

BEATRICE Too curst is more than curst. I shall lessen
God's sending that. For it is said "God sends a
curst cow short horns," but if I am too curst, he
sends none.

LEONATO So, by being too curst, God will send you no
horns.

25

BEATRICE Just, if He send me no husband, for the
which blessing I am at Him upon my knees every
morning and evening. Lord, I could not endure a
husband with a beard on his face. I had rather lie in
the woolen!

30

LEONATO You may light on a husband that hath no
beard.

BEATRICE What should I do with him? Dress him in my
apparel and make him my waiting gentlewoman?

35

He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he
that hath no beard is less than a man; and he that is
more than a youth is not for me, and he that is less
than a man, I am not for him. Therefore I will even
take sixpence in earnest of the bearherd, and lead
his apes into hell.

40

LEONATO Well then, go you into hell?

BEATRICE No, but to the gate, and there will the devil
meet me like an old cuckold with horns on his
head, and say "Get you to heaven, Beatrice, get you
to heaven; here's no place for you maids." So deliver
I up my apes and away to Saint Peter; for the
heavens, he shows me where the bachelors sit, and
there live we as merry as the day is long.

45

LEONATO'S BROTHER, *to Hero* Well, niece, I trust you
will be ruled by your father.

50

BEATRICE Yes, faith, it is my cousin's duty to make
curtsy and say "Father, as it please you." But yet for
all that, cousin, let him be a handsome fellow, or
else make another curtsy and say "Father, as it
please me."

55

LEONATO Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted
with a husband.

BEATRICE Not till God make men of some other metal
than earth. Would it not grieve a woman to be
overmastered with a piece of valiant dust? To make
an account of her life to a clod of wayward earth?
No, uncle, I'll none. Adam's sons are my brethren,
and truly I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.

60

LEONATO, *to Hero* Daughter, remember what I told
you. If the Prince do solicit you in that kind, you
know your answer.

65