

67 *To Hermione.* Give me the boy. I am glad you did  
 68 not nurse him.  
 69 Though he does bear some signs of me, yet you  
 70 Have too much blood in him.

71 HERMIONE What is this? Sport?

LEONTES, *to the Ladies*

72 Bear the boy hence. He shall not come about her.  
 73 Away with him, and let her sport herself  
 74 With that she's big with, (*to Hermione*) for 'tis  
 75 Polixenes  
 76 Has made thee swell thus.

*A Lady exits with Mamillius.*

77 HERMIONE But I'd say he had not,  
 78 And I'll be sworn you would believe my saying,  
 79 Howe'er you lean to th' nayward.

80 LEONTES You, my lords,  
 81 Look on her, mark her well.  
 82 Be but about  
 83 To say 'she is a goodly lady,' and  
 84 The justice of your hearts will thereto add  
 85 'Tis pity she's not honest, honourable:'  
 86 Praise her but for this her without-door form,  
 87 Which on my faith deserves high speech, and straight  
 88 The shrug, the hum or ha, these petty brands  
 89 That calumny doth use—O, I am out—  
 90 That mercy does, for calumny will sear  
 91 Virtue itself: these shrugs, these hums and ha's,  
 92 When you have said 'she's goodly,' come between  
 93 Ere you can say 'she's honest:' but be 't known,  
 94 From him that has most cause to grieve it should be,  
 95 She's an adult'ress.

96 HERMIONE Should a villain say so,  
 97 The most replenished villain in the world,  
 98 He were as much more villain. You, my lord,  
 99 Do but mistake.

100 LEONTES You have mistook, my lady,  
 101 Polixenes for Leontes. —I have said  
 102 She's an adult'ress; I have said with whom.  
 103 More, she's a traitor, and Camillo is  
 104 A federary with her, and one that knows  
 105 What she should shame to know herself  
 106 But with her most vile principal: that she's  
 107 A bed-swerver, even as bad as those  
 108 That vulgars give bold'st titles; ay, and privy  
 109 To this their late escape.

110 HERMIONE No, by my life,  
 111 Privy to none of this. How will this grieve you,

112 When you shall come to clearer knowledge, that  
 113 You thus have published me! Gentle my lord,  
 114 You scarce can right me throughly then to say  
 115 You did mistake.

116 LEONTES No. If I mistake  
 117 In those foundations which I build upon,  
 118 The center is not big enough to bear  
 119 A schoolboy's top.—Away with her to prison.  
 120 He who shall speak for her is afar off guilty  
 121 But that he speaks.

122 HERMIONE There's some ill planet reigns.  
 123 I must be patient till the heavens look  
 124 With an aspect more favorable. Good my lords,  
 125 I am not prone to weeping, as our sex  
 126 Commonly are, the want of which vain dew  
 127 Perchance shall dry your pities. But I have  
 128 That honorable grief lodged here which burns  
 129 Worse than tears drown. Beseech you all, my lords,  
 130 With thoughts so qualified as your charities  
 131 Shall best instruct you, measure me; and so  
 132 The King's will be performed.

133 LEONTES Shall I be heard?

HERMIONE

134 Who is 't that goes with me? Beseech your Highness  
 135 My women may be with me, for you see  
 136 My plight requires it.—Do not weep, good fools;  
 137 There is no cause. When you shall know your  
 138 mistress  
 139 Has deserved prison, then abound in tears  
 140 As I come out. This action I now go on  
 141 Is for my better grace.—Adieu, my lord.  
 142 I never wished to see you sorry; now  
 143 I trust I shall.—My women, come; you have leave.

144 LEONTES Go, do our bidding. Hence!  
*Hermione exits, under guard, with her Ladies.*

LORD

145 Beseech your Highness, call the Queen again.

ANTIGONUS

146 Be certain what you do, sir, lest your justice  
 147 Prove violence, in the which three great ones suffer:  
 148 Yourself, your queen, your son.

149 LORD For her, my lord,  
 150 I dare my life lay down—and will do 't, sir,  
 151 Please you t' accept it—that the Queen is spotless  
 152 I' th' eyes of heaven, and to you—I mean  
 153 In this which you accuse her.

154 LEONTES Hold your peaces.