

## **Love's Labor's Lost abbreviated**

Act 5, Scene 2.3

### **Contrition**

**Situation:** The men and the ladies have moved on from the Muscovite encounter and are ready to enjoy each others' company. Costard enters to present the show that is now named **The Three Worthies**, having been reduced from nine. We soon learn that the **Princess'** father has just died.

PRINCESS: Boyet, prepare. I will away tonight.

KING: Madam, not so. I do beseech you stay.

PRINCESS TO BOYET: Prepare, I say. If over boldly we have borne ourselves in the converse of breath; your gentleness was guilty of it. Farewell, worthy lord. A heavy heart bears not a humble tongue.

KING: The mourning brow of progeny forbid the smiling courtesy of love, yet, since love's argument was first on foot, let not the cloud of sorrow jostle it from what it purposed, since to wail friends lost is not by much so wholesome-profitable as to rejoice at friends but newly found.

PRINCESS: I understand you not. My griefs are double.

### **Berowne to the Ladies**

**Honest plain words best pierce the ear of grief.  
For your fair sakes, have here we in this brief  
Time played foul with our oaths. Your look of love,  
Ladies, hath much deformed us, fashioning  
Plans resulting in the opposite of  
Our intents. Love's full of unbecoming  
Strains, playful as a child, formed by the eye  
And therefore, like the eye that doth not lie,  
You led us to these indignities, where  
We misbecame our oaths through our seeing.  
Ladies, our love being yours, the error  
That love makes is likewise yours. By being  
Once false we'll now forevermore be true  
To those who made us false, fair ladies you.**

PRINCESS: We have received your letters full of love; your favors, the ambassadors of love; and in our maiden council rated them at courtship, pleasant jest, and courtesy, as bombast.