

## #2 – BENEDICK, CLAUDIO, DON PEDRO - COMIC

### **CLAUDIO**

Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Leonato?

### **BENEDICK**

I noted her not; but I looked on her.

### **CLAUDIO**

Is she not a modest young lady?

### **BENEDICK**

Do you question me, as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgment; or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a professed tyrant to their sex?

### **CLAUDIO**

No; I pray thee speak in sober judgment.

### **BENEDICK**

Why, i' faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise and too little for a great praise: only this commendation I can afford her, that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome; and being no other but as she is, I do not like her.

### **CLAUDIO**

Thou thinkest I am in sport: I pray thee tell me truly how thou likest her.

### **BENEDICK**

Would you buy her, that you inquire after her?

### **CLAUDIO**

Can the world buy such a jewel?

### **BENEDICK**

Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you this with a sad brow?

**CLAUDIO**

In mine eye, she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.

**BENEDICK**

I can see yet without spectacles and I see no such matter: there's her cousin, an she were not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in beauty as the first of May doth the last of December. But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?

**CLAUDIO**

I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.

**BENEDICK**

Is't come to this? Shall I never see a bachelor of three-score again?

*Re-enter DON PEDRO*

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**DON PEDRO**

Gentlemen, what secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's?

**BENEDICK**

He is in love. With who? that is your grace's part. Mark how short his answer is; With Hero, Leonato's short daughter.

**DON PEDRO**

Amen, if you love her; for the lady is very well worthy.

**CLAUDIO**

You speak this to fetch me in, Captain.

**DON PEDRO**

By my troth, I speak my thought.

**CLAUDIO**

And, in faith, good sir, I spoke mine.

**BENEDICK**

And, by my two faiths and troths, Captain, I spoke mine.

**CLAUDIO**

That I love her, I feel.

**DON PEDRO**

That she is worthy, I know.

**BENEDICK**

That I neither feel how she should be loved nor know how she should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me: I will die in it at the stake.

**DON PEDRO**

Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty.

**BENEDICK**

That a woman conceived me, I thank her; that she brought me up, I likewise give her most humble thanks: but that I hang my bugle in an invisible baldrick, all women shall pardon me. I will live a bachelor.

**DON PEDRO**

I shall see thee, ere I die, look pale with love.

**BENEDICK**

With anger, with sickness, or with hunger, my friend, not with love.

**DON PEDRO**

Well, as time shall try: 'In time the savage bull doth bear the yoke.'

**BENEDICK**

The savage bull may; but if ever the sensible Benedick bear it, pluck off the bull's horns and set them in my forehead: and let me be vilely painted, and in such great letters as they write 'Here is

good horse to hire,' let them signify under my sign  
'Here you may see Benedick the married man.'

**DON PEDRO**

Captain Benedick, repair to  
Leonato's: commend me to her and tell her I will  
not fail her at supper; for indeed she hath made  
great preparation.

**BENEDICK**

Examine your conscience: and so I leave you.