

DOGBERRY	Truly, by your office you may, but I think they that touch pitch will be defiled. The most peaceable way for you, if you do take a thief, is to let him show himself what he is and steal out of your company.	55
VERGES	You have been always called a merciful man, partner.	60
DOGBERRY	Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will, much more a man who hath any honesty in him.	
VERGES, <i>to the Watch</i>	If you hear a child cry in the night, you must call to the nurse and bid her still it.	65
WATCHMAN	How if the nurse be asleep and will not hear us?	
DOGBERRY	Why, then depart in peace, and let the child wake her with crying.	
VERGES	'Tis very true.	
DOGBERRY	This is the end of the charge. You, constable, are to present the Prince's own person. If you meet the Prince in the night, you may stay him.	75
VERGES	Nay, by 'r Lady, that I think he cannot.	
DOGBERRY	Five shillings to one on 't, with any man that knows the statutes, he may stay him—marry, not without the Prince be willing, for indeed the watch ought to offend no man, and it is an offense to stay a man against his will.	80
VERGES	By 'r Lady, I think it be so.	
DOGBERRY	Ha, ah ha!—Well, masters, goodnight. If there be any matter of weight chances, call up me. Keep your fellows' counsels and your own, and goodnight.—Come, neighbor.	85

Dogberry and Verges begin to exit.

SEACOAL Well, masters, we hear our charge. Let us go
sit here upon the church bench till two, and then all
to bed.

DOGBERRY One word more, honest neighbors. I pray
you watch about Signior Leonato's door, for the
wedding being there tomorrow, there is a great coil
tonight. Adieu, be vigitant, I beseech you.

Dogberry and Verges exit.

Enter Borachio and Conrade.

BORACHIO	What, Conrade!	
SEACOAL, <i>aside</i>	Peace, stir not.	95
BORACHIO	Conrade, I say!	
CONRADE	Here, man, I am at thy elbow.	
BORACHIO	Stand thee close, then, under this penthouse, for it drizzles rain, and I will, like a true drunkard, utter all to thee.	
SEACOAL, <i>aside</i>	Some treason, masters. Yet stand close.	105
BORACHIO	Therefore know, I have earned of Don John a thousand ducats.	
CONRADE	Is it possible that any villainy should be so dear?	110

BORACHIO	Thou shouldst rather ask if it were possible any villainy should be so rich. For when rich villains have need of poor ones, poor ones may make what price they will.	
CONRADE	I wonder at it.	115
BORACHIO	Thou knowest that the fashion of a doublet, or a hat, or a cloak, is nothing to a man.	
CONRADE	Yes, it is apparel.	
BORACHIO	I mean the fashion.	120
CONRADE	Yes, the fashion is the fashion.	
BORACHIO	Tush, I may as well say the fool's the fool. But seest thou not what a deformed thief this fashion is?	
WATCHMAN, <i>aside</i>	I know that Deformed. He has been a vile thief this seven year. I remember his name.	125
BORACHIO	Didst thou not hear somebody?	
CONRADE	No, 'twas the vane on the house.	
BORACHIO	Seest thou not, I say, what a deformed thief this fashion is, how giddily he turns about all the hot bloods between fourteen and five-and-thirty?	130
CONRADE	All this I see, But art not thou thyself giddy with the fashion too, that thou hast shifted out of thy tale into telling me of the fashion?	140
BORACHIO	Not so, neither. But know that I have tonight wooed Margaret, the Lady Hero's gentlewoman, by the name of Hero. She leans me out at her mistress' chamber window, bids me a thousand times goodnight. I tell this tale viley. I should first tell thee how the Prince, Claudio, and my master, planted and placed and possessed by my master Don John, saw afar off in the orchard this amiable encounter.	145
CONRADE	And thought they Margaret was Hero?	
BORACHIO	Two of them did, the Prince and Claudio, but the devil my master knew she was Margaret; and partly by his oaths, which first possessed them, partly by the dark night, which did deceive them, but chiefly by my villainy, which did confirm any slander that Don John had made, away went Claudio enraged, swore he would meet her as he was appointed next morning at the temple, and there, before the whole congregation, shame her with what he saw o'ernight and send her home again without a husband.	155
WATCHMAN	We charge you in the Prince's name stand!	160
SEACOAL	Call up the right Master Constable. We have here recovered the most dangerous piece of lechery that ever was known in the commonwealth.	165
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