

10 Dogberry, Verges, Sexton, Conrad, Borachio

ACT 4, SCENE 2

Enter DOGBERRY, VERGES, and SEXTON, in gowns; and the Watch, with CONRADE and BORACHIO

DOGBERRY

Is our whole dissembly appeared?

VERGES

Oh, a stool and a cushion for the Sexton.

A stool is brought in. SEXTON sits

SEXTON

Which be the malefactors?

DOGBERRY

Marry, that am I and my partner.

VERGES

5 Nay, that's certain; we have the exhibition to examine.

SEXTON

But which are the offenders that are to be examined? Let them come before Master Constable.

DOGBERRY

Yea, marry, let them come before me.

What is your name, friend?

BORACHIO and CONRADE come forward

BORACHIO

10 Borachio.

DOGBERRY

Pray, write down, "Borachio."—Yours, sirrah?

CONRADE

I am a gentleman, sir, and my name is Conrade.

DOGBERRY

Write down "Master Gentleman Conrade."—Masters, do you serve God?

CONRADE, BORACHIO

15 Yea, sir, we hope.

DOGBERRY

Write down that they hope they serve God; and write God first, for God defend but God should go before such villains!—Masters, it is proved already that you are little better than false knaves, and it will go near to be thought so
20 shortly. How answer you for yourselves?

CONRADE

Marry, sir, we say we are none.

DOGBERRY

A marvelous witty fellow, I assure you, but I will go about with him.—Come you hither, sirrah, a word in your ear. Sir, I say to you it is thought you are false knaves.

BORACHIO

25 Sir, I say to you we are none.

DOGBERRY

Well, stand aside.—'Fore God, they are both in a tale. Have you writ down that they are none?

SEXTON

Master Constable, you go not the way to examine. You must call forth the watch that are their accusers.

DOGBERRY

30 Yea, marry, that's the eftest way.—Let the watch come forth. Masters, I charge you in the Prince's name, accuse these men.

FIRST WATCHMAN

This man said, sir, that Don John, the Prince's brother, was a villain.

DOGBERRY

35 Write down Prince John a villain. Why, this is flat perjury, to call a prince's brother villain.

BORACHIO

Master Constable—

DOGBERRY

Pray thee, fellow, peace. I do not like thy look, I promise thee.

SEXTON

40 *(to Watch)* What heard you him say else?

SECOND WATCHMAN

Marry, that he had received a thousand ducats of Don John for accusing the Lady Hero wrongfully.

DOGBERRY

Flat burglary as ever was committed.

VERGES

Yea, by Mass, that it is.

SEXTON

45 What else, fellow?

FIRST WATCHMAN

And that Count Claudio did mean upon his words to disgrace Hero before the whole assembly, and not marry her.

DOGBERRY

50 *(to BORACHIO)* O villain! Thou wilt be condemned into everlasting redemption for this.

SEXTON

What else?

FIRST WATCHMAN

This is all.

SEXTON

And this is more, masters, than you can deny. Prince John is this morning secretly stolen away. Hero was in this manner accused, in this very manner refused, and upon the grief of this, suddenly died.—Master Constable, let these men be bound and brought to Leonato's. I will go before and show him their examination.

*Exit***DOGBERRY**

Come, let them be opinioned.

VERGES

Let them be in the hands—

CONRADE

Off, coxcomb!

DOGBERRY

God's my life, where's the Sexton? Let him write down the Prince's officer "coxcomb." Come, bind them.—Thou naughty varlet!

CONRADE

Away! You are an ass, you are an ass!

DOGBERRY

Dost thou not suspect my place? Dost thou not suspect my years? Oh, that he were here to write me down an ass! But masters, remember that I am an ass, though it be not written down, yet forget not that I am an ass.—No, thou villain, thou art full of piety, as shall be proved upon thee by good witness. I am a wise fellow and, which is more, an officer and, which is more, a householder and, which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any is in Messina, and one that knows the law, go to, and a rich fellow enough, go to, and a fellow that hath had losses, and one that hath two gowns and everything handsome about him.—Bring him away.—Oh, that I had been writ down an ass!

Exeunt