

Twelfth Night abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

Love

Situation: Orsino passionately talks about love to Cesario, in the form of advice and insight to the young man. Orsino offers his counsel soon after Cesario returns from his visit with Lady Olivia, unsuccessful as the meeting was in meeting its objective.

ORSINO TO VIOLA: Come hither, boy.

Orsino to Viola, No. 1

If thou ever fall in love and endure
Its sweet pangs, remember me. Each lover
True, as I, is unstead and skittish in
All motions save the one that is beloved.
Dost thou like this tune? I sense love's within
Its echo. How masterly. One favored
Hast thine eye, hath she not? Tell me of her;
About your years. Ah, best a woman were
To take an elder, to fit to him, for
Our fancies are more giddy and unfirm,
More wavering, sooner lost and worn, more
Longing than women's are. Each has its term,
And women, as roses, the fair flower,
Being displayed, do fall that very hour.

VIOLA: And so they are. Alas, that they are so, to die even when they to perfection grow!