ROSALINDAre you not good?

ORLANDO I hope so.

ROSALIND Why then, can one desire too much of a good thing?—  
 Come, sister, you shall be the priest and marry us.—Give me your hand,  
 Orlando.—What do you say, sister?

ORLANDO Pray thee marry us.

CELIA I cannot say the words.

*Go to*that’s enough

ROSALIND You must begin “Will you, Orlando—”  
 CELIA Go to.—Will you, Orlando, have to wife this Rosalind?

ORLANDO I will.

ROSALIND Ay, but when?

ORLANDO Why now, as fast as she can marry us.

ROSALIND Then you must say “I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.”

*commission* authority  
(Rosalind is addressing the ‘priest’)  
*A girl goes before the priest*a girl who thinks or acts like she is already married when the ceremony is actually yet to be performed   
*possessed* married

*April* (a month of rain - symbolic of tears and sorrow)  
*May* (a month of celebration-symbolic of joy and festivities)  
*Barbary cock-pigeon* A fierce, territorialmale pigeon (aggressive and protective)   
*new-fangled* amused  
*Diana…fountain* (possible reference to a fountain with a statue of Diana in the late sixtheenth-century)   
*waywarder* less predicatble  
*Make* block  
*casement* window  
  
  
*Wit, whither wilt*an Elizabethan utterance meaning ‘stop talking’   
*check* rebuke  
*And...that?* What witty woman could have the wit to excuse that?

ORLANDO I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.

ROSALIND I might ask you for your commission, but I do take thee, Orlando, for my  
 husband. There’s a girl goes before the priest, and  
 certainly a woman’s thought runs before her actions.

ORLANDO So do all thoughts. They are winged.

ROSALIND Now tell me how long you

would have her after you have possessed her?

ORLANDO Forever and a day.

ROSALIND Say “a day” without the “ever.” No, no, Orlando, men are April when they

woo, December when they wed. Maids are May when they are maids, but the sky changes when they are wives. I will be more jealous of thee than a Barbary cock-pigeon over his hen, more clamorous than a parrot against rain, more newfangled than an ape, more giddy in my desires than a monkey. I will weep for nothing, like Diana in the fountain, and I will do that when you are disposed to be merry. I will laugh like a hyena, and that when thou art inclined to sleep.

ORLANDO But will my Rosalind do so?

ROSALIND By my life, she will do as I do.

ORLANDO O, but she is wise.

ROSALIND Or else she could not have the wit to do this. The wiser, the waywarder. Make

the doors upon a woman’s wit, and it will out at the casement. Shut that, and ’twill   
 out at the keyhole. Stop that, ’twill fly with the smoke out at the chimney.

ORLANDO A man that had a wife with such a wit, he might say “Wit, whither wilt?”

ROSALIND Nay, you might keep that check for it till you met your wife’s wit going to

your neighbor’s bed.

ORLANDO And what wit could wit have to excuse that?

ROSALIND Marry, to say she came to seek you there. You shall never take her without her

answer unless you take her without her tongue. O, that woman that cannot make her   
 fault her husband’s occasion, let her never nurse her child herself, for she will breed   
 it like a fool.

Text taken from: Shakespeare, William. As You Like It. Folger Shakespeare Library. Retrieved from <https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/as-you-like-it/read/> (last accessed 30/04/2025).   
Annotations adapted for target group from definitions generated with AI.