

fancy's images. Images due to love (fancy).

26. All this makes up a story that is very consistent (of great constancy).

27. admirable. To be wondered at.

30. More than to us. May more joy than you have wished to us.

31. Wait on. Attend, accompany.

32. masques. Literally, an entertainment at which masques were worn by those who took part. On the stage a masque is a play in which the chief interest lies in the music and dancing, costumes and scenery, rather than in the plot.

33. manager of mirth. Master of the Revels.

36. abridgment. Pastime; something to "abridge" or shorten the time.

39. brief. List.

ripe. Ready, prepared.

41. the Centaurs. According to myth the Centaurs were a race of creatures, half man, half horse, who inhabited Thessaly. Hercules is said to have fought with them and defeated them.

42. eunuch. A male servant usually employed as a chamberlain.

45-6. The Greek musician, Orpheus, was, according to the myth, torn to pieces by Thracian women engaged in a drunken orgy, because he continued to mourn for his lost wife Eurydice, and spurned their advances.

Bacchanals. Followers of Bacchus, god of wine.

47. an old device. A play that is not newly devised or put together; and hence one that has been performed before.

49-50. It is possible that these lines refer to the dramatist, Robert Greene, who died in poverty in 1592. Greene was a Master of Arts of both Oxford and Cambridge.

51. critical. Expressing censure.

52. sorting with. In keeping with.

57. How can we make these contradictory terms (tragical mirth) agree?

62. fitted. Suited to the part he has to play.