

Original Version

The Taming of The Shrew: Act III (scene ii)

On stage: Tranio, Lucentio, Biondello, Attendants

Enter Gremio

TRANIO: Signior Gremio, came you from the church?

GREMIO: As willingly as e'er I came from school.

TRANIO: *(as Lucentio)* And is the bride and bridegroom coming home?

GREMIO: A bridegroom, say you? 'Tis a groom indeed,
A grumbling groom, and that the girl shall find.

TRANIO: Curster than she? Why, 'tis impossible.

GREMIO: Why, he's a devil, a devil, a very fiend.

TRANIO: Why, she's a devil, a devil, the devil's dam.

GREMIO: Tut, she's a lamb, a dove, a fool to him!

I'll tell you, Sir Lucentio: when the priest
Should ask if Katherine should be his wife,
"Ay, by gogs wouns!" quoth he, and swore so loud
That, all amazed, the priest let fall the book,
And as he stooped again to take it up,
The mad-brained bridegroom took him such a cuff
That down fell priest and book, and book and priest.
"Now take them up," quoth he, "if any list."

TRANIO: What said the wench when he rose again?

GREMIO: Trembled and shook, for why he stamped and swore

As if the vicar meant to cozen him.
But after many ceremonies done,
He calls for wine. "A health!" quoth he, as if
He had been aboard, carousing to his mates
After a storm; quaffed off the muscatel
And threw the sops all in the sexton's face,
Having no other reason
But that his beard grew thin and hungerly

And seemed to ask him sops as he was drinking.
This done, he took the bride about the neck
And kissed her lips with such a clamorous smack
That at the parting all the church did echo.
And I, seeing this, came thence for very shame,
And after me, I know, the rout is coming.
Such a mad marriage never was before.

Music plays

Hark, hark! I hear the minstrels play.

Enter Petruchio, Katherine, Bianca, Baptista, Hortensio, Grumio & train

PETRUCHIO: Gentlemen and friends, I thank you for you
I know you think to dine with me today
And have prepared great store of wedding cheer,
But so it is, my haste doth call me hence,
And therefore here I mean to take my leave.

BAPTISTA: Is 't possible you will away tonight?

PETRUCHIO: I must away today, before night come.
Make it no wonder. If you knew my business,
You would entreat me rather go than stay.
And, honest company, I thank you all,
That have beheld me give away myself
To this most patient, sweet and virtuous wife.
Dine with my father, drink a health to me,
For I must hence, and farewell to you all.

TRANIO: Let us entreat you stay till after dinner.

PETRUCHIO: It may not be

GREMIO: Let me entreat you.

PETRUCHIO: It cannot be

KATHERINE: Let me entreat you.

PETRUCHIO: I am content.

KATHERINE: Are you content to stay?

PETRUCHIO: I am content you shall entreat me stay,
But yet not stay, entreat me how you can.

KATHERINE: Now, if you love me, stay.

PETRUCHIO: Grumio, my horse.

GRUMIO: Ay, sir, they be ready. The oats have eaten the horses.

KATHERINE: Nay, then, Do what thou canst, I will not go today,
No, nor tomorrow, not till I please myself.
The door is open, sir. There lies your way.
You may be jogging whiles your boots are green.
For me, I'll not be gone till I please myself.
'Tis like you'll prove a jolly surly groom,
That take it on you at the first so roundly.

PETRUCHIO: O Kate, content thee. Prithee, be not angry.

KATHERINE: I will be angry. What hast thou to do?—
Father, be quiet. He shall stay my leisure.

GREMIO: Ay, marry, sir, now it begins to work.

KATHERINE: Gentlemen, forward to the bridal dinner.
I see a woman may be made a fool
If she had not a spirit to resist.

PETRUCHIO: They shall go forward, Kate, at thy command.—
Obey the bride, you that attend on her.
Go to the feast, revel and domineer,
Carouse full measure to her maidenhead,
Be mad and merry, or go hang yourselves.
But for my bonny Kate, she must with me.
Nay, look not big, nor stamp, nor stare, nor fret;
I will be master of what is mine own.
She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house,
My household stuff, my field, my barn,
My horse, my ox, my ass, my anything.
And here she stands, touch her whoever dare.
I'll bring mine action on the proudest he
That stops my way in Padua.—Grumio,

Draw forth thy weapon, we are beset with thieves.
Rescue thy mistress if thou be a man.—
Fear not, sweet wench, they shall not touch thee, Kate.
I'll buckler thee against a million.

Exuent Petruchio, Katherine & Grumio

BAPTISTA: Nay, let them go, a couple of quiet ones.
GREMIO: Went they not quickly, I should die with laughing.
TRANIO: Of all mad matches never was the like.
LUCENTIO: *(as Cambio)* Mistress, what's your opinion of your sister?
BIANCA: That, being mad herself, she's madly mated.
GREMIO: I warrant him, Petruchio is Kated.
BAPTISTA: Neighbors and friends, though bride and bridegroom wants
For to supply the places at the table,
You know there wants no junkets at the feast.
Lucentio, you shall supply the bridegroom's place,
And let Bianca take her sister's room.
TRANIO: Shall sweet Bianca practice how to bride it?
BAPTISTA: She shall, Lucentio. Come, gentlemen, let's go.

Exuent all

Modern Version

The Taming of The Shrew: Act III (scene ii)

On stage: Tranio, Lucentio, Biondello, Attendants

Enter Gremio

TRANIO: *(as Lucentio)* Mr. Gremio, are you coming from the church?

GREMIO As eagerly as I ever came from school.

TRANIO And will the bride and bridegroom be here soon?

GREMIO Bridegroom? This guy is more like the groom who cleans the stable—a grumbling groom at that, as the poor girl is discovering.

TRANIO *(speaking as Lucentio)* You mean he's worse than she is? That's not possible!

GREMIO No, he's a devil—a devil, I tell you! An utter fiend.

TRANIO No, she's a devil—a devil, I tell you. The devil's grandmother.

GREMIO Why, she's a lamb, a dove, a child compared to him! Picture this: when the priest asked Katherine if she would have him, he answered, "Hell, yes!" and swore so loud that the priest dropped the prayer book. Everyone froze, and as the priest stooped to pick it up again the lunatic bridegroom smacked him so hard that the priest and book went flying! Then he said, "Now pick them up—if anyone dares."

TRANIO What did the girl say when the priest got up?

GREMIO She trembled and shook because he stamped and swore and carried on as though the priest were trying to put something over on him. Finally, the ceremony done, he called for wine. "Good health!" he shouted, like some sailor aboard ship, carousing with his mates after a storm. Then he chugs the wine and throws the dregs in the sexton's face. Why? Because the fellow's beard looked thin, he said, and it seemed to be asking him for the dregs while he was drinking. Next he slung his arm around the bride's neck and kissed her with such a smack that when they parted the sound of their lips made the whole church echo. That was the limit for me. I got out of there as fast as I could. I know the rest of the crowd isn't far behind me. It's disgraceful! You never saw such a mockery of a marriage in your life!

Music plays

There go the musicians. They've started up.

Enter Petruchio and Katherine with Bianca, Baptista, Hortensio, Grumio and members of the wedding procession.

PETRUCHIO Gentlemen and friends, thanks for bothering to come. I know you expect me to stay to dinner and have prepared a celebratory feast, but as it happens I'm called away. So let me say goodbye.

BAPTISTA You're not thinking of leaving tonight, surely?

PETRUCHIO Not tonight—today. If you knew the reason, you'd understand and would urge me to go rather than stay. Good friends, I thank you all for coming to see me wed this patient, sweet, virtuous wife. Dine with my father and drink a health to me. I have to leave. Goodbye to you all.

TRANIO Please, stay till after dinner.

PETRUCHIO Can't do it.

GREMIO As a favor to me?

PETRUCHIO Nope.

KATHERINE As a favor to me?

PETRUCHIO I'm delighted.

KATHERINE Delighted to stay?

PETRUCHIO Delighted to hear you ask so nicely, but I won't stay in any case.

KATHERINE Look, if you love me, stay.

PETRUCHIO Grumio, get me my horse.

GRUMIO Yes, sir, they're ready. They've eaten themselves sick.

KATHERINE All right, then, do what you like. I won't leave today. Not tomorrow, either. I'll leave when I'm good and ready. The door is open, sir. Feel free to use it. Go on, wear your boots out! As for me, I'll leave when I like. If you're this high-handed to start with, I can imagine how arrogant you'll be as a husband.

PETRUCHIO Calm down, Kate. Please don't be angry.

KATHERINE I will be angry. What business is it of yours?—Father, be quiet. He'll stay as long as I say.

GREMIO Okay, now it starts.

KATHERINE Gentlemen, on to the bridal dinner. I see a woman may be made a fool of if she doesn't have nerve enough to stand up for herself.

PETRUCHIO They shall go in to the bridal dinner, Kate—they're yours to command. Obey the bride, guests! Go to the banquet: revel, feast, and carouse! Be wild and merry—or go to hell. But as for my beautiful Kate, she must come with me. No, don't puff out your chests and stamp and stare. I will be master of what belongs to me. She is my property, one of my possessions—just like my house and everything and my field, my barn, my horse, my ox, my donkey—anything of mine you care to name. Here she is; I dare you to touch her! I'll sue anyone in Padua who tries to stand in my way, no matter how powerful he is. Grumio, draw your sword! We are surrounded by thieves. Rescue your mistress! Prove yourself a man! Don't be afraid, sweet girl, I won't let them touch you. I'll protect you, Kate, against a million of them.

Petruchio, Katherine and Grumio exit.

BAPTISTA No, let them go. They're certainly a peaceful couple!

GREMIO If they hadn't left soon, I would have died laughing.

TRANIO Of all the mad matches, this is by far the craziest.

LUCENTIO *(as Cambio)* Mistress, what's your opinion of your sister?

BIANCA That since she's mad herself, she's married a madman.

GREMIO I guarantee you, Petruchio's going to suffer from his Kate.

BAPTISTA Neighbors and friends, though we don't have anyone for the bride and bridegroom's places at the table, you know there's nothing missing in the feast itself. *(Come, gentlemen, let's go in. (to Tranio)* Lucentio, you shall assume the bridegroom's place and let Bianca take her sister's seat.

TRANIO Sweet Bianca shall practice how to be a bride?

They all exit