

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2.1

Humor

Situation: Petruchio has arrived for his wedding in “unreverent robes,” just before the wedding ceremony is to begin. His appearance caused Baptista to say “first were we sad, fearing you would not come, now sadder that you come so unprovided.” Petruchio and Katherine then marry with Petruchio wearing his “mad attire.” Gremio soon offers Tranio, disguised as Lucentio, a most vivid description of the wedding.

TRANIO AS LUCENTIO: Is the bride and bridegroom coming home?

GREMIO: A bridegroom, say you? 'Tis a groom indeed, a grumbling groom.

TRANIO AS LUCENTIO: Why, she's a devil, a devil, the devil's dam.

GREMIO: Tut, she's a lamb, a dove, a fool to him.

Gremio to Tranio as Lucentio

**I'll tell you, Lucentio, when the priest
Did ask if she should be his wife, he ceased
Civility and swore so loud that the
Priest let fall the book, and when he stooped to
Pick it up he hit the priest with such a
Cuff that down fell the priest and book. Would you
Believe? He stamped and swore as the vicar
Finished the service. Then he cried, “Where are
The muscatels.” He went on to beck
More wine and continued with his drinking.
This done, he took the bride about the neck
And kissed her lips with a most clamoring
Smack. Having ne'er heard the church echo more,
I knew such a marriage ne'er was before.**

GREMIO: Hark, hark, I hear the minstrels play.