

- **Personal Corruption:** Despite this rigid outlook, Angelo acknowledges how his own actions "*unshape*" him and make him "*dull to all proceedings*", revealing the internal conflict and hypocrisy as he gives in to temptation, undermining his own strict principles.

In *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare presents hypocrisy as a pervasive force in Vienna's society, primarily driven by flawed authority figures and the complex nature of human morality. The Duke's erratic leadership exposes his own hypocritical tendencies, as he uses Angelo's strict enforcement of the law to contrast his image of mercy. His reluctance to reveal Claudio's fate to Isabella also points to self-serving motives. Angelo's strict morality quickly dissolves once he is given power, highlighting how authority can corrupt even the most seemingly virtuous individuals. His fall from moral absolutism when he succumbs to desire reflects the tension between personal ethics and the allure of power. Isabella's journey is more complex; though she begins with rigid moral standards, her character evolves as she faces personal dilemmas. Her eventual compassion for others reflects not so much hypocrisy, but growth in her understanding of human frailty. Ultimately, Shakespeare reveals that hypocrisy is an inevitable part of governance and human nature, as external pressures challenge personal codes of conduct and reveal underlying self-interest.