

## **The Winter's Tale abbreviated**

Act 3, Scene 2

### **Disclosure**

**Situation:** A servant by now has told Leontes “O sir, the prince your son is gone; is dead.” Hermione has collapsed and has been taken out of the room. Paulina soon reenters crying “Woe the while” and aggressively berates Leontes. She tells him that Hermione has died.

PAULINA TO LEONTES: What studied torments, tyrant, hast for me? What old or newer torture must I receive?

**Paulina to Leontes, No. 2**

O, think what you have done. Thy tyranny  
Together working with thy jealousy  
Have with your fooleries led to this woe,  
But a trace of what you have now done. That  
Thou betrayedst Polixenes did show  
Thee an ungrateful fool, as it did at  
Poisoning good Camillo's honor, to  
Have him kill a king. Satan could not do  
Without shedding tears what you have done by  
Casting forth thy baby daughter to the  
Crows. The death of the young prince does not lie  
At your feet, but you're not so vengeance free  
From the state of the Queen. It was just said  
To me: the sweet'st, dear'st creature's dead.

LORD: The higher powers forbid!

PAULINA: I say she's dead. I'll swear 't. If word nor oath prevail not, go and see. But, O thou tyrant, do not repent these things, for they are heavier than all thy woes can stir. Therefore betake thee to nothing but despair.

LEONTES: Go on, go on. I have deserved all tongues to talk their bitt' rest.

LORD TO PAULINA: Say no more.