



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

I,i

In front of Leonato's house

Enter Leonato, Governor of Messina, Hero his daughter, and Beatrice his niece, with a Messenger.

1 LEONATO I learn in this letter that Don Pedro of Arragon comes this night to Messina.

MESSENGER He is very near by this. He was not three leagues off when I left him.

5 LEONATO How many gentlemen have you lost in this action?

MESSENGER But few of any sort, and none of name.

LEONATO A victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers. I find here that Don Pedro hath bestowed much honor on a young Florentine called Claudio.

MESSENGER Much deserved on his part, and equally remembered by Don Pedro. He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age, doing in the figure of a lamb the feats of a lion. He hath indeed better
15 bettered expectation than you must expect of me to tell you how.

LEONATO He hath an uncle here in Messina will be very much glad of it.

17 will 之前省略关系代词 who。在莎剧中关系代词作主语时被省略是常见的。

18 very much glad: very glad.

注 释

I, i

1 **Don** [dɒn]: 唐, 西班牙语“先生”。

Arragon: 阿拉贡, 西班牙北部地区名, 唐·彼德罗的封地。西班牙的阿拉贡亲王唐·彼德罗在平定私生子兄弟唐·约翰参加的叛乱后, 来到老友兼属下、梅西那总督里奥那托家作客。

2 **Messina** [me'si:nə]: 梅西那, 西西里岛北端城市。

3 **by this**: by this time.

4 **league** [li:g]: 里格, 长度名, 约为三英里。

6 **action**: battle.

7 **But few of any sort**: only a few ordinary men.
of name: of reputation; of noble family.

8 **twice itself**: doubled.

9 **full numbers**: 全部人马。

11 **Much deserved on his part**: well deserved by him.

11—12 **equally remembered**: justly rewarded.

12 **hath borne himself**: has carried (or: acquitted, behaved) himself, 表现得……; 行动得……。

hath: has, 中世纪和诗体英语中, 第三人称单数动词用 (e)th 结尾。

13 **beyond the promise of his age**: beyond what is to be expected of so young a man as he.

13—14 **figure of a lamb... feats of a lion**, 既对称, 又含双声头韵。

14 **feats** [fi:ts]: 武艺; 武功。

14—15 **hath better bettered expectation**: has gone beyond people's expectation; has done more than is expected of him, 超过人们对他的期望。**better bettered**: better improved, 这里使用词的重复, 作文字游戏。

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MESSENGER I have already delivered him letters, and
there appears much joy in him; even so much that joy
20 could not show itself modest enough without a
badge of bitterness.

LEONATO Did he break out into tears?

MESSENGER In great measure.

LEONATO A kind overflow of kindness. There are no
25 faces truer than those that are so washed. How much
better is it to weep at joy than to joy at weeping!

BEATRICE I pray you, is Signior Mountanto returned
from the wars or no?

MESSENGER I know none of that name, lady. There was
30 none such in the army of any sort.

LEONATO What is he that you ask for, niece?

HERO My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua.

MESSENGER O, he's returned, and as pleasant as ever
he was.

BEATRICE He set up his bills here in Messina and chal-
35 lenged Cupid at the flight, and my uncle's fool reading
the challenge, subscribed for Cupid and challenged him
at the burbolt. I pray you, how many hath he killed
and eaten in these wars? But how many hath he
killed? For indeed I promised to eat all of his killing.

better lady-killer, a "tyrant to their sex"). my uncle's
fool, 旧时国王、贵族常雇有弄臣小丑, 供逗乐解闷。里奥那托是
公爵, 也有一个 fool。

36 subscribed for Cupid: signed his name as Cupid's re-
presentative, 在挑战书上代替丘比特签名应战。

37 burbolt ['bɜ:bɔ:lt]: bird bolt, 孩子射鸟玩的钝头小
箭。贝特丽丝说培尼狄克赛这种箭, 是取笑他的无能。how many:
how many birds.

38 But how many: but how many people.

19—20 **joy could not show itself modest enough**, 莎剧中常将抽象名词拟人化, 但人称代词常用 *it*, 这里是一个例子。拟人化 (Personification) 使抽象名词大大地增添了形象性和感染力。**modest**: moderate. **badge**: 仆人胸前佩戴的刻有主人家徽的金属小牌。

21 **badge of bitterness: sign that joy is servant to sorrow**, 表示欢乐是忧愁的仆人的一种标志, 在这里具体的意思是流泪。

19—21 **joy...bitterness**: 欢乐达到如此的强度, 如果不流下一些眼泪表明自己是忧愁的仆人, 那就会显得它自己(指欢乐)不够谦虚了。

22 **break out into tears**: 现在习用 *burst into tears*, 或 *break out in tears*.

24 **kind: natural. kindness: tenderness. a kind overflow of kindness**, 这里 *kind* 一字二义, 为双关语 (pun), 在莎剧中双关语使用得很多。

24—25 **There...washed**: 这是一个表强调的句型, 用否定词加比较级来强调说明被比较的事物达到最高的程度, 等于说 *The faces that are so washed (i.e. by tears) are the truest faces*.

25—26 **How...weeping**: 这句话结合了重复 (repetition)、对照 (antithesis) 及矛盾语 (oxymoron) 三种修辞手段, 生动有力。

27 **Signior** ['si:njɔ:] (意大利语): 先生 (现在拼法为 *Signor*). **Mountanto** (montanto): 比剑时向上挑刺的动作。 **Signior Mountanto**: 劈刺先生, 这是贝特丽丝给培尼狄克取的绰号, 讥笑他好和人斗口。 **is returned**: *has returned*, 伊丽莎白时代象 *return* 这类 verbs of motion 可以这样用。

30 **none such**: *no such man; not such a man*. **sort**: *rank*.

31 **he**: *the man*. **ask for**: *ask about*.

33 **pleasant**: *merry; given to joking*. 爱说笑的; 爱打趣的。

34 **set up his bills**: *posted notices*, 张贴启事 (即下文说的 *challenge*)。此段系用过去时, 指前一次他来梅西那时所做的事。

35 **Cupid** ['kju:pid]: 希腊神话中的小爱神丘比特, 为手持弓箭的瞎眼裸体的男孩, 他的箭射中谁, 谁就陷入情网。 **flight**: *long-range archery*, 远距离射箭比赛 (意思是培尼狄克自吹为 *a*

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40 LEONATO Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too much; but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not.

MESSENGER He hath done good service, lady, in these wars.

BEATRICE You had musty victual, and he hath help to eat it. He is a very valiant trencherman; he hath an
45 excellent stomach.

MESSENGER And a good soldier too, lady.

BEATRICE And a good soldier to a lady; but what is he to a lord?

MESSENGER A lord to a lord, a man to a man; stuffed
50 with all honorable virtues.

BEATRICE It is so indeed. He is no less than a stuffed man; but for the stuffing—well, we are all mortal.

LEONATO You must not, sir, mistake my niece. There is a kind of merry war betwixt Signior Benedick and
55 her. They never meet but there's a skirmish of wit between them.

BEATRICE Alas, he gets nothing by that! In our last conflict four of his five wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with one; so that if he have
60 wit enough to keep himself warm, let him bear it for a difference between himself and his horse; for it is all the wealth that he hath left to be known a reasonable creature. Who is his companion now? He hath every month a new sworn brother.

65 MESSENGER Is't possible?

BEATRICE Very easily possible. He wears his faith but as the fashion of his hat; it ever changes with the next block.

MESSENGER I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your books.

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40 **Faith:** in faith 或 by my faith 的简缩语, 用作感叹词。**tax:** disparage; accuse. 指责; 挖苦。

41 **meet** (adj.): even; quits. 他会和你旗鼓相当。

43 **victual** ['vitl]: 食物, 这里指军粮。

holp: helped; help 的这种屈折式过去分词, 在伊丽莎白时代仍沿用, 以后被淘汰。

44 **trencherman:** trencher 为旧时盛食物的木盘或里面的食物, 因此 trencherman 的意思为 eater (食者), 尤指食量大的人。

47 **to:** in comparison to.

49 **lord:** 贵族男子。**man:** 男子汉。

49—50 **Stuffed with:** filled with; full of.

51 **stuffed man:** figure stuffed to look like a man; dummy, 里面塞满了东西的假人; 草包。

52 **but for:** except for. **but...mortal:** 要不是靠里面塞的东西——唉, 别说算了, 我们都不过是凡人(意思是: 我们也都是要吃饭的, 也就是说都是肚子里要塞东西的。)

55 **skirmish of wit:** 斗智, 舌战。

58 **five wits:** 中世纪英国俗称人有五种智能, 即常识 (common sense)、想像 (imagination)、幻想 (fantasy)、判断 (estimation) 和记忆 (memory), 近似汉语“六神无主”这一短语中的“六神”。**halting:** limping, 指舌战之后, 培尼狄克的五种智能中有四种被打得一瘸一拐地逃走了。

59 **if he have:** 伊丽莎白时代用动词原形表达虚拟语气现在时。

60 **keep himself warm:** 使自己不成为凉血动物。**bear it for a difference** (纹章用语): 贵族的小房或年轻成员佩带该族的纹章时, 采用一种区别的标记。此句说他和马已经差不多。

62—63 **to be known (as) a reasonable creature,** 被称为有理性的动物(即人)。

64 **sworn brother:** 结义弟兄。

66 **faith:** loyalty to one's oath, 对誓言的恪守。**but as: only as.**

66—67 **He...hat:** 他对结义时的誓言三心二意(即经常换朋友), 就像他经常换帽子式样一般。

68 **block:** hat-block; mould. 帽子的模子。**not in your (good) books:** not in your favour; not on the

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BEATRICE No. An he were, I would burn my study. But
70 I pray you, who is his companion? Is there no young
squarer now that will make a voyage with him to
the devil?

MESSENGER He is most in the company of the right
noble Claudio.

75 BEATRICE O Lord, he will hang upon him like a dis-
ease! He is sooner caught than the pestilence, and the
taker runs presently mad. God help the noble Clau-
dio! If he have caught the Benedick, it will cost him
a thousand pound ere 'a be cured.

80 MESSENGER I will hold friends with you, lady.

BEATRICE Do, good friend.

LEONATO You will never run mad, niece.

BEATRICE No, not till a hot January.

MESSENGER Don Pedro is approached.

*Enter Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, Balthasar, and
John the Bastard.*

85 PEDRO Good Signior Leonato, are you come to meet
your trouble? The fashion of the world is to avoid
cost, and you encounter it.

LEONATO Never came trouble to my house in the like-
ness of your grace; for trouble being gone, comfort
90 should remain; but when you depart from me, sor-
row abides and happiness takes his leave.

PEDRO You embrace your charge too willingly. I think
this is your daughter.

LEONATO Her mother hath many times told me so.

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

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

PEDRO 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
100 honorable father.

69 An: if. my study: all my books.

71 squarer: a boisterous quarrelsome fellow.

73 right (adj.): rightful; veritable.

76 caught: contracted, 传染上。

pestilence: 瘟疫, 主要指鼠疫, 是十六世纪英国伦敦常发生的传染病。

77 taker: 传染上的人。runs presently mad: immediately goes mad.

79 a thousand pound: a thousand pounds (pound 为单数指复数, 这是当时的一种用法)。ere: before. 'a: 是古体 ha=he 的口语省读形式。ere 'a be cured: before he is cured.

80 hold friends with you: be careful to remain friendly with you (言外之意是: 如果得罪了你, 你的挖苦话可令人难以招架呀!)。

81 Do: Do hold friends with me.

82 You...mad: 你决不会发疯的(也就是说“你决不会染上 Benedick 瘟病的”)。

83 hot January: 酷热的一月(这是不可能出现的事)。

85—86 meet your trouble: 迎接你的麻烦事(指招待一个贵族客人的麻烦)。

87 encounter: go to meet.

88 Never came trouble...: never would trouble come...。

88—91 Never...leave: 在里奥那托的这段话中, trouble、comfort、sorrow 和 happiness 这些抽象名词都被拟人化了, 仿佛它们是可以来作客或与主人告别的人似的。

89 your grace: 殿下(对彼德罗亲王的尊称)。

92 embrace: welcome or receive something joyfully.
charge: expense and responsibility. 本剧描写当时宫廷贵族讲俏皮话成风, 连里奥那托总督也是这样。

95 that: so that.

96 for...child: 意思是: 当时你还小, 不可能勾引我的妻子。

97 You have it full: You are fully answered, 这句答话够你受的了。by this: by this remark, 从这句话。

98 being a man: 既然你现在长大成人了。

fathers herself: resembles and so indicates her father, 极像她父亲, 这点正说明她确实是她父亲的女儿。

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.

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?
110 Courtesy itself must convert to Disdain if you come in her presence.

BENEDICK Then is courtesy a turncoat. But I am 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.

115 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.

120 BENEDICK God keep your ladyship still in that mind! So some gentleman or other shall scape a predestinate scratched face.

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

125 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

125 a beast of yours: a beast of your tongue, i.e., a dumb beast.

127 continuer: one having the power to keep going.
keep your way 只管说下去吧。

101—102 would...shoulders, 有两义: 一、不愿他那满是白发和胡须的头长在她自己的肩上。二、不愿有他那些庸俗的思想。培尼狄克用这句话回报里奥那托对他的挖苦。

102 for all Messina: even with the entire city of Messina as a reward, 即令把整个梅西那城都送给她,(她也不会愿意换上她父亲的脑袋)。

103 as like him as she is: however much she may be like him.

104 will still be talking: will 要重读,表示坚持做某事。进行式是指持续做某事。**still: always.**

105 marks: notices.

106 Lady Disdain: 傲慢小姐,培尼狄克给贝特丽丝起的绰号。

108 Disdain should die: Disdain 拟人化了,所以大写,其后的人称代词既用 *she*,接着又用 *it*,莎士比亚是灵活使用的。下文代 *Courtesy* 的人称代词也是如此。

109 meet: suitable.

110 convert (v.i.): change.

111 turncoat: person who changes sides, 变节者.

112 of: by. only you excepted: only you being an exception, 只有你是例外(为独立主格结构, *excepted* 为过去分词。)

115 dear happiness: great fortune.

116 else (adv.): otherwise. pernicious: mischievous; malicious; wicked.

117—118 of your humor for that: of your frame (or state) of mind on that point.

120 mind: frame of mind. So: so that.

121 shall: will. 伊丽莎白时代 *shall* 常有和现在 *will* 一样的意思和用法。**scape: escape. predestinate [pri'destinit]: predestinated**, 末尾的 *d* 由于在 *t* 音之后而省略、脱落。

123 an 'twere: if it were.

124 as yours were: as your face is (因 *if* 从句中的动词 *were* 系虚拟语气,表示与事实不符的假设,这里跟着用了 *were*)。

125 rare parrot-teacher: fine chatterer, who repeats himself.

130 way, i' God's name! I have done.

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

PEDRO That is the sum of all, Leonato. Signior Claudio and Signior Benedick, my dear friend Leonato
135 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.

LEONATO If you swear, my lord, you shall not be for-
140 sworn. [*to Don John*] Let me bid you welcome, my lord. Being reconciled to the Prince your brother, I owe you all duty.

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

145 LEONATO Please it your grace lead on?

PEDRO Your hand, Leonato. We will go together.

Exeunt. Manent Benedick and Claudio.

CLAUDIO Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signior Leonato?

150 BENEDICK I noted her not, but I looked on her.

CLAUDIO Is she not a modest young lady?

BENEDICK Do you question me as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgment? or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a profes-
155 sed tyrant to their sex?

CLAUDIO No, I pray thee speak in sober judgment.

BENEDICK Why, i' faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise. Only this commendation I
160 can afford her, that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome, and being no other but as she is, I do not like her.

CLAUDIO Thou thinkest I am in sport. I pray thee tell

130 **done:** finished.

131 **jade's trick:** 劣马的诡计, 指突然停住, 退出比赛。

133 **That...all:** That's all, 就这样讲定了。

136 **at the least:** at least.

137 **occasion:** cause, 原因。

140 **be forsworn:** break your oath, 违背誓言。

141 **Being reconciled to the Prince:** since you are reconciled to Don Pedro (Don John 叛乱被打败, 假意悔罪, 和 Don Pedro 言归于好)。

145 **Please...on?:** Will your grace please lead on?

146 **Your hand:** Let me take your hand.

147 **Exeunt** [拉丁, 'eksiant]: go out, 第三人称复数现在时, 为 exit 的复数。

148 **thou**, 第二人称单数代词主格。这里克劳狄奥对熟人培尼狄克称 **thou**, 是友爱的表示, 足见他认真地想征求培尼狄克的意见。反之, 培尼狄克仍用一般的 **you**, 并多开玩笑。莎剧中用 **you** 还是用 **thou** 很有讲究, 值得注意。接 **thou** 的动词多用 (e)st 结尾。**thou** 的宾格是 **thee**, 所有格是 **thy**, **thine**. **note:** notice especially.

150 **I noted her not, but I looked on her:** 我看见她了, 但没有对她特别注意。

153 **for:** to seek.

154 **after my custom:** according to my habit. **professed:** 公开宣称的。

157 **i' faith:** indeed; truly. **methinks:** I think.

157—158 **she's too low for a high praise:** 故意用 **low**, 不用 **short**, 以与 **high** 相对。

158 **fair praise:** **fair** 作 **favorable** 解, 同时指皮肤白, 与 **brown** 相对。 **little:** 个子小, 与 **great** 相对。

161 **were...unhandsome:** if she were different from what she is, she would be ugly. **but:** than.

163 **in sport:** in play, 开玩笑。 **I...me:** I beg you to tell me.

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me truly how thou lik'st her.

165 BENEDICK Would you buy her, that you enquire after her?

CLAUDIO Can the world buy such a jewel?

BENEDICK Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak
you this with a sad brow? or do you play the flouting
170 Jack, to tell us Cupid is a good hare-finder and
Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall
a man take you to go in the song?

CLAUDIO In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever
I looked on.

175 BENEDICK I can see yet without spectacles, and I see
no such matter. There's her cousin, an she were
not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in
beauty as the first of May doth the last of December.
But I hope you have no intent to turn husband,
180 have you?

CLAUDIO I would scarce trust myself, though I had
sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.

BENEDICK Is't come to this? In faith, hath not the
world one man but he will wear his cap with sus-
185 picion? Shall I never see a bachelor of threescore
again? Go to, i' faith! An thou wilt needs thrust
thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it and sigh
away Sundays. Look! Don Pedro is returned to seek
you.

190 *Enter Don Pedro.*

PEDRO What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's?

BENEDICK I would your grace would constrain me to tell.

195 PEDRO I charge thee on thy allegiance.

BENEDICK You hear, Count Claudio. I can be secret
as a dumb man, I would have you think so; but,

165 enquire after: enquire about.

167 Can the world buy such a jewel?: 能用全世界买这样一颗珍珠么?

168 Yea: Yes.

169 sad brow: serious countenance, 一本正经的面孔。
flouting Jack: mocking knave, 嘲弄者。

170 hare-finder: 猎野兔的能手。

Vulcan ['vʌlkən]: 希腊神话中的锻冶神。Cupid 眼睛不能猎兔, Vulcan 系铁匠不是木匠, 因此这些都是胡说。

171—172 in what key shall a man take you, to go (join) in the song: 人家要知道你唱的是什么调, 才能与你相和。

177 possessed with: dominated by. fury: 希腊神话中生有蛇发的复仇女神。possessed with a fury: 为复仇女神所缠住, 意谓象凶神恶煞似地性情泼辣。exceeds 前面省略 who.

181 scarce: scarcely.

181—182 had sworn the contrary: 发了反面的誓 (即发誓不结婚)。

182 would be: should be willing to be.

183—185 hath not the world one man but he will wear his cap with suspicion?: 难道世界上没有一个男人不愿意被人怀疑戴上了绿帽子么? (not... but ... 为一句型, 等于 not ... that not... 没有...不...)。wear his cap with suspicion: be suspected of wearing a cap to hide his cuckold's horns, 被人怀疑戴帽子是为了要掩盖他当了王八后头上长出的两只角(西方有妻子不贞时, 丈夫头上长角这一说法)。

threescore: sixty.

186 Go to (仅用于祈使语气), exclamation of impatience, incredulity, etc. (表示不耐烦、不相信等之感叹语) 得了吧! 去你的吧! wilt needs: must.

187 yoke: 牛轭(这里指婚姻的枷锁)。wear the print of it: 永远带上它(牛轭)压在颈上的印痕。

187—188 sigh away Sundays: 用叹息消磨掉一个又一个星期天(指星期天休息, 只好在家与妻子相对而坐, 百无聊赖)。

193 constrain: force.

195 on thy allegiance: with your loyalty to me, your prince, as guarantee.

on my allegiance — mark you this — on my allegiance! he is in love. With who? Now that is your
 200 grace's part. Mark how short his answer is: With Hero, Leonato's short daughter.

CLAUDIO If this were so, so ^双were it uttered.

BENEDICK Like the old tale, my lord: 'It is not so, nor 'twas not so; but indeed, God forbid it should be so!'

205 CLAUDIO If my passion change not shortly, God forbid it should be otherwise.

PEDRO Amen, if you love her, for the lady is very well worthy.

CLAUDIO You speak this to fetch me in, my lord.

210 PEDRO By my troth, I speak my thought.

CLAUDIO And, in faith, my lord, I spoke mine.

BENEDICK And, by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I spoke mine.

CLAUDIO That I love her, I feel.

215 PEDRO That she is worthy, I know.

BENEDICK That I neither feel how she should be loved, nor know how she should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me. I will die in it at the stake. 夸张

220 PEDRO Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty.

CLAUDIO And never could maintain his part but in the force of his will.

BENEDICK That a woman conceived me, I thank her;
 225 that she brought me up, I likewise give her most humble thanks; but that I will have a rechate winded^e in my forehead, or hang my bugle in an invisible baldrick, all women shall pardon me. Because I will not do them the wrong to mistrust any, I
 230 will do myself the right to trust none; and the fine is (for the which I may go the finer), I will live a

197—198 **but, on my allegiance:** 但现在要凭我对君王的忠诚说话(即我不能不说, 如果不说就对你不忠)。这一段话, but 以前对 Claudio 说, but 以后对 Don Pedro 说。

199 **With who?: With whom?**

199—200 **that's your grace's part** (to ask that question): 那是殿下问的话了。part (舞台用语): 台词。short (双关语): 既指回答简短, 又指 Hero 身材矮小。

202 **If this were so, so were it uttered:** If I had told him such a secret, he would have revealed it in this way. (Claudio 在 Don Pedro 面前故意闪烁其词。)

203 **old tale**, 可能指兰胡子的故事, 其中恶人一再否认自己的罪行, 并说 "It is not so, nor 'twas not so, but, indeed, God forbid it should be so." (现在不是这么一回事, 过去也不是, 愿上帝禁止发生这样的事。)最后面对物证, 他不得不认罪。

205—206 **God forbid it should be otherwise;** Claudio 的否认也是欲盖弥彰。

207 **Amen** [希伯来语, 'ɑ:'men]: Certainly; So be it (基督教祈祷结尾时的祝愿和附和词。)

209 **fetch me in:** get me to confess.

210 **troth:** truth; true word. **By my troth:** 我发誓。

212 **by my two faiths and troths:** 凭我分别对你们两位的忠心(暗指我的忠心具有两面性)。

214 **That I love her, I feel,** 这句把宾语从句放在句首, 表示强调。以下两人的话也类似。

218—219 **I will die in it at the stake,** (这里 it 指 opinion; at the stake (在火刑柱上)指中世纪天主教会对于异教徒残酷迫害的一种方法): 我宁可烧死在火刑柱上也不会改变这个看法。

220 **despite:** spiting, 轻蔑。

222—223 **never could maintain his part but in the force of his will:** 要不是顽固地不认输(毫无道理地坚持己见), 他这个角色也不可能继续扮演下去。

224 **conceive:** 怀孕。

226 **rechate:** 召回猎狗的号角声。

226—227 **winded(sounded)in the forehead:** 前额发出号角声。

228 **baldrick:** 猎人斜佩在胸前用以悬挂号角的带子。明的或暗的角, 均指妻子不贞时丈夫头上长角。暗指女人都要偷汉。

230 **fine:** finis; conclusion.