

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 6

Anger

Situation: Soon after he arrives in Rome, Posthumus foolishly bets his wedding ring for gold ducats that his wife is faithful to him. The bet will require him to turn his ring over to Iachimo, an Italian Lothario, if Iachimo can convince him that his wife has been unfaithful. Iachimo fails in his attempt to seduce Imogen.

IMOGEN: My lord, I fear, has forgot Britain.

IACHIMO: And himself. 'Tis your graces that from my mutest conscience to my tongue charms this report out.

IMOGEN: Let me hear no more.

IACHIMO: A lady so fair, and fastened to a kingdom would make the great'st king double, to be partnered with immodest women hired with that self exhibition which our own coffers yield. Be revenged.

IMOGEN: Revenged? How should I be revenged?

IACHIMO: Should he make me live betwixt cold sheets whiles he is vaulting various vulgar women? Revenge it. I dedicate myself you your sweet pleasure, more noble than that deserter from your bed. Let me my service tender on your lips.

Imogen to Iachimo

**Away from me! I do condemn mine ears
That having listened to thee bring these tears.
If thou wert an honorable man, thou
Wouldst have told this tale for virtue, not
For this baseless tale thou didst allow.
Thou hast wrong'st a gentleman and ought
Be ashamed for he is as far from thy
Report as thou from honor. The king my
Father shall learn quite soon of thy assault,
Soliciting a lady that disdains
Thee and the devil. The king may find fault
With a saucy foreigner who maintains
Plans to run the business of a Roman
Brothel in his court. Where art thou, Pisan?**

IMOGEN: If he doth not, he hath a court he little cares for and a daughter who he not respects at all.