAFEW Why, your dolphin is not lustier. 'Fore me, I speak in respect—

PAROLLES Nay, 'tis strange, 'tis very strange; that is the brief and the tedious of it; and he's of a most facinorous spirit that will not acknowledge it to be 30 the-

LAFEW Very hand of heaven.

23. showing: manifestation (The wonder [line 7] that enraptures Lafew and Parolles has apparently already been published in the broadsheet ballad whose title Lafew reads out. Such rapid publication was common in England at the time this play was written.)

26. lustier: more lively; 'Fore me: a mild oath (equivalent to "by my word")

28-29. the brief and the tedious: a stilted way of saying "the long and the short"

29-30. facinorous: infamous, vile

35. debile minister: feeble agent

37. use: application

42. Lustig: merry, jolly; Dutchman: i.e., German; maid: young woman

44. coranto: lively dance

45. Mort du vinaigre: a meaningless "French" oath

46. 'Fore God, I think so: On Lafew's surprise here, see note to 2.1.107 SD.

50. repealed: recalled (from exile or banishment)

52. attends: awaits

53. parcel: small party or company

54. stand at my bestowing: i.e., are mine to bestow in marriage

56. to use: i.e., the use of; frank election: unrestricted choice

57. forsake: refuse

59. when Love please: i.e., when it pleases the

god of love; Marry: i.e., indeed, to be sure

60-62. I'd . . . beard: i.e., I'd give anything to be as young as these boys bay Curtal: i.e., my bay horse (named Curtal because of its cropped tail) furniture: harness and trappings broken: i.e., damaged by loss of teeth writ: perhaps, acknowledged

PAROLLES Ay, so I say. LAFEW In a most weak-PAROLLES And debile minister. Great power, great 35 transcendence, which should indeed give us a further use to be made than alone the recov'ry of the King, as to be-LAFEW Generally thankful. Enter King, Helen, and Attendants. PAROLLES I would have said it. You say well. Here 40 comes the King. LAFEW Lustig, as the Dutchman says. I'll like a maid the better whilst I have a tooth in my head. Why, he's able to lead her a coranto. PAROLLES Mort du vinaigre! Is not this Helen? 45 LAFEW 'Fore God, I think so. KING Go, call before me all the lords in court. 「An Attendant exits. Sit, my preserver, by thy patient's side. And with this healthful hand, whose banished sense Thou hast repealed, a second time receive The confirmation of my promised gift, Which but attends thy naming. Enter three or four [Court] Lords. Fair maid, send forth thine eye. This youthful parcel Of noble bachelors stand at my bestowing, O'er whom both sovereign power and father's voice I have to use. Thy frank election make. Thou hast power to choose, and they none to forsake. HELEN To each of you one fair and virtuous mistress Fall when Love please! Marry, to each but one. LAFEW, [aside] I'd give bay Curtal and his furniture

69. simply: without qualification; maid: virgin

72-73. be refused: i.e., if you are refused

74. the white death: i.e., death, which turns one's cheek ashen

77. Who: i.e., whoever; his love: i.e., my love for him

78. Dian: i.e., Diana, goddess of chastity (See picture, page 148.)

79. imperial Love: i.e., Cupid (See below.)

80 SD. addresses her to: i.e., speaks to; or, perhaps, makes her way to or turns to

83-84. All ... mute: i.e., I have nothing more to say

86. ambs-ace: two aces (the lowest throw at dice); for my life: perhaps, with my life at stake

87. honor: probably, the courtier's sense of family honor, which would be threatened by the thought of marriage to a commoner

90. Her that so wishes: i.e., Helen herself

91. No better: i.e., I wish no better (than your humble love)



Cupid, the god of love. (1.3.114; 2.3.79) From Francesco Petrarca, Opera . . . (1508).

My mouth no more were broken than these boys' And writ as little beard. Peruse them well. KING Not one of those but had a noble father. HELEN Gentlemen. Heaven hath through me restored the King to health. ALL We understand it and thank heaven for you. HELEN I am a simple maid, and therein wealthiest That I protest I simply am a maid.— Please it your Majesty, I have done already. The blushes in my cheeks thus whisper me: "We blush that thou shouldst choose: but, be refused. Let the white death sit on thy cheek forever; We'll ne'er come there again.' Make choice and see. KING Who shuns thy love shuns all his love in me. HELEN Now, Dian, from thy altar do I fly. And to imperial Love, that god most high, Do my sighs stream. She addresses her to a Lord. Sir, will you hear my suit? FIRST COURT LORD And grant it. Thanks, sir. All the HELEN rest is mute. LAFEW, [aside] I had rather be in this choice than 85 throw ambs-ace for my life. HELEN, To another Lord The honor, sir, that flames in your fair eves Before I speak too threat'ningly replies. Love make your fortunes twenty times above Her that so wishes, and her humble love. SECOND COURT LORD No better, if you please. My wish receive. HELEN

94–96. **Do . . . eunuchs of:** Lafew (here and at lines 101–3) may be unable to hear the polite responses of the courtiers, and may thus misunderstand their attitude toward Helen. On the other hand, he may instead hear and see a coldness in their responses that he correctly recognizes as a rejection.

102. bastards to: i.e., bastards of

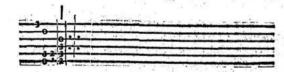
103. got 'em: i.e., begot them

107–8. **There's...wine:** Using wordplay on the proverb "good **wine** makes good blood," Lafew suggests that Bertram, the fruit of his father's lineage, has good blood in his veins.



Intauolatura di Liuto del Canario







Music for the "canario" or canaries. (2.1.86) From Fabritio Caroso, *Il Ballarino* . . . (1581).

Which great Love grant, and so I take my leave. LAFEW. [aside] Do all they deny her? An they were sons of mine, I'd have them whipped, or I would send 95 them to th' Turk to make eunuchs of. HELEN Tto another Lord Be not afraid that I your hand should take. I'll never do you wrong, for your own sake. Blessing upon your vows, and in your bed Find fairer fortune if you ever wed. LAFEW, [aside] These boys are boys of ice; they'll none have Ther. Sure they are bastards to the English; the French ne'er got 'em. HELEN. To another Lord You are too young, too happy, and too good To make yourself a son out of my blood. 105 FOURTH COURT LORD Fair one, I think not so. LAFEW, [aside] There's one grape yet. I am sure thy father drunk wine. But if thou be'st not an ass. I am a youth of fourteen; I have known thee already. HELEN, Tto Bertram I dare not say I take you, but I give Me and my service ever whilst I live Into your guiding power.—This is the man. KING Why then, young Bertram, take her. She's thy wife. BERTRAM My wife, my liege? I shall beseech your Highness In such a business give me leave to use 115 The help of mine own eyes. Know'st thou not, KING Bertram, What she has done for me? Yes, my good lord, 120 BERTRAM But never hope to know why I should marry her. Thou know'st she has raised me from my sickly bed.

125. breeding: upbringing, education; charge: expense

128. title: perhaps, lack of title; or, perhaps, the designation you gave her as a poor physician's daughter

131. Would quite confound distinction: i.e., could not be distinguished (Proverbial: "There is no difference of bloods in a basin.") stands off: i.e., are separated in quality

132. differences: i.e., social or class distinctions (here giving bloods [line 129] its meaning of lineages or ancestral descent)

135. Of virtue: i.e., virtue; for: i.e., because of

138. additions: titles of honor

139. dropsied: morbidly swollen, inflated

141. property: attribute or quality; go: be known

144. honor's scorn: i.e., the object of honor's mockery

145. challenges itself: i.e., lays claim to honor; as: i.e., as if

150. trophy: memorial

152. honored: i.e., honorable

153. maid: young woman

155. **Is:** i.e., are

| В | ERTRAM   |     |
|---|--|-----|
|   | But follows it, my lord, to bring me down<br>Must answer for your raising? I know her well;<br>She had her breeding at my father's charge.<br>A poor physician's daughter my wife? Disdain | 125 |
|   | Rather corrupt me ever!  |     |
| K | ING  |     |
|   | 'Tis only title thou disdain'st in her, the which  |     |
|   | I can build up. Strange is it that our bloods,<br>Of color, weight, and heat, poured all together,   | 130 |
|   | Would quite confound distinction, yet stands off   | 150 |
|   | In differences so mighty. If she be  |     |
|   | All that is virtuous, save what thou dislik'st-  |     |
|   | "A poor physician's daughter"—thou dislik'st   |     |
|   | Of virtue for the name. But do not so.   | 135 |
|   | From lowest place whence virtuous things proceed,  |     |
|   | The place is dignified by th' doer's deed.   |     |
|   | Where great additions swell 's, and virtue none,   |     |
|   | It is a dropsied honor. Good alone   |     |
|   | Is good, without a name; vileness is so;   | 140 |
|   | The property by what fit is should go,   |     |
|   | Not by the title. She is young, wise, fair;  |     |
|   | In these to nature she's immediate heir,   |     |
|   | And these breed honor. That is honor's scorn   |     |
|   | Which challenges itself as honor's born  | 145 |
|   | And is not like the sire. Honors thrive  |     |
|   | When rather from our acts we them derive   |     |
|   | Than our foregoers. The mere word's a slave  |     |
|   | Debauched on every tomb, on every grave  |     |
|   | A lying trophy, and as oft is dumb   | 150 |
|   | Where dust and damned oblivion is the tomb   |     |
|   | Of honored bones indeed. What should be said?  |     |
|   | If thou canst like this creature as a maid,  |     |
|   | I can create the rest. Virtue and she  |     |
|   | Is her own dower, honor and wealth from me   | 155 |

158. choose: have your own way

161. at the stake: i.e., at risk (The term suggests both gambling [where the stake is the money that is hazarded] and bearbaiting [where the stake is the post to which the bear is tied].) which: i.e., which threat to my honor

164. misprision: contempt, disparagement

165. her desert: i.e., what she deserves

166. We, poising us in: i.e., I, adding my weight to; scale: scale-pan (The image is of a weighing apparatus consisting of a beam with scale-pans on each end.) See below.

167. weigh . . . beam: i.e., so outweigh you that your scale will fly up and strike the beam

171. presently: immediately

175. staggers: giddy confusions

180. fancy: preference; amorous inclination (See The Merchant of Venice 3.2.65-69: "Tell me where is fancy bred . . .? It is engendered in the eye. . . . ")

182. late: i.e., lately



A beam and scale-pans. (2.3.166-67) From Silvestro Pietrasanta, ... Symbola heroica ... (1682). BERTRAM I cannot love her, nor will strive to do 't. Thou wrong'st thyself if thou shouldst strive to choose. HELEN That you are well restored, my lord, I'm glad. Let the rest go. 160 KING My honor's at the stake, which to defeat I must produce my power.—Here, take her hand, Proud, scornful boy, unworthy this good gift. That dost in vile misprision shackle up My love and her desert: that canst not dream 165 We, poising us in her defective scale, Shall weigh thee to the beam; that wilt not know It is in us to plant thine honor where We please to have it grow. Check thy contempt; Obey our will, which travails in thy good. Believe not thy disdain, but presently Do thine own fortunes that obedient right Which both thy duty owes and our power claims, Or I will throw thee from my care forever Into the staggers and the careless lapse 175 Of youth and ignorance, both my revenge and hate Loosing upon thee in the name of justice Without all terms of pity. Speak. Thine answer. BERTRAM Pardon, my gracious lord, for I submit My fancy to your eyes. When I consider 180 What great creation and what dole of honor Flies where you bid it, I find that she which late Was in my nobler thoughts most base is now The praised of the King, who, so ennobled, Is as 'twere born so. 185

Take her by the hand,

188-89. **counterpoise** . . . **replete**: (1) compensation that, even **if** it is **not** equal **to** your **estate**, will provide a more perfect **balance** between you and Helen; (2) compensation that not only will be equivalent **to** your **estate**, but will more than counterbalance it

192. **this contract:** When Bertram obeys the King's order to "take her by the hand, / And tell her she is thine" (lines 186–87), he legally betroths himself to Helen. Such a clasping of hands was known as a "handfasting," a **contract** that was, in fact, a legal marriage. The **ceremony** to follow was demanded by the church but not by the courts. The **solemn feast** (line 194) was the next customary part of the celebration of the marriage, and was usually followed by the couple being "bedded" and the marriage consummated.

193. **expedient:** fitting, appropriate; or, perhaps, expeditious; **now-born brief:** perhaps, just-issued royal mandate (This line is much debated.)

195. more attend upon: i.e., await; space: i.e., time

196. **Expecting:** i.e., anticipating the coming of; **friends:** family, relatives

197 SD. of this wedding: i.e., on this betrothal

205. succeeding: consequence, result

206. companion: often a term of contempt

207. man: (1) humankind; (2) manly

208. count's man: i.e., the servant of a count

210-11. You . . . old: i.e., I would challenge you to a duel were it not for your age (Compare lines 223-24.)

(continued)

78

And tell her she is thine, to whom I promise A counterpoise, if not to thy estate, A balance more replete. I take her hand. BERTRAM 190 KING. Good fortune and the favor of the King Smile upon this contract, whose ceremony Shall seem expedient on the now-born brief And be performed tonight. The solemn feast Shall more attend upon the coming space, 195 Expecting absent friends. As thou lov'st her Thy love's to me religious; else, does err. They exit. Parolles and Lafew stay behind, commenting of this wedding. LAFEW Do you hear, monsieur? A word with you. PAROLLES Your pleasure, sir. LAFEW Your lord and master did well to make his re- 200 cantation. PAROLLES "Recantation"? My "lord"? My "master"? LAFEW Ay. Is it not a language I speak? PAROLLES A most harsh one, and not to be understood without bloody succeeding. My "master"? 205 LAFEW Are you companion to the Count Rossillion? PAROLLES To any count, to all counts, to what is man. LAFEW To what is count's man. Count's master is of another style. PAROLLES You are too old, sir; let it satisfy you, you are 210 too old. LAFEW I must tell thee, sirrah, I write man, to which title age cannot bring thee. PAROLLES What I dare too well do, I dare not do. LAFEW I did think thee, for two ordinaries, to be a 215 pretty wise fellow; thou didst make tolerable vent of thy travel; it might pass. Yet the scarves and the bannerets about thee did manifoldly dissuade me from believing thee a vessel of too great a burden.

214. too well do: i.e., do only too well

215. **two ordinaries:** i.e., the time it took to have two meals with you (An *ordinary* was a public meal.)

216. make tolerable vent: i.e., speak moderately well

217. **scarves:** i.e., military sashes (broad bands of fabric worn across the body or around the waist)

219. burden: carrying capacity; or, perhaps, cargo

220. **found thee:** i.e., **found** you out, discovered the truth about you

221–22. **taking up:** i.e., picking **up** (with probable wordplay on such meanings as "arresting," "opposing," "rebuking," "levying as a common soldier," "patronizing," or "hiring")

227. **window of lattice:** This complex reference perhaps begins with the scarves that cross Parolles' body, making him look like a latticework **window;** it links Parolles to the common ale-house, identified by a red **lattice,** and also signals the transparency of his deceptive military manner.

234. dram: i.e., tiniest bit

235. **bate thee:** i.e., deduct from what you deserve; **scruple:** tiny amount (literally, a third of a **dram**)

238. pull at a smack: i.e., drink a taste; o' th' contrary: i.e., of your own folly

241. hold: i.e., hold on to, preserve

(continued)

20

I have now found thee. When I lose thee again, I 220 care not. Yet art thou good for nothing but taking up, and that thou'rt scarce worth.

PAROLLES Hadst thou not the privilege of antiquity upon thee—

LAFEW Do not plunge thyself too far in anger lest thou 225 hasten thy trial, which if—Lord have mercy on

hasten thy trial, which if—Lord have mercy on thee for a hen! So, my good window of lattice, fare thee well; thy casement I need not open, for I look through thee. Give me thy hand.

PAROLLES My lord, you give me most egregious indig-

LAFEW Ay, with all my heart, and thou art worthy of it. PAROLLES I have not, my lord, deserved it.

LAFEW Yes, good faith, ev'ry dram of it, and I will not bate thee a scruple.

PAROLLES Well. I shall be wiser.

LAFEW Ev'n as soon as thou canst, for thou hast to pull at a smack o' th' contrary. If ever thou be'st bound in thy scarf and beaten, thou <code>\Gammashall find what it is to be proud of thy bondage. I have a 240 desire to hold my acquaintance with thee, or rather my knowledge, that I may say in the default "He is a man I know."</code>

PAROLLES My lord, you do me most insupportable vexation.

LAFEW I would it were hell pains for thy sake, and my poor doing eternal; for doing I am past, as I will by thee in what motion age will give me leave.

He exits.

PAROLLES Well, thou hast a son shall take this disgrace off me. Scurvy, old, filthy, scurvy lord! Well, I must be patient; there is no fettering of authority. I'll beat him, by my life, if I can meet him with any convenience, an he were double and double a lord. I'll have no more pity of his age than I would have of—I'll beat him, an if I could but meet him again. 255

245

242. in the default: i.e., when you fail in your duty

247. **for doing:** perhaps, **for** copulation; or, perhaps, **for** manly actions

247–48. will by thee: i.e., will pass by you (wordplay on I am past, line 247)

251. fettering: restraining

253. an: i.e., even if

254. of: i.e., on

255. an if: if

259. make some reservation of: keep back

260. good lord: i.e., patron

268. Methink'st: i.e., it seems to me-

270. breathe themselves: i.e., exercise themselves briskly

271. measure: treatment, punishment

276-77. **commission of:** i.e., authority derived from

277. heraldry: title or rank

282. Undone: destroyed, ruined

# Enter Lafew.

LAFEW Sirrah, your lord and master's married. There's news for you: you have a new mistress.

PAROLLES I most unfeignedly beseech your Lordship to make some reservation of your wrongs. He is my good lord; whom I serve above is my master.

LAFEW Who? God?

PAROLLES Ay, sir.

LAFEW The devil it is that's thy master. Why dost thou garter up thy arms o' this fashion? Dost make hose of thy sleeves? Do other servants so? Thou wert 265 best set thy lower part where thy nose stands. By mine honor, if I were but two hours younger, I'd beat thee. Methink'st thou art a general offense, and every man should beat thee. I think thou wast created for men to breathe themselves upon thee. 270

PAROLLES This is hard and undeserved measure, my lord.

LAFEW Go to, sir. You were beaten in Italy for picking a kernel out of a pomegranate. You are a vagabond, and no true traveler. You are more saucy with 275 lords and honorable personages than the commission of your birth and virtue gives you heraldry. You are not worth another word; else I'd call you knave. I leave you.

He exits.

PAROLLES Good, very good! It is so, then. Good, very 280 good. Let it be concealed awhile.

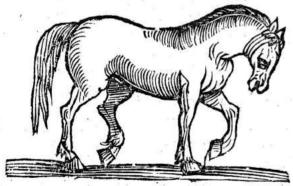
# Enter Bertram Count Rossillion.

#### BERTRAM

Undone, and forfeited to cares forever!
PAROLLES What's the matter, sweetheart?
BERTRAM

Although before the solemn priest I have sworn, I will not bed her.

| 288. <b>T</b>   | uscan wars: See note to 1.2.16-17.          |
|-----------------|---|
| 291. le         | etters: i.e., a letter                      |
| 295. <b>b</b>   | ox: possible wordplay on female genitals    |
| 296. k          | icky-wicky: a word not recorded else-       |
| where, bi       | ut perhaps related to "kicksey-winsey" (a   |
| whim or         | fancy) and to "kickshaws" (a trifle or toy) |
| 297. m          | narrow: vitality and strength               |
| 298. cı         | urvet: leap of a horse                      |
| 299. M          | lars's: Mars was the Roman god of war.      |
| 300. ja         | i.e., broken-down horses (See below.)       |
| 303. h          | ate to: i.e., hatred of                     |
| 304. w          | herefore I am: i.e., why I have             |
| 305. di         | urst not: i.e., did not dare to             |
| 306. ft         | irnish me to: i.e., equip me with weap-     |
| onry and        | military trappings for                      |
| 308. <b>T</b> c | o: i.e., compared to                        |
|                 | apriccio: caprice, whim                     |
| 311. st         | raight: immediately                         |
| 314. A          | young marred: Proverbial: "Marrying         |
| is marring      | y."   |
|                 |   |



A jade. (2.3.300) From Cesare Fiaschi, Trattato dell'imbrigliare . . . caualli . . . (1614).

PAROLLES What, what, sweetheart? BERTRAM O my Parolles, they have married me! I'll to the Tuscan wars and never bed her. PAROLLES France is a dog-hole, and it no more merits the tread of a man's foot. To th' wars! BERTRAM There's letters from my mother. What th' import is I know not yet. PAROLLES Ay, that would be known. To th' wars, my boy, to th' wars! He wears his honor in a box unseen That hugs his kicky-wicky here at home. Spending his manly marrow in her arms Which should sustain the bound and high curvet Of Mars's fiery steed. To other regions! France is a stable, we that dwell in 't jades. 300 Therefore, to th' war! BERTRAM It shall be so. I'll send her to my house, Acquaint my mother with my hate to her And wherefore I am fled, write to the King That which I durst not speak. His present gift 305 Shall furnish me to those Italian fields Where noble fellows strike. Wars is no strife To the dark house and the \( \text{detested} \) wife. PAROLLES Will this capriccio hold in thee? Art sure? BERTRAM Go with me to my chamber, and advise me. 310 I'll send her straight away. Tomorrow I'll to the wars, she to her single sorrow. PAROLLES Why, these balls bound; there's noise in it. 'Tis hard. A young man married is a man that's marred. Therefore away, and leave her bravely. Go. 315 The King has done you wrong, but hush, 'tis so.  $\lceil Thev \rceil exit.$ 

20

30

- **2.4** Parolles brings Helen word that Bertram is leaving for Tuscany and that she is to get permission from the King to return to Rossillion.
- 2. well: wordplay, continuing through line 12, on well as (1) "in health"; and (2) "dead" (Proverbial: "He is well, since he is in heaven" [line 10])
  - 4. wants: lacks
- 6. what does she ail: i.e., what is the matter with her
- 22. man's: wordplay on man as servant (as at 2.3.208)
- 23. **shakes . . . undoing:** i.e., brings about **his master's** destruction through talking too much
- 25. **your title:** i.e., what one is entitled to (with perhaps wordplay on **Parolles'** name, which is the French word for "words")
  - 28. **Before:** in the presence of
  - 29. **Before me:** a mild oath (See note to 2.3.26.)
  - 31-32. found thee: i.e., found you out

| Enter | Helen | √with a | paper, | and | Fool. |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|-----|-------|
|       |       |         | Pup.,  |     |       |

Scene 47

HELEN My mother greets me kindly. Is she well?

FOOL She is not well, but yet she has her health. She's very merry, but yet she is not well. But, thanks be given, she's very well and wants nothing i' th' world, but yet she is not well.

HELEN If she be very well, what does she ail that she's not very well?

FOOL Truly, she's very well indeed, but for two things. HELEN What two things?

FOOL One, that she's not in heaven, whither God send her quickly; the other, that she's in earth, from whence God send her quickly.

#### Enter Parolles.

PAROLLES Bless you, my fortunate lady.

HELEN I hope, sir, I have your good will to have mine own good fortunes.

PAROLLES You had my prayers to lead them on, and to keep them on have them still.—O my knave, how does my old lady?

FOOL So that you had her wrinkles and I her money, I would she did as you say.

PAROLLES Why, I say nothing.

FOOL Marry, you are the wiser man, for many a man's tongue shakes out his master's undoing. To say nothing, to do nothing, to know nothing, and to have nothing is to be a great part of your title, 25 which is within a very little of nothing.

PAROLLES Away. Thou'rt a knave.

FOOL You should have said, sir, "Before a knave, thou'rt a knave"; that's "Before me, thou'rt a knave." This had been truth, sir.

PAROLLES Go to. Thou art a witty fool. I have found thee.

They exit.

- 33. find me in yourself: wordplay on (1) discover folly in yourself; and (2) find me by yourself
- 33–34. were you taught to find me: Parolles' response to this question apparently dropped out in the Folio printing. Editors have suggested that Parolles replies "In myself," which makes sense of the Fool's next speech.

38. **well fed:** more wordplay on the proverb "Better **fed** than taught" (See note to 2.2.3.)

41. **rite:** The consummation of the marriage was both a **rite** and a **right**. Thus either spelling would be appropriate here.

42. **time:** i.e., the present **time** (See note to 2.3.192.)

43. to a: i.e., because of a

44. Whose want: i.e., the lack of this rite; sweets: fragrant flowers

45. curbèd time: i.e., period of restraint

- 48. What's his will else: i.e., what else does he wish
  - 50. make: represent
  - 51. apology: excuse
- 52. make . . . need: i.e., make the necessity (for haste) seem plausible
- 54. this: i.e., leave or permission from the King; presently: for the time being

55. Attend: await

| FOOL Did you find me in yourself, sir, or were you    |     |
|---|-----|
| taught to find me?                                    |     |
| PAROLLES 7  |     |
| FOOL The search, sir, was profitable, and much fool   | 35  |
| may you find in you, even to the world's pleasure     |     |
| and the increase of laughter.                         |     |
| PAROLLES A good knave, i' faith, and well fed.        |     |
| Madam, my lord will go away tonight;                  | 80  |
| A very serious business calls on him.                 | 40  |
| The great prerogative and rite of love,               |     |
| Which as your due time claims, he does acknowledge    |     |
| But puts it off to a compelled restraint,             |     |
| Whose want and whose delay is strewed with sweets,    |     |
| Which they distill now in the curbed time             | 45  |
| To make the coming hour o'erflow with joy             |     |
| And pleasure drown the brim.                          |     |
| HELEN What's his will else?                           |     |
| PAROLLES  | ٠.٠ |
| That you will take your instant leave o' th' King     |     |
| And make this haste as your own good proceeding,      | 50  |
| Strengthened with what apology you think              |     |
| May make it probable need.                            |     |
| HELEN What more commands he                           | ?   |
| PAROLLES  |     |
| That, having this obtained, you presently             |     |
| Attend his further pleasure.                          | 55  |
| HELEN   |     |
| In everything I wait upon his will.                   | 12  |
| PAROLLES I shall report it so. Parolles exits.        | 7   |
| HELEN, \( \text{to Fool} \) I pray you, come, sirrah. |     |

20

25

- 2.5 Bertram is warned that Parolles is an untrustworthy coward. Bertram gives Helen a letter and instructs her to go immediately to Rossillion to await him. He says privately that he has no intention of ever going there.
- 3. very valiant approof: i.e., fully demonstrated valor

4. deliverance: report, statement

6. dial: clock, watch; true: accurately

6-7. took . . . bunting: The proverb "to take a bunting for a lark" means to overestimate someone. Here the proverb is reversed.

9. accordingly: correspondingly

- 11-12. my state . . . dangerous: i.e., my spiritual state in that regard is perilous
- 18. I know him: Perhaps, Lafew pretends that Parolles' "Sir" (line 17) is the name of his tailor.

22. away: go away, leave

24. casketed: enclosed in a casket

- 28. **something:** i.e., of some value (an allusion to listening to travelers' tales as after-dinner entertainment)
  - 30. pass: i.e., give currency to

# Scene 57

# Enter Lafew and Bertram.

LAFEW But I hope your Lordship thinks not him a soldier.

BERTRAM Yes, my lord, and of very valiant approof. LAFEW You have it from his own deliverance.

BERTRAM And by other warranted testimony.

LAFEW Then my dial goes not true. I took this lark for a bunting.

BERTRAM I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in knowledge and accordingly valiant.

LAFEW I have then sinned against his experience and 10 transgressed against his valor, and my state that way is dangerous since I cannot yet find in my heart to repent. Here he comes. I pray you make us friends. I will pursue the amity.

#### Enter Parolles.

PAROLLES, \( \text{to Bertram} \) These things shall be done, sir. 15 LAFEW, To Bertram Pray you, sir, who's his tailor? PAROLLES Sir?

LAFEW O, I know him well. Ay, sir, he, sir, 's a good workman, a very good tailor.

BERTRAM, [aside to Parolles] Is she gone to the King? PAROLLES She is.

BERTRAM Will she away tonight?

PAROLLES As you'll have her.

BERTRAM

I have writ my letters, casketed my treasure, Given order for our horses, and tonight, When I should take possession of the bride, [End] ere I do begin.

LAFEW, [aside] A good traveler is something at the latter end of a dinner, but one that lies three thirds, and uses a known truth to pass a thousand noth- 30 33. unkindness: ill-will, enmity

35. run into: i.e., incur (Lafew responds with wordplay in which "run into" means "rush headlong into.")

37. made shift to run: i.e., succeeded in run-

ning; or, made every effort to run

38. like him . . . custard: probably an allusion to the clown at civic entertainments who jumped into a huge custard

39-40. suffer question for: i.e., put up with discussion of (with possible wordplay on question as the application of torture as part of a judicial procedure)

40. residence: i.e., residing, staying

41. mistaken: misunderstood, taken the wrong view of (Lafew's response plays on to mistake as to take amiss, take offense.)

46-47. kept of them tame: i.e., kept such creatures as pets

51. An idle: i.e., a foolish, a silly

55. pass: reputation, estimation

56. clog: weight fastened to the leg of a prisoner

59. present: immediate

| ings with, should be once heard and thrice beat-     |    |
|--|----|
| en.—God save you, captain.                           |    |
| BERTRAM, To Parolles Is there any unkindness         |    |
| between my lord and you, monsieur?                   |    |
| PAROLLES I know not how I have deserved to run into  | 35 |
| my lord's displeasure.                               | 55 |
| LAFEW You have made shift to run into 't, boots and  |    |
| spurs and all, like him that leapt into the custard; |    |
| and out of it you'll run again rather than suffer    |    |
| question for your residence.                         | 40 |
| BERTRAM · It may be you have mistaken him, my lord.  |    |
| LAFEW And shall do so ever, though I took him at 's  |    |
| prayers. Fare you well, my lord, and believe this of |    |
| me: there can be no kernel in this light nut. The    |    |
| soul of this man is his clothes. Trust him not in    | 45 |
| matter of heavy consequence. I have kept of them     |    |
| tame and know their natures.—Farewell, mon-          |    |
| sieur. I have spoken better of you than you have or  |    |
| will to deserve at my hand, but we must do good      |    |
| against evil.  | 50 |
| PAROLLES An idle lord, I swear.                      |    |
| BERTRAM I think \( \text{not} \) so.                 |    |
| PAROLLES Why, do you not know him?                   |    |
| BERTRAM  |    |
| Yes, I do know him well, and common speech           |    |
| Gives him a worthy pass.                             | 55 |
|  | 33 |
| Enter Helen.   |    |

Here comes my clog.

60

HELEN

I have, sir, as I was commanded from you; Spoke with the King and have procured his leave For present parting. Only he desires Some private speech with you.

BERTRAM I shall obey his will.

You must not marvel, Helen, at my course,

63. holds not color with: is not consistent with. does not match; the time: i.e., the state of affairs at the present moment

64-65. ministration . . . particular: i.e., the administering of my personal duties and responsibilities

70. respects: motives, aims

71. appointments: resolutions, purposes

81. observance: dutiful service

82. homely stars have: i.e., humble destiny has (See note to baser stars, 1.1.189.)

85. Hie: hasten, go quickly

88. owe: i.e., own

90. fain: gladly





Paris and Helen of Trov. (1.3.71-74) From Guillaume Rouillé, ... Promptuarii iconum ... (1553).

Which holds not color with the time, nor does The ministration and required office On my particular. Prepared I was not 65 For such a business; therefore am I found So much unsettled. This drives me to entreat you That presently you take your way for home. And rather muse than ask why I entreat you; For my respects are better than they seem. 70 And my appointments have in them a need Greater than shows itself at the first view To you that know them not. Giving her a paper. This to my mother. Twill be two days ere I shall see you, so 75 I leave you to your wisdom. HELEN Sir, I can nothing say But that I am your most obedient servant-BERTRAM Come, come, no more of that. And ever shall HELEN With true observance seek to eke out that Wherein toward me my homely stars have failed To equal my great fortune. Let that go. BERTRAM My haste is very great. Farewell. Hie home. 85 HELEN Pray, sir, your pardon. Well, what would you say? BERTRAM HELEN I am not worthy of the wealth I owe, Nor dare I say 'tis mine-and yet it is-But, like a timorous thief, most fain would steal What law does vouch mine own. BERTRAM What would you have? HELEN Something, and scarce so much; nothing, indeed.

97. stay: wait

103. coraggio: i.e., courage



"Whilst I can . . . hear the drum." (2.5.101) From Geoffrey Whitney, *A choice of emblemes* . . . (1586).

I would not tell you what I would, my lord. Faith, yes:

95

Strangers and foes do sunder and not kiss.

BERTRAM

I pray you stay not, but in haste to horse.

HELEN

I shall not break your bidding, good my lord.— Where are my other men?—Monsieur, farewell.

She exits.

BERTRAM

PAROLLES

Go thou toward home, where I will never come Whilst I can shake my sword or hear the drum.— Away, and for our flight.

Bravely, coraggio!

They exit.

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

ACT 3

**3.1** The Duke of Florence greets French courtiers who have come to fight on his side.

O SD. Flourish: a trumpet blast or fanfare

3. Whose great decision: i.e., the violent action of deciding which

7. On the: i.e., on the part of the

8. **our cousin France:** i.e., the King of **France** (**Cousin** was a title given by princes to other princes and noblemen.)

12. yield: declare, communicate

- 13. But like: except as; outward man: i.e., outsider
- 14. figure: design, plan, scheme; frames: creates
- 15. By self-unable motion: perhaps, out of my own inadequate imaginings
  - 17. incertain: uncertain, doubtful



"King Pippen." (2.1.88)
From Jean de Serres, A generall historie of France . . . (1611).

## ACT 3

#### Scene 1

Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, the two French 「Lords, ] with a troop of Soldiers.

DUKE

So that from point to point now have you heard The fundamental reasons of this war, Whose great decision hath much blood let forth And more thirsts after.

FIRST LORD Holy seems the quarrel Upon your Grace's part, black and fearful On the opposer.

DUKE

100

Therefore we marvel much our cousin France Would in so just a business shut his bosom Against our borrowing prayers.

SECOND LORD Good my lord,

The reasons of our state I cannot yield But like a common and an outward man That the great figure of a council frames By self-unable motion; therefore dare not Say what I think of it, since I have found Myself in my incertain grounds to fail As often as I guessed.

KE Be it his pleasure.

FIRST LORD

- 21. **surfeit on their ease:** i.e., grow oppressed or sick through too much leisure
  - 22. physic: remedy
- 26. better fall: i.e., better positions become vacant; avails: advantage, benefit, profits
- 3.2 The Fool returns to Rossillion with a letter from Bertram that tells the Countess of his plan to run away from the French court and his determination never to "bed" Helen. Helen enters with her own letter from Bertram, which sets seemingly impossible obstacles in the way of Bertram's ever being a husband to her. Helen decides to leave Rossillion since her presence there is keeping Bertram away and endangering his life in the war.
  - 2. save: i.e., except
- 7. **ruff:** the loose turned-over portion or flap of a high boot
- 8. **trick:** trait, characteristic (Robert Burton's 1623 *Anatomy of Melancholy* [3.2.3] links singing to love-melancholy, but suggests that it is not so much a symptom of **melancholy** as an attempt to attract the beloved.)
  - 12. have no mind to: i.e., have no desire for
- 13. **old lings:** literally, salted fish (probably a bawdy way of saying "men," with a reference to the penis)
  - 16. stomach: appetite
  - 18. E'en that: i.e., exactly that which
- 20. recovered: healed, cured; undone: destroyed, ruined

| TIKST LOKD   |     |
|--|-----|
| But I am sure the younger of our [nation,]   | 20  |
| That surfeit on their ease, will day by day  |     |
| Come here for physic.  | ú÷. |
| DUKE Welcome shall they be,  |     |
| And all the honors that can fly from us  |     |
| Shall on them settle. You know your places well.   | 25  |
| When better fall, for your avails they fell.   | 77  |
| Tomorrow to th' field.   |     |
| Flourish. They exit.   |     |
|  |     |
|  |     |
| Scene 27   | 69  |
| E . C . F . J . J . J . J . J . J . J  |     |
| Enter Countess, \( \text{with a paper,} \) and \( \text{Fool.} \)  |     |
| COUNTESS It hath happened all as I would have had it,  |     |
| save that he comes not along with her.   |     |
| FOOL By my troth, I take my young lord to be a very  | Ť., |
| melancholy man.  |     |
| COUNTESS By what observance, I pray you?   | 5   |
| FOOL Why, he will look upon his boot and sing, mend  |     |
| the ruff and sing, ask questions and sing, pick his  |     |
| teeth and sing. I know a man that had this trick of  | ř   |
| melancholy [sold] a goodly manor for a song.   |     |
| COUNTESS Let me see what he writes and when he   | 10  |
| means to come. She opens the letter.   |     |
| FOOL I have no mind to Isbel since I was at court. Our   |     |
| old lings and our Isbels o' th' country are nothing  |     |
| like your old ling and your Isbels o' th' court. The   |     |
| brains of my Cupid's knocked out, and I begin to   | 15  |
| love as an old man loves money, with no stomach.   | 2   |
| COUNTESS What have we here?  |     |
| FOOL E'en that you have there. He exits.   |     |
| COUNTESS reads. I have sent you a daughter-in-law.   | 7   |
| She hath recovered the King and undone me. I have  | 20  |
| wedded her, not bedded her, and sworn to make the  | 3   |
| and the contraction of the contraction and the contraction of the cont |     |

32. For the contempt of empire: perhaps, for even an emperor to despise

33. heavy: weighty; sad

41. **standing to 't:** fighting courageously (with a subsequent sexual meaning in which erection is linked to the **getting** [i.e., begetting, fathering] **of children**)

45. Save: i.e., God save (a conventional greeting)

50. quirks: sudden strokes

51. on the start: perhaps, suddenly, unexpectedly

52. woman me unto 't: i.e., make me behave like a weak woman in the face of it



Fame with her trumpet. (2.1.19)
From August Casimir Redel, *Apophtegmata symbolica* . . . [n.d.].

"not" eternal. You shall hear I am run away. Know it before the report come. If there be breadth enough in the world, I will hold a long distance. My duty to 25 Your unfortunate son, Bertram. This is not well, rash and unbridled boy: To fly the favors of so good a king, To pluck his indignation on thy head 30 By the misprizing of a maid too virtuous For the contempt of empire. Enter [Fool.] FOOL O madam, yonder is heavy news within, between two soldiers and my young lady. countess What is the matter? FOOL Nay, there is some comfort in the news, some comfort. Your son will not be killed so soon as I thought he would. COUNTESS Why should he be killed? FOOL So say I, madam, if he run away, as I hear he 40 does. The danger is in standing to 't; that's the loss of men, though it be the getting of children. Here they come will tell you more. For my part, I only hear your son was run away. He exits. Enter Helen, \( \text{with a paper,} \) and two Gentlemen. FIRST GENTLEMAN, To Countess Save you, good 45 madam. HELEN Madam, my lord is gone, forever gone. SECOND GENTLEMAN Do not say so. COUNTESS Think upon patience, pray you.—Gentlemen, I have felt so many quirks of joy and grief That the first face of neither on the start

Can woman me unto 't. Where is my son, I pray you?

54. thitherward: on the way thither

55. dispatch in hand: i.e., settling of business

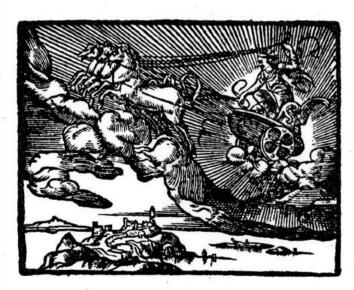
56. bend: proceed, turn

57. passport: dismissal

68. **griefs are thine:** i.e., **griefs** that **are** (in fact) yours

71. all my: i.e., my only

76. **good convenience claims:** i.e., he can properly lay claim to



"The horses of the sun." (2.1.180)
From Claude François Menestrier, *L'art des emblemes* . . . (1684).

106

Tis bitter.

SECOND GENTLEMAN Madam, he's gone to serve the Duke of Florence. We met him thitherward, for thence we came, And, after some dispatch in hand at court. Thither we bend again. HELEN Look on his letter, madam; here's my passport. She reads. When thou canst get the ring upon my finger, which never shall come off, and show me a child begotten of thy body that I am father to, then 60 call me husband. But in such a "then" I write a "never." This is a dreadful sentence. COUNTESS Brought you this letter, gentlemen? SECOND GENTLEMAN Ay, madam. And for the contents' sake are sorry for our pains. COUNTESS I prithee, lady, have a better cheer. If thou engrossest all the griefs are thine, Thou robb'st me of a moiety. He was my son. But I do wash his name out of my blood, 70 And thou art all my child.—Towards Florence is he? SECOND GENTLEMAN Ay, madam. COUNTESS And to be a soldier? SECOND GENTLEMAN Such is his noble purpose, and, believe 't, The Duke will lay upon him all the honor 75 That good convenience claims. Return you thither? COUNTESS FIRST GENTLEMAN Ay, madam, with the swiftest wing of speed. HELEN [reads] Till I have no wife I have nothing in France.

83. haply: perhaps

87. But: except

98. a deal . . . much: i.e., a great deal too much of that that: i.e., the power to induce corruption

99. holds: profits

108. Not so . . . courtesies: i.e., you do not serve me except insofar as we exchange courteous behavior



Pouring "the waters of . . . love" into a sieve. (1.3.212–13)

From Guillaume de La Perrière,

Le théâtre des bon engins . . . [1539?].

| COUNTESS    | Find you that there?                       |     |
|-------------|--|-----|
| HELEN       | Ay, madam.                                 |     |
| FIRST GENTI |  |     |
|             | he boldness of his hand, haply,            |     |
| Which h     | is heart was not consenting to.            |     |
| COUNTESS    | 9 V  |     |
|             | in France until he have no wife!           | 85  |
| There's n   | othing here that is too good for him       |     |
|             | she, and she deserves a lord               |     |
|             | nty such rude boys might tend upon         |     |
| And call    | her hourly mistress. Who was with him?     |     |
| FIRST GENTI | EMAN                                       |     |
| A servan    | t only, and a gentleman                    | 90  |
|             | have sometime known.                       |     |
|             | Parolles was it not?                       |     |
| FIRST GENTI | EMAN Ay, my good lady, he.                 |     |
| COUNTESS    | 4 E  |     |
|             | inted fellow, and full of wickedness.      |     |
|             | orrupts a well-derivèd nature              | 95  |
| With his    | inducement.                                |     |
| FIRST GENTI | , 6  |     |
|             | w has a deal of that too much              |     |
| Which he    | olds him much to have.                     |     |
| COUNTESS    | You're welcome,                            | 100 |
| gentler     |  |     |
|             | reat you when you see my son               |     |
|             | m that his sword can never win             |     |
| The hone    | or that he loses. More I'll entreat you    |     |
| Written t   | o bear along.                              | 105 |
| SECOND GEN  | , — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —    |     |
| In that a   | nd all your worthiest affairs.             |     |
| COUNTESS    |  |     |
|             | ut as we change our courtesies.            |     |
| Will you    | draw near?                                 |     |
|             | She exits \( \text{with the Gentlemen.} \) |     |

115. event: result, outcome

117. sportive: amorous

118. mark: target

121. **still-'pearing air:** i.e., **air** that appears **still** (This phrase—spelled in the Folio "still-peering"—is much debated and often emended. Many editors substitute "still-piecing"—i.e., continually putting itself back together.)

124. forward: eager, spirited

125. caitiff: wretch

128. ravin: ravenous

130. owes: owns

132. Whence . . . scar: i.e., from the place where the only reward that danger bestows on honor is a scar

137. officed all: i.e., performed all duties

138. pitiful: merciful, i.e., filled with pity

139. consolate: console



Rumor. (3.2.138)
From Henry Peacham, Minerua Britanna . . . [1612].

"Till I have no wife I have nothing in France." 110 Nothing in France until he has no wife: Thou shalt have none, Rossillion, none in France. Then hast thou all again. Poor lord, is 't I That chase thee from thy country and expose Those tender limbs of thine to the event 115 Of the none-sparing war? And is it I That drive thee from the sportive court, where thou Wast shot at with fair eyes, to be the mark Of smoky muskets? O you leaden messengers That ride upon the violent speed of fire. 120 Fly with false aim; move the still-'pearing air That sings with piercing; do not touch my lord. Whoever shoots at him. I set him there: Whoever charges on his forward breast, I am the caitiff that do hold him to 't: 125 And though I kill him not, I am the cause His death was so effected. Better 'twere I met the ravin lion when he roared With sharp constraint of hunger; better 'twere That all the miseries which nature owes 130 Were mine at once. No, come thou home, Rossillion, Whence honor but of danger wins a scar, As oft it loses all. I will be gone. My being here it is that holds thee hence. Shall I stay here to do 't? No, no, although 135 The air of paradise did fan the house And angels officed all. I will be gone. That pitiful rumor may report my flight To consolate thine ear. Come, night; end, day: For with the dark, poor thief, I'll steal away. 140 She exits.

Scene 37

O SD. **Drum and Trumpets:** i.e., a drummer and trumpeters

1. horse: cavalry

2. lay: wager

2-3. credence / Upon: trust in, reliance on

9. helm: helmet

12. file: list, roll

14. lover of thy drum: The drum, which in Shakespeare's plays often symbolized military action or zeal, is here portrayed as the instrument of Mars, the god of war.

3.4 The Countess is given the letter left for her by Helen, in which Helen sets out her intention to make amends for her overambitious love by going on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James.

1. of: i.e., from

4. **St. Jaques' pilgrim:** i.e., a religious journeyer to the shrine of St. James (See picture, page 118.) The shrine at Compostella, where St. James the Great was presumably buried, was the most famous in Europe. (**Jaques** is pronounced as two syllables.)

7. sainted: sacred, holy

9. hie: hasten

Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, Bertram Count? Rossillion, Drum and Trumpets, Soldiers, Parolles, DUKE, To Bertram The general of our horse thou art, and we. Great in our hope, lay our best love and credence Upon thy promising fortune. BERTRAM Sir. it is A charge too heavy for my strength, but yet 5 We'll strive to bear it for your worthy sake To th' extreme edge of hazard. Then go thou forth, And Fortune play upon thy prosperous helm As thy auspicious mistress. This very day. BERTRAM Great Mars, I put myself into thy file. Make me but like my thoughts, and I shall prove A lover of thy drum, hater of love. All exit. Scene 47 Enter Countess and Steward, \( \text{with a paper.} \) \( \text{7} \) COUNTESS Alas! And would you take the letter of her? Might you not know she would do as she has done By sending me a letter? Read it again. STEWARD reads the letter I am Saint Jaques' pilgrim, thither gone. Ambitious love hath so in me offended 5 That barefoot plod I the cold ground upon,

With sainted vow my faults to have amended. Write, write, that from the bloody course of war

My dearest master, your dear son, may hie.

- 12. **His...forgive:** i.e., ask him to **forgive me** for the **labors** he has undertaken
- 13. **despiteful:** malicious, spiteful; **Juno:** in Roman mythology, queen of the gods, who imposed twelve seemingly impossible **labors** on Hercules
  - 14. camping foes: i.e., enemies housed in tents
  - 15. dogs: i.e., dog, pursue
  - 17. Whom: i.e., death
  - 19. advice: judgment; wisdom
  - 20. spoke: i.e., spoken
  - 22. prevented: forestalled, anticipated
  - 24. at overnight: i.e., last night
  - 27. angel: guardian or attendant spirit
- 32. unworthy . . . wife: i.e., husband unworthy of his wife
- 33. weigh heavy of: i.e., speak emphatically about
  - 34. weigh: esteem, value
  - 37. When haply: i.e., perhaps when
- 41. in sense: perhaps, in estimation or perception

|    | Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far<br>His name with zealous fervor sanctify. | 10 |  |
|----|---|----|--|
|    | His taken labors bid him me forgive;  |    |  |
|    | I, his despiteful Juno, sent him forth  |    |  |
|    | From courtly friends, with camping foes to live   |    |  |
|    | Where death and danger dogs the heels of worth.   | 15 |  |
|    | He is too good and fair for death and me,   | 13 |  |
|    | Whom I myself embrace to set him free.  |    |  |
| -( | COUNTESS 7  |    |  |
|    | Ah, what sharp stings are in her mildest words!   |    |  |
|    | Rinaldo, you did never lack advice so much  |    |  |
|    | As letting her pass so. Had I spoke with her,   | 20 |  |
|    | I could have well diverted her intents,   |    |  |
|    | Which thus she hath prevented.  |    |  |
| S  | TEWARD Pardon me, madam.  |    |  |
|    | If I had given you this at overnight,   |    |  |
|    | She might have been o'erta'en. And yet she writes                                       | 25 |  |
| Ť  | Pursuit would be but vain.  |    |  |
| C  | OUNTESS What angel shall  |    |  |
|    | Bless this unworthy husband? He cannot thrive   |    |  |
|    | Unless her prayers, whom heaven delights to hear  |    |  |
|    | And loves to grant, reprieve him from the wrath   | 30 |  |
|    | Of greatest justice. Write, write, Rinaldo,   |    |  |
|    | To this unworthy husband of his wife.   |    |  |
|    | Let every word weigh heavy of her worth   |    |  |
|    | That he does weigh too light. My greatest grief,  |    |  |
|    | Though little he do feel it, set down sharply.  | 35 |  |
|    | Dispatch the most convenient messenger.   |    |  |
|    | When haply he shall hear that she is gone,  |    |  |
|    | He will return; and hope I may that she,  |    |  |
|    | Hearing so much, will speed her foot again,   |    |  |
|    | Led hither by pure love. Which of them both   | 40 |  |
|    | Is dearest to me, I have no skill in sense  |    |  |
|    | To make distinction. Provide this messenger.  |    |  |
|    | My heart is heavy, and mine age is weak.  |    |  |
|    | Grief would have tears, and sorrow bids me speak.                                       |    |  |
|    | I la an annt  |    |  |

**3.5** Helen, on her pilgrimage, meets Diana, whom Bertram has been attempting to seduce.

O SD. tucket: trumpet signal

7. the Duke's: presumably, the Duke of Siena's

12. earl: i.e., nobleman; maid: young woman;

virgin; name: reputation

13. **honesty:** chastity (the standard meaning of **honesty** in Shakespeare's day when applied to a woman)

14. my neighbor: i.e., Mariana

18. **filthy officer:** i.e., one who performs a **filthy** office (by soliciting for Bertram); **suggestions:** temptations, incitements to evil

21. engines: instruments, agents; go under: i.e.,

are known by

23. **the misery:** i.e., of the **seduced** maids; **is example:** i.e., illustrates; **so:** i.e., such; **shows in:** i.e., exhibitions or displays of

25. **succession:** i.e., the act of following the same course of conduct; **limed:** trapped as if with birdlime, a sticky substance applied to bushes to catch birds; **twigs:** i.e., the **twigs** forming birch rods used for flogging

27. grace: virtue: honor

30. fear: be apprehensive about

#### 「Scene 57

A tucket afar off. Enter old Widow of Florence, her daughter \[ Diana, \] and Mariana, with other Citizens.

WIDOW Nay, come, for if they do approach the city, we shall lose all the sight.

DIANA They say the French count has done most honorable service.

widow It is reported that he has taken their great'st commander, and that with his own hand he slew the Duke's brother. \( \times A \) trumpet sounds. \( \times \) We have lost our labor. They are gone a contrary way. Hark, you may know by their trumpets.

MARIANA Come, let's return again and suffice ourselves with the report of it.—Well, Diana, take heed of this French earl. The honor of a maid is her name, and no legacy is so rich as honesty.

widow, to Diana I have told my neighbor how you have been solicited by a gentleman, his companion.

MARIANA I know that knave, hang him! One Parolles, a filthy officer he is in those suggestions for the young earl.—Beware of them, Diana. Their promises, enticements, oaths, tokens, and all these 20 engines of lust are not the things they go under. Many a maid hath been seduced by them; and the misery is example that so terrible shows in the wrack of maidenhood cannot for all that dissuade succession, but that they are limed with the twigs 25 that threatens them. I hope I need not to advise you further, but I hope your own grace will keep you where you are, though there were no further danger known but the modesty which is so lost.

DIANA You shall not need to fear me.

WIDOW I hope so.

30

36. Saint Jaques le Grand: See note to 3.4.4.

37. **palmers:** i.e., pilgrims (The word usually designated travelers who had been to the Holy Land, but here has its more general meaning.)

38. port: city gate

39 SD. **march:** i.e., drum beats accompanying marching troops

44. The rather for: i.e., all the sooner because

45. ample: i.e., amply, fully

47. If you shall please so: a polite statement of agreement

48. stay upon: i.e., await

57. Whatsome'er: i.e., whatever

58. bravely taken: well esteemed



A pilgrim to the shrine of "St. Jaques." (3.4.4) From Henry Peacham, Minerua Britanna ... [1612].

118

### Enter Helen \( \text{as a pilgrim.} \) Look, here comes a pilgrim. I know she will lie at my house; thither they send one another. I'll question her.—God save you, pilgrim. Whither are bound? HELEN, \[ \sigma s pilgrim \] To Saint Jaques le Grand. Where do the palmers lodge. I do beseech you? WIDOW At the Saint Francis here beside the port. HELEN, [as pilgrim] Is this the way? A march afar. WIDOW Ay, marry, is 't.—Hark you, they come this way.— If you will tarry, holy pilgrim, But till the troops come by. I will conduct you where you shall be lodged, The rather for I think I know your hostess As ample as myself. 45 HELEN, [as pilgrim] Is it yourself? WIDOW If you shall please so, pilgrim. HELEN, \[ as pilgrim \] I thank you, and will stay upon your leisure. WIDOW You came I think from France? HELEN, \[ as pilgrim \] I did so. WIDOW Here you shall see a countryman of yours That has done worthy service. HELEN, [as pilgrim] His name, I pray you? The Count Rossillion. Know you such a one? HELEN, \[ as pilgrim \] But by the ear, that hears most nobly of him. His face I know not. Whatsome'er he is.

He's bravely taken here. He stole from France.

As 'tis reported, for the King had married him

- 59. for: because
- 61. mere: merely, purely
- 66. with him: i.e., as he does
- 67. **In argument:** i.e., as a subject or theme; **to:** i.e., in comparison **to** 
  - 68. mean: inferior, undistinguished
  - 69. All her deserving: i.e., her only merit
  - 70. reserved honesty: cold or reticent chastity
  - 78. A shrewd turn: an injury
  - 83. brokes: bargains, negotiates
  - 86. honestest: most chaste



"To sit and draw . . ." (1.1.98–100) From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

Against his liking. Think you it is so? 60 HELEN, [as pilgrim] Ay, surely, mere the truth. I know his lady. DIANA There is a gentleman that serves the Count Reports but coarsely of her. What's his name? HELEN, [as pilgrim] DIANA Monsieur Parolles. HELEN, [as pilgrim] O, I believe with him. In argument of praise, or to the worth Of the great count himself, she is too mean To have her name repeated. All her deserving Is a reserved honesty, and that 70 I have not heard examined. Alas, poor lady, 'Tis a hard bondage to become the wife Of a detesting lord. WIDOW I warrant, good creature, wheresoe'er she is, 75 Her heart weighs sadly. This young maid might do her A shrewd turn if she pleased. HELEN, \[ as pilgrim \] How do you mean? Maybe the amorous count solicits her 80 In the unlawful purpose? WIDOW He does indeed. And brokes with all that can in such a suit Corrupt the tender honor of a maid, But she is armed for him and keeps her guard 85 In honestest defense. MARTANA The gods forbid else!

Drum and Colors. Enter Bertram Count Rossillion.

87 SD. **Drum and Colors:** i.e., a drummer and soldiers bearing the regimental flags

94. honester: more honorable

99. lady: i.e., wife

104. **Lose our drum:** Since the regimental **drum** was decorated with the regiment's colors, its loss was symbolically humiliating, equivalent to losing the regiment's flag.

105. shrewdly: seriously, intensely

108. courtesy: low bow

108-9. ring-carrier: go-between, pander

111. host: lodge; enjoined penitents: those directed to perform a penance (in this case, a pilgrimage)

115. Please it: i.e., if it please

116-17. the charge and thanking / Shall be for me: i.e., I will gratefully pay the expense

Parolles, and the whole Army. WIDOW So, now they come. That is Antonio, the Duke's eldest son: That, Escalus. HELEN, [as pilgrim] Which is the Frenchman? DIANA He. That with the plume. Tis a most gallant fellow. I would he loved his wife. If he were honester, He were much goodlier. Is 't not a handsome 95 gentleman? HELEN, [as pilgrim] I like him well. DIANA 'Tis pity he is not honest. Yond's that same knave That leads him to these places. Were I his lady. I would poison that vile rascal. 100 HELEN, [as pilgrim] Which is he? DIANA That jackanapes with scarves. Why is he melancholy? HELEN, as pilgrim Perchance he's hurt i' th' battle. PAROLLES Lose our drum? Well. MARIANA He's shrewdly vexed at something. Look, he 105 has spied us. WIDOW, To Parolles Marry, hang you. MARIANA, To Parolles And your courtesy, for a ringcarrier. Bertram, Parolles, and the army exit. WIDOW The troop is passed. Come, pilgrim, I will bring you 110 Where you shall host. Of enjoined penitents There's four or five, to Great Saint Jaques bound, Already at my house. HELEN, [as pilgrim] I humbly thank you. Please it this matron and this gentle maid 115

To eat with us tonight, the charge and thanking

BOTH

118. of: i.e., on

119. Worthy the note: i.e., worth her attention

3.6 The French lords in Florence decide that Parolles' unhappiness about the loss of the troop's drum can be used as a way to trick him into revealing his cowardice to Bertram. Bertram agrees to go along with the plot. He then goes to seek out Diana.

O SD. as at first: i.e., the French Lords who appeared earlier

1. put him to 't: i.e., test him, challenge him

2. have his way: i.e., be given scope

3. hilding: contemptible good-for-nothing

9. as my: i.e., as if he were my

12. entertainment: employment; support

13-14. reposing too far in: placing too much confidence in

15. main: serious; significant

18. try: test

19. fetch off: rescue

23. surprise: capture

25. hoodwink: blindfold

Shall be for me. And to requite you further, I will bestow some precepts of this virgin Worthy the note.

780

We'll take your offer kindly.

120

5

They exit.

### 「Scene 67

Enter \[ Bertram \] Count Rossillion and the French \[ Lords, \] as at first.

FIRST LORD Nay, good my lord, put him to 't. Let him have his way.

SECOND LORD If your Lordship find him not a hilding, hold me no more in your respect.

FIRST LORD On my life, my lord, a bubble.

BERTRAM Do you think I am so far deceived in him?

FIRST LORD Believe it, my lord. In mine own direct knowledge, without any malice, but to speak of him as my kinsman, he's a most notable coward, an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker, the owner of no one good quality worthy your Lordship's entertainment.

SECOND LORD It were fit you knew him, lest, reposing too far in his virtue, which he hath not, he might at some great and trusty business in a main danger 15 fail you.

BERTRAM I would I knew in what particular action to try him.

SECOND LORD None better than to let him fetch off his drum, which you hear him so confidently undertake to do.

FIRST LORD I, with a troop of Florentines, will suddenly surprise him. Such I will have whom I am sure he knows not from the enemy. We will bind and hoodwink him so, that he shall suppose no other 25

26. leaguer: military camp

36. bottom: reality, truth

38-39. if you . . . entertainment: i.e., if you do not throw him out (a proverbial expression)

39. inclining: favorable inclination, bias

43. in any hand: i.e., in any case, at any rate

46. A pox on 't: an exclamation of irritation or impatience (Pox was the name used for various diseases, including syphilis.) but: only

49. horse: cavalry; wings: divisions on each side of the center in a battle array

51. in: i.e., on

52. service: military engagement

53. Caesar: i.e., Julius Caesar, famous for his generalship (See below.)

55-56. our success: i.e., what befell us; or, the outcome



Julius Caesar. (3.6.53) From Plutarch, The lives of the noble Grecians and Romanes . . . (1579).

but that he is carried into the leaguer of the adversary's when we bring him to our own tents. Be but your Lordship present at his examination. If he do not for the promise of his life, and in the highest compulsion of base fear, offer to betray you and 30 deliver all the intelligence in his power against you, and that with the divine forfeit of his soul upon oath, never trust my judgment in anything.

SECOND LORD O, for the love of laughter, let him fetch his drum. He says he has a stratagem for 't. When 35 your Lordship sees the bottom of his success in 't, and to what metal this counterfeit lump of Fore will be melted, if you give him not John Drum's entertainment, your inclining cannot be removed. Here he comes.

#### Enter Parolles:

FIRST LORD, [aside to Bertram] O, for the love of laughter, hinder not the honor of his design. Let him fetch off his drum in any hand.

BERTRAM, To Parolles How now, monsieur? This drum sticks sorely in your disposition.

SECOND LORD A pox on 't! Let it go. 'Tis but a drum.

PAROLLES But a drum! Is 't but a drum? A drum so lost! There was excellent command, to charge in with our horse upon our own wings and to rend our own soldiers!

SECOND LORD That was not to be blamed in the command of the service. It was a disaster of war that Caesar himself could not have prevented if he had been there to command.

BERTRAM Well, we cannot greatly condemn our suc- 55 cess. Some dishonor we had in the loss of that drum, but it is not to be recovered.

PAROLLES It might have been recovered. BERTRAM It might, but it is not now.

50

95

- 60. But: i.e., except for the fact
- 63. **hic jacet:** i.e., I'll die trying (literally, "here lies," the first two words of a Latin epitaph)
- 64. **stomach:** i.e., appetite or desire (with perhaps a pun on **stomach** as "courage")
  - 65. mystery: skill
  - 66. **his:** its
  - 67. magnanimous: courageous, valiant
  - 68. grace: countenance
  - 69. speed: prosper
  - 75. about: i.e., go about
- 76. **pen down:** perhaps, contain, confine; or, perhaps, write **down**
- 77. **put myself . . . preparation:** perhaps, arm myself; or, perhaps, prepare for my own death
  - 81. success: outcome
  - 83. possibility: capacity, ability
  - 84. subscribe for: i.e., countenance, support
  - 89. damns: dooms, condemns; better: rather

PAROLLES It is to be recovered. But that the merit of 60 service is seldom attributed to the true and exact performer, I would have that drum or another, or hic jacet.

BERTRAM Why, if you have a stomach, to 't, monsieur!

If you think your mystery in stratagem can bring this instrument of honor again into his native quarter, be magnanimous in the enterprise and go on. I will grace the attempt for a worthy exploit. If you speed well in it, the Duke shall both speak of it and extend to you what further becomes his greatness, even to the utmost syllable of your worthiness.

PAROLLES By the hand of a soldier, I will undertake it.

BERTRAM But you must not now slumber in it.

PAROLLES I'll about it this evening, and I will presently pen down my dilemmas, encourage myself in my certainty, put myself into my mortal preparation; and by midnight look to hear further from me.

BERTRAM May I be bold to acquaint his Grace you are gone about it?

PAROLLES I know not what the success will be, my lord, but the attempt I vow.

BERTRAM I know thou rt valiant, and to the possibility of thy soldiership will subscribe for thee. Farewell.

PAROLLES I love not many words.

He exits. 85

FIRST LORD No more than a fish loves water. Is not this a strange fellow, my lord, that so confidently seems to undertake this business which he knows is not to be done, damns himself to do, and dares better be damned than to do 't?

SECOND LORD You do not know him, my lord, as we do.

Certain it is that he will steal himself into a man's favor and for a week escape a great deal of discoveries, but when you find him out, you have him ever after.

115

120

- 100. **invention:** fiction; **clap upon you:** i.e., stick you with; **probable:** plausible
- 101. embossed: cornered, driven to extremity (hunting terminology that continues in lines 104–6)
- 105. **case:** skin; **smoked:** perhaps, driven out of hiding as if with smoke
  - 107. sprat: small fish (a term of contempt)
- 109. **look my twigs:** i.e., find the **twigs** smeared with birdlime (Parolles is being compared to a bird about to be trapped. See note to 3.5.25.)
  - 115. honest: chaste
  - 116. all the fault: i.e., all that's wrong
- 118. **coxcomb:** (1) fool, simpleton; (2) conceited fop; **we have i' th' wind:** i.e., **we have** under observation (a hunting phrase that means, literally, he is downwind of us)
  - 119. re-send: send back again, return

| BERTRAM | Why, c      | lo you  | think  | he   | will | make  | no   | deed  | at  |
|---------|-------------|---------|--------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|
| all o   | of this tha | t so se | riousl | y he | doe  | s add | ress | himse | elf |
| unt     | 0?          | 5       |        |      |      | •     |      |       |     |

FIRST LORD None in the world, but return with an invention and clap upon you two or three probable 100 lies. But we have almost embossed him. You shall see his fall tonight; for indeed he is not for your Lordship's respect.

second lord We'll make you some sport with the fox ere we case him. He was first smoked by the old 105 Lord Lafew. When his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall find him, which you shall see this very night.

FIRST LORD I must go look my twigs. He shall be caught.

BERTRAM Your brother he shall go along with me.

FIRST LORD As 't please your Lordship. I'll leave you.

The exits.

#### BERTRAM

Now will I lead you to the house and show you The lass I spoke of.

SECOND LORD But you say she's honest.

BERTRAM

That's all the fault. I spoke with her but once And found her wondrous cold. But I sent to her, By this same coxcomb that we have i' th' wind, Tokens and letters, which she did re-send. And this is all I have done. She's a fair creature.

Will you go see her?

SECOND | LORD | With all my heart, my lord.

They exit.

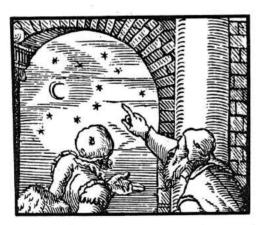
- 3.7 Helen enlists Diana's mother in contriving to meet Bertram's conditions. Diana will agree to sleep with Bertram on the condition that he give her his ancestral ring. Helen will then substitute herself for Diana in the darkness of Diana's bedroom.
  - 3. But I shall lose: i.e., without losing
  - 4. estate: rank, fortune
  - 9. give me trust: i.e., believe me that
  - 10. counsel: secrecy, confidence
  - 12. By: as concerns, with regard to
  - 15. approves: proves, demonstrates
  - 16. fortune: position and wealth
  - 20. found it: i.e., received your help
  - 22. Lays down . . . before: i.e., lustfully besieges
- 23. **carry her:** win **her** (as if by military assault); **in fine:** finally; or, perhaps, in short
  - 24. bear it: i.e., carry it out
- 25. **important:** importunate, urgent; **blood:** sexual appetite
  - 26. County: Count
- 27. **downward . . . house:** i.e., has been passed down in his family
- 29–30. **holds / In most rich choice:** i.e., highly esteems **choice:** special value, estimation
  - 30. idle fire: i.e., mad passion
  - 31. will: carnal desire or appetite

#### 「Scene 77

#### Enter Helen and Widow.

| HELEN  |    |
|--|----|
| If you misdoubt me that I am not she,              |    |
| I know not how I shall assure you further          |    |
| But I shall lose the grounds I work upon.          |    |
| WIDOW  |    |
| Though my estate be fall'n, I was well born,       |    |
| Nothing acquainted with these businesses,          | 5  |
| And would not put my reputation now                |    |
| In any staining act.                               |    |
| HELEN Nor would I wish you.                        |    |
| First give me trust the Count he is my husband,    |    |
| And what to your sworn counsel I have spoken       | 10 |
| Is so from word to word; and then you cannot,      |    |
| By the good aid that I of you shall borrow,        |    |
| Err in bestowing it.                               |    |
| WIDOW I should believe you,                        |    |
| For you have showed me that which well approves    | 15 |
| You're great in fortune.                           |    |
| HELEN Take this purse of gold,                     |    |
| And let me buy your friendly help thus far,        |    |
| Which I will overpay and pay again                 |    |
| When I have found it. The Count he woos your       | 20 |
| daughter,  |    |
| Lays down his wanton siege before her beauty,      |    |
| Resolved to carry her. Let her in fine consent     |    |
| As we'll direct her how 'tis best to bear it.      |    |
| Now his important blood will naught deny           | 25 |
| That she'll demand. A ring the County wears        |    |
| That downward hath succeeded in his house          |    |
| From son to son some four or five descents         |    |
| Since the first father wore it. This ring he holds |    |
| In most rich choice. Yet, in his idle fire,        | 30 |
| To buy his will it would not seem too dear,        |    |
| Howe'er repented after.                            |    |

- 33. bottom: nature, fundamental character
- 34. lawful: i.e., as lawful
- 36. **Desires:** demands; **encounter:** assignation
- 37. In fine: finally
- 39. To marry her: i.e., for her dowry
- 42. persever: proceed (accent on second syllable)
- 46. To her unworthiness: i.e., to her, even though she is unworthy (The Widow may be commenting on Diana's lower-class status, or she may be speaking as a mother who modestly dispraises her own child.)
- 51. wicked . . . deed: i.e., Bertram's meaning will be illicit but his actions will be lawful
- 52. lawful . . . act: i.e., Helen's intentions and actions will both be lawful
- 53. both not: i.e., neither Bertram nor Helen; fact: action, deed



Astrologers determining a baby's "stars." (1.1.189; 2.5.82) From Jakob Ruff, De conceptu et generatione hominis . . . (1580).

WIDOW Now I see the bottom of your purpose. HELEN You see it lawful, then. It is no more But that your daughter, ere she seems as won, 35 Desires this ring, appoints him an encounter. In fine, delivers me to fill the time. Herself most chastely absent. After, To marry her, I'll add three thousand crowns To what is passed already. 40 WIDOW I have vielded. Instruct my daughter how she shall persever That time and place with this deceit so lawful May prove coherent. Every night he comes With musics of all sorts and songs composed 45 To her unworthiness. It nothing steads us To chide him from our eaves, for he persists As if his life lay on 't. Why then tonight Let us assay our plot, which, if it speed. 50 Is wicked meaning in a lawful deed, And lawful meaning in a lawful act. Where both not sin, and yet a sinful fact. But let's about it. 「They exit. ¬

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

ACT 4

- **4.1** Parolles is captured and blindfolded by a French lord and soldiers pretending to be the enemy who can speak to him only through an interpreter. He offers to give away military secrets in exchange for his life.
- O SD. in ambush: i.e., preparing to lie in ambush
  - 5. unless: i.e., except for
- 11. **linsey-woolsey:** nonsense, gibberish (literally, material woven of wool and flax)
  - 14. strangers: foreigners
  - 15. entertainment: employment
  - 17. not to know: i.e., not knowing
- 18. So we seem to know: i.e., provided that we seem to understand each other
- 19–20. **chough's language:** i.e., inarticulate chatter (A *chough* is any of the small chattering crows, but the name is most often applied to the jackdaw, which could be taught to imitate human speech.)
- 21. **politic:** probably, wise, judicious (rather than crafty or cunning)
  - 22. couch: i.e., hide, lie in ambush

# ACT 4

#### Scene 17

Enter one of the French \(^\text{Lords}\), with five or six other Soldiers in ambush.

LORD He can come no other way but by this hedge corner. When you sally upon him, speak what terrible language you will. Though you understand it not yourselves, no matter. For we must not seem to understand him, unless some one among us whom we must produce for an interpreter.

FIRST SOLDIER Good captain, let me be th' interpreter.

LORD Art not acquainted with him? Knows he not thy voice?

FIRST SOLDIER No, sir, I warrant you.

LORD But what linsey-woolsey hast thou to speak to us again?

10

FIRST SOLDIER E'en such as you speak to me.

LORD He must think us some band of strangers i' th' adversary's entertainment. Now, he hath a smack of all neighboring languages. Therefore we must every one be a man of his own fancy, not to know what we speak one to another. So we seem to know is to know straight our purpose: choughs' language, gabble enough and good enough. As for you, interpreter, you must seem very politic. But couch, ho! Here he comes to beguile two hours in

23. swear: i.e., swear to

25. **Within these three hours:** i.e., after no more than **three hours** 

27. plausive: plausible

28. **carries it:** i.e., will carry **it** off; **smoke me:** i.e., **smoke me** out; force me out into the open; or perhaps, drive me out of hiding (as if with smoke)

31. his creatures: i.e., soldiers (and perhaps

swords, muskets, etc.)

32. daring: i.e., daring to carry out

39. in exploit: in action or combat

41. Wherefore: why

42. **instance:** proof (that I fought for the drum)

42-43. butter-woman's: dairy-woman's

43. another of: i.e., another (tongue) from

44. **Bajazeth's mule:** perhaps a printing or scribal error; perhaps an allusion to a lost story

46. that: i.e., that which

47. would: wish

48. turn: purpose

50. afford you so: i.e., spare you on such grounds

51. baring: i.e., shaving

a sleep and then to return and swear the lies he forges.

They move aside.

### Enter Parolles.

PAROLLES Ten o'clock. Within these three hours 'twill be time enough to go home. What shall I say I have done? It must be a very plausive invention that carries it. They begin to smoke me, and disgraces have of late knocked too often at my door. I find my tongue is too foolhardy, but my heart hath the fear of Mars before it, and of his creatures, not daring the reports of my tongue.

LORD, [aside] This is the first truth that e'er thine own

tongue was guilty of.

PAROLLES What the devil should move me to undertake the recovery of this drum, being not ignorant of the impossibility and knowing I had no such purpose? I must give myself some hurts and say I got them in exploit. Yet slight ones will not carry it. They will say "Came you off with so little?" And great ones I dare not give. Wherefore? What's the instance? Tongue, I must put you into a butterwoman's mouth and buy myself another of Bajazeth's mule if you prattle me into these perils.

LORD, [aside] Is it possible he should know what he is, 45 and be that he is?

PAROLLES I would the cutting of my garments would serve the turn, or the breaking of my Spanish sword.

LORD, [aside] We cannot afford you so.

PAROLLES Or the baring of my beard, and to say it was in stratagem.

LORD, [aside] Twould not do.

PAROLLES Or to drown my clothes and say I was stripped.

LORD, [aside] Hardly serve.

65. anon: soon

66 SD. **Alarum:** a signal calling upon men to arm (here, presumably, the sound of a **drum**, as promised at line 66)

72. **Muskos':** perhaps, Muscovites' (i.e., from Moscow)

73. want: lack

76. discover: reveal; undo: destroy

78–79. **betake . . . faith:** i.e., pray (literally, commend yourself to your **faith** in God)

82, 84. **reuania**, **voliuorco**: more easily pronounced as "revania" and "volivorco"

86. hoodwinked: blindfolded; lead thee on: perhaps, direct your comments

87. gather: gain; Haply: perhaps; inform: report



A poniard. (4.1.79)
From Louis de Gaya, A treatise of the arms . . . (1678).

PAROLLES Though I swore I leapt from the window of the citadel-LORD, [aside] How deep? PAROLLES Thirty fathom. LORD, [aside] Three great oaths would scarce make that be believed. PAROLLES I would I had any drum of the enemy's. I would swear I recovered it. LORD. [aside] You shall hear one anon. 65 PAROLLES A drum, now, of the enemy's-Alarum within. LORD, \[ \sqrt{advancing} \] Throca movousus, cargo, cargo, ALL Cargo, cargo, cargo, villianda par corbo, cargo. They seize him. PAROLLES O ransom, ransom! Do not hide mine eyes. They blindfold him. FIRST SOLDIER Boskos thromuldo boskos. PAROLLES I know you are the Muskos' regiment. And I shall lose my life for want of language. If there be here German or Dane, Low Dutch, Italian, or French, let him speak to me. 75 I'll discover that which shall undo the Florentine. FIRST SOLDIER Boskos vauvado, I understand thee and can speak thy tongue. Kerelybonto, sir, betake thee to thy faith, for seventeen poniards are at thy bosom. 80 PAROLLES O! FIRST SOLDIER O, pray, pray! Manka reuania dulche. LORD Oscorbidulchos voliuorco. FIRST SOLDIER The General is content to spare thee yet And, hoodwinked as thou art, will lead thee on To gather from thee. Haply thou mayst inform Something to save thy life.

99. muffled: blindfolded

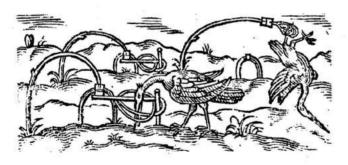
**4.2** Diana agrees to lie with Bertram after he reluctantly gives her his ancestral ring.

3. **Titled goddess:** i.e., you have the name of a **goddess** (See picture, page 148.)

4. **addition:** i.e., more or greater titles (with possible wordplay on the word's meaning of "title of honor")

5. hath love no quality: i.e., is love not an attribute

6. mind: disposition, intention, inclination



"We have caught the woodcock." (4.1.98) From Henry Parrot, *Laquei ridiculosi* . . . (1613).

144

| PAROLLES O, let me live,                                     |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| And all the secrets of our camp I'll show,                   | 90                |
| Their force, their purposes. Nay, I'll speak that            |                   |
| Which you will wonder at.                                    |                   |
| FIRST SOLDIER But wilt thou faithfully?                      |                   |
| PAROLLES If I do not, damn me.                               |                   |
| FIRST SOLDIER Acordo linta. Come on, thou far granted space. | t <sup>7</sup> 95 |
| He exits \( \text{with Parolles under guard} \)              | ר.                |
| A short alarum within  | 1.                |
| LORD   |                   |
| Go tell the Count Rossillion and my brother                  |                   |
| We have caught the woodcock and will keep him muffled        |                   |
| Till we do hear from them.                                   | 100               |
| SECOND SOLDIER Captain, I will.                              |                   |
| LORD   |                   |
| He will betray us all unto ourselves.                        |                   |
| Inform on that.  |                   |
| SECOND SOLDIER So I will, sir.                               |                   |
| LORD   |                   |
| Till then I'll keep him dark and safely locked.  They exi.   | 105<br>t.         |
|  |                   |

#### 「Scene 27

Enter Bertram and the maid called Diana.

#### BERTRAM

They told me that your name was Fontibell.

No, my good lord, Diana.

And worth it, with addition. But, fair soul, In your fine frame hath love no quality?

If the quick fire of youth light not your mind,

11. got: begotten, conceived

12. honest: chaste (i.e., not engaged in unlawful sex)

13. should: i.e., would

18. **prithee:** pray thee; **vows:** possibly his oath never to be Helen's husband, but more likely his **vows** to dedicate himself to Diana (discussed in lines 26–38)

21. rights: perhaps "rites" as well as rights (See note to rite at 2.4.41.) service: the condition of

being the servant of the lady one loves

23. **serve you:** i.e., satisfy **you** (sexually); **roses:** Since the Middle Ages, the rose was used in allegorical poetry to figure virginity, and the plucking of the rose was the sexual conquest of the virgin.

30. take . . . witness: i.e., swear by that which is

most holy

32. **Jove's:** Jove was king of the Roman gods. (For Diana's swearing by **Jove's great attributes**, see longer note, page 224.)

34. **ill:** perhaps, wickedly, sinfully; perhaps, badly; **holding:** i.e., power to bind or constrain; or,

perhaps, validity

37. **conditions:** contracts; **unsealed:** not formally confirmed or ratified

|  | _  |
|--|----|
| You are no maiden but a monument.  |    |
| When you are dead, you should be such a one  |    |
| As you are now, for you are cold and stern.  |    |
| And now you should be as your mother was   | 10 |
| When your sweet self was got.  |    |
| DIANA  |    |
| She then was honest.   |    |
| BERTRAM So should you be.  |    |
| DIANA No.  |    |
| My mother did but duty—such, my lord, As you owe to your wife.                               | 15 |
| BERTRAM No more o' that.   |    |
| I prithee do not strive against my vows.   |    |
| I was compelled to her, but I love thee  |    |
| By love's own sweet constraint, and will forever   |    |
| Do thee all rights of service.   | 20 |
|  |    |
| Till we serve you. But when you have our roses,  |    |
| You barely leave our thorns to prick ourselves   |    |
| And mock us with our bareness.   |    |
|  | 25 |
| BERTRAM How have I sworn!  |    |
|  |    |
| Tis not the many oaths that makes the truth,<br>But the plain single vow that is vowed true. |    |
| What is not holy, that we swear not by,  |    |
| But take the high'est to with an The   |    |
| But take the high'st to witness. Then pray you, tell me,                                     | 30 |
|  |    |
| If I should swear by Jove's great attributes   |    |
| I loved you dearly, would you believe my oaths   |    |
| When I did love you ill? This has no holding   |    |
| To swear by him whom I protest to love   | 35 |
| That I will work against him. Therefore your oaths   |    |
| Are words, and poor conditions but unsealed,   |    |
| At least in my opinion.  |    |
| BERTRAM Change it, change it.  |    |
| Be not so holy-cruel. Love is holy,  | 40 |

- 42. **Stand no more off:** i.e., do not continue to be aloof or distant
  - 43. sick: yearning
  - 44. Who then recovers: i.e., which then recover
  - 45. persever: accent on second syllable
- 51. **honor:** i.e., object to which family **honor** is attached
  - 53. were: i.e., would be
  - 55. honor's: chastity is
  - 59. own proper: i.e., very own
  - 64. bid: commanded
  - 67. order take: make arrangements (so that)
  - 68. band: i.e., bonds



"Dian." (1.3.115; 2.3.78; 4.2.3) From Robert Whitcombe, *Janua divorum* . . . (1678).

And my integrity ne'er knew the crafts That you do charge men with. Stand no more off, But give thyself unto my sick desires. Who then recovers. Say thou art mine, and ever My love as it begins shall so persever. 45 I see that men [may] rope 's in such a [snare] That we'll forsake ourselves. Give me that ring. BERTRAM I'll lend it thee, my dear, but have no power To give it from me. Will you not, my lord? DIANA 50 BERTRAM It is an honor 'longing to our house. Bequeathed down from many ancestors, Which were the greatest obloquy i' th' world In me to lose. Mine honor's such a ring. DIANA 55 My chastity's the jewel of our house. Bequeathed down from many ancestors. Which were the greatest obloquy i' th' world In me to lose. Thus your own proper wisdom Brings in the champion Honor on my part 60 Against your vain assault. Here, take my ring. My house, mine honor, yea, my life be thine, And I'll be bid by thee. When midnight comes, knock at my chamber window. I'll order take my mother shall not hear. Now will I charge you in the band of truth. When you have conquered my yet maiden bed, Remain there but an hour, nor speak to me. 70 My reasons are most strong, and you shall know them When back again this ring shall be delivered.

75. token: represent, signify

77. done: finished, ended

- 80. You may so in the end: This line has different resonances depending on whether it is said to Bertram (as our placement of his exit suggests) or in soliloquy (with the exit placed at the end of line 79). The Folio does not give Bertram an exit direction.
  - 82. in 's: i.e., in his
  - 83. the like: the same kind of
- 85. **braid:** perhaps, deceitful (a word not recorded elsewhere as an adjective or past participle)
- 86. **that:** i.e., whoever; **maid:** virgin, unmarried woman
  - 87. disguise: deception
- 4.3 News comes to the Duke of Florence's court that Bertram's wife has died while on pilgrimage. When Bertram enters, he has received this news, he has made his plans to return to Rossillion, and he has (he thinks) lain with Diana. A blindfolded Parolles gives away military secrets and betrays Bertram and the other French lords, and is then himself abandoned by them.
  - 6. worthy: deserved
  - 9. even: quite, fully
  - 11. darkly: in secrecy, secretly

And on your finger in the night I'll put Another ring, that what in time proceeds May token to the future our past deeds. Adieu till then; then, fail not. You have won 75 A wife of me, though there my hope be done. BERTRAM A heaven on earth I have won by wooing thee. DIANA For which live long to thank both heaven and me! You may so in the end. THe exits. 7 80 My mother told me just how he would woo As if she sat in 's heart. She says all men Have the like oaths. He had sworn to marry me When his wife's dead. Therefore I'll lie with him When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so braid, 85 Marry that will, I live and die a maid. Only, in this disguise I think 't no sin To cozen him that would unjustly win. She exits.

#### Scene 37

Enter the two French \( \text{Lords} \) and some two or three Soldiers.

FIRST LORD You have not given him his mother's letter?

SECOND LORD I have delivered it an hour since. There is something in 't that stings his nature, for on the reading it he changed almost into another man.

FIRST LORD He has much worthy blame laid upon him for shaking off so good a wife and so sweet a lady.

SECOND LORD Especially he hath incurred the everlasting displeasure of the King, who had even tuned his bounty to sing happiness to him. I will tell you a thing, but you shall let it dwell darkly with you.

- 16. **fleshes his will:** i.e., gratifies his lust (See longer note, page 224.)
- 17. **monumental:** perhaps, serving as a memento: or, perhaps, ancestral
- 18. made: successful; unchaste composition: lascivious contract
- 19. **delay:** retard, hinder; or, perhaps, quench; **our rebellion:** i.e., the **rebellion** of **our** flesh
- 20. **ourselves:** i.e., in or by **ourselves** (without God's aid)
  - 21. Merely: absolutely, entirely
  - 22. still: always; them: i.e., traitors
- 24. **ends:** i.e., (1) aims; (2) punishments by torture and death (While both meanings would apply to **traitors**, only the first applies to Bertram.)
- 25–26. **in his proper...himself:** a very difficult metaphor paraphrased by Samuel Johnson as "betrays his own secrets in his own talk" **proper:** (one's) own
- 27. Is it not meant damnable: perhaps, does it not show a damnable meaning
- 30-31. **dieted to his hour:** i.e., regulated or restricted by the appointment he has set
  - 33. company: i.e., companion
- 35. **curiously:** elaborately or carefully (The metaphor is of placing a **counterfeit** precious stone in an elaborate setting.)
  - 36. him: i.e., Parolles; he: i.e., Bertram
  - 37. his presence: i.e., the presence of the one
  - 44. higher: perhaps, farther
  - 45. demand: question
  - 46. of his counsel: i.e., in his confidence
- 47–48. **a great deal of his act:** i.e., an accessory to his misconduct (literally, a large part of his deed)

FIRST LORD When you have spoken it, 'tis dead, and I am the grave of it.

SECOND LORD He hath perverted a young gentlewoman here in Florence of a most chaste renown, and this night he fleshes his will in the spoil of her honor. He hath given her his monumental ring and thinks himself made in the unchaste composition.

FIRST LORD Now God delay our rebellion! As we are ourselves, what things are we!

SECOND LORD Merely our own traitors. And, as in the common course of all treasons we still see them reveal themselves till they attain to their abhorred ends, so he that in this action contrives against his own nobility, in his proper stream o'erflows himself.

FIRST LORD Is it not meant damnable in us to be trumpeters of our unlawful intents? We shall not, then, have his company tonight?

SECOND LORD Not till after midnight, for he is dieted to 30 his hour.

FIRST LORD That approaches apace. I would gladly have him see his company anatomized, that he might take a measure of his own judgments wherein so curiously he had set this counterfeit.

SECOND LORD We will not meddle with him till he come, for his presence must be the whip of the other.

FIRST LORD In the meantime, what hear you of these wars?

SECOND LORD I hear there is an overture of peace.

FIRST LORD Nay, I assure you, a peace concluded.

SECOND LORD What will Count Rossillion do then?

Will he travel higher or return again into France?

FIRST LORD I perceive by this demand you are not alto-

FIRST LORD I perceive by this demand you are not altogether of his counsel.

SECOND LORD Let it be forbid, sir! So should I be a great deal of his act.

55

54. in fine: i.e., in short, she

56. justified: supported by evidence

57. letters: i.e., letter

58. point: instant 60. office: part, function

75. crimes: sins

80. will: i.e., will leave



A "gallant knave" in the stocks. (4.3.104-5) From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

154

FIRST LORD Sir, his wife some two months since fled from his house. Her pretense is a pilgrimage to 50 Saint Jaques le Grand, which holy undertaking with most austere sanctimony she accomplished. And, there residing, the tenderness of her nature became as a prey to her grief; in fine, made a groan of her last breath, and now she sings in heaven.

SECOND LORD How is this justified?

FIRST LORD The stronger part of it by her own letters. which makes her story true even to the point of her death. Her death itself, which could not be her office to say is come, was faithfully confirmed by 60 the rector of the place.

SECOND LORD Hath the Count all this intelligence?

FIRST LORD Ay, and the particular confirmations, point from point, to the full arming of the verity.

SECOND LORD I am heartily sorry that he'll be glad of 65 this.

FIRST LORD How mightily sometimes we make us · comforts of our losses.

SECOND LORD And how mightily some other times we drown our gain in tears. The great dignity that his 70 valor hath here acquired for him shall at home be encountered with a shame as ample.

FIRST LORD The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together. Our virtues would be proud if our faults whipped them not, and our crimes 75 would despair if they were not cherished by our virtues.

#### Enter a Servant

How now? Where's your master?

SERVANT He met the Duke in the street, sir, of whom he hath taken a solemn leave. His Lordship will 80 next morning for France. The Duke hath offered him letters of commendations to the King.

85

90. congeed with: i.e., taken ceremonious leave of

91. his nearest: i.e., those nearest him

92-93. entertained: hired

93-94. parcels of dispatch: i.e., items of business

94. **nicer needs:** i.e., more delicate pieces of business

99. as fearing: i.e., in that I fear

102. module: i.e., image; has: i.e., he has

103. **double-meaning:** ambiguous, riddling (The witches in *Macbeth* (5.8.24) are accused of "palter[ing]" with Macbeth "in a double sense" in their equivocal prophecies about his future.)

104. stocks: an instrument of punishment and public shaming that imprisoned the legs in a heavy

wooden frame (See picture, page 154.)

107. **usurping his spurs:** i.e., pretending to be valiant (To win one's **spurs** was to attain distinction through valor.) There is also wordplay here on **spurs** as worn on the **heels** (line 106) in horseback riding. **carry:** comport, conduct

112. shed: spilled (Proverbial: "To cry for spilt

milk.")

112-13. **Morgan:** This is presumably either a soldier or the Second Lord's brother (i.e., First Lord). The name does not appear elsewhere in the play.

113-14. the time of his remembrance: i.e., as far back as he can remember

115. setting: i.e., being set

second lord They shall be no more than needful there, if they were more than they can commend. They cannot be too sweet for the King's tartness.

Enter \[ Bertram \] Count Rossillion.

Here's his Lordship now.—How now, my lord? Is 't not after midnight?

nesses, a month's length apiece. By an abstract of success: I have congeed with the Duke, done my adieu with his nearest, buried a wife, mourned for her, writ to my lady mother I am returning, entertained my convoy, and between these main parcels of dispatch effected many nicer needs. The last was the greatest, but that I have not ended yet. 95

SECOND LORD If the business be of any difficulty, and this morning your departure hence, it requires

haste of your Lordship.

BERTRAM I mean the business is not ended as fearing to hear of it hereafter. But shall we have this dialogue between the Fool and the Soldier? Come, bring forth this counterfeit module; has deceived me like a double-meaning prophesier.

SECOND LORD Bring him forth. Has sat i' th' stocks all night, poor gallant knave. 

Soldiers exit. 105

BERTRAM No matter. His heels have deserved it in usurping his spurs so long. How does he carry himself?

second Lord I have told your Lordship already: the stocks carry him. But to answer you as you would 110 be understood: he weeps like a wench that had shed her milk. He hath confessed himself to Morgan, whom he supposes to be a friar, from the time of his remembrance to this very instant disaster of his setting i' th' stocks. And what think you he hath 115 confessed?

124. **Hoodman:** the blindfolded player in the game of blindman's buff (See below.)

129. pasty: meat pie

135. note: written statement

138. how many . . . strong: i.e., what is the

strength of the Duke's cavalry

145. take the Sacrament on 't: i.e., confirm the truth of my statement by receiving Holy Communion

147. All's one: i.e., it's all the same



"Hoodman comes." (4.3.124–25)
From Officium beate Marie v[ir]ginis ad vsum saru[m] . . . [c. 1512].

BERTRAM Nothing of me, has he? SECOND LORD His confession is taken, and it shall be read to his face. If your Lordship be in 't, as I believe you are, you must have the patience to 120 hear it. Enter Parolles, \( \begin{aligned} \text{blindfolded,} \end{aligned} \) with his Interpreter, The First Soldier BERTRAM A plague upon him! Muffled! He can say nothing of me. FIRST LORD, [aside to Bertram] Hush, hush. Hoodman comes.—Portotartarossa. 125 FIRST SOLDIER, \[ \text{to Parolles} \] He calls for the tortures. What will you say without 'em? PAROLLES I will confess what I know without constraint. If you pinch me like a pasty, I can say no more. 130 FIRST SOLDIER Bosko Chimurcho. FIRST LORD Boblibindo chicurmurco. FIRST SOLDIER You are a merciful general.—Our general bids you answer to what I shall ask you out of a note. 135 PAROLLES And truly, as I hope to live. FIRST SOLDIER, \( \sigma a if reading a note \)\( \) First, demand of him how many horse the Duke is strong.—What say you to that? PAROLLES Five or six thousand, but very weak and 140 unserviceable. The troops are all scattered, and the commanders very poor rogues, upon my reputation and credit, and as I hope to live. FIRST SOLDIER Shall I set down your answer so? PAROLLES Do. I'll take the Sacrament on 't, how and 145 which way you will. BERTRAM, [aside] All's one to him. What a past-saving slave is this!

FIRST LORD, [aside to Bertram] You're deceived, my

151. militarist: one who studies military science

152. theoric: theory

153. **practice:** i.e., **practice** of **war** (Describing the knowledge of war in terms of **theoric** and **practice** was commonplace. See below.) **chape:** metal plate on a sheath

154-55. for keeping: i.e., because he keeps

162. con him no thanks: i.e., do not thank him

173. so many: i.e., the same number

177. **muster-file:** i.e., muster-roll, the official list of officers and men

179. poll: i.e., individuals (literally, head)

180. cassocks: military cloaks

184. Demand of him: i.e., ask him about

## AND PRACTISE

Written to Don Philip Prince of Calbi, by Don Barnardino de

Translated out of the Castilian tonge into Englishe, by St. EDWARDE HOST Knight,

> Directed to S'. GEORGE CARRY Knight.



597. 1

"The whole theoric of war." (4.3.151–52)
From Bernardino de Mendoza, Theorique and practise of warre . . . translated . . . by Sr. Edwarde Hoby . . . (1597).

160

| lord. This is Monsieur Parolles, the gallant                      | 150 |
|---|-----|
| militarist-that was his own phrase-that had the                   | 100 |
| whole theoric of war in the knot of his scarf, and                |     |
| the practice in the chape of his dagger.                          |     |
| SECOND LORD, [aside] I will never trust a man again for           |     |
| keeping his sword clean, nor believe he can have                  | 155 |
| everything in him by wearing his apparel neatly.                  | 133 |
| FIRST SOLDIER, to Parolles Well, that's set down.                 |     |
| PAROLLES "Five or six thousand horse," I said—I will              |     |
| say true—"or thereabouts" set down, for I'll speak                |     |
| truth.  | 160 |
| FIRST LORD, [aside] He's very near the truth in this.             | 100 |
| BERTRAM, [aside] But I con him no thanks for 't, in the           |     |
| nature he delivers it.  |     |
| PAROLLES "Poor rogues," I pray you say.                           |     |
| FIRST SOLDIER Well, that's set down.                              | 165 |
| PAROLLES I humbly thank you, sir. A truth's a truth.              | 103 |
| The rogues are marvelous poor.                                    |     |
| FIRST SOLDIER, sa if reading a note Demand of him of              |     |
| what strength they are o' foot.—What say you to                   | 8   |
| that?   | 170 |
| PAROLLES By my troth, sir, if I were to live [but] this           | 170 |
| present hour, I will tell true. Let me see: Spurio a              |     |
| hundred and fifty, Sebastian so many, Corambus                    |     |
| so many, Jaques so many; Guiltian, Cosmo,                         |     |
| I - J   | 175 |
| own company, Chitopher, Vaumond, Bentii, two                      | 113 |
| hundred fifty each; so that the muster-file, rotten               |     |
| and sound, upon my life amounts not to fifteen                    |     |
| thousand poll, half of the which dare not shake the               |     |
| snow from off their cassocks lest they shake them-                | 180 |
| selves to pieces.   | 100 |
| BERTRAM, [aside] What shall be done to him?                       |     |
| FIRST LORD, [aside] Nothing but let him have thanks.              |     |
| (\(\textit{Aside to First Soldier.}\)\)\) Demand of him my condi- |     |
| tion and what credit I have with the Duke                         | 105 |

191. **well-weighing:** i.e., weighty (both heavy and influential)

194-95. particular of the inter'gatories: i.e., individual questions inter'gatories: interrogatories

197. **a botcher's prentice:** i.e., an apprentice to a cobbler or to a tailor who mends clothes

199. **shrieve's fool:** i.e., mentally retarded girl in the custody of the sheriff; **dumb:** i.e., mute

201-2. hold your hands: i.e., don't attack him

202–3. **his brains . . . falls:** i.e., he will surely soon meet a sudden and violent death

210. for no other but: i.e., as nothing more than

212. band: i.e., army

214. Marry: i.e., indeed

215. In good sadness: i.e., in all seriousness

FIRST SOLDIER, 「to Parolles Well, that's set down. 「Pretending to read: You shall demand of him whether one Captain Dumaine be i' th' camp, a Frenchman; what his reputation is with the Duke, what his valor, honesty, and expertness in wars; or whether he 190 thinks it were not possible with well-weighing sums of gold to corrupt him to a revolt.—What say you to this? What do you know of it?

PAROLLES I beseech you let me answer to the particular of the inter'gatories. Demand them singly.

FIRST SOLDIER Do you know this Captain Dumaine?

PAROLLES I know him. He was a botcher's prentice in Paris, from whence he was whipped for getting the shrieve's fool with child, a dumb innocent that could not say him nay.

BERTRAM, 「aside to First Lord Nay, by your leave, hold your hands, though I know his brains are forfeit to the next tile that falls.

FIRST SOLDIER Well, is this captain in the Duke of Florence's camp?

PAROLLES Upon my knowledge he is, and lousy.

FIRST LORD, [aside to Bertram] Nay, look not so upon me. We shall hear of your [Lordship] anon.

FIRST SOLDIER What is his reputation with the Duke?

parolles The Duke knows him for no other but a 210 poor officer of mine, and writ to me this other day to turn him out o' th' band. I think I have his letter in my pocket.

FIRST SOLDIER Marry, we'll search.

They search Parolles' pockets.

PAROLLES In good sadness, I do not know. Either it is 215 there, or it is upon a file with the Duke's other letters in my tent.

FIRST SOLDIER Here 'tis; here's a paper. Shall I read it to you?

PAROLLES I do not know if it be it or no.

220

195

200

205

239. **scores:** obtains goods (usually food or drink) on credit; **the score:** i.e., what he owes

240–41. Half . . . make it: perhaps, make your bargain while you are not yet won is match: i.e., is a bargain Match: i.e., match him, be equal (to him) make it: i.e., achieve the match (There is wordplay on match as "mate" or "lover.")

244. mell: (1) associate; (2) copulate

245. count of: i.e., count on, depend on

252. armipotent: i.e., valiant

254. cat: See *The Merchant of Venice* 4.1.48–49: "Some men... are mad if they behold a cat."

256. fain: obliged



Nessus abducting the wife of Hercules. (4.3.268) From Gabriele Simeoni, *La vita* . . . (1559).

BERTRAM, [aside] Our interpreter does it well. FIRST LORD, [aside] Excellently. FIRST SOLDIER reads Dian, the Count's a fool and full of gold— PAROLLES That is not the Duke's letter, sir. That is an 225 advertisement to a proper maid in Florence, one Diana, to take heed of the allurement of one Count Rossillion, a foolish idle boy, but for all that very ruttish. I prav you, sir, put it up again. FIRST SOLDIER Nay, I'll read it first, by your favor. 230 PAROLLES My meaning in 't, I protest, was very honest in the behalf of the maid, for I knew the young count to be a dangerous and lascivious boy, who is a whale to virginity and devours up all the fry it finds. BERTRAM, 「aside To Damnable both-sides rogue! FIRST SOLDIER [reads] When he swears oaths, bid him drop gold, and take it. After he scores, he never pays the score. Half won is match well made. Match, and well 240 make it. He ne'er pays after-debts. Take it before. And say a soldier, Dian, told thee this: Men are to mell with; boys are not to kiss. For count of this: the Count's a fool, I know it, 245 Who pays before, but not when he does owe it. Thine, as he vowed to thee in thine ear, Parolles. BERTRAM, [aside] He shall be whipped through the army with this rhyme in's forehead. SECOND LORD, [aside] This is your devoted friend, sir. the manifold linguist and the armipotent soldier. BERTRAM, [aside] I could endure anything before but a cat, and now he's a cat to me. FIRST SOLDIER, To Parolles I perceive, sir, by Tour 255 general's looks we shall be fain to hang you.

259. repent out: i.e., live out in repentance

260, 262. so: i.e., provided that

268. **Nessus:** the centaur who attempted to ravish the wife of **Hercules** (line 270), a hero of extraordinary strength and courage (See picture, page 164.) Centaurs were mythological monsters who were bestial below the waist, and, in *King Lear*, symbols of lust.

269. professes: makes a profession of, practices

271. **truth were a fool:** Autolycus, the clever con man in *The Winter's Tale*, says after filling his purse with others' money, "What **a fool** honesty is" (4.4.711).

274. they: i.e., his servants

275. conditions: i.e., condition

284–85. **led . . . tragedians:** i.e., his soldiership is mere acting (Traveling acting companies, like **English** companies on the Continent, used drums and trumpets to announce their presence in a city.)

285. belie: tell lies about

286-87. that country: i.e., England

288. **Mile End: Mile End** Green was used as a drilling ground for the London citizen militia, mocked in other of Shakespeare's plays. (See, e.g., 2 *Henry IV* 3.2.289.)

288-89. the doubling of files: a simple drill maneuver

292. rarity: i.e., excellence

PAROLLES My life, sir, in any case! Not that I am afraid to die, but that, my offenses being many, I would repent out the remainder of nature. Let me live, sir, in a dungeon, i' th' stocks, or anywhere, so I 260 may live.

FIRST SOLDIER We'll see what may be done, so you confess freely. Therefore once more to this Captain Dumaine: you have answered to his reputation with the Duke, and to his valor. What is his honesty?

PAROLLES He will steal, sir, an egg out of a cloister. For rapes and ravishments, he parallels Nessus. He professes not keeping of oaths. In breaking 'em he is stronger than Hercules. He will lie, sir, with such 270 volubility that you would think truth were a fool. Drunkenness is his best virtue, for he will be swine-drunk, and in his sleep he does little harm, save to his bedclothes about him; but they know his conditions and lay him in straw. I have but 275 little more to say, sir, of his honesty; he has everything that an honest man should not have; what an honest man should have, he has nothing.

FIRST LORD, [aside] I begin to love him for this.

BERTRAM, 「aside For this description of thine honesty? A pox upon him! For me, he's more and more a cat.

PAROLLES Faith, sir, has led the drum before the English tragedians. To belie him I will not, and more of his soldiership I know not, except in that country he had the honor to be the officer at a place there called Mile End, to instruct for the doubling of files. I would do the man what honor I can, but of this I am not certain.

FIRST LORD, 「aside He hath out-villained villainy so far that the rarity redeems him.

297. cardecu: an old French silver coin, worth a quarter of an ecu, and thus of little value (pronounced "kar-de-kew")

297-300. sell . . . perpetually: i.e., sell all present and future rights to his soul's salvation feesimple: absolute possession of a property remainders: residual interests in an estate

309. lackey: i.e., running footman (one who ran alongside his master's coach); coming on: advancing (as opposed to in a retreat [lines 308–9])

319. supposition: imagination, fancy

325. discovered: revealed

326. held: regarded



"For he will be swine-drunk." (4.3.272-73) From Jean Jacques Boissard, Theatrum vitae humanae . . . [1596].

168

All's Well That Ends Well ACT 4, SC. 3 BERTRAM, [aside] A pox on him! He's a cat still. FIRST SOLDIER His qualities being at this poor price, I need not to ask you if gold will corrupt him to 295 revolt. PAROLLES Sir, for a cardecu he will sell the fee-simple of his salvation, the inheritance of it, and cut th' entail from all remainders, and a perpetual succession for it perpetually. 300 FIRST SOLDIER What's his brother, the other Captain Dumaine? SECOND LORD, [aside] Why does he ask him of me? FIRST SOLDIER What's he? PAROLLES E'en a crow o' th' same nest: not altogether 305 so great as the first in goodness, but greater a great deal in evil. He excels his brother for a coward, yet his brother is reputed one of the best that is. In a retreat he outruns any lackey. Marry, in coming on he has the cramp. 310 FIRST SOLDIER If your life be saved, will you undertake to betray the Florentine?

PAROLLES Ay, and the captain of his horse, Count Rossillion.

FIRST SOLDIER I'll whisper with the General and know 315 his pleasure.

PAROLLES, 「aside I'll no more drumming. A plague of all drums! Only to seem to deserve well, and to beguile the supposition of that lascivious young boy the Count, have I run into this danger. Yet who 320 would have suspected an ambush where I was taken?

FIRST SOLDIER There is no remedy, sir, but you must die. The General says you that have so traitorously discovered the secrets of your army and made 325 such pestiferous reports of men very nobly held can serve the world for no honest use. Therefore you must die.-Come, headsman, off with his head.

| 220  | •11  |      |       | 1  |     | . 1  |    |      |
|------|------|------|-------|----|-----|------|----|------|
| 338. | WIII | you: | 1.e., | ao | you | wish | to | senc |

339. for: i.e., on my way to

341. sonnet: love poem

342. An: if

344. **undone:** ruined (with wordplay in line 345 on "untied")

348. **but:** only

349. impudent: shameless

356. Who: i.e., he who



A "taffety punk." (2.2.22) From Roxburghe ballads (printed in 1895).

PAROLLES O Lord, sir, let me live, or let me see my 330 death! FIRST SOLDIER That shall you, and take your leave of all your friends. The removes the blindfold. So, look about you. Know you any here? BERTRAM Good morrow, noble captain. 335 SECOND LORD God bless you, Captain Parolles. FIRST LORD God save you, noble captain. SECOND LORD Captain, what greeting will you to my Lord Lafew? I am for France. FIRST LORD Good captain, will you give me a copy of 340 the sonnet you writ to Diana in behalf of the Count Rossillion? An I were not a very coward, I'd compel it of you. But fare you well. 「Bertram and Lords ] exit. FIRST SOLDIER You are undone, captain-all but your scarf; that has a knot on 't yet. 345 PAROLLES Who cannot be crushed with a plot? FIRST SOLDIER If you could find out a country where but women were that had received so much shame, you might begin an impudent nation. Fare you well, sir. I am for France too. We shall speak of 350 you there. He exits. **PAROLLES** Yet am I thankful. If my heart were great, Twould burst at this. Captain I'll be no more. But I will eat and drink, and sleep as soft As captain shall. Simply the thing I am 355 Shall make me live. Who knows himself a braggart, Let him fear this, for it will come to pass That every braggart shall be found an ass. Rust, sword; cool, blushes; and Parolles live Safest in shame. Being fooled, by fool'ry thrive. 360 There's place and means for every man alive. I'll after them. He exits.

## **4.4** Helen sets out with Diana and Diana's mother to seek the King of France in Marseilles.

#### 6. which gratitude: i.e., gratitude for which

- 7. **flinty Tartar's bosom:** Tartars (or Tatars) were peoples who, under Mongol leadership, overran much of Europe in the 13th century. In *The Merchant of Venice*, Tartars are linked to "brassy bosoms and rough hearts of flint," and are described as "never trained to offices of tender courtesy" (4.1.32–34).
  - 10. convenient convoy: i.e., appropriate escort
  - 11. breaking: disbanding
  - 22. motive: instrument
  - 25. saucy: lascivious
  - 27. for: i.e., taking it for
  - 31. death and honesty: i.e., a chaste death
  - 32. impositions: orders, commands
  - 33. Upon . . . suffer: i.e., to suffer as you wish



A Tartar. (4.4.7) From Balthasar Küchler, Repraesentatio der fürstlichen Auffzug (1611).

#### 「Scene 47

#### Enter Helen, Widow, and Diana.

|   | HELEN  | -   |
|---|--|-----|
|   | That you may well perceive I have not wronged you,             |     |
|   | One of the greatest in the Christian world                     |     |
|   | Shall be my surety, 'fore whose throne 'tis needful,           |     |
|   | Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneel.                      |     |
|   | Time was, I did him a desired office                           | 5   |
|   | Dear almost as his life, which gratitude                       | 2   |
|   | Through flinty Tartar's bosom would peep forth                 |     |
|   | And answer thanks. I duly am informed                          |     |
|   | His Grace is at Marseilles, to which place                     |     |
|   | We have convenient convoy. You must know                       | 10  |
|   | I am supposèd dead. The army breaking,                         |     |
|   | My husband hies him home, where, heaven aiding                 | 31) |
|   | And by the leave of my good lord the King.                     |     |
|   | We'll be before our welcome.                                   |     |
|   | WIDOW Gentle madam,  | 15  |
|   | You never had a servant to whose trust                         |     |
|   | Your business was more welcome.                                |     |
|   | HELEN Nor you, mistress,                                       |     |
|   | Ever a friend whose thoughts more truly labor                  |     |
|   | To recompense your love. Doubt not but heaven                  | 20  |
|   | Hath brought me up to be your daughter's dower,                |     |
|   | As it hath fated her to be my motive                           |     |
|   | And helper to a husband. But O, strange men,                   |     |
|   | That can such sweet use make of what they hate                 |     |
|   | When saucy trusting of the cozened thoughts                    | 25  |
|   | Defiles the pitchy night! So lust doth play                    |     |
|   | With what it loathes for that which is away.                   |     |
|   | But more of this hereafter.—You, Diana,                        |     |
|   | Under my poor instructions yet must suffer                     |     |
| , | Something in my behalf.  | 30  |
| 1 | DIANA Let death and honesty                                    |     |
|   | Go with your impositions, I am yours Upon your will to suffer. |     |
|   | opon your will to suffer.                                      |     |

20

- 35. But: only, merely; word: motto, maxim
- 38. revives: i.e., will revive
- 39. Still: always; the fine's: i.e., the conclusion is
- 40. course: process
- **4.5** The Countess, who has learned of Helen's death, receives word that the King of France is approaching Rossillion and then that Bertram himself has arrived. Lord Lafew proposes that Bertram marry Lafew's daughter, to which the Countess agrees.
  - 1. with: i.e., by
- 2. **snipped-taffeta**: i.e., wearing **taffeta** sleeves slashed so that another color of material shows
- 2–3. **saffron:** The dried orange-yellow stigma of the **saffron** plant was used to color foodstuffs and starch.
  - 5. had been: i.e., would have been
  - 7. humble-bee: i.e., bumble-bee
- 11. **dearest:** i.e., most heartfelt; or, perhaps, most severe or dire
  - 18. herb of grace: rue (See picture, page 178.)
- 19–20. **nose-herbs:** i.e., **herbs** for smelling (as opposed to **herbs** for eating)
- 21. **Nebuchadnezzar:** a biblical king who went mad and "ate **grass** like an ox" (Daniel 4.32) See picture, page 180.
  - 22. grass: See longer note, page 225.
  - 23. Whether: i.e., which of the two

| HELEN                                 | Yet, I pray you—  |    |
|---------------------------------------|---|----|
| When briers sha                       | ord "The time will bring on summer," all have leaves as well as thorns as sharp. We must away.      | 35 |
| Our wagon is pr<br>All's well that en | repared, and time revives us.  ads well. Still the fine's the crown.  aurse, the end is the renown. | 40 |
|                                       | They exit.  |    |

#### 「Scene 57

#### Enter Fool, Countess, and Lafew.

LAFEW No, no, no, your son was misled with a snipped-taffeta fellow there, whose villainous saffron would have made all the unbaked and doughy youth of a nation in his color. Your daughter-in-law had been alive at this hour, and your son here at home, more advanced by the King than by that red-tailed humble-bee I speak of.

countess I would I had not known him. It was the death of the most virtuous gentlewoman that ever nature had praise for creating. If she had partaken of my flesh and cost me the dearest groans of a mother, I could not have owed her a more rooted love.

LAFEW 'Twas a good lady, 'twas a good lady. We may pick a thousand salads ere we light on such another herb.

FOOL Indeed, sir, she was the sweet marjoram of the salad, or rather the herb of grace.

LAFEW They are not herbs, you knave. They are noseherbs.

FOOL I am no great Nebuchadnezzar, sir. I have not much skill in 「grass. ¬

LAFEW Whether dost thou profess thyself, a knave or a fool?

man's.

service.

LAFEW Your distinction?

FOOL. I would cozen the man of his wife and do his

LAFEW So you were a knave at his service indeed.

FOOL A fool, sir, at a woman's service, and a knave at a 25

30

33. subscribe: i.e., vouch

41. phys'nomy: i.e., physiognomy, face

43. The black prince: i.e., the devil, but also an allusion to England's famous "Black Prince," Edward III's oldest son, who made war on France (The prince thus has an English name [line 40].)

46. suggest: tempt, seduce

49–50. **keeps a good fire:** The connection between **the devil** and hellfire is made in Matthew (25.41) and in Revelation (20.10).

50. **prince of the world:** a name given **the devil** in the Gospel of John (12.31; 14.30; 16.11)

51. **his Nobility:** a mock-title modeled on the form of "his Lordship"

51-56. I am for . . . great fire: The concluding section of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" describes the way that leads to salvation (by the narrow gate) as contrasted to the broad gate that the many will enter on their way to destruction. (See Matthew 7.13-14.)



A Fool with his mock-scepter, or bauble. (4.5.31) From Stephen Batman, *The trauayled pylgrime* . . . (1569).

FOOL And I would give his wife my bauble, sir, to do her service. LAFEW I will subscribe for thee, thou art both knave and fool. FOOL At your service. 35 LAFEW No, no, no. FOOL Why, sir, if I cannot serve you, I can serve as great a prince as you are. LAFEW Who's that, a Frenchman? FOOL Faith, sir, he has an English \( \text{name}, \end{arms} \) but his 40 phys'nomy is more hotter in France than there. LAFEW What prince is that? FOOL The black prince, sir, alias the prince of darkness, alias the devil. LAFEW, \( \text{giving him money} \) Hold thee, there's my 45 purse. I give thee not this to suggest thee from thy master thou talk'st of. Serve him still FOOL I am a woodland fellow, sir, that always loved a great fire, and the master I speak of ever keeps a good fire. But sure he is the prince of the world; let his Nobility remain in 's court. I am for the house with the narrow gate, which I take to be too little for pomp to enter. Some that humble themselves may, but the many will be too chill and tender, and they'll be for the flow'ry way that leads to the 55 broad gate and the great fire. LAFEW Go thy ways. I begin to be aweary of thee. And

I tell thee so before because I would not fall out

with thee. Go thy ways. Let my horses be well

looked to, without any tricks.

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64. shrewd: railing, scolding; unhappy: unfortunate (although the present-day meaning may also be

intended)

68. has no pace: i.e., he runs in an undisciplined way (language used to describe the gait of a horse)

73. moved: urged

74-75. in the minority of them both: i.e., when they were both under age

75-76. a self-gracious remembrance: i.e., a thoughtful recollection that came from himself

82. **post:** i.e., speedily (as if by post-horse)

84. him that: i.e., someone who

91. admitted: i.e., allowed (to remain here)

92-93. honorable privilege: i.e., the privilege that goes with your honor

94. that: i.e., my privilege





"Sweet marjoram" and rue, or "herb of grace." (4.5.17, 18) From John Gerard, The herball . . . (1597).

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FOOL If I put any tricks upon 'em, sir, they shall be jades' tricks, which are their own right by the law of nature. He exits.

LAFEW A shrewd knave and an unhappy.

COUNTESS So he is. My lord that's gone made himself 65 much sport out of him. By his authority he remains here, which he thinks is a patent for his sauciness, and indeed he has no pace, but runs where he will.

LAFEW I like him well. 'Tis not amiss. And I was about 70 to tell you, since I heard of the good lady's death and that my lord your son was upon his return home, I moved the King my master to speak in the behalf of my daughter, which in the minority of them both his Majesty out of a self-gracious 75 remembrance did first propose. His Highness hath promised me to do it, and to stop up the displeasure he hath conceived against your son there is no fitter matter. How does your Ladyship like it?

COUNTESS With very much content, my lord, and I 80

wish it happily effected.

LAFEW His Highness comes post from Marseilles, of as able body as when he numbered thirty. He will be here tomorrow, or I am deceived by him that in such intelligence hath seldom failed.

COUNTESS It rejoices me that, I hope, I shall see him ere I die. I have letters that my son will be here tonight. I shall beseech your Lordship to remain with me till they meet together.

LAFEW Madam, I was thinking with what manners I 90 might safely be admitted.

COUNTESS You need but plead your honorable privi-

LAFEW Lady, of that I have made a bold charter. But I thank my God it holds yet.

97. **patch of velvet:** used to cover both a scar won in battle and the marks of syphilitic ulcers

99-100. two pile and a half: i.e., thick velvet

101. liv'ry: i.e., livery, uniform

102. belike: probably

103. carbonadoed: slashed



The mad Nebuchadnezzar. (4.5.21)
From Conrad Lycosthenes, *Prodigiorum* . . . [1557].

#### Enter [Fool,]

FOOL O madam, yonder's my lord your son with a patch of velvet on 's face. Whether there be a scar under 't or no, the velvet knows, but 'tis a goodly patch of velvet. His left cheek is a cheek of two pile and a half, but his right cheek is worn bare.

LAFEW A scar nobly got, or a noble scar, is a good liv'ry of honor. So belike is that.

FOOL But it is your carbonadoed face.

LAFEW Let us go see your son, I pray you. I long to talk with the young noble soldier.

FOOL 'Faith, there's a dozen of 'em, with delicate fine hats, and most courteous feathers which bow the head and nod at every man.

They exit.

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

ACT 5

**5.1** Helen finds herself unable to petition the King because he has already departed for Rossillion.

5. bold: confident, sure

6 SD. **Astringer:** i.e., an austringer or ostreger, a keeper of goshawks (See longer note, page 225, and picture below.)

16. nice: i.e., fastidious, punctilious

16-17. put . . . use of: i.e., call upon you to use



"A gentle Astringer." (5.1.6 SD)
From George Turberville, *The booke of faulconrie* . . . (1575).

#### ACT 5

#### 「Scene 17

Enter Helen, Widow, and Diana, with two Attendants.

#### HELEN

But this exceeding posting day and night
Must wear your spirits low. We cannot help it.
But since you have made the days and nights as one
To wear your gentle limbs in my affairs,
Be bold you do so grow in my requital
As nothing can unroot you.

Enter \( a \) Gentleman, \( a \) gentle Astringer.

In happy time!
This man may help me to his Majesty's ear,
If he would spend his power.—God save you, sir.
GENTLEMAN And you.

1
HELEN

Sir, I have seen you in the court of France.

GENTLEMAN I have been sometimes there.

HELEN

I do presume, sir, that you are not fall'n
From the report that goes upon your goodness,
And therefore, goaded with most sharp occasions
Which lay nice manners by, I put you to
The use of your own virtues, for the which
I shall continue thankful.

|     |             | *  |         |
|-----|-------------|----|---------|
| 77  | removed:    | de | nartec  |
| 41. | i ciliovcu. | uc | particu |

28. use: habit
36. like: likely
37. Commend: commit

41. Our means . . . means: i.e., our resources will contrive for us

44. falls: happens

| GENTLEMAN What's your will?                          |    |
|--|----|
| HELEN, [taking out a paper] That it will please you  | 20 |
| To give this poor petition to the King               |    |
| And aid me with that store of power you have         |    |
| To come into his presence.                           |    |
| GENTLEMAN  |    |
| The King's not here.                                 |    |
| HELEN Not here, sir?                                 | 25 |
| GENTLEMAN Not indeed.                                | 20 |
| He hence removed last night, and with more haste     |    |
| Than is his use.                                     |    |
| WIDOW Lord, how we lose our pains!                   |    |
| HELEN All's well that ends well yet,                 | 30 |
| Though time seem so adverse and means unfit.—        | 30 |
| I do beseech you, whither is he gone?                |    |
| GENTLEMAN  |    |
| Marry, as I take it, to Rossillion,                  |    |
| Whither I am going.                                  |    |
| HELEN, [giving him the paper] I do beseech you, sir, | 35 |
| Since you are like to see the King before me,        | 33 |
| Commend the paper to his gracious hand,              |    |
| Which I presume shall render you no blame            |    |
| But rather make you thank your pains for it.         |    |
| I will come after you with what good speed           | 40 |
| Our means will make us means.                        | 40 |
| GENTLEMAN This I'll do for you.                      |    |
| HELEN  |    |
| And you shall find yourself to be well thanked       |    |
| Whate'er falls more. We must to horse again.—        |    |
| Go, go, provide.                                     | 45 |
| They exit.   | 73 |
| They exil.   |    |

10

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- **5.2** Parolles arrives at Rossillion and persuades Lafew to take him into his service.
- 2. Lavatch: the Fool's name, which is not mentioned elsewhere in the play. (See longer note to 1.3.0 SD, page 221.)

5. mood: anger

- 9. eat . . . butt'ring: Parolles' use of the word muddied (line 5) triggers a series of comments playing on the proverb "Fish bred up in dirty pools will stink of mud." See lines 21–23, below.
  - 16. deliver me: i.e., deliver

18. close-stool: enclosed chamber pot

- 19. **purr:** the playing card called the **knave** (line 25) in the obsolete card game Post and Pair (with wordplay on the sound made by **Fortune's cat,** as well as on more obscure meanings of **purr** as male child and as animal dung) The primary meaning of **knave** may be a reminder of Parolles' earlier attacks on the Fool as a **knave** (in 2.4) and a preparation for Lafew's attack on Parolles as a **knave** in lines 31–33.
- 20–21. **not a musk-cat:** i.e., **not** sweet-smelling (The **musk-cat** is any animal, usually the musk-deer, which provides **musk**, from which perfume is made. The term was associated with sweet smells and was also applied to fops and other perfumed creatures.) See picture, page 208.

#### 「Scene 27

#### Enter Fool and Parolles.

PAROLLES, 'holding out a paper' Good Monsieur Lavatch, give my lord Lafew this letter. I have ere now, sir, been better known to you, when I have held familiarity with fresher clothes. But I am now, sir, muddied in Fortune's mood, and smell somewhat strong of her strong displeasure.

FOOL Truly, Fortune's displeasure is but sluttish if it smell so strongly as thou speak'st of. I will henceforth eat no fish of Fortune's butt'ring. Prithee, allow the wind.

PAROLLES Nay, you need not to stop your nose, sir. I spake but by a metaphor.

FOOL Indeed, sir, if your metaphor stink I will stop my nose, or against any man's metaphor. Prithee, get thee further.

PAROLLES Pray you, sir, deliver me this paper.

FOOL Foh! Prithee, stand away. A paper from Fortune's close-stool, to give to a nobleman!

#### Enter Lafew.

Look, here he comes himself.—Here is a purr of Fortune's, sir, or of Fortune's cat—but not a 20 musk-cat—that has fall'n into the unclean fishpond of her displeasure and, as he says, is muddied withal. Pray you, sir, use the carp as you may, for he looks like a poor, decayed, ingenious, foolish, rascally knave. I do pity his distress in my smiles of comfort, and leave him to your Lordship.

[He exits.]

PAROLLES My lord, I am a man whom Fortune hath cruelly scratched.

LAFEW And what would you have me to do? 'Tis too late to pare her nails now. Wherein have you 30

34. **cardecu:** See note to 4.3.297. **justices:** perhaps, the **justices** of the peace, who had responsibility for beggars; or, perhaps, the judges who would decide the case if Parolles took **Fortune** to court

41. more than a word: Parolles' name suggests

the plural of word in French (paroles).

41–42. Cock's my passion: i.e., by God's (or Christ's) passion (Cock was sometimes used in oaths in place of God.)

44. found me: i.e., found me out

45. lost: destroyed, ruined

- 48. grace: favor (but used by Lafew in the phrase in grace [line 51] to mean "into salvation"); out: i.e., out of favor
  - 49. Out upon thee: an interjection of reproach

51. out: i.e., out of salvation

- 53. **Sirrah:** As a term of address to a male social inferior, the word indicates how far Parolles has fallen.
- 5.3 The King forgives Bertram and agrees to a marriage between Bertram and Lafew's daughter. Bertram gives Lafew a ring, which is then recognized by Lafew and the King as Helen's. Bertram's claim that it was thrown to him from a window leads to his arrest for Helen's murder. Diana appears claiming Bertram for her husband, and her statements about Bertram's promises are supported by Parolles. Bertram claims, in turn, that Diana is a prostitute, but her possession of his ancestral ring invalidates that claim. As charges and countercharges mount, a pregnant Helen enters and tells (continued)

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played the knave with Fortune that she should scratch you, who of herself is a good lady and would not have knaves thrive long under [her?] There's a cardecu for you. Let the justices make you and Fortune friends. I am for other business.

PAROLLES I beseech your Honor to hear me one single word.

LAFEW You beg a single penny more. Come, you shall ha't. Save your word.

PAROLLES My name, my good lord, is Parolles.

LAFEW You beg more than [a] word, then. Cock's my passion; give me your hand. How does your drum?

PAROLLES O my good lord, you were the first that found me.

LAFEW Was I, in sooth? And I was the first that lost 45 thee.

PAROLLES It lies in you, my lord, to bring me in some grace, for you did bring me out.

LAFEW Out upon thee, knave! Dost thou put upon me at once both the office of God and the devil? One 50 brings thee in grace, and the other brings thee out.

\[ \int Trumpets \ sound. \end{aligned} \] The King's coming. I know by his trumpets. Sirrah, inquire further after me. I had talk of you last night. Though you are a fool and a knave, you shall eat. Go to, follow.

PAROLLES I praise God for you.

「They exit. ¬

#### 「Scene 37

Flourish. Enter King, \( \text{Countess}, \) Lafew, the two French Lords, with Attendants.

KING

We lost a jewel of her, and our esteem Was made much poorer by it. But your son, Bertram that she has met his seemingly impossible demands.

1. of: i.e., in; our esteem: i.e., my value, worth

3. As: i.e., as if, as though

4. estimation: valuation; home: fully

6. make: consider

7. **i' th' blade of:** i.e., in unripened (The phrase in the blade describes a cereal plant like wheat, before the ears of grain form.)

12. high bent: The image is of a bow tightly

drawn and ready to shoot (line 13).

13. watched: waited for

15. my pardon: i.e., that you pardon me

26. **repetition:** rehearsal (of the past), further mention

30. A stranger: i.e., as if he were someone new to me

34. hath reference to: i.e., is referred to, is to be decided by

35. letters: i.e., a letter

| As mad in folly, lacked the sense to know           |    |
|---|----|
| Her estimation home.                                |    |
| COUNTESS 'Tis past, my liege,                       | 5  |
| And I beseech your Majesty to make it               |    |
| Natural rebellion done i' th' blade of youth,       |    |
| When oil and fire, too strong for reason's force,   |    |
| O'erbears it and burns on.                          |    |
| KING My honored lady,                               | 10 |
| I have forgiven and forgotten all,                  |    |
| Though my revenges were high bent upon him          |    |
| And watched the time to shoot.                      |    |
| LAFEW This I must say—                              |    |
| But first I beg my pardon: the young lord           | 15 |
| Did to his Majesty, his mother, and his lady        | 88 |
| Offense of mighty note, but to himself              |    |
| The greatest wrong of all. He lost a wife           |    |
| Whose beauty did astonish the survey                |    |
| Of richest eyes, whose words all ears took captive, | 20 |
| Whose dear perfection hearts that scorned to serve  |    |
| Humbly called mistress.                             |    |
| KING Praising what is lost                          |    |
| Makes the remembrance dear. Well, call him hither.  |    |
| We are reconciled, and the first view shall kill    | 25 |
| All repetition. Let him not ask our pardon.         |    |
| The nature of his great offense is dead,            |    |
| And deeper than oblivion we do bury                 |    |
| Th' incensing relics of it. Let him approach        |    |
| A stranger, no offender, and inform him             | 30 |
| So 'tis our will he should.                         | 50 |
| GENTLEMAN I shall, my liege. [He exits.]            |    |
| KING  |    |
| What says he to your daughter? Have you spoke?      |    |
| LAFEW   |    |
| All that he is hath reference to your Highness.     |    |
| KING  |    |
| Then shall we have a match. I have letters sent me  | 35 |
| That sets him high in fame.                         |    |
| The see and ingli in thine.                         |    |

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40-41. to the brightest . . . give way: i.e., divided clouds vield to sunshine (Proverbial: "After black clouds, clear weather.")

47. take . . . top: i.e., seize the moment (The forward top, or forelock, alludes to the proverb "Seize occasion by the forelock," i.e., before it passes by.)

See picture, page 196.

53-60. I stuck . . . object: i.e., her image so impressed my heart that the face and form of every other woman was distorted stuck: fixed infixing: fixing or fastening on his: i.e., its perspective: optical glass that distorts images (accent on first syllable) favor: face fair color: i.e., beautiful complexion expressed it stol'n: i.e., rendered or portrayed it as artificial, not natural proportions: figures, forms To: i.e., into

61. she: i.e., Helen

65. scores: debts

66. compt: account (both "reckoning of what you owe" and "statement regarding your moral conduct")

68. turns: i.e., turns into

70. Make trivial price of: i.e., devalue

#### Enter Count Bertram.

LAFEW He looks well on 't. KING I am not a day of season. For thou mayst see a sunshine and a hail In me at once. But to the brightest beams 40 Distracted clouds give way. So stand thou forth. The time is fair again. BERTRAM My high-repented blames, Dear sovereign, pardon to me. All is whole. KING 45 Not one word more of the consumed time. Let's take the instant by the forward top. For we are old, and on our quick'st decrees Th' inaudible and noiseless foot of time Steals ere we can effect them. You remember 50 The daughter of this lord? BERTRAM Admiringly, my liege. At first I stuck my choice upon her, ere my heart Durst make too bold a herald of my tongue: Where the impression of mine eye infixing, 55 Contempt his scornful perspective did lend me, Which warped the line of every other favor, Scorned a fair color or expressed it stol'n, Extended or contracted all proportions To a most hideous object. Thence it came 60 That she whom all men praised and whom myself, Since I have lost, have loved, was in mine eye The dust that did offend it. Well excused KING That thou didst love her strikes some scores away 65 From the great compt. But love that comes too late, Like a remorseful pardon slowly carried, To the great sender turns a sour offense, Crying "That's good that's gone!" Our rash faults Make trivial price of serious things we have, 70 81. **ere they meet:** perhaps, before the marriage days intersect (in unhappiness); **cesse:** i.e., cease

82. son: i.e., future son-in-law

83. **digested:** dissolved, assimilated (since the daughter would take the husband's name)

89. last: i.e., last time; took her leave: i.e., took leave of her

96. Necessitied to help: i.e., in need of help

98. reave: rob, deprive



Taking Occasion "by the forward top." (5.3.47)
From Jean Jacques Boissard, ... Emblemes Latins ... (1588).

Not knowing them until we know their grave. Oft our displeasures, to ourselves unjust. Destroy our friends and after weep their dust. Our own love, waking, cries to see what's done, While shameful hate sleeps out the afternoon. 75 Be this sweet Helen's knell, and now forget her. Send forth your amorous token for fair Maudlin. The main consents are had, and here we'll stay To see our widower's second marriage day. [COUNTESS] Which better than the first, O dear heaven, bless, 80 Or, ere they meet, in me, O nature, cesse! LAFEW Come on, my son, in whom my house's name Must be digested, give a favor from you To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter, That she may quickly come. 「Bertram gives him a ring. ¬ By my old beard And ev'ry hair that's on-'t. Helen that's dead Was a sweet creature. Such a ring as this, The last that e'er I took her leave at court, I saw upon her finger. BERTRAM Hers it was not. KING Now, pray you, let me see it, for mine eve. While I was speaking, oft was fastened to 't. Lafew passes the ring to the King. This ring was mine, and when I gave it Helen, I bade her if her fortunes ever stood 95 Necessitied to help, that by this token I would relieve her. To Bertram Had you that craft to reave her Of what should stead her most? My gracious BERTRAM 100 sovereign,

106. rate: value, worth

112. ungaged: free, not bound to another

112–13. **subscribed . . . fortune:** i.e., acknowledged my situation

114. that course of honor: i.e., as honorable a way

116. heavy satisfaction: i.e., sorrowful acceptance of the truth

118–19. Plutus . . . med'cine: Plutus, the god of riches, here pictured as an alchemist who knows the deepest secrets of nature's mystery (line 120) tinct: tincture, quintessence multiplying med'cine: i.e., the elixir that turns metals into gold (thus multiplying the precious metal)

120. science: knowledge

125. to: i.e., as her

129. **Upon her great disaster:** i.e., if something disastrous happened to **her** 

133. fain: gladly; rather

| Howe'er it pleases you to take it so,                |     |
|--|-----|
| The ring was never hers.                             |     |
| COUNTESS Son, on my life,                            |     |
| I have seen her wear it, and she reckoned it         | 105 |
| At her life's rate.                                  | 100 |
| LAFEW I am sure I saw her wear it.                   |     |
| BERTRAM  |     |
| You are deceived, my lord. She never saw it.         |     |
| In Florence was it from a casement thrown me,        |     |
| Wrapped in a paper which contained the name          | 110 |
| Of her that threw it. Noble she was, and thought     |     |
| I stood [ungaged,] but when I had subscribed         |     |
| To mine own fortune and informed her fully           |     |
| I could not answer in that course of honor           |     |
| As she had made the overture, she ceased             | 115 |
| In heavy satisfaction and would never                |     |
| Receive the ring again.                              |     |
| KING Plutus himself,                                 |     |
| That knows the tinct and multiplying med'cine,       |     |
| Hath not in nature's mystery more science            | 120 |
| Than I have in this ring. 'Twas mine, 'twas Helen's, |     |
| Whoever gave it you. Then if you know                |     |
| That you are well acquainted with yourself,          |     |
| Confess 'twas hers and by what rough enforcement     |     |
| You got it from her. She called the saints to surety | 125 |
| That she would never put it from her finger          |     |
| Unless she gave it to yourself in bed,               |     |
| Where you have never come, or sent it us             |     |
| Upon her great disaster.                             |     |
| She never saw it.                                    | 130 |
| KING   |     |
| Thou speak'st it falsely, as I love mine honor,      |     |
| And mak'st conjectural fears to come into me         |     |
| Which I would fain shut out. If it should prove      |     |
| That thou art so inhuman—'twill not prove so,        |     |
| And yet I know not. Thou didst hate her deadly,      | 135 |

140. tax my fears of little vanity: i.e., not accuse my fears of having no worth or value

141. Having vainly: i.e., since I foolishly

144. easy: i.e., easily

151. **for four...short:** i.e., because **four or five** times (she) arrived too late, after the court had already moved on

152. tender: present

154. this: i.e., this time, now

155. looks: perhaps, shows itself

156. **importing:** i.e., urgent

157. verbal brief: i.e., oral summary or abstract

166. undone: ruined, destroyed



Earing (plowing) the land. (1.3.45) From Joseph Blagrave, *The epitomie of the art of husbandry*...(1685).

And she is dead, which nothing but to close Her eyes myself could win me to believe More than to see this ring.—Take him away. My forepast proofs, howe'er the matter fall. Shall tax my fears of little vanity. 140 Having vainly feared too little. Away with him. We'll sift this matter further If you shall prove BERTRAM This ring was ever hers, you shall as easy Prove that I husbanded her bed in Florence. 145 Where yet she never was. THe exits, under guard. KING I am wrapped in dismal thinkings.

#### Enter a Gentleman.

GENTLEMAN Gracious sovereign. Whether I have been to blame or no, I know not. THe gives the King a paper. Here's a petition from a Florentine 150 Who hath for four or five removes come short To tender it herself. I undertook it, Vanquished thereto by the fair grace and speech Of the poor suppliant, who, by this, I know Is here attending. Her business looks in her 155 With an importing visage, and she told me, In a sweet verbal brief, it did concern Your Highness with herself. KING reads Upon his many protestations to marry me when his wife was dead, I blush to say it, he won 160 me. Now is the Count Rossillion a widower, his vows are forfeited to me and my honor's paid to him.

when his wife was dead, I blush to say it, he won 160 me. Now is the Count Rossillion a widower, his vows are forfeited to me and my honor's paid to him. He stole from Florence, taking no leave, and I follow him to his country for justice. Grant it me, O king. In you it best lies. Otherwise a seducer flourishes, 165 and a poor maid is undone.

Diana Capilet.

LAFEW I will buy me a son-in-law in a fair, and toll for

168. **in a fair:** Since fairs were notorious for the sale of stolen goods, Lafew seems to be implying that he could find a **son-in-law** better than Bertram almost anywhere he looked.

168–69. **toll for this:** i.e., sell this one (literally, register this one in the toll-book at the market)

169. I'll none of: i.e., I do not want

171. suitors: petitioners

177. fly them as: i.e., flee from them just as soon as; swear them lordship: i.e., marry them

178. Yet: still

181. Derivèd: descended



"An old courtier." (1.1.162) From Cesare Vecellio, *Degli habiti antichi et moderni* . . . (1590).

DIANA
I am, m
Derived
My suit
And the

this. I'll none of him.

KING

The heavens have thought well on thee, Lafew,
To bring forth this discov'ry.—Seek these suitors.

Go speedily, and bring again the Count.

Gentleman and Attendants exit.

I am afeard the life of Helen, lady,

Was foully snatched.

COUNTESS Now justice on the doers! 175

Enter Bertram \under guard.\

I wonder, sir, 「since wives are monsters to you And that you fly them as you swear them lordship, Yet you desire to marry.

Enter Widow \[ and \] Diana.

What woman's that?

I am, my lord, a wretched Florentine, Derivèd from the ancient Capilet. My suit, as I do understand, you know And therefore know how far I may be pitied.

I am her mother, sir, whose age and honor
Both suffer under this complaint we bring,
And both shall cease without your remedy.

KING

Come hither, count. Do you know these women? BERTRAM

My lord, I neither can nor will deny
But that I know them. Do they charge me further?

DIANA

Why do you look so strange upon your wife?

190

180

193. this hand: i.e., your hand (which, as a part of the betrothal ceremony, is pledged to the betrothed)

199. comes too short: is inadequate

201. fond: (1) foolish; (2) doting

206. for: i.e., as for; you have them ill to friend: i.e., they are not on your side

213. impudent: shameless, lacking decency

214. gamester: i.e., player of sexual "games," prostitute

218. rich validity: i.e., great value

220. commoner: i.e., common harlot, prostitute



A cuckold. (1.3.46; 2.2.25) From Bagford ballads (printed in 1878).

BERTRAM She's none of mine, my lord. If you shall marry, DIANA You give away this hand, and that is mine: You give away heaven's vows, and those are mine; You give away myself, which is known mine, 195 For I by yow am so embodied yours That she which marries you must marry me, Either both or none. LAFEW, \(\frac{1}{to}\) Bertram \(\frac{1}{2}\) Your reputation comes too short for my daughter. You are no husband for her. 200 BERTRAM, To the King? My lord, this is a fond and desp'rate creature Whom sometime I have laughed with. Let your Highness Lay a more noble thought upon mine honor Than for to think that I would sink it here. 205 KING Sir, for my thoughts, you have them ill to friend Till your deeds gain them. Fairer prove your honor Than in my thought it lies. Good my lord. DIANA Ask him upon his oath if he does think 210 He had not my virginity. KING What sayst thou to her? She's impudent, my lord, BERTRAM And was a common gamester to the camp. DIANA He does me wrong, my lord. If I were so, 215 He might have bought me at a common price. Do not believe him. O. behold this ring. Whose high respect and rich validity Did lack a parallel. Yet for all that He gave it to a commoner o' th' camp, 220 If I be one.

| 225  | owed: | : - |      |
|------|-------|-----|------|
| 440. | owear | 1.0 | OWNE |

234. quoted for: i.e., noted or set down as

235. taxed: censured; debauched: disparaged, vilified

236. but: i.e., merely, simply

237. or that: i.e., either that; for: because of

241. boarded: made advances to

242. **distance:** a technical term from fencing (the interval of space to be maintained between two combatants), here applied to the game of seduction

243. Madding: exciting, enraging

244. fancy's: i.e., desire's

245. motives: causes, instigators; in fine: finally

246. modern grace: ordinary charm

247. rate: i.e., terms

251. turned off: dismissed

252. diet me: i.e., limit the satisfaction you'll offer me

He blushes, and 'tis hit. COUNTESS Of six preceding ancestors that gem. Conferred by testament to th' sequent issue. Hath it been owed and worn. This is his wife. 225 That ring's a thousand proofs. KING, Tto Diana Methought you said You saw one here in court could witness it. DIANA I did, my lord, but loath am to produce So bad an instrument. His name's Parolles. 230 LAFEW I saw the man today, if man he be. KING 「Attendant exits. Find him, and bring him hither. What of him? BERTRAM He's quoted for a most perfidious slave, With all the spots o' th' world taxed and debauched, 235 Whose nature sickens but to speak a truth. Am I or that or this for what he'll utter. That will speak anything?. KING She hath that ring of yours. BERTRAM I think she has. Certain it is I liked her 240 And boarded her i' th' wanton way of youth. She knew her distance and did angle for me, Madding my eagerness with her restraint, As all impediments in fancy's course Are motives of more fancy; and in fine 245 Her [infinite cunning] with her modern grace Subdued me to her rate. She got the ring, And I had that which any inferior might At market price have bought. I must be patient. DIANA 250 You that have turned off a first so noble wife May justly diet me. I pray you yet-Since you lack virtue, I will lose a husband254. **Send:** Since Diana is wearing or holding this **ring** (line 217), she here must mean "ask." **home:** i.e., to its **home,** to its owner

261. goes false: i.e., is untrue that

265. starts: startles

270. **on your just proceeding:** i.e., if you behave honorably; **keep off:** hinder from touching you, ward **off** 

271. By, by: concerning, about

279–80. a woman: The distinction here between gentleman and woman suggests that a gentleman would love someone of his own social status (a gentlewoman or lady) differently than he would love someone beneath him (a woman).



A musk-cat or musk-deer. (5.2.21) From Edward Topsell, The historie of foure-footed beastes . . . (1607).

Send for your ring. I will return it home, And give me mine again. 255 BERTRAM I have it not. KING, [to Diana] What ring was yours, I pray you? DIANA Sir, much like the same upon your finger. KING Know you this ring? This ring was his of late. DIANA And this was it I gave him, being abed. 260 KING The story, then, goes false you threw it him Out of a casement? I have spoke the truth. DIANA Enter Parolles. BERTRAM My lord, I do confess the ring was hers. KING You boggle shrewdly. Every feather starts you.-Is this the man you speak of? DIANA Av. my lord. KING Tell me, sirrah—but tell me true, I charge you, Not fearing the displeasure of your master, Which, on your just proceeding, I'll keep off-270 By him and by this woman here what know you? PAROLLES So please your Majesty, my master hath been an honorable gentleman. Tricks he hath had in him which gentlemen have. KING Come, come, to th' purpose. Did he love this 275 woman? PAROLLES Faith, sir, he did love her, but how? KING How, I pray you? PAROLLES He did love her, sir, as a gentleman loves a woman. 280

208

284. **companion:** fellow (often, as here, a term of contempt)

287. drum: drummer; naughty: bad, inferior

295. of Satan . . . furies: i.e., of the torment he was in limbo: i.e., Hell furies: avenging goddesses (See below.)

296. in that credit with them: i.e., so much in their confidence

298. motions: proposals

302. fine: subtle, refined



The Furies. (5.3.295)
From Vincenzo Cartari, *Le vere e noue imagini* . . . (1615).

KING How is that? PAROLLES He loved her, sir, and loved her not. KING As thou art a knave and no knave. What an equivocal companion is this! PAROLLES I am a poor man, and at your Majesty's 285 command. LAFEW He's a good drum, my lord, but a naughty orator. DIANA Do you know he promised me marriage? PAROLLES Faith, I know more than I'll speak. 290 KING But wilt thou not speak all thou know'st? PAROLLES Yes, so please your Majesty. I did go between them, as I said; but more than that he loved her, for indeed he was mad for her, and talked of Satan and of limbo and of furies and I 295 know not what. Yet I was in that credit with them at that time, that I knew of their going to bed and of other motions, as promising her marriage, and things which would derive me ill will to speak of. Therefore I will not speak what I know. 300 KING Thou hast spoken all already, unless thou canst say they are married. But thou art too fine in thy evidence. Therefore stand aside. 「To Diana. ¬ This ring you say was yours? Ay, my good lord. DIANA 305 KING Where did you buy it? Or who gave it you? It was not given me, nor I did not buy it. KING Who lent it you? It was not lent me neither. DIANA KING Where did you find it then? 310

I found it not.

210

DIANA

KING .

326. **customer**: prostitute

328. Wherefore: why

330. maid: virgin



Hercules' words taking "all ears . . . captive." (5.3.20) From Vincenzo Cartari, *Le vere e noue imagini* . . . (1615).

If it were yours by none of all these ways, How could you give it him? I never gave it him. DIANA LAFEW This woman's an easy glove, my lord; she goes 315 off and on at pleasure. KING This ring was mine. I gave it his first wife. It might be yours or hers for aught I know. KING, Tto Attendants Take her away. I do not like her now. To prison with her, and away with him.— 320 Unless thou tell'st me where thou hadst this ring, Thou diest within this hour. DIANA I'll never tell you. KING Take her away. I'll put in bail, my liege. DIANA 325 KING I think thee now some common customer. DIANA, Tto Bertram? By Jove, if ever I knew man, 'twas you. KING Wherefore hast thou accused him all this while? DIANA Because he's guilty and he is not guilty. He knows I am no maid, and he'll swear to 't. 330 I'll swear I am a maid, and he knows not. Great king, I am no strumpet. By my life, I am either maid or else this old man's wife. KING She does abuse our ears. To prison with her. DIANA Good mother, fetch my bail. Widow exits. Stay. 335 royal sir.

| 337. | owes: | owns |
|------|-------|------|
|      |       | ~    |

338. surety: i.e., be surety for

339. he knows himself: i.e., he himself knows

340. quit: (1) acquit; (2) repay

344. quick: (1) alive; (2) pregnant

346. **exorcist:** conjuror (who has summoned this spirit)

347. **Beguiles the truer office:** i.e., deludes the more trustworthy function

350. **shadow:** spectral form (that might be called up by an **exorcist**), with wordplay on (1) a form from which the substance has departed; and (2) a delusive semblance or image

355. look you: i.e., see

364. mother: i.e., mother-in-law

366. **Tom Drum:** probably an allusion to the proverbial **Tom** (or John) **Drum's entertainment** (See note to 3.6.38–39.)

366-67. handkercher: i.e., handkerchief

| The jeweler that owes the ring is sent for, And he shall surety me. But for this lord Who hath abused me as he knows himself, Though yet he never harmed me, here I quit him. He knows himself my bed he hath defiled, And at that time he got his wife with child. Dead though she be, she feels her young one kick. | 340      |
|---|----------|
| So there's my riddle: one that's dead is quick.   | 12/12/22 |
| And now behold the meaning.   | 345      |
| Enter Helen and Widow.  |          |
| KING Is there no exorcist   |          |
| Beguiles the truer office of mine eyes?   | æ ,      |
| Is 't real that I see?  |          |
| HELEN No, my good lord,   |          |
| Tis but the shadow of a wife you see,   | 350      |
| The name and not the thing.   |          |
| Bertram Both, both. O, pardon!  |          |
| HELEN   |          |
| O, my good lord, when I was like this maid,   |          |
| I found you wondrous kind. There is your ring,  |          |
| And, look you, here's your letter. \( \simega \) She takes out a paper. \( \subseteq \) This it says:   | 355      |
| When from my finger you can get this ring   |          |
| And \[ \text{are} \] by me with child, etc. This is done.   |          |
| Will you be mine now you are doubly won?  |          |
| BERTRAM   |          |
| If she, my liege, can make me know this clearly, I'll love her dearly, ever, ever dearly.   | 360      |
| HELEN   |          |
| If it appear not plain and prove untrue,  |          |
| Deadly divorce step between me and you.—  |          |
| O my dear mother, do I see you living?  |          |
| LAFEW   |          |
| Mine eyes smell onions. I shall weep anon.—  To Parolles. Good Tom Drum, lend me a hand-  | 365      |

368. make sport: i.e., amuse myself; courtesies: low bows

371. even: exact, precise

372. fresh uncroppèd flower: i.e., virgin

377. **Resolvedly:** perhaps, so as to resolve doubt or uncertainty

378. **meet:** fitly, properly 379. **past:** i.e., being **past** 

kercher. So, I thank thee. Wait on me home. I'll make sport with thee. Let thy courtesies alone. They are scurvy ones.

KING

Let us from point to point this story know,

To make the even truth in pleasure flow.

To Diana. If thou be'st yet a fresh uncropped flower,
Choose thou thy husband, and I'll pay thy dower.

For I can guess that by thy honest aid
Thou kept'st a wife herself, thyself a maid.

Of that and all the progress more and less,
Resolvedly more leisure shall express.

All yet seems well, and if it end so meet,
The bitter past, more welcome is the sweet.

Flourish.

#### **Epilogue**

4. **strift:** striving

5. Ours . . . patience: i.e., we will take on the role of listening patiently; yours our parts: i.e., you (by applauding) will take over our parts as actors

### Giletta of Narbona

CGiletta a Phifficians boughter of Narbon, heales the Frenche laing of a Fiftula,for remarb inhere of the bemaubed Beltramo Coute of Rossiglionets bulbande. The Counte being maried againfie his wil,for befpite flet to Florence, and loued an other. Gilctta his wife , by pollicie founde meanes to lye with her bufbande, in place of his louer, and was begotten with chilo of two Comes : whiche knowen to ber hufbande, he receiued her againe, and afterwardes the lined in great honozand felicitie

Gileta, a physician's daughter of Narbon, healed the French king of a fistula, for reward whereof she demanded Beltramo Count of Rossillion to husband. The Count being married against his will, for despite fled to Florence and loved another. Giletta, his wife, by policy found means to lie with her husband in place of his lover, and was begotten with child of two sons, which known to her husband he received her again, and afterwards she lived in great honor and felicity.

Synopsis of the plot of "Giletta of Narbona." the primary source for All's Well That Ends Well. From William Painter, The pallace of pleasure . . . (1569).

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#### [EPILOGUE]

The King's a beggar, now the play is done. All is well ended if this suit be won. That you express content, which we will pay. With strift to please you, day exceeding day. Ours be your patience, then, and yours our parts. Your gentle hands lend us, and take our hearts.

All exit.