

Act 1 Scene 1

*running scene 1**Enter Duke, Escalus, Lords [and Attendants]*

DUKE Escalus.

ESCALUS My lord.

DUKE Of government the properties to unfold

Would seem in me t' affect speech and discourse,

Since I am put to know that your own Science

Exceeds, in that, the lists of all advice

My strength can give you. Then no more remains,

And let them work. The nature of our people.

Our city's institutions, and the terms

10 For common justice, you're as pregnant in

As we remember. There is our commission, *Hands him a paper*

From which we would not have you warp. Call hither.

I say, bid come before us Angelo; *[Exit an Attendant]*

For you must know, we have with special soul

15 Elected him our absence to supply:

Lent him our terror, dressed him with our love,

And given his deputation all the organs

Of our own power. What think you of it?

20

START

END

ESCALUS If any in Virginia be of worth
To undergo such ample grace and honour,
It is Lord Angelo.

25 DUKE Look where he comes.

*Enter Angelo*ANGELO Always obedient to your grace's will,
I come to know your pleasure.

DUKE Angelo,

There is a kind of character in thy life

30 That to th'observer doth thy history
Fully unfold. Thyself and thy belongings

Are not thine own so proper as to waste

Thyself upon thy virtues, they on thee.

Nor nature never lends

35 The smallest scruple of her excellence

But, like a thrifty goddess, she determines

Herself the glory of a creditor,

Both thanks and use. But I do bend my speech

To one that can my part in him advertise.

40 Hold therefore, Angelo.

In our remove be thou at full yourself:

Mortality and mercy in Virginia

Live in thy tongue and heart. Old Escalus,

Though first in question, is thy secondary.

45 Take thy commission. *Offers a paper*

1.1 *Location: with the exception of Act 4 Scenes 1 and 5, the entire play is set in Vienna, moving between the duke's palace, the street, the monastery, the nunnery, the prison and, in the final scene, the city gates* 3 *properties* particulars, qualities 4 *unfold* explain 5 *put to know* obliged to acknowledge 6 *science* knowledge 7 *that* i.e. knowledge of the properties of government 8 *lists* limits 9 *strength* mental capacity 10 *But . . . work* unclear, possibly because certain words have been omitted accidentally; the general sense seems to be "other than to rely on the workings of your ability (sufficiency) and worth" 11 *institutions* customs/laws 12 *terms* conditions/sessions of the law court 13 *pregnant* knowledgeable 14 *art and practice* learning and experience 15 *warp* deviate 16 *What . . . bear?* How do you think he will represent me?/How will he perform as my substitute? 17 *figure* duke's stamp on a coin or seal 18 *special soul* inner conviction, particular consideration 19 *supply* occupy as a substitute 20 *terror* supreme authority, power to punish 21 *dressed . . . love* furnished him with our ability to grant favors/invested him with our favor 22 *deputation* position as deputy 23 *organs* instruments

23 *undergo* sustain 24 *grace* favor 25 *Angelo* from the word "angel," a celestial being as well as a gold coin bearing the image of the Archangel Michael 26 *pleasure* wishes 27 *character* distinctive mark/personal trait/individual handwriting 28 *history* life story/record 29 *unfold* narrate/reveal 30 *belongings* attributes 31 *Are . . . proper* do not belong to you exclusively (i.e. you have a duty to the public good to share your talents) 32 *waste . . . thee* i.e. you cannot squander your virtues for purely personal ends or waste your personal efforts purely on cultivating your virtues 33 *of* from (i.e. in public service) 34 *Spirits* souls/temperaments 35 *touched* created/put to the test or stamped, like coins 36 *But . . . issues* except to do fine deeds/except, like coins, to be refined and put into circulation 37 *scruple* tiny amount 38 *thrifty* frugal, economical 39 *determines . . . use* appoints herself the privileges of a creditor, namely both gratitude for the loan and financial interest (use puns on the sense of "actively using nature's gifts") 40 *bend* direct 41 *my . . . advertise* instruct me 42 *Hold* wait a moment/be steadfast, or "take what I am about to offer you" 43 *remove* absence 44 *at full* in every respect