

DUKE SENIOR

What would you have? Your gentleness shall force more than your force move us to gentleness.

ORLANDO

I almost die for food; and let me have it.

DUKE SENIOR

Sit down and feed, and welcome to our table.

ORLANDO

Speak you so gently? Pardon me, I pray you.

I thought that all things had been savage here, and therefore put I on the countenance of stern commandment. But whatever you are, let gentleness my strong enforcement be; in the which hope I blush, and hide my sword.

DUKE SENIOR

And therefore sit you down in gentleness and take upon command what help we have.

ORLANDO

Then but forbear your food a little while, whiles, like a doe, I go to find my fawn and give it food.

There is an old poor man, who after me hath many a weary step limped in pure love.

Till he be first sufficed, I will not touch a bit.

DUKE SENIOR

Go find him out, and we will nothing waste till you return.

ORLANDO

I thank ye; and be blest for your good comfort.

(Exit ORLANDO.)

DUKE SENIOR

Thou seest we are not all alone unhappy.

This wide and universal theatre presents more woeful pageants than the scene wherein we play in.

JAQUES

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players:

they have their exits and their entrances;

and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages.

At first the infant, mewling* and puking in the nurse's arms.

And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel and shining morning face,
creeping like snail unwillingly to school.

And then the lover, sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad made to his mistress' eyebrow.

Then a soldier, full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,* jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,
seeking the bubble reputation even in the cannon's mouth.

And then the justice, in fair round belly with good capon* lined, with eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
full of wise saws* and modern instances;* and so he plays his part.

mewling - crying, *pard* - leopard, *capon* - cocks bred for the table and a common gift to a judge to gain his good will, *saws* - maxims, *modern instances* - everyday examples

The sixth age shifts into the lean and slippered pantaloons,* with spectacles on nose and pouch on side, his youthful hose* well saved, a world too wide for his shrunken shank, and his big manly voice, turning again toward childish treble, pipes and whistles in his sound. Last scene of all, that ends this strange eventful history, is second childishness and mere oblivion, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

(Re-enter ORLANDO, with ADAM.)

DUKE SENIOR

Welcome. Set down your venerable burthen, and let him feed.

ORLANDO

I thank you most for him.

DUKE SENIOR

Welcome, fall to. Give us some music; and good cousin sing.

(DUKE SENIOR talks privately with ORLANDO and ADAM as they eat.)

AMIENS

(Sings.) Blow, blow, thou winter wind.

Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude.
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho, sing heigh-ho, unto the green holly
Most friendship is feigning,* most loving mere folly.
Then heigh-ho, the holly,
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot.
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp,
As friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho, sing heigh-ho, unto the green holly
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly.
Then heigh-ho, the holly,
This life is most jolly.

DUKE SENIOR

If that you are the good Sir Rowland's son,
as mine eye doth his effigies* witness most truly living in your face, be truly welcome hither.
I am the Duke that loved your father.

pantaloons - the ridiculous stock old man of Italian comedy, *hose* - breeches, *feigning* - false, *effigies* - likeness