

## Activity 16.3 - *Thou and you in Much Adoe About Nothing*

DON PEDRO See see, heere comes the man we went to seeke.

CLAUDIO Now signior, what newes?

- Benedicke pointedly ignores Claudio by addressing Don Pedro

BENEDICKE (*to Don Pedro*) Good day my Lord.

- Don Pedro is “Prince of Aragon” and therefore the social superior of both Claudio and Benedicke. He welcomes Benedicke with *you*, but immediately after drops into the familiar *thou*.

DON PEDRO Welcome signior, **you** are almost come to parte almost a fray.

CLAUDIO Wee had likt to haue had our two noses snapt off with two old men without teeth.

DON PEDRO Leonato and his brother what thinkst **thou**? had we fought, I doubt we should haue beene too yong for them.

- Benedicke in reply uses *you* as the plural pronoun - he is addressing both men:

BENEDICKE In a false quarrell there is no true valour, I came to seeke **you** both.

- Claudio does not suspect any change in Benedicke’s attitude to him, and uses the familiar *thou/thee* as usual:

CLAUDIO We haue beene vp and downe to seeke **thee**, for we are high prooffe melancholie, and would faine haue it beaten away, wilt **thou** vse **thy** wit?

BENEDICKE It is in my scabberd, shal I drawe it?

- Neither Don Pedro nor Claudio yet understand Benedicke’s mood and continue to joke:

DON PEDRO Doest **thou** weare **thy** wit by **thy** side?

CLAUDIO Neuer any did so, though very many haue been beside their wit, I will bid **thee** drawe, as wee doe the minstrels, draw to pleasure vs.

DON PEDRO As I am an honest man he lookes pale, art **thou** sicke, or angry?

CLAUDIO What, courage man: what though care kild a catte, **thou** hast mettle enough in **thee** to kill care.

- Benedicke’s reply and his later responses are marked by his formal use of *you/your*:

BENEDICKE Sir, I shall meete **your** wit in the careere, and **you** charge it against me, I pray **you** chuse another subiect.

CLAUDIO Nay then giue him another staffe, this last was broke crosse.

DON PEDRO By this light, he chaunges more and more, I thinke he be angry indeed.

CLAUDIO If he be, he knowes how to turne his girdle.

BENEDICKE (*aside to Claudio*) Shall I speake a word in **your** eare?

CLAUDIO God blesse me from a challenge.

BENEDICKE **You** are a villaine, I ieast not, I will make it good howe **you** dare, with what **you** dare, and when **you** dare: doe me right, or I will protest **your** cowardise: **you** haue killd a sweete Lady, and her death shall fall heaue on **you**, let me heare from **you**.

- Claudio has by now realised Benedicke's antagonism, and replies with *you*.

CLAUDIO Well I wil meet **you**, so I may haue good cheare.

- Don Pedro partly overhears Benedicke's "aside" to Claudio,

DON PEDRO What, a feast, a feast?

CLAUDIO I faith I thanke him he hath bid me to a calues head & a capon, the which if I doe not carue most curiously, say my kniffe's naught, shall I not find a woodcoke too?

BENEDICKE Sir **your** wit ambles well, it goes easily.

- but has clearly not understood the changed relationship between the two other men, and continues to joke familiarly with and about Benedicke:

DON PEDRO Ile tell **thee** how Beatrice praised **thy** witte the other day: I said **thou** hadst a fine witte, true said she, a fine little one: no said I, a great wit: right saies she, a great grosse one: nay said I, a good wit, iust said she, it hurts no body: nay said I, the gentleman is wise: certaine said she, a wise gentleman: nay said I, he hath the tongues: that I beleue said shee, for he swore a thing to me on munday night, which hee forswore on tuesday morning, theres a double tongue theirs two tongues, thus did shee an houre together trans-shape **thy** particular vertues, yet at last she cōcluded with a sigh, **thou** wast the properst man in Italy.

CLAUDIO For the which shee wept heartily and saide she cared not.

DON PEDRO Yea that she did, but yet for all that, and if she did not hate him deadly, she would loue him dearely, the old mans daughter told vs all.

CLAUDIO All all, and moreouer, God sawe him when he was hid in the garden.

DON PEDRO But when shall we set the sauage bulles hornes on the sensible Benedicks head?

CLAUDIO Yea and text vnder-neath, here dwells Benedick the married man.

- Benedicke has taken no part in the previous banter and takes his leave formally, with a dismissive reference to Claudio's youth. He has used the formal *you* throughout the conversation.

BENEDICKE Fare **you** wel, boy, **you** know my minde, I wil leaue **you** now to **your** gossep-like humor, **you** breake iests as braggards do their blades, which God be thanked hurt not: (*to Don Pedro*) my Lord, for **your** many courtesies, I thanke **you**, I must discontinue **your** company, **your** brother the bastard is fled from Messina: **you** haue among **you**, kild a sweet and innocent lady: for my Lord Lacke-beard there, hee and I shal meet, and till then peace be with him. (*exit*)

DON PEDRO He is in earnest.

CLAUDIO In most profound earnest, and ile warrant **you**, for the loue of Beatrice.

DON PEDRO And hath challengde **thee**.

CLAUDIO Most sincerely.

DON PEDRO What a pretty thing man is, when he goes in his dublet and hose, and leaues off his wit!