

The Merry Wives of Windsor

5.1

Enter Sir John Falstaff and Mistress Quickly

SIR JOHN Prithee, no more prattling; go; I'll hold. This is the third time; I hope good luck lies in odd numbers. Away, go! They say there is divinity in odd numbers, either in nativity, chance, or death. Away!

MISTRESS QUICKLY I'll provide you a chain, and I'll do 5 what I can to get you a pair of horns.

SIR JOHN Away, I say! Time wears. Hold up your head, and mince.

Exit Mistress Quickly

Enter Master Ford, disguised as Brooke

How now, Master Brooke? Master Brooke, the matter will be known tonight or never. Be you in the Park 10 about midnight at Herne's Oak, and you shall see wonders.

FORD Went you not to her yesterday, sir, as you told me you had appointed?

SIR JOHN I went to her, Master Brooke, as you see, like 15 a poor old man; but I came from her, Master Brooke, like a poor old woman. That same knave Ford, her husband, hath the finest mad devil of jealousy in him, Master Brooke, that ever governed frenzy. I will tell you, he beat me grievously in the shape of a woman±± 20 for in the shape of man, Master Brooke, I fear not Goliath with a weaver's beam, because I know also life is a shuttle. I am in haste. Go along with me; I'll tell you all, Master Brooke. Since I plucked geese, played truant, and whipped top, I knew not what 'twas to be 25 beaten till lately. Follow me. I'll tell you strange things of this knave Ford, on whom tonight I will be revenged, and I will deliver his wife into your hand. Follow. Strange things in hand, Master Brooke. Follow.

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