

Taming of the Shrew – directed by Taurie Kinoshita

Petruchio has come to “wive it wealthily in Padua.” Here he meets Katherine, the woman he has set his sights on, for the first time.

PETRUCHIO

Good morrow, Kate- for that's your name, I hear.

KATHERINA

Well have you heard, but something hard of hearing:
They call me Katherine that do talk of me.

PETRUCHIO

You lie, in faith, for you are call'd plain Kate,
And bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate the curst;
But, Kate, the prettiest Kate in Christendom,
Kate of Kate Hall, my super-dainty Kate,
For dainties are all Kates, and therefore, Kate,
Take this of me, Kate of my consolation-
Hearing thy mildness prais'd in every town,
Thy virtues spoke of, and thy beauty sounded,
Yet not so deeply as to thee belongs,
Myself am mov'd to woo thee for my wife.

KATHERINA

Mov'd! in good time! Let him that mov'd you hither
remove you hence. I knew you at the first you were a
moveable.

PETRUCHIO

Why, what's a moveable?

KATHERINA

A join'd-stool.

PETRUCHIO

Thou hast hit it. Come, sit on me.

KATHERINA

Asses are made to bear, and so are you.

PETRUCHIO

Women are made to bear, and so are you.

More banter between Petruchio and Kate.

PETRUCHIO

Come, come, you wasp; i' faith, you are too angry.

KATHERINA

If I be waspish, best beware my sting.

PETRUCHIO

My remedy is then to pluck it out.

KATHERINA

Ay, if the fool could find it where it lies.

PETRUCHIO

Who knows not where a wasp does wear his sting?
In his tail.

KATHERINA

In his tongue.

PETRUCHIO

Whose tongue?

KATHERINA

Yours, if you talk of tales; and so farewell.

PETRUCHIO

What, with my tongue in your tail? Nay, come again, good
Kate; I am a gentleman.

Petruchio details his plan for “taming” Kate to the audience.

PETRUCHIO

And woo her with some spirit when she comes!
Say that she rail, why then I'll tell her plain
She sings as sweetly as a nightingale.
Say that she frown, I'll say she looks as clear
As morning roses newly washed with dew.
Say she be mute and will not speak a word,
Then I'll commend her volubility
And say she uttereth piercing eloquence.
If she do bid me pack, I'll give her thanks
As though she bid me stay by her a week.
If she deny to wed, I'll crave the day
When I shall ask the banns, and when be married.
But here she comes—and now, Petruchio, speak.

Christopher Sly suspects he is being gaslit by a group of lords playing a prank, telling him he is also a lord.

CHRISTOPHER SLY

What, would you make me mad? Am not I Christopher
Sly, old Sly's son of Burton Heath, by birth a peddler, by
education a cardmaker, by transmutation a bearherd, and
now by present profession a tinker? Ask Marian Hacket,
the fat alewife of Wincot, if she know me not! If she say I
am not fourteen pence on the score for sheer ale, score me
up for the lying'st knave in Christendom. What, I am not
bestraught! Here's—

Kate chastens the other spouses for not being as devoted to their husbands as she is.

KATHERINA

Fie, fie! Unknit that threat'ning unkind brow,
And dart not scornful glances from those eyes
To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor.
Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,
Thy head, thy sovereign, one that cares for thee,
And for thy maintenance commits his body
To painful labor both by sea and land,
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,
Whilst thou liest warm at home, secure and safe,
And craves no other tribute at thy hands
But love, fair looks, and true obedience—
Too little payment for so great a debt.
Such duty as the subject owes the prince,
Even such a woman oweth to her husband;
And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour,
And not obedient to his honest will,
What is she but a foul contending rebel
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?
I am ashamed that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace,
Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.
Come, come, you froward and unable worms!
Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot,
And place your hands below your husband's foot;
In token of which duty, if he please,
My hand is ready, may it do him ease.