

- B also gives a speech regarding wisdom and folly, concluding that knowing too much can lead to foolishness, which is ironic due to B's position as a spy, gathering information which will lead to chaos
 - It is difficult to determine at this point how much of B's melancholy is his true character and how much is his performance as a spy attempting to seem unambitious
 - Another of B's ideas indicates that class is irrelevant, he says of every person "the like passions sway them", all humans are equal because they are moved by the same passions
- The Duchess thinks she is being subtle about her pregnancy, but since B already suspects her he catches her double meanings and becomes more suspicious
 - She says she is "troubled with the mother" (meaning hysteria), and Bosola replies knowingly "I fear, too much."
 - She remarks "How they swell me!" in regards to the apricots, and he responds "Nay, you are too much swelled already" referring to her pregnant stomach
 - B also notes "Good, her colour rises" when she reddens from excitement, which he takes as another sign of pregnancy, as well as her "cold sweat"
 - B deceptively feigns apology that the apricots made her ill "I am very sorry"
 - Delio suggests the idea of using Bosola's bad reputation to conceal D's pregnancy
 - Recommends that Antonio "Give out that Bosola hath poisoned her"

Act 2, scene 2

- The Old Lady seems to take abuse from Bosola every time she walks onstage
 - Strong retaliation, she accuses him of "abusing women"
 - Though B is paid to be cruel to D, these interactions with the Old Lady suggest that he does in fact have a generally sour nature
- The information that the Duchess has been poisoned begins to spread