

As You Like It

5.1

Enter Touchstone the clown and Audrey

TOUCHSTONE We shall find a time, Audrey. Patience, gentle Audrey.

AUDREY Faith, the priest was good enough, for all the old gentleman's saying.

TOUCHSTONE A most wicked Sir Oliver, Audrey, a most vile Martext. But, Audrey, there is a youth here in the forest lays claim to you. 5

AUDREY Ay, I know who 'tis. He hath no interest in me in the world. Here comes the man you mean.

Enter William

TOUCHSTONE It is meat and drink to me to see a clown. 10
By my troth, we that have good wits have much to answer for. We shall be flouting; we cannot hold.

WILLIAM Good ev'n, Audrey.

AUDREY God ye good ev'n, William.

WILLIAM (to Touchstone) And good ev'n to you, sir. 15

TOUCHSTONE Good ev'n, gentle friend. Cover thy head, cover thy head. Nay, prithee, be covered. How old are you, friend?

WILLIAM Five-and-twenty, sir.

TOUCHSTONE A ripe age. Is thy name William? 20

WILLIAM William, sir.

TOUCHSTONE A fair name. Wast born i'th' forest here?

WILLIAM Ay, sir, I thank God.

TOUCHSTONE Thank God±±a good answer. Art rich?

WILLIAM Faith, sir, so-so. 25

TOUCHSTONE So-so is good, very good, very excellent good. And yet it is not, it is but so-so. Art thou wise?

WILLIAM Ay, sir, I have a pretty wit.

TOUCHSTONE Why, thou sayst well. I do now remember a saying: 'The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise 30 man knows himself to be a fool.' The heathen philosopher, when he had a desire to eat a grape, would open his lips when he put it into his mouth, meaning thereby that grapes were made to eat, and

lips to open. You do love this maid? 35

WILLIAM I do, sir.

TOUCHSTONE Give me your hand. Art thou learned?

WILLIAM No, sir.

TOUCHSTONE Then learn this of me: to have is to have.
 For it is a figure in rhetoric that drink, being poured 40
 out of a cup into a glass, by filling the one doth empty
 the other. For all your writers do consent that *ipse* is
 he. Now you are not *ipse*, for I am he.

WILLIAM Which he, sir?

TOUCHSTONE He, sir, that must marry this woman. 45
 Therefore, you clown, abandon±±which is in the vulgar,
 leave±±the society±±which in the boorish is company±±
 of this female±±which in the common is woman; which
 together is, abandon the society of this female, or,
 clown, thou perishest; or, to thy better understanding, 50
 diest; or, to wit, I kill thee, make thee away, translate
 thy life into death, thy liberty into bondage. I will deal
 in poison with thee, or in bastinado, or in steel. I will
 bandy with thee in faction, I will o'errun thee with
 policy. I will kill thee a hundred and fifty ways. 55
 Therefore tremble, and depart.

AUDREY Do, good William.

WILLIAM God rest you merry, sir.
Exit
Enter Corin

CORIN Our master and mistress seeks you. Come, away,
 away. 60

TOUCHSTONE Trip, Audrey, trip, Audrey. (*To Corin*) I
 attend, I attend.
Exeunt