

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Measure for Measure

Act II, Scene 4: Isabella Soliloquy

Isabella, having been improperly propositioned by Angelo to sleep with him in order to spare her brother's life, prepares to tell her brother, who she assumes will refuse such terms.

To whom should I complain? Did I tell this,
Who would believe me? O perilous mouths,
That bear in them one and the self-same tongue,
Either of condemnation or approval;
Bidding the law make court'sy to their will:
Hooking both right and wrong to the appetite,
To follow as it draws!
I'll to my brother:
Though he hath fallen by prompture of the blood,
Yet hath he in him such a mind of honor,
That had he 20 heads to tender down on 20 bloody blocks,
He'd yield them up,
Before his sister should her body stoop
To such abhorr'd pollution.
Then Isabel, live chaste, and, brother, die:
More than our brother is our chastity.
I'll tell him yet of Angelo's request,
And fit his mind to death for his soul's rest.