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MUCHADO ABOUT NOTHING

THE CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Antonio, Leonato's brother
Balthasar, attendant on Don Pedro
Beatrice, niece to Leonato
Benedick, a young lord of Padua
Borachio, follower of Don Juan
A Boy
Claudio, a young lord of Florence
Conrade, follower of Don Juan
Dogberry, a constable
Don John, the prince's bastard brother
Don Pedro, Prince of Arragon
First Watchman
Friar Francis
Hero, daughter to Leonato
Leonato, governor of Messina
Lord
Margaret, gentlewoman attending on Hero
Second Watchman
A Sexton
Ursula, gentlewoman attending on Hero
Verges, A headborough
Messengers, Watch, Attendants etc.

FIRST ACT

SCENE I. Before Leonato's house.

[Enter Leonato, his daughter Hero and his niece Beatrice, with a Messenger]

LEONATO

[Holding a letter] I learn in this letter that Don Peter of Arragon comes this night to Messina.

MESSENGER

He is very near by this. He was not three leagues off when I left him.

LEONATO

How many gentlemen have you lost in this action?

MESSENGER

But few of any sort, and none of name.

LEONATO

A victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers. I find here that Don Peter hath bestowed much honour on a young Florentine called Claudio.

MESSENGER

Much deserved on his part and equally remembered by Don Pedro. He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age, doing, in the figure of a lamb, the feats of a lion. He hath indeed better

bettered expectation than you must expect of me to tell you how.

LEONATO

He hath an uncle here in Messina who will be very much glad of it.

MESSENGER

I have already delivered him letters, and there appears much joy in him – even so much that joy could not show itself modest enough without a badge of bitterness.

LEONATO

Did he break out into tears?

MESSENGER

In great measure.

LEONATO

A kind overflow of kindness. There are no faces truer than those that are so washed. How much better is it to weep at joy than to joy at weeping!

BEATRICE

I pray you, is Signior Mountanto returned from the wars or no?

MESSENGER

I know none of that name, lady. There was none such in the army of any sort.

LEONATO

What is he that you ask for, niece?

HERO

My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua.

William Shakespeare – Famous Quotations

“A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.” – *As You Like It*

“All that glisters is not gold.” – *The Merchant of Venice*

“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages.” – *As You Like It*

“Be great in act, as you have been in thought.” – *King John*

“Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them.” – *Twelfth Night*

“Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.” – *Twelfth Night*

“Brevity is the soul of wit.” – *Hamlet*

“But love is blind, and lovers cannot see the pretty follies that themselves commit.” – *The Merchant of Venice*

“Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once.” – *Julius Caesar*

“If music be the food of love, play on.” – *Twelfth Night*

“Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.” – *King Henry VI*

“Listen to many, speak to a few.” – *Hamlet*

“Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.” – *All’s Well That Ends Well*

“No legacy is so rich as honesty.” – *All’s Well That Ends Well*

“Nothing will come of nothing.” – *King Lear*

“Pray you now, forget and forgive.” – *King Lear*

“Strong reasons make strong actions.” – *King John*

“Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind.” – *King Henry IV*

“Things are neither good nor bad but thinking makes it so.” – *Hamlet*

“To be, or not to be: that is the question.” – *Hamlet*

“We know what we are, but know not what we may be.” – *Hamlet*

“What’s done can’t be undone.” – *Macbeth*

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” – *Romeo and Juliet*

“Words without thoughts never to heaven go.” – *Hamlet*

“It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.” – *Julius Caesar*