

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Infatuation

Situation: Lucentio and Tranio, having stepped aside as Baptista and his two daughters enter, listen intently as Baptista tells Gremio and Hortensio, suitors of Bianca, that he will “not bestow my youngest daughter before I have a husband for the elder,” Bianca being the younger.

TRANIO: I pray, sir, tell me, is it possible that love should of a sudden take such hold?

Lucentio to Tranio, No. 2

O Tranio, till now I never thought
I'd find, standing idly, what I have sought:
The effect of love-in-idleness. O
Yes, I saw her face and my heart's a whirl.
I burn, I pine! I perish, Tranio,
If I achieve not this young modest girl.
Do counsel and assist me, for I know
Thou canst; for I know thou wilt, Tranio,
For thy counsel's plainness is sound. I saw
Her coral lips move and confess I thought
Her sacred breath did perfume the air. Ah,
What a cruel father's he! But art thou not
Advised he plans to keep a schoolmaster
There within his house fit to instruct her?

TRANIO: Master, it is no time to chide you now. Affection is not chided from the heart. If love have touched you, ransom yourself from capture for as little money as possible.

LUCENTIO: Thanks, lad. Go forward. This makes me content, for thy counsel's sound.

TRANIO: Master, you looked so longingly on the maid, perhaps you did not notice the essence of all.

LUCENTIO: O yes, I saw sweet beauty in her face.