

## The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2.1

### Confidence

**Situation:** Petruchio came to Padua from Verona to visit friends and to “wive wealthily, and if wealthily, then happily in Padua.” He promptly meets up with his friend Hortensio, one of Bianca’s suitors. Hortensio sees him as one who could marry Katherine, Baptista’s older daughter, which would make Bianca, Baptista’s younger daughter, available to be wooed and perhaps won, perhaps by him.

PETRUCHIO: Verona, for a while I take my leave to see my friends in Padua, but of all my best beloved and approved friend, Hortensio.

Hortensio enters.

HORTENSIO: My old friend Grumio and my good friend Petruchio? Tell me, what happy gale blows you to Padua here from old Verona?

#### Petruchio to Hortensio

Scattered by such wind, young men choose to roam  
The world seeking fortunes away from home,  
Where experience slowly grows. To wive,  
I thrust myself into this maze, as best  
I may. I have crowns in my purse to thrive,  
And with goods at home come to see the rest  
Of the world. Hortensio, if thou know  
One rich enough to be my wife, I’ll owe  
Thee much, be she most foul, or at the worst,  
Moves not love nor affection’s edge in me;  
Be she as Socrates’ shrew; be she curst  
And uncouth as the Adriatic Sea.  
I’m in Padua to wive wealthily;  
If wealthily, then I wive happily.

HORTENSIO: I can, Petruchio, help thee to a wife with wealth enough, and young and beautiful, brought up as best becomes a gentlewoman. Her only fault is that she is intolerable curst, and shrewd. I would not wed her for a mine of gold.

PETRUCHIO: Thou know’st not gold’s effect. Tell me her father’s name, and ‘tis enough.