

Comedy of Errors

ACT I, SCENE I. A hall in DUKE SOLINUS'S palace.

Enter DUKE SOLINUS, AEGEON, Soldier, Officers, and other Attendants

AEGEON

Proceed, Solinus, to procure my fall
And by the doom of death end woes and all.

DUKE SOLINUS

Merchant of Syracuse, plead no more;
I am not partial to infringe our laws:
It has in solemn synods been decreed
If any Syracusian born
Come to the bay of Ephesus, he dies,
Unless a thousand marks be levied,
Your substance, valued at the highest rate,
Cannot amount unto a hundred marks;
Therefore by law you are condemned to die.

AEGEON

Yet this my comfort: when your words are done,
My woes end likewise with the evening sun.

DUKE SOLINUS

Well, Syracusian, say in brief the cause
Why you departed from your native home
And came to Ephesus.

AEGEON

In Syracuse was I born, and wed
Unto a woman, happy but for me,
With her I lived in joy; our wealth increased
By prosperous voyages I often made
To Epidamnum; There she became
A joyful mother of two goodly sons;
And, which was strange, the one so like the other,
As could not be distinguish'd but by names.
That very hour, and in the self-same inn,
A meaner woman was delivered
Of such a burden, male twins, both alike:
Those, I bought and brought up to attend my sons.
My wife,
Made daily motions for our home return:
Unwilling I agreed. Alas! too soon,
We came aboard.
A league from Epidamnum had we sail'd,
Before the always wind-obeying deep
Gave any tragic instance of our harm:
And this it was, the sailors left the sinking ship to us:
My wife, more careful for the eldest born,
Had fasten'd him unto a small spare mast,

To him one of the other twins was bound,
Whilst I had been like heedful of the other:
The children thus disposed, my wife and I,
Fasten'd ourselves at either end the mast;
The seas wax'd calm, and we discovered
Two ships from far making speed to us,
But ere they came,--O, let me say no more!

DUKE SOLINUS

Nay, forward, old man; do not break off so;
For we may pity, though not pardon you.

AEGEON

Ere the ships could meet by twice five leagues,
We were encounterd by a mighty rock;
Which being violently borne upon,
Our helpful ship was splitted in the midst;
My wife, poor soul, with those two helpless babes,
Was carried with more speed before the wind;
And in our sight they three were taken up.
At length, another ship had seized on us;
And home to Syracuse did we bend our course.
Thus have you heard me sever'd from my bliss.

DUKE SOLINUS

What hath befall'n of them and you till now?

AEGEON

My youngest boy, and yet my eldest care,
At eighteen years became inquisitive
After his brother: and importuned me
That his attendant--so his case was like,
Might bear him company in the quest of him:
I let them go - would I had not done so.
Five summers have I spent in furthest Greece,
Seeking my youngest born and his companion.
And, coasting homeward, came to Ephesus;
Hopeless to find, yet loath to leave unsought
And happy were I in my timely death,
Could all my travels warrant me they live.

DUKE SOLINUS

Now, trust me, were it not against our laws,
Against my crown, my oath, my dignity,
My soul would sue as advocate for you.
Yet I will favour you in what I can.
Therefore, merchant, I'll limit you this day
To save your life by beneficial help:
Try all the friends you have in Ephesus;
Beg you, or borrow, to make up the sum,
And live; if no, then thou art doom'd to die.
Soldier, take him to your custody.

Soldier

I will, my lord.

AEGEON

Hopeless and helpless doth Aegeon wend,
But to procrastinate his lifeless end.

Exeunt

ACT I, SCENE II. The Mart.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse, DROMIO of Syracuse, and First Merchant

First Merchant

Here sir, say you are from Epidamnum.
This very day a Syracusian merchant
According to the statutes of this town,
Dies ere the weary sun set in the west.
Here is your money that I had to keep.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Go bear it to the Centaur, where we host,

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Aye

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

And stay there, Dromio, till I come to thee.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Aye

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Within this hour it will be dinner-time:
Till that, I'll view the manners of the town,
Peruse the traders, gaze upon the buildings,
And then return and sleep within mine inn,
Get thee away.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Aye! Aye! Exit

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

A trusty villain, sir, that very oft,
When I am dull with care and melancholy,
Lightens my humour with his merry jests.
What, will you walk with me about the town,
And then go to my inn and dine with me?

First Merchant

I am invited, sir, to certain merchants,
I crave your pardon. Soon at five o'clock,
Please you, I'll meet with you upon the mart

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Farewell till then: I will go lose myself
And wander up and down to view the city.

First Merchant

Sir, I commend you to your own content. Exit

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

He that commends me to mine own content
Commends me to the thing I cannot get.
I to the world am like a drop of water
That in the ocean seeks another drop,
So I, to find a mother and a brother,
In quest of them, unhappy, lose myself.

enter Dromio of Ephesus

What now? How chance you are returned so soon?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Returned so soon? Rather approached too late!
The capon burns, the pig falls from the spit;
The clock has struck twelve upon the bell,
My mistress is hot because the meat is cold.
The meat is cold because you come not home.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Stop in your wind, sir: tell me this, I pray:
Where have you left the money that I gave you?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I pray you jest sir as you sit at dinner.
I from my mistress come to you in haste.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Come, Dromio, come, these jests are out of season;
Reserve them till a merrier hour than this.
Where is the gold I gave in charge to you?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

To me, sir? why, you gave no gold to me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Come on, sir knave, have done your foolishness.
We being strangers here, how dare you trust
So great a charge from your own custody?
And tell me how you have disposed your charge.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

My charge was but to fetch you from the mart
Home to your house, the Phoenix, sir, to dinner:
My mistress and her sister stays for you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Now, as I am a Christian, answer me.
In what safe place you have bestow'd my money,
Where is the thousand marks thou hadst of me?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I have some marks of yours upon my pate,
Some of my mistress' marks upon my shoulders,
But not a thousand marks between you both.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Thy mistress' marks? what mistress, slave, hast thou?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Your worship's wife, my mistress at the Phoenix.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What, wilt thou mock me thus unto my face,
Being forbid? There, take you that, sir knave.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

What mean you, sir? for God's sake, hold your hands!
Nay, if you will not, sir, I'll take my heels.

Exit

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Upon my life, by some device or other
The villain has been robbed of all my money.
They say this town is full of cheaters,
As, nimble jugglers that deceive the eye,
Dark-working sorcerers that change the mind,
Soul-killing witches that deform the body,
If it prove so, I will be gone the sooner.
I'll to the Centaur, to go seek this slave:
I greatly fear my money is not safe.

Exit

ACT II, SCENE I. The house of ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus. The clock strikes two.

Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA

ADRIANA

Neither my husband nor the slave return'd,
That in such haste I sent to seek his master!
Sure, Luciana, it is two o'clock.

LUCIANA

Good sister, let us dine and never fret:
A man is master of his liberty:
Time is their master, and, when they see time,
They'll go or come: if so, be patient, sister.

ADRIANA

Why should their liberty than ours be more?

LUCIANA

Because their business still lies out o' door.

ADRIANA

Look, when I serve him so, he takes it ill.

LUCIANA

O, know he is the bridle of your will.

ADRIANA

There's none but asses will be bridled so.

LUCIANA

Why, headstrong liberty is lash'd with woe.
There's nothing situate under heaven's eye
But has his bound, in earth, in sea, in sky:

The beasts, the fishes, and the winged fowls,
Are their males' subjects and at their controls:
Men, more divine, the masters of all these,
Lords of the wide world and wild watery seas,
Are masters to their females, and their lords:
Then let your will attend on their accords.

ADRIANA

This servitude makes you to keep unwed.

LUCIANA

Not this, but troubles of the marriage-bed.

ADRIANA

But, were you wedded, you would bear some sway.

LUCIANA

Ere I learn love, I'll practise to obey.

ADRIANA

How if your husband start some other where?

LUCIANA

Till he come home again, I would forbear.

ADRIANA

Patience unmoved! no marvel though she pause;

They can be meek that have no other cause.

So you, that have no unkind mate to grieve you,
With urging helpless patience wouldst relieve me,

LUCIANA

Well, I will marry one day, but to try.

Here comes your man; now is your husband nigh.

Enter DROMIO of Ephesus

ADRIANA

Say, is your tardy master now at hand?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Nay, he's at two hands with me, and that my two ears
can witness.

ADRIANA

Say, did you speak with him? know you his mind?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Ay, ay, he told his mind upon mine ear:

Curse his hand, I scarce could understand it.

ADRIANA

But say, I pray you, is he coming home?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Why, mistress, sure my master is horn-mad.

ADRIANA

Horn-mad, you villain!

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I mean not cuckold-mad;

But, sure, he is stark mad.

When I desired him to come home to dinner,

He ask'd me for a thousand marks in gold:

"Tis dinner-time,' said I; 'My gold!' said he;
'Your meat does burn,' said I; 'My gold!' said he:
'Will you come home?' said I; 'My gold!' said he.
'Where is the thousand marks I gave you, villain?'
'The pig,' said I, 'is burned;' 'My gold!' said he:
'My mistress, sir' said I; 'Hang up your mistress!
I know not your mistress; out on your mistress!'

LUCIANA

Said who?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Said my master:

'I know,' said he, 'no house, no wife, no mistress.'

ADRIANA

Go back again, you slave, and fetch him home.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Go back again, and be new beaten home?

For God's sake, send some other messenger.

ADRIANA

Hence, prating peasant! fetch thy master home.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Am I so round with you as you with me,

That like a football you do spurn me thus?

You spurn me hence, and he will spurn me hither:

If I last in this service, you must case me in leather.

Exit

LUCIANA

Fie, how impatience shows in your face!

ADRIANA

His company must do his minions grace,

Whilst I at home starve for a merry look.

Has homely age the alluring beauty took

From my poor cheek? then he has wasted it:

Are my discourses dull? barren my wit?

But, too unruly deer, he breaks the pale

And feeds from home; poor I am but his fool.

LUCIANA

Self-harming jealousy! fie, beat it hence!

ADRIANA

I know his eye does homage elsewhere,

Or else why is he not here?

Sister, you know he promised me a necklace;

That I could do without,

So he would keep faithful with my bed!

I see the best jewel can be tarnished

And lose his beauty; yet the gold bides still;

But too often touching will

Wear gold: and no man that has a name,

Will tarnish it with lies and corruption.

Since that my beauty cannot please his eye,
I'll weep what's left away, and weeping die.

LUCIANA

How lovesick fools go mad with jealousy!

Exeunt

ACT II, SCENE II. A public place.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

The gold I gave to Dromio is laid up
Safe at the Centaur; and the heedful slave
Is wander'd forth, in care to seek me out

Enter DROMIO of Syracuse

How now sir! is your merry humour alter'd?
As you love strokes, so jest with me again.
You know no Centaur? you received no gold?
Your mistress sent to have me home to dinner?
My house was at the Phoenix? Were you mad,
That thus so madly you did answer me?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

What answer, sir? when spoke I such a word?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Even now, even here, not half an hour since.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I did not see you since you sent me hence,
Home to the Centaur, with the gold you gave me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Villain, you did deny the gold's receipt,
And told me of a mistress and a dinner;
For which, I hope, you felt I was displeas'd.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I am glad to see you in this merry vein:
What means this jest? I pray you, master, tell me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Do you think I jest? Hold, take that, and that. *Beating him*

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Well, sir, I thank you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Thank me, sir, for what?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Marry, sir, for this something that you gave me for nothing.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Next time I'll give you nothing for
something. But say, sir, is it dinner-time?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

No, sir; I think the meat wants that I have.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

In good time, sir; what's that?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Basting.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Well, sir, then 'twill be dry.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

If it be, sir, I pray you, eat none of it.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Your reason?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Lest it make you angry and purchase me another dry basting.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Well, sir, learn to jest at the right time: there's a time for all things.

But, soft! who wafts us yonder?

Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA

ADRIANA

Ay, ay, Antipholus, look strange and frown:

Some other mistress has your sweet looks;

I am not Adriana nor your wife.

The time was once when you unurged would vow

That never words were music to your ear,

That never object pleasing in your eye,

That never touch well welcome to your hand,

That never meat sweet-savor'd in your taste,

Unless I spoke, or look'd, or touch'd, or carved to you.

How comes it now, my husband, O, how comes it,

That you are thus estranged from yourself?

Ah, do not tear away yourself from me!

For know, my love, as easy may you fall

A drop of water in the breaking gulf,

And take unmingled that same drop again,

As take from me yourself and not me too.

For if we two be one and you play false,

You poison my flesh as well,

So stay faithful to me and the marriage bed;

I live unstain'd, you undishonoured.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Plead you to me, fair dame? I know you not:

In Ephesus I am but two hours old,

As strange unto your town as to your talk;

Who, every word by all my wit being scann'd,

Want wit in all one word to understand.

LUCIANA

Fie, brother! how the world is changed with you!

When were you wont to use my sister thus?

She sent for you by Dromio home to dinner.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

By Dromio?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

By me?

ADRIANA

By you; and this you did return from him,
That he did buffet you, and, in his blows,
Denied my house for his, me for his wife.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Did you converse, sir, with this gentlewoman?
What is the course and drift of your scheme?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I, sir? I never saw her till this time.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Villain, you lie; for even her very words
Did you deliver to me on the mart.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I never spoke with her in all my life.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

How can she thus then call us by our names,
Unless it be by magic.

ADRIANA

How ill agrees it with your gravity
To counterfeit thus grossly with your slave,
Come, I will fasten on this sleeve of yours:
You art an elm, my husband, I a vine,
Whose weakness, married to your stronger state,
Makes me with your strength to say this:
If anything takes you from me, it is dross,
Usurping ivy, brier, or idle moss;
Who, all for want of pruning, with intrusion
Infect your sap and live on your confusion.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

To me she speaks; about me she speaks:
What, was I married to her in my dream?
Or sleep I now and think I hear all this?
What error drives our eyes and ears amiss?
Until I know for sure, I'll entertain the offer'd fallacy.

LUCIANA

Dromio, go bid the servants spread for dinner.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

O, for my rosary! I cross me for a sinner.
This is the fairy land: O spite of spites!
We talk with goblins, owls and sprites:
If we obey them not, this will ensue,
They'll suck our breath, or pinch us black and blue.

LUCIANA

Why do you mumble to yourself and answer not?

Dromio, you drone, you snail, you slug, you sot!

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I am transformed, master, am I not?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

You have your own form.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

No, I am an ape.

LUCIANA

If you are changed to aught, 'tis to an ass.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

'Tis so, I am an ass; else it could never be

But I should know her as well as she knows me.

ADRIANA

Come, come, no longer will I be a fool,

To put the finger in the eye and weep,

Whilst man and master laugh my woes to scorn.

Come, sir, to dinner. Dromio, keep the gate.

Husband, I'll dine above with you to-day

Sirrah, if any ask you for your master,

Say he dines forth, and let no creature enter.

Come, sister. Dromio, play the porter well.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Master, shall I be porter at the gate?

ADRIANA

Ay; and let none enter, lest I break your pate.

LUCIANA

Come, come, Antipholus, we dine too late.

Exeunt

ACT III, SCENE I. Before the house of ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus, DROMIO of Ephesus, ANGELO, and BALTHAZAR

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Good Signior Angelo, you must excuse us all;

My wife is shrewish when I keep not hours:

Say that I linger'd with you at your shop

To see the making of her necklace,

And that to-morrow you will bring it home.

But here's a villain that says

He met me on the mart, and that I beat him,

And charged him with a thousand marks in gold,

And that I did deny my wife and house.

You drunkard, you, what did you mean by this?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Say what you will, sir, but I know what I know;

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I think you are an ass.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Marry, so it doth appear
By the wrongs I suffer and the blows I bear.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

You're sad, Signior Balthazar: pray God our table
May answer my good will and your good welcome here.

BALTHAZAR

Sir, I hold your welcome dear, more than your table.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

O, Signior Balthazar,
A table full of welcome make scarce one dainty dish.
But, soft! my door is lock'd. Go bid them let us in.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Maud, Bridget, Marian, Cicely, Gillian, Ginn!

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

[Within] Dope, moron, eunuch, fool, idiot, clown!
Either get you from the door, or sit down at the hatch.
Go, get you from the door.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

What clown is made our porter? My master waits in
the street.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

[Within] Let him walk from whence he came, lest he
catch cold on his feet.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

What are you that keeps me out from the house I own?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

[Within] The porter for this time, sir, and my name
is Dromio.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

O villain! you have stolen both my office and my name.
The one ne'er got me credit, the other much blame.

LUCE

[Within] What a fuss is there, Dromio? who are those
at the gate?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Let my master in, Luce.

LUCE

[Within] Faith, no; he comes too late;
And so tell your master.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

[Within] If your name be call'd Luce--Luce, you have
answered him well.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Do you hear, you baggage? you'll let us in!

LUCE

[Within] Says who?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Master, knock the door hard.

LUCE

[Within] Let him knock till it aches.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

You'll cry for this, baggage, if I beat the door down.

ADRIANA

[Within] Who is that at the door that keeps all
this noise?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Are you there, wife? you might have come before.

ADRIANA

[Within] Your wife, sir knave! go get you from the door.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

If she punishes you, master, this 'knave' will be punished too.

ANGELO

Here is neither table, sir, nor welcome: we will
not have either.

BALTHAZAR

In debating which was best, we shall part with neither.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

They stand at the door, master; bid them welcome hither.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

There is something in the air, that we cannot get in.

Go fetch me something: I'll break open the gate.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

[Within] Break any breaking here, and I'll break your
knave's pate.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

A man may break a word with you, sir, and words are but wind,
Ay, and break it in your face, so he break it not behind.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

[Within] It seems you want breaking: out upon you, dog!

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Here's too much 'out upon you!' I pray you, let me in.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Well, I'll break in; fetch me an iron crow.

BALTHAZAR

Have patience, sir; O, let it not be so!

And doubt not, sir, but that your wife will well excuse

Why at this time the doors are made against you.

Be ruled by me: depart in patience,

If by strong hand you offer to break in

Now in the stirring passage of the day,

A vulgar comment will be made of it.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

You have prevailed: I will depart in quiet,

And, despite myself, mean to be merry.

I know a wench of excellent discourse,

Pretty and witty; wild, and yet, too, gentle:

There will we dine. This woman that I mean,

My wife--but, I protest, without desert--
Has oftentimes upbraided me with her:
To her will we to dinner.
To Angelo

Get you home
And fetch the necklace; by now I know 'tis made:
Bring it, I pray you, to the Porcupine;
For that's her house: that necklace will I bestow--
Be it for nothing but to spite my wife--
Upon my hostess there: good sir, make haste.
Since my own doors refuse to entertain me,
I'll knock elsewhere, to see if they'll disdain me.

ANGELO

I'll meet you at that place one hour hence.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Do so. This jest shall cost me some expense.

Exeunt

Act III, SCENE II. The same.

Enter LUCIANA and ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse

LUCIANA

And may it be that you have quite forgot
A husband's office? If you did wed my sister for her wealth,
Then for her wealth's sake use her with more kindness:
Or if you like elsewhere, do it by stealth;
Muffle your false love with some show of blindness:
Let not my sister read it in your eye;
Bear a fair presence, though your heart be tainted;
Be secret-false: what need she be acquainted?
Then, gentle brother, get you in again;
Comfort my sister, cheer her, call her wife:

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Are you a god? would you create me new?
Transform me then, and to your power I'll yield.
But if that I am I, then well I know
Your weeping sister is no wife of mine,
Nor to her bed no homage do I owe.
Far more, far more to you do I decline.
O, train me not, sweet mermaid, with your note,
To drown me in your sister's flood of tears:
Sing, siren, for yourself and I will dote.

LUCIANA

What, are you mad, that you do reason so?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Not mad, but mated; how, I do not know.

LUCIANA

It is a fault that springs from your eye.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

For gazing on your beams, fair sun, being by.

LUCIANA

Gaze where you should, and that will clear your sight.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Rather would I close my eyes, sweet love, than look on night.

LUCIANA

Why call you me love? call my sister so.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Your sister's sister.

LUCIANA

That's my sister.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

No; It is yourself, my own self's better part,
My eye's clear eye, my dear heart's dearer heart,
My food, my fortune and my sweet hope's aim.

LUCIANA

All this my sister is, or else should be.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Call yourself sister, sweet, for I want you.
You will I love and with you lead my life:
You have no husband yet nor I no wife.
Give me thy hand.

LUCIANA

O, soft, air! hold you still:
I'll fetch my sister, to get her good will.
Exit

Enter DROMIO of Syracuse

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Why, how now, Dromio! where run you so fast?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Do you know me, sir? am I Dromio? am I your man? am I myself?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

You are Dromio, you are my man, you are yourself.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I am an ass, I am a woman's man and I am besides myself.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What woman's man? and how besides yourself?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

One that claims me, one that haunts me, one that will have me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What is she?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

A very reverent body; she's a wondrous fat marriage.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

How do you mean a fat marriage?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Marry, sir, she's the kitchen wench and all grease;
and I know not what use to put her to but to make a
lamp of her and run from her by her own light. If she lives till doomsday,
she'll burn a week longer than the whole world.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What complexion is she of?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Dark, like my shoes, but her face nothing like so
clean kept: for why, she sweats; a man may go up to his ankles
in the grime of it.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

That's a fault that water will mend.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

No, sir, 'tis in grain; Noah's flood could not do it.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What's her name?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Luce, sir; And she cannot be measured from hip to hip.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

So she has breadth?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Longer from hip to hip than head to foot:
she is spherical, like a globe; I could find out countries in her.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

In what part of her body stands Ireland?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Marry, in her buttocks: I found it out by the bogs.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Where England?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I looked for the chalky cliffs, but I could find no
whiteness in them.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Where Spain?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Faith, I saw it not; but I felt it hot in her breath.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Where America, the Indies?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Oh, sir, upon her nose all o'er embellished with
rubies, carbuncles and sapphires.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Where stood Belgium, the Netherlands?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Oh, sir, I did not look so low. To conclude, this
witch said I was hers, call'd me

Dromio; swore I was betrothed to her; told me what
privy marks I had about me, as, the mark of my

shoulder, the mole in my neck, the great wart on my left arm, that I amazed ran from her.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Go hie you quickly to the port;
I will not harbour in this town to-night:
If any ship puts forth, come to the mart,
Where I will walk till you return to me.
If every one knows us and we know none,
'Tis time, I think, to trudge, pack and be gone.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

As from a bear a man would run for life,
So fly I from her that would be my wife.

Exit

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

There's none but witches do inhabit here;
And therefore 'tis high time that I was hence.
She that does call me husband, even my soul
Does for a wife abhor. But her fair sister,
Possess'd with such a gentle sovereign grace,
Of such enchanting presence and discourse,
Has almost made me traitor to myself:
But, lest myself be guilty of self-wrong,
I'll stop my ears against the mermaid's song.

Enter ANGELO with the chain

ANGELO

Master Antipholus,--

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Ay, that's my name.

ANGELO

I know it well, sir, lo, here is the necklace.
I thought to have met you at the Porcupine:
The necklace unfinish'd made me stay thus long.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What is your will that I shall do with this?

ANGELO

What please yourself, sir: I have made it for you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Made it for me, sir! I bespoke it not.

ANGELO

Not once, nor twice, but twenty times you have.
Go home with it and please your wife with it;
And soon at supper-time I'll visit you
And then receive my money for the necklace.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

I pray you, sir, receive the money now,
For fear you ne'er see chain nor money more.

ANGELO

You are a merry man, sir: fare you well.

Exit

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What I should think of this, I cannot tell:

But this I think, I'll to the mart, and there for Dromio stay

If any ship put out, then straight away.

Exit

ACT IV, SCENE I. A public place.

Enter Second Merchant, ANGELO, and an Officer

Second Merchant

You know since Pentecost the sum is due,

I am bound to Persia this very day, and want guilders for my voyage:

Therefore make present satisfaction,

Or I'll arrest you by this officer.

ANGELO

Even just the sum that I do owe to you

Is growing to me by Antipholus,

And in the instant that I met with you

He had of me a necklace: at five o'clock

I shall receive the money for the same.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus, DROMIO of Ephesus and the Courtezan, from the Courtezan's. The Courtezan wishes them well and exits

Officer

That labour may you save: see where he comes.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

While I go to the goldsmith's house, go you

And buy a rope's end: that will I

Whip my wife and her confederates,

For locking me out of my doors by day.

But, soft! I see the goldsmith. Get you gone;

Buy you a rope and bring it home to me.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I buy a thousand beatings a year if I buy a rope.

Exit

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Good luck to a man that trusts to you!

I promised your presence and the necklace;

But neither necklace nor goldsmith came to me.

ANGELO

Saving your merry humour, here's the note
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat,
The fineness of the gold and chargeful fashion.
Which does amount to three odd ducats more
Than I stand debted to this gentleman:
I pray you, see him quickly paid,
For he is bound to sea and stays but for it.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I am not furnish'd with the present money;
Besides, I have some business in the town.
Good signior, take the stranger to my house
And with you take the necklace and bid my wife
Disburse the sum on the receipt thereof:
Perchance I will be there as soon as you.

ANGELO

Then you will bring the necklace to her yourself?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

No; bear it with you, lest I come not time enough.

ANGELO

Well, sir, I will. Have you the necklace about you?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

An if I have not, sir, I hope you have;
Or else you may return without your money.

ANGELO

Nay, come, I pray you, sir, give me the necklace.

Second Merchant

The hour steals on; I pray you, sir, dispatch.

ANGELO

You hear how he importunes me;--the necklace!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Why, give it to my wife and fetch your money.

ANGELO

Come, come, you know I gave it you even now.
Either send the necklace or send me with some token.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Fie, now you run this humour out of breath,
where's the necklace? I pray you, let me see it.

Second Merchant

My business cannot brook this dalliance.

Good sir, say whether you'll answer me or no:

If not, I'll leave him to the officer.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I answer you! what should I answer you?

ANGELO

The money that you owe me for the necklace.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I owe you none till I receive the necklace.

ANGELO

You know I gave it you half an hour since.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

You gave me none: you wrong me much to say so.

ANGELO

You wrong me more, sir, in denying it:

Consider how it stands upon my credit.

Second Merchant

Well, officer, I charge you to arrest him.

Officer

I do; and charge you in the duke's name to obey me.

ANGELO

This touches me in reputation.

Either consent to pay this sum for me

Or I arrest you by this officer.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Consent to pay thee that I never had!

Arrest me, foolish fellow, if you dare.

ANGELO

Here is your fee; arrest him, officer,

Officer

I do arrest you, sir: you hear the charges.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I do obey you till I give you bail.

But, sirrah, you shall buy this sport as dear

As all the metal in your shop will answer.

ANGELO

Sir, sir, I will have law in Ephesus,

To your notorious shame; I doubt it not.

Enter DROMIO of Syracuse, from the bay

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Master, there is a ship of Epidamnum

That waits but till her owner comes aboard,

And then, sir, she bears away. Our luggage, sir,

I have convey'd aboard;

The ship is in her trim; the merry wind

Blows fair from land: they stay for nought at all

But for their owner, master, and yourself.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

How now! a madman! Why, you peevish sheep,

What ship of Epidamnum waits for me?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

A ship you sent me to, to hire passage.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

You drunken slave, I sent you for a rope.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

You sent me to the bay, sir, for a ship.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I will debate this matter at more leisure
To Adriana, villain, hie you straight:
Give her this key, and tell her, in the desk
That's cover'd o'er with Turkish tapestry,
There is a purse of ducats; let her send it:
Tell her I am arrested in the street
And that shall bail me; hie you, slave, be gone!
On, officer, to prison till it come.
Exeunt Second Merchant, Angelo, Officer, and Antipholus of Ephesus

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

To Adriana! that is where we dined,
Where Dowsabel did claim me for her husband:
She is too big for me to handle.
Thither I must, although against my will,
For servants must their masters' minds fulfil.
Exit

ACT IV, SCENE II. The house of ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus.

Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA

ADRIANA

Ah, Luciana, did he tempt you so?
Did he plead in earnest? yea or no?

LUCIANA

First he denied you had a right to him.

ADRIANA

He meant he did me none; the more my spite.

LUCIANA

Then swore he that he was a stranger here.

ADRIANA

And true he swore, though yet lied he too.

LUCIANA

Then pleaded I for you.

ADRIANA

And what said he?

LUCIANA

That love I begg'd for you he begg'd of me.

ADRIANA

With what persuasion did he tempt your love?

LUCIANA

With words that in an honest suit might move.
First he did praise my beauty, then my speech.

ADRIANA

Did you speak him fair?

LUCIANA

Have patience, I beseech.

ADRIANA

I cannot, nor I will not hold me still;
My tongue, though not my heart, shall have its way.
He is deformed, crooked, old and withered,
Ill-faced, worse bodied, shapeless everywhere;
Vicious, ungentle, foolish, blunt, unkind;
Mishapen in making, worse in mind.

LUCIANA

Who would be jealous then of such a one?
No evil lost is wail'd when it is gone.

ADRIANA

Ah, but I think him better than I say,
My heart prays for him, though my tongue do curse.
Enter DROMIO of Syracuse

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Here! go! ; the desk! the purse! come now! make haste!

LUCIANA

How have you lost your breath?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

By running fast.

ADRIANA

Where is your master, Dromio? is he well?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

No, he's in a place worse than hell.
A devil in a leather garment has him;
One that before the judgement carries poor souls to hell.

ADRIANA

Why, man, what is the matter?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I do not know the matter: but he is arrested on it.

ADRIANA

What, is he arrested? Tell me at whose charge.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I know not at whose charge he is arrested;
But will you send him, mistress, bail, the money in his desk?

ADRIANA

Go fetch it, sister.

Exit Luciana

This I wonder at,
That he, unknown to me, should be in debt.
Tell me, was he arrested on a bond?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Not on a band, but on a stronger thing;
A necklace, a chain! Do you not hear it ring? (*clock strikes one*)

ADRIANA

What, the chain?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

No, no, the bell: 'tis time that I were gone:
It was two ere I left him, and now the clock strikes one.

ADRIANA

The hours come back! that did I never hear.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

O, yes; if any hour meet a sergeant, he runs back for very fear.

ADRIANA

Time is not in debt! how foolishly you reason!

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Time is ever bankrupt, Nay, he's a thief too: have you not heard
Men say that Time comes stealing on by night and day?

Re-enter LUCIANA with a purse

ADRIANA

Go, Dromio; there's the money, bear it straight;
And bring your master home immediately.
Come, sister: I am press'd down with thinking--
Thinking, my comfort and my injury.

Exeunt

ACT IV, SCENE III. A public place.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

There's not a man I meet but does greet me
As if I were their well-acquainted friend;
And every one does call me by my name.
Some offer money to me; some invite me;
Even now a tailor call'd me in his shop
And show'd me silks that he had bought for me,
Sure, these are but imaginary wiles
And magicians inhabit here.

Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Master, here's the gold you sent me for. Ah, the sergeant is gone.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What gold is this? What sergeant? I understand you not.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

No?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Well, sir, is there any ship puts forth tonight? May we be gone?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Why, sir, I brought you word an hour since that the
ship Expedition put forth to-night; and then were
you hindered by the sergeant. Here are the ducats that you sent for to
deliver you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

The fellow is distract, and so am I;
And here we wander in illusions:
Some blessed power deliver us from hence!
Enter a Courtezan

Courtezan

Well met, well met, Master Antipholus.
I see, sir, you have found the goldsmith now:
Is that the necklace you promised me to-day?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Satan, avoid! I charge thee, tempt me not.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Master, is this Mistress Satan?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

It is the devil.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.

It is written, they appear to men like angels of light:
Come not near her.

Courtezan

Your man and you are marvellous merry, sir.
Will you go with me? We'll finish our dinner here.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Begone, fiend! I conjure thee to leave me and be gone.

Courtezan

Give me the ring of mine you had at dinner,
Or, the necklace you promised,
And I'll be gone, sir, and not trouble you.
I hope you do not mean to cheat me so.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Begone, you witch! Come, Dromio, let us go.
Exeunt Antipholus of Syracuse and Dromio of Syracuse

Courtezan

Now, out of doubt Antipholus is mad,
A ring he has of mine worth forty ducats,
And for the same he promised me a necklace:
A mad tale he told me to-day at dinner,
Of his own doors being shut against his entrance.
Belike his wife, acquainted with his fits,
On purpose shut the doors against his way.
My way is now to hie home to his house,
And tell his wife that, being lunatic,
He rush'd into my house and took perforce
My ring away. This course I fittest choose;
For forty ducats is too much to lose.
Exit

ACT IV, SCENE IV. A street.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus and the Officer

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Fear me not, man; I will not break away:
I tell you, 'twill sound harshly in her ears.

Enter DROMIO of Ephesus with a rope's-end

Here comes my man; I think he brings the money.
How now, sir! have you that I sent you for?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Here's that, I warrant you, will pay them all.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

But where's the money?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Why, sir, I gave the money for the rope.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Five hundred ducats, villain, for a rope?

Beating him

Officer

Good sir, be patient.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Nay, 'tis for me to be patient; I am in adversity.

Officer

Good, now, hold your tongue.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Nay, rather persuade him to hold his hands.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

You senseless villain!

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I would I were senseless, sir, that I might not feel
your blows.

ANTIPHOLUS

You are sensible in nothing but blows, and so is an ass.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I am an ass, indeed; you may prove it by my long
ears. I have served him from the hour of my
nativity to this instant, and have nothing at his
hands for my service but blows.

I am waked with it when I sleep;
raised with it when I sit; driven out of doors with
it when I go from home; welcomed home with it when
I return.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

That's enough; my wife is coming yonder.

Enter ADRIANA, LUCIANA, the Courtezan, and PINCH

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Mistress, beware the rope's-end.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Wilt you still talk?

Beating him

Courtezan

How say you now? is not your husband mad?

ADRIANA

His incivility confirms no less.

Good Doctor Pinch, you are a conjurer;

Establish him in his true sense again,

And I will please you what you will demand.

LUCIANA

Alas, how fiery and how sharp he looks!

PINCH

Give me your hand and let me feel your pulse.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

There is my hand, and let it feel your ear.

Striking him

PINCH

I charge thee, Satan, housed within this man,

To yield possession to my holy prayers

And to your state of darkness hie you straight:

I conjure you by all the saints in heaven!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Peace, foolish wizard, peace! I am not mad.

ADRIANA

O, that you were not, poor distressed soul!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

You hussy, you, are these your customers?

Did this fool with the yellow face

Revel and feast it at my house to-day,

Whilst upon me the guilty doors were shut

And I denied to enter in my house?

ADRIANA

O husband, God knows you dined at home;

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Dined at home! You villain, what say you?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Sir, true to say, you did not dine at home.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Were not my doors lock'd up and I shut out?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

By god, your doors were lock'd and you shut out.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

And did not she herself revile me there?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

No lie, she herself reviled you there.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Did not her kitchen-maid rail, taunt, and scorn me?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Sure, she did; the kitchen-vestal scorn'd you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

And did not I in rage depart from thence?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

In truth you did; my bones bear witness,

ADRIANA

Alas, I sent you money to redeem you,
By Dromio here, who came in haste for it.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

Money by me! sent good wishes you might;
But surely master, not a rag of money.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Did you not go to her for a purse of ducats?

ADRIANA

He came to me and I deliver'd it.

LUCIANA

And I am witness with her that she did.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

God and the rope-maker bear me witness
That I was sent for nothing but a rope!

PINCH

Mistress, both man and master is possess'd;
I know it by their pale and deadly looks:
They must be bound and laid in some dark room.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Say, why did you lock me out to-day?
And why do you deny the bag of gold?

ADRIANA

I did not, gentle husband, lock you out.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

And, gentle master, I received no gold;
But I confess, sir, that we were lock'd out.

ADRIANA

Lying villain, you speak false in both.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

Lying harlot, you are false in both;
But with these nails I'll pluck out those false eyes
Enter three or four, and offer to bind him. He strives

ADRIANA

O, bind him, bind him! let him not come near me.

PINCH

More company! The fiend is strong within him.

LUCIANA

Ay me, poor man, how pale and wan he looks!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

What, will you murder me?

*Antipholus of Ephesus and Dromio of Ephesus run off pursued by company
They are caught after chase*

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

You gaoler, I am your prisoner: will you suffer them
To make a rescue?

Officer

Masters, let him go

He is my prisoner, and you shall not have him.

PINCH

Go bind this man, for he is frantic too.

They bind Dromio of Ephesus

ADRIANA

What will you do, you stupid officer?

Have you delight to see a wretched man

Harm himself so?

Officer

He is my prisoner: if I let him go,

The debt he owes will be required of me.

ADRIANA

I will pay you: Take me to his creditor,

Good master doctor, see him safe convey'd

Home to my house. O most unhappy day!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

O most unhappy slut!

ADRIANA

Go bear him hence. Sister, go you with me.

Exeunt all but Adriana, Luciana, Officer and Courtezan

Say now, whose suit is he arrested at?

Officer

One Angelo, a goldsmith.

ADRIANA

What is the sum he owes?

Officer

Two hundred ducats.

ADRIANA

Say, how grows it due?

Officer

Due for a necklace your husband had of him.

ADRIANA

He did order a necklace for me, but had it not.

Courtezan

When your husband all in rage to-day
Came to my house and took away my ring--
The ring I saw upon his finger now--
Straight after did I meet him with a necklace.

ADRIANA

It may be so, but I did never see it.
Come, gaoler, bring me where the goldsmith is:
I long to know the truth of all this.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse who takes weapon from soldier, and DROMIO of Syracuse who takes weapon from officer

LUCIANA

God, for thy mercy! they are loose again.

ADRIANA

And now with weapons.

Officer

Away! they'll kill us.

Exeunt all but Antipholus of Syracuse and Dromio of Syracuse

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

I see these witches are afraid of weapons.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

She that would be your wife now ran from you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Come to the Centaur; fetch our stuff from thence:

I long that we were safe and sound aboard.

I will not stay to-night for all the town;

Therefore away, to get our stuff aboard.

Exeunt

ACT V, SCENE I. A street before a Priory.

Enter Second Merchant and ANGELO

ANGELO

I am sorry, sir, that I have hinder'd you;
But, I protest, he had the necklace of me,
Though most dishonestly he does deny it.

Second Merchant

How is the man esteemed here in the city?

ANGELO

Of very reverend reputation, sir,
His word might bear my wealth at any time.

Second Merchant

Speak softly; yonder, as I think, he walks.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse and DROMIO of Syracuse

ANGELO

'Tis so; and that self necklace about his neck
Which he swore he didn't have.
Good sir, draw near to me, I'll speak to him.
Signior Antipholus, I wonder much
That you would put me to this shame and trouble;
This necklace which now you wear so openly:
This necklace you had of me; can you deny it?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

I think I had; I never did deny it.

Second Merchant

Yes, that you did, sir, and swore it too.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Who heard me to deny it or swear it?

Second Merchant

These ears of mine, you know did hear you.
Fie on thee, wretch!

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

You are a villain to impeach me thus:
I'll prove my honour and my honesty
Against you instantly, if you dare stand.

Second Merchant

I dare, and do defy you for a villain.

They draw

Enter ADRIANA, LUCIANA, the Courtezan, and others

ADRIANA

Hold, hurt him not, for God's sake! he is mad.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Run, master, run; for God's sake, take a house!
This is some priory. In, or we are doomed!

Exeunt Antipholus of Syracuse and Dromio of Syracuse to the Priory

Enter the Lady Abbess, AEMILIA

AEMELIA

Be quiet, people. Wherefore throng you hither?

ADRIANA

To fetch my poor distracted husband hence.
Let us come in, that we may bind him fast
And bear him home for his recovery.

ANGELO

I knew he was not in his perfect wits.

Second Merchant

I am sorry now that I did draw on him.

AEMELIA

How long has this possession held the man?

ADRIANA

This week he has been heavy, sour, sad,
And much different from the man he was;
But till this afternoon his passion
Ne'er brake into extremity of rage.
Good people enter and lay hold on him.

AEMELIA

No, not a creature enters in my house.

ADRIANA

Then let your servants bring my husband forth.

AEMELIA

Neither: he took this place for sanctuary,
And it shall privilege him from your hands
Till I have brought him to his wits again,
Therefore depart and leave him here with me.

ADRIANA

I will not hence and leave my husband here:
And ill it does beseem your holiness
To separate the husband and the wife.

AEMELIA

Be quiet and depart: you shall not have him.

Exit

LUCIANA

Complain unto the duke of this indignity.

ADRIANA

Come, go: I will fall prostrate at his feet
And never rise until my tears and prayers
Have won his grace to come in person hither
And take perforce my husband from the abbess. *The clock strikes 5*

Second Merchant

By this, I think, the dial points at five:
Anon, I'm sure, the duke himself in person
Comes this way

ANGELO

Upon what cause?

Second Merchant

To see a reverend Syracusian merchant,
Who put unluckily into this bay
Put to death publicly for his offence.

ANGELO

See where they come: we will behold his death.

LUCIANA

Kneel to the duke before he pass the abbey.

Enter DUKE SOLINUS, attended; AEGEON bareheaded; with the soldier and Officer

DUKE SOLINUS

Yet once again proclaim it publicly,
If any friend will pay the sum for him.

ADRIANA

Justice, most sacred duke, against the abbess!

DUKE SOLINUS

She is a virtuous and a reverend lady:

It cannot be that she hath done thee wrong.

ADRIANA

May it please your grace, Antipholus, my husband,
This ill day a most outrageous fit of madness took him;

That desperately he hurried through the street,

With him his bondman, all as mad as he--

Once did I get him bound and sent him home,

He broke from those that had the guard of him;

And with his mad attendant and himself,

Each one with ireful passion, with weapons,

Met us again and, madly bent on us,

Chased us away. Then they fled into this abbey,

And here the abbess shuts the gates on us.

Therefore, most gracious duke, with your command

Let him be brought forth and borne hence for help.

Enter Luce

Luce

O mistress, mistress, shift and save yourself!

My master and his man are both broke loose,

Beaten the maids a-row and bound the doctor.

ADRIANA

Peace, fool! your master and his man are here,

And that is false you do report to us.

Luce

Mistress, upon my life, I tell you true;

I have not breathed almost since I did see it.

He cries for you, and vows, if he can take you,

To scorch your face and to disfigure you.

Cry within

Hark, hark! I hear him, mistress. fly, be gone!

ADRIANA

Ay me, it is my husband! Witness you,

That he can become invisible:

Even now we housed him in the abbey here;

And now he's there, past thought of human reason.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus and DROMIO of Ephesus

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Justice, most gracious duke, O, grant me justice!

AEGEON

Unless the fear of death doth make me dote,

I see my son Antipholus and Dromio.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Justice, sweet prince, against that woman there!
She whom you gave to me to be my wife,
That has abused and dishonour'd me

DUKE SOLINUS

Discover how, and you shall find me just.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

This day, great duke, she shut the doors upon me,
While she with harlots feasted in my house.

DUKE SOLINUS

A grievous fault! Say, woman, did you so?

ADRIANA

No, my good lord: myself, he and my sister
To-day did dine together. So befall my soul.

LUCIANA

Ne'er may I look on day, nor sleep on night,
But she tells to your highness simple truth!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

My liege, I am advised what I say,
This woman lock'd me out this day from dinner:
That goldsmith there, were he not pack'd with her,
Could witness it, for he was with me then.

ANGELO

My lord, in truth, thus far I witness with him,
That he dined not at home, but was lock'd out.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

He parted with me to go fetch a necklace,
Promising to bring it to the Porcupine
Where Balthazar and I did dine together.

DUKE SOLINUS

You say he dined at home; the goldsmith here
Denies that saying. Sirrah, what say you?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Sir, he dined with her there, at the Porcupine.

Courtezan

He did, and from my finger snatch'd that ring.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

'Tis true, my liege; this ring I had of her.
Our dinner done, and he not coming thither,
I went to seek him. In the street I met him.
And in his company that gentleman.
But had he such a necklace of thee or no?

Second Merchant

I will be sworn these ears of mine
Heard you confess you had the necklace of him!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

There did this perjured goldsmith swear me down
That I this day of him received the necklace
Which, god he knows, I saw not.

Second Merchant

After you first denied it on the mart:
And thereupon I drew my weapon on you.

DUKE SOLINUS

But had he such a necklace of you or no?

ANGELO

He had, my lord: and when he ran in here,
These people saw the necklace about his neck.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I never saw the necklace, so help me in heaven!
For the which he did arrest me with an officer.
I did obey, and sent my peasant home
For certain ducats; he with none returned.
Then fairly I bespoke the officer
To go in person with me to my house.
By the way we met my wife, her sister, and a rabble more
Of vile confederates.

DUKE SOLINUS

Why, what an intricate case is this!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Then ll together they fell on me, chased me, bound me
Bore me home, there left me and my man, both bound together,
Till, gnawing with my teeth my bonds in sunder,
I gained my freedom.

Second Merchant

And then you fled into this Abbey here
From whence, I think, you are come by miracle.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I never came within these abbey-walls,
Nor ever did you draw your weapon on me:

DUKE SOLINUS

I think you all have drunk some kind of potion.
Did you see him enter the Abbey here?

Courtezan

As sure, my liege, as I do see your grace.

DUKE SOLINUS

Why, this is strange. Go call the abbess hither.
I think you are all confused or stark mad.

Exit one to Abbess

AEGEON

Most mighty duke, allow me to speak a word:
Haply I see a friend will save my life
And pay the sum that may deliver me.

DUKE SOLINUS

Speak freely, Syracusian, what you will.

AEGEON

Is not your name, sir, call'd Antipholus?
And is not that your bondman, Dromio?

I am sure you both of you remember me.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

You are not Pinch's patient, are you, sir?

AEGEON

Why look you strange on me? you know me well.

ANTIPHOLUS

I never saw you in my life till now.

AEGEON

O, grief has changed me since you saw me last,

But tell me yet, do you not know my voice?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

No. Not I.

AEGEON

Dromio, nor you?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

No, trust me, sir, nor I.

AEGEON

Tell me you are my son Antipholus.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I never saw my father in my life.

AEGEON

But seven years since, in Syracuse, boy,

You know we parted: but perhaps, my son,

You shame to acknowledge me in misery.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

The duke and all that know me in the city

Can witness with me that it is not so

I ne'er saw Syracuse in my life.

DUKE SOLINUS

I tell thee, Syracusian, twenty years

Have I been patron to Antipholus,

During which time he ne'er saw Syracuse:

I see your age and dangers make you mad.

Re-enter AEMILIA, with ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse and DROMIO of Syracuse

AEMELIA

Most mighty duke, behold a man much wrong'd.

All gather to see them

ADRIANA

I see two husbands, or my eyes deceive me.

DUKE SOLINUS

One of these men is a ghost to the other;

And so of these which is the natural man,

And which the spirit? who deciphers them?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

I, sir, am Dromio; command him away.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

I, sir, am Dromio; pray, let me stay.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Aegeon are you not? or else his ghost?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

O, my old master! who has bound you?

AEMELIA

Whoever bound him, I will loose his bonds

And gain a husband by his liberty.

Speak, old Aegeon, if you are the man

That had a wife once call'd Aemilia

That bore you at a burden two fair sons:

O, if you be the same Aegeon, speak,

And speak unto the same Aemilia!

AEGEON

If I dream not, you are Aemilia:

If you are she, tell me where is that son

That floated with you on the fatal raft?

AEMELIA

By men of Epidamnum he and I

And the twin Dromio all were taken up;

But by and by rude fishermen of Corinth

By force took Dromio and my son from them

And me they left with those of Epidamnum.

What then became of them I cannot tell

I to this fortune that you see me in.

DUKE SOLINUS

These are the parents to these children,

Which accidentally are met together.

Antipholus, you came from Corinth first?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

No, sir, not I; I came from Syracuse.

DUKE SOLINUS

Stay, stand apart; I know not which is which.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I came from Corinth, my most gracious lord,--

DROMIO OF EPHESUS

And I with him.

ADRIANA

Which of you two did dine with me to-day?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

I, gentle mistress.

ADRIANA

And are not you my husband?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

No; I say nay to that.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

And so do I; yet did she call me so:

And this fair gentlewoman, her sister here,

Did call me brother.
To Luciana

What I told you then,
I hope I shall have leisure to make good;
If this be not a dream I see and hear.

ANGELO

That is the necklace sir, which you had of me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

I think it be, sir; I deny it not.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

And you, sir, for this necklace arrested me.

ANGELO

I think I did, sir; I deny it not.

ADRIANA

I sent you money, sir, to be your bail,
By Dromio; but I think he brought it not.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

No, none by me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

This purse of ducats I received from you,
And Dromio, my man, did bring them me.
I see we still did meet each other's man,
And I was ta'en for him, and he for me,
And thereupon these errors are arose.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

These ducats pawn I for my father here.

DUKE SOLINUS

It shall not need; your father has his life.

Courtezan

Sir, I must have that diamond ring from you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

There, take it; and much thanks for my good cheer.

AEMELIA

Renowned duke, vouchsafe to take the pains
To go with us into the abbey here
And hear at large discoursed all our fortunes:
And all that are assembled in this place,
That by this produced this one day's error
Have suffer'd wrong, go keep us company,
The duke, my husband and my children both,
Go to a gossips' feast and go with me;
After so long grief, such festivity!

DUKE SOLINUS

With all my heart, I'll join you at this feast.

Exeunt all but Antipholus of Syracuse, Antipholus of Ephesus, Dromio of Syracuse and Dromio of Ephesus

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Master, shall I fetch your stuff from shipboard?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Dromio, what stuff of mine have you embark'd?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

He speaks to me. I am your master, Dromio:

Come, go with us; we'll look to that anon:

Embrace your brother there; rejoice with him.

Exeunt Antipholus of Syracuse and Antipholus of Ephesus

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

There is a fat friend at your master's house,

That kitchen'd me for you to-day at dinner:

She now shall be my sister, not my wife.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Methinks you are my glass, and not my brother:

I see by you I am a sweet-faced youth.

Will you walk in to see their gossiping?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Not I, sir; you are my elder.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

That's a question: how shall we try it?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

We'll draw straws for the senior: till then lead you first.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Nay, then, thus:

We came into the world like brother and brother;

And now let's go hand in hand, not one before another.

Exeunt

The End