

## Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

### Disclosure

**Situation:** Don John is good-guy Don Pedro's brother and lets us know that he is a rascally mischief-maker. He is that. Don John is encouraged by Conrade, one of his buddies, who asks him "can you make no use of your discontent?"

CONRADE: Why are you thus out of measure sad?

DON JOHN: There is no measure in the occasion that breeds. Therefore the sadness is without limit.

**Don John to Conrade**

I cannot hide what I am. I must be  
Sad when I have cause; eat when I'm hungry,  
Smile at no other man's jests; sleep when I  
Am drowsy; tend to no man's business; owe  
No man graciousness, and to all will lie  
When it serves my reason. It better fits  
Me to be disdained, then, as counterfeits,  
To rob love from any. I'm rendered weak  
With a muzzle and can't sing, but have grown  
Used to 't. Let me be that I am; seek  
Not to alter me. In this, I'm not known  
To be a flattering honest man; an  
It must not be denied I'm a villain.

CONRADE: You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace. It is needful that you frame the season for your own harvest. Can you make no use of your discontent?