BOYET SIDES

PRINCESS

Good wits will be jangling; but, gentles, agree,

This civil war of wits were much better used

On Navarre and his bookmen, for here ’tis abused.

BOYET

If my observation, which very seldom lies, 240

By the heart’s still rhetoric, disclosèd wi’ th’ eyes,

Deceive me not now, Navarre is infected.

PRINCESS With what?

BOYET

With that which we lovers entitle “affected.”

PRINCESS Your reason? 245

BOYET

Why, all his behaviors did make their retire

To the court of his eye, peeping thorough desire.

His heart like an agate with your print impressed,

Proud with his form, in his eye pride expressed.

His tongue, all impatient to speak and not see, 250

Did stumble with haste in his eyesight to be;

All senses to that sense did make their repair,

To feel only looking on fairest of fair.

Methought all his senses were locked in his eye,

As jewels in crystal for some prince to buy, 255

Who, tend’ring their own worth from where they

were glassed,

Did point you to buy them along as you passed.

His face’s own margent did quote such amazes

That all eyes saw his eyes enchanted with gazes. 260

I’ll give you Aquitaine, and all that is his,

An you give him for my sake but one loving kiss.

PRINCESS*, to her Ladies*

Come, to our pavilion. Boyet is disposed.

BOYET

But to speak that in words which his eye hath

disclosed. 265

I only have made a mouth of his eye

By adding a tongue which I know will not lie.

MARIA

Thou art an old lovemonger and speakest skillfully.

KATHERINE

He is Cupid’s grandfather, and learns news of him.

ROSALINE

Then was Venus like her mother, for her father is 270

but grim.

BOYET

Do you hear, my mad wenches?

MARIA No.

BOYET What then, do

you see? 275

MARIA

Ay, our way to be gone.

BOYET You are too hard for me.

BOYET

Under the cool shade of a sycamore, 95

I thought to close mine eyes some half an hour.

When, lo, to interrupt my purposed rest,

Toward that shade I might behold addressed

The King and his companions. Warily

I stole into a neighbor thicket by, 100

And overheard what you shall overhear:

That, by and by, disguised, they will be here.

Their herald is a pretty knavish page

That well by heart hath conned his embassage.

Action and accent did they teach him there: 105

“Thus must thou speak,” and “thus thy body bear.”

And ever and anon they made a doubt

Presence majestical would put him out;

“For,” quoth the King, “an angel shalt thou see;

Yet fear not thou, but speak audaciously.” 110

The boy replied “An angel is not evil.

I should have feared her had she been a devil.”

With that, all laughed and clapped him on the

shoulder,

Making the bold wag by their praises bolder. 115

One rubbed his elbow thus, and fleered, and swore

A better speech was never spoke before.

Another with his finger and his thumb,

Cried *“Via!* We will do ’t, come what will come.”

The third he capered and cried “All goes well!” 120

The fourth turned on the toe, and down he fell.

With that, they all did tumble on the ground

With such a zealous laughter so profound

That in this spleen ridiculous appears,

To check their folly, passion’s solemn tears.

PRINCESS

But what, but what? Come they to visit us?

BOYET

They do, they do; and are appareled thus,

Like Muscovites, or Russians, as I guess.

Their purpose is to parley, to court, and dance,

And every one his love-feat will advance 130

Unto his several mistress—which they’ll know

By favors several which they did bestow.