PAULO

*(to Leontes)* My brother, with our thanks.  
Nine changes of the watery star hath been  
The Shepherd's note since we have left our throneWithout a burthen: We thank you' many thousands moe  
That go before it.

LEONTES

Stay your thanks a while;  
And pay them when you part.

PAULO

Sir, that's to-morrow.  
I am question'd by my fears, of what may chance;

Or breed upon our absence;that may blow  
No sneaping winds at home

LEONTES

One seven-night longer.

PAUL

Very sooth, to-morrow.

LEONTES

We'll part the time between's then; and in that  
I'll no gainsaying.

PAULO

Press me not, beseech you.  
There is no tongue that moves, none, none i' the world,  
So soon as yours could win me: My affairs  
Do even drag me homeward: Farewell, our brother.

LEONTES

Tongue-tied, our queen? Speak you.

## HERMIONE

## I had thought, sir, to have held my peace until You have drawn oaths from him not to stay. You, sir, Charge him too coldly. Tell him, you are sure All in Bohemia's well~~;~~ this satisfaction The by-gone day proclaim'd: say this to him, He's beat from his best ward.

## LEONTES

## Well said, Hermione.

## HERMIONE

## To tell, he longs to see his son, were strong: But let him say so then, and let him go; We'll thwack him hence with distaffs.

## Yet of your royal presence I'll adventure The borrow of a week. When at Bohemia You take my lord, I'll give him my commission To let him there a month behind the gest Prefix'd for's parting: You'll stay~~?~~

## PAULO

## No, madam.

## HERMIONE

## Nay, but you will?

## PAULO

## I may not, verily.

## HERMIONE

## Verily! You put me off with limber vows; but I, Though you would seek to unsphere the stars with oaths, Should yet say 'Sir, no going.' Verily, You shall not go: a lady's 'Verily' 's As potent as a lord's. Will you go yet? Force me to keep you as a prisoner, Not like a guest; How say you? My prisoner? Or my guest? By your dread 'Verily,' One of them you shall be.

## PAULO

## Your guest, then, madam: To be your prisoner should import offending; Which is for me less easy to commit Than you to punish.

## HERMIONE

Not your gaoler, then,  
But your kind hostess. Come, I'll question you  
Of my lord's tricks and yours when you were boys: