

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1.2

Proposal

Situation: After Katherine has beaten Hortensio (disguised as Litio) over the head with the lute he is trying to teach her to play, Baptista suggests that he “proceed in practice with my younger daughter.”

BAPTISTA TO HORTENSIO AS LITIO: She’s apt to learn, and thankful for good turns. Signior Petruchio, will you go with us, or shall I send my daughter Kate to you?

PETRUCHIO: I pray you do. I’ll attend her here.

All but Petruchio exit.

PETRUCHIO: And woo her with some spirit when she comes!

Petruchio to himself, and later Katherine

Say that if when she arrives she doth rail,
Why I’ll say she sings as a nightingale.
Say that she frowns, I’ll say she looks as clear
As morning roses newly washed with dew.
Say she stands utterly mute, I’ll say, dear,
Your generous eloquence becomes you.
Say she bids I pack up and leave, I’ll say
Thanks, as if she asked me to stay all day.
Here she comes. O Kate, it’s time to begin
A romance. Bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate
The curst, but Kate, the prettiest Kate in
Christendom, a most precious, future mate.
Kate: hearing thy mildness much of my life,
Myself am moved to woo thee for my wife.

KATHERINE: Well have you heard, but something hard of hearing. They call me Katherine that do talk of me. Let him that moved you hither remove you hence.

PETRUCHIO: Come, you wasp! I’ faith, you are too angry.

KATHERINE: If I be waspish, best beware my sting.

PETRUCHIO: Nay, good Kate. I am a gentleman.

She strikes him.