



Arts Engagement
and Education

DORINE

“Yes, so he tells us”

from *Tartuffe*

by Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin)

https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/person?docid=person_moliere

Gender: Female/Feminine Presenting

Style: Classical Comedic

Age Range: 25-34

Link to buy Script: www.amazon.com (search for “Tartuffe”)

Play Synopsis

Tartuffe is a wanderer whom Orgon takes into his home. Tartuffe impresses Orgon with his devout religious and moral beliefs and behavior. As a result of his carefully constructed persona, Tartuffe becomes adored by both Orgon, and his mother, Madame Pernelle. They place so much faith in his words, that they ask Tartuffe for his advice before they make any decision, often at the expense of Orgon's family members.

This does not sit well with the rest of the family, who see Tartuffe for the phony he really is. Despite their pleadings, Orgon believes Tartuffe's word implicitly, to the point where he agrees to marry his already engaged daughter to Tartuffe. This is the last straw, and the family plans to entrap Tartuffe in the presence of Orgon so he can see the type of person Tartuffe really is. Since Tartuffe lusts after Orgon's wife, Elmire, she is at the center of their scheme.

Before this scene:

Orgon finds his daughter alone and asks her if she will obey him in all things. Being a dutiful daughter, she tells him it is her pleasure always to please her father. Therefore, Orgon instructs her to say that she finds Tartuffe to be a very worthy man and that she would be delighted to be his wife. Mariane then points out that if she said such a thing, she would be lying. Orgon, however, announces that he is determined to have Tartuffe allied to the family by marrying Mariane.

Dorine, the maid, interrupts the conversation by arriving unexpectedly. She is laughing about a joke she has heard — a joke concerning Orgon's plan to allow Tartuffe to marry Mariane. When Orgon tells her that it is no joke, that it is the truth, Dorine laughs harder, thinking that it is still a joke; she refuses to believe her master.

Monologue (Act II, Scene 2):

Yes, so he tells us; and, Sir, it seems to me
Such pride goes very ill with piety.
A man whose spirit spurns this dungy earth
Ought not to brag of lands and noble birth;
Such worldly arrogance will hardly square
With meek devotion and the life of prayer.
... But this approach, I see, has drawn a blank;
Let's speak, then, of his person, not his rank.
Doesn't it seem to you a trifle grim

To give a girl like her to a man like him?
When two are so ill-suited, can't you see
What the sad consequence is bound to be?
A young girl's virtue is imperiled, Sir,
When such a marriage is imposed on her;
For if one's bridegroom isn't to one's taste,
It's hardly an inducement to be chaste,
And many a man with horns upon his brow
Has made his wife the thing that she is now.
It's hard to be a faithful wife, in short
To certain husbands of a certain sort,
And he who gives his daughter to a man she hates
Must answer for her sins at Heaven's gates.
Think, Sir, before you play so risky a role.

Helpful Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4t2hDJtypo&list=PLF574D2090089946A&index=3>