

ACT 1, SCENE 3

Enter DON JOHN and CONRAD

CONRAD

What the goodyear, my lord, why are you thus out of measure sad?

DON JOHN

There is no measure in the occasion that breeds. Therefore the sadness is without limit.

CONRAD

5 You should hear reason.

DON JOHN

And when I have heard it, what blessing brings it?

CONRAD

If not a present remedy, at least a patient sufferance.

DON JOHN

10 I wonder that thou, being, as thou sayst thou art, born under Saturn, goest about to apply a moral medicine to a mortifying mischief. I cannot hide what I am. I must be sad when I have cause and smile at no man's jests, eat when I have stomach and wait for no man's leisure, sleep when I am drowsy and tend on no man's business, laugh when I am merry and claw no man in his humor.

CONRAD

15 Yea, but you must not make the full show of this till you may do it without controlment. You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace, where it is impossible you should take true root but by the fair weather that you make yourself. It is needful that
20 you frame the season for your own harvest.

DON JOHN

25 I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in his grace,
and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all than to
fashion a carriage to rob love from any. In this, though I
cannot be said to be a flattering honest man, it must not be
denied but I am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with a
muzzle and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I have
decreed not to sing in my cage. If I had my mouth, I would
bite; if I had my liberty, I would do my liking. In the
meantime, let me be that I am, and seek not to alter me.

CONRAD

30 Can you make no use of your discontent?

DON JOHN

I make all use of it, for I use it only. Who comes here?

Enter BORACHIO

What news, Borachio?

BORACHIO

35 I came yonder from a great supper. The Prince your brother
is royally entertained by Leonato, and I can give you
intelligence of an intended marriage.

DON JOHN

Will it serve for any model to build mischief on? What is he
for a fool that betroths himself to unquietness?

BORACHIO

Marry, it is your brother's right hand.

DON JOHN

Who? The most exquisite Claudio?

BORACHIO

40 Even he.

DON JOHN

A proper squire. And who, and who? Which way looks he?

BORACHIO

Marry, on Hero, the daughter and heir of Leonato.

DON JOHN

A very forward March-chick! How came you to this?

BORACHIO

45 Being entertained for a perfumer, as I was smoking a musty room, comes me the Prince and Claudio, hand in hand, in sad conference. I whipped me behind the arras, and there heard it agreed upon that the Prince should woo Hero for himself, and having obtained her, give her to Count Claudio.

DON JOHN

50 Come, come, let us thither. This may prove food to my displeasure. That young start-up hath all the glory of my overthrow. If I can cross him any way, I bless myself every way. You are both sure, and will assist me?

CONRAD

To the death, my lord.

DON JOHN

55 Let us to the great supper. Their cheer is the greater that I am subdued. Would the cook were o' my mind! Shall we go prove what's to be done?

BORACHIO

We'll wait upon your lordship.

Exeunt