

AS YOU LIKE IT ACT 5, SCENE 4

EXTRACT

JAQUES DE BOYS

1 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

5 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,

10 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,

15 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:

20 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,

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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DUKE SENIOR

And, after, every of this happy number

25 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*. –

30 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

35 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
religion/beliefs*

*much matter
much to be said*

virtue morality

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JAQUES

(To Orlando.)

40 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.

45 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**,

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

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

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

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Annotations adapted for target group from definitions generated with AI.