

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 5

Request

Situation: The Queen can seriously influence the King. She is so upset that Imogen has married Posthumus rather than Cloten, her son by a prior marriage, that she has caused Posthumus to be banished to Rome. The Queen does her best to encourage Pisanio, Posthumus' aide, to leave him and serve her son, but he'll have none of it.

Queen to Pisanio

Is she still weeping? When thou shall bring me
Word she loves my son, I'll quickly tell thee
Thou art then as great as is thy master.
Actually, since his fortunes lie speechless,
And his name is at last gasp, you're greater.
To shift his being is to shift one stress
To another. He cannot return, nor
Continue where he is. And furthermore,
Why be a depender on a thing who
So leans and has no friends to prop him? Take
This box. Accept these as a gift to you.
They made by me for the King's good health sake,
Redeeming him from death five times. Do tell
Thy mistress from thyself that all is well.

QUEEN TO PISANIO: My son, shall take notice of thee. I'll move the King to any shape of thy preferment such as thou'lt desire; and then myself, I chiefly, am bound to load thy merit richly. Call my women. Think on my words.

Pisanio exits.

QUEEN: I have given him that which, if he take, shall quite unpeople her of ambassadors for her sweetheart.

Pisanio and the Ladies enter with flowers.

QUEEN: The violets, cowslips, and the primroses bear to my chamber. Fare thee well, Pisanio.

Queen and Ladies exit.

PISANIO: When to my good lord I prove untrue, I'll choke myself; there's all I'll do for you.

He exits.