

sudden breaking out of mirth, as it were, I have acquainted you withal, to the end to crave your assistance.

*Hol.* Sir, you shall present before her the nine worthies. Sir, [*to Nathaniel*] as concerning some entertainment of time, some show in the posterior of this day, to be render'd by our assistance at the king's command, and this most gallant, illustrate, and learned gentleman, before the princess: I say, none so fit as to present the nine worthies.

*Nath.* Where will you find men worthy enough to present them?

*Hol.* *Joshua*, yourself; this gallant gentleman, *Judas Maccabeus*; this swain, because of his great limb or joint, shall pass for *Pompey* the great; and the page, *Hercules*.

*Arm.* Pardon, sir, error: he is not quantity enough for that worthy's thumb; he is not so big as the end of his club.

*Hol.* Shall I have audience? he shall present *Hercules* in minority: his *enter* and *exit* shall be, strangling a snake; and I will have an apology for that purpose.

*Moth.* An excellent device! so, if any of the audience hiss, you may cry, well done, *Hercules*! now thou crushest the snake! that is the way to make an offence gracious, though few have the grace to know it.

*Arm.* For the rest of the worthies?

*Hol.* I will play three myself.

*Moth.* Thrice worthy gentleman!

*Arm.* Shall I tell you a thing?

*Hol.* We attend.

*Arm.* We will have, if this fadge not, an antick. I beseech you, follow.

*Hol.* *Via*! goodman *Dull*, thou hast spoken no word all this while.

*Dull.* Nor understood none neither, sir.

*Hol.* *Allons*! we will employ thee.

*Dull.* I'll make one in a dance, or so: or I will play on the tabour to the worthies, and let them dance the hay.

*Hol.* Most *Dull*, honest *Dull*, to our sport away. [*Exeunt.*