

## ACT I, SCENE 1

### CLAUDIO

My liege, your Highness now may do me good.

### PRINCE

My love is thine to teach. Teach it but how,  
And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn  
Any hard lesson that may do thee good.

### CLAUDIO

Hath Leonato any son, my lord?

### PRINCE

No child but Hero; she's his only heir.  
Dost thou affect her, Claudio?

### CLAUDIO

O, my lord,  
When you went onward on this ended  
action,  
I looked upon her with a soldier's eye,  
That liked, but had a rougher task in hand  
Than to drive liking to the name of love.  
But now I am returned and that war  
thoughts  
Have left their places vacant, in their rooms  
Come thronging soft and delicate desires,  
All prompting me how fair young Hero is,  
Saying I liked her ere I went to wars.

### PRINCE

Thou wilt be like a lover presently  
And tire the hearer with a book of words.  
If thou dost love fair Hero, cherish it,  
And I will break with her and with her father,  
And thou shalt have her. Was 't not to this  
end  
That thou began'st to twist so fine a story?

### CLAUDIO

How sweetly you do minister to love,  
That know love's grief by his complexion!  
But lest my liking might too sudden seem,  
I would have salved it with a longer treatise.

### PRINCE

What need the bridge much broader than  
the flood?  
The fairest grant is the necessity.  
Look what will serve is fit. 'Tis once, thou  
lovest,  
And I will fit thee with the remedy.  
I know we shall have reveling tonight.  
I will assume thy part in some disguise  
And tell fair Hero I am Claudio,  
And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart  
And take her hearing prisoner with the force  
And strong encounter of my amorous tale.  
Then after to her father will I break,  
And the conclusion is, she shall be thine.  
In practice let us put it presently.