



## There was never yet philosopher that could endure the toothache patiently

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**Legnato:**

Therefore give me no counsel,  
My griefs cry louder than advertisement.

**Antonio:**

Therein do men from children nothing differ.

**Leonato:**

I pray thee peace, I will be flesh and blood;  
For there was never yet philosopher  
That could endure the toothache patiently,  
However they have writ the style of gods,  
And made a push at chance and sufferance.

[Much Ado About Nothing Act 5, scene 1, 31–38](#)

Debating with his brother the merits of stoic endurance, Leonato scoffs. Having watched as his daughter was accused by her fiancé, on the morning of her wedding, of fornication; having had his own honor thus indirectly besmirched; having been taken in by the accusations and then having threatened his daughter; and after she has nearly died of shame, Leonato is in no mood to forgive and forget. Antonio insists that it is childish to indulge in grief and self-pity. Leonato retorts that however much even philosophers might pretend to godlike detachment from the pains and passions of life, they nonetheless howl when they've got a toothache.

Obscurely, Leonato sneers at the philosophers' having "made a push at chance and sufferance"; "push" could either be a form of "pish"—a scornful dismissal, as in "pish-posh"—or could mean "counterattack, resistance." While stoics disdain the reversals of chance and the gnawings of "sufferance" (suffering), they're really just using highfalutin language to fool themselves.

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