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## AS YOU LIKE IT

(by William Shakespeare, written between 1599-1600)

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This was positively one of my favorite readings during this project of re-reading William Shakespeare. It was absolutely light-weight, with angelic characters, happy messages and ending, and a few terribly unforgettable lines. I simply couldn't stop reading, it was absolutely a lot fun reading it .It was like one in every of the histories, and that I had positively remembered it as a comedy and therefore the title definitely recommended it. But, one brother has overthrown another; there's an awfully mean Duke on top of things and he desires all opposition removed – for good. It wasn't going the way a comedy would develop. However, A Dramatic change occurred and lots of of the dangerous guys turned good, and therefore the worst of all gets faith and religious.

Towards the finish additional individuals got married that it appeared were within the forged list, and one in every of my favorite characters, slightly of a gruff fellow, cursed with his love of the easy lifetime of the forest and nature tells the others to courteously go and jump! The play is light-weight and rising, celebrating some way of life wherever individuals ought to simply chill, melt and create a lot of love. In fact there'll be adversity within the world; however we tend to square measure suggested on the way to influence it:

“Sweet are the uses of adversity, Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,  
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head;  
And this our life, exempt from public haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.”

At times I get put off with our contemporary world that looks a money-grabbing perspective towards work with little or no attention to the human service at all. Or maybe of doing a job too as a result because it is one's job. In the past the individuals were completely different. A history academician friend of mine at the university continuously demands “There were no smart previous days.” And the Shakespeare too reminds us that:

“O good old man, how well in thee appears



the constant service of the antique world,  
When service sweat for duty, not for mead!  
Thou art not for the fashion of these times,  
Where none will sweat but for promotion,  
and having that, do choke their service up  
Even with the having; it is not so with thee.”

Between the upstart refined wit, Touchstone, and a straightforward forest guy, with the humility and honesty of the easy shepherd wins our favor respect and even has the wittier line.

Corin: who calls?

Touchstone: Your betters, sir?

Corin: Else are they very wretched.

Very nice! And once again I delighted in one of Shakespeare’s most famous monologues:

DUKE SENIOR:

“Thou seest we are not all alone unhappy:  
This wide and universal theater  
presents more woeful pageants than the scene  
wherein we play in.”

JAQUES

“All the world’s a stage,  
and all the men and women merely players;  
they have their exits and their entrances,  
and one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,  
mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms.  
Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel  
and shining morning face, creeping like snail  
unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress’ eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the bard,  
Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,



Seeking the bubble reputation

Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,  
in fair round belly with good capon lined,  
with eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances;  
and so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and skippered pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
that ends this strange eventful history,  
is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

The clown or fool, Touchstone, has gone into the forest with 2 young ladies escaping the Duke's wrath. He meets with the shepherd and whereas touchstone likes to celebrate the virtues of court-life, he sees sense in a lot of of the forest life; nevertheless he looks the opposite facet too.

"Truly, shepherd, in respect of itself, it is a good life; but in respect that it is a shepherd's life, it is naught. In respect that it is solitary, I like it very well; but in respect that it is private, it is a very vile life. Now in respect it is in the fields, it pleaseth me well; but in respect it is not in the court, it is tedious. As it is a spare life, look you, it fits my humor well; but as there is no more plenty in it, it goes much against my stomach."

The play looks to takes its name from the terribly short epilogue within which the character of Rosalind comes on the stage and tells the audience that you just might interpret the play and therefore the decision to like "as youlike it."

A wonderful play to read and enjoy, with a beautiful ending.