

Love's Labor's Lost abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Envy

Situation: Disguised as Muscovites, the king and his lords visit the ladies. But the ladies, aware of the ruse, tipped off in advance by Boyet, treat the men abruptly, causing the men to timidly slip away. But the men, as Boyet knew they would, soon return, in love as they are.

KING TO BOYET: Where's the Princess?

BOYET: Gone to her tent. Please it your Majesty command me any service to her thither?

KING: That she vouchsafe me audience for one word.

BOYET: I will, and so will she, I know, my lord.

He exits.

Berowne to King and other Lords, No. 3

This fellow picks up wit as pigeons peck
At peas, uttering it as if God beck
Him as a peddler of wit, at retail,
At wassails and fairs, where we have not the
Grace to grace it with show, rather to rail
By wholesale. He kissed each hand away, a
Courteous show, this prince of etiquette,
Monsieur the Nice. This gallant man has set
Himself the ladies trusted friend. When he
Plays at tables, he chides the dice to win
In honorable terms. And when did we
Smile and sing and dance to the music in
Time? As fair and conscientious men, let
Us pay him his due, honey-tongued Boyet.