

## **The Winter's Tale abbreviated**

Act 2, Scene 3

### **Pride**

**Situation:** Leontes rejects his baby girl, saying “Hence with her, out o’ door.” In the middle of the night Paulina and Antigonus had proudly presented the hours-old “good queen’s” baby to Leontes.

LEONTES: This brat is none of mine. It is the issue of Polixenes. Hence with it, and together with the dam commit them to the fire.

**Paulina to Leontes**

It is yours, and if we may accuse you,  
The proverb, she’s the worse for it, you two  
So alike, fits. Behold, my lords, although  
The image be little, the contents are  
The copy of the father. She doth owe  
Her eyes, nose, and lips to him, not a mar  
Here seen. She has the dimples of his chin  
And cheeks, and has the trick of his frown. In  
Her hands and fingers, she has his very  
Mold and frame. And thou, good goddess Nature,  
Making her like him that got her, if thee  
Provides order to the mind too, let her  
‘Mongst all colors have no yellow in as  
He does to suspect her child as he has.

LEONTES: A gross hag! I’ll ha’ thee burnt.

PAULINA: I care not. It is a heretic that makes the fire, not she which burns in ‘t.

LEONTES TO ANTIGONUS: On your allegiance, out of the chamber with her! Away with her!

PAULINA: I pray you do not push me; I’ll be gone. Look to your babe, my lord; ‘tis yours.

She exits.

LEONTES TO ANTIGONUS: Thou, traitor, hast set on thy wife to this. My child? Take it hence and see it instantly consumed with fire. Even thou, and none but thou. Within this hour bring me word ‘tis done, and by good testimony, or I’ll seize thy life. Go, take it to the fire, for thou sett’st on thy wife.