

**TRANIO**

I pray, sir, tell me, is it possible  
That love should of a sudden take such hold?

**LUCENTIO**

O Tranio, till I found it to be true,  
I never thought it possible or likely;  
But see, while idly I stood looking on,  
I found the effect of love in idleness:  
And now in plainness do confess to thee,  
Tranio, I burn, I pine, I perish, Tranio,  
If I achieve not this young modest girl.  
Counsel me, Tranio, for I know thou canst;  
Assist me, Tranio, for I know thou wilt.

**TRANIO**

Master, you look'd so longly on the maid,  
Perhaps you mark'd not what's the pith of all.

**LUCENTIO**

O yes, I saw sweet beauty in her face,

**TRANIO**

Saw you no more? mark'd you not how her sister  
Began to scold and raise up such a storm  
That mortal ears might hardly endure the din?

**LUCENTIO**

Tranio, I saw her coral lips to move  
And with her breath she did perfume the air:  
Sacred and sweet was all I saw in her.

**TRANIO**

Nay, then, 'tis time to stir him from his trance.  
I pray, awake, sir: if you love the maid,  
Bend thoughts and wits to achieve her. Thus it stands:  
Her eldest sister is so curst and shrewd  
That till the father rid his hands of her,  
Master, your love must live a maid at home.

**LUCENTIO**

But art thou not advised, he took some care  
To get her cunning schoolmasters to instruct her?

**TRANIO**

Ay, marry, am I, sir; and now 'tis plotted.

**LUCENTIO**

I have it, Tranio.

**TRANIO**

Master, for my hand,  
Both our inventions meet and jump in one.

**LUCENTIO**

Tell me thine first.

**TRANIO**

You will be schoolmaster  
And undertake the teaching of the maid:  
That's your device.

**LUCENTIO**

It is: may it be done?

**TRANIO**

Not possible; for who shall bear your part,  
And be in Padua here Vincentio's son.

**LUCENTIO**

Basta; content thee, for I have it full.  
We have not yet been seen in any house,  
Nor can we lie distinguish'd by our faces  
For man or master; then it follows thus;  
Thou shalt be master, Tranio, in my stead,  
Uncase thee; take my colour'd hat and cloak:  
*They exchange clothes*  
When Biondello comes, he waits on thee;  
But I will charm him first to keep his tongue.

**TRANIO**

In brief, sir, sith it your pleasure is,  
And I am tied to be obedient;  
For so your father charged me at our parting,  
'Be serviceable to my son,' quoth he,  
Although I think 'twas in another sense;  
I am content to be Lucentio,  
Because so well I love Lucentio.

**LUCENTIO**

Tranio, be so, because Lucentio loves:  
And let me be a slave, to achieve that maid  
Whose sudden sight hath thrall'd my wounded eye.  
Here comes the rogue.