

'twas fresh in murmur: it was recently rumored

*What is it like for Olivia, in mourning, to know that everyone is talking about Orsino's pursuit of her?*

**abjured:** sworn to avoid

**compass:** attain

**such disguise as haply... intent:** a disguise that will help me get me what I want

**eunuch:** castrated male singer

*Although Viola says she will pretend to be a eunuch, a singer, no mention is made of this later; she appears in disguise as a boy, dressed in the manner of her brother Sebastian. She undoubtedly feels she will attract less unwanted attention as a boy in unfamiliar territory than she would as a girl.*

*Sir Toby and Maria have a complicated relationship. Although she is of a lower social class, she looks out for him and seems to love him. Sir Toby is probably drunk in this scene, though not as drunk as he will be in later scenes.*

**plague:** curse

**to your ill hours:** to your late nights

*Maria sets us up to expect Sir Andrew to be a fool. Why has Sir Toby brought a "foolish knight" to woo Olivia? What does Toby hope to gain?*

**Aguecheek:** an "ague" is a sickness with fever and chills—a hint at Aguecheek's less-than-robust character

**Castiliano vulgo:** Sir Toby, drunken, invents a nonsense phrase probably meant to signal to Maria to be quiet so that Sir Andrew does not overhear their actual conversation

VIOLA: Who governs here?

CAPTAIN: A noble duke. Orsino.

VIOLA: Orsino! I have heard my father name him:  
He was a bachelor then.

CAPTAIN: And so is now. A month ago I went from hence,  
And then 'twas fresh in murmur  
That he did seek the love of fair Olivia.

VIOLA: What's she?

CAPTAIN: A virtuous maid, the daughter of a count  
That died some twelvemonth since, then leaving her  
In the protection of his son, her brother,  
Who shortly also died: for whose dear love,  
They say, she hath **abjured** the company  
And sight of men.

VIOLA: O that I served that lady!

CAPTAIN: That were hard to **compass**.

VIOLA: Captain, conceal what I am, and be my aid  
For **such disguise as haply shall become**  
**The form of my intent.** I'll serve this duke:  
Thou shalt present me as an **eunuch** to him.

CAPTAIN: Be you his eunuch, and your mute I'll be:  
When my tongue blabs, then let mine eyes not see.

VIOLA: I thank thee: lead me on.

*They exit.*

*SCENE 3. Olivia's house.*

*Enter SIR TOBY BELCH and MARIA.*

SIR TOBY: What a **plague** means my niece, to take the death of her  
brother thus? I am sure care's an enemy to life.

MARIA: Sir Toby, you must come in earlier a' nights: your cousin, my  
lady, takes great exceptions to your ill hours. That drinking  
will undo you: I heard my lady talk of it; and of a foolish knight  
that you brought in to be her wooer.

SIR TOBY: Who, Sir Andrew **Aguecheek**?

MARIA: He's a very fool. Moreover, he's drunk nightly in your company.

SIR TOBY: With drinking healths to my niece. **Castiliano vulgo!** For here  
comes Sir Andrew Agueface.

*Enter SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK.*

SIR ANDREW: How now, Sir Toby Belch!

#### 4 TWELFTH NIGHT, OR WHAT YOU WILL

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SIR TOBY: Sweet Sir Andrew!

SIR ANDREW: Bless you, fair **shrew**.

SIR TOBY: **Accost**, Sir Andrew, accost.

SIR ANDREW: What's that?

SIR TOBY: My niece's chambermaid.

SIR ANDREW: Good Mistress Accost, I desire better acquaintance.

MARIA: My name is Mary, sir.

SIR ANDREW: Good Mistress Mary Accost...

SIR TOBY: You mistake, knight; "accost" is board her, woo her.

SIR ANDREW: Is that the meaning of "accost"?

MARIA: Fare you well, gentlemen.  
*Exit MARIA.*

SIR TOBY: O knight, when did I see thee so **put down**?

SIR ANDREW: I am a great eater of beef and I believe that does harm to my wit. Sir Toby, **your niece will none of me**: the **count** himself woos her.

SIR TOBY: She'll none **o'** the count: I have heard her swear it.  
**There's life in it**, man.

SIR ANDREW: I'll stay a month longer. I am a fellow o' the strangest mind in the world; I delight in **masques and revels** sometimes altogether.

SIR TOBY: Art thou good at these **kickshawses**, knight?

SIR ANDREW: And I think I have the **back-trick** as strong as any man in Illyria.

SIR TOBY: **Wherefore** are these things hid? Let me see thee **caper**: ha!  
higher: ha, ha! excellent!

*They exit.*

*SCENE 4. The DUKE's palace.*

*Enter ORSINO, and VIOLA in man's attire.*

ORSINO: Cesario?

VIOLA: My lord.

ORSINO: Cesario, **address thy gait unto her**;  
Be not denied access, stand at her doors,  
Till thou have audience.

VIOLA: Say I do speak with her, my lord, what then?

ORSINO: O, then unfold the passion of my love,

**shrew**: mildly derogatory term for a woman—Sir Andrew oddly pairs it with "fair."

**Accost**: speak to her. Sir Toby suggests that Sir Andrew flirt with Maria, but Sir Andrew thinks the word is Maria's last name.

*Why does Sir Toby want Sir Andrew to flirt with Maria? Sir Toby knows, based on what he says later, that Maria loves him. Does he think Sir Andrew will be successful or does he know it will be funny to see Sir Andrew try and fail?*

*Does Maria enjoy her "put down" of Sir Andrew? Does she enjoy letting Sir Toby see that she can have the upper hand with Sir Andrew? Does it impress Sir Toby?*

**put down**: defeated

**your ... me**: Olivia is not interested in me

**count**: Duke Orsino

**o'**: of

**There's life in it**: you still have a chance with her

**masques and revels**: dances and parties

**kickshawses**: dancing steps

**back-trick**: another dance step *Sir Andrew here should attempt a "backwards" dance step. Although he claims he is a good dancer, it should be comically clear that he is not.*

**Wherefore**: why **caper**: dance

*When Viola appears now, she is disguised, as she planned, as a "eunuch." She adopts the dress and physical habits of her brother, Sebastian. She has chosen the name Cesario as her "male" identity.*

**address thy gait unto her**: walk to Olivia's