

Measure for Measure abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

Introspection

Situation: The duke reconsiders how he will act out his plan as he continues to masquerade as Friar Lodowick. The disguised duke has just been insulted by Lucio. He learns that Mistress Keepdown is the mother of Lucio's fifteen-month old son, and that Lucio has "promised her marriage." He also has just heard from Escalus, the judge, that "Angelo will not be altered. Claudio must die tomorrow."

ESCALUS: What news abroad i' th' world?

DUKE AS FRIAR: None but that goodness is so sick that only death can cure the disease. I pray you, sir, of what disposition was the Duke?

ESCALUS: One that above all other efforts, strove earnestly especially to know himself.

DUKE AS FRIAR: What pleasure was he given to?

ESCALUS: A gentleman of all temperance. But leave we him to his events. Let me desire to know how you find Claudio prepared.

DUKE AS FRIAR: He most willingly humbles himself to the determination of justice. Now is he resolved to die.

ESCALUS: You have paid the heavens your role and the prisoner the very debt of your calling. I am going to visit the prisoner. Fare you well.

ESCALUS: Peace be with you.

Escalus and Provost exit.

Duke to Himself

He who carries the sword of heaven should
Be as holy as he is severe; would
Conduct himself with grace and strength, and ought
Judge his citizens not as one above
Them, but rather through his own conscious; not
Drawing shame to himself for the faults of
His own liking. Twice shame on Angelo
For weeding my vice and letting his grow,
Hiding as an angel. By losing sight
Of law's intent, this is the man I've made.
Craft against vice I must apply. Tonight
Angelo shall lie with his scorn'd engaged.
Through disguise, Mariana shall extract
Just extortion, fulfilling a contract.