

## DON PEDRO/CLAUDIO SIDE #1, 1.1

CLAUDIO

My liege, your Highness now may do me good.

PRINCE

My love is thine to teach. Teach it but how,  
And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn 240  
Any hard lesson that may do thee good.

CLAUDIO

Hath Leonato any son, my lord?

PRINCE

No child but Hero; she's his only heir.  
Dost thou affect her, Claudio?

CLAUDIO

O, my lord,  
When you went onward on this ended action,  
I looked upon her with a soldier's eye, 246  
That liked, but had a rougher task in hand  
Than to drive liking to the name of love.  
But now I am returned and that war thoughts  
Have left their places vacant, in their rooms  
Come thronging soft and delicate desires, 250  
All prompting me how fair young Hero is,  
Saying I liked her ere I went to wars.

PRINCE

Thou wilt be like a lover presently  
And tire the hearer with a book of words.  
If thou dost love fair Hero, cherish it, 255  
And I will break with her and with her father,  
And thou shalt have her. Was 't not to this end  
That thou began'st to twist so fine a story?

CLAUDIO

How sweetly you do minister to love,  
That know love's grief by his complexion! 260  
But lest my liking might too sudden seem,  
I would have salved it with a longer treatise.

PRINCE

What need the bridge much broader than the flood?

The fairest grant is the necessity.

Look what will serve is fit. 'Tis once, thou lovest, 265

And I will fit thee with the remedy.

I know we shall have reveling tonight.

I will assume thy part in some disguise

And tell fair Hero I am Claudio, 270

And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart

And take her hearing prisoner with the force

And strong encounter of my amorous tale.

Then after to her father will I break,

And the conclusion is, she shall be thine.

In practice let us put it presently. 275

*They exit.*