

Measure for Measure abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

Confidence

Situation: Isabella had agreed to meet with Angelo a second time. She realizes late in the second interview that Angelo has an ulterior motive. Angelo asks her “might there not be a charity in sin to save this brother’s life?” He later says to her “your sense pursues not mine.”

ANGELO: Let me be bold. Be that you are ---- that is, a woman. If you are stronger than the frail creature you have described woman as being, then you are no woman.

ISABELLA: Gentle my lord, let me entreat you speak the former language.

ANGELO: Plainly conceive I love you.

ISABELLA: My brother did love Juliet, and you tell me that he shall die for ‘t.

ANGELO: Believe me my words express my purpose.

ISABELLA: Ha! Sign me a present pardon for my brother or with an outstretched throat I’ll tell the world aloud what man thou art.

ANGELO: Who will believe thee, Isabel?

Angelo to Isabella

That I can attest against you and my
Austere life and place in the state is why
I will so o’erweigh your accusation
That your own report shall be stifled. Set
Aside coyness and any weak notion
Of what thy plead for; just agree to let
Your brother be redeemed through thy consent
To my will; letting thy body be lent
To my sharp appetite, or else he must
Not only die the death, but it shall be
Drawn out to ling’ring sufferance. My lust
Is anxious, so tomorrow answer me,
My desire now guiding me. If you can’t
Say I will, I’ll prove to him a tyrant.