

Side 12: Rosalind, Celia, Orlando

4.1.25 *As You Like It*

JACQUES Nay then, God buy you, and you talk in blank verse!
 ROSALIND Farewell, Monsieur Traveller. Look you lip and wear
 strange suits; disable all the benefits of your own country; be out of
 love with your nativity, and almost chide God for making you that
 countenance you are, or I will scarce think you have swam in a
 gondola.

ROSALIND Why, how now, Orlando, where have you been all this while? You
 a lover? And you serve me such another trick, never come in my
 sight more.

ORLANDO My fair Rosalind, I come within an hour of my promise.

ROSALIND Break an hour's promise in love? He that will divide a
 minute into a thousand parts and break but a part of the thousand
 part of a minute in the affairs of love, it may be said of him that
 Cupid hath clapped him o'th'shoulder; but I'll warrant him heart-
 whole.

ORLANDO Pardon me, dear Rosalind.

ROSALIND Nay, and you be so tardy, come no more in my sight – I had
 as lief be wooed of a snail.

ORLANDO Of a snail?

ROSALIND Aye, of a snail; for though he comes slowly, he carries his

25 verse! F *subst.*; verse. Exit v2 30 gondola | Pope; Gundello F 30 SD | Hudson; not in v

25 buy See 3.3.217n.

25 and if.

26–30 Satiric portraits of the affectations of travellers returned from Italy were common: see, for example, Roger Ascham, *The Schoolmaster* (1570), in *English Works*, ed. W. A. Wright, 1904, pp. 234–6, and see Mario Praz, *The Flaming Heart*, 1958, *passim*.

26 lisp As an affectation of speech, perhaps acquired abroad; compare *Rom.* 2.4.28.

27 strange foreign.

27 disable disparage.

27 benefits natural advantages (*OED sv sb* 3b).

28 nativity nationality (*OED sv* 5a).

29 countenance dignity, estate (*OED sv* 10).

29 swam floated, been conveyed (*OED Swim v* 3b).

30 gondola Venice was the most notorious city in Europe at the time: see the Sir Politic Would-be sequences in Jonson's *Volpone*.

30 *SD F2 supplies an exit for Jaques at 25, and directors might like to have Rosalind throw her jibes

at his departing back while keeping her lover in suspense.

32 trick (1) action, (2) sexual act (Williams, p. 313).

35 hour's A possible pun on 'where's' (Cercignani, p. 194).

35–8 He . . . shoulder Any lover who is the slightest bit tardy has merely caught Cupid's attention but not fallen under his power; the image in 38 may be of an officer making an arrest; compare a 'shoulder-clapper' (*Err.* 4.2.37); alternatively 'clapped' may mean 'wounded with an arrow' (*OED sv v* 10c), or 'winged'.

36 the thousand the thousandth (*OED sv* 4).

38–9 heart-whole unwounded in the heart (*OED sv* 1).

42 of by (Abbott 170).

42 snail Proverbial for slowness (Tilley s579); for the sexual connotations of this 'boneless member', see Jones, pp. 207–8.

44–5 he . . . head Compare the proverb, 'Like a snail, he keeps his house on his head' (Tilley s58).

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house on his head; a better jointure, I think, than you make a woman. Besides, he brings his destiny with him.

ORLANDO What's that?

ROSALIND Why, horns; which such as you are fain to be beholden to your wives for. But he comes armed in his fortune and prevents the slander of his wife.

ORLANDO Virtue is no horn-maker, and my Rosalind is virtuous.

ROSALIND And I am your Rosalind.

CELIA It pleases him to call you so, but he hath a Rosalind of a better leer than you.

ROSALIND Come, woo me, woo me; for now I am in a holiday humour and like enough to consent. What would you say to me now and I were your very, very Rosalind?

ORLANDO I would kiss before I spoke.

ROSALIND Nay, you were better speak first, and when you were gravelled for lack of matter you might take occasion to kiss. Very good orators when they are out, they will spit, and for lovers, lacking – God warrant us – matter, the cleanliest shift is to kiss.

ORLANDO How if the kiss be denied?

ROSALIND Then she puts you to entreaty, and there begins new matter.

ORLANDO Who could be out, being before his beloved mistress?

ROSALIND Marry, that should you if I were your mistress, or I should think my honesty ranker than my wit.

48 beholden | Pope; beholding v 62 warrant | *Cam., conj. anon*; warne v

45 jointure estate settled on a woman in case of her husband's death.

45 you make is settled upon.

46 he . . . him Compare the proverb, 'Cuckolds come by destiny' (Tilley c89).

48 horns The customary badge of a cuckold.

48 fain obliged (*OED sv* 2b); the implication is that men like Orlando are so feckless that they can earn nothing but horns.

48 *beholden v's 'beholding' (see collation) is the only form used by Shakespeare.

49 comes armed in his fortune is armed with the instruments which would be his by destiny.

49 prevents precedes, forestalls (*OED Prevent v* 1c).

50 slander scandal, disgrace (*OED sv* 3).

53 It . . . so Compare the proverb, 'It pleases you to say so' (Dent p407.1).

54 leer (1) face, complexion (*OED sv sb*²), (2) cattle-colour (Hulme, p. 121), (2) loin (*OED sv sb*⁴).

55 holiday humour festive mood.

57 very true, real.

59–60 gravelled nonplussed (*OED Gravel v* 4a):

the image may be of a ship run aground (*OED sv* 2b), or of a horse lamed by gravel stuck between its hoof and its shoe (*OED Gravel v* 5).

60 lack of matter want of anything purposeful to say.

61 are out have forgotten their speech.

62 *warrant v's 'warne' may be a misprint, meaning 'protect' (*OED Warn v*³), although the last recorded use there is 1449), or be a dialect form of 'warrant', also meaning 'protect' (as at 3.4.4).

62 matter (1) small-talk, (2) semen (Williams, p. 203).

62 shift tactic.

65 out (1) nonplussed, (2) astray, lost (*OED sv adj* 20b).

67 honesty (appearance of) chastity; Rosalind construes Orlando's 'out' to mean sexually excited (Williams, p. 223).

67 ranker (1) greater, more luxuriant, (2) more corrupt.

67 wit (1) intelligence, (2) sexual attractiveness (see 3.4.9 n.).

ORLANDO What, of my suit?

ROSALIND Not out of your apparel, and yet out of your suit. Am not I your Rosalind?

ORLANDO I take some joy to say you are, because I would be talking of her.

ROSALIND Well, in her person, I say I will not have you.

ORLANDO Then, in mine own person, I die.

ROSALIND No, faith, die by attorney. The poor world is almost six thousand years old and in all this time there was not any man died in his own person, videlicet, in a love-cause. ~~Troilus had his brain~~

~~... but he did what he could to die~~

~~... drowned, and the foolish chroniclers~~
~~of Sestos. But these are all lies: men have died from time to time –~~
~~and worms have eaten them – but not for love.~~

68 What,]F; What, out *Collier* 69–70] *As prose, Pope; Ros.* ... suite: / Am ... *Rosalind?* F 83 chroniclers] F *subst.*: coroners *Hanmer* 84 Sestos] F2; Cestos F

68 of my suit Continuing the play on 'out' from 65; suit = (1), wooing, (2) apparel.

75 by attorney by proxy, the opposite of 'in person' (*OED* Attorney 2).

75 poor Writings about the decay of the world in the period were common: see George Williamson, 'Mutability, decay, and seventeenth-century melancholy', *ELH* 2 (1935), 121–51.

75–6 six thousand years old At the end of the Geneva Bible we read that 'the whole sum of years from the beginning of the world unto this present year of our Lord God 1560 are just 5534, 6 months, and the said odd ten days' (sig. l.l.l.iii'); see also Shaheen, pp. 168–9.

76 there was not there has not been.

76–7 died in his own person who died in real life.

77 videlicet namely.

77 love-cause love-affair or a legal 'case of love'.

77–8 Troilus ... club Chaucer narrates perfunctorily that Troilus (son of Priam and abandoned by his love Cressida for Diomedes) was slain by 'the fierce Achille' (*Troilus and Criseyde*, v.1806), and Benoît de Sainte-Maure tells how Achilles cut off Troilus' head with his sword (*Le Roman de*

Troie): Shakespeare may therefore have invented the (phallic?) club as a burlesque detail.

78 die experience detumescence after sexual orgasm (Williams, p. 98).

79 one ... love Compare 'As true as Troilus' (*Tro.* 3.2.182).

79 patterns archetypes.

79 Leander A young man of Abydos, who was devoted to Hero, a priestess of Aphrodite at Sestos on the other side of the Hellespont, and who was drowned while swimming to see her in the middle of a tempest; the story is told by Musaeus, a Greek poet of the fourth or fifth century AD and was retold by Marlowe in his unfinished poem, 'Hero and Leander'.

79 he For the insertion of the pronoun, see Abbott 243.

80 though even if.

83 found discovered from the records (*OED* Find v 1c); *Hanmer's* emendation of F's 'Chronoclers' to 'coroners' (see collation) is unnecessary, deriving as it does from the assumption that the meaning of 'found' is a legal one, 'declared' (*OED* Find v 17b).

83 it was his death was caused by.

ORLANDO I would not have my right Rosalind of this mind, for I protest her frown might kill me.

ROSALIND By this hand, it will not kill a fly. But come, now I will be your Rosalind in a more coming-on disposition and, ask me what you will, I will grant it.

ORLANDO Then love me, Rosalind.

ROSALIND Yes, faith, will I, Fridays and Saturdays and all.

ORLANDO And wilt thou have me?

ROSALIND Aye, and twenty such.

ORLANDO What sayest thou?

ROSALIND Are you not good?

ORLANDO I hope so.

ROSALIND Why then, can one desire too much of a good thing? – Come, sister, you shall be the priest and marry us. – Give me your hand, Orlando. – What do you say, sister?

ORLANDO Pray thee, marry us.

CELIA I cannot say the words.

~~ROSALIND You must begin: 'Will you, Orlando?'~~

~~CELIA Go to. – Will you, Orlando, have to wife this Rosalind?~~

~~ORLANDO I will.~~

~~ROSALIND Aye, but when?~~

~~ORLANDO Why, now, as fast as she can marry us.~~

~~ROSALIND Then you must say, 'I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.'~~

~~ORLANDO I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.~~

~~ROSALIND I might ask you for your commission, but I do take thee.~~

106 SH]F *subst.*: CELIA conj. this edn 108 SH]F *subst.*: ROSALIND [*Aside to Orlando*] / conj. this edn 110 commission, but] *Pope subst.*: Commission, / But F: commission – [*to Orlando*] but conj. this edn

86 right true.

87 protest proclaim.

87 frown The mortal frown of a loved one was a Petrarchan commonplace, see *Son.* 25.8, 117.11, etc.

89 coming-on forward; becoming, comely (*OED* Come v 26).

92 Fridays and Saturdays Like Friday for most Christians, Saturday was a day of fast for sabbatarians.

98 can ... thing Compare the proverbs, 'The more common a good thing is the better' and 'Too much of one thing is good for nothing' (*Filley* T142 and T158).

98 good thing (1) something pleasing, (2) erect penis.

99–100 Give me your hand Rosalind seems to be enacting a 'handfast' (a betrothal contract) or

even, since Celia is there to witness the little ceremony, a 'verba de praesenti' marriage.

102 Possibly because she is laughing so much, or because she is shocked by Rosalind's shamelessness.

103 The question addressed to the bride and groom at the marriage ceremony is 'Wilt thou have this man [or this woman] to thy wedded husband [or wedded wife]?'

104 Go to That's enough.

107 fast (1) quickly, (2) firmly bound.

108 The words from the service are 'I, N., take thee, N., to my wedded wife'; in the text 'for' means 'as the equivalent of' (*OED* For prep 19a).

110 commission warrant, authority; this could apply to Celia as well as Orlando, and so it may be that 108 should be reassigned to Celia (see collation), particularly in view of the change in pronoun from 'you' to 'thee'.

Side 18 (end)