

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Introspection

Situation: Having never recovered from Iachimo's convincing ruse that Imogen was unfaithful, Posthumus lets us know that he can't take it anymore; that he has hurt Britain enough, now wanting to "die for thee, Imogen."

POSTHUMUS: You married ones, if each of you should take this path, how many must murder wives much better than themselves for erring but a little! O Pisanio, every good servant does not all commands; he being bound to do just ones.

Posthumus to Himself, No. 2

Gods, it wouldn't have come to this had you
Permitted the noble Imogen to
Repent for a little fault and taken
Out your vengeance by striking me. I'm brought
Here among th' Italian gentry's men
To fight my lady's kingdom, having fought
For its mistress's hand. I'll wound peace not.
I'll dress as a peasant; exchange my lot
For Britain's; discard these Italian clothes.
I'll fight against those I come with and die
For thee, Imogen. I'll, for what life owes,
As unknown, display more valor than my
Garments show. With your strength, I will begin
To fashion less with show and more within.