

you disgrace us in this manner? I am shocked to meet my husband's mother in such a guise!

Lady Frances We are taught by Holy Scripture, dearest daughter, to be poor in spirit, no matter what our rank may be; and our Divine Saviour, who was the King of Kings, trod this earth as the most lowly of all. Shall I, then, who am so great a sinner in His sight, clothe myself with riches and jewels, and be not afraid of incurring His most dreadful punishments?

Lady Mobilia Enough, babbler! For my part, I intend to enjoy life while I can, and shall not embitter my soul with dismal croakings of a future punishment. You have chosen to be of the people, I prefer to remain a noble and to associate with nobles. On entering your family circle, I was prepared to love you, but my tastes do not incline to "Beggars," (scornfully), and I begin to despise you for your erratic conduct.

Servant (Offering to take the load of faggots from Lady Frances) Permit me, dear Mistress, to bear this heavy burden for you.

Lady Mobilia Back, menial, and know your place! Shall I pass through the streets of Rome unattended because you desire to help a beggar! (To Lady Frances) Frances, for I will not call you Mother, in future when you indulge your taste for such low company, I prefer not to be recognized as your relative. (To Servant) Come, we must not stay longer, lest I be seen by some of my friends. (Exeunt)

Lady Frances (Aside) It is the beginning of my trial. My Jesus, give me strength to bear it. Though you love me not, my daughter, my heart yearns for you, and my petition will ascend to the throne of the Most