

# THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

By William Shakespeare

## KATHARINA

Fie, fie! Unknit that threat'ning unkind brow,  
And dart not scornful glances from those eyes  
To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor!  
It blots thy beauty as frosts do bite the meads,  
Confounds thy fame as whirlwinds shake fair  
buds,

And in no sense is meet or amiable.  
A woman mov'd is like a fountain troubled,  
Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty;  
And while it is so, none so dry or thirsty  
Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it.  
Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper.  
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for  
Thee

And for thy maintenance; commits his body  
To painful labor both by sea and land,  
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,  
Whilst thou lie'st warm at home, secure and  
safe;

And craves no other tribute at thy hands  
But love, fair looks, and true obedience—  
Too little payment for so great a debt.  
Such duty as the subject owes the prince,  
Even such a woman oweth to her husband;  
And when she is forward, peevish, sullen, sour,  
And not obedient to his honest will,  
What is she but a foul contending rebel  
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?  
I am ashamed that women are so simple  
To offer war where they should kneel for  
Peace;

Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway  
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.  
Why are our bodies soft and weak and smooth,  
Unapt to toil and trouble in the world,  
But that our soft conditions and our hearts  
Should well agree with our external parts?  
Come, come, you forward and unable worms!  
My mind hath been as big as one of yours,  
My heart as great, my reason haply more,  
To bandy word for word and frown for frown;  
But now I see our lances are but straws,  
Our strength as weak, our weakness past  
Compare,  
That seeming to be most which we indeed  
Least are.  
Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot,  
And place your hands below your husband's  
Foot;  
In token of which duty, if he please,  
My hand is ready, may it do him ease.