

BERTRAM

Enter Helena.

Here comes my clog.

HELENA

I have, sir, as I was commanded from you,
Spoke with the King and have procured his leave
For present parting. Only he desires
Some private speech with you. 60

BERTRAM I shall obey his will.

You must not marvel, Helena, at my course,
Which holds not color with the time, nor does
The ministration and requirèd office
On my particular. Prepared I was not 65
For such a business; therefore am I found
So much unsettled. This drives me to entreat you
That presently you take your way for home.

Giving her a paper.

This to my mother.

'Twill be two days ere I shall see you, so 75
I leave you to your wisdom.

HELENA Sir, I can nothing say

But that I am your most obedient servant—

BERTRAM

Come, come, no more of that.

HELENA And ever shall 80

With true observance seek to eke out that
Wherein toward me my homely stars have failed
To equal my great fortune.

BERTRAM Let that go.

My haste is very great. Farewell. Hie home. 85

HELENA

Pray, sir, your pardon.

BERTRAM Well, what would you say?

HELENA

I am not worthy of the wealth I owe,
Nor dare I say 'tis mine—and yet it is—
But, like a timorous thief, most fain would steal 90
What law does vouch mine own.

BERTRAM What would you have?

HELENA

Something, and scarce so much; nothing, indeed.
I would not tell you what I would, my lord. Faith,
yes: 95

Strangers and foes do sunder and not kiss.

BERTRAM

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

HELENA

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

She exits.

BERTRAM

Go thou toward home, where I will never come 100
Whilst I can shake my sword or hear the drum.—
Away, and for our flight.