

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Love

Situation: While Petruchio and Katherine are relaxing at the Minola home with the married Lucentio and Bianca, and with the married Hortensio and the Widow, the three young men make a bet as to whose wife is the most responsive to their call. Petruchio wins. A “tamed” Katherine proceeds to offer the other new brides some unexpected advice on how to deal with a husband.

WIDOW: Lord, let me never have a cause to sigh till I be brought to such a silly pass.

BIANCA: Fie, what a foolish duty call you this?

PETRUCHIO: Katherine, I charge thee tell these headstrong women what duty they do owe their lords and husbands.

WIDOW: Come, come, you're mocking. We will have no telling.

PETRUCHIO: Come on, I say, and first begin with her.

Katherine to the Widow, No. 1

Unknit that threatening unkind brow, and dart
Not scornful glances that wound, for he art
Thy lord, thy keeper. It blots thy beauty
As frosts do bite the spring meadows, and in
No sense suitable. A woman angry
Is like a troubled, ill-serving fountain
Bereft of beauty from which none so dry
Will deign to sip of it. Thy husband's thy
Life, who commits to thy maintenance, that
Cares for thee, enduring painful labor
Whilst thou liest warm, secure and safe at
Home, whilst he from your hands craves no other
Tribute but love and obedience, yet
Too little payment for so great a debt.

Katherine to the Widow, No. 2

When a wife is sour, sullen and peevish,
And not accepting to his honest wish,
She is at risk as a rebel to stay
With her lord. I am ashamed that women
Are so simple to offer war when they
Should seek peace, or to find ways to sway men
When they should serve and love. Our bodies, soft
And smooth, unsuited to toil in an oft
Troubled world, hold soft qualities, and our

**Hearts should agree with our external parts.
Our lances are straws, strong as a flower.
Subdue pride; to fight is futile. Peace starts
When you demand less than he. If he please,
Have hands ready, if they may do him ease.**

PETRUCHIO: Why, there's a tamed shrew! Come on, and kiss me, Kate.