

**YOUNG ACTING COMPANY:**  
**AS YOU LIKE IT**

**AUDITION SCENE E**

**ACT II, SCENE 7**

*Enter ORLANDO, with his sword drawn*

**ORLANDO**

Forbear, and eat no more.

**JAQUES**

Why, I have eat none yet.

**DUKE SENIOR**

Art thou thus bolden'd, man, by thy distress,  
Or else a rude despiser of good manners,  
That in civility thou seem'st so empty?

**ORLANDO**

You touch'd my vein at first: the thorny point  
Of bare distress hath ta'en from me the show  
Of smooth civility. But forbear, I say:  
He dies that touches any of this fruit  
Till I and my affairs are answered.

**JAQUES**

An you will not be answered with reason, I must die.

**DUKE SENIOR**

What would you have? Your gentleness shall force  
More than your force move us to gentleness.

**ORLANDO**

I almost die for food; and let me have it.

**DUKE SENIOR**

Sit down and feed, and welcome to our table.

**ORLANDO**

Speak you so gently? Pardon me, I pray you:  
I thought that all things had been savage here;  
And therefore put I on the countenance  
Of stern commandment.  
If ever you have look'd on better days,  
If ever been where bells have knoll'd to church,  
If ever sat at any good man's feast,  
If ever from your eyelids wiped a tear  
And know what 'tis to pity and be pitied,  
Let gentleness my strong enforcement be:  
In the which hope I blush, and hide my sword.

**DUKE SENIOR**

True is it that we have seen better days,  
And have with holy bell been knoll'd to church  
And sat at good men's feasts and wiped our eyes  
Of drops that sacred pity hath engender'd:  
And therefore sit you down in gentleness  
And take upon command what help we have  
That to your wanting may be minister'd.

**ORLANDO**

Then but forbear your food a little while,  
Whiles, like a doe, I go to find my fawn  
And give it food. There is an old poor man,  
Who after me hath many a weary step  
Limp'd in pure love: till he be first sufficed,  
Oppress'd with two weak evils, age and hunger,  
I will not touch a bit.

**DUKE SENIOR**

Go find him out,  
And we will nothing waste till you return.

**ORLANDO**

I thank ye; and be blest for your good comfort!

*Exit*