

Much Ado About Nothing

5.3

Enter Claudio, Don Pedro the Prince, and three or four with tapers, all in black

CLAUDIO

Is this the monument of Leonato?

A LORD

It is, my lord.

[CLAUDIO *(reading from a scroll)*

Done to death by slanderous tongues

Was the Hero that here lies.

Death in guerdon of her wrongs

5

Gives her fame which never dies.

So the life that died with shame

Lives in death with glorious fame.

He hangs the epitaph on the tomb

Hang thou there upon the tomb,

Praising her when I am dumb.

10

Now music sound, and sing your solemn hymn.

Song

Pardon, goddess of the night,

Those that slew thy virgin knight,

For the which with songs of woe

Round about her tomb they go.

15

Midnight, assist our moan,

Help us to sigh and groan,

Heavily, heavily.

Graves yawn, and yield your dead

Till death be utter'd,

20

Heavily, heavily.

[CLAUDIO]

Now, unto thy bones good night.

Yearly will I do this rite.

DON PEDRO

Good morrow, masters, put your torches out.

The wolves have preyed, and look, the gentle day

25

Before the wheels of Phoebus round about

Dapples the drowsy east with spots of grey.

Thanks to you all, and leave us. Fare you well.

CLAUDIO

Good morrow, masters. Each his several way.

DON PEDRO

Come, let us hence, and put on other weeds,
And then to Leonato's we will go.

30

CLAUDIO

And Hymen now with luckier issue speed 's
Than this for whom we rendered up this woe.

Exeunt