

More than my shanks and wrists: you good gods, give me
 The penitent instrument to pick that bolt;
 Then free for ever! Is't enough, I'm sorry?
 So children temp'ral fathers do appease;
 Gods are more full of mercy. Must I repent?
 I cannot do it better than in gyves
 Desir'd, more than constrain'd: to satisfy,
 I doff my freedom; 'tis the main part; take
 No stricter render of me, than my all.
 I know, you are more clement than vile men,
 Who of their broken debtors take a third,
 A sixth, a tenth, letting them thrive again
 On their abatement; that's not my desire.
 For *Imogen's* dear life, take mine, and though
 'Tis not so dear, yet 'tis a life; you coin'd it:
 'Tween man and man they weigh not every stamp,
 Though light, take pieces for the figure's sake;
 You rather mine, being yours: and so, great powers,
 If you will take this audit, take this life,
 And cancel those old bonds. O *Imogen!*
 I'll speak to thee in silence. —

[*he sleeps.*]

* * * *

**** Here follows a Vision, a Masque, and a Prophecy, which interrupt the fable without the least necessity, and unmeasurably lengthen this *Act*. I think it plainly foisted in afterwards for mere show, and apparently not of Shakespear.

† † †

Solemn musick. Enter as in an apparition, *Sicilius Leonatus*, father to *Posthumus*, an old man, attired like a warrior, leading in his hand an ancient matron, his wife, and mother to *Posthumus*, with musick before them. Then, after other musick, follow the two young *Leonati*, brothers to *Posthumus*, with wounds as they died in the wars. They circle *Posthumus* round as he lies sleeping.

Sici. No more, thou thunder-master, show
 Thy spite on mortal flies:
 With *Mars* fall out, with *Juno* chide, that thy adulteries
 Rates and revenges.
 Hath my poor boy done aught but well,
 Whose face I never saw?
 I dy'd, whilst in the womb he stay'd,
 Attending nature's law.
 Whose father, *Jove!* (as men report,
 Thou orphans' father art)
 Thou shouldst have been, and shielded him
 From his earth-vexing smart.

Moth.