

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 4

Humor

Situation: Lucentio has now won Bianca's heart. Baptista now requires that Lucentio secure his father's guarantee that Lucentio's dowry is as he says it is. Meanwhile, Tranio has convinced a merchant to pretend that he is Vincentio of Pisa, Lucentio's father. The merchant agrees to the ruse, but says he knows of Vincentio and that he resembles him "as much as an apple doth an oyster."

TRANIO AS LUCENTIO: Hast thou done thy errand to Baptista?

BIONDELLO: I told him that your father was at Venice, and that you looked for him this day in Padua.

TRANIO AS LUCENTIO: Thou art a fine fellow.

He gives him money. Baptista and Lucentio as Cambio enter.

TRANIO AS LUCENTIO: Signior Baptista, this is the gentleman I told you of.

MERCHANT AS VINCENTIO: Soft, son.

Merchant as Vincentio to Baptista

Sir, while on business in Padua, where
My son Lucentio made me aware
Of a weighty cause of love between your
Daughter and himself, and for the consent
He seeks from us, and the love he hath for
Her, and she for him, I am most content
With the care a father should have to see
Them soon matched, since both dissemble deeply
Their affections to each other. If you
Like this pairing no worse than I, then the
Bestowal agreement shall be. Not too
Much from you dare I demand, Baptista.
She loveth him, your beautiful daughter,
And my son doth right truly loveth her.

BAPTISTA: Sir, pardon me in what I have to say, your plainness and your shortness please me well. Therefore, if you will pass my daughter a sufficient dower, the match is made, and all is done.