

Measure for Measure abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Introspection

Situation: Isabella beautifully makes her case to Angelo. Lucio strongly supports her, making aside such comments as “that’s well said” and “He will relent. I perceive ‘t” and “Thou ‘rt th’ right, girl. More of that.” As Isabella and Lucio are about to exit, Angelo says to himself “She speaks, and ‘tis such sense.”

ANGELO: Fare you well.

ISABELLA: Gentle my lord, turn back.

ANGELO: I will bethink me. Come again tomorrow.

LUCIO ASIDE TO ISABELLA: ‘Tis well; away.

ISABELLA: Heaven keep your Honor safe.

ANGELO ASIDE: Amen. For I am that way going to temptation where your prayer for my honor is at cross-purposes with my desire for you.

ISABELLA: At what hour tomorrow shall I attend your Lordship?

ANGELO: At any time ‘fore noon.

She exits with Lucio and Provost.

Angelo to himself

**What! Is this her fault or mine; the tempter
Or the tempted? She sins not; it’s not her
Who tempts, but I, corrupted as decayed
Flesh, lying next to a lovely violet
In the sun. Would good sense be so betrayed
To defile her when others are well met?
If thou thyself be not free of guilt then
Let him live; thieves have authority when
Judges are themselves thieves. What! To hear her
Again? Do I love her? A seductress,
With all her skill and natural allure,
Could not once stir my composure, but this
Virtuous maid subdues me quite. Till now
Seeing men dote, I’d smile and wonder how.**