

FUENTE OVEJUNA (LAURENCIA)

Lope De Vega

LAURENCIA: I'll take the opposite example
To each of yours. The man who's serious
Is "grumpy." One who speaks the truth
They call "self-righteous" and "uncouth."
They call the grave man "sad"; "imperious"
And "tiresome"-one who reprehends;
"Importunate"-who counsels youth;
"Officious"-one who helps his friends;
"Cruel" they call the man who's just,
Impartially though he should try us;
"Listless and tame"-the humbly pious;
And one who's constant in his trust
They take for "simple, dull, and dense";
Courtesy is to "cringe and flatter";
Christian behaviour's "all pretence";
Merit that earns is no such matter,
But "merely luck"; misfortune's "shame"-
For which the sufferer is to blame;
A girl who's virtuous is "a fool";
A wife who does not break the rule
Is merely "dull" . . . But that should be
More than enough to bring me level
In answering your philosophy.