

a brother, and, as much as in him lies, mines my gentility with my education. This is it, Adam, that grieves me; and the spirit of my father, which I think is within me, begins to mutiny against this servitude. I will no longer endure it, though yet I know no wise remedy how to avoid it. 20

*Enter Oliver.*

ADAM. Yonder comes my master, your brother.

ORL. Go apart, Adam, and thou shalt hear how he will shake me up. [Adam retires.] 25

OLI. Now, sir, what make you here?

ORL. Nothing. I am not taught to make anything.

OLI. What mar you then, sir?

ORL. Marry, sir, I am helping you to mar that which God made, a poor unworthy brother of yours, with idleness. 30

OLI. Marry, sir, be better employed, and be naught awhile!

ORL. Shall I keep your hogs and eat husks with them? What prodigal portion have I spent that I should come to such penury? 35

OLI. Know you where you are, sir?

ORL. O, sir, very well. Here in your orchard.

OLI. Know you before whom, sir?

ORL. Ay, better than him I am before knows me. I know you are my eldest brother, and in the gentle condition of 40

18 *mines* undermines. 19 *with* by means of. *my education* the way in which I am brought up. 25-6 *shake me up* abuse me violently, berate me. 27 *make you are you doing*. 29 *What mar you* "Mar" was constantly used in alliterative antithesis to "make" [κ]. 30 *Marry* A common interjection, originally an oath by the Virgin Mary, but used lightly as a mere expletive [κ]. 32 *be naught awhile* A common form of curse equivalent to "Go to the mischief" [κ]. 33 *eat husks* like the Prodigal Son (LUKE, xv, 16) [κ]. 33-4 *What prodigal . . . spent* A condensed form of expression equivalent to "Am I like the Prodigal, who received his portion and spent it in riotous living?" Orlando's "poor a thousand crowns," he reminds his brother, allowed no lavish spending, and even that sum he had not yet received (lines 65-6) [κ]. 36 *where* in whose presence. Orlando purposely misinterprets [κ]. 37 *orchard* garden. 40-1 *and in the gentle . . . know me* and, as to gentility of race, you ought to regard me in the same way —

blood you should so know me. The courtesy of nations allows you my better in that you are the first born; but the same tradition takes not away my blood, were there twenty brothers betwixt us. I have as much of my father in me as you, albeit I confess your coming before me is nearer to his reverence. 45

OLI. What, boy! [Strikes him.]

ORL. Come, come, elder brother, you are too young in this. [Seizes him.]

OLI. Wilt thou lay hands on me, villain?

ORL. I am no villain. I am the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys; he was my father, and he is thrice a villain that says such a father begot villains. Wert thou not my brother, I would not take this hand from thy throat till this other had pull'd out thy tongue for saying so. Thou hast rail'd on thyself. 55

ADAM. [comes forward] Sweet masters, be patient! For your father's remembrance, be at accord!

OLI. Let me go, I say.

ORL. I will not till I please. You shall hear me. My father charg'd you in his will to give me good education. You have train'd me like a peasant, obscuring and hiding from me all gentlemanlike qualities. The spirit of my father grows strong in me, and I will no longer endure it. Therefore allow me such exercises as may become a 60

that is, acknowledge me as a brother and not think me your inferior [κ]. 41 *The courtesy of nations* the polite conventions of the world. These, Orlando declares, are mere matters of traditional custom; they have nothing to do with nature. The injustice of the privileges attached to primogeniture is exposed by Edmund in his matchless soliloquy in KING LEAR (I.II.2-6) [κ]. 45-6 *is nearer to his reverence* entitles you to more of the respect due to a father [κ]. 48 *you are too young* you act too much like a hot-headed youngster [κ]. 49 *villain* Orlando takes the word in the sense of "serf," its original meaning. 56 *Sweet* beloved. 59 *I will not till I please* The ease with which Orlando, the "boy" holds his elder brother in spite of his struggling, prepares us for his prowess against Charles the wrestler [κ]. 62 *qualities* accomplishments. 64 *exercises* activities. *become* be fitting for.