

Tenth Night

- Character Development of

Count Orsino (in the Ark of Love)

Act I. Scene 1

* He speaks in love with Lady Olivia.

"If the music be the font of love, play on" (I.i.1).

Act I. Scene 2

"Be clamorous and leap all civil bounds. Rather than make unprofitable return" (I.iv.24-25).

"O, then unfold the passion of my love, surprise her with discourse of my dear faith: It shall become thee well to act my woes; she will attend it better in thy words than in a number of more grand aspect."

Act I Scene 1

"Your master quits you, and for your service done him, so much against the mettle of your sex, so far beneath your soft and tender breeding, and since you call'd me master for so long, here is my hand: you shall from this time be your master's mistress" (I.i.340-345)

Act II. Scene 1

"Give me some music. Now good mornin, friends [I] think it did please my passion much, more than light airs and recollected terms of these most brief and giddy-paced times: come, but our verse" (II.iv.1-7).

"Tell her, my love, more noble than the world, prizes not quantity of dirty lands; The parts that fortune hath bestow'd upon her, tell her, I hold as quality as fortune; But first that miracle and queen of gems that native prince her in attracts my soul" (II.iv.91-96)

"There's no woman's sides [I...] As love doth give my heart, no woman's heart So big, to hold so much; they lack retention [I...] But mine is as hungry as the sea. And can digest as much: make no compare [I...] (II.iv.104-113)
"My love can give no place, bid no deny" (II.iv.134)

* Count Orsino's love intentions are genuine and fervent. His desperate need for love drives him to this seemingly weak and almost pathetic character. He has big heart for passion. As a great Romanticist, he idealizes the great love of a Shakespearean play.