

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Grief

Situation: Leonato's brother attempts to comfort the dispirited Leonato, grieving as he is over the perceived loss of his daughter Hero. Anthony, the brother, is able to get Leonato to feel a little better when he suggests he "make those that do offend you suffer too."

LEONATO'S BROTHER: If you go on thus, you will kill yourself, and 'tis not wisdom thus to second grief against yourself.

Leonato to his Brother

Cease thy counsel, which falls into my ears
As profitless as a crow's cry. Who hears
A comforter delight his ear 'cept one
Whose wrongs match his? Bring me a father who
So loved his daughter, whose crushed joy doth run
The measure of this woe of mine. If you
Can, I will of him gather patience. But
There is no such man. Men can comfort what
They themselves not feel, but tasting it, their
Grief turns to passion, charming agony
With words. 'Tis men's need to speak patience where
Men writhe 'neath the load of sorrow. But he
Sustains more sufficiency and virtue
When he alone endures what he must do.

LEONATO: Therefore give me no counsel. My griefs cry louder than advertisement.

LEONATO'S BROTHER: Therein do men from children nothing differ.

LEONATO: I pray thee, peace. I will be flesh and blood, for there was never yet philosopher that could endure the toothache patiently.

LEONATO'S BROTHER: Yet bend not all the harm upon yourself. Make those that do offend you suffer too.

LEONATO: There thou speak'st reason. Nay, I will do so.