

# The Taming of the Shrew

## 4.6

*Enter Petruccio, Katherine, Hortensio, and servants*

**PETRUCCIO**

Come on, i' God's name. Once more toward our  
father's.

Good Lord, how bright and goodly shines the moon!

**KATHERINE**

The moon?±±the sun. It is not moonlight now.

**PETRUCCIO**

I say it is the moon that shines so bright.

**KATHERINE**

I know it is the sun that shines so bright. 5

**PETRUCCIO**

Now, by my mother's son±±and that's myself±±

It shall be moon, or star, or what I list

Or ere I journey to your father's house.

Go on, and fetch our horses back again.

Evermore crossed and crossed, nothing but crossed. 10

**HORTENSIO** *(to Katherine)*

Say as he says or we shall never go.

**KATHERINE**

Forward, I pray, since we have come so far,

And be it moon or sun or what you please,

And if you please to call it a rush-candle

Henceforth I vow it shall be so for me. 15

**PETRUCCIO**

I say it is the moon.

**KATHERINE**

I know it is the moon.

**PETRUCCIO**

Nay then you lie, it is the blesseÁd sun.

**KATHERINE**

Then God be blessed, it is the blesseÁd sun,

But sun it is not when you say it is not, 20

And the moon changes even as your mind.

What you will have it named, even that it is,

And so it shall be still for Katherine.

**HORTENSIO**

Petruccio, go thy ways. The field is won.

**PETRUCCIO**

Well, forward, forward. Thus the bowl should run, 25

And not unluckily against the bias.

But soft, company is coming here.

*Enter old Vincentio*

(To Vincentio) Good morrow, gentle mistress, where  
away?

Tell me, sweet Kate, and tell me truly too,

Hast thou beheld a fresher gentlewoman, 30

Such war of white and red within her cheeks?

What stars do spangle heaven with such beauty

As those two eyes become that heavenly face?

Fair lovely maid, once more good day to thee.

Sweet Kate, embrace her for her beauty's sake. 35

**HORTENSIO** A will make the man mad to make the woman  
of him.

**KATHERINE**

Young budding virgin, fair, and fresh, and sweet,

Whither away, or where is thy abode?

Happy the parents of so fair a child, 40

Happier the man whom favourable stars

Allots thee for his lovely bedfellow.

**PETRUCCIO**

Why, how now, Kate, I hope thou art not mad.

This is a man, old, wrinkled, faded, withered,

And not a maiden as thou sayst he is. 45

**KATHERINE**

Pardon, old father, my mistaking eyes

That have been so bedazzled with the sun

That everything I look on seemeth green.

Now I perceive thou art a reverend father.

Pardon, I pray thee, for my mad mistaking. 50

**PETRUCCIO**

Do, good old grandsire, and withal make known

Which way thou travell'st. If along with us,

We shall be joyful of thy company.

**VINCENTIO**

Fair sir, and you, my merry mistress,

That with your strange encounter much amazed me, 55

My name is called Vincentio, my dwelling Pisa,

And bound I am to Padua, there to visit  
A son of mine which long I have not seen.

**PETRUCCIO**

What is his name?

**VINCENTIO** Lucentio, gentle sir.

**PETRUCCIO**

Happily met, the happier for thy son. 60

And now by law as well as reverend age  
I may entitle thee my loving father.

The sister to my wife, this gentlewoman,  
Thy son by this hath married. Wonder not,  
Nor be not grieved. She is of good esteem, 65  
Her dowry wealthy, and of worthy birth,  
Beside, so qualified as may beseem  
The spouse of any noble gentleman.

Let me embrace with old Vincentio,  
And wander we to see thy honest son, 70  
Who will of thy arrival be full joyous.

*He embraces Vincentio*

**VINCENTIO**

But is this true, or is it else your pleasure  
Like pleasant travellers to break a jest  
Upon the company you overtake?

**HORTENSIO**

I do assure thee, father, so it is. 75

**PETRUCCIO**

Come, go along, and see the truth hereof,  
For our first merriment hath made thee jealous.

*Exeunt all but Hortensio*

**HORTENSIO**

Well, Petruccio, this has put me in heart.  
Have to my widow, and if she be froward,  
Then hast thou taught Hortensio to be untoward. 80

*Exit*