

## **Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated**

Act 4, Scene 1

### **Proposal**

**Situation: Believing Hero “guiltless under some biting error,” the Friar comes up with a plan that he believes will lead to truth. He shares his plan with Leonato. By this time, Claudio, Don Pedro and Don John have left the church, all three believing Hero has died.**

FRIAR: Pause awhile, and let my counsel sway you in this case. Your daughter here the princes left for dead. Let her awhile be secretly kept in, and publish it that she is dead indeed. Do all rites that appertain unto a burial.

LEONATO: What will this do?

FRIAR: This is some good. She, dying, as it must be so maintained, upon the instant that she was accused, shall be lamented, pitied, and excused of every hearer.

#### **Friar to Leonato**

**It so falls out that what we have we prize  
Not to the worth whiles the joy we had lies  
Before us, but being lacked and lost, we  
Then better aware the value, finding  
The virtue that with possession we see  
Not whiles it was ours. It will have bearing  
With Claudio, when the thought of her life  
Shall creep into his mind's attention, rife  
With pleasant dreams of when she lived indeed.  
Then shall he mourn, though he thought his word true.  
And doubt not that the result of this seed  
Will be better than now believed by you.  
If all but this be leveled false, then we  
Will end the wonder of her infamy.**

FRIAR: And if it sort not well, you may conceal her out of all eyes, tongues, minds and injuries.

BENEDICK: Signior Leonato, let the Friar advise you. By mine honor, I will deal in this as secretly and justly as your soul should with your body.

LEONATO: Being that I flow in grief, the smallest twine may lead me.

FRIAR: 'Tis well consented. Come, lady, die to live. This wedding day perhaps is but prolonged. Have patience and endure.