

And to be talked with in sincerity,
As with a saint.

40 ISABELLA You do blaspheme the good in mocking me.

LUCIO Do not believe it. Fewness and truth, 'tis thus:

Your brother and his lover have embraced.

As those that feed grow full, as blossoming time

That from the seedness the bare fallow brings

45 'To teeming foison, even so her plenteous womb

Expresseth his full tilth and husbandry.

ISABELLA Someone with child by him? My cousin Juliet?

LUCIO Is she your cousin?

ISABELLA Adoptedly, as school-maids change their names

50 By vain though apt affection.

LUCIO She it is.

ISABELLA O, let him marry her.

START LUCIO This is the point.

The duke is very strangely gone from hence.

55 Bore many gentlemen, myself being one,

In hand and hope of action: but we do learn

By those that know the very nerves of state.

His giving-out were of an infinite distance

From his true-meant design. Upon his place,

60 And with full line of his authority,

Governs Lord Angelo, a man whose blood

Is very snow-broth: one who never feels

The wanton stings and motions of the sense,

But doth rebate and blunt his natural edge

65 With profits of the mind, study and fast.

He — to give fear to use and liberty,

40 You . . . me in mocking/flattering me, you defame what is truly holy 41 Fewness in few words 42 embraced i.e. had sex 44 seedness act of sowing seeds bare fallow uncultivated land 45 teeming foison plentiful harvest 46 Expresseth reveals tilth and husbandry plowing and cultivation (with sexual connotations) 47 cousin relative/close friend 50 vain . . . affection silly though natural fondness 55 Bore . . . hand misleadingly kept many men, including me, waiting in 58 giving-out utterances 59 true-meant design real intentions Upon in 60 line scope 62 snow-broth melted snow 63 wanton uncontrolled/lascivious motions urges sense senses 64 rebate blunt (as of a weapon)/suppress edge blade/keen desire 65 profits improvements fast fasting 66 use (disreputable) habit

Which have for long run by the hideous law,
As mice by lions — hath picked out an act.

Under whose heavy sense your brother's life

70 Falls into forfeit. He arrests him on it,

And follows close the rigour of the statute

To make him an example. All hope is gone,

Unless you have the grace by your fair prayer

To soften Angelo: and that's my pith of business

"Twixt you and your poor brother.

END

75 ISABELLA Doth he so seek his life?

LUCIO Has censured him already,

And, as I hear, the provost hath a warrant
For's execution.

80 ISABELLA Alas, what poor ability's in me

To do him good?

LUCIO Assay the power you have.

ISABELLA My power? Alas, I doubt—

LUCIO Our doubts are traitors,

85 And make us lose the good we oft might win

By fearing to attempt. Go to Lord Angelo,

And let him learn to know, when maidens sue,

Men give like gods: but when they weep and kneel,

All their petitions are as freely theirs

90 As they themselves would owe them.

ISABELLA I'll see what I can do.

LUCIO But speedily.

ISABELLA I will about it straight,

No longer staying but to give the mother

95 Notice of my affair. I humbly thank you:

Commend me to my brother. Soon at night

I'll send him certain word of my success.

67 hideous frightening 69 heavy sense severe meaning 70 Falls into forfeit has to be given up 73 grace good fortune/favor 74 pithessence 77 censured condemned 82 Assay try 87 sue plead 88 give yield/offer 89 petitions . . . them requests are granted as fully as the maidens themselves would wish 94 mother mother superior, head of the nunery 96 Soon at night early in the evening 97 my success the outcome of my attempts