

Twelfth Night abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Resentment

Situation: The Fool had been sent to the prison by Lady Olivia with the express purpose of securing the release of her steward, Malvolio. Shortly after his release, however, Malvolio confronted Olivia, saying “Madam, you have done me wrong, notorious wrong.” He eloquently tells Olivia his side of the story.

OLIVIA: Have I, Malvolio? No.

MALVOLIO: Lady, you have. Pray you peruse that letter. You must not now deny it is your hand.

Malvolio to Olivia

Tell me why, having given me such clear
Signs of favor, having bade me come here
Smiling and cross-gartered, asking me to
Frown upon Sir Toby, to parade in
Yellow stockings, giving me fresh hope, you
Suffered me to be imprisoned? What sin
Did I? You say, steward, this is not your
Hand, 'tis Maria's, and that she did lure
Me to this insult, and she says I wast
Mad. Please let me speak. If Maria writ
The letter, and admit, I'll be less lost,
And if these mean acts 'gainst me do not fit,
Then my desire for just revenge will fade
If injuries both sides be justly weighed.

Malvolio exits.

OLIVIA: He hath been most notoriously abused.