**Annotations: *Twelfth Night* (William Shakespeare): Act 2**

The following list of annotations offers you a combination of the annotations that are already included in the CSS edition[[1]](#footnote-1) of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, and some that were added additionally so that you can better understand the text.

**Act 2, Scene 1:**

**‘Nor will… you?’ (l. 1)** do you not wish me to go with you?

**malignancy** **(l. 3)** evil influence

**to distemper** **(l. 3)** *here:* to infect

**evils** **(l. 4)** miseries

**to recompense (l. 5)** to return a favour

**sooth (l. 7)** truly, indeed

**determinate voyage** **(l. 7)** plan for travel

**mere extravagancy** **(l. 7)** *here:* only wandering, his travel was not necessary

**‘in manners the rather’ (l. 10)** in politeness

**breach** **(l. 16)** surf, breaking waves *(Landung)*

**‘with such estimable wonder’** **(l. 20)** in all modesty

**to publish (l. 21)** *here:*to talk about, describe

**salt water (l. 22)** both seawater and tears

**entertainment (l. 24)** *here:* treatment, hospitality

**to recover (l. 28)**  *her*e: to save from drowning

**‘manners of my mother’** **(l. 29-30)** habits of a woman

**‘mine eyes will tell tales of me’** **(l. 30-31)** I’ll weep

**bound to** **(l. 31)** heading to

**to seem sport** **(l. 36)** to seem easy/pleasurable

**Act 2, Scene 2:**

**Even now (l. 1)**  just now

**on a moderate pace (l. 2)** without hurrying

**hither (l. 3)** *(old)* here

**You might have saved me my** You might havesaved me the effort

**pains** **(l. 4-5)**

**desperate assurance** **(l. 6)** hopeless certainty

**hardy (l. 7)**  bold

**peevishly (l. 11)** easily annoyed by unimportant things

**to stoop (l. 12)** to bend down ( to pick *smth*. up)

**my outside** **(l. 15)** my looks

**in starts distractedly** **(l. 18)** uncontrolled and wildly

**churlish (l. 19)** rude

**wickedness (l. 24)** evilness

**pregnant enemy** **(l. 25)** crafty fiend, the devil, Satan

**proper-false** **(l. 26)** handsome deceivers *(Betrüger)*

**waxen (l. 27)**  made of wax; *here:* easily moulded, changeable

**frailty (l. 28)** soft nature

**to fadge (l. 30)** *here: (old use)* to turn out, develop

**to dote on (l. 32)**  *here:* to deeply care for someone

**thriftless** **(l. 36)** unprofitable, wasted

**Act 2, Scene 3 (l. 63-149):**

**to caterwaul (l. 63)**  to wail like a cat

**Cataian (l.66)** *(old, old use)* someone from Cathay, a derogatory *(abwertend)* term for a Chinese person

**Peg-a-Ramsey (l. 67)** a reference to a ballad featuring a spying wife; suggesting that Malvolio is looking for something to report back to Olivia

**consanguineous (l. 68)** related by blood

**‘Tilly valley!’ (l. 68)** a nonsense word

**‘There dwelt a man in Babylon’ (l. 69)** popular broadside song in the 16th century

broadside song *(Bänkellied)*

**‘Beshrew me’ (l. 70)** curse me

**disposed (l. 71)** *here:* to be inclined to do smth.

**to gabble** **(l. 76)** to make noise

**tinkers** **(l. 76)** menders of pots and pans

**coziers (l. 78)**  shoemakers

**mitigation or remorse (l. 78)** *here:* softening

**‘Sneck up!’ (l. 80)** Get lost!

**round** **(l. 81)** blunt

**bade (l. 81)** instructed

**nothing allied to (l. 82-83)** *here:* totally rejects

**misdemeanours (l. 84)** misdeed, a lesser crime

**St. Anne (l. 100)** mother of Mary, asaint rejected by Puritans

**ginger** **(l. 100)** spice for ale *(Ingwer)*

**Th’art I’th’right (l. 101)** thou art in the right

**‘rub your chain with crumbs’ (l. 101)** a steward’s chain is their symbol of office and shows their status. Sir Toby tells him to polish it.

**contempt (l. 104)** strong dislike

**‘to give means…rule’** **(l. 104)** to get drinks for them

**‘shake your ears’ (l. 106)** a mean remarksuggesting that Malvolio is a donkey

**the field (l. 108)**  to a duel

**indignation (l. 111)** *here:* angry challenge

**to gull (l. 114)** to trick

**‘an ayword’ (l. 115)**  a famous fool

**common recreation** **(l. 115)** laughing-stock to everyone

**Possess us (l. 118)**  inform/tell us

**exquisite (l. 121)** exact, precise

**‘cons state…swarths’ (l. 125-126)** uses language to make himself sound important

**‘The best persuaded of himself’ (l. 126)** he has the highest opinion of himself

**crammed (l. 126-127)** tightly packed

**vice (l. 128)** the opposite of virtue, a bad character trait

**epistles (l. 131)** letters

**gait (l. 133)** walk

**complexion (l. 133)** colour of the skin, often indicating health or sickness

**our hands (l. 136)** our handwriting

**device (l. 137)** trick

**‘a horse of that colour’** **(l. 141)** just that

**physic (l. 145)** medicine, drug

**Act 2, Scene 4 (l. 89-120):**

**sides (l. 89)** body

**bide** **(l. 90)** to endure

**retention** **(l. 92)** *(noun)* the act of keeping something

**‘motion of the liver’** **(l. 94)** passionate feeling   
Humoral theory/Humorism: Humans possess 4 main bodily fluids (blood, yellow bile, black bile, phlegm), each being responsible for a state of mind and certain mood.   
blood: associated with liver; activeness, social, enthusiastic   
yellow bile: associated with gallbladder (*Gallenblase*); choleric, aggressive, ambitious   
black bile: associated with spleen (*Milz*); melancholy, depression   
phlegm: associated with brain and lungs; pus (*Eiter*), saliva, mucus (*Schleim*), sweat; reserved, low-spirit

**palate** **(l. 94)** taste only

**‘surfeit, cloyment, and revolt’** **(l. 95)** *(old use)* overeating, discomfort, and being sick

**to digest** **(l. 96), digestion (n.)** process of the body to turn food into substances it can use

**‘and that I owe Olivia’ (l. 99)** “that I have for Olivia”

**a blank** **(l. 106)** empty

**‘worm i’th’bud’** **(l. 107)** worm eating a rose bud

**damask** **(l. 108)** pink

**to pine (l. 108)** to miss something or somebody a lot, while feeling unhappy

**‘green and yellow melancholy’ (l. 109)** pale and sickly sadness

**Patience** **(l. 110)** Allegory of Patience – painting from 1552 by Giorgio Vasari; often used on tombstones in the Renaissance as a symbol of someone/the deceased observing and waiting patiently, often for their opportunity to do what they want to do

**monument** **(l. 110)** *(noun)* statue/tomb

**‘our shows are more than will’** **(l. 113)** men claim more than they feel

**still** **(l. 118)** always

**‘can give no peace’** **(l. 120)** will not give up

**denay** **(l. 120)** denial

**Act 2, Scene 5 (l. 30-118):**

**rogue (l. 31)** *(old)* someone who is dishonest

**‘pistol him’ (l. 32)** to shoot him

**Jezebel (l. 36)** *(old use)* shameless woman

**‘blows him’ (l. 37)** *here:* “inflates/puffs him up”

**state (l. 38)** chair for a person of power

**stone-bow (l. 39)** catapult

**branched (l. 40)** *(adj.)* embroidered

**‘fire and brimstone’ (l. 42)** used to mean the threat of Hell or damnation (after death)

**‘humour of state’ (l. 44)** appearance of power

**‘demure travel’ (l. 44-45)** here: cool look (at servants)

**a curtsy (l. 51)** usually a woman’s or girl’s formal greeting made by bending the knee with one foot in front of the other

**‘austere regard’ (l. 55)** cold, superior stare

**prerogative (l. 58)** *(noun)* right

**to amend (l. 60)** to change/rectify

**scab (l. 61)** *(old use)* a person or thing regarded with

contempt/hatred

**sinews (l. 62)** strength

**treasure (l. 63)** importance/values

**‘I warrant’ (l. 65)** used to express the speaker’s certainty about something

**employment (l. 68)** business

**‘woodcock near the gin’ (l. 69)** bird near the trap; specifically: the woodcock was a wading bird, thought of as stupid

**‘the spirit … intimate’ (l. 70)** “the god of emotion suggests”

**in contempt of (l. 73-74)** without

**‘wax … impressure’ (l. 77-78)** wax stamp

**Lucrece (l. 78)** seal-ring (representing Lucrece, the model of chastity); chastity (*Keuschheit*)

**liver (l. 80)** thought to be the source of passion   
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**numbers (l. 85)** verses, metre

**brock (l. 87)** *(old use)* badger

**gore (l. 90)** to wound, make bloody

**fustian (l. 92)** *(old use)* bombastic, pretentious

**wench (l. 93)** *(old)* ‘young woman’, often a servant

**dressed (l. 96)** prepared

**wing (l. 97)** *(old-use)* speed

**staniel (l. 98)** *(old use)* kestrel (hawk)

**formal capacity (l. 99-100)** normal intelligence

**to portend (l. 101)** to be a sign or warning of something that will happen

**Sowter (l. 104)** hound used in hunting

**rank (l. 104)** *(adj.)* smelly

**cur (l. 107)** *(old)* a man you dislike or have no respect for

**‘excellent at faults’ (l. 107-108)** good at sniffing out a trail

**‘no consonancy … probation’ (l. 110-111)** no consistency that stands up to test

**to cudgel (l. 113)** /ˈkʌdʒ(ə)l/ a short thick stick used for hitting people

**detraction (l. 115)** disaster

**simulation (l. 116)** appearance

**to crush (l. 117)** *here:* to force/pus

The annotations were designed with the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (<https://www.merriam-webster.com>), the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/>), the Cambridge Dictionary (https://dictionary.cambridge.org) and the Longman Dictionary (<https://www.ldoceonline.com>) and adapted by the authors.

1. **[*Twelfth Night*, CSS edition]** Shakespeare, William: *Twelfth Night* (Cambridge School Shakespeare, edited by Anthony Partington and Richard Spencer). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)