

Side 4: Rosalind, Celia, Duke Frederick

1.3.1 *As You Like It*

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1.3 Enter CELIA and ROSALIND

CELIA Why, cousin; why, Rosalind – Cupid have mercy, not a word?

ROSALIND Not one to throw at a dog.

CELIA No, thy words are too precious to be cast away upon curs: throw some of them at me. Come, lame me with reasons.

ROSALIND Then there were two cousins laid up, when the one should be lamed with reasons, and the other mad without any.

CELIA But is all this for your father?

ROSALIND No, some of it is for my child's father – O how full of briars is this working-day world!

CELIA They are but burs, cousin, throw upon thee in holy-day foolery: if we walk not in the trodden paths, our very petticoats will catch them.

ROSALIND I could shake them off my coat: these burs are in my heart.

CELIA Hem them away.

ROSALIND I would try, if I could cry 'hem' and have him.

CELIA Come, come, wrestle with thy affections.

ROSALIND O they take the part of a better wrestler than myself.

CELIA O, a good wish upon you: you will try in time in despite of a fall.

But turning these jests out of service, let us talk in good earnest. Is

Act 1, Scene 3 1.3] *Eds.; Scena Tertius. v* 8 child's father| *F* subst.; father's child *Rowe*³ 10 holy-day| *Malone* subst.; holiday *F* 18 try| *F* subst.; cry *Sisson*, 'New Readings', 1, 147

Act 1, Scene 3

1 Cupid have mercy A literary variation upon 'God have mercy'.

2 Compare the proverb, 'He has not a word to cast at a dog' (Tilley W762).

4 reasons observations, remarks (*OED* Reason sb 3).

5 Then there were If I did that there would be. 6 mad without any infatuated, melancholy because she loves without reason.

8 child's father Orlando (by whom I hope to have a child); the expression seemed indelicate to earlier generations, who accepted Rowe's emendation 'father's child', i.e. 'myself'.

8-9 O . . . world Compare the proverb, 'To be in the briars' (Tilley B673), i.e. to encounter difficulties or changes of fortune.

9 working-day (1) work-day, (2) work-a-day (i.e. ordinary or 'fallen').

10 burs sticky or prickly seed-heads of various plants, including burdock; compare the proverb, 'To stick like burs' (Tilley B724).

10 in . . . foolery as a festive ritual (responding to 'working-day world').

13 coat petticoat, skirt (*OED* sv 2a).

14 Hem (1) Tuck, (2) Cough (with a pun on 'Bur in the throat', i.e. 'anything that appears to stick in the throat or that produces a choking sensation' (*OED* Bur sb 4).

15 cry . . . him Probably proverbial (see Dent H413.1).

15 cry 'hem' attract [Orlando's attention] with a cough; utter the bawd's warning if somebody comes by during sexual activity (Williams, p. 156; compare *Oth.* 4.2.29).

16 affections emotions.

17 take . . . of support (*OED* Part sb 23c).

18 a . . . upon (1) bless, (2) may Orlando mount.

18 will are determined to (*OED* sv v¹ B10b).

18 try . . . fall chance a bout even though you may lose (by succumbing physically to Orlando); compare the Nurse to Juliet: 'Thou wilt fall backward when thou hast more wit' (*Rom.* 1.3.42).

19 service (1) the condition of being a servant (including the chivalric service of adoring a lady by a knight in a romance), (2) sexual intercourse (Williams, p. 274).

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it possible, on such a sudden, you should fall into so strong a liking with old Sir Roland's youngest son?

ROSALIND The Duke my father loved his father dearly.

CELIA Doth it therefore ensue that you should love his son dearly? By this kind of chase I should hate him for my father hated his father dearly; yet I hate not Orlando.

ROSALIND No, faith, hate him not, for my sake.

CELIA Why should I not? Doth he not deserve well?

Enter DUKE [FREDERICK] with Lords

ROSALIND Let me love him for that, and do you love him because I do. Look, here comes the Duke.

CELIA With his eyes full of anger.

DUKE FREDERICK Mistress, dispatch you with your safest haste And get you from our court.

ROSALIND Me, uncle?

DUKE FREDERICK You, cousin.

Within these ten days if that thou be'st found So near our public court as twenty miles, Thou diest for it.

ROSALIND I do beseech your grace Let me the knowledge of my fault bear with me: If with myself I hold intelligence, Or have acquaintance with mine own desires,

20 strong| *F*; strange *F* 24 him for| *This edn*; him, for *F* 26 not,| *Eds.*; not *F* 27 I not?| *F*; I? *Theobald*; I hate *conj. Theobald*; not I not *conj. this edn* 28-9] *As prose, Pope; Ros.* . . . him / Because . . . Duke. *F* 31 safest| *F*; fastest *Collier*

20 on such a sudden so suddenly.

22 This line may imply that *F*3's 'strange' for *F*3's 'strong' in 20 is correct.

23 ensue follow as a logical conclusion (*OED* sv 7).

24 kind of chase course of argument; perhaps the metaphor was generated by 'dearly' ('dearly').

24 for because.

25 dearly keenly (*OED* sv 3c).

26 faith in truth.

27 Why should I not Why should I not not hate him (i.e. love him).

27 deserve well merit my hate (according to this line of reasoning).

28 that his virtues (Rosalind ignores Celia's sophistry).

30 In *Rosalind* Torismond fears that one of his peers 'who were enamoured of her beauty' might

marry her, 'and then in his wife's right attempt the kingdom' (p. 118).

31 Mistress Used with contempt and anger, although *OED* records this usage only from 1883 (13b).

31 dispatch you get away quickly.

31-3 you . . . thou The change to the singular pronoun indicates increasing disdain.

31 safest Proleptic: if Rosalind were to tarry, her life would be in danger (compare *OED* Safe adj 9b).

32 cousin Used of any near relative.

33, 39 if that if (Abbott 287).

34 public general, common.

36 fault offence (*OED* sv 5).

37 hold intelligence communicate (as between spies).

38 acquaintance With a sexual connotation as 'quaint' meant female genitals (Williams, p. 252).

If that I do not dream or be not frantic
(As I do trust I am not) then, dear uncle,
Never so much as in a thought unborn,
Did I offend your highness.

40

DUKE FREDERICK Thus do all traitors:

If their purgation did consist in words,
They are as innocent as grace itself.
Let it suffice thee that I trust thee not.

45

ROSALIND Yet your mistrust cannot make me a traitor;
Tell me whereon the likelihoods depends?

DUKE FREDERICK Thou art thy father's daughter, there's enough.

ROSALIND So was I when your highness took his dukedom,

So was I when your highness banished him;
Treason is not inherited, my lord,
Or if we did derive it from our friends,
What's that to me? My father was no traitor.
Then, good my liege, mistake me not so much
To think my poverty is treacherous.

50

55

CELIA Dear sovereign, hear me speak.

DUKE FREDERICK Aye, Celia, we stayed her for your sake,
Else had she with her father ranged along.

CELIA I did not then entreat to have her stay,
It was your pleasure – and your own remorse
I was too young that time to value her,

60

47 likelihoods] F; likelihood F2

39 frantic insane.

40 dear noble (OED sv adj 1a).

41–2 Never . . . highness Treason had been defined in 1350–1 by Act 25 Edw. III, Stat. 5, c. 2, as compassing or imagining the king's death (see Penry Williams, *The Tudor Regime*, 1979, pp. 375–80).

42 offend sin against, wrong (OED sv 3).

42 traitors (1) renegades, (2) 'traders' or whores (Rubinstein, p. 280).

43 purgation action of clearing themselves (OED sv 4).

43 in words 'Vulgar purgation' was performed by ordeals of fire or water, whereas 'canonical purgation' merely entailed an oath (compare 5.4.42); see William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, 4 vols., 1768, IV.xxvii, 336.

44 innocent as grace Proverbial, although Tilley (1560) cites only this instance of this particular form. 'Grace' means someone in a state of grace or, possibly, the rank of duke.

47 whereon on what.

47 likelihoods indications (OED Likelihood 3).

47 depends For the singular termination, see Abbott 333.

48 Compare 1.2.182 where the Duke reveals his hatred of Roland for being the enemy of his son.

48 there's that's (OED There adv 3c).

52 friends relatives (OED Friend 3).

54 mistake misunderstand (OED sv v 4b).

55 To As to (Abbott 281).

57 stayed kept.

58 ranged roamed.

60 pleasure will, choice (OED sv sb 2).

60 remorse compassion (OED sv 3); although Celia may be implying that Duke Frederick was attempting to assuage his guilt for the usurpation.

61 young immature (compare 1.1.43 n.).

61 that time For the omission of 'at', see Abbott 202.

But now I know her: if she be a traitor,
Why so am I. We still have slept together,
Rose at an instant, learned, played, eat together,
And wheresoe'er we went, like Juno's swans,
Still we went coupled and inseparable.

65

DUKE FREDERICK She is too subtle for thee, and her smoothness,
Her very silence, and her patience
Speak to the people and they pity her.
Thou art a fool: she robs thee of thy name
And thou wilt show more bright and seem more virtuous
When she is gone.

70

[Celia starts to speak]

Then open not thy lips!

Firm and irrevocable is my doom

Which I have passed upon her: she is banished.

CELIA Pronounce that sentence then on me, my liege,
I cannot live out of her company.

75

DUKE FREDERICK You are a fool. – You, niece, provide yourself:
If you outstay the time, upon mine honour
And in the greatness of my word, you die.

side 4 (end)

Exit Duke and Lords

~~CELIA O my poor Rosalind, whither wilt thou go?
Wilt thou change fathers? I will give thee mine!
I charge thee be not thou more grieved than I am.
ROSALIND I have more cause.
CELIA Thou hast not, cousin.
But be cheerful. Know'st thou not the Duke
Hath banished me, his daughter?~~

66 inseparable] F; inseparable F2 Collier 68 her] F2; per F 71 seem] F; shine Warburton 72 sd] This edn; not in F 72 lips!] This edn; lips F 79 sd] Eds.; Exit Duke, &c. F 80 whither] Eds.; whether F; whe'er Pope subst.

63 still always.

64 at an instant at the same time.

64 eat eaten (see Abbott 343).

65 Juno's swans In most mythologies it was Venus whose chariot was drawn by swans (see, for example, *Metamorphoses*, x, 831, 841): Celia may, however, have been invoking the women's capacity for virtue rather than passionate love. Brissenden cites Edgar Wind, *Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance*, 1967, pp. 196–200, who shows that the gods sometimes partook of one another's qualities, as well as Kyd's reference to 'Juno's goodly swans', *Soliman and Perseda* (1590?), 4.1.70.

67 subtle sly, cunning.

67 smoothness plausibility (OED sv 3).

68 patience three syllables (Cercignani, p. 309).

70 name reputation.

71 show appear.

71 virtuous endowed with good qualities.

73 doom sentence.

77 provide prepare (OED sv 7b).

79 greatness power.

80 whither Probably a monosyllable (whe'er).

81 change exchange.