

I am not prone to weeping, as our sex  
Commonly are; the want of which vain dew,  
Perchance, shall dry your pities: but I have  
That honourable grief lodg'd here, which burns  
Worse than tears drown: 'beseech you all, my lords,  
With thoughts so qualified as your charities  
Shall best instruct you, measure me; and so  
The king's will be perform'd!

*Leo.* Shall I be heard?

*Her.* Who is't that goes with me? 'beseech your highness,  
My women may be with me; for, you see,  
My plight requires it. Do not weep, good fools;  
There is no cause: when you shall know your mistress  
Has deserv'd prison, then abound in tears,  
As I come out; this action, I now go on,  
Is for my better grace. Adieu, my lord,  
I never wish'd to see you sorry; now,  
I trust, I shall. My women, come; you've leave.

*Leo.* Go, do our bidding; hence!

[*Exe. Queen guarded, and Ladies.*]

*Lord.* 'Beseech your highness, call the queen again.

*Ant.* Be certain what you do, sir, lest your justice  
Prove violence, in the which three great ones suffer,  
Yourself, your queen, your son.

*Lord.* For her, my lord,  
I dare my life lay down, and will do't, sir,  
Please you t'accept it, that the queen is spotless  
I'th' eyes of heaven, and to you; I mean,  
In this which you accuse her.

*Ant.* If it prove  
She's otherwise, I'll keep my stablestand\* where  
I lodge my wife; I'll go in couples with her:

\* Stablestand (*stabilis statio* as Spelman interprets it) is a term of the forest-laws, and signifies a place where a deer-stealer fixes his stand under some convenient cover, and keeps watch for the purpose of killing deer as they pass by. From the place it came to be applied also to the person, and any man taken in a forest in that situation with a gun or bow in his hand was presumed to be an offender and had the name of a stablestand. In all former editions this hath been printed stables, and it may perhaps be objected