

## **All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated**

Act 2, Scene 1

### **Request**

**Situation:** Bertram and Parolles have left Paris for Italy to engage in the Tuscan war. Helen arrives in Paris with “prescriptions of rare and proved effects” that her father had bequeathed to her. Lafew, a friend of the king’s and of her late father’s, introduces her to the king, encouraging the king that she just might be able to “cure him of his infirmity.”

LAFEW TO HELEN: This is his Majesty. Say your mind to him. Fare you well.

He exits.

KING: Now, fair one, does your business aim at me?

HELEN: Ay, my good lord, Gerard de Narbon was my father, in what he did profess was of proven merit.

KING: I knew him.

HELEN: The rather will I spare my praises towards him. Knowing him is enough.

### **Helen to King**

On his bed of death he gave me many  
Remedies, chiefly one, the one clearly  
The dearest of his practice, and of his  
Experience the most precious, that he  
Bade me hold safe, and I have so, and is  
With me, hearing your high Majesty be  
Abused with that malignant cause wherein  
The strength of my father’s gift stands chief in  
Power, and so I come to tender it  
And my services with humbleness. What  
I can do can’t harm if you test my wit,  
For oft hopes fail where most is promised, but  
Succeed when least noticed and hope coldest,  
Delivered through one who looks the weakest.