

Measure for Measure abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Resignation

Situation: Having been arrested by Angelo and about to be sent to prison, Claudio describes his situation to his friend Lucio, Lucio having asked “What’s the offense, Claudio?”

LUCIO: Why, Claudio? Whence comes this restraint?

CLAUDIO: From too much licentiousness, my Lucio, licentiousness. Our natures do pursue like rats that devour down their poison, a thirsty evil, and when we drink, we die.

LUCIO: What’s the offense, Claudio?

CLAUDIO: What but to speak of would offend again.

LUCIO: Lechery?

CLAUDIO: Call it so.

PROVOST: Away, sir. You must go.

CLAUDIO: One word, good friend. Lucio, a word with you.

LUCIO: A hundred, if they’ll do you any good. Is lechery so looked after?

CLAUDIO: Thus stands it with me.

Claudio to Lucio

Upon a proper understanding, I
Possessed her in bed, she securely my
Fair wife, though we have not had the public
Ceremony, thinking for her friends we
Should hide our love, but results were too quick.
Now, what happened is here for all to see;
The stealth of our entertainment shows clear
On Juliet. The new deputy’s near
The duke, letting the public know he can
Command, newly in the seat. He awakes
Those written penalties the duke did ban;
And through me a name for himself he makes.
I’d appeal to the duke to be unbound
From this offense, but he’s not to be found.