

# All's Well That Ends Well

## 4.1

*Enter [Second Lord Dumaine], with five or six other soldiers, in ambush*

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** He can come no other way but by this hedge corner. When you sally upon him, speak what terrible language you will. Though you understand it not yourselves, no matter, for we must not seem to understand him, unless some one among us, whom we must produce for an interpreter. 5

**INTERPRETER** Good captain, let me be th'interpreter.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** Art not acquainted with him? Knows he not thy voice?

**INTERPRETER** No, sir, I warrant you. 10

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** But what linsey-woolsey hast thou to speak to us again?

**INTERPRETER** E'en such as you speak to me.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** He must think us some band of strangers i'th' adversary's entertainment. Now he hath a smack of all neighbouring languages, therefore we must every one be a man of his own fancy. Not to know what we speak one to another, so we seem to know, is to know straight our purpose: choughs' language, gabble enough and good enough. As for you, interpreter, you must seem very politic. But couch, ho! Here he comes, to beguile two hours in a sleep, and then to return and swear the lies he forges. 15 20

*They hide. Enter Paroles. [Clock strikes]*

**PAROLES** Ten o'clock. Within these three hours 'twill be time enough to go home. What shall I say I have done? It must be a very plausible invention that carries it. They begin to smoke me, and disgraces have of late knocked too often at my door. I find my tongue is too foolhardy, but my heart hath the fear of Mars before it, and of his creatures, not daring the reports of my tongue. 25 30

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) This is the first truth that e'er thine own tongue was guilty of.

**PAROLES** What the devil should move me to undertake  
the recovery of this drum, being not ignorant of the 35  
impossibility, and knowing I had no such purpose? I  
must give myself some hurts, and say I got them in  
exploit. Yet slight ones will not carry it. They will say,  
'Came you off with so little?' And great ones I dare  
not give. Wherefore, what's the instance? Tongue, I 40  
must put you into a butter-woman's mouth, and buy  
myself another of Bajazet's mute, if you prattle me into  
these perils.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) Is it possible he should  
know what he is, and be that he is? 45

**PAROLES** I would the cutting of my garments would serve  
the turn, or the breaking of my Spanish sword.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) We cannot afford you so.

**PAROLES** Or the baring of my beard, and to say it was in  
stratagem. 50

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) 'Twould not do.

**PAROLES** Or to drown my clothes, and say I was stripped.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) Hardly serve.

**PAROLES** Though I swore I leapt from the window of the  
citadel? 55

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) How deep?

**PAROLES** Thirty fathom.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) Three great oaths would  
scarce make that be believed.

**PAROLES** I would I had any drum of the enemy's. I would 60  
swear I recovered it.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** (*aside*) You shall hear one anon.

**PAROLES** A drum now of the enemy's±±

*Alarum within. [The ambush rushes forth]*

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE** *Throca movousus, cargo, cargo,*  
*cargo.* 65

**[SOLDIERS]** (*severally*) *Cargo, cargo, cargo, villianda par corbo,*  
*cargo.*

*[They seize and blindfold him]*

**PAROLES**

O ransom, ransom, do not hide mine eyes.

**INTERPRETER** *Boskos thromuldo boskos.*

**PAROLES**

I know you are the Moscows regiment, 70  
 And I shall lose my life for want of language.  
 If there be here German or Dane, Low Dutch,  
 Italian, or French, let him speak to me,  
 I'll discover that which shall undo the Florentine.

**INTERPRETER** *Boskos vauvado.*±± 75  
 I understand thee, and can speak thy tongue.±±  
*Kerelybonto.*±±Sir,  
 Betake thee to thy faith, for seventeen poniards  
 Are at thy bosom.

**PAROLES** O!

**INTERPRETER** O pray, pray, pray!±±  
*Manka revania dulce?* 80

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE**  
*Oscorbidulchos volivorco.*

**INTERPRETER**  
 The general is content to spare thee yet,  
 And, hoodwinked as thou art, will lead thee on  
 To gather from thee. Haply thou mayst inform  
 Something to save thy life.

**PAROLES** O let me live, 85  
 And all the secrets of our camp I'll show,  
 Their force, their purposes; nay, I'll speak that  
 Which you will wonder at.

**INTERPRETER** But wilt thou faithfully?

**PAROLES**  
 If I do not, damn me.

**INTERPRETER** *Acordo linta.*±±  
 Come on, thou art granted space. 90  
*Exeunt all but [Second] Lord Dumaine  
 and a Soldier  
 A short alarum within*

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE**  
 Go tell the Count Roussillon and my brother  
 We have caught the woodcock, and will keep him  
 muffled  
 Till we do hear from them.

**SOLDIER** Captain, I will.

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE**  
 A will betray us all unto ourselves.

Inform on that.

**SOLDIER**     So I will, sir.

95

**[SECOND] LORD DUMAINE**

Till then I'll keep him dark and safely locked.

*Exeunt severally*