

#6 - DOGBERRY, VERGES, OATCAKE, SEACOLE - COMIC

DOGBERRY

Are you good men and true?

VERGES

Yea, or else it were pity but they should suffer salvation, body and soul.

DOGBERRY

Nay, that were a punishment too good for them, if They should have any allegiance in them, being Chosen for the Governor's watch.

VERGES

Well, give them their charge, neighbor Dogberry.

DOGBERRY

First, who think you the most desertless man to be Constable?

VERGES

Hugh Otecake, sir, or George Seacole; for they can Write and read.

DOGBERRY

Come hither, neighbor Seacole. God hath blessed You with a good name; to be a well-favored man is The gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature.

SEACOLE

Both which, master constable--

DOGBERRY

You have: I knew it would be your answer. Well, Give God thanks, and make no boast of it, and For your writing and reading, let that appear when There is no need of such vanity. You are thought Here to be the most senseless and fit man for the Constable of the watch, therefore bear you the lantern. This is your charge; all you vagrom men, you are to bid any man stand, in the Governor's name.

SEACOLE

How if a' will not stand?

DOGBERRY

Why, then, take no note of him, but let him go.

VERGES

If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is none of the Governor's subjects.

DOGBERRY

True, and they are to meddle with none but the Governor's subjects. You shall also make no noise in the streets; for, for the watch to babble and to Talk is most tolerable and not to be endured.

OATCAKE

We will rather sleep than talk: We know what Belongs to a watch.

DOGBERRY

Why, you speak like an ancient and most quiet watchman; for I cannot see how sleeping should offend. If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by virtue of your office, to be no true man; and, for such kind of men, the less you meddle or make with them, why the more is for your honesty.

OATCAKE

If we know him to be a thief, shall we not lay Hands on him?

DOGBERRY

Truly, by your office, you may; but I think they That touch pitch will be defiled; the most peaceable Way for you, if you do take a thief, is to let him Show himself what he is and steal out of your company.

VERGES

You have been always called a merciful man, partner.

DOGBERRY

Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will, much more
a man who hath any honesty in him.

VERGES

'Tis very true.

DOGBERRY becomes easily distracted. VERGES nudges him.

DOGBERRY

Ha, ha, ha! Well, masters, good night: an there be
any matter of weight chances, call up me: keep your
fellows' counsels and your own; and good night.
Come, neighbour.

OATCAKE

Well, masters, we hear our charge: let us go sit here
upon the church-bench till two, and then all to bed.

DOGBERRY

One word more, honest neighbours. I pray you watch
about Governor Leonato's door; for the wedding being
there to-morrow, there is a great coil to-night.
Adieu: be vigilant, I beseech you.