

MARIA, SIR TOBY BELCH, and SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK

- **Maria.** By my troth, Sir Toby, you must come in earlier o' nights: your cousin, my lady, takes great exceptions to your ill hours.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Why, let her except, before excepted.
- **Maria.** Ay, but you must confine yourself within the modest limits of order.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Confine! I'll confine myself no finer than I am: these clothes are good enough to drink in; and so be these boots too: an they be not, let them hang themselves in their own straps.
- **Maria.** That quaffing and drinking will undo you: I heard my lady talk of it yesterday; and of a foolish knight that you brought in one night here to be her wooer.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Who, Sir Andrew Aguecheek?
- **Maria.** Ay, he.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** He's as tall a man as any's in Illyria.
- **Maria.** What's that to the purpose?
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Why, he has three thousand ducats a year.
- **Maria.** Ay, but he'll have but a year in all these ducats: he's a very fool and a prodigal.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Fie, that you'll say so! he plays o' the viol-de-gamboys, and speaks three or four languages word for word without book, and hath all the good gifts of nature.
- **Maria.** He hath indeed, almost natural: for besides that he's a fool, he's a great quarreller: and but that he hath the gift of a coward to allay the gust he hath in quarrelling, 'tis thought among the prudent he would quickly have the gift of a grave.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** By this hand, they are scoundrels and subcontractors that say so of him. Who are they?

- **Maria.** They that add, moreover, he's drunk nightly in your company.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** With drinking healths to my niece: I'll drink to her as long as there is a passage in my throat and drink in Illyria: he's a coward and a coystrill that will not drink to my niece till his brains turn o' the toe like a parish-top. What, wench! Castiliano vulgo! for here comes Sir Andrew Agueface.

[Enter SIR ANDREW]

- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** Sir Toby Belch! how now, Sir Toby Belch!
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Sweet Sir Andrew!
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** Bless you, fair shrew.
- **Maria.** And you too, sir.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Accost, Sir Andrew, accost.
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** What's that?
- **Sir Toby Belch.** My niece's chambermaid.
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** Good Mistress Accost, I desire better acquaintance.
- **Maria.** My name is Mary, sir.
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** Good Mistress Mary Accost,—
- **Sir Toby Belch.** You mistake, knight; 'accost' is front her, board her, woo her, assail her.
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** By my troth, I would not undertake her in this company. Is that the meaning of 'accost'?
- **Maria.** Fare you well, gentlemen.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** An thou let part so, Sir Andrew, would thou mightst never draw sword again.
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** An you part so, mistress, I would I might never draw sword again. Fair lady, do you think you have fools in hand?

- **Maria.** Sir, I have not you by the hand.

[Exit]

- **Sir Toby Belch.** O knight thou lackest a cup of canary: when did I see thee so put down?
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** Never in your life, I think; unless you see canary put me down. Methinks sometimes I have no more wit than a Christian or an ordinary man has: but I am a great eater of beef and I believe that does harm to my wit.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** No question.
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** An I thought that, I'd forswear it. I'll ride home to-morrow, Sir Toby.
- **Sir Toby Belch.** Pourquoi, my dear knight?
- **Sir Andrew Aguecheek.** What is 'Pourquoi'? do or not do? I would I had bestowed that time in the tongues that I have in fencing, dancing and bear-baiting: O, had I but followed the arts!