

‘Od’s lifelings – An oath; literally “God’s little lives,” a mild exclamation.

A Knave, a thin-faced knave, a gull? – Insult; a worthless fellow, a simpleton or fool.

Abjurd – Renounced; rejected under oath.

Accost – To approach or address boldly.

An Apple cleft in two is not more a twin – Saying; two things exactly alike; a metaphorical expression.

Appetite – Desire, particularly for food, drink, or sensual pleasure.

Babble – Idle or foolish talk; chatter.

Bade – Past tense of “bid”; to command or invite.

Barful Strife – A struggle full of obstacles or difficulties.

Barren Rascal – Insult; a worthless, unproductive man.

Battery – An attack, physical or verbal.

Bearbaiting – An entertainment involving a chained bear attacked by dogs.

Beguiled – Deceived or charmed in a misleading way.

Beseech – To beg earnestly; to implore.

Beshrew – Mild curse; “shame on” or “curse.”

Blent – Blended, mixed.

Bloody Coxumb – Insult; “bloody fool”; “coxcomb” = fool’s cap.

Bosom – The chest; figuratively, intimacy or closeness.

Bounteously – Generously; with abundance.

Boxtree – Type of evergreen shrub; sometimes used metaphorically.

Burn some Sack – To drink sack (fortified wine).

By my Troth – “By my truth”; an oath, like “honestly” or “indeed.”

Caper – A playful leap or jump.

Chamber Maid – A female servant attending to bedrooms.

Chrulish – Rude, surly.

Clamorous – Noisy, loud, demanding.

Cloistress – A woman living in a cloister; a nun.

Coffer – Chest or box for money/valuables.

Commodity of hair, send thee a beard – Goods or trade in hair; often a joke about wigs/beards.

Condemmed – Judged guilty, doomed.

Consanguineous – Of the same blood; related.

Conster – To interpret, construe.

Cross-Gartered – Wearing garters tied across the legs; comic fashion.

Cut the mutton to it – Idiom meaning “get to the point” or “match action to words.”

Decreed – Ordered, decided by authority.

Dexterously – Skillfully, with agility.

Dieu Vous Garde, Monsieur – French: “God keep you, sir.”

Distempered Appetite – A disordered or unhealthy desire.

Do Cohere and Jump – To agree or happen at the same time.

Doctrine – Teaching or instruction.

Dormouse Valor – Timid or sleepy courage.

Dote – To love foolishly or excessively.

Ducats – Gold or silver coins used in Europe, especially Venice.

Embassy – A mission or message; also the envoys themselves.

Epistles – Letters.

Et Vous Aussi, Votre Serviteur – French: “And you also, your servant.”

Eunuch – A castrated man; sometimes employed as a servant or musician.

Exceptions to your ill hours – Complaints or objections to your bad timing.

Eye offending brine – Tears, described as salty water that hurts the eyes.

Fadge – To turn out, to suit or fit.

Feigned – Pretended, false.

Fie – An exclamation of disgust or disapproval.

Filed Steel, did spur me forth – Polished steel (metaphor for a sharpened weapon or motivation).

Folly – Foolishness.

Fortified – Strengthened, defended.

Further Chide You – To scold or rebuke more.

Fustian – Pompous or pretentious speech/writing.

Gait – Manner of walking.

Galliard – A lively Renaissance dance.

Handmaid – A female servant; attendant.

Haply – Perhaps, by chance.

Hath – Old form of “has.”

Inpetuosity – Rashness, sudden force.

Interceptor – One who stops or seizes.

Jocund, apt, and willingly – Cheerful, ready, and eager.

Jove – Another name for Jupiter, king of the Roman gods.

Kickshawses – Fancy but trivial dishes or showy trifles.

Kinsman – Male relative.

Lechery – Excessive or offensive sexual desire.

Lethargy – A state of sluggishness or sleepiness.

Lethe – River of forgetfulness in classical mythology.

Lucrece Knife – Reference to the dagger used by Lucrece (Roman legend).

Madonna – Title of respect for a lady; from Italian “my lady.”

Maidhood – Virginity; maiden state.

Marble-Breasted – Cold, unfeeling (like marble).

Marital Hand – Marriage bond, wedding hand.

Masques – Courtly performances combining music, dance, and drama.

Maugre – In spite of, notwithstanding.

Melancholy – Deep sadness or gloom.

Mellifluous – Sweet-sounding, flowing smoothly.

Midsommer Madness – Summer madness; passionate frenzy.

Most – Greatest in degree.

Mourn’st – You mourn.

Non Regardance – Neglect, disregard.

Non-regardance – Open, shameful injury.

Notorious Wrong – Open, shameful injury; well-known misdeed.

O’nights – At night, on nights.

Overweening Rogue – Arrogant, presumptuous scoundrel.

Paltry Boy – Insult; worthless, trivial fellow.

Pang of Heart – Sharp pain of emotion.

Parentage – Lineage, ancestry.

Pelistence – Sickness

Perverseness – Stubborn wrongheadedness.

Plight – Condition or state (often unfortunate).

Pox on’t – “Curse on it.”

Prithee – “I pray thee”; a polite request or plea.

Prodigal – Wasteful, spending recklessly.

Provident – Careful in planning for the future; prudent.

Purse-Bearer – Treasurer; one who carries money.

Quaffing – Drinking deeply or heartily.

Recompense – Reward, repayment.

Reverberate Hills – Echoing hills.

Rudesby – Rude, boisterous fellow.

Scruple – Small amount; doubt or hesitation.

Scurvy Fellow – Despicable man.

Shrew – A scolding, quarrelsome woman.

Sinews – Tendons; figuratively, strength.

Steward – Household manager.

Suff’ring – Enduring hardship or pain.

Surfeting – Overindulgence; eating or drinking to excess.

Swabber – Sailor tasked with cleaning a ship’s decks.

The Hart – A male deer (stag), often symbolizing love or pursuit.

Thou dissembling cub – Insult; young liar, deceiver.

Three Fivefold Blazon – A thrice-repeated proclamation of praise; “blazon” = formal display.

To Spite a Ravens Heart within a Dove – Concealing cruelty under a gentle exterior.

Turkeycock – Male turkey; insult = pompous man.

Twelvemonth – A full year.

Unaspicius – Unlucky, ill-omened.

Veiled – Covered, hidden, or modestly concealed.

Vouchsafed Ear – Graciously given attention.

Waylay – To ambush, intercept.

Whirlgig of Time – The turning wheel of time.

Woodcock near the gun – A fool easily caught in a trap.

Wooer – A suitor; someone courting another for marriage.

Yon same Sovereign Cruelty – That very great cruelty.

Yond – Yonder; over there.

Yond Gull – That fool over there.