

## The Winter's Tale abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

### Anger

**Situation:** Leontes judgment about his wife's lack of faithfulness is questioned by others. Being questioned, Leontes becomes even angrier and ratchets up his irritation over the issue. In particular, he argues aggressively over the issue with his very close associate Antigonus, one of his courtiers.

ANTIGONUS: If it prove she's otherwise, I'll keep my stables where I lodge my wife. Ay, every dram of woman's flesh, is false, if she be.

LEONTES: Hold your peaces.

ANTIGONUS: It is for you we speak, not for ourselves. You are deceived, and by some instigator that will be damned for 't. Would I knew the villain!

LEONTES: Cease. No more. You smell this business with a sense as cold as a dead man's nose.

ANTIGONUS: If it be so, we need no grave to bury honesty.

LEONTES: What? Lack I credit?

LORD: I had rather you did lack than I, my lord, upon this ground. And more it would content me to have her honor true than your suspicion, be blamed for 't how you might.

### Leontes to Lords

**What need we confer with men like yourselves?**

**Our prerogative calls not for counsels,**

**My imparting this to you of my own**

**Natural goodness; informing you we**

**Need no more of your faulty advice sown**

**Since it seems you cannot or will not see**

**Truth as I do. This, lords, you must allow:**

**Either thou art most ignorant or thou**

**Wert all born fools. Camillo's flight added**

**To the intimacy between the two,**

**Which is as true as ever reason led,**

**Lacking sight only, supports what we do.**

**Come, we are to attend the public's call**

**To speak, for this business will rouse us all.**

ANTIGONUS ASIDE: To laughter, as I take it, if the good truth were known.