

# *The Winter's Tale*

Act I, sc. 2 (line 179)

## LEONTES

To your own bents dispose you: you'll be found,  
Be you beneath the sky.

*Aside*

I am angling now,  
Though you perceive me not how I give line.  
Go to, go to!  
How she holds up the neb, the bill to him!  
And arms her with the boldness of a wife  
To her allowing husband!

*Exeunt POLIXENES, HERMIONE, and Attendants*

Gone already!  
Inch-thick, knee-deep, o'er head and ears a fork'd one!  
Go, play, boy, play: thy mother plays, and I  
Play too, but so disgraced a part, whose issue  
Will hiss me to my grave: contempt and clamour  
Will be my knell. Go, play, boy, play.  
There have been,  
Or I am much deceived, cuckolds ere now;  
And many a man there is, even at this present,  
Now while I speak this, holds his wife by the arm,

That little thinks she has been sluiced in's absence  
And his pond fish'd by his next neighbour, by  
Sir Smile, his neighbour: nay, there's comfort in't  
Whiles other men have gates and those gates open'd,  
As mine, against their will. Should all despair  
That have revolted wives, the tenth of mankind  
Would hang themselves. Physic for't there is none;  
It is a bawdy planet, that will strike  
Where 'tis predominant; and 'tis powerful, think it,  
From east, west, north and south: be it concluded,  
No barricado for a belly; know't;  
It will let in and out the enemy  
With bag and baggage: many thousand on's  
Have the disease, and feel't not. How now, boy!