

conclude, he is in love.
 CLAUDIO Nay, but I know who loves him.
 PRINCE That would I know, too. I warrant, one that 60
 knows him not.
 CLAUDIO Yes, and his ill conditions; and, in despite of
 all, dies for him.
 PRINCE She shall be buried with her face upwards.
 BENEDICK Yet is this no charm for the toothache.— 65
 Old signior, walk aside with me. I have studied eight
 or nine wise words to speak to you, which these
 hobby-horses must not hear.

Benedick and Leonato exit.

PRINCE For my life, to break with him about Beatrice!
 CLAUDIO 'Tis even so. Hero and Margaret have by this 70
 played their parts with Beatrice, and then the two
 bears will not bite one another when they meet.

Enter John the Bastard.

DON JOHN My lord and brother, God save you.
 PRINCE Good e'en, brother.
 DON JOHN If your leisure served, I would speak with 75
 you.
 PRINCE In private?
 DON JOHN If it please you. Yet Count Claudio may
 hear, for what I would speak of concerns him.
 PRINCE What's the matter? 80
 DON JOHN, *to Claudio* Means your Lordship to be
 married tomorrow?
 PRINCE You know he does.
 DON JOHN I know not that, when he knows what I 85
 know.
 CLAUDIO If there be any impediment, I pray you discover
 it.
 DON JOHN You may think I love you not. Let that
 appear hereafter, and aim better at me by that I
 now will manifest. For my brother, I think he holds 90
 you well, and in dearness of heart hath help to effect
 your ensuing marriage—surely suit ill spent and
 labor ill bestowed.
 PRINCE Why, what's the matter?
 DON JOHN I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances 95
 shortened, for she has been too long
 a-talking of, the lady is disloyal.
 CLAUDIO Who, Hero?
 DON JOHN Even she: Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every 100
 man's Hero.
 CLAUDIO Disloyal?
 DON JOHN The word is too good to paint out her
 wickedness. I could say she were worse. Think you
 of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. Wonder not 105
 till further warrant. Go but with me tonight, you
 shall see her chamber window entered, even the
 night before her wedding day. If you love her then,
 tomorrow wed her. But it would better fit your
 honor to change your mind.

CLAUDIO, *to Prince* May this be so? 110
 PRINCE I will not think it.
 DON JOHN If you dare not trust that you see, confess
 not that you know. If you will follow me, I will
 show you enough, and when you have seen more
 and heard more, proceed accordingly. 115
 CLAUDIO If I see anything tonight why I should not
 marry her, tomorrow in the congregation, where I
 should wed, there will I shame her.
 PRINCE And as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will
 join with thee to disgrace her. 120
 DON JOHN I will disparage her no farther till you are
 my witnesses. Bear it coldly but till midnight, and
 let the issue show itself.
 PRINCE O day untowardly turned!
 CLAUDIO O mischief strangely thwarting! 125
 DON JOHN O plague right well prevented! So will you
 say when you have seen the sequel.

They exit.

Scene 3

*Enter Dogberry and his compartner Verges
 with the Watch.*

DOGBERRY Are you good men and true?
 VERGES Yea, or else it were pity but they should suffer
 salvation, body and soul.
 DOGBERRY Nay, that were a punishment too good for
 them if they should have any allegiance in them, 5
 being chosen for the Prince's watch.
 VERGES Well, give them their charge, neighbor
 Dogberry.
 DOGBERRY First, who think you the most desartless
 man to be constable? 10
 FIRST WATCHMAN Hugh Oatcake, sir, or George Seacoal,
 for they can write and read.
 DOGBERRY Come hither, neighbor Seacoal. *Seacoal
 steps forward.* God hath blessed you with a good
 name. To be a well-favored man is the gift of 15
 fortune, but to write and read comes by nature.
 SEACOAL Both which, master constable—
 DOGBERRY You have. I knew it would be your answer.
 Well, for your favor, sir, why, give God thanks, and
 make no boast of it, and for your writing and 20
 reading, let that appear when there is no need of
 such vanity. You are thought here to be the most
 senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch;
 therefore bear you the lantern. This is your charge:
 you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to 25
 bid any man stand, in the Prince's name.
 SEACOAL How if he will not stand?
 DOGBERRY Why, then, take no note of him, but let him
 go, and presently call the rest of the watch together
 and thank God you are rid of a knave. 30
 VERGES If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is
 none of the Prince's subjects.