

## **Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated**

Act 2, Scene 1

### **Tease**

**Situation:** As noted, Beatrice had taunted and teased Benedick with little mercy during Leonato's masquerade dinner-party. She had quickly recognizing the disguised Benedick for whom he is, he not being very good at disguising himself; she being a tough cookie. Benedick has a difficult time recovering from the insults.

PRINCE: Now, Signior, where's the Count? Did you see him?

BENEDICK: I found him here melancholy. I told him that your Grace had got the good will of this young lady, and I offered him my company to a willow tree, either to make him a garland, as being forsaken, or to bind him up a rod, as being worthy to be whipped.

PRINCE: To be whipped? What's his fault?

BENEDICK: The fat transgression of a schoolboy, who being overjoyed with finding a bird's nest, shows it his companion, and he steals it.

PRINCE: The transgression is in the stealer. The Lady Beatrice hath a quarrel to you. The gentleman that danced with her told her she is much wronged by you.

### **Benedick to Prince**

I could scarcely endure how she misused  
Me. My very visor was so abused  
It began to assume life and scold her.  
Not thinking I was myself, she told me  
That I was the Prince's jester, duller  
Than a great thaw, piling on so many  
Jokes on myself that I stood like a mark  
With an army shooting at me; her dark  
Words stab as daggers. If her breath I fear  
Were as terrible as her words, she has  
Ways to infect the North Star. While she's here  
A man may live as quiet in hell as  
In a sanctuary. People hither  
Would sin upon purpose to go thither.