

BEATRICE/BENEDICK SIDE #1, 1.1

BENEDICK Were you in doubt, sir, that you asked her?

LEONATO Signior Benedick, no, for then were you a child.

85

PRINCE You have it full, Benedick. ~~We may guess by this what you are, being a man.~~ Truly the lady fathers herself.—Be happy, lady, for you are like an honorable father.

Leonato and the Prince move aside.

BENEDICK If Signior Leonato be her father, she would not have his head on her shoulders for all Messina, as like him as she is.

90

BEGIN HERE:

BEATRICE I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior Benedick, nobody marks you.

BENEDICK What, my dear Lady Disdain! Are you yet living?

BEATRICE Is it possible disdain should die while she hath such meet food to feed it as Signior Benedick? Courtesy itself must convert to disdain if you come in her presence.

95

BENEDICK Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted; and I would I could find in my heart that I had not a hard heart, for truly I love none.

100

BEATRICE A dear happiness to women. They would else have been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I thank God and my cold blood I am of your humor for that. I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me.

105

BENEDICK God keep your Ladyship still in that mind,
so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate
scratched face. 110

BEATRICE Scratching could not make it worse an
'twere such a face as yours were.

BENEDICK Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.

BEATRICE A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of
yours.

BENEDICK I would my horse had the speed of your
tongue and so good a continuer, but keep your
way, i' God's name, I have done. 115

BEATRICE You always end with a jade's trick. I know
you of old.

END

Leonato and the Prince come forward.

PRINCE That is the sum of all, Leonato.—Signior
Claudio and Signior Benedick, my dear friend
Leonato hath invited you all. I tell him we shall stay
here at the least a month, and he heartily prays
some occasion may detain us longer. I dare swear
he is no hypocrite, but prays from his heart. 120
125

LEONATO If you swear, my lord, you shall not be
forsworn. *To Don John.* Let me bid you welcome,
my lord, being reconciled to the Prince your brother,
I owe you all duty.

DON JOHN I thank you. I am not of many words, but I
thank you. 130

LEONATO Please it your Grace lead on?

PRINCE Your hand, Leonato. We will go together.

