

*Duke.* How should he be made then?

*Lucio.* Some report, a sea-maid spawn'd him. Some, that he was begot between two stock-fishes. But it is certain, that, when he makes water, his urine is congeal'd ice; that I know to be true: and he has no motion generative; that's infallible.

*Duke.* You are pleasant, fir, and speak apace.

*Lucio.* Why, what a ruthless thing is this in him, for the rebellion of a cod-piece to take away the life of a man! would the duke that is absent have done this? ere he would have hang'd a man for the getting a hundred bastards, he would have pay'd for the nursing a thousand. He had some feeling of the sport; he knew the service, and that instructed him to mercy.

*Duke.* I never heard the absent duke much detected for women; he was not inclin'd that way.

*Lucio.* O, fir, you are deceiv'd.

*Duke.* 'Tis not possible.

*Lucio.* Who, not the duke? yes, your beggar of fifty; and his use was, to put a ducat in her clack-dish; the duke had crotchets in him. He would be drunk too, that let me inform you.

*Duke.* You do him wrong, surely.

*Lucio.* Sir, I was an inward of his: a fly fellow was the duke; and, I believe, I know the cause of his withdrawing.

*Duke.* What, pr'ythee, might be the cause?

*Lucio.* No; pardon: 'tis a secret must be lock'd within the teeth and the lips; but this I can let you understand, the greater file of the subject held the duke to be wise.

*Duke.* Wise? why, no question but he was.

*Lucio.* A very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow.

*Duke.* Either this is envy in you, folly, or mistaking: the very stream of his life, and the business he hath helmed, must, upon a warranted need, give him a better proclamation. Let him be but testimony'd in his own bringings forth, and he shall appear to the envious, a scholar, a statesman, and a soldier. Therefore, you speak unskilfully; or if your knowledge be more, it is much darken'd in your malice.

*Lucio.*