

# Love's Labour's Lost

by William Shakespeare

Act 1, sc. 1 (Line 33 - Verse)

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## Berowne

I can but say their protestation over;  
So much, dear liege, I have already sworn,  
That is, to live and study here three years.  
But there are other strict observances;  
As, not to see a woman in that term,  
Which I hope well is not enrolled there;  
And one day in a week to touch no food  
And but one meal on every day beside,  
The which I hope is not enrolled there;  
And then, to sleep but three hours in the night,  
And not be seen to wink of all the day--  
When I was wont to think no harm all night  
And make a dark night too of half the day--  
Which I hope well is not enrolled there:  
O, these are barren tasks, too hard to keep,  
Not to see ladies, study, fast, not sleep!

*FERDINAND*

*Your oath is pass'd to pass away from these.*

## **BEROWNE**

Let me say no, my liege, an if you please:  
I only swore to study with your grace  
And stay here in your court for three years' space.