MEASURE FOR MEASURE

THE DUKE, unnamed in play, but 'Vincentio' in Folio list of roles
ANGELO, the Deputy
ESCALUS, an ancient lord
CLAUDIO, a young gentleman
LUCIO, a fanatic
Two other like GENTLEMEN
PROVOST
THOMAS and PETER, two friars (probably the same character, with misremembered name)
A JUSTICE
VARAGUS, a lord, friend to the duke
ELBOW, a simple constable
FROTH, a foolish gentleman
POMPETE, the clown, servant to Mistress Overdone
ADHORSON, an executioner
BARNARDINE, a dissolute prisoner
ISABELLA, sister to Claudio
MARIANA, betrothed to Angelo
JULIET, beloved of Claudio
FRANCISCA, a nun
MISTRESS OVERDONE, a bawd
BOY, singer attending Marianna
Lords, Officers, Citizens, Servants, Messenger, Attendants

The Scene: Vienna

Act 1 Scene 1

Enter Duke, Escalus, Lords [and Attendants]

DUKE Escalus.
ESCALUS My lord.
DUKE Of government the properties to unfold
Would seem to me 'tis but speech and discourse.
Since I am put to know that your own science
Exceeds, in that, the lists of all advice
My strength can give you. Then no more remains
But that to your sufficiency as your worth is able.
And let them work. The nature of our people,
Our city's institutions, and the terms
For common justice, you're as pregnant in
An art and practice hath enriched any
That we remember. There is our commission,
From which we would not have you war. Calm hither.

Hands him a paper

[Exit an Attendant]

I say, bid come before us Angelo.
What figure of us think you he will bear?
For you must know, we have with special soul
Elected him our absence to supply.
Lent him our terror, dressed him with our love.
And given his deputation all the organs
Of our own power. What think you of it?
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 1.1

ESCALUS If any in Vienna be of worth
To undergo such ample grace and honour,
It is Lord Angelo.

DUKE Look where he comes.

Enter Angelo

ANGELO Always obedient to your grace's will.
I come to know your pleasure.

DUKE Angelo.

There is a kind of character in thy life
That to th' observer doth thy history
Foolishly unfold. Thyself and thy belongings
Are not thine own so proper us to waste
Thyself upon thy virtues, they on thee.
Heaven doth with us as we with torches do,
Not light them for ourselves: for if our virtues
Did not go forth of us, we were all alike.
As if we had them not. Spirits are not finely touched
But to fine issues, nor nature never lends
The smallest scruple of her excellence.
But, like a thrifty goddess, she determines
Herself the glory of a creditor.
Both thanks and use, but I do bend my speech
To one that can my part in him advertise.
Hold therefore, Angelo.

In our remove be thou at full oneself:
Mortality and mercy in Vienna
Live in thy tongue and heart. Old Escalus.
Though first in question, is thy secondary.
Take thy commission.

ANGELO Now, good my lord.
Let there be some more test made of my mettle.
Before so noble and so great a figure
Be stamped upon it.

DUKE No more evasion.

We have with a leavened and prepared choice
Proceeded to you: therefore take your honours.
Our haste from hence is of so quick condition
That it prefers itself and leaves unquestioned
Matters of needful value. We shall write to you.

As time and our concernsments shall importune
How it goes with us, and do look to know
What doth befall you here. So, fare you well:
To th' hopeful execution do I leave you
Of your commissions.

ANGELO Yet give leave, my lord.
That we may bring you something on the way.

23 undergo, sustain grace favour. Angelo from the word 'angel', a celestial being, as well as a guilt coin bearing the image of the Archangel Michael.
27 pleasure within. 29 character distinction mark/personal mark/individual handwriting. 30 history life story/record. 31 unfolded reveals reveal. belongings attributes. 32 Are proper do not belong to you exclusively (i.e. you have a duty in the public good to glorify your talents) waste three i.e. you cannot squander your virtue for purely personal ends or waste your present efforts purely in cultivating your vices. 38 of them (i.e. in public service). 39 Spirits offices/impressions. 40 touched controlled put to the test or印ed, like cloth. 39 But too except to do the deed/accept, like cloth to be refined and put into circulation. 39 scruple tiny amount. 40 thrifty, thrifty. economical determines... use applies herself the privileges of a creditor, mainly based gratitude for the free and liberal feelings (use terms on the sense of 'liberty owing nature's gift'). 42 bond direct. 43 my... advertise. 44 Hold well a monstrance stand, or take what I am about to offer you. 46 moral absence at full in every respect. 46 Mortality power to impose the death penalty. 48 first to question first under consideration, binary. 51 mettle character/previous sense of 'tart'. 52 figure image. 55 bestowed carefully considered/masculine like the quick feet of a man. 57 quick condition urgent a nature. 58 prefers itself takes precedence. 59 needful unexamined. 59 needful value necessary importance. 60 concerned affairs important urge. 61 look expect. 63 th' hopeful the promising. 65 leave permission. 66 bring you something accompany you a little.
DUKE. My haste may not admit it. Nor need you, or mine honour, have to do With any scruple. Your scope is as mine own.

So to enforce or qualify the laws As to your soul seems good. Give me your hand. I'll prievly away, I love the people. But do not like to stage me to their eyes: Though it do well, I do not relish well Their loud applause and aves vehement. Nor do I think the man of safe discretion That does affect it. Once more, fare you well.

ANGELO. The heavens give safety to your purposes!

ESCALUS. Lead forth and bring you back in happiness!

DUKE. I thank you. Fare you well. Exit

ESCALUS. I shall desire you, sir, to give me leave To have free speech with you: and it concerns me To look into the bottom of my place. A power 1 have, but of what strength and nature I am not yet instructed.

ANGELO. Tis so with me. Let us withdraw together. And we may soon our satisfaction have Touching that point.

ESCALUS. I'll wait upon your honour. Exit

Act 1 Scene 2

Enter Lucio and two other Gentlemen

LUCIO. If the duke with the other dukes come not to composition with the King of Hungary, why then all the dukes fall upon the king.

FIRST GENTLEMAN. Heaven grant us its peace, but not the King of Hungary's!

SECOND GENTLEMAN. Abru.

LUCIO. Thou conceivest like the sanctimonious pirate, that went to sea with the Ten Commandments, but scraped one out of the table.

SECOND GENTLEMAN. Thou shalt not steal?

LUCIO. Ay, that he razed,

FIRST GENTLEMAN. Why, 'twas a commandment to command the captain and all the rest from their functions: they put forth to steal. There's not a soldier of us all that, in the thanksgiving before meat, do relish the petition well that prays for peace.

SECOND GENTLEMAN. I never heard any soldier dislike it.

LUCIO. I believe thee; for I think thou never wast where grace was said.

SECOND GENTLEMAN. No; a dozen times at least.

FIRST GENTLEMAN. What, in metre?

LUCIO. In any proportion or in any language.

FIRST GENTLEMAN. I think, or in any religion.

LUCIO. Ay, why not? Grace is grace, despite of all controversy: as for example, thou thyself art a wicked villain, despite of all grace.

FIRST GENTLEMAN. Well, there went but a pair of shears between us.

LUCIO. I grant, as there may between the lists and the velvet. Thou art the list.

67 admit allow; 68 have...sacrament; 69 secret; 70 privately secre ye 71 stage me politely display myself; 74 do well is being politely appropriate pleasing or the crowd; 75 scenes becoming about; 76 safe discretion sound judgment; 77 affect cultivate; 80 Lead me away they lead you; 82 conscience...place is important to me to establish the full extent of my position; 88 Touching regard; 1.2 Lucio from the Italian for light; bright of loose morals. 1 composition settlement foot upon stood; 3 peace...Hungary's plays on the notion of a 'holy peace', during which jobless soldiers sang to feed themselves. 4 sanctimonious sanctimoniously pleasing 5 table this one or wold dish inscribed with the Ten Commandments 8 equal equal 10 from their functions in debt from their occupations put form set out 11 meat a meal petition entry 15 metre verse; 16 proportion firm; 18 controversy refers to religious dispute over the nature of God's grace (energy). In particular the pentecostal controversy over whether one's soul was saved by one's actions in life or by grace alone. 20 there...to i.e. we are both cut from the same cloth 21 lists plain fabric edge
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 1.2

FIRST GENTLEMAN And thou the velvet. Thou art good velvet; thou'rt a three-pieded piece. I warrant thee. I had as lief be a list of an English kersey as be piled, as thou art piled, for a French velvet. Do I speak feelingly now?

LUCIO I think thou dost, and indeed, with most painful feeling of thy speech. I will, out of thine own confession, learn to begin thy health. but, whilst I live, forget to drink after thee.

SECOND GENTLEMAN Yes, that thou hast, whether thou art tainted or free.

Enter Clown [Mistress Overdone]

LUCIO Behold, behold, where Madam Mitigation comes! I have purchased as many diseases under her roof as come to—

SECOND GENTLEMAN To what, I pray?

LUCIO A French crown more.

FIRST GENTLEMAN Thou art always figuring diseases in me, but thou art full of error. I am sound.

LUCIO Nay, not as one would say, healthy; but so sound as things that are hollow: thy bones are hollow, impyrie has made a feast of thee.

FIRST GENTLEMAN How now! Which of your hips has the most profound sciatica? To Mistress Overdone

MISTRESS OVERDONE Well, well. There's one yonder arrested and carried to prison was worth five thousand of you all.

SECOND GENTLEMAN Who's that? I pray thee?

MISTRESS OVERDONE Marry, sir, that's Claudio. Signior Claudio.

FIRST GENTLEMAN Claudio to prison? 'Tis not so.

MISTRESS OVERDONE Nay, but I know 'tis so. I saw him arrested, saw him carried away, and, which is more, within these three days his head to be chopped off.

LUCIO But, after all this feasting, I would not have it so. Art thou sure of this?

MISTRESS OVERDONE I am too sure of it. And it is for getting Madam Julietta with child.

LUCIO Believe me, this may be: he promised to meet me two hours since, and he was ever precise in promise-keeping.

SECOND GENTLEMAN Besides, you know, it draws something near to the speech we had to such a purpose.

FIRST GENTLEMAN But most of all agreeing with the proclamation.

LUCIO Away! Let's go learn the truth of it. Exeunt [Lucio and Gentlemen]

MISTRESS OVERDONE Thus, what with the war, what with the sweat, what with the galloways and what with poverty, I am custom-shrunk.

Enter Clown [Pompey]

POMPEY How now? What's the news with you?

Yonder man is carried to prison.

MISTRESS OVERDONE Well, what has he done?

POMPEY A woman.

MISTRESS OVERDONE But what's his offence?

POMPEY Gropping for trouts in a river.
MISTRESS OVERDONE What, is there a maid with child by him?

POMPEY No, but there's a woman with maid by him. You have not heard of the proclamation, have you?

MISTRESS OVERDONE What proclamation, man?

POMPEY All houses in the suburbs of Vienna must be plucked down.

MISTRESS OVERDONE And what shall become of those in the city?

POMPEY They shall stand for seed: they had gone down too, but that a wise burgess put in for them.

MISTRESS OVERDONE But shall all our houses of resort in the suburbs be pulled down?

POMPEY To the ground, mistress.

MISTRESS OVERDONE Why, here's a change indeed in the commonwealth! What shall become of me?

POMPEY Come, fear you not: good counsellors lack no clients. Though you change your place, you need not change your trade: I'll be your tapster still. Courage! There will be pity taken on you: you that have worn your eyes almost out in the service, you will be considered.


POMPEY Here comes Signior Claudio, led by the provost to prison, and there's Madam Juliet.

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Enter Provost, Claudio, Juliet. Officers: Lucio and the two Gentlemen [follow]

CLAUDIO Fellow, why dost thou show me thus to the world?

FEAR me to prison, where I am committed.

PROVOST I do it not in evil disposition.

But from Lord Angelo by special charge.

CLAUDIO Thus can the demagog Authority

Make us pay down for our offence by weight

The words of heaven: on whom it will, it will.

On whom it will not, so. Yet still 'tis just.

LUCIO Why, how now, Claudio? Whence comes this restraint?

CLAUDIO From too much liberty, my Lucio, liberty:

As surfeiture is the father of much fast.

So every scope by the immoderate use

Turns to restraint. Our natures do pursue,

Like rats that ravin down their proper bane.

LUCIO If I could speak so wisely under an arrest, I would send for certain of my creditors: and yet, to say the truth, I had as lief have the foppery of freedom as the morality of imprisonment. What's thy offence, Claudio?

CLAUDIO What but to speak of would offend again.

LUCIO What, is't murder?

CLAUDIO No.

LUCIO Lechery?

CLAUDIO Call it so.

PROVOST Away, sir. You must go.
CLAUDIO  One word, good friend, Lucio, a word with you.

LUCIO  A hundred, if they'll do you any good.

Is lechery so looked after?

CLAUDIO  Thus stands it with me: upon a true contract

I got possession of Juliet’s bed.

You know the lady, she is fast my wife,

Save that we do the denunciation lack

Of outward order. This we came not to

Only for propagation of a dowry

Remaining in the coffer of her friends.

From whom we thought it meet to hide our love

Till time had made them for us. But it chances

The stealth of our most mutual entertainment

With character too gross is writ on Juliet.

LUCIO  With child, perhaps?

CLAUDIO  Unhappily, even so.

And the new deputy now for the duke —

Whether it be the fault and glimpse of newness,

Or whether that the body public be

A horse whereon the governor doth ride.

Who, newly in the seat, that it may know

He can command, lets it straight feel the spur:

Whether the tyranny be in his place,

Or in his eminence that fills it up.

I stagger in — but this new governor

Awakes me all the enrolled penalties

Which have, like unsound armour, hung by th’wall

So long that nineteen zodiacs have gone round

And none of them been worn: and, for a name,

Now puts the drowsy and neglected act

Freshly on me. ’Tis surely for a name.

LUCIO  I warrant it is: and thy head stands so tinkle on thy shoulders that a

milkmaid, if she be in love, may sight it off. Send after the duke and appeal to him.

CLAUDIO  I have done so, but he’s not to be found.

I prithee, Lucio, do me this kind service:

This day my sister should the cloister enter

And there receive her approbation.

Acquaint her with the danger of my state,

Implore her, in my voice, that she make friends

To the strict deputy; bid herself assay him.

I have great hope in that, for in her youth

There is a prone and speechless dialect.

Such as move men. Beside, she hath prosperous art

When she will play with reason and discourse,

And well she can persuade.

LUCIO  I pray she may; as well for the encouragement of the like, which else would

stand under grievous imposition, as for the enjoyment of thy like, who I would be

sorry should be thus foolishly lost at a game of tick-tack. I’ll to her.

27 looked after vigilantly pursued, watched out for 28 true contract i.e. both parties declared their intention to marry, in the presence of witnesses 29 fast delivery 30 Save except denunciation official declaration 32 outward public/legal 33 propagation of a dowry inheritance/procreation of a dowry 34 friends relatives/precedent 35 meet right 36 made … us make them our allies 37 mutual entertainment love-making 38 character too gross writing that is too large, obvious 42 glimpse of newness brief glance at new power 43 body public state/policy 45 that is that 46 straight straight away 47 in his place refers to his official position 48 his … up the pride of the man who occupies that position 49 stagger in an uncertain 50 Awakes me revives (we is emphatic) 51 unsound armour, hung 52 zodiacs years 53 them i.e. the armament arms for a name to gain a reputation 54 bleeke precarious 55 obiter curiously 56 appropriation preparatory period as a novice (one in the early stages of becoming a monk) 57 To with essay include/insinuate 58 prove ready gentile, insinuate, submissive 59 dexterity skill common language 60 move affects/move prosperous art necessitate mechanical skill 61 discourse understanding 70 the like other guilty of the same offence 71 grievous imposition serious accusation/penalty 72 game of tick-tack form of beggar’s game where placing the pegs in holes, hence a complication for us
Enter Duke and Friar Thomas

DUKE No holy father, throw away that thought; Believe not that the dripping dart of love Can pierce a complete bosom. Why I desire thee To give me secret harbour hath a purpose More grace and wrinkled than the aims and ends Of burning youth.

FRIAR THOMAS May your grace speak of it?

DUKE My holy sir, none better knows than you How I have ever loved the life removed. And held in idle price to haunt assembles Where youth and cost and will and bravery keeps. I have delivered to Lord Angelo — A man of stricture and firm abstinance — My absolute power and place here in Vienna. And he supposes me travelled to Poland. For so I have strewed it in the common ear. And so it is received. Now, pious sir, You will demand of me why I do this.

FRIAR THOMAS Gladly, my lord.

DUKE We have strict statutes and most biting laws. The needful bits and curbs to headstrong weeds. Which for this fourteen years we have let slip, Even like an o’ergrown lion in a cave That goes not out to prey. Now, as fond fathers. Having bound up the threat’ning twigs of birth. Only to stick it in their children’s sight. For terror, not to use, in time the rod Becomes more mocked than feared: so our decrees. Dead to infraction, to themselves are dead. And liberty plucks justice by the nose. The baby beats the nurse, and quite athwart Goes all decorum.

FRIAR THOMAS It rested in your grace To unloose this tied-up justice when you pleased; And it in you more dreadful would have seemed Than in Lord Angelo.

DUKE I do fear, too dreadful. Sith ’twere my fault to give the people scope. ’Twould be my tyranny to strike and gall them For what I bid them do, for we bid this be done. When evil deeds have their permissive pass And not the punishment. Therefore indeed, my father.
Enter Isabella and Francesca, a nun

ISABELLA And have you nuns no further privileges?
FRANCESCA Are not these large enough?
ISABELLA Yes, truly. I speak not as desiring more,
But rather wishing a more strict restraint
Upon the sisterhood, the votarists of Saint Clare.
LUCIO Ho! Peace be in this place! Within
ISABELLA Who's that which calls?
FRANCESCA It is a man's voice. Gentle Isabella,
Turn you the key, and know his business of him:
You may, I may not; you are yet unsworn.
When you have vowed, you must not speak with men
But in the presence of the prioress.
Then, if you speak, you must not show your face.
Or, if you show your face, you must not speak.
He calls again. I pray you, answer him.
ISABELLA Peace and prosperity! Who's that calls?
[Exit Lucio]
LUCIO Hail, virgin, if you be, as those cheek-roses
Proclaim you are no less. Can you so steadfast
As bring me to the sight of Isabella.
A novice of this place and the fair sister
To her unhappy brother Claudio?
ISABELLA Why her unhappy brother? Let me ask.
The rather for I now must make you know
I am that Isabella and his sister.
LUCIO Gentle and fair, your brother kindly greets you.
Not to be weary with you. He's in prison.
ISABELLA Woe me! For what?
LUCIO  For that which, if myself might be his judge,
30  He should receive his punishment in thanks:
He hath got his friend with child.
ISABELLA  Sir, make me not your story.
LUCIO  'Tis true.
I would not, though 'tis my familiar sin
With marks to seem the lapwing and to jest.
35  Tongue far from heart, play with all virgin so,
I hold you as a thing enskied and painted
By your renouncement, an immortal spirit,
And to be talked with in sincerity,
As with a saint.
40  ISABELLA  You do blaspheme the good in mocking me.
LUCIO  Do not believe it. Fewness and truth, 'tis thus:
Your brother and his lover have embraced.
As those that feed grow full, as blossoming time
45  That from the seedness the bare fellow brings
To teeming fionian, even so her plenteous womb
Expresseth his full thilth and husbandry.
ISABELLA  Someone with child by him? My cousin Juliet?
LUCIO  Is she your cousin?
ISABELLA  Adoptedly, as school-maids change their names
By vain though apt affection.
LUCIO  She it is.
ISABELLA  O, let him marry her.
LUCIO  This is the point.
50  The duke is very strangely gone from hence.
Bore many gentlemen, myself being one.
In hand and hope of action: but we do learn
By those that know the very nerves of state.
His giving-out were of an infinite distance
55  From his true-meant design. Upon his place.
And with full line of his authority.
Governs Lord Angelo, a man whose blood
Is very snow-broth: one who never feels
The wanton stings and motions of the sense.
But doth rebate and blunt his natural edge
60  With profits of the mind, study and fast.
He — to give fear to use and liberty.
Which have for long run by the hideous law.
As mice by lions — hath picked out an act.
Under whose heavy sense your brother's life
65  Falls into forfeit. He arrests him on it.
And follows close the rigour of the statute
To make him an example. All hope is gone.
Unless you have the grace by your fair prayer
To soften Angelo: and that's my path of business
'Twixt you and your poor brother.

23 thanks gratitude/approval  30 friend lover  31 your story the subject of your mockery  33 familiar novel (plays on the sense of 'lovely intimate')
34 lapwing plower (bird associated with autumn temper and decree)  35 Tongue ... heart (i.e., my words contradicting my intentions, play for (with sexual connotations)  36 enskied in the skin, heavenly  37 By your renouncement because of your rejection of the mortal world (you are)  40 You ... me in mocking (mocking me, you define what is truly holy  41 Fewness in few words  42 embraced i.e., had sex  44 seedness act of sowing seeds  45 bare follow uncultivated land  46 teeming fionian plentiful harvest  48 Expresseth rinseth with and husbandry ploughing and cultivating (with sexual connotations)  49 cousin relationship friend  50 van ... affectation silly though natural bornness  55 Bore ... hand outshowingly kept many men (including me) waiting.
58 giving-out utterance  59 true-meant design real intention  60 upon in  62 snow-broth melted snow  63 wanton uncultivated/ lascivious motions urges sense novels  64 rebate blunt (put off a weapon/express edge blade/keen desire  65 profits improvements fast lasting  66 use (disposable) heat  67 hideous frightening  68 heavy sense phrase meaning  70 Falls into forfeit has to be given up  73 grace good fortune
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 2.1

ISABELLA  Doth he so seek his life?
LUCIO  Has censured him already.
      And, as I hear, the provost hath a warrant
      For his execution.

ISABELLA  Alas, what poor ability’s in me
      To do him good?
LUCIO  Assay the power you have.
ISABELLA  My power? Alas, I doubt—
LUCIO  Our doubts are traitors,
      And make us lose the good we oft might win
      By fearing to attempt. Go to Lord Angelo.
      And let him learn to know, when maidens sue,
      Men give like gods: but when they weep and kneel,
      All their petitions are as freely theirs
      As they themselves would owe them.
ISABELLA  I’ll see what I can do.
LUCIO  But speedily.
ISABELLA  I will about it straight.
      No longer staying but to give the mother
      Notice of my affair. I humbly thank you;
      Command me to my brother. Soon at night
      I’ll send him certain word of my success.
LUCIO  I take my leave of you.
ISABELLA  Good sir, adieu.

Exeunt [separately]

Act 2 Scene 1

Enter Angelo, Escalus, Servants, [and a] Justice

ANGELO  We must not make a scarecrow of the law,
      Setting it up to fear the birds of prey.
      And let it keep one shape, till custom make it
      Their perch and not their terror.

ESCALUS  Ay, but yet
      Let us be keen, and rather cut a little
      That fall and bruise to death. Alas, this gentleman
      Whom I would save had a most noble father.
      Let but your honour know—
      Whom I believe to be most strait in virtue —
      That, in the working of your own affections,
      Had time cohered with place or place with wishing.
      Or that the resolute acting of your blood
      Could have attained the effect of your own purpose.
      Whether you had not sometime in your life
      Erred in this point which now you censure him.
      And pulled the law upon you.

ANGELO  'Tis one thing to be tempted, Escalus,
      Another thing to fall. I do not deny,
      The jury passing on the prisoner’s life.
      May in the sworn twelve have a thief or two
      Guiltier than him they try. What’s open made to justice.
      That justice seizes. What knows the laws
That thieves do pass on thieves. Is't very pregnant.
The jewell that we find, we stoop and take it!
    Because we see it, but what we do not see
We tread upon, and never think of it.
You may not so exterminate his offence.
    For I have had such faults, but rather tell me,
When I, that censure him, do so offend.
Let mine own judgement pattern out my death.
    And nothing come in partial. Sir, he must die.

Enter Provost
ESCALUS Be it as your wisdom will.
ANGELO Where is the provost?
PROVOST Here, if it like your honour.
ANGELO See that Claudio
    Be executed by nine tomorrow morning.
    Bring him his confessor, let him be prepared.
    For that's the utmost of his pilgrimage.
[Exit Provost]

ESCALUS Well, heaven forgive him. and forgive us all.
    Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall.
    Some run from breaks of ice, and answer none.
    And some condemned for a fault alone.

Enter Elbow and Officers [with] Froth and [and] Clown [Pompey]
ELBOW Come, bring them away; if these be good people in a commonweal that do nothing but use their abuses in common houses. I know no law. Bring them away.
ANGELO How now, sir, what's your name? And what's the matter?
ELBOW If it please your honour, I am the poor duke's constable, and my name is Elbow: I do lean upon justice, sir, and do bring in here before your good honour two notorious benefactors.
ANGELO Benefactors! Well, what benefactors are they? Are they not malefactors?
ELBOW If it please your honour, I know not well what they are, but precise villains they are, that I am sure of, and void of all profession in the world that good Christians ought to have.

ESCALUS This comes off well: here's a wise officer.
ANGELO Go to, what quality are they of? Elbow is your name? Why dost thou not speak, Elbow?
POMPEY He cannot, sir; he's out at elbow.
ANGELO What are you, sir?
ELBOW He, sir: a tapster, sir, parcel-bawd, one that serves a bad woman, whose house, sir, was, as they say, plucked down in the suburbs: and now she professes a hot-house, which, I think, is a very ill house too.
ESCALUS How know you that?
ELBOW My wife, sir, whom I detest before heaven and your honour—
ESCALUS How? Thy wife?
ELBOW Ay, sir: whom, I thank heaven, is an honest woman—
ESCALUS Dost thou detest her therefor?
ELBOW I say, sir, I will detest myself also, as well as she, that this house, if it be not a bawd's house, it is pity of her life, for it is a naughty house.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE  

ESCALUS  How dost thou know that, constable?

ELBOW  Marry, sir, by my wife, who, if she had been a woman cardinal given, might have been accused in fornication, adultery and ill uncleanness there.

ESCALUS  By the woman's means?

ELBOW  Ay, sir, by Mistress Overdone's means: but as she spit in his face, so she defiled him.

POMPÉE  Sir, if it please your honour, this is not so.

ELBOW  Prove it before these varlets here, thou honourable man, prove it.

ESCALUS  Do you hear how he misplaces?

POMPÉE  Sir, she came in great with child, and longing — saving your honour's reverence — for stewed prunes. Sir, we had but two in the house, which at that very distant time stood, as it were, in a fruit-dish, a dish of some three-pence — your honours have seen such dishes, they are not China dishes, but very good dishes —

ESCALUS  Go to, go to; no matter for the dish, sir.

POMPÉE  No, indeed, sir, not of a pin; you are therein in the right. But to the point.

As I say, this Mistress Elbow, being, as I say, with child, and being great-bellied, and longing, as I said, for prunes, and having but two in the dish, as I said, Master Froth here, this very man, having eaten the rest, as I said, and, as I say, paying for them very honestly, for, as you know, Master Froth, I could not give you three-pence again.

FROTH  No, indeed.

POMPÉE  Very well: you being then, if you be remembered, cracking the stones of the foresaid prunes —

FROTH  Ay, so I did indeed.

POMPÉE  Why, very well. I telling you then, if you be remembered, that such a one and such a one were past cure of the thing you wot of, unless they kept very good diet, as I told you —

FROTH  All this is true.

POMPÉE  Why, very well; then —

ESCALUS  Come, you are a tedious fool. To the purpose: what was done to Elbow's wife, that he hath cause to complain of? Come me to what was done to her.

POMPÉE  Sir, your honour cannot come to that yet.

ESCALUS  No, sir. nor I mean it not.

POMPÉE  Sir, but you shall come to it, by your honour's leave. And, I beseech you, look into Master Froth here, sir, a man of fourscore pound a year, whose father died at Hallowmas. Was't not at Hallowmas, Master Froth?

FROTH  All-hallow eve.

POMPÉE  Why, very well, I hope here be truths. He, sir, sitting, as I say, in a lower chair. Sir, 'twas in the Bunch of Grapes, where indeed you have a delight to sit, have you not?

FROTH  I have so, because it is an open room and good for winter.

POMPÉE  Why, very well, then, I hope here be truths.

ANGELO  This will last out a night in Russia.

When nights are longest there, I'll take my leave

And leave you to the hearing of the cause.

Hoping you'll find good cause to whip them all.

Exit [ANGELO]

71 cardinaliy "cardinal" 72 uncleanness "adultery" 73 the woman's means "Mistress Overdone's doing" Elbow responds to the sense of "by his agent" POMPÉE 74 Froth I.e. Pompé's 77 varlets...honourable Elbow yet his terms the wrong way round, varlets lessons. 78 multiplica, nutmegs language, get his word order mixed up. 79 dicing...reverence I.e. begging your pardon if you will excuse my language. 80 stewed prunes: often available to brothels, these were used to treat syphilis, and here function as a euphemism for syphilis. 81 distant for "bouts" or "present" stood on the sense of "were erect" fruit-dish euphemism for vagina 82 not...pin it is not worth a needle (pin plays on the sense of "pincet") painted with suitable decorations. 90 again back. 92 stones...sense of "testicles" 96 thing...i.e. syphilis without leave 101 Come me come one as expected done Pompé's response plays on the sense of "half an" 105 look into another, fourscore pound £60 (a good income) 106 Hallowmas 1 November All Saints' Day 107 All-hallow eve 31 October All Hallows' eve (Halloween) 108 lower chair; probably a low-market seat, or easy chair 109 bunch of Grapes the name of a tavern or inn in a tavern 111 open public (with a fire) 112 last...Russia I.e. take a very long time 114 cause cause. 116 cause means.
ESCAULUS  I think no less. Good morrow to your lordship. — Now, sir, come on: what was done to Elbow's wife, once more?  

POMPÉY  Once, sir? There was nothing done to her once.

ESCAULUS  I beseech your honour, ask me.

POMPÉY  I beseech you, sir, ask him what this man did to my wife.

ESCAULUS  Well, sir, what did this gentleman to her?

POMPÉY  I beseech you, sir, look in this gentleman's face. Good Master Froth, look upon his honour. 'Tis for a good purpose. Doth your honour mark his face?

ESCAULUS  Ay, sir, very well.

POMPÉY  Nay, I beseech you, mark it well.

ESCAULUS  Well, I do so.

POMPÉY  Doth your honour see any harm in his face?

ESCAULUS  Why, no.

POMPÉY  I'll be supposed upon a book. His face is the worst thing about him. Good, then, if his face be the worst thing about him, how could Master Froth do the constable's wife any harm? I would know that of your honour.

ESCAULUS  He's in the right. Constable, what say you to it?

ELBOW  First, an it like you, the house is a respected house: next, this is a respected fellow, and his mistress is a respected woman.

POMPÉY  By this hand, sir, his wife is a more respected person than any of us all.

ELBOW  Varlet, thou liest, thou liest, wicked varlet! The time is yet to come that she was ever respected with man, woman or child.

POMPÉY  Sir, she was respected with him before he married with her.

ESCAULUS  Which is the wiser here? Justice or Iniquity? Is this true?

ELBOW  O thou caltiff! O thou varlet! O thou wicked Hännibal! I respected with her before I was married to her: if ever I was respected with her, or she with me, let not your worship think me the poor duke's officer. Prove this, thou wicked Hännibal, or I'll have mine action of battery on thee.

ESCAULUS  If he took you a box o' the ear, you might have your action of slander too.

ELBOW  Marry, I thank your good worship for it. What is your worship's pleasure I shall do with this wicked caltiff?

ESCAULUS  Truly, officer, because he hath some offences in him that thou wouldst discover if thou couldst, let him continue in his course till thou know'st what they are.

ELBOW  Marry, I thank your worship for it. — Thou see'st, thou wrought varlet, now what's come upon thee: thou art to continue now, thou varlet, thou art to continue.

ESCAULUS  Where were you born, friend?

FROTH  Here in Vienna, sir.

ESCAULUS  Are you of fourscore pounds a year?

FROTH  Yes, an't please you, sir.

ESCAULUS  So, What trade are you of, sir?

POMPÉY  A tapster, a poor widow's tapster.

ESCAULUS  Your mistress' name?

POMPÉY  Mistress Overdone.

ESCAULUS  Hath she had any more than one husband?

POMPÉY  Nine, sir: Overdone by the last.

119 done plays on the sexual sense. 124 mark note 130 supposed malapropism for 'deposed' (i.e. sworn) book i.e. the Bible 131 if . . . harm to, if his face is the worst thing about him, and is in fact harmful, how could any other part of him (i.e. his penis) be effective. 134 as it like, if it please 138 respected (as) understood, respected (of having had sex). 140 Justice or Iniquity presented characters in swain
plays 141 caltiff breach, villain Hännibal probably a mistake for 'Hannibal'. Hannibal was a Carthaginian general who fought the Romans in the third century BC. 144 action of battery known as a suit for slander or assault known actions. 145 took pace 146 discover reveal courses way of life 152 continue varlet seems to think this means 'be punished' or 'be restrained'. 157 and if. . . Overdone . . . last she got the name Overdone from her last husband, she became sexually even out after her child, husband.
Measure for Measure • 2.1

Escalus  Nini? Come hither to me. Master Frotte, Master Frotte, I would not have you acquainted with our pens; they will draw you, Master Frotte, and you will hang them. Get you gone, and let me hear no more of you.

Frotte  I thank your worship. For mine own part, I never come into any room in a top-house, but I am drawn in.

Escalus  Well, no more of it, Master Frotte, farewell.— [Exit Frotte]

Pompey  Come you hither to me, Master Tapster. What’s your name, Master Tapster?

Escalus  What else?

Pompey  Bum, sir.

Escalus  Truth, and your bum is the greatest thing about you, so that in the best sense you are Pompey the Great. Pompey, you are partly a bawd. Pompey, however you colour it in being a tapster, are you not? Come, tell me true: it shall be the better for you.

Pompey  Truly, sir. I am a poor fellow that would live.

Escalus  How would you live, Pompey? By being a bawd? What do you think of the trade, Pompey? Is it a lawful trade?

Pompey  If the law would allow it, sir.

Escalus  But the law will not allow it. Pompey, nor it shall not be allowed in Vienna. Pompey, does your worship mean to geld and spay all the youth of the city?

Pompey  No, Pompey.

Escalus  Truly, sir, in my poor opinion, they will so. Then if your worship will take order for the drabs and the knives, you need not to fear the bawds.

Escalus  There is pretty orders beginning. I can tell you: it is but heading and hanging.

Pompey  If you head and hang all that offend that way but for ten year together, you'll be glad to give out a commission for more heads: if this law hold in Vienna ten year, I'll rent the fairest house in it after three-pence a bay. If you live to see this come to pass, say Pompey told you so.

Escalus  Thank you, good Pompey, and, in requital of your prophecy, hark you: I advise you, let me not find you before me again upon any complaint whatsoever, no, nor for dwelling where you do. If I do, Pompey, I shall beat you to your tent, and prove a shrewd Caesar to you: in plain dealing, Pompey, I shall have you whipped. So, for this time, Pompey, fare you well.

Pompey  I thank your worship for your good counsel—but I shall follow it as the flesh and fortune shall better determine.

Aside  Whip me! No, no, let carman whip his jade:

The valiant heart's not whipped out of his trade.

Escalus  Come hither to me, Master Elbow, come hither. Master Constable. How long have you been in this place of constables?

Elbow  Seven year and a half, sir.

Escalus  I thought by the readiness in the office you had continued in it some time.

You say, seven years together?

Elbow  And a half, sir.

Escalus  Alas, it hath been great pains to you. They do you wrong to put you so oft upon't. Are there not men in your ward sufficient to serve it?

Elbow  Faith, sir, few of any wit in such matters: as they are chosen, they are glad to choose me for them. I do it for some piece of money, and go through with all.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 2.2  173

ESCALUS  Look you bring me in the names of some six or seven, the most sufficient of your parish.

ELBOW  To your worship's house, sir?

ESCALUS  To my house. Fare you well. [Exit Elbow]

JUSTICE  Eleven, sir.

ESCALUS  I pray you home to dinner with me.

JUSTICE  I humbly thank you.

ESCALUS  It grieves me for the death of Claudio.

JUSTICE  Lord Angelo is severe.

ESCALUS  It is but needful.

Mercy is not itself that oft looks so.

Pardon is still the nurse of second woe:
But yet, poor Claudio! There is no remedy.
Come, sir.

Act 2 Scene 2

Enter Provost [and a] Servant

SERVANT  He's hearing of a cause: he will come straight.

I'll tell him of you.

PROVOST  Pray you, do.—I'll know

His pleasure, maybe he will relent. Alas,
He hath but as offended in a dream!
All sects, all ages smack of this vice, and he
To die for't?

Enter Angelo

ANGELO  Now, what's the matter, provost?

PROVOST  Is it your will Claudio shall die tomorrow?

ANGELO  Did not I tell thee yea? Hadst thou not order?

Why dost thou ask again?

PROVOST  Lest I might be too rash,

Under your good correction, I have seen
When, after execution, judgement hath
Repeated o'er his doom.

ANGELO  Go to, let that be mine.

Do you your office, or give up your place,
And you shall well be spared.

PROVOST  I crave your honour's pardon.

ANGELO  What shall be done, sir, with the groaning Juliet?

She's very near her hour.

SERVANT  Here is the sister of the man condemned

Desires access to you.

ANGELO  Hath he a sister?

PROVOST  Ay, my good lord, a very virtuous maid.

And to be shortly of a sisterhood.

If not already.

217 Eleven ... dinner lunch should usually eaten before midday 223 needful necessary 224 Mercy ... woe i.e. being merciful may in fact encourage further wrongdoing 2.2 1 He was Angelo 4 pleasure insertion 5 He was Claudio 6 sects types of people—elephant have a feverish, pernicious in 12 Lost in case 13 Under ... correction correct me if I am wrong 15 Reported ... doom repeated the sentence he had imposed 16 mine my relative problem 18 you ... spared we will manage perfectly well without you; you will be spared the law of error 20 groaning i.e. in labour 21 hour time to give birth 22 Dispose of make arrangements for 26 sisterhood order of nuns
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 2.2

ANGELO  Well, let her be admitted. See you the fornicatrix be removed.
       Let her have needful but not lavish means.
       There shall be order for’t.

Enter Lucia and Isabella

PROVOST Save your honour!

ANGELO  Stay a little while.—
       You’re welcome; what’s your will?

ISABELLA  I am a woeeful suitor to your honour.
       Please but your honour hear me.

ANGELO  Well, what’s your suit?

ISABELLA  There is a vice that most I do abhor,
       And must desire should meet the blow of justice.
       For which I would not plead, but that I must,
       For which I must not plead, but that I am
       At war ‘twixt will and will not.

ISABELLA  I have a brother is condemned to die:
       I do beseech you, let it be his fault,
       And not my brother.

PROVOST  Heaven give thee moving graces!

ANGELO  Condemn the fault and not the actor of it?
       Why, every fault’s condemned ere it be done:
       Mine were the very cipher of a function.
       To fine the faults whose fine stands in record.
       And let go by the actor.

ISABELLA  O, just but severe law!
       I had a brother, then: Heaven keep your honour.

LUCIO  Givet not o’er so. To him again, entreat him.
       Kneel down before him, hang upon his gown.
       You are too cold. If you should need a pin.
       You could not with more tame a tongue desire it.
       To him, I say!

ISABELLA  Must he needs die?

ANGELO  Maiden, no remedy.

ISABELLA  Yes. I do think that you might pardon him.
       And neither heaven nor man grieve at the mercy.

ANGELO  I will not do.

ISABELLA  But can you, if you would?

ANGELO  Look what I will not, but I cannot do.

ISABELLA  But might you do, and do the world no wrong.

ANGELO  If so your heart were touched with that remorse
       As mine is to him?

ISABELLA  He’s sentenced, ’tis too late.

LUCIO  You are too cold.

ISABELLA  Too late? Why, no. I that do speak a word
       May call it back again. Well, believe this:
       No ceremony that to great ones belongs.
       Not the king’s crown, nor the deputed sword.
       The marshal’s truncheon, nor the judge’s robe.
       Become them with one half so good a grace
       As mercy does.

[Exit Servant]
If he had been as you and you as he.
You would have slipped like him, but he, like you.
Would not have been so stern.

ANGELO  Pray you, be gone:

ISABELLA  I would to heaven I had your potency.
And you were Isabel. Should it then be thus?
No, I would tell what were to be a judge.
And what a prisoner.

LUCIO  Ay, touch him, there's the vein.

ANGELO  Your brother is a forfeit of the law.
And you but waste your words.

ISABELLA  Alas, alas!
Why, all the souls that were were forfeit once.
And he that might the vantage best have took
Found out the remedy. How would you be,
If he, which is the top of judgement, should
But judge you as you are? O, think on that,
And mercy then will breathe within your lips
Like man new made.

ANGELO  Be you content, fair maid.
It is the law, not I condemn your brother:
Were he my kinsman, brother, or my son,
It should be this with him. He must die tomorrow.

ISABELLA  Tomorrow? O, that's sudden! Spare him, spare him!
He's not prepared for death. Even for our kitchens
We kill the fowl of season: shall we serve heaven
With less respect than we do minister
To our gross selves? Good, good my lord, bethink you:
Who is it that hath died for this offence?

There's many have committed it.

LUCIO  Ay, well said.

ANGELO  The law hath not been dead, though it hath slept:
Those many had not dared to do that evil.
If the first that did the deed infringe
Had answered for his deed. Now 'tis awake,
Takes note of what is done, and, like a prophet,
Looks in a glass that shows what future evils.
Either now, or by remission new-conceived.
And so in progress to be hatched and born.

Are now to have no successive degrees,
But ere they live to end.

ISABELLA  Yet show some pity.

ANGELO  I show it most of all when I show justice:
For then I pity those I do not know,
Which a dismissed offence would after gall,
And do him right that, answering one foul wrong,
Lives not to act another; be satisfied:
Your brother dies tomorrow; be content.

ISABELLA  So you must be the first that gives this sentence.
And he, that suffers. O, it is excellent

81 as you in your position 85 potency power 87 tell intent 89 vein proper course to follow 90 a forfeit of subject is 92 were ever extend before Christ attains redemption 94 he i.e. God wants opportunity to redeem mankind for original sin 99 new made i.e. heaven through Christian salvation, or through Christ's redempionate of mankind 100 kill ... season kill the fowl when they are at their best condition to be eaten 107 minister intent to empty 108 gross inferior/mortal bethink you consider 113 Those ... deed the many people who have engaged in extraneous acts would not have done so if the first person to break the law had been punished 117 glass microscopical 118 now now in existence. remission now-conceived moral lusty freshly contemplated (though not yet carried out). 119 hatched and been hatched and consumed 120 successive degrees further stages of development 121 era before end the 125 dismissed overlooked unpunished gall harm/exert
To have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant.

LUCIO That's well said.

ISABELLA Could great men thunder
As Jove himself does, Jove would ne'er be quiet.
For every petty, petty officer
Would use his heaven for thunder.
Nothing but thunder! Merciful heaven,
That rather with thy sharp and sulphurous bolt
Splits the un wedge able and quaking oak
Than the soft myrtle: but man, proud man,
Dressed in a little brief authority,
Most ignorant of what he's most assured —
His glassy essence — like an angry ape
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven
As makes the angels weep, who, with our spheres,
Would all themselves laugh mortal.

LUCIO O, to him, to him, wench: he will relent.
He's coming, I perceive't.

PROVOST Pray heaven she win him.

ISABELLA We cannot weigh our brother with ourself.
Great men may jest with saints. 'tis wit in them.
But in the less foul profanation.

LUCIO Thou'rt ill right, girl, more o'that.

ISABELLA That in the captain's but a cholerick word,
Which in the soldier is flat blasphemy.

LUCIO Art advised o'that? More on't.

ANGELO Why do you put these sayings upon me?

ISABELLA Because authority, though it err like others,
Hath yet a kind of medicine in itself
That skins the vice o'th top. Go to your bosom,
Knock there, and ask your heart what it doth know
That's like my brother's fault, if it confess
A natural guiltiness such as is his.

ANGELO She speaks, and 'tis such sense
That my sense breeds with it. — Fare you well.

ISABELLA Gentle my lord, turn back.

ANGELO I will bethink me. Come again tomorrow.

ISABELLA Heark how I'll bribe you: good my lord, turn back.

ANGELO How? Bribe me?

ISABELLA Ay, with such gifts that heaven shall share with you.

LUCIO You had married all else.

ISABELLA Not with fond siciles of the tested gold.
Or stones whose rates are either rich or poor
As fancy values them, but with true prayers
That shall be at heaven and enter there.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 2.3  177

At sunrise, prayers from preserved souls.

From fasting maids whose minds are dedicate
To nothing temporal.

ANGELO Well, come to me tomorrow.

LUCIO Go to 'tis well; away.

ASIDE

ISABELLA Heaven keep your honour safe.

ANGELO Amen.

For I am that way going to temptation.

Shall I attend your lordship?

ISABELLA At what hour tomorrow?

ANGELO At any time fore noon.

ISABELLA 'Save your honour!' [Exeunt Isabella, Lucio and Provost]

ANGELO From thee, even from thy virtue.

What's this? What's this? Is this her fault or mine?
The tempter or the tempted, who sins most? Ha?

Not she — nor doth she tempt — but it is I
That, lying by the violet in the sun,

Do as the carrion does, not as the flower,

Corrupt with virtuous season. Can it be

That modesty may more betray our sense.

Than woman's lightness? Having waste ground enough,

Shall we desire to raise the sanctuary

And pitch our evils there? O. fie, fie, fie!

What dost thou? Or what art thou, Angelo?

Dost thou desire her solely for those things

That make her good? O. let her brother live!

Thieves for their robbery have authority

When judges steal themselves. What, do I love her,

That I desire to hear her speak again,

And feast upon her eyes? What is it I dream on?

O cunning enemy, that to catch a saint

With saints dost bait thy hook! Most dangerous

Is that temptation that doth good us on

To sin in loving virtue: never could the strumpet,

With all her double vigour, wit and nature,

Once stir my temper, but this virtuous maid

Subdues me quite. Fower till now.

When men were fond, I smiled and wondered how.

Act 2 Scene 3


DUKE Hail to you, provost — so I think you are.

PROVOST I am the provost. What's your will, good friar?

DUKE Bound by my charity and my best order,

I come to visit the afflicted spirits.

5

Here in the prison. Do me the common right
To let me see them and to make me know

179 preserved professed (in the memory). 180 fasting maids i.e. nuns: dedicate dedicated. 181 worldly worldly: worldly. 182 erect are in conflict, dream one another. 183 'bore God save. 184 violet: flowers associated with chastity. 185 carrion: dead poulterers' flesh. 186 Corrupt ... season: not under the wholesome sun (which causes stinks to flourish). 187 modesty: modesty. 188 lightness: promiscuity. 189 waste ground: wasteland. 200: raise the sanctuary. 201: the holy places. 202: disputable. 204: Honesty. 205: the devil. 214: double vigour: double power. 215: affected: affect. 217: blust. 218: the friar remembers that he is in disguise, and, as a friar, would not know the provost. 3: Bound between, blust order.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 2.4

The nature of their crimes, that I may minister
To them accordingly.

PROVOST I would do more than that, if more were needful.

Enter Juliet

Look, here comes one: a gentlewoman of mine.
Who, falling in the flaws of her own youth,
Hath blistered her report. She is with child.
And he that got it, sentenced: a young man
More fit to do another such offence

Than die for this.

DUKE When must he die?

PROVOST As I do think, tomorrow.

I have provided for you, stay awhile.
And you shall be conducted.

DUKE Repent you, fair one, of the sin you carry?

JULIET I do, and bear the shame most patiently.

DUKE I’ll teach you how you shall arraign your conscience
And try your penitence, if it be sound
Or hollowly put on.

JULIET I’ll gladly learn.

DUKE Love you the man that wronged you?

JULIET Yes, as I love the woman that wronged him.

DUKE Then it seems your most offenceful act
Was mutually committed?

JULIET Mutually.

DUKE Then was your sin of heavier kind than his.

JULIET I do confess it, and repent it, father.

DUKE ‘Tis meet so, daughter, but lest you do repent
As that the sin hath brought you to this shame.
Which sorrow is always toward ourselves, not heaven.
Showing we would not spare heaven as we love it.
But as we stand in fear—

JULIET I do repent me, as it is an evil.
And take the shame with joy.

DUKE There rest.

Your partner, as I hear, must die tomorrow.
And I am going with instruction to him.
Grace go with you. Beneicfice.

JULIET Must die tomorrow! O injurious love.

That respite me a life, whose very comfort
Is still a dying horror!

PROVOST ‘Tis pity of him.

Exeunt

Act 2 Scene 4

Enter Angelo

ANGELO When I would pray and think: I think and pray
To several subjects. Heaven hath my empty words,
While my invention, hearing not my tongue.

Enter Juliet

10. of mine in my charge 11 flaws spots of passion/blemishes 12 blistered her report stained her reputation 13 got conceived 10 conducted exercised 21 bear endure/a rely on the sense of bear a child 22 arrange intermarry 23 try test to see whether sound genuine 24 hollowly insincerely 31 heavier worse heavier worse 32 several some 33 more so proper than you do in test in case 34 As that because 35 toward ourselves sibbils 37 we . . . fear i.e. we tend to expect out of fear of God rather than love for him 38 as because 40 There rest maintains that attitude 42 instruction moral guidance 43 Benedicto bless you 44 injurious harmful 45 respite delays 46 still constantly 47 Tis . . . him he is to be placed 2.4 2 several various 3 invention thoughts/instruction
Anchors on Isabel: heaven in my mouth.
As if I did but only chew his name.
And in my heart the strong and swelling evil
Of my conception. The state wherein I studied
Is like a thing, being often read.
Grown scarce and tedious: yes, my gravity.
Wherein — let no man hear me — I take pride.
Could I with boot change for an idle phume
Which the air beats for vain. O place. O form.
How often dost thou with thy case, thy habit.
Wrench awe from fools and tie the wiser souls.
To thy false seeming? Blood, thou art blood.
Let's write good angel on the devil's horn —
'Tis not the devil's crest.

Enter [a] Servant

How now? Who's there?

SERVANT One Isabel, a sister, desires access to you.

ANGELO Teach her the way.

Exit Servant

O heavens,

Why does my blood thus muster to my heart.
Making it总价 unable for itself.
And disposing all my other parts
Of necessary fitness?
So play I foolish straths with one that swoons.
Come all to help him, and stop the air
By which he should revive: and even so
The general, subject to a well-wished king.
Quit their own part and in obsequious fondness
Crowd to his presence. Where their untaught love
Must needs appear offence.

Enter Isabel

How now, fair maid?

ISABELLA I am come to know your pleasure.

ANGELO That you might know it would much better please me

Than to demand what 'tis. — Your brother cannot live.

ISABELLA Even so. Heaven keep your honour.

ANGELO Yet may he live awhile, and it may be

As long as you or I yet he must die.

ISABELLA Under your sentence?

ANGELO Vea.

ISABELLA When, I beseech you? That in his reprieve.

ANGELO Longer or shorter, he may be so fitted

That his soul sicken not.

ISABELLA Ha! fie, these filthy vices! It were as good
To pardon him that hath from nature stolen
A man already made, as to remit

Their saucy sweetness that do coin heaven's image
In stamps that are forbid: 'tis all as easy.

Falsely to take away a life true made
As to put mettle in restrained means
To make a false one.

Isabella: 'Tis set down so in heaven, but not in earth.

Angelo: Say you so? Then I shall pose you quickly.
Which had you rather, that the most just law
Now took your brother's life, or, to redeem him,
Give up your body to such sweet uncleanness
As she that he hath stained?

Isabella: Sir, believe this,
I had rather give my body than my soul.

Angelo: I talk not of your soul. Our compelled sins
Stand more for number than for account.

Isabella: How say you?

Angelo: Nay, I'll not warrant that, for I can speak
Against the thing I say. Answer to this:
I now the voice of the recorded law,
Pronounce a sentence on your brother's life.

Might there not be a charity in sin
To save this brother's life?

Isabella: Please you to do't,
I'll take it as a peril to my soul.
It is no sin at all, but charity.

Angelo: Please you to do't at peril of your soul.
Were equal poise of sin and charity.

Isabella: That I do beg his life, if it be sin,
Heaven let me hear it. You granting of my suit,
If that be sin, I'll make it my morn prayer
To have it added to the faults of mine,
And nothing of your answer.

Angelo: Nay, but hear me.
Your sense pursues not mine: either you are ignorant,
Or seem so crafty, that it's not good.

Isabella: Let me be ignorant, and in nothing good,
But graciously to know I am no better.

Angelo: Thus wisdom wishes to appear most bright,
When it doth tax itself, as these black masks
Proclaim an ensnared beauty ten times fonder
Than beauty could, displayed. But mark me,
To be received plain, I'll speak more gross:
Your brother is to die.

Isabella: So.

Angelo: And his offence is so, as it appears.

Isabella: Accountant to the law upon that pain.

Angelo: True.

Isabella: Admit no other way to save his life —
As I subscribe not that, nor any other.
But in the loss of question — that you, his sister,
Finding yourself desired of such a person,
Whose credit with the judge, or own great place
Could fetch your brother from the manacles
Of the all-building law, and that there were
No earthly mean to save him, but that either
100 You must lay down the treasures of your body
To this supposed, or else to let him suffer;
What would you do?

Isabella As much for my poor brother as myself;
That is, were I under the terms of death.
Th'impression of keen whips I'd wear as rubies,
And strip myself to death, as to a bed
That longing have been sick for, ere I'd yield
My body up to shame.

Angelo Then must your brother die.

Isabella And 'twere the cheaper way.
Better it were a brother died at once.
Than that a sister by redeeming him
Should die for ever.

Angelo Were not you then as cruel as the sentence
That you have slandered so?

Isabella Ignomy in ransom and free pardon
Are of two houses. Lawful mercy
Is nothing kin to foul redemption.

Angelo You seemed of late to make the law a tyrant.
And rather proved the sliding of your brother
A merriment than a vice.

Isabella O pardon me, my lord, it oft falls out
To have what we would have, we speak not what we mean.
I something do excuse the thing I hate.
For his advantage that I dearly love.

Angelo We are all frail.

Isabella Else let my brother die.
If not a fodder, but only he
Owe and succeed thy weakness.

Angelo Nay, women are frail too.

Isabella Ay, as the glasses where they view themselves.
Which are as easy broke as they make forms.
Women? Help heaven! Men their creation mar
In profiting by them, Nay, call us ten times frail,

For we are soft as our complexions are,
And credulous to false prints.

Angelo I think it well.
And from this testimony of your own sex —
Since I suppose we are made to be no stronger
Than faults may shake our frames — let me be bold.
I do arrest your words. Be that you are.
That is a woman; if you be more, you're none.

If you be one, as you are well expressed

98 credit influences/accretion great place powerful position 99 all-building in which everything is founded (some other sense to 'all-binding')
100 treasures ... body i.e. virginity 101 supposed hypothetical man 102 terms sentence 105 impression marks keen biting/mourning 106 strip whip
have myself 113 die for ever i.e. suffer eternal damnation 116 ignomy houses shameful bargaining for pardon and unconditional release are entirely
different matters 118 nothing kin connected 120 sliding silencers 121 merriment light-hearted merriment 122 off falls out often happens 123 would wish to
124 something somewhat 125 fibre otherwise 126 not a fodder so accomplish 129 owe weakness owes and inherits the moral frailty that you speak of
132 as forms can be destroyed as easily as they can reflect images 133 help heaven help them! Men ... them more destroy their inherent
superiority by abusing women/men ruin women, who created them, by abusing them 139 credulous ... prints accomplish is forged images i.e. ready believers
of false reports 140 They ... with what 141 that what 142 none not a woman (as you define one) 143 well ... warrants clearly reveal yourself as by your outward appearance
By all external warrants, show it now.

I have no tongue but one. Gentle my lord,
Let me entreat you speak the former language.

Plainly conceive I love you.

My brother did love Julet.

And you tell me that he shall die for't.

He shall not. Isabel, if you give me love.

I know your virtue hath a licence in't.

Which seems a little fouler than it is.

Believe me, on mine honour.

My words express my purpose.

Little honour to be much believed.

And most pernicious purpose! Seeming, seeming!

I will proclaim thee, Angelo, look for't.

Sign me a present pardon for my brother.

Or with an outstretched throat I'll tell the world aloud

What man thou art.

Who will believe thee, Isabel?

My unsaid name, th'auspiciousness of my life.

My vouch against you, and my place I'll state.

Will to your accusation overweigh,

That you shall sit in your own report
And smell of calumny. I have begun.

And now I give my sensual race the rein:

Fit thy consent to my sharp appetite.

Lay by all nice and pruligious blushes

That banish what they sue for. Redeem thy brother

By yielding up thy body to my will.

Or else be must not only die the death.

But thy unkindness shall his death draw out

To lingering suffrance. Answer me tomorrow.

Or, by the affection that now guides me most,

I'II prove a tyrant to him. As for you,

Say what you can: my false ear weighs your true.

To whom should I complain? Did I tell this.

Who would believe me? O perilous mouths,

That bear in them one and the self-same tongue,

Either of condemnation or approbation.

Bidding the law make curtsy to their will.

Hooding both right and wrong to th'appratite.

To follow as it drawst I'll to my brother.

Though he hath fallen by prompture of the blood.

Yet hath he in him such a mind of honour

That, had he ten heads to tender down

On twenty bloody blocks, he'd yield them up

Before his sister should her body stoop

To such abhorred pollution.

Then Isabel, live chaste, and brother, die;
More than our brother is our chastity.
I'll tell him yet of Angelo's request.
And fit his mind to death, for thine soul's rest.

Exit

Act 3 Scene 1

Enter Duke [disguised], Claudio and Provost.

Duke So then you hope of pardon from Lord Angelo?
Claudio The miserable have no other medicine
But only hope;
I've hope to live, and am prepared to die.

Duke Be absolute for death: either death or life
Shall thereby be the sweeter. Reason thus with life:
If I do lose thee, I do lose a thing
That none but fools would keep. A breath thou art,
Servile to all the skyey influences.

That dost this habitation where thou keepest
Hourly afflict. Mercily, thou art death's fool.
For him thou labour'st by thy flight to shun,
And yet runnest toward him still. Thou art not noble.
For all th'accommodations that thou bear'st,
Are nursed by baseness. Thou'rt by no means valiant.
For thou dost fear the soft and tender fork
Of a poor worm. Thy best of rest is sleep.
And that thee oft provok'st, yet grossly fear'st
Thy death which is no more. Thou art not thyself,
For thou exist'st on many a thousand grains
That issue out of dust. Happy thou art not.
For what thou hast not, still thou striev'st to get.
And what thou hast, forget'st. Thou art not certain,
For thy complexion shifts to strange effects.

After the moon, if thou art rich, thou art poor,
For like an ass, whose back with ingots bows.
Thou bearest thy heavy riches but a journey.
And death unloads thee. Friend hast thou none,
For thine own bowels which do call thee sire.

The more effusion of thy proper loins,
Do curse the gown, serpigo and the rheum.
For ending thee no sooner. Thou hast nor youth, nor age.
But as it were an after-dinner's sleep.

Dreaming on both, for all thy blessed youth
Becomes as aged, and doth beg the aims
Of paled eld. And when thou art old and rich,
Thou hast neither heat, affection, limb, nor beauty
To make thy riches pleasant. What's yet in this
That bears the name of life? Yet in this life
Lie hid more thousand deaths; yet death we fear,
That makes these odds all even.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 3.1

CLAUDIO  I humbly thank you.
          To sue to live, I find I seek to die.
          And, seeking death, find life. Let it come on.

45  ISABELLA  What, ho! Peace here; grace and good company.

PROVOST  Who's there? Come in. The wish deserves a welcome.

DUKE  Dear sir, ere long I'll visit you again.

CLAUDIO  Most holy sir, I thank you.
          Enter Isabella.

50  ISABELLA  My business is a word or two with Claudio.

PROVOST  And very welcome. Look, signior, here's your sister.

DUKE  Provost, a word with you.

PROVOST  As many as you please.

Duke and Provost talk apart

CLAUDIO  Now, sister, what's the comfort?

55  ISABELLA  Why,
          As all comforts are: most good, most good indeed.
          Lord Angelo, having affairs to heaven.
          Intends you for his swift ambassador.
          Where you shall be an everlasting lighter;
          Therefore your best appointment make with speed.
          Tomorrow you set on.

CLAUDIO  Is there no remedy?

ISABELLA  None, but such remedy as, to save a head,
          'To cleave a heart in twain.'

CLAUDIO  But is there any?

ISABELLA  Yes, brother, you may live;
          There is a devilish mercy in the judge.
          If you'll implore it, that will free your life,
          But fatter you till death.

CLAUDIO  Perpetual duration!

ISABELLA  Ay, just, perpetual duration, a restraint.
          Though all the world's vastity you had,
          To a determined scope.

CLAUDIO  But in what nature?

ISABELLA  In such a one as, you consenting to't,
          Would bark your honour from that trunk you bear,
          And leave you naked.

CLAUDIO  Let me know the point.

ISABELLA  O, I do fear thee, Claudio, and I quake.

CLAUDIO  Lest thou a feverous life shouldst entertain,
          And six or seven winters more respect
          Than a perpetual honour. Darst thou die?
          The sense of death is most in apprehension.
          And the poor beetle that we tread upon
          In corporal sufferance finds a pang as great
          As when a giant dies.

CLAUDIO  Why give you me this shame?
          Think you I can a resolution fetch
          From flow'ry tenderness? If I must die,
          I will encounter darkness as a bride.
          And hug it in mine arms.
ISABELLA There spoke my brother: there my father's grave
Did utter forth a voice. Yes, thou must die.
Thou art too noble to conserve a life
In base appliances. This outward-sainted deputy.
Whose settled visage and deliberate word
Nips youth I'th head and doth dish man
As falcon doth the fowl, is yet a devil:
His filth within being cast, he would appear
A pond as deep as hell.

CLAUDIO The preen'st Angelo;

ISABELLA O, 'tis the cunning livery of hell,
The damnedst body to invest and cover
In premiere guards! Dost thou think, Claudio,
If I would yield him my virginity
Thou mightst be freed?

CLAUDIO O heavens, it cannot be.

ISABELLA Yes, he would give thee, from this rank offence.
So to offend him still. This night's the time
That I should do what I abhor to name.
Or else thou diest tomorrow.

CLAUDIO Thou shalt not do.

ISABELLA O, were it but my life,
I'd throw it down for your deliverance
As frankly as a pin.

CLAUDIO Thanks, dear Isabel.

ISABELLA Be ready, Claudio, for your death tomorrow.

CLAUDIO Yes. Has he affections in him,
That thus can make him bite the law by thineose.

ISABELLA Which is the least?

CLAUDIO If it were damnable, he being so wise,
Why would he for the momentary trick
Be perdurable fixed? O Isabel!

ISABELLA What says my brother?

CLAUDIO Death is a fearful thing,

ISABELLA And shamed life a hateful.

CLAUDIO Ay, but to die, and go we know not where.

To lie in cold obstruction and to rot,
This sensible warm motion to become
A kneaded clot: and the delighted spirit
To bathe in fiery floods, or to reside
In thrilling region of thick-ribbed ice,

To be imprisoned in the viewless winds,
And blown with restless violence round about
The pendent world: or to be worse than worst
Of those that lawless and uncertain thought
Imagine howling — 'tis too horrible!

The weariest and most loth'd worldly life
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 3.1

That age, ache, penury and imprisonment
Can lay on nature a paradise
To what we fear of death.
ISABELLA Alas, alas!

CLAUDIO Sweet sister, let me live.
What sin you do to save a brother's life.
Nature dispenses with the deed so fair
That it becomes a virtue.
ISABELLA O you hearst!

O faithless coward! O dishonest wretch!
Wilt thou be made a man out of my vice?
It's not a kind of incest to take life
From thine own sister's shame? What should I think?
Heaven shield my mother played my father fair.

For such a warped slip of wilderness
Ne'er issued from his blood. Take my defiance!
Die, perish! Might but my bending down
Reprove thee from thy fate. it should proceed.
I'll pray a thousand prayers for thy death.

No word to save thee.

CLAUDIO Nay, hear me, Isabel.

ISABELLA O, fie, fie, fie!
Thy sin's not accidental, but a trade.
Mercy to thee would prove itself a bawd.
'Tis best that thou diest quickly.

CLAUDIO O, hear me, Isabel!

DUKE Vouchsafe a word, young sister, but one word.

ISABELLA What is your will?

DUKE Might you dispense with your leisure. I would by and by have some speech
with you: the satisfaction I require would be like your own benefit.

ISABELLA I have no superfluous leisure. my stay must be stolen out of other affairs,
but I will attend you awhile.

DUKE Son, I have overheard what hath passed between you and your sister.
Angelo had never the purpose to corrupt her; only he hath made an assay of her
virtue to practise his judgement with the disposition of natures. She, having the
truth of honour in her, hath made him that gracious denial which he is most glad
to receive. I am confessor to Angelo, and I know this to be true. Therefore prepare
yourself to death: do not satisfy your resolution with hopes that are falseable.

Tomorrow you must die, go to your knees and make ready.

CLAUDIO Let me ask my sister pardon. I am so out of love with life that I will sue to
be rid of it.

DUKE Hold you there. Farewell. [Exit Claudio]

PROVOST a word with you. [Exit Provost]

PROVOST What is your will, father?

DUKE That now you are come, you will be gone. Leave me awhile with the maid.
My mind promises with my habit no less shall touch her by my company.

PROVOST In good time. [Exit]

DUKE The hand that hath made you fair hath made you good: the goodness that
is cheap in beauty makes beauty brief in goodness; but grace, being the soul of

141 penury poverty 142 nature human nature, powers of endurance 143 To comprised in 147 Nature human nature/nature itself - dispenses praises 149 baseled i.e. created losing judgement or reason 150 dishonest shameful 151 made a man plain life or prosperity 154 coiled in conflict played .... fair was false 155 warped ... wilderness coveting self-seeking of self-seeking 156 defiance rejection 157 but merely bending down [praying low headed knees] 160 accidental a one-off event trade habitual prejudice 164 prove itself turn out to be 167 Vouchsafe permit 169 dispense ... leisure give up your time by and by men 170 satisfaction recuperate likewise ... benefit as much to your advantage as mine 171 attend was for 174 purpose intention only ... advise he has recently tested 175 practice ... nature test his ability to judge personality 176 gracious virtuous 178 to be satisfy your resolution maintain your determinations 182 Hold you there preserve that state of mind 186 habit/ist's clothing that touch affect harm 188 goodness ... goodness if those who are beautiful do not value virtue, their beauty will not last 189 grace/dim virtue
your complexion, shall keep the body of it ever fair. The assault that Angelo hath made to you, fortune hath conveyed to my understanding; and, but that frailty hath examples for his falling, I should wonder at Angelo. How will you do to content this substitute, and to save your brother?

ISABELLA I am now going to resolve him. I had rather my brother die by the law than my son should be unlawfully born. But, O, how much is the good duke deceived in Angelo! If ever he return and I can speak to him, I will open my lips in vain, or discover his government.

DUKE That shall not be much amiss. Yet, as the matter now stands, he will avoid your accusation: he made trial of you only. Therefore fasten your ear on my advisings: to the love I have in doing a good remedy presents itself. I do make myself believe that you may most uprightly do a poor wronged lady a merited benefit, redeem your brother from the angry law, do no stain to your own gracious person, and much please the absent duke. If peradventure he shall ever return to have hearing of this business.

ISABELLA Let me hear you speak further. I have spirit to do anything that appears not foul in the truth of my spirit.

DUKE Virtue is bold, and goodness never fearful. Have you not heard speak of Mariana, the sister of Frederick, the great soldier who miscarried at sea?

ISABELLA I have heard of the lady, and good words went with her name.

DUKE She should this Angelo have married, was affianced to her by oath, and the nuptial appointed: between which time of the contract and limit of the solemnity, her brother Frederick was wrecked at sea, having in that perished vessel the dowry of his sister. But mark how heavily this befell to the poor gentlewoman: there she lost a noble and renowned brother, in his love toward her ever most kind and natural; with him, the portion and sinew of her fortune, her marriage-dowry: with both, her comrade husband, this well-seeming Angelo.

ISABELLA Can this be so? Did Angelo so leave her?

DUKE Left her in her tears, and dried not one of them with his comfort, swallowed his vows whole, pretending in her discoveries of dishonour: in few, bestowed her on her own lamentation, which she yet wears for his sake: and he, a marble to her tears, is washed with them, but redents not.

ISABELLA What a merit were it in death to take this poor maid from the world? What corruption in this life that it will let this man live! But how out of this can she avail?

DUKE It is a rupture that you may easily heal. and the cure of it not only saves your brother, but keeps you from dishonour in doing it.

ISABELLA Show me how, good father.

DUKE This forenamed maid hath yet in her the continuance of her first affection: her unjust unkindness — that in all reason should have quenched her love — hath, like an impediment in the current, made it more violent and unruely. Go you to Angelo, answer his requiring with a plausible obedience, agree with his demands to the point. Only refer yourself to this advantage; first, that your stay with him may not be long, that the time may have all shadow and silence in it, and the place answer to convenience. This being granted in course, and now follows: we shall advise this wronged maid to stand up your appointment, go in your place. If the encounter acknowledge itself hereafter, it may compel him to her recompense; and here, by this is your brother saved, your honour untainted, the poor Mariana advantaged, and the corrupt deputy scaled. The maid will I
frame and make fit for his attempt. If you think well to carry this as you may, the
doubleness of the benefit defends the deceit from reproof. What think you of it?
ISELLA The image of it gives me content already, and I trust it will grow to a most
prosperous perfection.
DUKE It lies much in your holding up. Haste you speedily to Angelo; if for this
night he entreat you to his bed, give him promise of satisfaction. I will presently to
Saint Luke's, there at the moated grange resides this dejected Mariana. At that
place call upon me, and dispatch with Angelo, that it may be quickly.
ISELLA I thank you for this comfort. Fare you well, good father. Exit
Enter ELBOW [and Officers [with Pompey, the] Clown
ELBOW Nay, if there be no remedy for it, but that you will needs buy and sell men
and women like beasts, we shall have all the world drink brown and white
barest.
DUKE O heavens, what stuff is here?
POMPEY 'Twas never merry world since of two usuries the merriest was put down,
and the worse allowed by order of law a furred gown to keep him warm; and
furred with fox and lamb-skins too, to signify that craft, being richer than
innocency, stands for the facing.
ELBOW Come your way, sir. Bless you, good father friar.
DUKE And you, good brother father. What offence hath this man made you, sir?
ELBOW Marry, sir, he hath offended the law: and, sir, we take him to be a thief too,
sir, for we have found upon him, sir, a strange picklock, which we have sent to
the deputy.
DUKE Fie, sirrah, a bawd, a wicked bawd! The evil that thou causest to be done.
That is thy means to live. Do thou but think What 'tis to cram a maw or clothe a back
From such a filthy vice. Say to thyself.
From their abominable and beastly touches
I drink, I eat, array myself, and live.
Canst thou believe thy living is a life?
So stinkingly depending? Go mend, go mend.

POMPEY Indeed, it does stink in some sort, sir, but yet, sir, I would prove—
DUKE Nay, if the devil have given thee proofs for sin.
Thou wilt prove his. Take him to prison, officer: Correction and instruction must both work
Ere this rude beast will profit.
ELBOW He must before the deputy, sir, he has given him warning. The deputy
cannot abide a whoremaster. If he be a whomranger, and comes before him, he
were as good go a mile on his errand.
DUKE That we were all, as some would seem to be.
Free from our faults, as faults from seeming free!
Enter Lucio

ELBOW His neck will come to your waist — a cord, sir.
POMPEY I spy comfort, I cry hail. Here's a gentleman and a friend of mine,
LUCIO How now, noble Pompey? What, at the wheels of Caesar? Art thou led in
triumph? What, is there none of Pygmalion's images, newly made woman, to be

239 frame present fit ready carry manage 240 doubleness twofold nature deserted bawd 241 image bike 242 perfection completion 243 holding up ability to maintain it 245 moated grange farmhouse surrounded by a moat 246 dispatch make arrangements 249 brown brown 250 misrule misrule 252 Twas thus … since the world is not as enjoyable since two usurers i.e. money lending and prostitution monstrous now enjoyable (prostitution) 254 fox he for (with connotations of cunning) craft doubt 255 stands … facing takes the outside of the parvenusque folk as those in the world 257 brother father (i.e., means 'brother', so the duke is making fun of Elbow's terms of address 259 picklock device for picking locks (those, those of chastity basin) 261 sirrah sir (contemporary) 264 name goiter/marrow 265 array dress 266 So stinkingly depending supposed by such baseness mean return your ways 270 sort way 271 proofs evidence 273 Correction punishment 274 rude barbarous 275 before go before 276 he … errand i.e. he would be better doing anything else than that 278 That if only 279 Free … free for from sin ere the Angel appears to bid and die free from hypocrisies 280 come to resemble sound man (Elbow imagines the noise being like the roar that birds have around the walls) 281 cry call out for 282 led in triumph paraded in disgrace (In ancient Rome, following a triumph in war, prisoners were led behind the chariots of the victors) 283 Pygmalion a sculptor and King of Cyprus, he fell in love with an ivory statue he had made of his ideal woman
had now, for putting the hand in the pocket and extracting clutched! What reply.
ha? What sayest thou to this tune, matter and method? Is't not drowned in last
rain, ha? What sayest thou, Trot? Is the world as it was, man? Which is the way?
is it sad, and few words? Or how? The trick of it?

DUKE Still thus, and thus, still worse!

LUCIO How doth my dear mistress, thy mistress? Proces she still, ha?

POMPEY Trot, sir, she hath eaten up all her beef, and she is herself in the tub.

LUCIO Why, 'tis good: it is the right of it, it must be so. Ever your fresh whole and
your powdered bawl, an unshunned consequence, it must be so. Art going to
prison, Pompey?

POMPEY Yes, faith, sir.

LUCIO Why, 'tis not amiss, Pompey. Farewell; go, say I sent thee thither. For debt.
Pompey? Or how?

ELBOW For being a bawl, for being a bawl.

LUCIO Well, then, imprison him. If imprisonment, be the due of a bawl, why, 'tis
his right. Bawl is he doubtless, and of antiquity too, bawl-born. Farewell, good
Pompey. Command me to the prison. Pompey: you will turn good husband now.
Pompey, you will keep the house.

POMPEY I hope, sir, your good worship will be my bail.

LUCIO No, indeed, will not. Pompey, it is not the wear. I will pray, Pompey, to
increase your bondage. If you take it not patiently, why, your mettle is the more.

Adieu, trusty Pompey,—Bless you, friar.

DUKE And you.

LUCIO Does Bridget paint still, Pompey, ha?

ELBOW Come your ways, sir, come.

POMPEY You will not bail me, then, sir?

LUCIO Then, Pompey, nor now. What news abroad, friar? What news?

ELBOW Come your ways, sir, come.

LUCIO Go to kennel, Pompey. go. [Exeunt Elbow, Pompey and Officers]

What news, friar, of the duke?

DUKE I know none. Can you tell me of any?

LUCIO Some say he is with the Emperor of Russia. Other some, he is in Rome. But
where is he, think you?

DUKE I know not where: but wheresoever, I wish him well.

LUCIO It was a mad fantastical trick of him to steal from the state, and usurp the
beggary he was never born to. Lord Angelo makes it well in his absence: he puts
transgression to't.

DUKE He does well in't.

LUCIO A little more lenity to lechery would do no harm in him: something too
crabb'd that way, friar.

DUKE It is too general a vice, and severity must cure it.

LUCIO Yes, in good sooth, the vice is of a great kindred: it is well allied, but it is
impossible to extirp it quite. friar, till eating and drinking be put down. They say
this Angelo was not made by man and woman after this downright way of
creation. Is it true, think you?

DUKE How should he be made, then?
LUCIO. Some report a sea-maid spawned him. Some, that he was begotten between two stock-fishes. But it is certain that when he makes water his urine is congealed into ice, that I know to be true: and he is a motion generative, that's infallible.

DUKE. You are pleasant, sir, and speak o'ermuch.

LUCIO. Why, what a ruthless thing is this in him, for the rebellion of a codpiece to take away the life of a man. Would the duke that is absent have done this? Ere he would have hanged a man for the getting a hundred bastards, he would have paid for the nursing a thousand. He had some feeling of the sport, he knew the service, and that instructed him to mercy.

DUKE. I never heard the absent duke much detected for women, he was not inclined that way.

LUCIO. O sir, you are deceived.

DUKE. Tis not possible.

LUCIO. Who, not the duke? Yes, your beggar of filth, and his use was to put a ducat in his clack-dish; the duke had crotchetts in him. He would be drunk too, that let me inform you.

DUKE. You do him wrong, surely.

LUCIO. Sir, I was an inward of his. A shy fellow was the duke, and I believe I know the cause of his withdrawing.

DUKE. What, sir, prithee, might be the cause?

LUCIO. No, pardon. 'Tis a secret must be locked within the teeth and the lips: but this I can let you understand, the greater file of the subject held the duke to be wise.

DUKE. Wise? Why, no question but he was.

LUCIO. A very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow.

DUKE. Either this is the envy in you, folly, or mistaken; the very stream of his life and the business he hath helmed must upon a warranted need give him a better proclamation. Let him be but testified in his own bringings-forth, and he shall appear to the envious a scholar, a statesman and a soldier; therefore you speak unskilfully, or if your knowledge be more, it is much darkened in your malice.

LUCIO. Sir, I know him, and I love him.

DUKE. Love talks with better knowledge, and knowledge with dearer love.

LUCIO. Come, sir, I know what I know.

DUKE. I can hardly believe that, since you know not what you speak. But if ever the duke return — as our prayers are he may — let me desire you to make your answer before him. If he be honest you have spoke, you have courage to maintain it; I am bound to call upon you — and, I pray you, your name?

LUCIO. Sir, my name is Lucio, well known to the duke.

DUKE. He shall know you better, sir, if I may live to report you.

LUCIO. I fear you not.

DUKE. O, you hope the duke will return no more, or you imagine me too unthinkful an opposite. But indeed I can do you little harm. You'll forswear this again?

LUCIO. I'll be hanged first. Thou art deceived in me, friar. But no more of this. Canst thou tell if Claudio die tomorrow or no?

DUKE. Why should he die, sir?

LUCIO. Why? For filling a bottle with a tundish. I would the duke were talk of were returned again. This ungentiured agent will unpeople the province with
continency. Sparrows must not build in his house-eaves, because they are lecherous. The duke yet would have dark deeds darkly answered; he would not bring them to light. Would he were returned! Marry, this Claudio is condemned for untrusting. Farewell, good friar. I prithee, pray for me. The duke, I say to thee again, would eat mutton on Fridays. He's now past it, yet and I say to thee, he would mouth with a beggar, though she smell brown bread and garlic. Say that I said so. Farewell. Exit.

DUKE No might nor greatness in mortality
Can censure 'scape. Back-wounding calumny
The whitest virtue strikes. What king so strong
Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue?
But who comes here?

Enter Escalus. Provost and [Officers with] Bardolph [Mistress Overdone]

ESCALUS Go, away with her to prison.
MISTRESS OVERDONE Good my lord, be good to me: your honour is accounted a merciful man, good my lord.
ESCALUS Double and treble admonition, and still forfeit in the same kind? This would make mercy swear and play the tyrant.

PROVOST A bawd of eleven years' continuance, may it please your honour.

MISTRESS OVERDONE My lord, this is one Luce's information against me. Mistress Kate Keepdown was with child by him in the duke's time; he promised her marriage. Her child is nine years a year and a quarter old come Christmas, and she claims Philip and Jacob. I have kept it myself and see how he goes about to abuse me!

ESCALUS That fellow is a fellow of much licence. Let him be called before us. Away with her to prison. Go to, no more words. [Exeunt Officers with Mistress Overdone] Provost, my brother Angelo will not be altered; Claudio must die to-morrow. Let him be furnished with divines, and have all charitable preparation. If my brother wrought by my pity, it should not be so with him.

PROVOST So please you, this friar hath been with him, and advised him for the entertainment of death.

ESCALUS Good even, good father.
DUKE Bliss and goodness on you!
ESCALUS Of whence are you?

DUKE Not of this country, though my chance is now To use it for my time. I am a brother Of gracious order, late come from the See In special business from his holiness.

ESCALUS What news abroad i' th'world?

DUKE None, but that there is so great a fever on goodness that the dissolution of it must cure it. Novelty is only in request, and it is dangerous to be aged in any kind of course as it is virtuous to be constant in any undertaking. There is scarce truth enough alive to make societies secure, but security enough to make fellowships accurst. Much upon this riddle runs the wisdom of the world. This news is old enough, yet it is every day's news. I pray you, sir, of what disposition was the duke?

ESCALUS One that, above all other strikes, contended especially to know himself.
DUKE What pleasure was he given to?
Measure for Measure • 4.1

ESCALUS

Rather rejoicing to see another merry than merry at anything which
professed to make him rejoice. A gentleman of all temperance. But leave we him
to his events, with a prayer they may prove prosperous, and let me desire to know
how you find Claudio prepared. I am made to understand that you have lent him
visitation.

DUKE

He professes to have received no sinister measure from his judge, but most
willingly humbles himself to the determination of justice: yet had he framed to
himself, by the instruction of his frailty, many deceiving promises of life, which
I by my good leisure have discredited to him, and now is he resolved to die.

ESCALUS

You have paid the heavens your function, and the prisoner the very debt of
your calling. I have laboured for the poor gentleman to the extremest shore of my
modesty, but my brother Justice have I found so severe that he hath forced me to
tell him he is indeed Justice.

DUKE

If his own life answer the straitness of his proceeding, it shall become him
well wherein if he chance to fail, he hath sentenced himself.

ESCALUS

I am going to visit the prisoner. Fare you well.

DUKE

Peace be with you. [Exeunt Escalus and Provost]

Enter Martana and [a] Boy, singing

BOY

Take, O. take those lips away.

That so sweetly were forewarned.

And those eyes, the break of day.

Lights that do mislead the morn:

Exit.
5 But my kisses bring again, bring again,
Seals of love, but sealed in vain, sealed in vain.

Enter Duke [disguised as before]

MARIANA Break off thy song, and haste thee quick away.
Here comes a man of comfort, whose advice
Hath often stilled my brawling discontent.
10 I cry you mercy, sir, and well could wish
You had not found me here so musical.
Let me excuse me, and believe me so.
My mirth it much displeased, but pleased my woe.

DUKE Tis good; though music oft hath such a charm
To make bad good, and good prove to harm.
I pray you tell me, hath anybody inquired for me here today? Much upon this
time have I promised here to meet.

MARIANA You have not been inquired after: I have sat here all day.

Enter Isabella

DUKE I do constantly believe you. The time is come even now. I shall crave your
forbearance a little, maybe I will call upon you anon for some advantage to
yourself.

MARIANA I am always bound to you.

DUKE Very well met, and well come.

What is the news from this good deputy?

ISABELLA He hath a garden circumscribed with brick.
Whose western side is with a vineyard backed.
And to that vineyard is a planched gate
That makes his opening with this bigger key.
This other doth command a little door.
30 Which from the vineyard to the garden leads.
There have I made my promise, upon the
Heavy middle of the night to call upon him.

DUKE But shall you on your knowledge find this way?

ISABELLA I have taken a due and wary note upon't:
With whispering and most guilty diligence.
In action all of precept, he did show me
The way twice o'er.

DUKE Are there no other tokens
Between you 'greed concerning her observance?

ISABELLA No, none, but only a repair in' th' dark.
And that I have possessed him my most stay
Can be but brief, for I have made him know
I have a servant comes with me along,
That stays upon me, whose persuasion is
I come about my brother.

DUKE 'Tis well borne up.

I have not yet made known to Marianna
A word of this.—What ho, within! Come forth!

Enter Marianna

I pray you be acquainted with this maid.

ISABELLA I do desire the like.

DUKE Do you persuade yourself that I respect you?

9 placed quoted brawling chaste
10 o'er mercy leg your pardon 13 My...base my music does not mean I am sorry but I secured my grief
14 charmed modified ability 16 much upon a about this 19 constantly easily 20 forbearance patience/inference end immediately afterwards in a while
23 well met perfect timing well come welcome 25 circumcised walled around 27 planched made of planks 28 makes his opening open
29 command unlock 32 Heavily deep saline 33 on your knowledge with the information you have 34 due careful adequate wary cautious 36 action...
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 4.2

MARIANA  Good friar. I know you do, and have found it.
DUKE    Take then, this your companion by the hand.

Who hath a story ready for your ear, 
I shall attend your leisure, but make haste. 
The vaporous night approaches. 

MARIANA  Will you please you walk aside? 
DUKE    A place and greatness! Millions of false eyes

Are stuck upon thee: volumes of report
Run with these false and most contrarious quests
Upon thy doings, thousand escapes of wit
Make thee the father of their idle dream
And rack thee in their fancies.

Enter Mariana and Isabella

ISABELLA  Welcome, how agree?

MARIANA  She'll take the enterprise upon her, father.
       If you advise it.
DUKE    It is not my consent.
       But my entreaty too.

ISABELLA  Little have you to say
       When you depart from him, but, soft and low.
       'Remember now my brother.' 

MARIANA  Fear me not.
DUKE    Nor, gentle daughter, fear you not at all.

He is your husband on a pre-contract:
       To bring you thus together 'tis no sin,
       Sith that the justice of your title to him
       Doth flourish the deceit. Come, let us go:
       Our corn's to reap, for yet our th'heat's to sow.

Exeunt

Act 4 Scene 2

Enter Provost and Clown [Pompey]

PROVOST    Come hither, strah. Can you cut off a man's head?
POMPEY    If the man be a bachelor, sir, I can. But if he be a married man, he is
       his wife's head, and I can never cut off a woman's head.

PROVOST    Come, sir, leave me your snatches, and yield me a direct answer.

    Tomorrow morning are to die Claudio and Barnardine. Here is in our prison a
    common executioner, who in his office lacks a helper; if you will take it on you to
    assist him, it shall redeem you from your guses: if not, you shall have your full
    time of imprisonment and your deliverance with an untitled whipping, for you
    have been a notorious bawd.

POMPEY    Sir, I have been an unlawful bawd time out of mind, but yet I will be
       content to be a lawful hangman. I would be glad to receive some instruction from
       my fellow partner.

PROVOST    What, ho, Abborson! Where's Abborson there?
       Enter Abborson

ABBORSON  Do you call, sir?

PROVOST    Sirrah, here's a fellow will help you tomorrow in your execution. If you
       think it meet, compound with him by the year, and let him abide here with you. If

53 have found it have exercise of it  55 attend your leisure wait for you until you are ready  58 place status position false insurrection 60 stack  fixsed report rumour 61 quests ... doling's inquires into your business 62 escapes outcasts 63 father... dream in order of their duration 64 rack  commons/clenest families  65 it... too I not only agree to it, but beg you to do it  70 Little... say little  75 pre-contract betroth, a binding  contracts 77 5th since title claim 78 fourth among, maker of marriage 79 Our... now we have yet to reap the harvest for we have not even the seed. 80 a test of whether, done in the Church (some editors render to 'tribes', 'plebeian kind') 4.2 Location: Vienna 5 make money (be more than able to answer) 'section' - i.e., very high 4 leave... satisfactions leave out your guses 6 common public 7 redeem release gives clausula, while others 8 deliverance release unintitled 9 restitution, ransom 10 time... mind be longer than I can remember 13 Abborson a confusion of 'either' and 'wherein' (son of a whore), with convolutions of 'occupation' (i.e., money) 16 meet being compound... year agree an as annual sum abide result
not, use him for the present and dismiss him. He cannot plead his estimation with you: he hath been a bawd.

**ABHORSON** A bawd, sir? Fle upon him, he will discredit our mystery.

**PROVOST** Go to, sir, you weigh equally; a feather will turn the scale. **Exit Pompey**

**POMPEY** Pray, sir, by your good favour — for surely, sir, a good favour you have, but that you have a hanging look — do you call, sir, your occupation a mystery?

**ABHORSON** Ay, sir, a mystery.

**POMPEY** Painting, sir, I have heard say, is a mystery; and your whores, sir, being members of my occupation, using painting, do prove my occupation a mystery.

But what mystery there should be in hanging, if I should be hanged. I cannot imagine.

**ABHORSON** Sir, it is a mystery.

**POMPEY** Proof?

**ABHORSON** Every true man's apparel fits your thief—

**POMPEY** If it be too little for your thief, your true man thinks it big enough. If it be too big for your thief, your thief thinks it little enough. So every true man's apparel fits your thief.

**Enter Provost**

**PROVOST** Are you agreed?

**POMPEY** Sir, I will serve him; for I do find your hangman is a more penitent trade than your bawd; he doth often ask forgiveness.

**PROVOST** You, sirrah, provide your block and your axe tomorrow, four o'clock.

**ABHORSON** Come on, bawd, I will instruct thee in my trade. Follow me; I do desire to learn, sir, and I hope, if you have occasion to use me for your own turn, you shall find me yare. For truly, sir, for your kindness I owe you a good turn.

**PROVOST** Call hither Barnardine and Claudio.

The one has my pity; not a jot the other.

Being a murderer, though he were my brother.

**Enter Claudio**

**Claudio**

Look, here's the warrant, Claudio, for thy death. Thou must be made immortal, Where's Barnardine?

**CLAUDIO**

As fast locked up in sleep as guileless labour

When it flies starkly in the traveller's bones.

He will not wake.

**PROVOST** Who can do good on him?

Well, go, prepare yourself. But hark, what noise? Heaven give your spirits comfort. — By and by. I hope it is some pardon or reprieve [Exit Claudio]

For the most gentle Claudio.

**Enter Duke [disguised as before]**

**Duke**

Welcome father.

**PROVOST** The best and wholesomest spirits of the night

Envelop you, good provost. Who called here of late?

**DUKE**

None, since the curfew rung.

**DUKE**

Not Isabel?

**PROVOST** No.

**DUKE**

They will, then, ere be long.

**PROVOST** What comfort is for Claudio?

**DUKE**

There's some in hope.
PROVOST. It is a bitter deity.

DUKE. Not so, not so; his life is paralleled

Even with the stroke and line of his great justice.

He doth with holy abstention subdue

That in himself which he spurs on his power

70 To quaff in others. Were he mead-ded with that

Which he corrects, then were he tyrannous.

But this being so, he's just. Now are they come.

This is a gentle provost; seldom when

The steedled jailer is the friend of men.

Knocking within

How now? What noise? That spirit's possessed with haste

That wounds th'insisting postern with these strokes.

[Enter Provost]

PROVOST. There he must stay until the officer

Arose to let him in. He is called up.

DUKE. Have you no countermand for Claudio yet.

But he must die tomorrow?

PROVOST. None, sir, none.

DUKE. As near the dawning, Provost, as it is.

You shall hear more ere morning.

PROVOST. Happily

You something know, yet I believe there comes

No countermand, no such example have we.

Besides, upon the very siege of justice

Lord Angelo hath to the public ear

Professed the contrary.

Enter a Messenger

This is his lordship's man.

DUKE. And here comes Claudio's pardon.

Messer. My lord hath sent you this note, and by me this further charge, that you

swear not from the smallest article of it, neither in time, matter, or other

circumstance. Good morrow. For, as I take it, it is almost day.

95 PROVOST. I shall obey him. [Exit Messenger]

Aside.

DUKE. This is his pardon. Purchased by such sin

For which the pardoner himself is in

Hence hath offence his quick celerity.

When it is borne in high authority.

100 When vice makes mercy, mercy's so extended,

That for the fault's love is th'offender branded.

Now, sir, what news?

PROVOST. I told you, Lord Angelo, like thinking me remiss in mine office, awakens

me with this unwonted putting-on; methinks strangely, for he hath not used it

before.

DUKE. Pray you let's hear.

PROVOST. 'Whatsoever you may hear to the contrary, let Claudio be executed by

four of the clock, and in the afternoon Barnardine. For better satisfaction, let

me have Claudio's head sent me by five. Let this be duly performed with a thought

that more depends on it than we must yet deliver. Thus fail not to do your office,

as you will answer it at your peril. What say you to this, sir?'
DUKE What is that Barnardine who is to be executed in this afternoon?

PROVOST A Bohemian born, but here nursed up and bred, one that is a prisoner nine years old.

DUKE How came it that the absent Duke had not either delivered him to his liberty or executed him? I have heard it was over his manner to do so.

PROVOST His friends still wrought reprieves for him; and indeed, his fact, till now in the government of Lord Angelo, came not to an undoubted proof.

DUKE It is now apparent?

PROVOST Most manifest, and not denied by himself.

DUKE Hath he borne himself penitently in prison? How seems he to be touched?

PROVOST A man that apprehends death no more dreadfully but as a drunken sleep, careless, reckless, and fearless of what's past, present, or to come: insensible of mortality and desperately mortal.

DUKE He wants advice.

PROVOST He will hear none. He hath evermore had the liberty of the prison. Give him leave to escape hence. He would not. Drunk many times a day, if not many days entirely drunk. We have very oft awakened him, as if to carry him to execution, and showed him a seeming warrant for it, it hath not moved him at all.

DUKE More of him anon. There is written in your brow, Provost, honesty and constancy. If I read it not truly, my ancient skill beguiles me, but in the boldness of my cunning, I will lay myself in hazard. Claudia, whom here you have warrant to execute, is no greater forfeit to the law than Angelo who hath sentenced him. To make you understand this in a manifested effect, I crave but four days' respite, for the which you are to do me both a present and a dangerous courtesy.

PROVOST Pray, sir, in what?

DUKE In the delaying death.

PROVOST Alack, how may I do it, having the time limited and an express command, under penalty, to deliver his head in the view of Angelo? I may make my case as Claudia's, to cross this in the smallest.

DUKE By the vow of mine order. I warrant you, if my instructions may be your guide, let this Barnardine be this morning executed, and his head borne to Angelo.

PROVOST Angelo hath seen them both and will discover the favour.

DUKE O, death's a great disguiser, and you may add to it. Have the head and tie the beard and say it was the desire of the penitent to be so bared before his death: you know the course is common. If anything fall to you upon this, more than thanks and good fortune, by the saint whom I profess, I will plead against it with my life.

PROVOST Pardon me, good father, it is against my oath.

DUKE Were you sworn to the Duke or to the deputy?

PROVOST To him and to his substitutes.

DUKE You will think you have made no offence, if the Duke avouch the justice of your dealing?

PROVOST But what likelihood is in that?

DUKE Not a resemblance, but a certainty. Yet since I see you fearful that neither my coat, integrity, nor persuasion can with ease attempt you, I will go further than I meant, to pluck all fears out of you. Look you, sir, here is the hand and seal of the Duke: you know the character. I doubt not, and the signet is not strange to you.

Shows a letter.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 4.3

PROVOST I know them both.

DUKE The contents of this is the return of the duke; you shall anon over-read it at your pleasure, where you shall find within these two days he will be here. This is a thing that Angelo knows not, for he this very day receives letters of strange tenor, perchance of the duke's death, perchance entering into some monastery, but by chance nothing of what is writ. Look, th'unfolding star calls up the shepherd. Put not yourself into amazement how these things should be; all difficulties are but easy when they are known. Call your executioner, and off with Barnardine's head. I will give him a present shrift and advise him for a better place. Yet you are amazed, but this shall absolutely resolve you. Come away. It is almost clear dawn.

Exeunt

Act 4 Scene 3

Enter Clown [Pompey]

POMPEY  I am as well acquainted here as I was in our house of profession: one would think it were Mistress Overdone's own house, for here be many of her old customers. First, here's young Master Rashi. He's in for a commodity of brown paper and old ginger, ninescore and seventeen pounds, of which he made five marks ready money. Marry, then ginger was not money in request, for forty women were all dead. Then is there here one Master Caper, in the suit of Master Three-pile the merchant, for some four suits of peach-coloured satin, which now peaches him a beggar. Then have we here young Dizzy and young Master Deep-vow and Master Copperpurr and Master Starve-lackey the rapier and dagger man, and young Drop-heir that killed lusty Pudding, and Master Fortnight the filter, and brave Master Shoe-tie the great traveller, and wild Half-can, that stabbed Pots, and I think forty more, all great doers in our trade, and are now 'for the Lord's sake'.

Enter Abhorson

ABHORSON Sirrah, bring Barnardine hither.

BARNARDINE A pox o' your throats! Who makes that noise there? What are you? Within

POMPEY Your friends, sir, the hangman. You must be so good, sir, to rise and be put to death.

Within

BARNARDINE Away, you rogue, away! I am sleepy.

Within

ABHORSON Tell him he must awake, and that quickly too.

POMPEY Pray, Master Barnardine, awake till you are executed, and sleep afterwards.

ABHORSON Go in to him and fetch him out.

POMPEY He is coming, sir, he is coming; I hear his straw rustle.

Enter Barnardine

ABHORSON How now, Abhorson? What's the news with you?

Enter Clown

POMPEY He is coming, sir, he is coming; I hear his straw rustle.
ABHORSON Truly, sir, I would desire you to clap into your prayers, for, look you, the warrant's come.

BARNARDINE You rogue, I have been drinking all night. I am not fitted for't.

POMPEY O, the better, sir, for he that drinks all night, and is hanged betimes in the morning, may sleep the sounder all the next day.

Enter Duke [disguised as before]

ABHORSON Look, you, sir, here comes your ghostly father. Do we jest now, think you?

DUKE Sir, induced by my charity, and hearing how hastily you are to depart, I am come to advise you, comfort you and pray with you.

BARNARDINE Friar, not I. I have been drinking hard all night, and I will have more time to prepare me, or they shall beat out my brains with billets. I will not consent to die this day, that's certain.

DUKE O, sir, you must, and therefore I beseech you

Look forward on the journey you shall go.

BARNARDINE I swear I will not die today for any man's persuasion.

DUKE But hear you—

BARNARDINE Not a word. If you have anything to say to me, come to my ward, for thence will I not today.

Enter Provost

DUKE Unrest to live or die. O, grave heart!

After him, fellows, bring him to the block. [Exeunt Abhorson and Pompey]

PROVOST Now, sir, how do you find the prisoner?

DUKE A creature unprepared, unmeet for death.

And to transport him in the mind he is

Worse damnable.

PROVOST Here in the prison, father.

There died this morning of a cruel fever

One Ragazino, a most notorious pirate,

A man of Claudio's years, his beard and head

Just of his colour. What if we do omit

This reprobate till he were well inclined,

And satisfy the deputy with the visage

Of Ragazino, more like to Claudio?

DUKE O, 'tis an accident that heaven provides!

Dispatch it presently, the hour draws on

Prefixed by Angelo. See this be done,

And sent according to command. whiles I

Persuade this rudes wretch willingly to die.

PROVOST This shall be done, good father, presently.

But Barnardine must die this afternoon.

And how shall we continue Claudio.

To save me from the danger that might come

If he were known alive?

DUKE Let this be done:

Put them in secret holds, both Barnardine and Claudio.

Ere twice the sun hath made his journal greeting

To yonder generation, you shall find

Your safety manifested.

PROVOST I am your free dependant.

DUKE Quick, dispatch, and send the head to Angelo—

Exit [Provost]

Now will I write letters to Angelo—

The provost, he shall bear them — whose contents
Shall witness to him I am near at home.
And that by great injunctions I am bound
To enter publicly. Him I'll desire
To meet me at the consecrated point.
A league below the city, and from thence,
By cold gradation and well-balanced form.
We shall proceed with Angelo.

Enter Provost [with Rogazio's head]

Provost Here is the head. I'll carry it myself.

Duke Convenient is it. Make a swift return.

For I would commune with you of such things
That wait no ear but yours.

Provost I'll make all speed.

Isabella Peace, ho, be here!

Duke The tongue of Isabel. She's come to know
If yet her brother's pardon be come hither.
But I will keep her ignorant of her good,
To make her heavenly comforts of despair,
When it is least expected.

Enter Isabella

Isabella Ho, by your leave!

Duke Good morning to you, fair and gracious daughter.
Isabella The better, given me by so holy a man.

Hath yet the deputy sent my brother's pardon?

Duke He hath released him, Isabel — from the world.
     His head is off and sent to Angelo.

Isabella Nay, but it is not so.

Duke It is no other.

Show your wisdom, daughter, in your close patience.

Isabella O, I will to him and pluck out his eyes!

Duke You shall not be admitted to his sight.

Isabella Unhappy Claudio, wretched Isabel,
    [injurious world, must damned Angelo]

Duke This nor hurts him nor profits you a jot.
     Forbear it therefore, give your cause to heaven.
Mark what I say, which you shall find
By every syllable a faithful verity.
     The duke comes home tomorrow — say, dry your eyes —

One of our convent, and his confessor.
     Gives me this instance. Already he hath carried
Notice to Escalus and Angelo,
Who do prepare to meet him at the gates.
There to give up their power. If you can, pace your wisdom
In that good path that I would wish it go.
And you shall have your bosom on this wretch,
Grace of the duke, revenge to your heart.
And general honour.

Isabella I am directed by you.

Duke This letter, then, to Friar Peter give.
    'Ts that he sent me of the duke's return.
     Say, by this token I desire his company
At Mariana's house tonight. Her cause and yours

80 injunctions commune: bound required 82 consecrated found body spring 83 league three miles 84 cold gradation calm 85 advancement well-balanced form careful observance of the proper procedures 86 commune discuss 95 of out of 103 close sustained silent 111 Forbear it restrain yourself 113 verify much 115 confessor either Friar Thomas (mentioned in Act I) or Friar Peter 116 instance information 119 pace control manoeuvre 120 good path right direction 121 bosom on bosom with indubitable 122 Grace be virtue heart here's content
I'll perfect him within, and he shall bring you
Before the duke, and to the head of Angelo
Accuse him home and home. For my poor self,
I am combined by a sacred vow.
And shall be absent. Werd you with this letter:
Command these fretting waters from your eyes
With a light heart; trust not my holy order
If I pervert your course. Who's here?

Enter Lucio

LUCIO  Good even, friar; where's the provost?

Duke  Not within, sir.

LUCIO  O, pretty Isabella, I am pale at mine heart to see thine eyes so red; thou must be patient. I am fain to dine and sup with water and brain; I dare not for my
head fill my belly. One fruitful meal would set me to't. But they say the duke will be here tomorrow. By my troth, Isabel, I loved thy brother. If the old fantastical
duke of dark corners had been at home, he had lived.  [Exit Isabella]

Duke  Sir, the duke is marvellous little beholding to your reports, but the best is, he lives not in them.

LUCIO  Friar, thou knowest not the duke so well as I do. He's a better woodman than thou tak'st him for.

Duke  Well, you'll answer this one day. Fare ye well.

Lucio  Nay, Barry, I'll go along with thee. I can tell thee pretty tales of the duke.

Duke  You have told me too many of him already, sir, if they be true. If not true, none were enough.

LUCIO  I was once before him for getting a wench with child.

Duke  Did you such a thing?

LUCIO  Yes, marry, did I; but I was fain to forswear it. They would else have married me to the rotten medlar.

Duke  Sir, your company is fairer than honest. Rest you well.

Lucio  By my troth, I'll go with thee to the lane's end. If bawdy talk offend you, we'll have very little of it. Nay, friar, I am a kind of burr. I shall stick.  Exeunt

Act 4 Scene 4

Enter Angelo and Escalus

Escalus  Every letter he hath writ hath disavouched other.

Angelo  In most uneven and distracted manner. His actions show much like to madness. Pray heaven his wisdom be not tainted. And why meet him at the gates and redeliver our authorizes there?

Escalus  I guess not.

Angelo  And why should we proclaim it in an hour before his entering, that if any craves redress of injustice, they should exhibit their petitions in the streets?

Escalus  He knows his reason for that: to have a dispatch of complaints and to deliver us from devices hereafter, which shall then have no power to stand against us.  

Angelo  Well, I beseech you, let it be proclaimed betimes i'th' morn. I'll call you at your house. Give notice to such men of sort and suit as are to meet him.

Escalus  I shall, sir. Fare you well.

1129 perfect him within; tell him about. 120 to ... of face to face with. 121 home and home thoroughly. 122 combined bound. 133 Werd you drem
yourself. 134 waters. I.e., tears. 135 perfect turn side. 140 fair obliged. 141 cause brown bread. 142 for my head for fear of losing my head. 143 fruitful fulfilling. 144 prettiest. 145 behaving themselves. indecent. 146 in the nothing like you surly. 147 woodman. 148 pretty face/driver. 154 fair to forswear eager to deny. 155 marvellous. 156 fairer more. 157 disavouched. 158 clear. 159 disorderly; bawdy. 160 disavouched. 252 calmer. 3 wisdom. 7 dispatch to send. 9 devices; occasion. 11 betimes early. 12 sort and suit social suit and personal futile.
202 MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 4.6

ANGELO Good night.

Exit [Escalus]

15 This deed unshapes me quite, makes me unpregnant
And dull to all proceedings. A deflowered mind,
And by an eminent body that enforced
The law against it! But that her tender shame
Will not proclaim against her maiden loss.
20 How might she tongue me? Yet reason dares her no.
For my authority hears of a credent bulk
That no particular scandal once can touch
But it confounds the breather. He should have lived,
Save that his riotous youth with dangerous sense
30 Might in the times to come have taken revenge
By so receiving a dishonoured life
With ransom of such shame. Would yet he had lived!
Alack, when once our grace we have forgot,
Nothing goes right: we would, and we would not.

Exit

Act 4 Scene 5

Enter Duke [in his own habit] and Friar Peter

DUKE  These letters at first time deliver me.
      The provost knows our purpose and our plot.
      The matter being afoot, keep your instruction
      And hold you ever to our special drift.
      Though sometimes you do blemish from this to that.
      As cause doth minister. Go call at Flavius' house.
      And tell him where I stay. Give the like notice
      To Valentius, Rowland, and to Crassus.
      And bid them bring the trumpets to the gate.

5 Friar Peter It shall be speeded well.
Enter Varrius

DUKE  I thank thee, Varrius, thou hast made good haste.
      Come, we will walk. There's other of our friends
      Will greet us here anon. my gentle Varrius.

Exeunt

Act 4 Scene 6

Enter Isabella and Mariana

ISABELLA  To speak so indirectly I am loath.
      I would say the truth, but to accuse him so.
      That is your part. Yet I am advised to do it.
      He says, to veil full purpose.

5 Mariana  Be ruled by him.

ISABELLA  Besides, he tells me that if peradventure
      He speak against me on the adverse side,
      I should not think it strange, for 'tis a physic
      That's bitter to sweet end.
Enter [Friar] Peter

MARINA I would Friar Peter—

ISABELLA O, peace, the friar is come.

FRIAR PETER Come, I have found you out a stand most fit.

Where you may have such vantage on the duke:

He shall not pass you. Twice have the trumpets sounded.

15 The generous and gravest citizens

Have hent the gates, and very near upon

The duke is entering: therefore hence, away!

Exeunt

Act 5 Scene 1

Enter Duke [in his own habit], Varrius, Lords, Angelo, Escalus, Lucio. [and] Citizens, at several doors

DUKE My very worthy cousin, fairly met—

Our old and faithful friend, we are glad to see you.

ANGELO and ESCALUS Happy return be to your royal grace!

DUKE Many and hearty thankings to you both.

5 We have made inquiry of you, and we hear

Such goodness of your justice that our soul

Cannot but yield you forth to public thanks,

For running more requisite.

ANGELO You make my bonds still greater.

DUKE O, your desert speaks loud, and I should wrong it

To lock it in the wards of covert bosom.

When it deserves with characters of brass

A forged residence 'gainst the tooth of time

And raze of oblivion. Give me your hand,

And let the subject see, to make them know

That outward courtesies would vain proclaim

Favours that keep within. Come, Escalus,

You must walk by us on our other hand,

And good supporters are you.

Enter [Friar] Peter and Isabella

FRIAR PETER Now is your time. Speak loud and kneel before him.

ISABELLA Justice, O royal duke! Vail your regard

Upon a wronged — I would have have said, a maid.

O worthy prince, dishonour not your eye

By throwing it on any other object

25 Till you have heard me in my true complaint

And given me justice. Justice, justice, justice!

DUKE Relate your wrongs: in what, by whom? Be brief.

Here is Lord Angelo shall give you justice,

Revealed yourself to him.

ISABELLA O worthy duke,

You bid me seek redemption of the devil.

Hear me yourself, for that which I must speak

Must either punish me, not being believed.

Or wring redress from you. Hear me, O, hear me here!

35 ANGELO My lord, her wits, I fear me, are not firm.

She hath been a suitor to me for her brother

Cut off by course of justice—
ISABELLA By course of justice!

ANGELO And she will speak most bitterly and strange.

ISABELLA Most strange, but yet most truly will I speak.

That Angelo's forewarn, is it not strange?
That Angelo's a murderer, is't not strange?
That Angelo is an adulterous thief,
An hypocrite, a virgin-violator.
Is it not strange and strange?

DUKE Nay, it is ten times strange.

ISABELLA It is not truer he is Angelo

Then this is all as true as it is strange:
Nay, it is ten times true, for truth is truth
To the end of reck'ning.

DUKE Away with her. Poor soul.
She speaks this in the solemnity of sense.

ISABELLA O prince, I conjure thee, as thou believest

There is another comfort than this world.

That thou neglect me not with that opinion
That I am touched with madness. Make not impossible
That which but seems unlike. 'Tis not impossible
But one, the wicked's, cut'off on the ground,
May seem as shy, as grave, as just, as absolute
As Angelo: even so may Angelo,
In all his dressings, caracks, titles, forms,
Be an arch-villain, believe it, royal prince:
Yet be less, he's nothing, but he's more.
Had I more name for badness.

DUKE By mine honesty,
If she be mad — as I believe no other —
Her madness hath the oldest frame of sense,
Such a dependency of thing on thing,
As e'er I heard in madness.

ISABELLA O gracious duke.

Harp not on that, nor do not banish reason
For inequality, but let your reason serve
To make the truth appear where it seems hid.
And hide the false seems true.

DUKE Many that are not mad

Have, sure, more lack of reason. What would you say?

ISABELLA I am the sister of one Claudio,
Condemned upon the act of fornication
To lose his head, condemned by Angelo.

I, in probation of a sisterhood,
Was sent to by my brother, one Lucio
As then the messenger—

LUCIO That's I, sir, like your grace.
I came to her from Claudio, and desired her
To try her gracious fortune with Lord Angelo
For her poor brother's pardon.

ISABELLA That's he indeed.
DUKE You were not bid to speak.
LUCIO No, my good lord.

Nor wished to hold my peace.

DUKE I wish you now, then,
Pray you take note of it. And when you have
A business for yourself, pray heaven you then
Be perfect.

LUCIO I warrant your honour.
DUKE The warrant's for yourself; take heed to't.
ISABELLA This gentleman told somewhat of my tale—
LUCIO Right.
DUKE It may be right, but you are the wrong
To speak before your time.—Proceed.
ISABELLA I went
To this pernicious cat[ll]e deputy—
DUKE That's somewhat madly spoken.
ISABELLA Pardon it.

The phrase is to the matter.
DUKE Mended again. The matter: proceed.
ISABELLA In brief: to set the needless process by—
   How I persuaded, how I prayed and knedded.
   How he relented me, and how I replied.
   For this was of much length — the vile conclusion
   I now begin with grief and shame to utter.
   He would not, but by gift of my chaste body
   To his conceptible intemperate last
   Release my brother. And after much debate.
   My sisterly remorse confutes mine honour.
   And I did yield to him. But the next morrow betimes.
   His purpose surfeiting, he sends a warrant
   For my poor brother's head.
DUKE This is most likely.

ISABELLA O, that it were as like as it is true!
DUKE By heaven, fond wretch, thou know'st not what thou speak'st,
   Or else thou art suborned against his honour
In hateful practice. First, his integrity
Stands without blemish. Next, it imports no reason
   That with such vehemency he should pursue
   Faults proper to himself. If he had so offended,
   He would have weighed thy brother by himself.
   And not have cut him off. Someone hath set you on
   Confess the truth, and say by whose advice
   Thou canst here to complain.
ISABELLA And is this all?
   Then, O you blessed ministers above,
   Keep me in patience, and with ripened time
   Unfold the evil which is here wrapt up
In countenance! Heaven shield your grace from woe.
   As I, thus wronged, hence unbelieving go!

DUKE I know you'll gain be gone. An officer!
   To prison with her. Shall we thus permit

She starts to go

95 wished was I asked 96 business for yourself matter concerning yourself 97 perfect fully prepared accurate 98 warrant assure (the duke shifts the sense to document authorizing arrest) 99 somewhat some part 100 pernicious destructive 101 to the matter relevant 102 minded set right 103 to by leaving out unnecessary details 104 persuaded entreated urged 105 related related 106 conceptible holy innocent 107 debate debate argument 108 remorse pity confutes overcome 109 the ... betimes early the next morning 117 surfeiting being overindulged 118 likely probable (French) 120 that ... i.e. as then the duke right before her 121 lend lavish 122 suborned billet to make false accusations 123 practice 124 import no reason make no sense 125 persons ... himself seek to punish a crime he had already committed 127 weighed judged 128 cut him off had him executed set you on put you up to this 132 minutes multis 134 untold reveal 135 countenance social meaning outward show
Measure for Measure • 5.1

A blustering and a scandalous breath to fall
On him so near us! This needs must be a practice.
Who knew of your intent and coming hither?

Isabella One that I would were here. Friar Lodowick.

Duke A ghostly father, belike. Who knows that Lodowick?

Lucio My lord, I know him. 'tis a meddling friar.

Duke I do not like the man. Had he been lay, my lord.

Lucio For certain words he spake against your grace.
In your retirement, I had swung him soundly.

Duke Words against me? This 'tis a good friar, belike.

And to set on this wretched woman here
Against our substitute! Let this friar be found.

Lucio But yesternight, my lord, she and that friar,

I saw them at the prison: a saucy friar.

A very saucy fellow.

Friar Peter Blessed be your royal grace.

Lucio I have stood by, my lord, and I have heard
Your royal ear abused. First, hath this woman
Most wrongfully accused your substitute.
Who is as free from touch or soil with her
As she from one ungot.

Duke We did we believe no less.

Know you that Friar Lodowick that she speaks of?

Friar Peter I know him for a man divine and holy.

Not saucy, nor a temporary meddler.

As he's reported by this gentleman.

Lucio And on my trust a man that never yet

Did, as he vouches, misreport your grace.

Duke My lord, most villainously, believe it.

Friar Peter Well, he in time may come to clear himself.

But at this instant he is sick, my lord.

Of a strange fever. Upon his mere request.

Being come to knowledge that there was complaint
Intended against Lord Angelo, came I hither.

To speak, as from his mouth, what he doth know
Is true and false, and what he with his oath

And all probation will make up full clear.

Whereupon he's convicted. First, for this woman,

To justify this worthy noblemen
So vulgarly and personally accused.

Her shall you hear disproved to her eyes,

Till she herself confess it.

Duke Good friar, let's hear it.

Do you not smile at this, Lord Angelo?

O heaven, the vanity of wretched fools!

Give us some seats. Come, cousin Angelo.

In this I'll be impartial: be you judge

Of your own cause.

Enter Mariana [welded]

First, let her show her face, and after speak.
MARIA. Pardon, my lord; I will not show my face
Until my husband bid me.

DUKE. What are you married?
MARIA. No, my lord.

DUKE. Are you a maid?
MARIA. No, my lord.

DUKE. A widow, then?
MARIA. Neither, my lord.

DUKE. Why, you are nothing then: neither maid, widow, nor wife?
LUCIO. My lord, she may be a punk, for many of them are neither maid, widow, nor wife.

DUKE. Silence that fellow, I would he had some cause
To prattle for himself.

LUCIO. Well, my lord.
MARIA. My lord, I do confess I never was married,
And confess besides I am no maid.
I have known my husband, yet my husband
Knows not that ever he knew me.

LUCIO. He was drunk then, my lord; it can be no better.
DUKE. For the benefit of silence, would thou wouldst so too.
LUCIO. Well, my lord.

DUKE. This is no witness for Lord Angelo.

MARIA. Now I come to't, my lord.
Sith that accuses him of fornication,
In self-same manner doth accuse my husband.
And charges him, my lord, with such a time
When I'll depose I had him in mine arms
With all the effect of love.

ANGELO. Charges she more than me?
MARIA. Not that I know.

DUKE. No! You say your husband,
MARIA. Who thinks he knows that he ne'er knew my body.
But knows he thinks that he knows Isabel's.

ANGELO. This is a strange abuse. Let's see thy face.
MARIA. My husband bids me, now I will unmask.
This is that face. Thou churlly Angelo,
Which once thou swor'st was worth the looking on:
This is the hand which, with a vowed contract,
Was fast bespangled with dials: this is the body
That took away the match from Isabel,
And did supply thee at thy garden-house.

In her imagined person.

DUKE. Know you this woman?
LUCIO. Carnally, she says.

DUKE. Enough, no more!

LUCIO. Enough, my lord.

ANGELO. My lord, I must confess I know this woman.
And five years since there was some speech of marriage
Betwixt myself and her, which was broke off,
Partly for that her promised proportions
Came short of composition, but in chief.

197 punk prostitute 199 curse... himself reason to speak charge of his own to defend himself against 204 known had sex with 207 For... too if it kept you quiet I wish you were also drunk 213 charges accuses bade, with as: 214 depose testify 215 to effect the manifestations fulfillmen 218 charges she more is she accusing other men 219 past exactly 220 abuse exception 221 fast bespangled held firmly 225 false match assessment 229 supply supply garden-house summer flowers 230 in... person disguised as Isabel 232 proportions dainty 236 composition she agreed amount to chief principally
For that her reputation was disvalued
In levi
ty. Since which time of five years
I never spake with her, saw her, nor heard from her.
Upon my faith and honour.

MARIANA

As there cometh light from heaven and words from breath.
Pro
As there is sense in truth and truth in virtue.
I am affianced this man's wife as strongly
As words could make up vows. And, my good lord,
But Tuesday night last gone in's garden-house

He knew her as a wife. As this is true.
Let me in safety raise me from my knees.
Or else forever be confounded here.

A marble monument!

ANGELO

I did but smile till now.

Now, good my lord, give me the scope of justice.

My patience here is touched. I do perceive

These poor informal women are no more

But instruments of some more mighty member

That sets them on. Let me have way, my lord.

To find this practice out.

DUKE

Ay, with my heart.

And punish them to your height of pleasure.

Thou foolish friar, and thou pertious woman.
Compact with her that's gone, think'st thou thy oaths.

Though they would aver to you each particular saint.

Were testimonies against his worth and credit

That's sealed in approbation? You, Lord Escalus.

Sit with my cousin, lend him your kind pains

To find out this abuse, whence 'tis derived.

There is another friar that set them on,

Let him be sent for.

FRIAR PETER

Would he were here, my lord, for he indeed

Hath set the women on to this complaint.

Your provost knows the place where he abides.

And he may fetch him.

DUKE

[Exit Provost]

And you, my noble and well-warranted cousin,
Whom it concerns to hear this matter forth.

Do with your injuries as seems you best.

In any chastisement, I for a while

Will leave you, but stir not you till you have

Well determined upon these slanders.

ESCALUS

My lord, we'll do it thoroughly.

Signior Lucio, did not you say you knew that Friar Lodowick to be a dishonest

person?

LUCIO

Cecilus non facti monachum: honest in nothing but in his clothes, and one

that hath spoke most villainous speeches of the duke.

ESCALUS

We shall entreat you to abide here till he come and enforce them against

him. We shall find this friar a notable fellow.

LUCIO

As any in Vienna, on my word.
ESCALUS Call that same Isabel here once again, I would speak with her.

Pray you, my lord, give me leave to question you, shall see how I'll handle her.

LUCIO Not better than he, by her own report.

ESCALUS Say you.

LUCIO Merry, sir. I think, if you handled her privately, she would sooner confess,
pereance publicly she'll be ashamed.

Enter Duke [in his friar's disguise], Provost, Isabella [and Officers]

ESCALUS I will go darkly to work with her.

LUCIO That's the way, for women are light at midnight.

ESCALUS Come on, mistress, here's a gentlewoman denies all that you have said.

LUCIO My lord, here comes the rascal I spoke of, here with the provost.

ESCALUS In very good time. Speak not to him till we call upon you.

LUCIO Mum.

ESCALUS Come, sir, did you see these women on to slander Lord Angelo? They have confessed you did.

DUKE 'Tis false.

ESCALUS How? Know you where you are?

DUKE Respect to your great place, and let the devil

Be sometime honoured for his burning throne.

Where is the duke? 'Tis he should hear me speak.

ESCALUS The duke's in us, and we will hear you speak.

DUKE Look you speak justly.


Come ye to seek the lamb here of the fox?

Good night to your redress! Is the duke gone?

Then is your cause gone too. The duke's unjust.

Thus to retort your manifest appeal.

And put your trial in the villain's mouth

Which here you come to accuse.

LUCIO This is the rascal, this is he I spoke of.

ESCALUS Why, thou unreverend and unhallowed friar.

It's not enough thou hast suborned these women

To accuse this worthy man, but, in foul mouth.

And in the witness of his proper ear.

To call him villain, and then to glance from him

To th' duke himself, to tax him with injustice?

Take him hence, to th' rack with him! We'll touse you

Joint by joint, but we will know his purpose.

What? Unjust?

DUKE Be not so hot. The duke dare

No more stretch this finger of mine than he

Dare rack his own. His subject am I not,

Nor here provincial. My business in this state

Made me a looker-on here in Vienna.

Where I have seen corruption boil and bubble

Till it o'erurn the stew: laws for all faults.

But faults so censured that the strong statutes

Stand like the forfeits in a barber's shop.

As much in mock as mark.

292 handle [Deb.] that deals on the reverse side, but that deals on the reverse side.
294 Say you? What did you say?
295 privately done, in her private parts.
296 perchance...

299 light heigh provosts.
302 Mum, I shall bet that.

308 honored...

310 into it is represented by... 310 Look;

313 good...

314 dullness.

317 manifest evidently unfair.

320 unrewarded

322 mouth language. 323 proper ear own bearing.

324 glance, move rapidly.

325 tax charge.

326 th' rack torture instrument that stretched the limbs.

329 hot rash, hard.

330 stretch upon the rack.

332 here provincial of this province.

333 stretch, do not subject to its laws.

334 censure, condemned.

335 erected (by those in authority).

337 forfeits.

338 mark so as a sentence winning.
MEASURE FOR MEASURE • 5.1

ESCAULUS
Slander to this state! Away with him to prison!

ANGELO
What can you vouch against him, Signor Lucio?

LUCIO
Is this the man that you did tell us of?

DUKE
I remember you, sir, by the sound of your voice. I met you at the prison, in the absence of the duke.

LUCIO
O, did you so? And do you remember what you said of the duke?

DUKE
Most notably, sir.

LUCIO
Do you so, sir? And was the duke a fleshmonger, a fool, and a coward, as you then reported him to be?

DUKE
You must, sir, change persons with me ere you make that my report: you indeed spoke so of him, and much more, much worse.

ANGELO
Hark, how the villain would close now; after his treacherous abuses.

ESCAULUS
Such a fellow is not to be talked withal. Away with him to prison. Where is the provost? Away with him to prison. Lay bolts enough upon him. Let him speak no more. Away with those giglots too, and with the other confederate companion!

DUKE
Stay, sir, stay awhile.

ANGELO
What, resists he? Help him, Lucio.

LUCIO
Come, sir, come, sir, come, sir. Foh, sir! Why, you hald-pated, lying rascal, you must be hooded, must you? Show your knife’s visage, with a pot to you: show your sheep-biting face, and be hanged an hour! Will’s not off!—

DUKE
Thus art thou first knave that ever madst a duke.——

LUCIO
First, provost, let me bail these gentle three.——

Sneak not away, sir, for the friar and you must have a word anon.——

LUCIO
This may prove worse than hanging.

DUKE
What you have spoke I pardon. Sit you down.

We’ll borrow place of him.——

Sir, by your leave.

Hast thou or word or wit or impudence

That yet can do thee office? If thou hast,

Rely upon it till my tale be heard,

And hold no longer out.

ANGELO
O, my dread lord,

I should be guiltier than my guiltiness.

To think I can be indiscernible:

When I perceive your grace, like power divine,

Hath looked upon my praises. Then, good prince,

No longer session hold upon my shame.

But let my trial be mine own confession:

Immediate sentence then and sequent death

Is all the grace I beg.

DUKE
Come hither, Mariana.——

SAY: wast thou e’er contracted to this woman?

ANGELO
I was, my lord.

DUKE
Go take her hence, and marry her instantly.——

Do you the office, friar, which consummate.
Return him here again.—Go with him, provost.

*Exeunt [Angelo, Mariana, Friar Peter and provost]*

### Escalus

My lord, I am more amazed at his dishonour

Than at the strangeness of it.

### Duke

Come hither, Isabel.

Your friar is now your prince. As I was then

Advertising and holy to your business.

Not changing heart with habit, I am still

Attorneyed at your service.

### Isabella

Give me pardon

That 1, your vassal, have employed and pained

Your unknown sovereignty.

### Duke

You are pardoned, Isabel:

And now, dear maid, be you as free to us.

Your brother's death, I know, sits at your heart.

And you may marvel why I obscured myself,

Labouring to save his life, and would not rather

Make rash remonstrance of my hidden power

Than let him so be lost. O sore kind maid,

It was the swift celerity of his death.

Which I did think with slower foot came on.

That brained my purpose. But, peace be with him.

That life is better life, past fearing death.

Than that which lives to fear. Make it your comfort.

So happy is your brother.

### Isabella

I do, my lord.

*Enter Angelo, Mariana. [Friar Peter [and] Provost*

### Duke

For this new-married man approaching here.

Whose salt imagination yet hath wronged

Your well defended honour, you must pardon

For Mariana's sake. But as he adjourned your brother.

Being criminal, in double violation

Of sacred chastity and of promise-break

Thereon dependent for your brother's life.

The very mercy of the law cries out

Most audible, even from lib proper tongue.

'An Angelo for Claudio, death for death!'

Haste still pays haste, and leisure answers leisure.

Like doth quit like, and measure still for measure.

Then, Angelo, thy fault's thus manifested.

Which, though thou wouldst deny, denies thee vantage.

We do condemn thee to the very block

Where Claudio stooped to death, and with like haste.

Away with him!

### Mariana

O my most gracious lord.

I hope you will not mock me with a husband.

### Duke

It is your husband mocked you with a husband.

Consenting to the safeguard of your honour.

I thought your marriage fit, else imputation.

For that he knew you, might reproach your life.
And choke your good to come. For his possessions,
Although by confiscation they are ours.
We do instate and widow you withal.
To buy you a better husband.

**MARIANA** O my dear lord.
I crave no other, nor no better man.

**DUKE** Never crave him, we are definitive.

**MARIANA** Gentle my liege—

**DUKE** You do but lose your labour.
Away with him to death. — Now, sir, to you.

**MARIANA** O my good lord! Sweet Isabel, take my part.
Lend me your knees, and all my life to come
I'll lend you all my life to do you service.

**DUKE** Against all sense you do importune her.
Should she kneel down in mercy of this fact.
Her brother's ghost his paved bed would break.
And take her hence in horror.

**MARIANA** Isabel.
Sweet Isabel, do yet but kneel by me.
Hold up your hands, say nothing. I'll speak all.
They say best men are moulded out of faults.
And for the most become more the better
For being a little bad: so may my husband.

**DUKE** O Isabel, will you not lend a knee?

**ISABELLA** He dies for Claudio's death.

**MARIANA** Merely, my lord.

**ISABELLA** Most bounteous sir,
Look, if it please you, on this man condemned.
As if my brother lived, I partly think
A due sincerity governed his deeds.
Till he did look on me: since it is so.
Let him not die. My brother had but justice.
In that he did the thing for which he died.
For Angelo.

**DUKE** His act did not o'ertake his bad intent.
And must be buried but as an intent
That perished by the way. Thoughts are no subjects.
Intents but merely thoughts.

**MARIANA** Your suit's unprofitable. Stand up, I say.
I have bethought me of another fault.
Provost, how came it Claudio was beheaded
At an unusual hour?

**PROVOST** It was commanded so.

**DUKE** Had you a special warrant for the deed?

**PROVOST** No, my good lord. It was by private message.

**DUKE** For which I do discharge you of your office.
Give up your keys.

**PROVOST** Pardon me, noble lord.

**DUKE** I thought it was a fault, but knew it not.
Yet did repent me after more advice.
For testimony whereof one in the prison.
That should by private order else have died,
I have reserved alive.
DUKE What's he?

PROVOST His name is Barnardine.

DUKE I would thou hadst done so by Claudio.

Go fetch him hither, let me look upon him. [Exit Provost]

ESCALUS I am sorry, one so learned and so wise

As you, Lord Angelo, have still appeared.

Should slip so grossly, both in the heat of blood

And lack of tempered judgment afterward.

ANGELO I am sorry that such sorrow I procure.

And so deep sticks it in my penitent heart

That I crave death more willingly than mercy.

Tis my deserving, and I do entreat it.

Enter Provost, Barnardine, Claudio [muffled, and] Julietta

DUKE Which is that Barnardine?

PROVOST This, my lord.

DUKE There was a friar told me of this man,

Sirrah, thou art said to have a stubborn soul

That apprehends no further than this world,

And squarst thy life according. Thou 'rt condemned.

But, for those earthly faults, I quit them all,

And pray thee take this mercy to provide

For better times to come. Friar, advise him.

I leave him to your hand. What muffled fellow's that?

PROVOST This is another prisoner that I saved.

Who should have died when Claudio lost his head.

As like almost to Claudio as himself.

DUKE If he be like your brother, for his sake

Is he pardoned. And, for your lovely sake,

Give me your hand and say you will be mine.

He is my brother too. But litter time for that.

By this Lord Angelo perceives he's safe.

Methinks I see a quickening in his eye.

Well, Angelo, your evil quits you well:

Look that you love your wife, her worth worth yours.

I find an apt remission in myself.

And yet here's one in place I cannot pardon.

You, sirrah, that knew me for a fool, a coward,

One all of luxury, an ass, a madman —

Wherein have I so deserved of you.

That you extol me thus?

LUCIO Faith, my lord. I spoke it but according to the trick. If you will hang me for it, you may, but I had rather it would please you I might be whipped.

DUKE Whipped first, sir, and hanged after.

Proclaim it, provost, round about the city:

If any woman wronged by this lewd fellow —

As I have heard him swear himself there's one

Whom he begot with child — let her appear.

And he shall marry her. The nuptial finished,

Let him be whipped and hanged.

LUCIO I beseech your highness, do not marry me to a whore. Your highness said even now, I made you a duke. Good my lord, do not recompense me in making me a cuckold.

DUKE If you, sirrah, were in this instance.
DUKE
Upon mine honour, thus shalt marry her.
Thy slanders I forgive, and thereunto
Remit thy other forfeits. Take him to prison,
And see our pleasure herein executed.

LUCIO
Marrying a punk, my lord, is pressing to death, whipping, and hanging.

DUKE
Stancred a prince deserves it.
[Exeunt Officers with Lucio]

She, Iudicio, that you wronged, look you restore.
Joy to you, Mariana. Love her, Angelo.
I have confessed her and I know her virtue.
Thanks, good friend Escalus, for thy much goodness.
There's more behind that is more gratulate.
Thanks, provost, for thy care and secrecy,
We shall employ thee in a worthier place.
Forgive him, Angelo, that brought you home
The head of Bajentio for Claudio's.
Th'offence pardons itself. Dear Isabel.
I have a motion much imports your good,
Wherefore if you'll a willing ear incline.
What's mine is yours and what is yours is mine.
So, bring us to our palace, where we'll show
What's yet behind, that's meet you all should know.

Textual Notes

F = First Folio text of 1623, the only authority for the play
F2 = a correction introduced in the Second Folio text of 1632
Ed = a correction introduced by a later editor
SD = stage direction
SH = speech heading (i.e. speaker's name)

List of parts based on 'Names of All the Actors' (rendered) at end of F text

1.1.74  reiuch: spelt rollich in F. 80 SD Exit = F2. F places SD after line 79
1.2.42  SH MISTRESS OVERDONE = Ed. F = Bawd. (throughout) 61 SH POMPEY = Ed. F = Glo. or Clow. (throughout)
1.3.18  mortality = Ed. F = mortality
1.4.11  and witless = F2. F = witless 22 fourteen = F Some eds emend to nineteen 28 Becomes more = Ed. F = More
46 In = F. Some eds emend to me or in 50 me = Ed. F omits
1.5.2  SH FRANCISCA = Ed. F = Nan 98 giving-out = F. Some eds emend to giving-out
2.1.13  your = Ed. F = our
2.2.75  back again = F2. F = again 118 now = F. Some eds emend to new or raw 121 erre = Ed. F = here 135 me'er = F2
F = newer
2.4.9  seared = Ed. F = seared 53 or = Ed. F = and 80 me be = F2. F = be
3.1.29  sire = Ed. F = sire 55 me ...them = Ed. F = them to hear me 72 Though = Ed. F = Though 97 renew = Ed. F = emmow 141 penury = F2. F = penury 210 by oath of = F2. F = oath 287 eat, array = Ed. F = eat away 279 Free from = F2. F = From 361 dearer = Ed. F = dearer 382 now ...yet = F. Some eds emend to not past it yet.
4.2.9  Seae = Ed. F = Sea
4.1.23  well come = F. Some eds emend to welcome 61 courte = F2. F = Quest
4.2.35  G = F. Some eds assign the speech to Adriano 84 Happily Spelled Happily is F 90 Assigned to the Provost = Ed. F assigns to the Duke. lordship's = Ed. F = Lords 91 Assigned to the Duke = Ed. F assigns to the Provost
4.3.10  Forthright = Ed. F = Forthright 11 Shoe-lie spelled Shoobie In F 73 yonder = Ed. F = yond 115 convivial spelled Convient is F
4.4.4  render = Ed. F = re-tier
4.5.6  Flavius = Ed. F = Flavius' 8 Valentus = Ed. F = Valenarius
5.1.14  me = Ed. F = me 187 her = F2 F = your 438 consolation = F2. F = consolation 561 that's = F2. F = that

542 therewithal in addition 543 Fermi pardons forfeits punishments 544 pleasure herein executed when fulfilled 546 pressing to death one who refused to plead guilty or innocent were pressed with heavy weights until he pleaded or died (plays on the sense of death by sexual inactivity) 547 restor makes animals in by marriage 549 confedered has been her confeder 561 behind to come gratulate pleasing/expensive of thanks 557 mettler...good proposal that greatly consider your benefits 560 bring accompany 561 yet behind still to be resolved...meet fitting