**ACT 1,** Scene 1 – Duke’s Office (Duke, Escalus, Attendant, Angelo)

*(Enter Duke, Escalus)*

DUKE: (*dejected)*

Of government the properties to unfold,

The nature of our people,

Our city’s institutions, and the terms

For common justice, you’re as pregnant in

 As art and practice hath enrichèd any

 That we remember. There is our commission,

(*He hands Escalus a paper.*)

 Call hither, I say, bid come before us Angelo.

(*Attendant exits.*)

 What figure of us think you he will bear?

 For you must know, we have with special soul

 Elected him our absence to supply,

Lent him our terror, dressed him with our love,

And given his deputation all the organs

 Of our own power. What think you of it?

ESCALUS

 If any in Vienna be of worth

 To undergo such ample grace and honor,

It is Lord Angelo.

*(Enter Angelo with attendant)*

ANGELO

Always obedient to your Grace’s will,

I come to know your pleasure.

DUKE

Thyself and thy belongings

 Are not thine own so proper as to waste

Thyself upon thy virtues, they on thee.

Hold, therefore, Angelo.

In our remove be thou at full ourself.

Mortality and mercy in Vienna

 Live in thy tongue and heart. Old Escalus,

 Though first in question, is thy secondary.

Take thy commission. (*He hands Angelo thy paper.*)

ANGELO

Now, good my lord,

Let there be some more test made of my mettle

 Before so noble and so great a figure

 Be stamped upon it.

DUKE

 Your scope is as mine own,

 So to enforce or qualify the laws

 As to your soul seems good. Give me your hand.

 I’ll privily away.

ANGELO

The heavens give safety to your purposes.

ESCALUS

Lead forth and bring you back in happiness.

DUKE

I thank you. Fare you well. (*He exits.)*

ANGELO

Let us withdraw together,  
   
*(They exit.)*