

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Insight

Situation: Having heard from Borachio, another one of Don John's followers, "that the prince should woo Hero for himself," Don John says "this may prove food to my displeasure." It does, the disguised prince having wooed Hero innocently on Claudio's behalf during Leonato's dinner party.

DON JOHN TO BORACHIO: Sure my brother is amorous on Hero, and hath withdrawn her father to reveal his thoughts with him about it.

DON JOHN TO CLAUDIO: Are not you Signior Benedick?

CLAUDIO: You know me well. I am he.

DON JOHN: Signior, you are very near my brother in his love. He is enamored on Hero. I pray you dissuade him from her.

CLAUDIO: How know you he loves her?

DON JOHN: I heard him swear his affection.

BORACHIO: So did I too, and he swore he would marry her tonight.

They exit. Claudio remains.

Claudio to himself

Thus answer I the name of Benedick,
But with the ears of Claudio hear sick
News. 'Tis certain so that Don Pedro woos
For himself, having sworn his affection
For her, planning for them to vow "I dos"
Tonight. Friendship is a loyal reflection
Of all things constant save the office and
Affairs of love. Each must use his own hand,
Use his own tongue and negotiate for
Himself with his own eye when his heart's in
Love. Trust no agent, for fair beauty wore
A mask, melting faith to blood. This has been
Happening hourly, and this unseen foe
I mistrusted not. So farewell, Hero.