

The Winter's Tale

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Enter Camillo and Archidamus

ARCHIDAMUS If you shall chance, Camillo, to visit Bohemia on the like occasion whereon my services are now on foot, you shall see, as I have said, great difference betwixt our Bohemia and your Sicilia.

CAMILLO I think this coming summer the King of Sicilia means to pay Bohemia the visitation which he justly owes him. 5

ARCHIDAMUS Wherein our entertainment shall shame us, we will be justified in our loves; for indeed±±

CAMILLO Beseech you±± 10

ARCHIDAMUS Verily, I speak it in the freedom of my knowledge. We cannot with such magnificence±±in so rare±±I know not what to say.±±We will give you sleepy drinks, that your senses, unintelligent of our insufficiency, may, though they cannot praise us, as 15 little accuse us.

CAMILLO You pay a great deal too dear for what's given freely.

ARCHIDAMUS Believe me, I speak as my understanding instructs me, and as mine honesty puts it to utterance. 20

CAMILLO Sicilia cannot show himself over-kind to Bohemia. They were trained together in their childhoods, and there rooted betwixt them then such an affection which cannot choose but branch now. Since their more mature dignities and royal necessities 25 made separation of their society, their encounters±± though not personal±±hath been royally attorneyed with interchange of gifts, letters, loving embassies, that they have seemed to be together, though absent; shook hands as over a vast; and embraced as it were from 30 the ends of opposed winds. The heavens continue their loves.

ARCHIDAMUS I think there is not in the world either malice or matter to alter it. You have an unspeakable comfort of your young prince, Mamillius. It is a gentleman of 35

the greatest promise that ever came into my note.

CAMILLO I very well agree with you in the hopes of him.
It is a gallant child; one that, indeed, physics the
subject, makes old hearts fresh. They that went on
crutches ere he was born desire yet their life to see him 40
a man.

ARCHIDAMUS Would they else be content to die?

CAMILLO Yes±±if there were no other excuse why they
should desire to live.

ARCHIDAMUS If the King had no son they would desire to 45
live on crutches till he had one.

Exeunt