

As You Like It, Act 5 Scene 2, lines 14 – 77

The Forest of Arden

ORLANDO	Let your wedding be tomorrow; thither will I invite the Duke. Go you, and prepare Aliena, for, look you, here comes my Rosalind. (...)	15
ROSALIND, OLIVER	<i>as Ganymede</i> God save you, brother. And you, fair sister. (Exit)	
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> O, my dear Orlando, how it grieves me to see thee wear thy heart in a scarf.	20
ORLANDO	It is my arm.	
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> I thought thy heart had been wounded with the claws of a lion.	
ORLANDO	Wounded it is, but with the eyes of a lady.	
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> Did your brother tell you how I counterfeited to swoon when he showed me your handkercher?	25
ORLANDO	Ay, and greater wonders than that.	
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> O, I know where you are. (...)	30
	For your brother and my sister no sooner met but they looked; no sooner looked, but they loved; (...) and in no time sought marriage. (...)	35
ORLANDO	They are in the very wrath of love - clubs cannot part them. They shall be married tomorrow and I will bid the Duke to the nuptial. But O, how bitter a thing it is to look into happiness through another man's eyes. (...) Tomorrow, I shall be at the height of heart-heaviness. (...)	45
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> Why then, tomorrow, I cannot serve your turn for Rosalind?	
ORLANDO	I can live no longer by thinking.	
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> I will weary you then no longer with idle talking. (...)	55
	I have, since I was three year old, conversed with a magician. If you do love Rosalind so near the heart as your gesture cries it out,	65
	when your brother marries Aliena shall you marry her. I know into what straits of fortune she is driven, and it is not impossible to me, if it appear not inconvenient to you, to set her before your eyes tomorrow, human as she is, and without any danger.	70
ORLANDO	Speak'st thou in sober meanings?	
ROSALIND,	<i>as Ganymede</i> By my life, I do, which I tender dearly, though I say I am a magician. Therefore put you in your best array, bid your friends; for if you will be married tomorrow, you shall, and to Rosalind, if you will.	75

Text sheet - As You Like It - Act 5, Scene 2

Annotations:

best array - (clothing) Your finest, most elegant set of clothes—worn to look impressive at a special event; *claws* - (pl) a sharp curved nail on an animal's paw; *handkercher* (nonstandard for handkerchief) - a piece of cloth to wipe your nose or eyes; *nuptial* – synonym for marriage ceremony; *sober meanings* – words spoken in a calm, serious way; *straits of fortune* - metaphorical or literal narrow and difficult situations to pass or live through; *tender* (sth.) - to treat sb or sth with care, affection and kindness; *thee* - you; *thither* - in that direction; *thy* – your; to *converse* - to talk to sb; to *counterfeit* - to illegally copy; to *grieve* - to feel extremely sad; to *swoon* - to be overwhelmed by emotions that the person might even faint; *wrath* (of love) - extreme anger/rage/fury

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).



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The Forest of Arden: Modern English Version

To be accessed under the following link:

<https://www.litcharts.com/shakescleare/shakespeare-translations/as-you-like-it/act-5-scene-2>

