

# The Two Noble Kinsmen

## 2.4

*Enter the Jailer's Daughter*

### JAILER'S DAUGHTER

Why should I love this gentleman? 'Tis odds  
He never will affect me. I am base,  
My father the mean keeper of his prison,  
And he a prince. To marry him is hopeless,  
To be his whore is witless. Out upon't, 5  
What pushes are we wenches driven to  
When fifteen once has found us? First, I saw him;  
I, seeing, thought he was a goodly man;  
He has as much to please a woman in him±±  
If he please to bestow it so±±as ever 10  
These eyes yet looked on. Next, I pitied him,  
And so would any young wench, o'my conscience,  
That ever dreamed or vowed her maidenhead  
To a young handsome man. Then, I loved him,  
Extremely loved him, infinitely loved him±± 15  
And yet he had a cousin fair as he, too.  
But in my heart was Palamon, and there,  
Lord, what a coil he keeps! To hear him  
Sing in an evening, what a heaven it is!  
And yet his songs are sad ones. Fairer spoken 20  
Was never gentleman. When I come in  
To bring him water in a morning, first  
He bows his noble body, then salutes me, thus:  
'Fair, gentle maid, good morrow. May thy goodness  
Get thee a happy husband.' Once he kissed me±± 25  
I loved my lips the better ten days after.  
Would he would do so every day! He grieves much,  
And me as much to see his misery.  
What should I do to make him know I love him?  
For I would fain enjoy him. Say I ventured 30  
To set him free? What says the law then? Thus much  
For law or kindred! I will do it,  
And this night; ere tomorrow he shall love me.

*Exit*