

**SEA CAPTAIN**

**VIOLA**

What country, friends, is this?

**Captain**

This is Illyria, lady.

**VIOLA**

And what should I do in Illyria?

My brother he is in Elysium.

Perchance he is not drown'd: what think you, sailor?

**Captain**

It is perchance that you yourself were saved.

**VIOLA**

O my poor brother! and so perchance may he be.

**Captain**

True, madam: and, to comfort you with chance,  
Assure yourself, after our ship did split,  
When you and those poor number saved with you  
Hung on our driving boat, I saw your brother,  
Most provident in peril, bind himself,  
Courage and hope both teaching him the practise,  
To a strong mast that lived upon the sea;  
Where, like Arion on the dolphin's back,  
I saw him hold acquaintance with the waves  
So long as I could see.

**VIOLA**

For saying so, there's gold. Know'st thou this country?

**Captain**

Ay, madam, well; for I was bred and born  
Not three hours' travel from this very place.

**VIOLA**

Who governs here?

**Captain**

A noble duke, in nature as in name.

**VIOLA**

What is the name?

**Captain**

Orsino.

**VIOLA**

Orsino! I have heard my father name him:  
He was a bachelor then.

**Captain**

And so is now, or was so very late;  
For but a month ago I went from hence,  
And then 'twas fresh in murmur,--as, you know,  
What great ones do the less will prattle of,--  
That he did seek the love of fair Olivia.

**VIOLA**

What's she?

**Captain**

A virtuous maid, the daughter of a count  
That died some twelvemonth since, then leaving her  
In the protection of his son, her brother,  
Who shortly also died: for whose dear love,  
They say, she hath abjured the company  
And sight of men.