

LUCIO

What news, friar, of the Duke?

DUKE, *as Friar* I know none. Can you tell me of any?

LUCIO Some say he is with the Emperor of Russia;
other some, he is in Rome. But where is he, think
you? 90

DUKE, *as Friar* I know not where, but wheresoever, I
wish him well.

LUCIO It was a mad fantastical trick of him to steal
from the state and usurp the beggary he was never
born to. Lord Angelo dukes it well in his absence. 95
He puts transgression to 't.

DUKE, *as Friar* He does well in 't.

LUCIO A little more lenity to lechery would do no harm
in him. Something too crabbed that way, friar.

DUKE, *as Friar* It is too general a vice, and severity
must cure it. 100

LUCIO Yes, in good sooth, the vice is of a great kindred;
it is well allied, but it is impossible to extirp it quite,
friar, till eating and drinking be put down. They say
this Angelo was not made by man and woman after
this downright way of creation. Is it true, think
you? 105

DUKE, *as Friar* How should he be made, then?

LUCIO Some report a sea-maid spawned him; some,
that he was begot between two stockfishes. But it is
certain that when he makes water, his urine is
congealed ice; that I know to be true. 110

DUKE, *as Friar* You are pleasant, sir, and speak apace.

LUCIO Why, what a ruthless thing is this in him, for the
rebellion of a codpiece to take away the life of a
man! Would the duke that is absent have done this?
He had some feeling of the sport, and that instructed him
to mercy. 115

DUKE, *as Friar* I never heard the absent duke much
detected for women. He was not inclined that way.

LUCIO O, sir, you are deceived. 125

DUKE, *as Friar* 'Tis not possible.

LUCIO Who, not the Duke? Yes, your beggar of fifty;
and his use was to put a ducat in her clack-dish. The
Duke had crotchets in him. He would be drunk too,
that let me inform you. 130

DUKE, *as Friar* You do him wrong, surely.

LUCIO Sir, I was an inward of his. A shy fellow was the
Duke, and I believe I know the cause of his
withdrawing.

DUKE, *as Friar* What, I prithee, might be the cause? 135

LUCIO No, pardon. 'Tis a secret must be locked within
the teeth and the lips. But this I can let you
understand: the greater file of the subject held the
Duke to be wise.

DUKE, *as Friar* Wise? Why, no question but he was. 140

LUCIO A very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow.

DUKE, *as Friar* Either this is envy in you, folly, or
mistaking. Let him be but testimonied in his own bringings-forth, and he
shall appear to the envious a scholar, a statesman,
and a soldier. Therefore you speak unskillfully. Or,
if your knowledge be more, it is much darkened in
your malice. 150

LUCIO Sir, I know him, and I love him.

DUKE, *as Friar* Love talks with better knowledge, and
knowledge with dearer love.