

Twelfth Night, or What You Will

1.4

Enter Valentine, and Viola (as Cesario) in man's attire

VALENTINE If the Duke continue these favours towards you, Cesario, you are like to be much advanced. He hath known you but three days, and already you are no stranger.

VIOLA You either fear his humour or my negligence, that you call in question the continuance of his love. Is he inconstant, sir, in his favours? 5

VALENTINE No, believe me.

Enter the Duke, Curio, and attendants

VIOLA I thank you. Here comes the Count.

ORSINO Who saw Cesario, ho? 10

VIOLA On your attendance, my lord, here.

ORSINO *(to Curio and attendants)*

Stand you a while aloof. *(To Viola)* Cesario,
Thou know'st no less but all. I have unclasped
To thee the book even of my secret soul.

Therefore, good youth, address thy gait unto her, 15
Be not denied access, stand at her doors,
And tell them there thy fix'd foot shall grow
Till thou have audience.

VIOLA Sure, my noble lord,
If she be so abandoned to her sorrow
As it is spoke, she never will admit me. 20

ORSINO
Be clamorous, and leap all civil bounds,
Rather than make unprofit'd return.

VIOLA
Say I do speak with her, my lord, what then?

ORSINO
O then unfold the passion of my love,
Surprise her with discourse of my dear faith. 25
It shall become thee well to act my woes
She will attend it better in thy youth
Than in a nuncio's of more grave aspect.

VIOLA

I think not so, my lord.

ORSINO

Dear lad, believe it;

For they shall yet belie thy happy years 30

That say thou art a man. Diana's lip

Is not more smooth and rubious; thy small pipe

Is as the maiden's organ, shrill and sound,

And all is semblative a woman's part.

I know thy constellation is right apt 35

For this affair. (*To Curio and attendants*) Some four or
five attend him.

All if you will, for I myself am best

When least in company. (*To Viola*) Prosper well in this

And thou shalt live as freely as thy lord,

To call his fortunes thine.

VIOLA

I'll do my best 40

To woo your lady±± [*aside*] yet a barful strife±±

Whoe'er I woo, myself would be his wife.

Exeunt