

# The Two Gentlemen of Verona

## 4.1

*Enter the Outlaws*

**FIRST OUTLAW**

Fellows, stand fast. I see a passenger.

**SECOND OUTLAW**

If there be ten, shrink not, but down with 'em.

*Enter Valentine and Speed*

**THIRD OUTLAW**

Stand, sir, and throw us that you have about ye.

If not, we'll make you sit, and rifle you.

**SPEED** *(to Valentine)*

Sir, we are undone. These are the villains

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That all the travellers do fear so much.

**VALENTINE** *(to the Outlaws)* My friends.

**FIRST OUTLAW**

That's not so, sir. We are your enemies.

**SECOND OUTLAW** Peace. We'll hear him.

**THIRD OUTLAW** Ay, by my beard will we. For he is a proper 10  
man.

**VALENTINE**

Then know that I have little wealth to lose.

A man I am, crossed with adversity.

My riches are these poor habiliments,

Of which if you should here disfurnish me

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You take the sum and substance that I have.

**SECOND OUTLAW** Whither travel you?

**VALENTINE** To Verona.

**FIRST OUTLAW** Whence came you?

**VALENTINE** From Milan. 20

**THIRD OUTLAW** Have you long sojourned there?

**VALENTINE**

Some sixteen months, and longer might have stayed

If crooked fortune had not thwarted me.

**FIRST OUTLAW**

What, were you banished thence?

**VALENTINE** I was.

**SECOND OUTLAW**

For what offence?

**VALENTINE**

For that which now torments me to rehearse.	25
I killed a man, whose death I much repent,	
But yet I slew him manfully, in fight,	
Without false vantage or base treachery.	
<b>FIRST OUTLAW</b>	
Why, ne'er repent it, if it were done so.	
But were you banished for so small a fault?	30
<b>VALENTINE</b>	
I was, and held me glad of such a doom.	
<b>SECOND OUTLAW</b> Have you the tongues?	
<b>VALENTINE</b>	
My youthful travel therein made me happy,	
Or else I had been often miserable.	
<b>THIRD OUTLAW</b>	
By the bare scalp of Robin Hood's fat friar,	35
This fellow were a king for our wild faction.	
<b>FIRST OUTLAW</b>	
We'll have him. Sirs, a word.	
<i>The Outlaws confer</i>	
<b>SPEED</b> (to Valentine) Master, be one of them.	
It's an honourable kind of thievery.	
<b>VALENTINE</b> Peace, villain.	
<b>SECOND OUTLAW</b>	
Tell us this: have you anything to take to?	40
<b>VALENTINE</b> Nothing but my fortune.	
<b>THIRD OUTLAW</b>	
Know, then, that some of us are gentlemen	
Such as the fury of ungoverned youth	
Thrust from the company of awful men.	
Myself was from Verona banished	45
For practising to steal away a lady,	
An heir, and near allied unto the Duke.	
<b>SECOND OUTLAW</b>	
And I from Mantua, for a gentleman	
Who, in my mood, I stabbed unto the heart.	
<b>FIRST OUTLAW</b>	
And I, for suchlike petty crimes as these.	50
But to the purpose, for we cite our faults	
That they may hold excused our lawless lives.	
And partly seeing you are beautified	
With goodly shape, and by your own report	

A linguist, and a man of such perfection 55  
As we do in our quality much want±±

**SECOND OUTLAW**

Indeed because you are a banished man,  
Therefore above the rest we parley to you.  
Are you content to be our general,  
To make a virtue of necessity 60  
And live as we do in this wilderness?

**THIRD OUTLAW**

What sayst thou? Wilt thou be of our consort?  
Say `Ay', and be the captain of us all.  
We'll do thee homage, and be ruled by thee,  
Love thee as our commander and our king. 65

**FIRST OUTLAW**

But if thou scorn our courtesy, thou diest.

**SECOND OUTLAW**

Thou shalt not live to brag what we have offered.

**VALENTINE**

I take your offer, and will live with you,  
Provided that you do no outrages  
On silly women or poor passengers. 70

**THIRD OUTLAW**

No, we detest such vile, base practices.  
Come, go with us. We'll bring thee to our crews  
And show thee all the treasure we have got,  
Which, with ourselves, all rest at thy dispose.

*Exeunt*