LEONTES [others have exited except his son, Mamillius, and Camillo]

Inch-thick, knee-deep, o’erhead and ears a forked one!

Go play, boy, play. Thy mother plays, and I

Play too, but so disgraced a part, whose issue

Will hiss me to my grave. Contempt and clamor

Will be my knell. Go play, boy, play. There have been,

Or I am much deceived, cuckold’s ere now;

And many a man there is, even at this present,

Now while I speak this, holds his wife by th’arm,

That little thinks she has been sluiced in’s absence

And his pond fished by his next neighbor, by

Sir Smile, his neighbor. Nay, there’s comfort in’t

Whiles other men have gates and those gates opened,

As mine, against their will. Should all despair

That have revolted wives, the tenth of mankind

Would hang themselves. Physic for’t there’s none.

It is a bawdy planet, that will strike

Where ‘tis predominant; and ‘tis powerful, think it,

From east, west, north, and south. Be it concluded,

No barricado for a belly. Know’t

It will let in and out the enemy

With bag and baggage. Many thousand on’s

Have the disease and feel’t’not. How now, boy?

MAMILLIUS:
I am like you, they say.

LEONTES: Why, that’s some comfort.
The Winter’s Tale, Act I:ii by William Shakespeare

Markings of the 5-stress-4-beat pulse and word-rhythms are offered as suggestions by Kate Reese Hurd in light of her article, Revealing the Music of Pentameter: Putting Shakespeare Through His Paces, © September 2021. As in music, the finer nuances of expression cannot be notated.

LEONTES [others have exited except his son, Mamilius, and Camillo]:

Inch-thick, knee-deep, o’er head and ears a forked one!

Go play, boy, play. ‘Thy mother plays, and I

‘Play too, but so disgraced a part, whose issue

Will hiss me to my grave. Con tempt and clamor

Will be my knell. Go play, boy, play. There have been,

Or I am much deceived, cuckolds ere now;

And many a man there is, even at this present,

Now while I speak this, holds his wife by th’arm,

That little thinks she has been sluiced in’s absence

And his pond fished by his next neighbor, by

Sir Smile, his neighbor. Nay, there’s comfort in’t

‘While other men have gates and those gates opened,

As mine, against their will. Should all despair

That have revolted wives, the tenth of mankind

Would hang themselves. Physic for’t there’s none.

‘It’s a bawdy planet, that will strike

‘Where ‘tis predominant; and powerful, think it,

From east, west, north, and south. Be it concluded,

‘No barricado for a belly. Know’t.

It will let in and out the enemy

With bag and baggage. Many thousand on’s

Have the disease and feel’t not. How now, boy?

MAMILLIUS:

I am like you, they say.

LEONTES: ‘Why, that’s some comfort.

Annotations by Kate Reese Hurd © September 2021
The Winter’s Tale, Act I:ii  by William Shakespeare

Markings of the sounds (for shaping, as repetitions, as reminders), word-rhythms and 5-stress-4-beat pulse are suggestions by Kate Reese Hurd in light of her article, Revealing the Music of Pentameter: Putting Shakespeare Through His Paces,© September 2021. As in music, the finer nuances of expression cannot be notated.

LEONTES [others have exited except his son, Mamilius, and Camillo]:

İnç-tḩi̧ck, kņ̧-ḑ̧-ep, őer  head and őars a förked őne!

Gõ pláy, bõy, pláy. | Tḩ̧˘̧mother, xpláys, and 1 ̧

Pláy too, but só dís | gráced a part, whose issue

Will hís me əmoʊ my grávé. Con|tem|pt and clamó|r

Will bë my knël. Go pláy, bõy, | pláy. Thëre hâve 1n,

Or I am much deceivd, | cuckolds ère nów;

And màny ə man thër is, | x-even ət əhís présënt, [13]

Now while 1 speäk thís, | holds hís wíñe bỳ th’arm,

That little | thínks shë hâs 1n|x-sluiced in’s x-absence

And hís pond x−fished bỳ | hís next nèighbór, bỳ

Sir Smíļ̧, hís x−néighbór. | Náy, thëre’s ə comfôr t ın’t

As n nóine, agäinst thëir will. | ‘Shoułd all dês páır

Thãt n hâve rèvolted wîņes, the | tèn[t]h| of mäñkînd

Would hâng thëmsĕlves. | n Phîsic for’ thër’s nônë.

Ýt n−îs a bàwdy plânèt, | n thãt n will strikè

| Whëre n−tíss predëminant;  and n−tíss | pôôerful, thînk it,

From east, n west, nor[th],  and sôu[th]. | Be n əncluded,

n No barrîcâdô for a bèlly. | ənω’t.

Ýt will lët n−în  and | out thë ènëmìy

With båg ând båggâge. | Many thòûsand ən’s

Hâve thë ə disease and føel’t’nót. | How nôw, bõy?

MAMILLIIUS:

ǐ am líkë you, ə théy sây.

LEONTES:  n Whîy, ə thåts ən comfôrt.