

*Laun.* Not so, fir, neither; I know my duty.

*Lor.* Yet more quarrelling with occasion! wilt thou show the whole wealth of thy wit in an instant? I pray thee, understand a plain man in his plain meaning: go to thy fellows, bid them cover the table, serve in the meat, and we will come in to dinner.

*Laun.* For the table, fir, it shall be serv'd in; for the meat, fir, it shall be covered; for your coming in to dinner, fir, why, let it be as humours and conceits shall govern. *[Exit Laun.]*

*Lor.* O dear discretion, how his words are suited!  
The fool hath planted in his memory

An army of good words; and I do know  
A many fools that stand in better place,  
Garnish'd like him, that for a tricky word  
Defy the matter. How far'st thou, *Jessica*?  
And now, good sweet, say thy opinion,  
How dost thou like the lord *Bassanio*'s wife?

*Jes.* Past all expressing: it is very meet  
The lord *Bassanio* live an upright life:  
For, having such a blessing in his lady,  
He finds the joys of heaven here on earth:  
And if on earth he do not merit it,  
In reason he should never come to heav'n.  
Why, if two gods should play some heav'nly match,  
And on the wager lay two earthly women,  
And *Portia* one, there must be something else  
Pawn'd with the other; for the poor rude world  
Hath not her fellow.

*Lor.* Even such a husband  
Hast thou of me, as she is for a wife.

*Jes.* Nay, but ask my opinion too of that.

*Lor.* I will anon: first, let us go to dinner.

*Jes.* Nay, let me praise you while I have a stomach.

*Lor.* No, pray thee, let it serve for tabletalk;  
Then, howsoe'er thou speak'st, 'mong other things,  
I shall digest it.

*Jes.* Well, I'll set you forth.

*[Exeunt.]*  
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