AS YOU LIKE IT ACT 5, SCENE 4

EXTRACT

JAQUES DE BOYS

Let me have audience for a word or two.

I am the second son of old Sir Rowland,

That bring these tidings to this fair assembly.

Duke Frederick, hearing how that every day

Men of great worth resorted to this forest,

Addressed a mighty power, which were on foot

In his own conduct, purposely to take

His brother here and put him to the sword;

And to the skirts of this wild wood he came,

Where, meeting with an old religious man,

After some question with him, was converted

Both from his enterprise and from the world,

His crown bequeathing to his banished brother,

And all their lands restored to them again

That were with him exiled. This to be true,

I do engage my life.

DUKE SENIOR

Welcome, young man.

Thou offer’st fairly to thy brothers' wedding:

To one his lands withheld, and to the other

A land itself at large, a potent dukedom. –

First, in this forest, let us do those ends

That here were well begun and well begot,

Shall share the good of our returnèd fortune

According to the measure of their states.

Meantime, forget this new-fall'n dignity,

And fall into our rustic revelry. –

Play, music. – And you brides and bridegrooms all,

With measure heaped in joy to th' measures fall.

JAQUES [*to Jacques de Boys*]

Sir, by your patience: if I heard you rightly,

The Duke hath put on a religious life

And thrown into neglect the pompous court.

JAQUES DE BOYS

He hath.

*tidings*good news

*power* army

*conduct* behaviour

*skirts* edge

*converted* having changed one’s mind

*enterprise* plan

*bequeathing* passing on / giving

*engage my life* swear on my life

*do those ends* finish the celebration

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15

AS YOU LIKE IT ACT 5, SCENE 4

EXTRACT

DUKE SENIOR

And, after, every of this happy number

That have endured shrewd days and nights with us

Shall share the good of our returnèd fortune

According to the measure of their states.

Meantime, forget this new-fall'n dignity,

And fall into our rustic revelry. –

Play, music. – And you brides and bridegrooms all,

With measure heaped in joy to th' measures fall.

JAQUES [*to Jacques de Boys*]

Sir, by your patience: if I heard you rightly,

The Duke hath put on a religious life

And thrown into neglect the pompous court.

JAQUES DE BOYS

He hath.

JAQUES

To him will I. Out of these convertites

There is much matter to be heard and learned.

(*To Duke.*)

You to your former honour I bequeath;

Your patience and your virtue well deserves it.

*the measure of their states* their social standing

*new-fall'n dignity* his new title (dukedom)

*rustic revelry* simple festivities

*convertites*person who changes their relgion/beliefs

*much matter* much to be said

*virtue* morality

35

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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.

Annotations adapted from: https://www.oed.com/?tl=true and https://dictionary.cambridge.org

*merit* worth

*allies* family

*well-deservèd bed* marriage

*wrangling*fighting

*Is but … victualled* has resources for two months

*abandoned* neglected

*rites* formal act or ceremony

convertites

matter

**virtue** morality

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JAQUES

(*To Orlando*.)

You to a love that your true faith doth merit.

(*To Oliver*.)

You to your land, and love, and great allies.

(*To Silvius*.)

You to a long and well-deservèd bed.

(*To Touchstone*.)

And you to wrangling, for thy loving voyage

Is but for two months victualled. – So to your pleasure.

I am for other than for dancing measures.

DUKE SENIOR

Stay, Jaques, stay.

JAQUES

To see no pastime, I. What you would have

I’ll stay to know at your abandoned cave. *He exits.*

DUKE SENIOR

Proceed, proceed. We’ll begin these rites,

As we do trust they’ll end, in true delights.

[*Dance. All but Rosalind*] *exit*. […]

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EXTRACT