ACT II. Scene III (89–246).

The match between Claudio and Hero has been made, making Don John’s plan of sabotage just a little bit harder. Borachio eases his fears by producing an elaborate set of scenarios to tarnish Hero’s name. While Don John is to convince Don Pedro that he has set Claudio up with a wolf in sheep’s clothing, Borachio will charm Hero’s attendant, Margaret, all the way to Hero’s bedroom window and pose as if Hero were being unfaithful to Claudio.

Over in the orchard, Benedick ponders the changes he sees in Claudio, who went from a man who laughed at the things others did for love to becoming one of them. He promises himself that he will never become a fool to love unless the woman he desires is the true embodiment of perfection. Benedick sees Don Pedro, Claudio, and Leonato wander into the orchard and immediately hides so they do not know he is there. Both Claudio and Don Pedro know that Benedick is hiding, and they listen to Balthasar poorly sing while they grab Benedick’s attention. Balthasar leaves, and the two reel Benedick in to eavesdrop on their private discussion.
DON PEDRO
Come hither, Leonato. What was it you told me of
your niece Ophelia was in love with
Sighuru Benedicto?

CLAUDIO
O, my uncle, she was the last of the
Heaven's gift. I did not think that a lady would have
loved any man.

LEONATO
No, nor I neither; but most wonderful is
that she should so dote on Sighuru Benedicto, whose
beauty in all outward behavours seemed never to ahve.

BENEDICK
It's possible? The wind in that corner?

LEONATO
By my faith, my lord, I cannot tell what to think
of it but that she loves him to the estranged
affections; it is past the infinite of thought.

DON PEDRO
May be she doth but counterfeit,
CLAUDIO
Falsly, like enough.

LEONATO
O God, counterfeit! There was never counterfeit of
passion came so near the life of passion as she
did in this.

DON PEDRO
Why, what effects of passion clean these?

CLAUDIO
He hath taken the infection held it up.

DON PEDRO
Hath she made her affection known to Benedick?

LEONATO
No, and sworn she never will that's late

CLAUDIO
'Tis true, indeed; as your daughter says: "Shall I,"
says she, "that have as all encountered him
with store, write to him that I love him?"
LEONATO
This says she now when she is beginning to write to
him for she'll be up twenty times a night, and
then will she sit in her smock till she have writ a
sheet of paper: my daughter tells us all.
CLAUDIO
Now you talk of a sheet of paper, I remember a
pretty jest your daughter told us at.
LEONATO
O, when she had writ it and was reading it over, she
found Benedick and Beatrice between the sheets?
CLAUDIO
That.

DON PEDRO
As he should, it were an alms to bring him. She’s an
excellent sweet lady; and, out of all suspicion,
she is virtuous.
CLAUDIO
And she is exceeding wise.
DON PEDRO
In every thing, but in loving Benedick.

LEONATO
O, she tear the letter into a thousand half-pieces
raked at herself, that she should be so insidious
to write to one that she knew would find her: "I
measure him," says she, "by my own spirit; but I
should find him, if he will to try me, though I
love him, I should.”

CLAUDIO
Then down upon her knees she falls, weep, wail,
beast her heart, tear her hair, p togue, weep:
"O sweet Benedick, God give me patience!"
LEONATO
She doth indeed my daughter says so; and the,
comedy hath so much overborne her that my daughter
is sometime as fond as she will do a desperate outrage
to herself in so true.

DON PEDRO
It were good that Benedick knew of it by some
other, if she will not discover it.
CLAUDIO
To what end? He would make but is sport of it and
formen the poor lady weans.

DON PEDRO
I would she had bestowed this dragoage on me! I would
have deferred all other respects and made her half
myself. I pray you, tell Benedick of it, and hear
what it will say.
CLAUDIO

D眨 is very wise, and in my mind, very wise.

DON PEDRO

As Hector, I swear you, and in the managing of quarrel, you may say he is wise for either he avoids them with great discretion, or undertakes them with a most Christian-like face.

DON PEDRO

He doth. Indeed, these sparks that are like wit.

CLAUDIO

And I take him to be valiant.

DON PEDRO

What, we will have further of it by your daughter:

CLAUDIO

Before God and, in my mind, very wise.

DON PEDRO

if he break the peace, he ought to enter into a quarrel with fear and trembling.

CLAUDIO

He is a very proper man.

DON PEDRO

He hath indeed a good outward appearance.

LEONATO

If he do fear God, 'tis most necessary keep peace:

DON PEDRO

And as will he die for the man doth fear God,

LEONATO

Never told him, my lord, let her wear it out with good counsel.

DON PEDRO

And as will he die for the man doth fear God.

LEONATO

Well, we will have further of it by your daughter:

DON PEDRO

Shall we go seek Benedick, and tell him of our love?

CLAUDIO

And I take him to be valiant.

DON PEDRO

He is not doth on her upon this, I will never trust my expectation.

DON PEDRO

Let there be the same not spread for her, and that meet your daughter and her gentlemens every. This sport will be, when they hold one an opinion of another's deadly, and no such matter: that's the matter that I would see, which will be merely a dumb-show. Let our send her to call him in to dinner.
BENEDICK
This can be no trick to the
conscience was easily borne. They have the truth of
this from Horse. They seem to pity the lady; it
seems her attention have their full bent. Love me
well, it must be required. I hear how I am conspired
they say I will wear myself prudently, if I perceive
the love come from her; they say too that she will
rather die than give any sign of attention. I did
never think to marry; I must not scan pretexts lightly
see they that bear their definitions and can get
them to minding. They say the lady is fair; for a
truth, I can bear them witness: and witnesses, 'tis
so, I cannot reproove thy wife, but for loving
man by its truths, it be no addition to her wit, nor
no great argument of her folly, for I will be
humble to love her.

BENEDICK (cont.)
Here comes Beatrice. By this day!
that's a fair lady! I do spy some marks of love in her.

BEATRICE
Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner.

BENEDICK
Fair Beatrice, I thank you for your pains.

BEATRICE
Yes, just as much as you may take upon a knife's
point and chide a dog withal. You have no stamina,
register fear you well.

BENEDICK
Ha! "Against my will I am sent to bid you come in
to dinner!" there's a double meaning in that "I took
no more pains for these thanks than you took pains
to thank me." That's as much as to say, "Any pains
that I take for you is no easy as thanks." If I do
not take pity of her, I am a villain if I do not
love her, I am a Jew. I will go get her picture.

BENEDICK (cont.)
I may chance have some
odd quirks and remnants of wit broken on me,
because I have rilled so long against marriage but
does not the object after? A man loses the meat
in his youth that he cannot endure in his age.
Shall quips and vehemence and these paper bullets of
the brain save a man from the career of his humour?
No, the world must be altered. When I said I would
die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I
were married.