

Side 5: Adam, Orlando

2.3.8 *As You Like It*

120

The bonny prizer of the humorous Duke?
 Your praise is come too swiftly home before you
 Know you not, master, to some kind of men
 Their graces serve them but as enemies?
 No more do yours: your virtues gentle master,
 Are sanctified and holy traitors to you.
 O what a world is this when what is comely
 Envenoms him that bears it!

ADAM

O unhappy youth,
 Come not within these doors: within this roof
 The enemy of all your graces lives
 Your brother – no, no brother – yet the son –
 Yet not the son, I will not call him son
 Of him I was about to call his father –
 Hath heard your praises, and this night he means
 To burn the lodging where you use to lie
 And you within it. If he fail of that,
 He will have other means to cut you off:
 I overheard him and his practices.
 This is no place, this house is but a butchery:
 Abhor it, fear it, do not enter it.

8 bonny| F *subst.*; bony *Warburton subst.* 10 some| F2; seeme F 16 SH| ORLANDO F2 *subst.*; not in F 17 within| F; beneath *conj.* Capell 18 lives| F; lives, *Eds.*

- 8 **bonny** stout, strapping (*OED* 2a).
 8 **prizer** one who fights in a 'prize' or match.
 8 **humorous** capricious (*OED* 3a).
 9 **praise** merit, reputation.
 10 **kind of men** For the construction, see Abbott 410.
 11 **graces** virtues.
 11 **them** A redundant object (Abbott 414).
 12 **No more do yours** Yours do no less.
 12–13 **your . . . you** Compare Ps. 37.32: 'The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.'
 13 **sanctified** sanctimonious (*OED* sv 2).
 14 **what a world is this** Proverbial (Dent w880.1).
 14 **comely** becoming.
 14–15 **when . . . it** A possible reference to the shirt given by Nessus, a centaur wounded by Hercules, to Deianira the betrayed wife of the hero, and which, smeared with poison from the blood of the Hydra, clung to Hercules' skin and caused him great pain (*Metamorphoses*, IX, 121 ff.).
 15 **Envenoms** Poisons.

- 17 **within this** Capell's conjecture 'beneath this' is attractive, given that the compositor may have caught 'within' from earlier in the line. However, 'roof' is readily taken as a synecdoche for 'dwelling' (*OED* Roof 1c).
 18 **graces** virtues, fortunes.
 18 **lives** lives as (*OED* Live v 7).
 19–21 Adam is loath to admit that Oliver can be brother to Orlando or son to Sir Roland.
 22 **your praises** the praise of you.
 23 **lodging** dwelling-place.
 23 **use** are accustomed (*OED* sv v 20).
 24 **fail of** fails to do; for the construction, see Abbott 177.
 25 **cut you off** kill you.
 26 **practices** plotting (*OED* Practice 6c).
 27 **place** (1) fit place (*OED* sv sb¹ 12a), (2) dwelling, mansion (?) (*OED* sv sb¹ 5b).
 27 **butchery** slaughter-house.
 28 **Abhor** I loathe (possibly with the etymological sense of 'shrinking back from with shuddering' (*OED* sv 1)).

121

As You Like It 2.3.50

ORLANDO Why wither, Adam, wouldst thou have me go?
 ADAM No matter whither, so you come not here.
 ORLANDO What, wouldst thou have me go and beg my food,
 Or with a base and boisterous sword enforce
 A thievish living on the common road?
 This I must do or know not what to do;
 Yet this I will not do, do how I can.
 I rather will subject me to the malice
 Of a diverted blood and bloody brother.
 ADAM But do not so: I have five hundred crowns,
 The thrifty hire I saved under your father,
 Which I did store to be my foster-nurse
 When service should in my old limbs lie lame
 And unregarded age in corners thrown;
 Take that, and He that doth the ravens feed,
 Yea providently caters for the sparrow,
 Be comfort to my age. Here is the gold:
 All this I give you; let me be your servant –
 Though I look old, yet I am strong and lusty;
 For in my youth I never did apply
 Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood,
 Nor did not with unbashful forehead

29 SH| F2 *subst.*; *Ad. v* 37 blood| F; proud *Collier*

- 30 **so as long as**.
 32 **base** mean (*OED* sv *adj* 13).
 32 **boisterous** massive, cumbersome (*OED* sv 3).
 33 **common** public.
 35 **do how I can** whatever may befall me.
 36 **malice** harmfulness, hatred (*OED* sv 2, 4).
 37 **diverted blood** 'blood turned out of the course of nature' (Johnson).
 37 **bloody** blood-thirsty, cruel (*OED* sv 6).
 38 **five hundred crowns** There were four crowns to a pound; the sum is rhetorical and the level of Adam's savings unlikely, given that wages for a serving-man seem to have been about £2 per annum (D. M. Palliser, *The Age of Elizabeth: England under the Later Tudors, 1547–1603*, 1983, p. 151). However, if Adam was, like his original in *Rosalind*, a steward, he may have earned twice that amount.
 39 **thrifty hire** wages saved by my thrift.
 41 **service** my ability to act as a servant.
 42 **thrown** should be thrown (Abbott 403).
 43 **that** i.e. the five hundred crowns.
 43 **doth the ravens feed** Compare Ps. 147.9,

- 'Which giveth to beasts their food and to the young ravens that cry'; other references to God feeding ravens are in Luke 12.24 and Job 39.3.
 44 Compare Luke 12.6, 'Are not five sparrows bought for two farthings, and yet not one of them is forgotten before God?', and *Ham.* 5.2.219–20: 'There is special providence in the fall of a sparrow.'
 44 **providently** providentially (*OED* sv 2).
 47 **strong . . . lusty** The phrase inverts the order and meaning of Ps. 73.4, 'For there are no bands in their death, but they are lusty and strong.'
 47 **lusty** vigorous.
 48–9 **apply . . . in** make use of (as a medicine).
 49 **rebellious** causing the flesh to rebel (against the faculty of reason), a transferred epithet (*OED* sv 1c).
 50 **Nor . . . not** This double negative does not, as often in Shakespeare, generate a positive sense (see Abbott 406).
 50 **unbashful forehead** shameless countenance; compare the proverb, 'To have an impudent forehead' (Dent f590.1).