

DUKE

Is this the witness, friar?

First, let her show her face, and after speak.

MARIANA

Pardon, my lord, I will not show my face  
Until my husband bid me. 195

DUKE What, are you married?

MARIANA No, my lord.

DUKE Are you a maid?

MARIANA No, my lord. 200

DUKE A widow, then?

MARIANA Neither, my lord.

DUKE Why you are nothing, then, neither maid, widow,  
nor wife?

MARIANA

My lord, I do confess I ne'er was married,  
And I confess besides I am no maid. 210  
I have known my husband, yet my husband  
Knows not that ever he knew me.

DUKE

This is no witness for Lord Angelo.

MARIANA Now I come to 't, my lord.

She that accuses him of fornication 220  
In selfsame manner doth accuse my husband,  
And charges him, my lord, with such a time  
When, I'll depose, I had him in mine arms  
With all th' effect of love.

ANGELO Charges she more than me? 225

MARIANA Not that I know.

DUKE No? You say your husband.

MARIANA

Why, just, my lord, and that is Angelo,  
Who thinks he knows that he ne'er knew my body,  
But knows, he thinks, that he knows Isabel's. 230

ANGELO

This is a strange abuse. Let's see thy face.

MARIANA

My husband bids me. Now I will unmask.

*She removes her veil.*

This is that face, thou cruel Angelo,  
Which once thou swor'st was worth the looking on.  
This is the hand which, with a vowed contract, 235  
Was fast belocked in thine. This is the body  
That took away the match from Isabel  
And did supply thee at thy garden house  
In her imagined person.

DUKE, *to Angelo* Know you this woman? 240

ANGELO

My lord, I must confess I know this woman,  
And five years since there was some speech of marriage 245  
Betwixt myself and her, which was broke off,  
Partly for that her promised proportions  
Came short of composition, but in chief  
For that her reputation was disvalued 250  
In levity. Since which time of five years  
I never spake with her, saw her, nor heard from her,  
Upon my faith and honor.

MARIANA, *kneeling, to Duke* Noble prince,

As there comes light from heaven and words from breath, 255  
As there is sense in truth and truth in virtue,  
I am affianced this man's wife as strongly  
As words could make up vows.