

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Disclosure

Situation: Don John is good-guy Don Pedro's brother and lets us know that he is a rascally mischief-maker. He is that. Don John is encouraged by Conrade, one of his buddies, who asks him "can you make no use of your discontent?"

CONRADE: Why are you thus out of measure sad?

DON JOHN: There is no measure in the occasion that breeds. Therefore the sadness is without limit.

Don John to Conrade

**I cannot hide what I am. I must be
Sad when I have cause; eat when I'm hungry,
Smile at no other man's jests; sleep when I
Am drowsy; tend to no man's business; owe
No man graciousness, and to all will lie
When it serves my reason. It better fits
Me to be disdained, then, as counterfeits,
To rob love from any. I'm rendered weak
With a muzzle and can't sing, but have grown
Used to 't. Let me be that I am; seek
Not to alter me. In this, I'm not known
To be a flattering honest man; an
It must not be denied I'm a villain.**

CONRADE: You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace. It is needful that you frame the season for your own harvest. Can you make no use of your discontent?