

## #4 - BENEDICK, DON PEDRO, LEONATO, CLAUDIO - COMIC

### **CLAUDIO**

Bait the hook well; this fish will bite.

### **LEONATO**

What effects, Captain? (Grasping at words)  
You heard my daughter tell you how.

### **CLAUDIO**

She did, indeed.

### **DON PEDRO**

How, how, pray you? (Leonato whispers in  
Their ears) You amaze me. I would have thought  
Her spirit had been invincible against all  
Assaults of affection.

### **LEONATO**

I would have sworn it had, my friend, especially  
Against Benedick.

1

*BENEDICK sees LEONATO whispering*

### **BENEDICK**

I should think this a trick, but that the  
white-bearded fellow speaks it: knavery cannot,  
Sure, hide himself in such reverence.

### **BALTHASAR**

He hath ta'en the infection; hold it up.

### **DON PEDRO**

Hath she made her affection known to Benedick?

### **LEONATO**

No; and swears she never will: that's her torment.  
She'll be up twenty times a night, and  
there will she sit in her smock till she have writ a  
sheet of paper.

**CLAUDIO**

Then down upon her knees she falls, weeps, sobs,  
beats her heart, tears her hair, prays, curses; 'O  
sweet Benedick! God give me patience!'

**LEONATO**

She doth indeed; my daughter says so: my daughter  
is sometime afeared she will do a desperate outrage  
to herself: it is very true.

**DON PEDRO**

It were good that Benedick knew of it by some  
Other, if she will not discover it.

**CLAUDIO**

To what end? He would make but a sport of it and  
torment the poor lady worse.

**DON PEDRO**

An he should, it were an alms to hang him. She's an  
Excellent sweet lady; and out of all suspicion,  
She is virtuous.

2

**CLAUDIO**

AND she is exceeding wise.

**DON PEDRO**

In every thing but in loving Benedick.

**LEONATO**

I am sorry for her, as I have just  
cause, being her uncle and her guardian.

**DON PEDRO**

I would she had bestowed this dotage on me: I would  
Have daffed all other respects and made her half  
Myself. I pray you, tell Benedick of it, and hear  
What a' will say.

**LEONATO**

Were it good, think you?

**CLAUDIO**

Hero thinks surely, she will die; for she says she will die, if he love her not, and she will die, ere she make her love known, and she will die, if he woo her.

**DON PEDRO**

If she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorn it; for the man, as you know all, hath a contemptible spirit.

*BENEDICK stumbles, and corrects himself. The OTHERS notice, but play on.*

I love Benedick well; and I could wish he would modestly examine himself, to see how much he is unworthy so good a lady.

3

**LEONATO**

My friends, will you walk? dinner is ready.

**CLAUDIO**

If he do not dote on her upon this, I will never trust my expectation.

**DON PEDRO**

Let there be the same net spread for her; and that must your daughter and her gentlewomen carry. Let us send Beatrice to call him in to dinner.

*Exeunt DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, LEONATO, and BALTHASAR*

**BENEDICK**

[Coming forward] This can be no trick: the conference was sadly borne. They have the truth of this from Hero. Love me!

Why, it must be requited-- the world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married.