

# Monologue

## Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare (Act 2, Scene 3)

### **Benedick**

I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another  
Man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviours to love, will,  
After he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others,  
Become the argument of his own scorn by falling in Love –

And such a man is Claudio.

I have known when there was no music with him but the  
drum and the fife, and now had he rather hear the tabor  
and the pipe. I have known when he would have walked  
ten mile afoot to see a good armour, and now he will lie  
ten nights awake carving the fashion of a new doublet.

He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose,  
Like an honest man and a soldier, and now is he turned  
Orthography; his words are a very fantastical banquet,  
Just so many strange dishes. May I be so converted and see  
With these eyes? I cannot tell; I think not.

I will not be sworn but love may transform me to an oyster,  
But I'll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of me,  
He shall never make me such a fool.

One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well;  
another virtuous, yet I am well; but till all graces be in one  
woman, one woman shall not come in my grace.

Rich she shall be, that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous,  
or I'll never cheapen her; fair, or I'll never look on her; mild,  
or come not near me; noble, or not I for an angel;  
of good discourse, an excellent musician,  
and her hair shall be of what colour it please God.

Ha! The Prince and Monsieur Love!

I will hide me in the arbour.