

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 3

Introspection

Situation: Observing Claudio and his joy of being in love, Benedick questions his own stated marriage views. Earlier, in a more confident mood, he had said “if I ever fall in love hang me in a bottle like a cat and shoot at me.”

BENEDICK: I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn by falling in love --- and such a man is Claudio.

Benedick to himself

May I be so converted? I cannot
Tell, but think not. To be so sworn love ought
Transform me to an oyster and until
To one, love shall never make me such a
Fool. The day I'm sick because of love will
Ne'er be, if one be fair, another the
Most wise, another most virtuous. Till
All graces be in one, one woman will
Not come in my grace. 'Tis certain rich she
Shall be; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or
I'll never cheapen her; fair, or she'll be
One I ne'er see; noble or I not for
Her discourse; mild, or come not near me; an
Angel here, an excellent musician.