

Scene 5

(Enter Speed and Lance, with his dog, Crab)

SPEED

Lance, by mine honesty, welcome to Milan.

LANCE

Forswear not thyself, sweet youth, for I am not welcome.
I reckon this always: that a man is never
undone till he be hanged, nor never welcome to a
place till some certain coin be paid and the Hostess
say welcome.

SPEED

Come on, you madcap. I'll to the alehouse with
you presently, where, for one shot of five pence,
thou shalt have five thousand welcomes. But, sirrah,
how did thy master part with Madam Julia?

LANCE

Marry, after they closed in earnest, they parted very fairly in jest.

SPEED

But shall she marry him?

LANCE

No.

SPEED

How then? Shall he marry her?

LANCE

No, neither.

SPEED

What, are they broken?

LANCE

No, they are both as whole as a fish.

SPEED

Why then, how stands the matter with them?

LANCE

Marry, thus: when it stands well with him, it stands well with her.

SPEED

What an ass art thou! I understand thee not.

LANCE

What a block art thou that thou canst not! My staff understands me.

SPEED What thou sayst?

LANCE

Ay, and what I do too. Look thee, I'll but lean, and my staff understands me.

SPEED

It stands under thee indeed.

LANCE

Why, "stand under" and "understand" is all one.

SPEED

But tell me true, will 't be a match?

LANCE

Ask my dog. If he say "Ay," it will; if he say
"No," it will; if he shake his tail and say nothing, it will.

SPEED

The conclusion is, then, that it will.

LANCE

Thou shalt never get such a secret from me but by a parable.

SPEED

'Tis well that I get it so. But, Lance, how sayst
thou that my master is become a notable lover?

LANCE

I never knew him otherwise.

SPEED

Than how?

LANCE

A notable lubber, as thou reportest him to be.

SPEED

Why, thou whoreson ass, thou mistak'st me.

LANCE

Why, fool, I meant not thee; I meant thy master.

SPEED

I tell thee, my master is become a hot lover.

LANCE

Why, I tell thee, I care not though he burn himself in love.
Wilt thou go with me to the alehouse?

SPEED

At thy service. *(They exit)*