

The Taming of the Shrew

4.4

Enter Tranio as Lucentio, and the Pedant dressed like Vincentio, booted and bare-headed

TRANIO

Sir, this is the house. Please it you that I call?

PEDANT

Ay, what else. And but I be deceived,
Signor Baptista may remember me
Near twenty years ago in Genoa±±

TRANIO

Where we were lodgers at the Pegasus.±±
'Tis well, and hold your own in any case
With such austerity as 'longeth to a father.

5

Enter Biondello

PEDANT

I warrant you. But sir, here comes your boy.
'Twere good he were schooled.

TRANIO

Fear you not him. Sirrah Biondello,
Now do your duty thoroughly, I advise you.
Imagine 'twere the right Vincentio.

10

BIONDELLO Tut, fear not me.

TRANIO

But hast thou done thy errand to Baptista?

BIONDELLO

I told him that your father was at Venice
And that you looked for him this day in Padua.

15

TRANIO (*giving money*)

Thou'rt a tall fellow. Hold thee that to drink.
Here comes Baptista. Set your countenance, sir.

Enter Baptista, and Lucentio as Cambio

TRANIO

Signor Baptista, you are happily met.
(*To the Pedant*) Sir, this is the gentleman I told you of. 20
I pray you stand good father to me now.
Give me Bianca for my patrimony.

PEDANT

Soft, son. (*To Baptista*) Sir, by your leave, having

<p> come to Padua To gather in some debts, my son Lucentio Made me acquainted with a weighty cause Of love between your daughter and himself, And for the good report I hear of you, And for the love he beareth to your daughter, And she to him, to stay him not too long I am content in a good father's care To have him matched, and if you please to like No worse than I, upon some agreement Me shall you find ready and willing With one consent to have her so bestowed, For curious I cannot be with you, Signor Baptista, of whom I hear so well. </p>	<p>25</p> <p>30</p> <p>35</p>
<p>BAPTISTA</p> <p> Sir, pardon me in what I have to say. Your plainness and your shortness please me well. Right true it is your son Lucentio here Doth love my daughter, and she loveth him, Or both dissemble deeply their affections. And therefore if you say no more than this, That like a father you will deal with him And pass my daughter a sufficient dower, The match is made, and all is done. Your son shall have my daughter with consent. </p>	<p>40</p> <p>45</p>
<p>TRANIO</p> <p> I thank you, sir. Where then do you know best We be affied, and such assurance ta'en As shall with either part's agreement stand? </p>	
<p>BAPTISTA</p> <p> Not in my house, Lucentio, for you know Pitchers have ears, and I have many servants. Besides, old Gremio is heark'ning still, And happily we might be interrupted. </p>	<p>50</p>
<p>TRANIO</p> <p> Then at my lodging, an it like you. There doth my father lie, and there this night We'll pass the business privately and well. Send for your daughter by your servant here. My boy shall fetch the scrivener presently. </p>	<p>55</p>

The worst is this, that at so slender warning
You are like to have a thin and slender pittance. 60

BAPTISTA

It likes me well. Cambio, hie you home
And bid Bianca make her ready straight,
And if you will, tell what hath happened±±
Lucentio's father is arrived in Padua±±
And how she's like to be Lucentio's wife. 65

[Exit Lucentio]

BIONDELLO

I pray the gods she may with all my heart.

TRANIO

Dally not with the gods, but get thee gone.

[Exit Biondello]

Signor Baptista, shall I lead the way?
Welcome. One mess is like to be your cheer.
Come, sir, we will better it in Pisa. 70

BAPTISTA I follow you.

Exeunt