



Thou art a votary to fond desire

©2009 eNotes.com, Inc. or its Licensors. Please see [copyright information](#) at the end of this document.

Valentine:

"Thou art a votary to fond desire."

[The Two Gentlemen of Verona \(I, i, 52\)](#)

In the opening scene of this comedy, we met the two gentlemen: Valentine and Proteus. Valentine is off to Milan to study in the Duke's court, while Proteus, who is madly in love with Julia, has opted to stay home and wallow in his misery. It was a routine custom in those days to send young people to serve in the court of some noble person. In this way, they learned good manners, received an education, and often they met potential marriage partners. Proteus will have none of that, however, as he is hopelessly in love with Julia in Verona, the sort of love that is paralyzing and self-pitying. Valentine makes fun of him, and teases that such love has made Proteus effeminate, weak, and lightheaded. "Thou art a votary [devoted worshipper] to fond [foolish] desire," Valentine accuses, and departs for Milan where he will soon succumb to passion of his own for the Duke's daughter.

Copyright Notice

©2009 eNotes.com, Inc.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this work covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, Web distribution or information storage retrieval systems without the written permission of the publisher.

For complete copyright information, please see the online version of this work:
<http://www.enotes.com/shakespeare-quotes>