DON PEDRO
See, see; here comes the man we went to seek.

Enter BENEDICK

CLAUDIO
Now, signior, what news?

BENEDICK
Good day, my lord.

DON PEDRO
Welcome, signior: you are almost come to part
almost a fray.

CLAUDIO
We had like to have had our two noses snapped off
with two old men without teeth.

DON PEDRO
Leonato and his brother. What thinkest thou? Had
we fought, I doubt we should have been too young for them.

BENEDICK
In a false quarrel there is no true valour. I came
to seek you both.

CLAUDIO
We have been up and down to seek thee; for we are
high-proof melancholy and would fain have it beaten
away. Wilt thou use thy wit?

BENEDICK
It is in my scabbard: shall I draw it?

DON PEDRO
Dost thou wear thy wit by thy side?

CLAUDIO
Never any did so, though very many have been beside
their wit. I will bid thee draw, as we do the
minstrels; draw, to pleasure us.

DON PEDRO
As I am an honest man, he looks pale. Art thou
sick, or angry?

CLAUDIO
What, courage, man! What though care killed a cat,
thou hast mettle enough in thee to kill care.

BENEDICK
Shall I speak a word in your ear?

BENEDICK
[Aside to CLAUDIO] You are a villain; I jest not:
I will make it good how you dare, with what you
dare, and when you dare. Do me right, or I will
protest your cowardice. You have killed a sweet
lady, and her death shall fall heavy on you. Let me
hear from you.
CLAUDIO
Well, I will meet you, so I may have good cheer.

DON PEDRO
But when shall we set the savage bull's horns on the sensible Benedick's head?

CLAUDIO
Yea, and text underneath, 'Here dwells Benedick the married man'?

BENEDICK
Fare you well, boy: you know my mind. I will leave you now to your gossip-like humour: you break jests as braggarts do their blades, which God be thanked, hurt not. My lord, for your many courtesies I thank you: I must discontinue your company: your brother the bastard is fled from Messina: you have among you killed a sweet and innocent lady. For my Lord Lackbeard there, he and I shall meet: and, till then, peace be with him.

Exit

DON PEDRO
He is in earnest.

CLAUDIO
In most profound earnest; and, I'll warrant you, for the love of Beatrice.

DON PEDRO
And hath challenged thee.

CLAUDIO
Most sincerely.

DON PEDRO
But, soft you, let me be: pluck up, my heart, and be sad. Did he not say, my brother was fled?