

*Twelfth Night* IV,iii,1-35 from The Puzzling Life of Edward de Vere, Mike Stepniewski  
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No one writes like de Vere unless by imitation. Even then, if not based on ‘Succession Matters’, and without his highly specific metonymy, the imitation will be an obvious fake. These features are the writers signature or authorization, and will be found on each page of authentic ‘Shake-speare’; here’s a fine example:

Original

Gloss

- 1 *Sebastian* This is the *ayre* that is the glorious *Sunne*,  
*Sebastian* ***This is the heir that is the glorious Son,***
- 2 This *pearle* she gave me, I do feel't, and see't, [peer + earl: specific rank below royalty], [int. = "I do fealty and seat,"],  
***This Earldom she gave me, I do fealty and seat,***
- 3 And though 'tis *wonder* that enwraps me thus, [wonder: first in a hierarchy; wordplay: Tudor]  
***And though 'tis Primacy that envelopes me in this state,***
- 4 Yet 'tis *not madness*. Where's *Anthonio then*, (?) [yet: ever, still] [St. Anthony: patron saint of lost articles and missing persons]  
***'Tis Never derangement. Where's St. Anthony [who might discover ourselves]?***
- 5 I could not find him at the *Elephant*, [Elephant: Elephantiasis, illness of deformed features, thickened skin.]  
***I could not find him for his disfigured hide,***
- 6 Yet *there* he was, and *there* I found this *credit*, [credit: give credence to a person or thing, acknowledgement, assignment]  
***(Still) th'heir he was, and [in] th'heir I found his assignment,***
- 7 That he did *range* the town to seek *me* out,  
***That he did roam about the town to seek me out,***
- 8 His counsel now might do me golden service,  
***His counsel now might be: 'Tu' d'or me service,***
- 9 For though my soul disputes *well* with my sense, [well: Spring, ring, Ver]  
***For though my soul disputes my Vere-y sense,***
- 10 That this may *be* some error, but no madness, [may: May, Spring; also Mary?]  
***That this May is Somer-Ore, except for derangement,***
- 11 Yet doth this accident and *flood* of Fortune, [yet: ever, still] [flood: overflowing, multiplicity]  
***Ever doth this accident and multiplicity of Fortune,***
- 12 So far exceed *all instance*, *all discourse*, [so: metonym for Tudor progeny, what follows] [all: metonym for Royal (Tudor) Family]  
***'Tu' future generations exceed [Roi]All precedent, [Roi]All reason,***
- 13 That I am ready to *distrust mine eyes*, [mine: gold, ore, d'or] [eyes: overlords of the Tudor Monarchy—Cecil, Dudley]  
***That I Am, ready to dispossess 'Ore' overlords,***
- 14 And wrangle with my reason that persuades me  
***And quarrel with my own judgement that persuades me***
- 15 To any other *trust*, but that I am *mad*, [trust: nominal ownership of property]  
***'Tu' any nominal receiver, except that I am deranged,***
- 16 Or else, the Lady's mad; yet if 'twere so,  
***'Ore' otherwise the 'Peace Lady's deranged; 'Still', if 'two-heir' descent,***
- 17 She could not *sway her house*, command her followers,  
***She could not govern her blood relations, command her followers,***
- 18 Take, and give back affairs, and their dispatch,  
***Take, and give back functions, their organization [and conclusion],***
- 19 With such a smooth, discreet, and stable bearing  
***With such a smooth, discreet, and stable bearing***
- 20 As I perceive she does; there's *something* in't [something: metonym for 'Thing that is otherwise Seymour, Somer]  
***Being that I am and perceive she does; there's 'Somer-thing' in't***
- 21 That is *deceivable*. But here the Lady comes. [deceivable, 'de': from, descent from + ceivable: 'may be understood']  
***That apprehends 'de'. Otherwise comes 'the Lady'.***

The clever allusion to St. Anthony that plays on Anthony's name is a real corker.

Note:

- 12 instance: 'precedent, example'  
discourse: 'reason\*'; alt.: (*Latin*) *discors*: disagreeing, discordant.

Now comes a more speculative reading—another layer—yet almost certainly intended. I say 'intended' because 'Shake-speare', as a linguist, regards words as assemblages of etymons and morphemes rather than discrete 'wholes'. This explains his facility with wordplay.

- 16 ; yet if 'twere so,  
; '*Still... if two-heir descent*,
- 17 She could not sway her house, command her followers,  
*She could not lay her blood relations, rule her harlotry,*
- 18 Take, and give back affaires, and their dispatch,  
*To rape, and redress rape, and th'heir execution,*
- 19 With such a smooth, discreet, and stable bearing [*keep stable: minding a woman's chastity*] [*bearing: (metonym) R. Dudley*]  
*With such an insinuating, guileful, and unchaste chastity minder (Dudley)*
- 20 As I perceive she does; *there's something in't*  
*Being that I am, I apprehend that she does; th'heir has a 'Sommer-Thing' in't*
- 21 That is deceivable.  
*That apprehends 'de'.*

Note:

- 18 *rapĕre* (*Latin*): 'to take, to seize'  
*reddĕre* (*Latin*): 'to give back'

Sebastian bursts forth with that flash of 'ayre' and 'Sunne' like he 'meane[s] well' (*Olivia*), *IV.iii.22*. This is straightforward enough; but what does the modern editor do with Olivia's response?:

Plight me the full assurance of *your faith*,  
That *my most jealous and too doubtful soul*  
May live at *peace*. *IV.iii.26-8*

There's 'Some-thing' about '[Sey]most' and 'Tu-doubtful soul' and 'Spring' living Too 'Tu' peacefully, I suppose... At any rate, Sebastian, "having sworn truth, *ever* will be true." *IV.iii.33*; as E.Ver, that's good to know.

*Twelfth Night* is a play without strong indebtedness to previous works. One point of interest that arises from this is the naming of characters; this cast is largely original, derived from Latin, and pure de Vere.

**Orsino**: *surname fragment, metonym Aur[um]*, ore, or, [d]or: gold + *sĭno*: (*Latin*) 'to place, put down, set down'; alt.: or + *sĭnĕ* 'without'; hence, 'Without Gold', or 'Ore set below'. The name may have been suggested from Virginio Orsino, Duke of Bracciano, but as with the other principles in *Twelfth Night*, is likely Latin derived.

**Sebastian**: *latin wordplay sĕ*: as reflexive pronoun: himself, herself, itself, themselves + *bastion*: figurative 'an institution, place, or person strongly defending or upholding particular principles; hence 'He that defends himself'; as reciprocal pronoun? (*Greek*) *Sebastos*: 'venerable'; from *sebas*: 'awe, reverence, dread'; *sebomai*: 'to feel awe, scruple, be ashamed'; *Sebastos*: greek translation of Augustus: used by Roman emperors.

**Olivia**: *ōlĭva*: first recorded use in *Twelfth Night*; olive, an olive branch ancient symbol of peace (since 5th cent. BC); Mars Pacifer, the peaceful side of Mars also carried the olive branch; probably identifies Olivia as Elizabeth, wedded to the 'Peace Party' (political faction) of William Cecil.

**Viola**: *vĭolare*: 'to treat with violence, violate, outrage, injure'; *vĭolatĭo*: 'an injury, violation, profanation'

**Anthony**: allusion to St. Anthony, patron saint of lost articles and missing persons.

**Malvolio**: (*Latin*) *mālus*: 'bad, evil' + *vōlo*: 'to wish, to be willing'; hence 'ill-wisher'.

**Feste**: (*Latin*) *festĭvus*: merry, good-humored, cheerful.