



That man that hath a tongue, I say is no man

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Valentine:

"That man that hath a tongue, I say is no man,
If with his tongue he cannot win a woman."

[The Two Gentlemen of Verona \(III, i, 104-105\)](#)

Valentine speaks these words to the Duke of Milan, with whose daughter he has fallen madly in love. Proteus betrayed his friend Valentine by telling the Duke about Valentine's love of Silvia and their plan to run off to wed (despite the Duke's preference of the wealthy merchant Thurio for a son-in-law). Proteus has betrayed his friend, not out of any loyalty to the Duke, in whose court these two gentlemen of Verona have come to be educated, but because Proteus himself is in love with Silvia and wants to prevent her running off with Valentine. The Duke plans to trick Valentine, by pretending to be in love with a woman and needing advice from the young man on how to win her love. Valentine falls for it and begins by urging the Duke to write love letters, and then proceeds to divulge his own plans on how to conceal a rope ladder with which to steal an imprisoned lover for elopement. The Duke then discovers Valentine's love letters and rope ladder, and banishes him at once.

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