

As You Like It abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Resentment

Situation: Adam is nearly eighty years old and has kind of a kindred relationship with Orlando, the mistreated younger brother. Orlando and Adam get along just fine. Orlando tells Adam that he feels he has “the spirit of my father” and that he is ready to “mutiny against this servitude” imposed on him by his older brother, Oliver.

Orlando to Adam

My father bequeathed me by will but a
Poor one thousand crowns, Adam, but my way
To fortune was his charge to my brother
To breed me well; there begins my sadness.
He keeps Jaques at school where teachers confer
Him fine marks, I hear. For my part, I'm less
Well kept at home, that differs not much from
The stalling of an ox. Riders hired come
From afar to his well bred horses, where
I gain nothing but growth, yet am bound to
Him as are his horses. It is unfair
And grieves me that I know not what to do.
Servitude makes me want to mutiny
Against it, yet I know no remedy.

Oliver enters.

ORLANDO TO ADAM: Go apart, Adam, and thou shalt hear how he will shake me up.

Adam steps aside.

OLIVER: Now, sir, what make you here?

ORLANDO: Nothing, I am not taught to make anything. I am helping you to make that which God made, a poor unworthy brother of yours, with idleness.

OLIVER: Marry, sir, be better employed.

ORLANDO: Shall I keep your hogs and eat husks with them?