

The Project Gutenberg eBook of A Merry Dialogue Declaringe the Properties of Shrowde Shrews and Honest Wives, by Desiderius Erasmus

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Title: A Merry Dialogue Declaringe the Properties of Shrowde Shrews and Honest Wives



Author: Desiderius Erasmus

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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A MERRY DIALOGUE DECLARINGE THE PROPERTIES OF SHROWDE SHREWS AND HONEST WIVES ***

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[Transcriber's Note: With the exception of hyphenation at the end of lines, the text version preserves the line breaks of the original; the html version has been treated similar to drama and starts a new paragraph for each change of speaker. An illustration of the title page is included to give an impression of the original.]

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Eulalia. God spede, & a thousand mine old acqueintāce. xantippa.

xan. As many agayn, my dere hert. Eulalia. me semets ye ar warē much faire now of late.

Eula. Saye you so? gyue you me a mocke at the first dash.

xan. Nay veryly but I take you so.

Eula. Happely mi new gown maketh me to loke fayrer then I sholde doe.

xan. Sothe you saye, I haue not sene a mynioner this many dayes, I reken it Englishe cloth.

Eu. It is english stuff and dyed in Venis.

xan. It is softer then sylke what an oriente purpel colore here is who gaue you so rich a gift.

Eu. How shoulde honeste women come by their gere? but by their husbandes.

xā. Happy arte thou that hathe suche an husband, but I wolde to god for his passyon, that I had maryed an husband of clowts, when I had married col my good mā.

Eula. Why say ye so. I pray you, are you at oddes now.

xā. I shal neuer be at one w^t him ye se how beggerly I go. I haue not an hole smock to put on my backe, and he is wel contente with all: I praye god I neuer come in heuen & I be not ashamed oftymes to shewe my head, when I se other wiues how net and trim they go that ar matched with farre porer mē then he is.

Eula. The apparell of honest wiues is not in the aray of the body, nor in the tirements of their head as saynte Peter the apostle teacheth vs (and that I learned a late at a sermon) but in good lyuyng and honest conuersacion and in the ornamentes of the soule, the cōmon buenes ar painted up, to please manye mennes eies we ar trime ynough yf we please our husbandes only.

xan. But yet my good man so euyll wylling to bestow ought vpon his wyfe, maketh good chere, and lassheth out the dowrye that hee hadde with mee no small pot of wine.

Eulaly, where vpon?

xantipha, wheron hym lykethe beste, at the tauerne, at the stewes and at the dyce.

Eulalia Peace saye not so.

xan. wel yet thus it is, then when he cōmeth home to me at midnight, longe watched for, he lyeth rowtyng lyke a sloyne all the leue longe nyght, yea and now and thē he all bespeweth his bed, and worse then I will say at this tyme.

Eulali. Peace thou dyshonesteth thy self, when thou doest dishonesteth thy husbād.

xantip. The deuyll take me bodye and bones but I had leuer lye by a sow with pigges, then with suche a bedfelowe.

Eulali. Doest thou not then take him vp, wel favoredly for stūbling.

Xantip. As he deserueth I spare no tonge.

Eulalia. what doth he thē.

xantip. At the first breake he toke me vp vengeably, trusting that he shoulde haue shakē me of and put me to scilence with his crabid wordes.

Eula Came neuer your hote wordes vnto hād strokes.

xantip. On a tyme we fel so farre at wordes y^t we wer almost by y^e eares together.

Eula what say you womā?

xan. He toke vp a staffe wandryng at me, as the deuill had bene on hym ready to laye me on the bones.

Eula. were thou not redye to ron in at the bēch hole.

xanti. Nay mary I warrant the. I gat me a thre foted stole in hand, & he had but ones layd his littell finger on me, he shulde not haue founde me lame. I woulde haue holden his nose to the grindstōe

Eulalia. A newe found shelde, ye wanted but youre dystaffe to haue made you a speare.

xantip. And he shoulde not greatlye a laughed at his parte.

Eulali. Ah my frynde. xantypa. that way is neither good nor godly,

xantippa what is neither good nor godly. yf he wyll not vse me, as hys wyfe: I wil not take him for my husbāde.

Eulalya. But Paule sayeth that wyues shoulde bee boner and buxome vnto their husbādes with all humylytye, and Peter also bryngethe vs an example of Sara, that called her husbāde Abrahame, Lorde.

xantippa. I know that as well as you thē y^e same paule say that men shoulde loue theyr wyues, as Christ loues his spouse the church let him do his duete I wil do myne.

Eula. But for all that, when the matter is so farre that the one muste forber the other it is reason that the woman giue place vnto the man,

xan. Is he meete to be called my husbāde that maketh me his vnderlynge and his dryuel?

Eula. But tel me dame xātip. Would he neuer offre the stripes after that

xātip. Not a stripe, and therin he was the wyser man for & he had he should haue repented euery vayne in hys harte.

Eulali. But thou offered him foule wordes plentie,

xantip. And will do.

Eula. What doth he y^e meane seasō.

xantip. What doth he sometye cowcheth an hogeshed, sometime he doth nothing but stande and laughe at me, other whyle takethe hys Lute wheron is scarslie three strynges layenge on that as fast as he may dryue because he would not here me.

Eula. Doeth that greue thee?

xantippa. To beyonde home, manie a tyme I haue much a do to hold my handes.

Eula. Neighbour. xantip. wylt thou gyue me leaue to be playn with the.

xantippa Good leaue haue you.

Eula. Be as bolde on me agayne our olde acqayntaunce and amite, euen frō our chyldhode, would it should be so.

xantippa. Trueth you saie, there was neuer woman kinde that I faouored more

Elaly Whatsoeuer thy husbād be, marke well this, chaunge thou canst not, In the olde lawe, where the deuill hadde cast aboone betwene the man and the wife, at the worste waye they myght be deuorsed, but now that remedie is past, euē till death depart you he must nedes be thy husbāde, and thou hys wyfe,

xan. Il mote they thryue & thei that taken away that liberty from vs

Eulalia. Beware what thou sayest, it was christes act.

Xā. I can euil beleue that

Eula. It is none otherwyse, now it is beste that eyther of you one beyng with an other, ye laboure to liue at reste and peace.

xantypa. Why? can I forgeue him a new,

Eu. It lieth great parte in the womē, for the orderinge of theyr husbandes.

xan. Leadest thou a mery life with thine.

Eula Now all is well.

xan. Ergo ther was somewhat to do at your fyrste metying

Eula. Neuer no greate busynes, but yet as it, happeneth now and than betwene man & womā, there was foule cloudes a loft, that might haue made a storme but that they were ouer blowen with good humanitie and wyse handlynge. Euery man hath hys maner and euery mā hath his seueral aptite or mynde, and thinkes hys owne way best, & yf we list not to lie there liueth no mā without faulte, which yf anie were elles, ywis in wedlocke they ought to know and not vtterly hated

xan, you say well,

Eulalya. It happeneth many times that loue dayes breketh betwene man and wife, before y^e one be perfittly knowē vnto the other beware of that in any wife, for when malice is ones begon, loue is but barely redressed agayne, namely, yf the mater grow furthe unto bytter checkes, & shamfull raylinges such things as are fastened with glew, yf a manne wyll all to shake them strayght waye whyle the glew is warme, they soone fal in peces, but after y^e glew is ones dried vp they cleue together so fast as anie thing, wherefore at the beginning a meanes must be made, that loue mai encrease and be made sure betwene y^e man & the wife, & that is best brought aboute by gentillesse and fayre condicions, for the loue that beautie onelie causeth, is in a maner but a cheri faire

Xan. But I praye you hartelye tell me, by what pollycy ye brought your good man to folow your daunce.

Eula. I wyll tell you on this condicyon, that ye will folowe me.

xan. I can.

Eula, It is as easy as water if ye cā find in your hart to do it, nor yet no good time past for he is a yong mā, and you ar but agirle of age, and I trowe it is not a yere ful sins ye wer married.

Xā All thys is true

Eulalia. I wyll shew you then. But you must kepe it secret

xantip. with a ryght good wyl.

Eula. This was my chyefe care, to kepe me alwayes in my housbandes fauoure, that there shulde nothyng angre him I obserued his appetite and pleasure I marked the tymes bothe whan he woulde be pleased and when he wold be all byshrwed, as they tameth the Elephantes and Lyons or suche beastes that can not be wonne by strēgth

xantypa. Suche a beaste haue I at home.

Eula. Thei that goth vnto the Elephantes weare no white garmentes, nor they that tame wylde bulles, weare no blasynge reedes, for experience teacheth, that suche beastes bee madde with those colours, like as the Tygers by the sound of tumbrels be made so wode, that thei plucke theymsel in peces. Also thei y^t breake horses haue their termes and theyr soundes theyr hadlynges, and other knackes to breake their wyldnes, wyth all. Howe much more then is it oure duetyes that y^e wyues to use suche craftes toward our husbandes with whō all our lyfe tyme wil we, nyl we is one house, and one bed.

xantip. furthwith your tale.

Eula, whē I had ones marked there thynges. I applied my selfe unto hym, well ware not to displease him.

xantip. How could thou do that.

Eulalya. Fyrste in the ouerseyng my householde, which is the very charge and cure of wyues, I wayted euer, not onely gyyng hede that nothing shoulde be forgotten or undoone, but that althynges should be as he woulde haue it, wer it euer so small a trifle.

xā. wherin.

Eulalia. As thus. Yf mi good man had a fantasye to this thyng, or to that thyng, or if he would haue his meate dressed on this fashion, or that fashion.

xan. But howe couldest thou fashyon thye selfe after hys wyll and mynde, that eyther woulde not be at home or elles be as freshe as a saulte heryng.

Elali. Abyde a while. I come not at that yet, yf my husband wer very sad at anye tyme, no time to speake to him. I laughed not nor tryfled him as many a woman doth but I looked rufully and heauyly, for as a glasse (if it

be a true stone) representeth euer y^e physnamy of hym that loketh in it, so lykewyse it becommeth a wedded woman alway to agre vnto the appetite of her husbāde, that she be not mery whē he murneth, nor dysposed to play whē he is sad. And if that at any time he be waiward shrewshaken, either I pacyfye hym with faire wordes, or I let hym alone, vntyll the wynd be ouerblowne gying him neuer a word at al, vntil the time come that I may eyther excuse my faute, or tell hym of hys. In lyke wyse when he commeth home wel whittled, I gyue hym gentyll and fayre woordes, so with fayre entreatynge I gette hym to bed.

xantypa. O careful state of wyues, whē they muste be gladde and fayne to followe their husbādes mindes, be thei eluyshe, dronken, or doying what myschiefe they liste.

Eula. As whoe saieth this gentill dealyng serueth not for bothe partyes, for they spyte of theyr berdes muste suffre many thynges in our demeanour, yet a time ther is, whē in a weighty matter it is lafull that the wyfe tell the good mā his faute, if that it be matter of substaunce, for at lyght trifles, it is best to play byll under wynges.

xantyp. what tune is that

Eula. when he is ydle, neither angry, pensife, nor ouersen, then betwixt you two secretly he must be told his faute gētly, or rather intreated, that in this thyng or that he play the better husbāde to loke better to his good name and fame and to his helth and this tellyng must be myxt with mery conceites and pleasaunt wordes many times I make a meane to tel my tale after this fashyon, that he shall promise me, he shal take no displeasure wyth my thyng, that I a foolyshe woman shall breake vnto hym, that pertayneth eyther to hys helthe worshyppe or welth. When I haue sayde that I woulde, I chop cleane from that communication and falle into some other pastime, for this is all our fautes, neyghbour Xantippa, that whē we begyn ones to chat our tounge neuer lie.

Xantip. So men say

Eulalia. Thus was I well ware on, that I neuer tell my husbād his fautes before companie, nor I neuer caried any cōplaynte furthe a dores: the mendes is soner made whē none knoweth it but two, and there were anie suche faute that myght not be wel borne nor amēded by y^e wyues tellige, it is more laudable that the wife make complaynte vnto the Parentes and kynsfolke of her husband, then vnto her own, and so to moderate her complaynte that she seme not to hate hym but hys vice nor let her play all the blabbe, that in some poynt vnutered, he may know & loue his wiues curteysy.

Xantip. She had nede be aswellerned womā, that would do all this.

Eu. Mary through suche demeāoure, we shall sterre our husbādes vnto lyke gentylnesse.

Xan: There be some that cannot be amēded with all the gentyll handlyng in the worlde.

Eula: In faith I thyncke nay, but case there be, marke this wel the good man must be for borne, howe soeuer the game goeth, then is it better to haue him alwayes at one point or ells more kinde and louing throw oure gentill handlinge, then to haue him worse and worse throwe our cursednesse, what wyll you say and I tell you of husbādes that hath won theyr wiues by suche curtesie, howe muche more are we boude to use the same toward our husbādes.

Xantip. Than shall you tell of one farre vnlyke vnto thyne husband.

Eula. I am aquented with a certayne gentelman well lerned and a veri honest man, he married a yonge wyfe, a mayden of. xvii. yeare olde brede and brought vp of a chylde in the countre vnder her fathers and mother wing (as gentilmen delite to dwel in the countre) to hunt & hawke This yong gētilman would haue one that were unbroke, because he might the soner breake her after hys owne mind, he begā to entre her in learning syngynge, and playinge, and by lytle and lytle to vse here to repete suche thynges as she harde at sermons, and to instruct her with other things that myght haue doone her more good in time to come. This gere, because it was straūge vnto this young womā which at home was brought vp in all ydelnesse, and with the light communication of her fathers seruantes, and other pastimes, begā to waxe greuouse & paynfull, vnto her. She withdrew her good mynde and dyligence and whē her husband called vpon her she put y^e finger in the eye, and wepte and many times she would fal downe on the grounde, beatynge her head agaynst the floure, as one that woulde be out of thys worlde. When there was no healpe for this gere, the good man as though he hadde bene wel asked his wyfe yf she woulde ryde into the countre with him a sporting vnto her fathers house, so that she graunted anone. When they were cōmē thyther, the gentelman left his wyfe with her mother & her sisters he wēt furth an huntynge with his father in lawe, there betwene theym two, he shewed al together, how that he hadde hoped to haue had a louynge companion to lead his lyfe withall, now he hath one that is alwaies blubberyng and pynninge her selfe awaye withoute anye remedie, he prayeth him to lay to hys hande in amēdinge his doughters fautes her father answered y^t he had ones giuen hym his doughter, and yf that she woulde not be rewled by wordes (a goddes name take Stafforde lawe) she was his owne. Then the gētylman sayd agayne, I know that I may do but I had leuer haue her amēded eyther by youre good counsell or commaundement, then to come vnto that extreme waies, her father promised that he would fynde a remedye. After a dai or two, he espied time and place whē he might be alone with his doughter. Then he loked sourely vpō his doughter, as though he had bene horne woode with her, he began to reherse how foule a beaste she was, how he feared many tymes that she neuer haue bestowed her. And yet sayde he much a doe, vnto my great coste and charg, I haue gottē the one that moughte lye by any Ladyes syde, and she were a quene and yet thou not perceiuyng what I haue done for the nor knowynge that thou hast suche a man whiche but of his goodnes myghte thynke thee to euill to be stoye in his kytchen, thou contrariest al his

mind to make a short tale he spake so sharply to her, that she feared that he would have beaten her. It is a man of subtill and wyllye wytte, whyche wythout a vysarde is ready to playe anye maner of parte. Thē this yonge wife what for feare, and for trouthe of the matter, cleane stryken oute of countenance, fell downe at her fathers fete desyryng hym that he wolde forgette and forgiue her all that was past and euer after she woulde doe her duetye Her father forgaue her, and promised that she shoulde finde him a kynd and a louyng father, yf so be that she perfourmed her promyse.

xantippa. How dyd she afterwarde?

Eulalya, whē she was departed frō her father she came backe into a chaumber, and there by chaunce found her husband alone she fel on her knees to hym and said. Mā in tymes paste, I neyther knewe you nor my selfe, from this daye froward ye shall se me cleane chaunged, onelye pardon that is past, with that her husbände toke her in his armes & kyssed her sayinge she should lacke nothyng yf she woulde holde her in that mind.

xantip. Why did she cōtinue so.

Eulalya. Euen tyll her endyng daye, nor there was none so vyle a thyng but that she woulde laye handes on it redely with all her herte, if her husband wolde let her, so great loue was begō and assured betwene them and many a daye after, shee thanked god y^t euer she met with such a mā. For yf she had not she sayd she had ben cleane caste awaye.

xan. We haue as greate plentie of suche housbandes, as of white crowes.

Eulalya. Now, but for werieng you? I coulde tell you a thyng that chaunced a late in this same citye.

xantypa. I haue litell to doe, and I lyke your communicacyon very well.

Eulalia. There was a certaine gentilmā he as suche sort of men do, vsed much huntynge in the cuntre, where he happened on a younge damoyzell, a very pore womā's child on whō he doted a man well stryken in age, and for her sake he lay oftē out of his owne house his excuse was hūtig. This mā's wife an exceding honest womā, halfe deale suspecte the mater, tried out her husbādes falshed, on a tyme whē he had taken his iourney fourth of the town vnto some other waies, she wente vnto that poore cotage and boulted out all the hoole matter, where he laye on nights, wheron he drāke, what thyng thei had to welcō him withall. There was neither one thyng nor other, but bare walles. This good womā returned home, and sone after came againe brynginge w^t her a good soft bed, and al therto belongyng and certain plate besydes that she gaue them moneye, charyngge them that if the Gentilmā came agayne, they shold entreate him better not beyng knowē al this while that she was his wyfe, but fayued her to be her sister. Not long after her husband stale thether againe, he sawe the howse otherwyse decked, and better fare then he was wounte to haue. He asked, frome whence commeth al this goodly gere? They sayde that an honeste matrone, a kynsewoman of hys hadde broughte it thyther and commaunded thenm that he should be well cherished when so euer he came, by and by his hart gaue him that it was hys wiues dede, whan he came home he demaūded of her yf she hadde bene there or nay, she sayd yea. Then he asked her for what purpose she sente all that housholde stuffe thyther. Man (said she) ye haue bē tenderly brought vp. I perceiued that ye were but corslie handled there, me thought that it was my part, seing it was your wyll and pleasure to be there ye shoulde be better loked to.

Xantippa. She was one of goddes fooles. I woulde rather for a bed haue layd vnder him a bundel of nettels: or a burden of thistels.

Eula. But here the end her husbāde perceuyng the honeste of her great pacience neuer after laye from her, but made good cheare at home with his owne. I am sure ye knowe Gilberte the holāder.

Xan. Very well.

Eu. He (as it is not vnknowē married an old wife in his florishig youth.

Xā. Per aduētūre he married the good and notthe woman.

Eulalia. There sayde ye well, setting lytell stoore by hys olde wife, hunted a callette, with whom he kept much companie abrode, he dined or supped litell at home. What wouldest thou haue sayd to y^e gere.

Xantip. What woulde I a said? I wolde haue flowē to the hores toppe and I wolde haue crowned myne husbāde at hys oute goinge to her with a pysbowle, that he so ēbawld might haue gon vnto his souerayne ladie.

Eula. But how much wiselier dyd this woman? She desyred that yonge woman home vnto her, and made her good chere, so by that meanes she brought home also her husband without ani witchcraft or sorserie, and yf that at anye season he supped abrode with her she would sende vnto them some good dayntie morsel, and byd him make good chere

Xantippa. I had leuer be slayne then I woulde be bawde vnto myne owne husbāde.

Eulalia. Yea, but consyder all thynges well, was not that mucche better, then she shoulde be her shrewyshnesse, haue putte her husbādes minde cleane of from her, and so haue ledde all her life in trouble and heuynesse.

Xantippa. I graunte you well, that it was better so but I coulde not abyde it.

Eulalya. I wyll tell you a prety story more, and so make an ende One of oure neyghboures, a well disposed and a goddes man, but that he is some what testie, on a day pomeld his wife well and thriftely aboute the pate and so good a woman as euer was borne, she picked her into an inner parler, and there weepyng and sobbyng, eased her heuye harte, anone after, by chaunce her husbände came into the same place, and founde hys wyfe wepyng. What sitest thou heare sayth he seighing & sobbîg like a child Thē she like a wise woman sayde. Is it not more honesty for me to lamente my dolours here in a secret place, thē to make wondering and on oute crye in the strete, as other womē do. At so wyfely and womanly a saing his hart melted, promysynge her faythfullye and truelie that he woulde neuer laye stroke on her afterwarde, nor neuer did.

Xantippa. No more wil mine god thanke my selfe.

Eulalya. But then ye are alwaies one at a nother, agreinge lyke dogges and cattes.

Xan. What wouldest thou that I should do?

Eu. Fyrst & formest, whatsoever thy husbände doeth sayde thou nothinge, for his harte must be wonne by lytell and litel by fayre meanes, gentilnesse and forbearing at the last thou shalte eyther wynne him or at the least waie thou shalt leade a better life thē thou doest now.

Xantippa. He his beyonde goddes forbode, he wil neuer amende.

Eulalia. Eye saye not so, there is no beest so wild but by fayre handling be tamed, neuer mistrust man thē. Assay a moneth or two, blame me and thou findest not that my counsell dooeth ease. There be some fautes wyth you thoughe thou se them, be wyse of this especyall that thou neuer gyue hym foule wordes in the chambre, or inbed but be sure that all thynges there bee full of pastyme and pleasure. For yf that place which is ordeined to make amēdes for all fautes and so to renew loue, be polluted, eyther with strife or grugynges, then fayre wel al hope of loue daies, or atonementes, yet there be some beastes so wayward and mischeuous, that when theyr husbādes hath them in their arms a bed, they scholde & chyde making y^t same plesure their lewd condicions (that expelseth all displeasures oute of their husbādes mynde unpleasaunt and lytell set bi corrupting the medecine that shuld haue cured al deadly greifes, & odible offēces.

xantip. That is no newes to me.

Eula. Though the woman shulde be well ware and wyse that she shulde neuer be disobedient vnto her husbād yet she ought to be most circūspect that at meting she shew her selfe redy and pleasaunt unto him.

xantypa. Yea vnto a man, holde well withall but I am combred with a beast.

Eula. No more of those wordes, most commonly our husbādes ar euyll through our owne faute, but to returne againe vnto our taile they that ar sene in the olde fables of Poetes sai that Venus whome they make chiefe lady of wedlocke (hath a girdle made by the handy worke of Vulcan her Lorde, and in that is thrust al that enforceth love and with that she girdeth her whan so ever she lyeth wyth her housbände

xantippa. A tale of a tubbe.

Eulalya. A taylor it is, but herkē what the taile meaneth.

xantippa. Tell me.

Eulalia That techeth us that the wyfe ought to dyspose her selfe all the she maye that lieng by her husbād she shew him al the plesure that she cā; Wherby the honest love of matrimony may reuiue and be renewed, & that there with be clene dispatched al grudges & malice

xant. But how shall we come by the thys gyrdle?

Eula. We nede neyther wytcraft nor enchauntment, ther is non of them al, so sure as honest condiciōs accompayned with good feloshyp.

xan. I can not faouere suche an husbände as myne is.

Eula, It is moste thy profyt that he be no longer suche. If thou couldest by thy Circes craft chaunge thin husband into an hogge, or a bore wouldest thou do it?

xantip. God knoweth.

Eu. Art thou in dout? haddest thou leauer marye an hogge than a mā.

Xantip. Mary I had leauer haue a manne.

Eulalia. wel, what and thou coudest by sorcery make him of a drōkarde a soober man, of a vnthrifte a good housbände of an ydell losell a towarde body, woldest thou not doe it?

xantip. yes, hardely, woulde I doe it. But where shoulde I learne the cunnyng?

Eula. For soth that cōning hast thou in the if thou wouldest vtter it, thyn must he be, mauger thy head, the towarde y^e makest him, the better it is for the, thou lokest on nothing but on his leude cōdicions, and thei make the half mad, thou wouldest amende hym and thou putttest hym farther oute of frame, loke rather on his good condicions, and so shalt thou make him better. It is to late calagayne yesterdaie before thou were maryed unto hym. It was tyme to cōsyder what his fautes were for a women shold not only take her husbāde by the eyes but by the eares. Now it is more tyme to redresse fautes thē to fynd fautes.

xantt. What woman euer toke her gusband by the eares.

Eulali. She taketh her husbāde by the eyes that loketh on nothyng, but on the beautye and pulcritude of the body. She taketh him by the eares, that harkeneth diligētly what the common voice sayth by him

xantip. Thy counsaile is good, but it commeth a day after the faire.

Eula. Yet it commeth time ynough to bringe thyne husbāde to a greate furtheraunce to that shall bee yf God sende you anie frute together.

xantippa. We are spede alreedy of that.

Eulaly. How long ago.

Xantip. A good whyle ago

Eulalia. How many monethes old is it.

Xantip. It lacketh lytle of. vii.

Eula What a tale is this, ye reken the monethes by nightes and dayes double.

Xantippa. Not so.

Eula. It can not be none other wyse, yf ye reken from the mariage day.

xantippa. yea, but what thē, I spake with him before we were married.

Eulalia. Be children gotten by speakinge.

xantip. It befell so that he mette me alone and begon to ticke at me, and tickled me vnder the arme holes and sydes to make me laugh. I might not awaie with ticklynge, but fell downe backwarde vpon a bedde and he a lofte, neuer leuinge kyssynge on me, what he did els I can not saye, but by sayncte Marie within a while after my bely beganne to swell.

Eula. Go now and disprayse thine husbāde whiche yf he gette children by playe, what wyll he do whē he goeth to it in good earnest.

xantippa, I fere me I am payed agayn.

Eula. Good locke God hath sent a fruitfull grounde, a good tylmā.

Xantip. In that thing he might haue lesse laboure and more thanke.

Eula. Few wyues finde at theyr husbādes in that behalf but were ye thē sure together.

xanti. yea that we were

Eula. The offence is the lesse. Is it a man chylde.

xantip. yea.

Eula. He shal make you at one so that ye wil bow & forbere. What saieth other mē by thin husband, they that be his cōpanions, they delite with him abrode

xā, They say that he is meruelous gentył, redy to do euery man pleasure, liberal and sure to his frende.

Eula. And that putteth me in good cōfort that he wyll be ruled after our counsayll.

xantip. But I fynde him not so.

Eula. Order thy selfe to him as I haue tolde thee, and cal me no more true sayer but a liar, if he be not so good vnto the as to anie creature liuinge Again cōsidre this he is yet but a childe, I thinke he passethe not. xxiiij. the blacke oxe neuer trode on hys fote, nowe it is but loste laboure to recken vpon anye deuorse.

xantippa. Yet manye a tyme and ofte I haue troubled my braynes withal

Eulalia. As for that fantasye whensoever it commeth into your mynd first of all counte how naked a thyng woman is, deuorsed from man. It is the hyghest dignitie that longethe to the wyfe to obsequyous vnto her spouse. So hath natyre ordeined so god hath appoynted, that the woman shoulde be ruled al by the man loke

onely vpon this whiche is trouthe, thine husbāde he is, other canste thou none haue. Againe forgette not that swete babe be gotten of both your bodies what thin beste thou to do with that, wilte thou take it awaye with thee? Thou shalte bereue thyne husband his ryght wylt thou leue it with hym? thou shalt spoile thy self of thy cheffeste Jewell thou haste. Beside all this tell me trueth hast thou none euyll wyllers, Besyde all thys tell me trueth, hast thou none euyll wyllers.

xan. I haue a stepdame I warrant you, and myne husbandes mother euen such another.

Eula. Do they hate the so deadly.

xantip. They woulde se me hanged.

Eula. Thē forget not thē what greater plesure couldest thou shew them then to se the deuorsed from thine husband and to led a wydowes lyfe. Yea and worse thē a wydow, for wydowes be at their choise.

xantippa. I holde well with youre coūsell, but I can not awaye with the paynes.

Eulalia. yet reckon what paines ye toke or ye colde teache your paret to speake.

xantippa. Exceedynge much.

Eu. And thinke you much to labour a lytel in reforming your husbād with whō you may liue merely all the dayes of your lyfe. What busines doe mē put thē self to be wel & easly horsed & shal we think our selues to good to take paines that we mai haue our husbādes gētil & curteise vnto vs.

xantip. What shal I do.

Eu. I haue told you al redy, se that al thing be clene & trim at home, that no sluttish or vnclenlye syghtes dryue hym oute a dores. Be your selfe alwayes redy at a becke, berynge continuall in minde what reuerēce the wife oweth vnto her husbād. Be neyther in your dūpes, nor alwayes on your mery pinnes go nether to homely nor to nycely. Let your meat be cleane dressed, you know yourhusbādes diet. What he loueth best that dresse. Moreouer shewe your selfe louinge and fayre spokē vnto thē where he loueth, call them now and thē vnto your table. At meate, se that al thinges be well sauored, and make good there, And whē that he is toppe heuy playing on his lute, sytte thou by and singe to him so shalte thou make hym keepe home, and lessen hys expences This shall he thynke at length, in faythe I am a fonde felowe that maketh suche chere with a strumpet abroode with greate lossee bothe of substance and name, seyng that I haue a wyfe at home bothe muche fayrer, and one that loueth me ten times better, with whome I may be both clenlyer receiued and dayntelier cherisshed

xantip. Beleuest thou that it will take and I put it into a profe.

Eulali. Looke on me. I warrante it or ought longe I wyll in hande with thyne husbāde, & I will tell hym his part.

xantippa. ye marie that is well sayde. But be wyse that he espie not our casle, he would plaie his fages, all the house should be to lytle for hym.

Eulalia. Take no thoughte. I shall so conuey my matters, that he shall dysclose all together hym selfe, what busynesse is betwene you, that done I wyll handell him pretelie as I thinke beste, and I truste to make him a new man for the and when I se my time I wyl make a lie for thee, how louinge thou hast spoken of him.

xantippa. Chryst spede vs and bringe our pupose well aboute.

Eulalia. He will not fayle the so thou do thy good wyll.



There was a man that married a woman whiche hadde great riches and beawtye. Howe bee it she hadde suche an impedymēt of nature that she was domme and coulde not speake, whiche thyng made him ryghte penyfe, and sayd, wherfore vpon a daye as he walked alone ryght heuye in hearte thynkyng vpon his wyfe. There came one to hym and asked him what was the cause of his heuynesse whiche answered that it was onely bycause his wife was borne dōme. To whome this other said I shal shewe the soone a remedy and a medycyne (therfore that is thus) go tak an aspen leafe and lay it vnder her tōge this night shee beinge a sleape, and I warrant the that shee shall speake on the morowe whiche man beyng glad of thys medycyne prepared therfore and gathered aspen leaues, wherfore he layd thre of them vnder her tonge whan shee was a sleape. And on the morow when he him selfe awaked he Desyrous to know how hys medicine wrought being in bed with her, he demaunded of her how shee did, and sodēly she answered and sayd, I beshrewe thy harte for waking me so early, and so by the vertue of that medycyne shee was restored to her speche. But in cōclusion her spech encreased day by day and shee was so curst of cōdycyon that euery daie shee brauled and chyd with her husbāde, so muche at the laste he was more weped, and had much more trouble and disease wyth her shrewed wordes then he hadde before whē shee was dumme, wherfore as he walked another time alone he happened to mete agayne with the same personne that taught hym the sayde medycyne and sayde to hym thys wyse. Syr ye taught me a medicin but late to make my domme wyfe to speake, byddyng me lay an aspen leafe vnder her toūg when shee sleapte, and I layde thre Aspen leaves there. Wherfore nowe shee speaketh. But yet shee speaketh soo much & so shrewdlye that I am more werier of her now, then I was when shee was dōme: Wherfore I praie you teache me a medycyne to modyfye her that shee speake not so muche. This other answered and sayd thus. Sir I am a deuyll of hel but I am one of thē that haue least power there. Al

be yet I haue power to make a womā to speake, but and yf a woman begin ones to speake, I nor al the deuyls in hel that haue the mooste power be not able to make a woman to be styll, nor to cause her to leue speakyng.

The end of this pleasant dialogue declaryng the seueral properties of y^e two contrary disposers of the wyues aforesayde.

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church yearde, at the sygne of
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 **A mery Dia-**
logue, declarynge the proper-
tyes of shrowde shrewes, and ho-
nest wyues, not onelie verie
pleasaunte, but also not a
lytle profitable: made
by y^e famous clerke
D. Erasmus
Roteroda-
mus.
Translated into
Englyshe.


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Anno. M.CCCCC.
LVII.

Eulalia. God spede, & a thou-
sand mine old acquetntāce.
xantippa.xan. As many a-
gayn, my dere hert. Eulalf.
me semets ye ar warē much faire now
of late. Eula, Saye you so? gyue you
me a mocke at the first dash.xan. Nay
berly but I take you so. Eula. Hap-
pely mi new gobon maketh me to loke
fayrer then I sholde doe. xan. Sothe
you saye, I haue not sene a mynioner
this many dayes, I reken it Englishe
cloth. Eu. It is englysh stuff and dyed
in Venis. xan. It is softer then sylke
what an oriente purpel coloze here is
who gaue you so rich a gift. Eu. How
shoulde honeste women come by their
gere? but by their husbandes. xā. Hap-
py arte thou that hathe suche an hus-
band, but I wolde to god for his pas-
syon, that I had maryed an husband
of clowts, when I had married col my
good mā. Eula. Why say ye so. I pray
you, are you at oddes now. xā. I shal
neuer be at one w^t him ye se how beg-
gerly
I u
gerly

Eulalia. God spede, & a thousand mine old acquetntāce. xantippa.

xan. As many agayn, my dere hert. Eulalia. me semets ye ar warē much faire now of late.

Eula. Saye you so? gyue you me a mocke at the first dash.

xan. Nay veryly but I take you so.

Eula. Happely mi new gown maketh me to loke fayrer then I sholde doe.

xan. Sothe you saye, I haue not sene a mynioner this many dayes, I reken it Englishe cloth.

Eu. It is english stuff and dyed in Venis.

xan. It is softer then sylke what an oriente purpel coloze here is who gaue you so rich a gift.

Eu. How shoulde honeste women come by their gere? but by their husbandes.

xā. Happy arte thou that hathe suche an husband, but I wolde to god for his passyon, that I had maryed an husband of clowts, when I had married col my good mā.

Eula. Why say ye so. I pray you, are you at oddes now.

xā. I shal neuer be at one w^t him ye se how beggerly I go. I haue not an hole smock to put on my backe, and he is wel contente with all: I praye god I neuer come in heuen & I be not ashamed oftymes to shewe my head, when I se other wiues how net and trim they go that ar matched with farre porer mē then he is.

Eula. The apparell of honest wiues is not in the aray of the body, nor in the tirements of their head as saynte Peter the apostle teacheth vs (and that I learned a late at a sermon) but in good lyuyng and honest conuersacion and in the ornamentes of the soule, the cōmon buenes ar painted up, to please manye mennes eies we ar trime ynough yf we please our husbands only.

xan. But yet my good man so euyll wylling to bestow ought vpon his wyfe, maketh good chere, and lasseth out the dowrye that hee hadde with mee no small pot of wine.

Eulaly, where vpon?

xantipha, wheron hym lykethe beste, at the tauerne, at

gerly I go. I haue not an hole smock
to put on my backe, and he is wel con-
tente with all: I praye god I neuer
come in heuen & I be not ashamed of-
times to shewe my head, when I se o-
ther wiues how net and trim they go
that ar marched with farre pozet mē
then he is. **Eula.** The apparell of ho-
nest wiucs is not in the aray of the bo-
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husbands only. **xan.** But yet my good
man so euyl wylling to bestow oughe
vpon his wyfe, maketh good chere,
and lasketh out the dowrye that hee
hadde with mee no small pot of wine.
Eulaly, where vpon **xantipha,** where
on hym lykethe beste, at the tauerne,
at the stewes, and at the dyce. **Eulalia**
Peace

Peace saye not so. **xan.** wel yet thus it
is, then when he cometh home to me
at midnight, longe watched for, he ly-
eth rowtyng lyke a sloyne all the leue
longe nyght, yea and now and thē he
all bespeweth his bed, and worse then
I will say at this tyme, **Eulali.** **Peace**
thou dyshonesteth thy self, when thou
doest dishonesteth thy husbād. **xantip.**
The deuyl take me bodye and bones
but I had leuer lye by a sow with pig-
ges, then with suche a bedfelowe. **Eul-**
lali. Doest thou not then take him vp,
wel fauoredly for stūbling. **xantip.** As
he deserueth I spare no tonge. **Eulali**
a, what doth he thē. **xantip.** At the first
breake he toke me vp vengeably, tru-
sting that he shoulde haue shakē me of
and put me to scilence with his crabid
wordes. **Eula** Came neuer your hote
wordes vnto hād strokes. **xantip.** On
a tyme we fel so farre at wordes y^t we
wer almost by y^e eares together. **Eula**
what say you womā. **xan.** He toke vp
a staffe wandryng at me, as the deuill
hadde

Eulalia Peace saye not so.

xan. wel yet thus it is, then when he cometh home to me at midnight, longe watched for, he lyeth rowtyng lyke a sloyne all the leue longe nyght, yea and now and thē he all bespeweth his bed, and worse then I will say at this tyme.

Eulali. Peace thou dyshonesteth thy self, when thou doest dishonesteth thy husbād.

xantip. The deuyl take me bodye and bones but I had leuer lye by a sow with pigges, then with suche a bedfelowe.

Eulali. Doest thou not then take him vp, wel fauoredly for stūbling.

Xantip. As he deserueth I spare no tonge.

Eulalia. what doth he thē.

xantip. At the first breake he toke me vp vengeably, trusting that he shoulde haue shakē me of and put me to scilence with his crabid wordes.

Eula Came neuer your hote wordes vnto hād strokes.

xantip. On a tyme we fel so farre at wordes y^t we wer almost by y^e eares together.

Eula what say you womā?

xan. He toke vp a staffe wandryng at me, as the deuill had bene on hym ready to laye me on the bones.

had bene on hym ready to laye me on the bones. **Eula.** were thou not redye to ron in at the bēch hole. **xanti.** Nay mary I warrant the. I gat me a thre foted stole in hand, & he had but ones layd his littell finger on me, he shulde not haue founde me lame. I woulde haue holden his nose to the grindstōe **Eulalia.** A newe found shelde, ye wanted but youre dystaffe to haue made you a speare. **xantip.** And he shoulde not greatlye a laughed at his parte. **Eulali.** Ah my frynde. **xantypa.** that way is neither good nor godly. **xantip** pa what is neither good nor godly, yf he wyll not vse me, as hys wyfe: I wil not take him for my husbāde. **Eulalya.** But Paule sayeth that wyues shoulde bee boner and buxome vnto their husbādes with all humylytpe, and Peter also bryngethe vs an example of Sara, that called her husbāde Abrahame, **Lozde.** **xantippa.** I know that as well as you thē p̄ same paule say that men shoulde loue theyr wyues

Eula. were thou not redye to ron in at the bēch hole.

xanti. Nay mary I warrant the. I gat me a thre foted stole in hand, & he had but ones layd his littell finger on me, he shulde not haue founde me lame. I woulde haue holden his nose to the grindstōe

Eulalia. A newe found shelde, ye wanted but youre dystaffe to haue made you a speare.

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xantippa what is neither good nor godly. yf he wyll not vse me, as hys wyfe: I wil not take him for my husbāde.

Eulalya. But Paule sayeth that wyues shoulde bee boner and buxome vnto their husbādes with all humylytpe, and Peter also bryngethe vs an example of Sara, that called her husbāde Abrahame, **Lorde.**

wyues, as Christ loued his spouse the churche let him do his duete I wil do myne. **Eula.** But for all that, when the matter is so farre that the one muste forber the other it is reason that the woman giue place vnto the man, **xan.** Is he meete to be called my husbāde that maketh me his vnderlynge and his dryuel? **Eula.** But tel me dame **xātip.** Would he neuer offre the stripes after that **xātip.** Not a stripe, and therin he was the wyser man for & he had he shoulde haue repented euery vayne in hys harte. **Eulali.** But thou offered him foule wordes plentie, **xantip.** And will do. **Eula.** What doth he p̄ meane seasō. **xantip.** What doth he sometye he cowcheth an hogeshed. somtime he doth nothing but stande and laughe at me, other whyle takethe hys Lute wheron is scarslie thre strynges layenge on that as fast as he may dryue because he would not here me. **Eula.** Doeth that greue thee? **xantippa.** To beyende home, manie a tyme I haue

I iii much

xantippa. I know that as well as you thē y^e same paule say that men shoulde loue theyr wyues, as Christ loues his spouse the churche let him do his duete I wil do myne.

Eula. But for all that, when the matter is so farre that the one muste forber the other it is reason that the woman giue place vnto the man,

xan. Is he meete to be called my husbāde that maketh me his vnderlynge and his dryuel?

Eula. But tel me dame **xātip.** Would he neuer offre the stripes after that

xātip. Not a stripe, and therin he was the wyser man for & he had he should haue repented euery vayne in hys harte.

Eulali. But thou offered him foule wordes plentie,

xantip. And will do.

Eula. What doth he y^e meane seasō.

xantip. What doth he sometye cowcheth an hogeshed, somtime he doth nothing but stande and laughe at me, other whyle takethe hys Lute wheron is scarslie three strynges layenge on that as fast as he may dryue because he would not here me.

Eula. Doeth that greue thee?

xantippa. To beyende home, manie a tyme I haue much a do to hold my handes.

much a do to hold my handes. **Eula**,
 Neighbour. xantip. wylt thou gyue
 me leaue to be playn with the. xantip.
 pa Good leaue haue you. **Eula**. Be as
 bolde on me agayne our olde acqnayn
 taunce and amite, euen frō our chyld-
 hode, would it should be so. xantippa.
 Trueth you saie, there was neuer wo
 man kinde that I fauoured moze **El**
 ly Whatsoeuer thy husbād be, marke
 well this, chaunge thou canst not, In
 the olde lawe, tohere the deuill hadde
 cast aboone betwene the man and the
 wife, at the worste waye they myghe
 be deuorsed, but now that remedie is
 past, euē till death depart you he must
 nedes be thy husbāde, and thou hys
 wyfe. xan. I mote they thryue & thei
 that taken away that liberty from vs
Eulalia. Beware what thou sayest, it
 was chrystes act. **Xā**. I can euil beleue
 that **Eula**. It is none otherwysse, now
 it is beste that eyther of you one be-
 yng with an other, ye laboure to liue
 at reste and peace. xantypa, Why-
 can

Eula. Neighbour. xantip. wylt thou gyue me leaue to be playn with the.

xantippa Good leaue haue you.

Eula. Be as bolde on me agayne our olde acqayntaunce and amite, euen frō our chyldhode, would it should be so.

xantippa. Trueth you saie, there was neuer woman kinde that I fauoured more

Elaly Whatsoeuer thy husbād be, marke well this, chaunge thou canst not, In the olde lawe, where the deuill hadde cast aboone betwene the man and the wife, at the worste waye they myght be deuorsed, but now that remedie is past, euē till death depart you he must nedes be thy husbāde, and thou hys wyfe,

xan. Il mote they thryue & thei that taken away that liberty from vs

Eulalia. Beware what thou sayest, it was christes act.

Xā. I can euil beleue that

Eula. It is none otherwysse, now it is beste that eyther of you one beyng with an other, ye laboure to liue at reste and peace.

can I forgeue him a new. **Eu**. It lieth
 great parte in the womē, for the orde
 ringe of theyr husbādes. xan. Lea-
 dest thou a mery life with thine. **Eula**
 Now all is well. xan. Ergo ther was
 somwhat to do at your fyrste metyng
Eula. Neuer no greate busynes, but
 yet as it, happeneth now and than be
 twene man & womā, there was foule
 cloudes a loft, that might haue made
 a stozme but that they were ouer blo-
 wten with good humanitie and wyse
 handlynge. Euery man hath hys ma-
 ner and euery mā hath his seueral ap-
 tite or mynde, and thinkes hys owne
 way best, & yf we list not to lie there li-
 ueth no mā without faulte, which yf a
 nie were elles, ywis in wedlocke they
 ought to know and not vtterly hated
 xan, you say well, **Eulalya**. It happe-
 neth many times that loue dayes bre-
 keth betwene man and wife, befoze
 one be perfittly knowē vnto the other
 beware of that in any wife, for when
 malice is ones begon, loue is but ba-
 can

xantypa. Why? can I forgeue him a new,

Eu. It lieth great parte in the womē, for the orderinge of theyr husbādes.

xan. Leadest thou a mery life with thine.

Eula Now all is well.

xan. Ergo ther was somwhat to do at your fyrste metyng

Eula. Neuer no greate busynes, but yet as it, happeneth now and than betwene man & womā, there was foule cloudes a loft, that might haue made a storme but that they were ouer blowen with good humanitie and wyse handlynge. Euery man hath hys maner and euery mā hath his seueral aptite or mynde, and thinkes hys owne way best, & yf we list not to lie there liueth no mā without faulte, which yf anie were elles, ywis in wedlocke they ought to know and not vtterly hated

xan, you say well,

Eulalya. It happeneth many times that loue dayes breketh betwene man and wife, before y^e one be perfittly knowē vnto the other beware of that in any wife, for when malice is ones begon, loue is but barely redressed agayne,

rely redressed agayne, namelye, yf the mater grow furthe vnto bytter checkes, & shamfull raylages such things as are fastened with glew, yf a manne wyll ali to shake them strayght waye whyle the glew is warme, they soone fal in peces, but after y^e glew is ones dried by they cleue together so fast as anie thing, wherfore at the beginning a meanes must be made, that loue mai encrease and be made sure betwene y^e man & the wife, & that is best brought aboute by gentilnesse and fayre condycions, for the loue that beautie onelle causeth, is in a maner but a cheri faire

Xan. But I praye you hartelye tell me, by what pollycy ye brought your good man to folow your daunce. **Eula.** I wyll tell you on this condycyon, that ye will folowe me. **xan.** I can. **Eula.** It is as easy as water yf ye cā find in your hart to do it, nor yet no good time past for he is a yong mā, and you ar but agirle of age, and I trowe it is not a yere ful sins ye wer maried. **Xā!**
All

All thys is true **Eulalia.** I wyll shew you then. But you must kepe it secret, xantip, with a ryght good wyl. **Eula.** This was my chyefe care, to kepe me alwayes in my housbandes fauoure, that there shulde nothyng angre him I obserued his appetite and pleasure I marked the tymes bothe whan he woulde be pleased and when he wold be all byshrwed, as they tameth the Elephantes and Lyons or suche beastes that can not be wonne by strēgth xantypa. Suche a beaste haue I at home. **Eula.** Thei that goth vnto the Elephantes weare no white garmentes, nor they that tame wyld bulles, weare no blasyng reedes, for experience teacheth, that suche beastes bee madde with those colours, like as the Tygers by the sounde of tumbrels be made so wode, that thei plucke theym self in peces. Also thei y^e breake horses haue their termes and theyr soundes theyr hadlynges, and other knackes to breake their wyldnes, wyth all.

How

namely, yf the mater grow furthe unto bytter checkes, & shamfull raylages such things as are fastened with glew, yf a manne wyll all to shake them strayght waye whyle the glew is warme, they soone fal in peces, but after y^e glew is ones dried vp they cleue together so fast as anie thing, wherfore at the beginning a meanes must be made, that loue mai encrease and be made sure betwene y^e man & the wife, & that is best brought aboute by gentilnesse and fayre condycions, for the loue that beautie onelle causeth, is in a maner but a cheri faire.

Xan. But I praye you hartelye tell me, by what pollycy ye brought your good man to folow your daunce.

Eula. I wyll tell you on this condycyon, that ye will folowe me.

xan. I can.

Eula. It is as easy as water if ye cā find in your hart to do it, nor yet no good time past for he is a yong mā, and you ar but agirle of age, and I trowe it is not a yere ful sins ye wer maried.

Xā All thys is true

Eulalia. I wyll shew you then. But you must kepe it secret xantip, with a ryght good wyl.

Eula. This was my chyefe care, to kepe me alwayes in my housbandes fauoure, that there shulde nothyng angre him I obserued his appetite and pleasure I marked the tymes bothe whan he woulde be pleased and when he wold be all byshrwed, as they tameth the Elephantes and Lyons or suche beastes that can not be wonne by strēgth

xantypa. Suche a beaste haue I at home.

Eula. Thei that goth vnto the Elephantes weare no white garmentes, nor they that tame wyld bulles, weare no blasyng reedes, for experience teacheth, that suche beastes bee madde with those colours, like as the Tygers by the sounde of tumbrels be made so wode, that thei plucke theymself in peces. Also thei y^t breake horses haue their termes and theyr soundes theyr hadlynges, and other knackes to breake their wyldnes, wyth all.

Howe much moze then is it oure due
 eyes that ye wyues to vse suche craftes
 toward our husbandes with whō
 all our lyfe tyme wil we, nyl we is one
 house, and one bed. xantip. furthwith
 your tale. Eula, whē I had ones mar
 ked there thynges. I applied my selfe
 vnto hym, well ware not to displease
 hym. xantip. How could thou do that.
 Eulalya. Fyrste in the ouerseyngge my
 householde, which is the very charge
 and cure of wyues, I wayted euer,
 not onely ggyunge hede that nothing
 shoulde be forgotten or vndoone, but
 that althynges shoulde as he woulde
 haue it, wer it euer so small a trifle. xā
 wherin. Eulalia. As thus. Yf mi good
 man had a fantasye to this thyngge, or
 to that thyng, or if he would haue his
 meate dzedded on this fashyon, or that
 fashyon. xan. But ho we couldest thou
 fashyon thye selfe after hys wyll and
 mynde, that eyther woulde not be at
 home. or elles be as feefle as a faulte
 heryng. Elali. Abyde a while. I come
 not

not at that yet. yf my husband wer he
 very sad at anye tyme, no time to speake
 to him. I laughed not nor tryfled him
 as many a woman doth but I looked
 eufully and heauyly, for as a glasse (if
 it be a true stone) representeth euer hys
 physnamy of hym that loketh in it, so
 lykewyse it becommeth a wedded wo
 man alway to agre vnto the appetite
 of her husbande, that she be not mery
 whē he murneth. nor dysposed to play
 whē he is sad. And if that at any time
 he be waiward shrewshaken, either I
 pacyfye hym with faire wordes, or I
 let hym alone, vntyll the wynde be o
 uerblowen ggyuing him neuer a word
 at al, vntyll the time come that I may
 eyther excuse my faute, or tell hym of
 hys. In lykewyse when he commeth
 home wel whittled, I gyue hym gen
 tyll and fayre woordes, so with fayre
 entreatyngge I gette hym to bed. xan
 typpa. O carefull state of wyues, whē
 they muste be gladd and fayne to fol
 lowe their husbandes mindes, be they
 eluyshe

Howe much more then is it oure duetyes that y^e wyues to
 use suche craftes toward our husbandes with whō all our
 lyfe tyme wil we, nyl we is one house, and one bed.

xantip. furthwith your tale.

Eula, whē I had ones marked there thynges. I applied my
 selfe unto hym, well ware not to displease him.

xantip. How could thou do that.

Eulalya. Fyrste in the ouerseyngge my householde, which
 is the very charge and cure of wyues, I wayted euer, not
 onely ggyunge hede that nothing shoulde be forgotten or
 undoone, but that althynges should be as he woulde haue
 it, wer it euer so small a trifle.

xā. wherin.

Eulalia. As thus. Yf mi good man had a fantasye to this
 thyngge, or to that thyng, or if he would haue his meate
 dressed on this fashyon, or that fashyon.

xan. But howe couldest thou fashyon thye selfe after hys
 wyll and mynde, that eyther woulde not be at home or
 elles be as freshe as a saulte heryng.

Elali. Abyde a while. I come not at that yet, yf my
 husband wer very sad at anye tyme, no time to speake to
 him. I laughed not nor tryfled him as many a woman doth
 but I looked rufully and heauyly, for as a glasse (if it be a
 true stone) representeth euer y^e physnamy of hym that
 loketh in it, so lykewyse it becommeth a wedded woman
 alway to agre vnto the appetite of her husbande, that she
 be not mery whē he murneth, nor dysposed to play whē he
 is sad. And if that at any time he be waiward
 shrewshaken, either I pacyfye hym with faire wordes, or I
 let hym alone, vntyll the wynd be ouerblowen ggyuing him
 neuer a word at al, vntill the time come that I may eyther
 excuse my faute, or tell hym of hys. In lyke wyse when he
 commeth home wel whittled, I gyue hym gentyll and fayre
 woordes, so with fayre entreatyngge I gette hym to bed.

xantypa, O carefull state of wyues, whē they muste be
 gladd and fayne to followe their husbandes mindes, be
 they eluyshe, dronken, or doying what myschiefe they
 liste.

elyſhe. Drunken, or doyng what myſt
 chiefe they liſte. **Eula.** As whoe ſaieth
 this gentill dealynge ſerueth not for
 bothe partyes, for they ſpyte of theyr
 berdes muſte ſuffre many thynges in
 our demeanoz, yet a time ther is, whē
 in a weighty matter it is lafull that
 the wyfe tell the good mā his faute, if
 that it be matter of ſubſtaunce, for at
 lyght trifles, it is beſt to play byll vn-
 der wyngge. **xantyp.** what tune is that
Eula. when he is ydle, neither angry,
 penſiſe, nor ouerſen, then betwixt you
 two ſecretly he muſt be told his faute
 gētly, or rather intreated, that in this
 thyngge or that he play the better huſ-
 bande, to loke better to his good na-
 me and fame and to his helth and this
 tellyng muſt be myxt with mery con-
 ceites and pleaſaunt woꝝdes many ti-
 mes I make a meane to tel my tale af-
 ter this faſhyon, that he ſhall promiſe
 me, hee ſhal take no diſpleaſure wyth
 my thyngge, that I a foolyſhe woman
 ſhall breake vnto hym, that pertay-
 neth

Eula. As whoe ſaieth this gentill dealynge ſerueth not for
 bothe partyes, for they ſpyte of theyr berdes muſte ſuffre
 many thynges in our demeanor, yet a time ther is, whē in a
 weighty matter it is lafull that the wyfe tell the good mā
 his faute, if that it be matter of ſubſtaunce, for at lyght
 trifles, it is beſt to play byll under wyngge.

xantyp. what tune is that

Eula. when he is ydle, neither angry, penſiſe, nor ouerſen,
 then betwixt you two ſecretly he muſt be told his faute
 gētly, or rather intreated, that in this thyngge or that he
 play the better huſbande to loke better to his good name
 and fame and to his helth and this tellyng muſt be myxt
 with mery conceites and pleaſaunt woꝝdes many times I
 make a meane to tel my tale after this faſhyon, that he
 ſhall promiſe me, he ſhal take no diſpleaſure wyth my
 thyngge, that I a foolyſhe woman ſhall breake vnto hym,
 that pertayneth eyther to hys helthe worſhpype or welth.

meth eyther to hys helthe woꝝ thyppe
 oꝝ welth. When I haue sayde that I
 woulde, I chop cleane from that com-
 munication and falle into some other
 pastime, foꝝ this is all oure fautes,
 neyghbour Xantippa, that whē we be
 gynn ones to chat our tounses neuer
 lie. Xantip. So men say Eulalia.
 Thus was I well ware on, that I ne-
 uer tell my husbād his fautes befoze
 companie, noꝝ I neuer caried any cō-
 playnte furthe a dozes: the mendes is
 soner made whē none knoweth it but
 two, and there were anie suche faute
 that myght not be wel boꝝne noꝝ amē-
 ded by þ wꝝues tellige, it is moze lau-
 dable that the wiffe make complaynte
 vnto the PARENTES and kynnsfolke of
 her husband, then vnto her owne, and
 so to moderate her complaynte that
 she seme not to hate hym but hys vice
 noꝝ let her play all the blabbe, that in
 some poynt vnwatered, he may know &
 loue his wifes curteysy. Xantip. She
 had nede be aswell lerned womā, that
 should

would do all this. Eu. Mary through
 suche demeanoure, we shall sterre our
 husbādes vnto lyke gentylnesse. Xan:
 There be some that cannot be amen-
 ded with all the gentyll handlynge in
 the woꝝlde. Eula. In faith I thyncke
 nay, but case there be, marke this wel
 the good man must be foꝝ boꝝne, howe
 soeuer the game goeth, then is it bet-
 ter to haue him alwayes at one point
 oꝝ ells moze kinde and louing thro-
 uoure gentill handlinge, then to haue
 him woꝝse and woꝝse throꝝwe our cur-
 sednesse, what wyll you say and I tell
 you of husbādes that hath won theyꝝ
 wifes by suche curtesie, howe muche
 moze are we boūde to vse the same to-
 warde our husbādes. Xantip. Than
 shall you tell of one farre vnylike vnto
 thynne husband. Eula. I am aquented
 with a certayne gentelman well ler-
 ned and a veri honest man, he married
 a yonge wyfe, a mayden of. xvii. yeare
 olde brede and brought vp of a chyld
 in the countre vnder her fathers and
 mothers

When I haue sayde that I woulde, I chop cleane from that communication and falle into some other pastime, for this is all our fautes, neyghbour Xantippa, that whē we begyn ones to chat our tounses neuer lie.

Xantip. So men say

Eulalia. Thus was I well ware on, that I neuer tell my husbād his fautes before companie, nor I neuer caried any cōplaynte furthe a dozes: the mendes is soner made whē none knoweth it but two, and there were anie suche faute that myght not be wel borne nor amēded by y^e wyues tellige, it is more laudable that the wife make complaynte vnto the Parentes and kynnsfolke of her husband, then vnto her own, and so to moderate her complaynte that she seme not to hate hym but hys vice nor let her play all the blabbe, that in some poynt vnwatered, he may know & loue his wifes curteysy.

Xantip. She had nede be aswell lerned womā, that would do all this.

Eu. Mary through suche demeanoure, we shall sterre our husbādes vnto lyke gentylnesse.

Xan: There be some that cannot be amended with all the gentyll handlynge in the woꝝlde.

Eula: In faith I thyncke nay, but case there be, marke this wel the good man must be for borne, howe soeuer the game goeth, then is it better to haue him alwayes at one point or ells more kinde and louing throꝝwe our gentill handlinge, then to haue him worse and worse throꝝwe our cursednesse, what wyll you say and I tell you of husbādes that hath won theyꝝ wifes by suche curtesie, howe muche more are we boūde to use the same towarde our husbādes.

Xantip. Than shall you tell of one farre vnylike vnto thynne husband.

Eula. I am aquented with a certayne gentelman well lerned and a veri honest man, he married a yonge wyfe, a mayden of. xvii. yeare olde brede and brought vp of a chyld in the countre vnder her fathers and mother wing

mother being (as gentilmen delite to
 dwel in the countre) to hunt & hawke
 This yong gētilman would haue one
 that were unbroke, because he might
 the soner breake her after hys owne
 mind, he begā to entre her in learning
 syngynge, and playinge, and by lytle
 and lytle to vse here to repete suche
 thynges as she harde at sermons, and
 to instruct her with other things that
 myght haue doone her moze good in
 time to come. This gere, because it
 was straūge vnto this young womā
 which at home was brought vp in all
 ydelnesse, and with the light commu-
 nication of her fathers seruautes,
 and other pastimes, begā to waxe gre-
 uouse & paynfull, vnto her. She with-
 drew her good mynde and dyligence
 and whē her husband called vpon her
 she put y^e finger in the eye, and wepte
 and many times she would fal downe
 on the grounde, beatynge her head a-
 gainst the floure, as one that woulde
 be out of thys worlde. When there
 was

(as gentilmen delite to dwel in the countre) to hunt &
 hawke This yong gētilman would haue one that were
 unbroke, because he might the soner breake her after hys
 owne mind, he begā to entre her in learning syngynge, and
 playinge, and by lytle and lytle to vse here to repete suche
 thynges as she harde at sermons, and to instruct her with
 other things that myght haue doone her more good in time
 to come. This gere, because it was straūge vnto this young
 womā which at home was brought vp in all ydelnesse, and
 with the light communication of her fathers seruautes, and
 other pastimes, begā to waxe greuouse & paynfull, vnto
 her. She withdrew her good mynde and dyligence and
 whē her husband called vpon her she put y^e finger in the
 eye, and wepte and many times she would fal downe on
 the grounde, beatynge her head agaynst the floure, as one
 that woulde be out of thys worlde.

When there was no healpe for this gere, the good man as
 though he hadde bene wel asked his wyfe yf she woulde
 ryde into the countre with him a sporting vnto her fathers
 house, so that she graunted anone. When they were cōmē
 thither, the gentilman left his wyfe with her mother & her
 sisters he wēt furth an huntynge with his father in lawe,
 there betwene theym two, he shewed al together, how that
 he hadde hoped to haue had a louynge companion to lead
 his lyfe withall, now he hath one that is alwaies
 blubberyng and pynge her selfe awaye withoute anye
 remedie, he prayeth him to lay to hys hande in amendinge
 his daughters fautes her father answered y^t he had ones
 giuen hym his daughter, and yf that she woulde not be

was no healpe for this gere, the good man as though he hadde bene wel asked his wyfe yf she woulde ryde into the countre with him a sportyng vnto her fathers house, so that she graunted anone. When they were comē thither, the gentilman left his wyfe with her mother & her sisters he wēt furth an huntynge with his father in laboc, there betwene theym two, he shewed al together, how that he hadde hoped to haue had a louynge companion to lead his lyfe withall, now he hath one that is alwates blubberyng and pynnyng her selfe awaye withoute anye remedie, he prayeth him to lay to hys hande in amendinge his doughters fautes her father answered & he had ones giuen hym his doughter, and yf that she woulde not be reuolced by wordes (a goddes name take Stafforde lawe) she was his owne. Then the gētylman sayd agayne, I knowe that I may do but I had leuer haue her amended cyther by youre good counsell or

comman

rewled by wordes (a goddes name take Stafforde lawe) she was his owne. Then the gētylman sayd agayne, I know that I may do but I had leuer haue her amēded eyther by youre good counsell or commaundement,

commanndement, then to come vnto that extreme waies, her father promised that he woulde fynde a remedye. After a dai or two, he espied time and place whē he might be alone with his doughter. Then he loked sourely vpō his doughter, as though he had bene horne woode with her, he began to reherse how foule a beaste she was, how he feared many tymes that she neuer haue bestowed her. And yet sayde he muche a doe, vnto my great cosse and charg, I haue gottē the one that moughte lye by any Ladyes syde, and she were a quene and yet thou not perceiuyng what I haue done for the nor knowynge that thou hast suche a man whiche but of his goodnes myghte thynke thee to euill to be stoye in his kytchen, thou contrariest al his mind to make a Wort tale he spake so sharpe ly to her, that she feared that he wold haue beaten her, It is a man of asubtyll and wyllye wytte, whycher wythout a bysarde is readye to playe anye

B is maner

then to come vnto that extreme waies, her father promised that he would fynde a remedye. After a dai or two, he espied time and place whē he might be alone with his doughter. Then he loked sourely vpō his doughter, as though he had bene horne woode with her, he began to reherse how foule a beaste she was, how he feared many tymes that she neuer haue bestowed her. And yet sayde he much a doe, vnto my great cosse and charg, I haue gottē the one that moughte lye by any Ladyes syde, and she were a quene and yet thou not perceiuyng what I haue done for the nor knowynge that thou hast suche a man whiche but of his goodnes myghte thynke thee to euill to be stoye in his kytchen, thou contrariest al his mind to make a short tale he spake so sharply to her, that she feared that he wold haue beaten her. It is a man of asubtyll and wyllye wytte, whycher wythout a vysarde is ready to playe anye maner of parte.

maner of parte. Thē this yonge wife
 what for feare, and for trouthe of the
 matter, cleane stryken oute of counte
 nauce, fell downe at her fathers fete
 Desyryng hym that he wolde forgette
 and forgiue her all that was past and
 euer after she woulde Doe her Duetye
 Her father forgaue her, and promised
 that she shoulde finde him a kynd and
 a louynge father, yf so be that she per-
 fourmed her promyse. xantippa. How
 dyd she afterwarde. Eulalya, whē she
 was departed frō her father she came
 backe into a chaumber, and there by
 chaunce found her husband alone she
 fel on her knees to hym and said. Mā
 in tymes paste, I neyther knewe you
 nor my selfe, from this daye froward
 ye shall se me cleane chaunged, onelye
 pardon that is past, with that her hus-
 bande toke her in his armes & kyssed
 her sayinge she shoulde lacke nothyng
 yf she woulde holde her in that mind.
 xantip. Why did she cōtinue so. Eula-
 lya. Euen tyll her endynge Daye, nor
 there

there was none so vyle a thyng but
 that she woulde laye handes on it re-
 dely with all her herte, if her husband
 wolde let her, so great loue was begō
 and assured betwene them and many
 a daye after, shee thanked god þ̄ euer
 she met with such a mā. For yf she had
 not she sayd she had ben cleane caste a
 waye. xan. We haue as greate plentie
 of suche housbandes, as of white cro-
 wes. Eulalya. Now, but for wering
 you? I coulde tell you a thyng that
 chaunced a late in this same cite. xan-
 typpa. I haue litell to doe, and I lyke
 your communicacyon very well. Eula-
 lya. There was a certaine gentilmā
 he as suche sort of men do, vsed much
 huntynge in the cuntre, where he hap-
 pened on a younge damoyzell, a very
 pore womā's child on whō he doted a
 man well stryken in age, and for her
 sake he lay oftē out of his owne house
 his excuse was hūtig. This mā's wife
 an exceeding honest womā, halfe deale
 suspecte the mater, tried out her hus-
 bandes

Thē this yonge wife what for feare, and for trouthe of the
 matter, cleane stryken oute of countenance, fell downe at
 her fathers fete desyryng hym that he wolde forgette and
 forgiue her all that was past and euer after she woulde
 doe her duetye Her father forgaue her, and promised that
 she shoulde finde him a kynd and a louynge father, yf so
 be that she performed her promyse.

xantippa. How dyd she afterwarde?

Eulalya, whē she was departed frō her father she came
 backe into a chaumber, and there by chaunce found her
 husband alone she fel on her knees to hym and said. Mā
 in tymes paste, I neyther knewe you nor my selfe, from this
 daye froward ye shall se me cleane chaunged, onelye
 pardon that is past, with that her husbände toke her in his
 armes & kyssed her sayinge she should lacke nothyng yf
 she woulde holde her in that mind.

xantip. Why did she cōtinue so.

Eulalya. Euen tyll her endynge daye, nor there was none
 so vyle a thyng but that she woulde laye handes on it
 redely with all her herte, if her husband wolde let her, so
 great loue was begō and assured betwene them and many
 a daye after, shee thanked god y^t euer she met with such a
 mā. For yf she had not she sayd she had ben cleane caste
 awaye.

xan. We haue as greate plentie of suche housbandes, as of
 white crows.

Eulalya. Now, but for wering you? I coulde tell you a
 thyng that chaunced a late in this same cite.

xantypa. I haue litell to doe, and I lyke your
 communicacyon very well.

Eulalya. There was a certaine gentilmā he as suche sort of
 men do, vsed much huntynge in the cuntre, where he
 happened on a younge damoyzell, a very pore womā's child
 on whō he doted a man well stryken in age, and for her
 sake he lay oftē out of his owne house his excuse was
 hūtig. This mā's wife an exceeding honest womā, halfe deale
 suspecte the mater, tried out her husbānds falsched,

**bandes falsed, on a tyme whē he had
 taken his iourney fourth of the town
 vnto some other waies, she wente vn
 to that poore cotage and boulded out
 all the hoole matter, where he laye on
 nights, wheron he drāke, what thyng
 thei had to welcō him withall. There
 was neither one thyng nor other, but
 bare walles. This good womā retur
 ned home, and sone after came againe
 brynginge w^h her a good soft bed, and
 al therto belongyng and certain plate
 besydes that she gaue them moneye,
 charynge them that if the Gentilmā
 came agayne, they shold entreate him
 better not beyng knowē al this while
 that she was his wyfe, but fayued her
 to be her sister. Not long after her hus
 band stale thether againe, he sawe the
 howse otherwyse decked, and better
 fare then he was wounte to haue. He
 asked, frome whence cometh al this
 goodly gere? They sayde that an ho
 neste matrone, a kynswoman of hys
 hadde broughte it thither and com
 manded**

on a tyme whē he had taken his iourney fourth of the town
 vnto some other waies, she wente vnto that poore cotage
 and boulded out all the hoole matter, where he laye on
 nights, wheron he drāke, what thyng thei had to welcō him
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 walles. This good womā returned home, and sone after
 came againe brynginge w^t her a good soft bed, and al
 therto belongyng and certain plate besydes that she gaue
 them moneye, charynge them that if the Gentilmā came
 agayne, they shold entreate him better not beyng knowē al
 this while that she was his wyfe, but fayued her to be her
 sister. Not long after her husband stale thether againe, he
 sawe the howse otherwyse decked, and better fare then he
 was wounte to haue. He asked, frome whence cometh al
 this goodly gere? They sayde that an honeste matrone, a
 kynswoman of hys hadde broughte it thither and
 commaunded

thenm that he should be well cherished when so euer he
 came, by and by his hart gaue him that it was hys wiues
 dede, whan he came home he demaūded of her yf she
 hadde bene there or nay, she sayd yea. Then he asked her
 for what purpose she sente all that housholde stuffe
 thither. Man (said she) ye haue bē tenderly brought vp. I
 perceiued that ye were but corslie handled there, me
 thought that it was my part, seing it was your wyll and
 pleasure to be there ye shoulde be better loked to.

Xantippa. She was one of goddes fooles. I woulde rather
 for a bed haue layd vnder him a bundel of nettels: or a
 burden of thistels.

Eula. But here the end her husbände perceuyng the
 honeste of her great pacience neuer after laye from her,
 but made good cheare at home with his owne. I am sure
 ye knowe Gilberte the holāder.

Xan. Very well.

Eu. He (as it is not vnknowē maried an old wife in his florishīg youth.

maunded them that he would be well cherished when so euer he came, by and by his hart gaue him that it was hys wiues dede. whan he came home he demaunded of her yf she hadde bene there oz nay, she sayd yea. Then he asked her for what purpose she sente all that houholde stufte thither. Man (said she) ye haue bē tenderly brought by I perceiued that ye were but cozlie handled there, me thought that it was my part, seing it was your wyll and pleasure to be there ye shoulde be better loked to. Xantippa. She was one of goddes fooles. I woulde rather for a bed haue layd vnder him a bundel of nettels: oz a burden of thistels. Eula. But here the end her husbände perceyving the honeste of her great pacience neuer after laye from her, but made good cheare at home with his owne. I am sure ye knowe Gilberte the holāder. ran. Very well. Eu. He (as it is not vnknowē maried an old wife in his florishīg youth. Xā.

But Her

aduētūre he maried the good and not the woman. Eulalia. There sayde ye well, setting lytell stoor by hys olde wife, hunted a callette, with whom he kept much companie abrode, he dined oz supped litell at home. What wouldest thou haue sayd to y^e gere. Xantip. What woulde I a said? I wolde haue flowē to the hores toppe and I wolde haue crownēd myne husbände at hys oute goinge to her with a pysbowle, that he so ēbawmed might haue gon vnto his souerayne ladie. Eula. But how much wiselier dyd this woman? We despyred that yonge woman home vnto her, and made her good chere, so by that meanes she brought home also her husband without ani witchcraft oz sorserie, and yf that at anye season he supped abrode with her she would sende vnto them some good dayntie morsel, and byd him make good chere Xantippa. I had leuer be slayne then I woulde be bawde vnto myne owne husbände. Eulalia. Yes, but consyder all

Xā. Per aduētūre he maried the good and not the woman.

Eulalia. There sayde ye well, setting lytell stoor by hys olde wife, hunted a callette, with whom he kept much companie abrode, he dined or supped litell at home. What wouldest thou haue sayd to y^e gere.

Xantip. What woulde I a said? I wolde haue flowē to the hores toppe and I wolde haue crownēd myne husbände at hys oute goinge to her with a pysbowle, that he so ēbawmed might haue gon vnto his souerayne ladie.

Eula. But how much wiselier dyd this woman? She desyred that yonge woman home vnto her, and made her good chere, so by that meanes she brought home also her husband without ani witchcraft or sorserie, and yf that at anye season he supped abrode with her she would sende vnto them some good dayntie morsel, and byd him make good chere

Xantippa. I had leuer be slayne then I woulde be bawde vnto myne owne husbände.

all thynges well, was not that muche better, then she shoulde be her shrewyshnesse, haue putte her husbandes minde cleane of from her, and so haue ledde all her life in trouble and heuynesse. **Xantippa.** I graunte you well, that it was better so but I coulde not abyde it. **Eulalya.** I wyll tell you a prety story moze, and so make an ende. One of oure neyghboures, a well disposed and a goddes man, but that he is some what testie, on a day pomeld his wife well and thristely aboute the pate and so good a woman as cuer was bozne, she picked her into a inner parler, and there weepyng and sobbyng, eased her heuye harte, anone after, by chaunce her husbände came into the same place, and founde hys wyfe wepyng. What sittest thou heare sayth he seighing & sobbig like a child. Thē she like a wise woman sayde. Is it not moze honesty for me to lamente my dolours here in a secret place, thē to make wondering and on oure crye
in

Eulalia. Yea, but consyder all thynges well, was not that muche better, then she shoulde be her shrewyshnesse, haue putte her husbandes minde cleane of from her, and so haue ledde all her life in trouble and heuynesse.

Xantippa. I graunte you well, that it was better so but I coulde not abyde it.

Eulalya. I wyll tell you a prety story more, and so make an ende. One of oure neyghboures, a well disposed and a goddes man, but that he is some what testie, on a day pomeld his wife well and thristely aboute the pate and so good a woman as euer was borne, she picked her into an inner parler, and there weepyng and sobbyng, eased her heuye harte, anone after, by chaunce her husbände came into the same place, and founde hys wyfe wepyng. What sittest thou heare sayth he seighing & sobbig like a child. Thē she like a wise woman sayde. Is it not more honesty for me to lamente my dolours here in a secret place, thē to make wondering and on oure crye in the strete,

as other womē do. At so wyfely and womanly a saing his hart melted, promysynge her faythfullye and truelie that he woulde neuer laye stroke on her afterwarde, nor neuer did.

Xantippa. No more wil mine god thanke my selfe.

Eulalya. But then ye are alwaies one at a nother, agreinge lyke dogges and cattes.

Xan. What wouldest thou that I should do?

Eu. Fyrst & formest, whatsoever thy husbände doeth sayde thou nothinge, for his harte must be wonne by lytell and litel by fayre meanes, gentilnesse and forbearing at the last thou shalte eyther wynne him or at the least waie thou shalt leade a better life thē thou doest now.

Xantippa. He his beyonde goddes forbode, he wil neuer amende.

Eulalia. Eye saye not so, there is no beest so wild but by fayre handling be tamed, neuer mistrust man thē. Assay a moneth or two, blame me and thou findest not that my counsell dooeth ease. There be some fautes wyth you thoughte

In the strete, as other womē do. At so
 wysely and womanly a saing his hart
 melted, promysynge her faythfullye
 and truelie that he woulde neuer laye
 stroke on her afterwarde, noz neuer
 did. **Xantippa.** No moze wil mine god
 thanke my selfe. **Eulalya.** But then ye
 are alwates one at a nother, agreinge
 lyke dogges and cattes. **Xan.** What
 wouldest thou that I should do. **Eu.**
 First & foremost, whatsoeuer thy hus-
 bande doeth sayde thou nothinge, for
 his harte must be wonne by lytell and
 litel by fayre meanes, gentillesse and
 forbearing. at the last thou shalt ey-
 ther wynnne him or at the leaste waie
 thou shalt leade a better life thē thou
 doest now. **Xantippa.** He his beyonde
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 tamed, neuer mistrust man thē. Assay
 a moneth or two, blame me and thou
 findest not that my counsell dooeth
 case. There be some fautes wyth you
 though

thoughe thou se them, be wyse of this
 especyall that thou neuer gyue hym
 foule wordes in the chambze, or in bed
 but be sure that all thynges there bee
 full of passyme and pleasure. For yf
 that place which is ordeined to make
 amēdes for all fautes and so to renew
 loue, be polluted, eyther with strife or
 grugynge, then fayre wel al hope of
 loue daies, or atonementes, yet there
 be some beastes so wayward and mis-
 cheuous, that when theyr husbandes
 hath them in their armes a bed, they
 scholde & chyde making y same plesur
 their lewd condicions (that expelseth
 all displeasures oute of their husban-
 des mynde vnpleasaunt and lytell set
 bi corrupting the medecine that shuld
 haue cured al deadly greifes, & odible
 offēces. **Xantip.** That is no newes to
 me. **Eula.** Though the woman shulde
 be well ware and wyse that she shulde
 neuer be disobedient vnto her husbād
 yet she ought to be most circūspect
 that

thou se them, be wyse of this especyall that thou neuer
 gyue hym foule wordes in the chambre, or in bed but be
 sure that all thynges there bee full of pastyme and
 pleasure. For yf that place which is ordeined to make
 amēdes for all fautes and so to renew loue, be polluted,
 eyther with strife or grugynge, then fayre wel al hope of
 loue daies, or atonementes, yet there be some beastes so
 wayward and mischeuous, that when theyr husbandes hath
 them in their arms a bed, they scholde & chyde making y^t
 same plesure their lewd condicions (that expelseth all
 displeasures oute of their husbandes mynde vnpleasaunt
 and lytell set bi corrupting the medecine that shuld haue
 cured al deadly greifes, & odible offēces.

Xantip. That is no newes to me.

Eula. Though the woman shulde be well ware and wyse
 that she shulde neuer be disobedient vnto her husbād yet
 she ought to be most circūspect

that at meting she shew her selfe redy
 and pleasaunt vnto him. xantippa.
 Yea vnto a man, holde well withall
 but I am combred with a beast. Eula.
 No more of those wordes, most com-
 monly our husbands ar euill through
 our owne faute, but to returne againe
 vnto our taile they that ar sene in the
 olde fables of Poetes sai that Venus
 whome they make chiefe lady of wed-
 locke (hath a girdle made by the han-
 dy worke of Vulcan her Lorde, and
 in that is thrust al that enforceth loue
 and with that she girdeth her whan
 so euer she lyeth wyth her housbande
 xantippa. A tale of a tubbe. Eulalya.
 A tayle it is, but herke what the taile
 meaneth. xantippa. Tell me. Eulalia
 That techeth vs that the wyfe ought
 to dyspose her selfe all that she maye
 that lieng by her husband she shew him
 al the plesure that she cā. Wherby the
 honest loue of matrimony may reuiue
 and be renewed, & that there with be
 clene dispatched al grudges & malice
 xant

that at meting she shew her selfe redy and pleasaunt unto him.

xantippa. Yea vnto a man, holde well withall but I am combred with a beast.

Eula. No more of those wordes, most commonly our husbands ar euill through our owne faute, but to returne againe vnto our taile they that ar sene in the olde fables of Poetes sai that Venus whome they make chiefe lady of wedlocke (hath a girdle made by the handy worke of Vulcan her Lorde, and in that is thrust al that enforceth love and with that she girdeth her whan so euer she lyeth wyth her housbande

xantippa. A tale of a tubbe.

Eulalya. A tayle it is, but herke what the taile meaneth.

xantippa. Tell me.

Eulalia That techeth us that the wyfe ought to dyspose her selfe all the she maye that lieng by her husband she shew him al the plesure that she cā; Wherby the honest love of matrimony may reuiue and be renewed, & that there with be clene dispatched al grudges & malice

gant. But how shall we come by thy gyrdle. Eula. We nede neyther wytchraft nor enchauntment, ther is non of them al, so sure as honest condicions accompayned with good feloshypp. xant. I can not fauoure suche an husbunde as myne is. Eula. It is moste thy profyt that he be no longer suche. If thou couldest by thy Circes craft chaunge thin husbunde into an hogge, or a boze wouldest thou do it. xantip. God knoweth. Eu. Art thou in dout. haddest thou leauer marye an hogge than a mā. xantip. Mary I had leauer haue a manne. Eulalia. wel, what and thou couldest by sozcery make him of a drōkarde a soober man, of a vnthriste a good housbunde of an ydell losell a towarde body, wouldest thou not doe it. xantip. yes, hardely, woulde I doe it. But where shoulde I learne the cunnyng. Eula. For soth that cōning hast thou in the if thou wouldest vtter it, thyn must be be, mauger thy head, the towarde h̄ makest him, the better it is
for

for the, thou lokest on nothing but on his leude cōdicions, and thei make the half mad, thou wouldest amende hym and thou putttest hym farther oute of frame, loke rather on his good condicions, and so shalt thou make him better. It is to late calagayne yesterdaie befoze thou were maryed vnto hym. It was tyme to cōsyder what his fautes were for a woman shold not only take her husbunde by the eyes but by the eares. Now it is more tyme to redresse fautes thē to fynd fautes. xant. What woman euer toke her gusband by the eares. Eulali. She taketh her husbunde by the eyes that loketh on nothyng, but on the beautye and pulcritude of the body. She taketh him by the eares, that harkeneth diligētly what the common voice sayth by him. xantip. Thy counsaile is good, but it commeth a day after the faire. Eula. Yet it commeth time ynough to bringe thyne husbunde to a greate furtheraunce to that shall bee yf God sende
you

xant. But how shall we come by the thys gyrdle?

Eula. We nede neyther wytchraft nor enchauntment, ther is non of them al, so sure as honest condicions accompayned with good feloshypp.

xant. I can not fauoure suche an husbunde as myne is.

Eula. It is moste thy profyt that he be no longer suche. If thou couldest by thy Circes craft chaunge thin husbunde into an hogge, or a boze wouldest thou do it?

xantip. God knoweth.

Eu. Art thou in dout? haddest thou leauer marye an hogge than a mā.

Xantip. Mary I had leauer haue a manne.

Eulalia. wel, what and thou couldest by sorcery make him of a drōkarde a soober man, of a vnthriste a good housbunde of an ydell losell a towarde body, wouldest thou not doe it?

xantip. yes, hardely, woulde I doe it. But where shoulde I learne the cunnyng?

Eula. For soth that cōning hast thou in the if thou wouldest vtter it, thyn must be be, mauger thy head, the towarde y^e makest him, the better it is for the,

thou lokest on nothing but on his leude cōdicions, and thei make the half mad, thou wouldest amende hym and thou putttest hym farther oute of frame, loke rather on his good condicions, and so shalt thou make him better. It is to late calagayne yesterdaie before thou were maryed unto hym. It was tyme to cōsyder what his fautes were for a women shold not only take her husbunde by the eyes but by the eares. Now it is more tyme to redresse fautes thē to fynd fautes.

xant. What woman euer toke her gusband by the eares.

Eulali. She taketh her husbunde by the eyes that loketh on nothyng, but on the beautye and pulcritude of the body. She taketh him by the eares, that harkeneth diligētly what the common voice sayth by him

xantip. Thy counsaile is good, but it commeth a day after the faire.

Eula. Yet it commeth time ynough to bringe thyne husbunde to a greate furtheraunce to that shall bee yf God sende you anie frute together.

You anſe frute together. **xantippa.** We
 are ſpede alre dy of tha. **Eulaly.** How
 longe ago. **Xantip.** A good whyle ago
Eulalia. How many monethes old is
 it. **Xantip.** It lacketh lytle of. vii. **Eula**
What a tale is this, ye reken the mo-
netheſ by nightes and dayes double.
xantippa. Not ſo. **Eula.** It can not be
 none other wyſe, yf ye reken from the
 marriage day. **xantippa.** yea, but what
 thē, I ſpake with him befoze we were
 married. **Eulalia.** Be children gotten
 by ſpeakinge. **xantip.** It befell ſo that
 he mette me alone and begon to ticke
 at me, and tickled me vnder the arme
 holes and ſydes to make me laugh. I
 might not awaie with ticklynge, but
 fell downe backwarde vpon a bedde
 and he a lofte, neuer leuinge kyſſynge
 on me, what he did els I can not ſaye,
 but by ſayncte Marie within a while
 after my bely beganne to ſwell. **Eula.**
 Go now and diſprayſe thyne huſbāde
 whiche yf he gette children by playe,
 what wyll he do whē he goeth to it in
 good

xantippa. We are ſpede alre dy of that.

Eulaly. How long ago.

Xantip. A good whyle ago

Eulalia. How many monethes old is it.

Xantip. It lacketh lytle of. vii.

Eula What a tale is this, ye reken the monethes by nightes
and dayes double.

Xantippa. Not ſo.

Eula. It can not be none other wyſe, yf ye reken from the
marriage day.

xantippa. yea, but what thē, I ſpake with him before we
were married.

Eulalia. Be children gotten by ſpeakinge.

xantip. It befell ſo that he mette me alone and begon to
ticke at me, and tickled me vnder the arme holes and ſydes
to make me laugh. I might not awaie with ticklynge, but fell
downe backwarde vpon a bedde and he a lofte, neuer
leuinge kyſſynge on me, what he did els I can not ſaye, but
by ſayncte Marie within a while after my bely beganne to
swell.

Eula. Go now and diſprayſe thine huſbāde whiche yf he
gette children by playe, what wyll he do whē he goeth to it
in good ernest.

good earnest. xantippa, I fere me I am
payed agayn. Eula. Good locke God
hath sent a fruitfull grounde, a good
tylmā. xantip. In that thing he might
haue lesse laboure and moze thanke.
Eula. Few wyues finde at theyr hus-
bandes in that behalfe but were ye thē
sure together. xanti. yea that we were
Eula. The offence is the lesse. Is it a
man chylde. xantip. yea. Eula. He shal
make you at one so that ye wil bow &
forbere. What saieth other mē by thin
husband, they that be his cōpanions,
they delite with him abrode xā. They
say that he is meruelous gentyll, redy
to do euery man pleasure, liberal and
sure to his frende. Eula. And that put-
teth me in good cōfort that he wyll be
ruled after our counsayll. xantip. But
I fynde him not so. Eula. Order thy
selfe to him as I haue tolde thee, and
cal me no more true sayer but a lier, if
he be not so good vnto the as to anie
creature liuinge Agayne cōsidre this
he is yet but a childe, I thinke he pas-
seth

xantippa, I fere me I am payed agayn.

Eula. Good locke God hath sent a fruitfull grounde, a good
tylmā.

Xantip. In that thing he might haue lesse laboure and
more thanke.

Eula. Few wyues finde at theyr husbandes in that behalfe
but were ye thē sure together.

xanti. yea that we were

Eula. The offence is the lesse. Is it a man chylde.

xantip. yea.

Eula. He shal make you at one so that ye wil bow &
forbere. What saieth other mē by thin husband, they that
be his cōpanions, they delite with him abrode

xā, They say that he is meruelous gentyll, redy to do euery
man pleasure, liberal and sure to his frende.

Eula. And that putteth me in good cōfort that he wyll be
ruled after our counsayll.

xantip. But I fynde him not so.

Eula. Order thy selfe to him as I haue tolde thee, and cal
me no more true sayer but a lier, if he be not so good vnto
the as to anie creature liuinge Agayne cōsidre this he is yet
but a childe, I thinke he passethe not.

seeke not. xxiiij. the blacke oxe neuer trode on hys fote, nowe it is but losse labour to recken vpon anye deuorse. xantippa. Yet manye a tyme and ofte I haue troubled my braynes with al Eulalia. As for that fantasie whensoever it commeth into your mynd first of all counte how naked a thyng woman is, deuorsed from man. It is the hyghest dignitie that longethe to the wyfe to obsequyous vnto her spouse. So hath nature ordeined so god hath apoynted, that the woman shoulde be ruled al by the man loke onely vpon this whiche is trouthe, thine husbände he is, other canste thou none haue. Againe forgette not that swete babe be gotten of both your bodies what thur beste thou to do with that, wilte thou take it awaye with thee. Thou shalte beene thine husband his ryght wyll thou leue it with hym. thou shalt spoile thy self of thy chefeste Jewell thou haste. Beside all this tell mee trueth hast thou none euill wyllers, Besyde

Et all

all thys tell me trueth, hast thou none euill wyllers. xan. I haue a stepdame I warrant you, and myne husbandes mother euen such another. Eula. Do they hate the so deadly. xantip. They woulde se me hanged. Eula. Thē forget not thē what greater plesure couldest thou shew them then to se the deuorsed from thine husband and to led a wydowes lyfe. Yea and worse thē a wydow, for wydowes be at their choise. xantippa. I holde well with youre counsell, but I can not awaye wyth the paynes, Eulalia. yet recken what paynes ye toke or ye colde teache your paret to speake. xantippa. Exceedynge much. Eu. And thinke you much to labour a lytel in reforming your husbād with whō you may liue merely all the dayes of your lyfe. What busines doe mē put thē self to be wel & easily horsed & shal we think our selues to good to take paynes that we mai haue our husbādes gētīl & curteise vnto vs. xantip. What shal I do. Eu. I haue told you

all

xxiiij. the blacke oxe neuer trode on hys fote, nowe it is but losse labour to recken vpon anye deuorse.

xantippa. Yet manye a tyme and ofte I haue troubled my braynes withal

Eulalia. As for that fantasie whensoever it commeth into your mynd first of all counte how naked a thyng woman is, deuorsed from man. It is the hyghest dignitie that longethe to the wyfe to obsequyous vnto her spouse. So hath natyre ordeined so god hath appoynted, that the woman shoulde be ruled al by the man loke onely vpon this whiche is trouthe, thine husbände he is, other canste thou none haue. Againe forgette not that swete babe be gotten of both your bodies what thin beste thou to do with that, wilte thou take it awaye with thee? Thou shalte bereue thine husband his ryght wyll thou leue it with hym? thou shalt spoile thy self of thy chefeste Jewell thou haste. Beside all this tell me trueth hast thou none euill wyllers, Besyde all thys tell me trueth, hast thou none euill wyllers.

xan. I haue a stepdame I warrant you, and myne husbandes mother euen such another.

Eula. Do they hate the so deadly.

xantip. They woulde se me hanged.

Eula. Thē forget not thē what greater plesure couldest thou shew them then to se the deuorsed from thine husband and to led a wydowes lyfe. Yea and worse thē a wydow, for wydowes be at their choise.

xantippa. I holde well with youre counsell, but I can not awaye with the paynes.

Eulalia. yet recken what paynes ye toke or ye colde teache your paret to speake.

xantippa. Exceedynge much.

Eu. And thinke you much to labour a lytel in reforming your husbād with whō you may liue merely all the dayes of your lyfe. What busines doe mē put thē self to be wel & easily horsed & shal we think our selues to good to take paynes that we mai haue our husbādes gētīl & curteise vnto vs.

xantip. What shal I do.

al redy, se that al thing be clene & trim
at home, that no sluttysch or vnclenlye
syghtes dryue hym oute a dores. Be
your selfe alwayes redy at a becke, be
rynge continuall in minde what reue
reçe the wife oweth vnto her husbād.
Be neyther in your dūpes, nor alway
es on your mery pinnes go nether to
homely nor to nycely. Let your meat
be cleane dresed, you know your hus
bādes diet. What he loueth best that
dresse. Moreouer shewe your selfe lo
uinge and fayre spokē vnto thē where
he loueth, call them now and thē vn
to your table. At meate, se that al thin
ges be well sauored, and make good
chere, And whē that he is toppe heuy
playing on his lute, sytte thou by and
singe to him so shalte thou make hym
keepe home, and lessen hys expences
This shall he thynke at length, in fay
the I am a fonde felowe that maketh
suche chere with a strumpet abroode
with greate lossee bothe of substance
and name, seyng that I haue a wyfe

CU at

at home bothe muche fayrer, and one
that loueth me ten times better, with
whome I may be both clenlyer recei
ued and dayntelier cherished rantip.
Beleuest thou that it will take and I
put it into a profe. Eulali. Looke on
me. I warrante it or ought longe I
wyll in hande with thyne husbāde, &
I will tell hym his parte. rantippa. ye
marie that is well sayde. But be wyse
that he espie not our casse, he would
plaie his fages, all the house should be
to lytle for hym. Eulalia. Take no
thoughte. I shall so conuey my mat
ters, that he shall dysclose all toge
ther hym selfe, what busynesse is be
twene you, that done I wyll handell
him pretelie as I thinke beste, and I
truste to make him a new man for the
and when I se my time I wyll make a
lie for thee, how louinge thou hast spo
ken of him. rantippa. Chryst spede vs
and bringe our pupose well aboute.
Eulalia. He will not fayle the so thou
do thy good wyll

There

Eu. I haue told you al redy, se that al thing be clene & trim
at home, that no sluttysch or vnclenlye syghtes dryue hym
oute a dores. Be your selfe alwayes redy at a becke,
berynge continuall in minde what reuerēce the wife oweth
vnto her husbād. Be neyther in your dūpes, nor alwayes on
your mery pinnes go nether to homely nor to nycely. Let
your meat be cleane dressed, you know yourhusbādes diet.
What he loueth best that dresse. Moreouer shewe your
selfe louinge and fayre spokē vnto thē where he loueth, call
them now and thē vnto your table. At meate, se that al
thinges be well sauored, and make good there, And whē
that he is toppe heuy playing on his lute, sytte thou by and
singe to him so shalte thou make hym keepe home, and
lessen hys expences This shall he thynke at length, in
faythe I am a fonde felowe that maketh suche chere with a
strumpet abroode with greate lossee bothe of substance
and name, seyng that I haue a wyfe

at home bothe muche fayrer, and one that loueth me ten
times better, with whome I may be both clenlyer receiued
and dayntelier cherished

xantip. Beleuest thou that it will take and I put it into a
profe.

Eulali. Looke on me. I warrante it or ought longe I wyll in
hande with thyne husbāde, & I will tell hym his part.

xantippa. ye marie that is well sayde. But be wyse that he
espie not our casle, he would plaie his fages, all the house
should be to lytle for hym.

Eulalia. Take no thoughte. I shall so conuey my matters,
that he shall dysclose all together hym selfe, what
busynesse is betwene you, that done I wyll handell him
pretelie as I thinke beste, and I truste to make him a new
man for the and when I se my time I wyl make a lie for
thee, how louinge thou hast spoken of him.

xantippa. Chryst spede vs and bringe our pupose well
aboute.

Eulalia. He will not fayle the so thou do thy good wyll.

Here was a man that married a
 woman whiche hadde great ri-
 ches and beaulye. Howe bee it
 she hadde suche an impedymēt of na-
 ture that she was domme and coulde
 not speake, whiche thyng made him
 ryghte pensyfe, and sayd, wherfore vpon
 a daye as he walked alone ryght
 heuye in hearte thynkyng vpon his
 wyfe. There came one to hym and as-
 ked him what was the cause of his he-
 uynesse whiche answered that it was
 onely bycause his wife was borne dō-
 me. To whome this other said I shal
 shewe the soone a remedy and a med-
 cyne (therfore that is thus) go tak an
 aspen leafe and lay it vnder her tōge
 this night wher beinge a sleape, and I
 warrant the that she shall speake on
 the morowe whiche man beyng glad
 of thys medycyne prepared therfore
 and gathered aspen leaues, wherfore
 he layd thre of them vnder her tonge
 whan she was a sleape. And on the
 Cij morow

There was a man that married a woman whiche hadde great riches and beaulye. Howe bee it she hadde suche an impedymēt of nature that she was domme and coulde not speake, whiche thyng made him ryghte pensyfe, and sayd, wherfore vpon a daye as he walked alone ryght heuye in hearte thynkyng vpon his wyfe. There came one to hym and asked him what was the cause of his heuynesse whiche answered that it was onely bycause his wife was borne dōme. To whome this other said I shal shewe the soone a remedy and a medycyne (therfore that is thus) go tak an aspen leafe and lay it vnder her tōge this night shee beinge a sleape, and I warrant the that shee shall speake on the morowe whiche man beyng glad of thys medycyne prepared therfore and gathered aspen leaues, wherfore he layd thre of them vnder her tonge whan shee was a sleape.

And on the morow when he him selfe awaked he Desyrous to know how hys medicine wrought being in bed with her, he demaunded of her how she did, and sodely she answered and sayd, I beshrewe thy harte for waking me so early, and so by the vertue of that medycyne she was restored to her speche. But in cōclusion her spech encreased day by day and she was so curst of cōdycyon that euery daie she brauled and chyd with her husbände, so muche at the laste he was more weped, and had much more trouble and disease wyth her shrewed wordes then he hadde before whē she was dumme, wherfore as he walked another time alone he happened to mete agayne with the same personne that taught hym the sayde medycine and sayde to hym thys wyse. Syr ye taught me a medicin but late to make my domme wyfe to speake, byddyng me lay an aspen leafe vnder her tōug when she sleapte, and I layde three Aspen leaves there.

moztow when he him selfe awaked. he
 Desyrous to know how hys medicine
 wrought being in bed with her, he de-
 maunded of her how she did, and sode-
 ly she answered and sayd, I besyeme
 thy harte for waking me so early, and
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 was restozed to her speche. But in cō-
 clusion her spech encreased day by day
 and she was so curst of cōdycion that
 euery daie she bysauled and chyd with
 her husbände, so muche at the laste he
 was moze Sore, and had much more
 trouble and disease toyth her shrewed
 wordes then he hadde before whē she
 was dumme; wherfoze as he walked
 another tyme alone he happened to
 meete agayne with the same personne
 that taught hym the sayde medycine
 and sayde to hym thys wyse. Syr he
 taught me a medicin but late to make
 my domme wyse to speake, byddynge
 me lay an Aspen leafe vnder her toung
 when she Slepte, and I layde thre
 Aspen leaues there. Wherfoze nowe
 she

speaketh. But yet she speaketh soo
 much & so shrewdlye that I am more
 werier of her now, then I was when
 she was dōme: Wherfoze I prae you
 teache me a medycine to modyfy her
 that she speake not so muche. This o-
 ther answered and sayd thus. Sir I
 am a deuyl of hel, but I am one of thē
 that haue least power there. Al be yet
 I haue power to make a womā to spe-
 ke, but and yf a woman begin ones to
 speake, I nor al the deuyls in hel that
 haue the mooste power be not able to
 make a woman to be styll, nor to cause
 her to leue her speakyng.

¶ The end of this pleasant dialogue
 declaryng the seueral properties of
 two contrary disposers of the wyues
 aforesayde.

¶ Imprinted at London in Paules
 churche yearde, at the sygne of
 the Sunne, by Antony
 Kytson.

Wherfore nowe she speaketh. But yet she speaketh soo
 much & so shrewdlye that I am more werier of her now,
 then I was when she was dōme: Wherfore I prae you
 teache me a medycine to modyfy her that she speake not
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 deuyl of hel but I am one of thē that haue least power
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