

If you cannot understand my argument, and declare 'It's **Greek to me**', you are quoting Shakespeare; if you claim to be **more sinned against than sinning**, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you recall your **salad days**, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you act **more in sorrow than in anger**, if your **wish is father to the thought**, if your lost property has vanished **into thin air**, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you have ever refused **to budge an inch** or suffered from **green-eyed jealousy**, if you have played **fast and loose**, if you have been **tongue-tied, a tower of strength, hoodwinked or in a pickle**, if you have **knitted your brows, made a virtue of necessity**, insisted on **fair play, slept not one wink, stood on ceremony, danced attendance** (on your lord and master), **laughed yourself into stiches, had short shrift, cold comfort or too much of good thing**, if you have **seen better days** or lived in **a fool's paradise** – why be that as it may, **the more fool you**, for it is a **foregone conclusion** that you are (as good luck would you have it) quoting Shakespeare; if you think it is **early days** and clear out **bag and baggage**, if you think **it is high time** and that **that is the long and short of it**, if you believe that **the game is up** and that **truth will out** even if it involves your **own flesh and blood**, if you lie low till the **crack of doom** because you suspect **foul play**, if you have your **teeth set on edge** (**at one fell swoop**) **without rhyme or reason**, then – **to give the devil his due** – if the **truth were known** (for surely you have a **tongue in your head**) you are quoting Shakespeare; even if you bid me **good riddance** and **send me packing**, if you wish I were **dead as a doornail**, if you think I am an **eyesore, a laughing stock, the devil incarnate, a stony-hatred villain, bloody-minded** or a **blinking idiot**, then – **by Jove! O Lord! Tut, tut! For goodness' sake! What the dickens!** But me no buts – **it is all one to me**, for you are quoting Shakespeare.

*Bernard Levin (1928 – 2004)*