

LADY LONG-TONGUE  
Or if it be true?

LADY LONG-TONGUE & LADY  
MUMBLE NEWS  
We know a thing, about a thing or two.

LADY LONG-TONGUE  
"We'll meet at the Egyptian", thats our place!

LADY MUMBLE NEWS  
A true octette of Puritan disgrace.

Begin:  
(SAMPLE ONLY)

( Music up during change. We hear  
this in the BLACKOUT to start the  
scene:)

①

SIR OCHRE  
Let me tell you what 'The Assumption of the Virgin' is all  
about..."

'Coffee  
House  
Scene'

(Lights up to reveal eight men, five  
of them dressed in black as Puritans,  
the other three in 17th century dress.  
They are looking out to the house  
frozen as if they have been  
interrupted. They are in fact in the  
exact tableau of Rembrandt's 'The  
Syndics Guild (1662) Sir Ochre is in  
the middle of a long involved story  
about 'The Madonna'. This conversation  
is caffeine induced. Rapid, but with  
all flourish and wit of 17th Fops and  
Rogues right out of the Restoration  
Theater. The five in Puritan dress are  
obviously posing. Likewise, they  
indulge in the smoking, drinking, snuff  
taking and styled mannerisms of the  
day. Harpsichord music fades...Lights  
up.)

SIR OCHRE (CONT'D)  
'The Assumption of the Virgin', that has no basis in the  
Bible, is a metaphor of faith over reason, and no Painter  
captures it better than Van Dyck.

SIR INDIGO  
Sir, its pronounced 'Dyke', not 'Dick'.

2

S

SIR CHARTREUSE

E'gad! No its not. Flick my *coinpurse!* Its 'Dyck' you *dyke!* As for the painting, 'tis about a nice country girl who is very *vulnerable*, and God chooses her to be his Virgin Mary, or 'Madonna'.

SIR OPAQUE

Exactly right Sir. 'Tis in vogue.

A

SIR OCHRE

Nay,nay, by the world rogues, save that dunghill for the peasants. Put that in your cracker-

GODOT

M

(*Interrupting this, flipping through his ledger...*)

Lady O... Who in Hell is this vizard Lady O?...Lady O...Methinks..Lady O...Oh dirty puzzle!

SIR OCHRE

Nay, gad, that painting is not about being *vulnerable*. I grant you, that is what 'The Lamentation' is all about-

P

SIR OR'ANGE

Prithee Sir, which one's 'The Lamentation'?

L

PLEASANT EDWARD

Stap my *vitals!* You don't *know* 'The Lamentation'? *That* was a big-arse painting for Van Dyck! I don't even follow this Dutch or Flemish shyte yet I've wit enough to at least of heard of 'The Lamentation'! Well ! Piss on fashion, I guess.

SIR OR'ANGE

News! I didn't say I haven't *heard* of it. But what does it look like? Pardon me for not being the world's connoisseur of Van Dyck.

E

SIR INDIGO

Dyke.

O

SIR OPAQUE

I hate Van Dyck.

N

SIR INDIGO

I like his *early* stuff, you know? 'The Blinding of Samson', 'The Nightwatch', but once he got into that 'self portrait phase'? Well, I don't know...{*glares at Chartreuse and Edward*} it felt out of tune.

L

SIR OCHRE

That's Rembrandt! You coxcomb. I had a point here...{Lost} Pray where was I?...

Y

(4)

SIR OCHRE

-It hurts, nay, it *hurts* her. It should not? She *assumes* it should feel good- blame her not, it hurts as if the first time,-as it is. She is the Madonna, hence:{wave of his hand} 'The Assumption of the Virgin'.

(The men crack up)

S

GODOT

-O'Hold-en?

A

SIR OCHRE

Feck Thou! "Oh hold on", I'm right! *What the pox* do you know about this? You still like *Bosch* paintings.

M

GODOT

Not "oh, hold on", Jack-Ass, 'O'Hold-en as in the Irish name? {Back to his problem} O'Hold-Away? Naw...

(Opaque snatches the book from Godot's hand. They fight, yet they are not really mad at each other.)

SIR OPAQUE

A **POX** on this bleeding thing.

P

GODOT

Tallywag! Give me my ledger back!

L

SIR OPAQUE

Fee,Faw,Fum! I'm sick o'death of hearing it Lord Godot! I shall return it when we leave here.

E

GODOT

Sirrah, return it when we leave? You *shall* return it now.

SIR OPAQUE

Half the day, Sir, you've babbled on with names: Lady? Lady O? O'Hold-me? O'Hold-it? Feckin' O'Hold-this! I've got big Van Dyck's *Madonna* in my left ear, and O'Hold- I-don't-know-what in my right!

O

GODOT

What care you?

N

SIR OPAQUE

Godot, when one is annoying as *Hell*, care I a lot.

GODOT

Give me back *thy* ledger-

L

SIR OPAQUE

-Will thou put it away?

Y

**END.**