**III.v** Leonato, Dogberry, Verges

**LEONATO**

What would you with me, honest neighbour?

**DOGBERRY**

Marry, sir, I would have some confidence with you  
that decerns you nearly.

**LEONATO**

Brief, I pray you; for you see it is a busy time with me.

**DOGBERRY**

Marry, this it is, sir.

**VERGES**

Yes, in truth it is, sir.

**LEONATO**

What is it, my good friends?

**DOGBERRY**

Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the  
matter: an old man, sir, and his wits are not so  
blunt as, God help, I would desire they were; but,  
in faith, honest as the skin between his brows.

**VERGES**

Yes, I thank God I am as honest as any man living  
that is an old man and no honester than I.

**DOGBERRY**

Comparisons are odorous: palabras, neighbour Verges.

**LEONATO**

Neighbours, you are tedious.

**DOGBERRY**

It pleases your worship to say so, but we are the  
poor duke's officers; but truly, for mine own part,  
if I were as tedious as a king, I could find it in  
my heart to bestow it all of your worship.

**LEONATO**

I would fain know what you have to say.

**VERGES**

Marry, sir, our watch to-night, excepting your  
worship's presence, ha' ta'en a couple of as arrant  
knaves as any in Messina.

**DOGBERRY**

A good old man, sir; he will be talking: as they  
say, when the age is in, the wit is out: God help  
us! it is a world to see. Well said, i' faith,  
neighbour Verges: well, God's a good man; an two men  
ride of a horse, one must ride behind. An honest  
soul, i' faith, sir; by my troth he is, as ever  
broke bread; but God is to be worshipped; all men  
are not alike; alas, good neighbour!

**LEONATO**

Indeed, neighbour, he comes too short of you.

**DOGBERRY**

Gifts that God gives.

**LEONATO**

I must leave you.

**DOGBERRY**

One word, sir: our watch, sir, have indeed  
comprehended two aspicious persons, and we would  
have them this morning examined before your worship.

**LEONATO**

Take their examination yourself and bring it me: I  
am now in great haste, as it may appear unto you.

**DOGBERRY**

It shall be suffigance.

**LEONATO**

Drink some wine ere you go: fare you well.

*Exeunt*