

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

2.7

Enter Julia and Lucetta

JULIA

Counsel, Lucetta. Gentle girl, assist me,
And e'en in kind love I do conjure thee,
Who art the table wherein all my thoughts
Are visibly characterized and engraved,
To lesson me, and tell me some good mean 5
How with my honour I may undertake
A journey to my loving Proteus.

LUCETTA

Alas, the way is wearisome and long.

JULIA

A true-devoted pilgrim is not weary
To measure kingdoms with his feeble steps. 10
Much less shall she that hath love's wings to fly,
And when the flight is made to one so dear,
Of such divine perfection as Sir Proteus.

LUCETTA

Better forbear till Proteus make return.

JULIA

O, know'st thou not his looks are my soul's food? 15
Pity the dearth that I have pine'd in
By longing for that food so long a time.
Didst thou but know the inly touch of love
Thou wouldst as soon go kindle fire with snow
As seek to quench the fire of love with words. 20

LUCETTA

I do not seek to quench your love's hot fire,
But qualify the fire's extreme rage,
Lest it should burn above the bounds of reason.

JULIA

The more thou damm'st it up, the more it burns.
The current that with gentle murmur glides, 25
Thou know'st, being stopped, impatiently doth rage.
But when his fair course is not hindere'd
He makes sweet music with th'enamelled stones,
Giving a gentle kiss to every sedge

He overtaketh in his pilgrimage. 30
And so by many winding nooks he strays
With willing sport to the wild ocean.
Then let me go, and hinder not my course.
I'll be as patient as a gentle stream,
And make a pastime of each weary step 35
Till the last step have brought me to my love.
And there I'll rest as after much turmoil
A blesseÁd soul doth in Elysium.

LUCETTA

But in what habit will you go along?

JULIA

Not like a woman, for I would prevent 40
The loose encounters of lascivious men.
Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds
As may beseem some well-reputed page.

LUCETTA

Why then, your ladyship must cut your hair.

JULIA

No, girl, I'll knit it up in silken strings 45
With twenty odd-conceited true-love knots.
To be fantastic may become a youth
Of greater time than I shall show to be.

LUCETTA

What fashion, madam, shall I make your breeches?

JULIA

That fits as well as `Tell me, good my lord, 50
What compass will you wear your farthingale?'
Why, e'en what fashion thou best likes, Lucetta.

LUCETTA

You must needs have them with a codpiece, madam.

JULIA

Out, out, Lucetta. That will be ill-favoured.

LUCETTA

A round hose, madam, now's not worth a pin 55
Unless you have a codpiece to stick pins on.

JULIA

Lucetta, as thou lov'st me let me have
What thou think'st meet and is most mannerly.
But tell me, wench, how will the world repute me
For undertaking so unstaid a journey? 60

I fear me it will make me scandalized.

LUCETTA

If you think so, then stay at home, and go not.

JULIA Nay, that I will not.

LUCETTA

Then never dream on infamy, but go.

If Proteus like your journey when you come,

65

No matter who's displeased when you are gone.

I fear me he will scarce be pleased withal.

JULIA

That is the least, Lucetta, of my fear.

A thousand oaths, an ocean of his tears,

And instances of infinite of love

70

Warrant me welcome to my Proteus.

LUCETTA

All these are servants to deceitful men.

JULIA

Base men, that use them to so base effect.

But truer stars did govern Proteus' birth.

His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles,

75

His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate,

His tears pure messengers sent from his heart,

His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.

LUCETTA

Pray heaven he prove so when you come to him.

JULIA

Now, as thou lov'st me, do him not that wrong

80

To bear a hard opinion of his truth.

Only deserve my love by loving him,

And presently go with me to my chamber

To take a note of what I stand in need of

To furnish me upon my longing journey.

85

All that is mine I leave at thy dispose,

My goods, my lands, my reputation;

Only in lieu thereof dispatch me hence.

Come, answer not, but to it presently.

I am impatient of my tarriance.

90

Exeunt