VOLUME I BOOK III

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

By William Shakespeare
Dramatis Personae

Solinus Duke of Ephesus. (DUKE SOLINUS)
Ægeon a merchant of Syracuse.

Antipholus of Ephesus
Antipholus of Syracuse
twin brothers, and sons to Ægeon and Æmilia.

Dromio of Ephesus
Dromio of Syracuse
twin brothers, and attendants on he two Antipholuses.

Balthazar a merchant.
Angelo a goldsmith.

First Merchant friend to Antipholus of Syracuse.
Second Merchant to whom Angelo is a debtor.

Pinch a schoolmaster.

Æmilia wife to Ægeon, an abbess at Ephesus.
Adriana wife to Antipholus of Ephesus.

Luciana her sister.

Luce servant to Adriana.

A Courtezan. (COURTEZAN)

Gaoler, Officers, and other Attendants.
(GAOLER)
(OFFICER)
(SERVANT)

Scene Ephesus.
The Comedy Of Errors

ACT I

SCENE I
A hall in DUKE SOLINUS's palace.

[Enter DUKE SOLINUS, ÆGEON, Gaoler, Officers, and other Attendants]

ÆGEON 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:
The enmity and discord which of late
Sprung from the rancorous outrage of your duke
To merchants, our well-dealing countrymen,
Who wanting guilders to redeem their lives
Have seal'd his rigorous statutes with their bloods,
Excludes all pity from our threatening looks.
For, since the mortal and intestine jars
'Twixt thy seditious countrymen and us,
It hath in solemn synods been decreed
Both by the Syracusians and ourselves,
To admit no traffic to our adverse towns
Nay, more,
If any born at Ephesus be seen
At any Syracusian marts and fairs;
Again: if any Syracusian born
Come to the bay of Ephesus, he dies,
His goods confiscate to the duke's dispose,
Unless a thousand marks be levied,
To quit the penalty and to ransom him.
Thy substance, valued at the highest rate,
Cannot amount unto a hundred marks;
Therefore by law thou art condemned to die.

ÆGEON 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 thou departest from thy native home
And for what cause thou camest to Ephesus.

ÆGEON A heavier task could not have been imposed
Than I to speak my griefs unspeakable:
Yet, that the world may witness that my end
Was wrought by nature, not by vile offence,
I'll utter what my sorrows give me leave.
In Syracuse was I born, and wed
Unto a woman, happy but for me,
And by me, had not our hap been bad.
With her I lived in joy; our wealth increased
By prosperous voyages I often made
To Epidamnum; till my factor's death
And the great care of goods at random left
Drew me from kind embracements of my spouse.
From whom my absence was not six months old
Before herself, almost at fainting under
The pleasing punishment that women bear,
And soon and safe arrived where I was.
There had she not been long, but she became
A joyfull 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,—for their parents were exceeding poor,—
I bought and brought up to attend my sons.
My wife, not meanly proud of two such boys,
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:
But longer did we not retain much hope;
For what obscured light the heavens did grant
Did but convey unto our fearful minds
A doubtful warrant of immediate death;
Which though myself would gladly have embraced,
Yet the incessant weepings of my wife,
Weeping before for what she saw must come,
And piteous plainings of the pretty babes,
That mourn’d for fashion, ignorant what to fear,
Forced me to seek delays for them and me.
And this it was, for other means was none:
The sailors sought for safety by our boat,
And left the ship, then sinking-ripe, to us:
My wife, more careful for the latter-born,
Had fasten’d him unto a small spare mast,
Such as seafaring men provide for storms;
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,
Fixing our eyes on whom our care was fix’d,
Fasten’d ourselves at either end the mast;
And floating straight, obedient to the stream,
Was carried towards Corinth, as we thought.
At length the sun, gazing upon the earth,
Dispersed those vapours that offended us;
And by the benefit of his wished light,
The seas wax’d calm, and we discovered
Two ships from far making amain to us,
Of Corinth that, of Epidaurus this:
But ere they came,—O, let me say no more!
Gather the sequel by that went before.

DUKE SOLINUS And for the sake of them thou sorrowest for,
Do me the favour to dilate at full
What hath befall’n of them and thee till now.

ÆGEON 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,
Reft of his brother, but retain’d his name—
Might bear him company in the quest of him:
Whom whilst I labour’d of a love to see,
I hazarded the loss of whom I loved.
Five summers have I spent in furthest Greece,
Roaming clean through the bounds of Asia,
And, coasting homeward, came to Ephesus;
Hopeless to find, yet loath to leave unsought
Or that or any place that harbours men.
But here must end the story of my life;
And happy were I in my timely death,
Could all my travels warrant me they live.

DUKE SOLINUS Hapless Æegeon, whom the fates
have mark’d
to bear the extremity of dire mishap!
Now, trust me, were it not against our laws,
Against my crown, my oath, my dignity,
Which princes, would they, may not disannul,
My soul would sue as advocate for thee.
But, though thou art adjudged to the death
And passed sentence may not be recall’d
But to our honour’s great disparagement,
Yet I will favour thee in what I can.
Therefore, merchant, I’ll limit thee this day
To seek thy life by beneficial help:
Try all the friends thou hast in Ephesus;
Beg thou, or borrow, to make up the sum,
And live; if no, then thou art doom’d to die.
Gaoler, take him to thy custody.

GAOLER I will, my lord.

ÆGEON Hopeless and helpless doth Æegeon wend,
But to procrastinate his lifeless end.
SCENE II
The Mart.

[Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse, DROMIO of Syracuse, and FIRST MERCHANT]

FIRST MERCHANT Therefore give out you are of Epidamnum, lest that your goods too soon be confiscate. This very day a Syracusian merchant is apprehended for arrival here; and not being able to buy out his life according to the statute of the town, dies ere the weary sun set in the west. There is your money that I had to keep.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Go bear it to the Centaur, where we host, and stay there, Dromio, till I come to thee. 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, for with long travel I am stiff and weary. Get thee away.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Many a man would take you at your word, and go indeed, having so good a mean.

[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, of whom I hope to make much benefit; I crave your pardon. Soon at five o'clock, and afterward consort you till bed-time. My present business calls me from you now.

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, who, falling there to find his fellow forth, unseen, inquisitive, confounds himself: so I, to find a mother and a brother, in quest of them, unhappy, lose myself.

[Enter DROMIO of Ephesus]

Here comes the almanac of my true date. What now? How chance thou art return'd so soon?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Return'd so soon! Rather approach'd too late: the capon burns, the pig falls from the spit, the clock hath strucken twelve upon the bell; my mistress made it one upon my cheek: she is so hot because the meat is cold; the meat is cold because you come not home; you come not home because you have no stomach; you have no stomach having broke your fast; but we that know what 'tis to fast and pray are penitent for your default to-day.

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 EPHESUS O, sixpence, that I had o' Wednesday last. To pay the saddler for my mistress' crupper? the saddler had it, sir; I kept it not.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE I am not in a sportive humour now: tell me, and daily not, where is the money? we being strangers here, how darest thou trust so great a charge from thine own custody?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS I pray you, air, as you sit at dinner: I from my mistress come to you in post; if I return, I shall be post indeed, for she will score your fault upon my pate. Methinks your maw, like mine, should be your clock, and strike you home without a messenger.

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 thee?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS To me, sir? why, you gave no gold to me.
ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Come on, sir knave, have done your foolishness, And tell me how thou hast disposed thy charge.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS 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 In what safe place you have bestowed my money, Or I shall break that merry sconce of yours That stands on tricks when I am undisposed: Where is the thousand marks thou hadst of me?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS 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. If I should pay your worship those again, Perchance you will not bear them patiently.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Thy mistress' marks? What mistress, slave, hast thou?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Your worship's wife, my mistress at the Phoenix;

She that doth fast till you come home to dinner, And prays that you will hie you home to dinner.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE What, wilt thou flout methus unto my face, Being forbid? There, take you that, sir knave.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS What mean you, sir? For God's sake, hold your hands! Nay, and you will not, sir, I'll take my heels.

[Exit]

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Upon my life, by some device or other The villain is o'er-raught of all my money. They say this town is full of cozenage, As, nimble jugglers that deceive the eye, Dark-working sorcerers that change the mind, Soul-killing witches that deform the body, Disguised cheaters, prating mountebanks, And many such-like liberties of sin: 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]

SCENE I

The house of ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus.

[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 Perhaps some merchant hath invited him, And from the mart he's somewhere gone to dinner. 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 hath 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, Indued with intellectual sense and souls, Of more preeminence than fish and fowls, 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.
A wretched soul, bruised with adversity,
We bid be quiet when we hear it cry;
But were we burdened with like weight of pain,
As much or more would we ourselves complain:
So thou, that hast no unkind mate to grieve thee,
With urging helpless patience wouldst relieve me,
But, if thou live to see like right bereft,
This fool-beg'd patience in thee will be left.
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 EPSHESUS Nay, he's at two hands with me,
and that my two ears can witness.
ADRIANA Say, didst thou speak with him? Know'st thou his mind?
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS Ay, ay, he told his mind upon mine ear:
Beshrew his hand, I scarce could understand it.
LUCIANA Spake he so doubtfully, thou couldst not feel his meaning?
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS Nay, he struck so plainly, I could too well feel his blows; and withal so doubtfully that I could scarce understand them.
ADRIANA But say, I prithee, is he coming home? It seems he hath great care to please his wife.
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS Why, mistress, sure my master is horn-mad.
ADRIANA Horn-mad, thou villain!
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS 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," quoth I; "My gold!" quoth he.
"Your meat doth burn," quoth I; "My gold!" quoth he.
"Will you come home?" quoth I; "My gold!" quoth he.
"Where is the thousand marks I gave thee, villain?"
"The pig," quoth I, "is burn'd;" "My gold!" quoth he.
"My mistress, sir" quoth I; "Hang up thy mistress! I know not thy mistress; out on thy mistress!"
LUCIANA Quoth who?
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS Quoth my master:
"I know," quoth he, "no house, no wife, no mistress."
So that my errand, due unto my tongue,
I thank him, I bare home upon my shoulders;
For, in conclusion, he did beat me there.
ADRIANA Go back again, thou slave, and fetch him home.
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS Go back again, and be new beaten home?
For God's sake, send some other messenger.
ADRIANA Back, slave, or I will break thy pate across.
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS And he will bless that cross with other beating:
Between you I shall have a holy head.
ADRIANA Hence, prating peasant! Fetch thy master home.
DROMIO OF EPSHESUS 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 loureth in your face!
ADRIANA His company must do his minions grace,
Whilst I at home starve for a merry look.
 Hath homely age the alluring beauty took
From my poor cheek? Then he hath wasted it:
Are my discourses dull? Barren my wit?
If voluble and sharp discourse be marr'd,
Unkindness blunts it more than marble hard:
Do their gay vestments his affections bait?
That's not my fault: he's master of my state:
What ruins are in me that can be found,
By him not ruin'd? Then is he the ground
Of my defeats. My decayed fair
A sunny look of his would soon repair
But, too unruly deer, he breaks the pale
And feeds from home; poor I am but his stale.

LUCIANA Self-harming jealously! Fie, beat it hence!
ADRIANA Unfeeling fools can with such wrongs dispense.
I know his eye doth homage otherwhere,  
Or else what lets it but he would be here?  
Sister, you know he promised me a chain;  
Would that alone, alone he would detain,  
So he would keep fair quarter with his bed!  
I see the jewel best enamelled  
Will lose his beauty; yet the gold bides still,  
That others touch, and often touching will  
Wear gold: and no man that hath a name,  
By falsehood and corruption doth it shame.  
Since that my beauty cannot please his eye,  
I'll weep what's left away, and weeping die.

LUCIANA  How many fond fools serve mad jealousy!

[Exeunt]

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  
By computation and mine host's report.  
I could not speak with Dromio since at first  
I sent him from the mart. See, here he comes.

[Enter DROMIO of Syracuse]

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? Waast thou mad,  
That thus so madly thou didst answer me?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  What answer, sir? When spake 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, thou didst deny the gold's receipt,  
And told'st me of a mistress and a dinner;  
For which, I hope, thou felt'st I was displeased.

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  Yea, dost thou jeer and flout me in the teeth?  
Think'st thou I jest? Hold, take thou that, and that.

[Beating him]

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  Hold, sir, for God's sake! Now your jest is earnest:  
Upon what bargain do you give it me?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE  Because that I familiarly sometimes  
Do use you for my fool and chat with you,  
Your sauciness will jest upon my love  
And make a common of my serious hours.  
When the sun shines let foolish gnats make sport,  
But creep in crannies when he hides his beams.  
If you will jest with me, know my aspect,  
And fashion your demeanor to my looks,  
Or I will beat this method in your sconce.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  Sconce call you it? So you would leave battering, I had rather have it a head: an you use these blows long, I must get a sconce for my head and ensconce it too; or else I shall seek my wit in my shoulders. But, I pray, sir why am I beaten?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE  Dost thou not know?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  Nothing, sir, but that I am beaten.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE  Shall I tell you why?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  Ay, sir, and wherefore; for they say every why hath a wherefore.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE  Why, first,—for flouting me;  
and then, wherefore—  
For urging it the second time to me.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  Was there ever any man thus beaten out of season,  
When in the why and the wherefore is neither rhyme nor reason?  
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  I'll make you amends next, to 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 choleric and purchase me another dry basting.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Well, sir, learn to jest in good time; there's a time for all things.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE I durst have denied that, before you were so choleric.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE By what rule, sir?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Marry, sir, by a rule as plain as the plain bald pate of father Time himself.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Let's hear it.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE There's no time for a man to recover his hair that grows bald by nature.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE May he not do it by fine and recovery?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Yes, to pay a fine for a periwig and recover the lost hair of another man.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Why is Time such a niggard of hair, being, as it is, so plentiful an excrement?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Because it is a blessing that he bestows on beasts; and what he hath scanted men in hair he hath given them in wit.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Why, but there's many a man hath more hair than wit.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Not a man of those but he hath the wit to lose his hair.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Why, thou didst conclude hairy men plain dealers without wit.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE The plainer dealer, the sooner lost: yet he loseth it in a kind of jollity.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE For what reason?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE For two; and sound ones too.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Nay, not sound, I pray you.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Sure ones, then.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Nay, not sure, in a thing falsing.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Certain ones then.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Name them.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE The one, to save the money that he spends in trimming; the other, that at dinner they should not drop in his porridge.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE You would all this time have proved there is no time for all things.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Marry, and did, sir; namely, no time to recover hair lost by nature.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE But your reason was not substantial, why there is no time to recover.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Thus I mend it: Time himself is bald and therefore to the world's end will have bald followers.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE I knew 'twould be a bald conclusion: But, soft! WHO wafts us yonder?

[Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA]

ADRIANA Ay, ay, Antipholus, look strange and frown: Some other mistress hath thy sweet aspects; I am not Adriana nor thy wife.

The time was once when thou unurged wouldst vow
That never words were music to thine ear,
That never object pleasing in thine eye,
That never touch well welcome to thy hand,
That never meat sweet-savor'd in thy taste.

Unless I spake, or look'd, or touch'd, or carved to thee. How comes it now, my husband, O, how comes it,
That thou art thus estranged from thyself?
Thyself I call it, being strange to me,
That, undividable, incorporate.
Am better than thy dear self's better part.
Ah, do not tear away thyself from me!

For know, my love, as easy mayest thou fall
A drop of water in the breaking gulf,
And take unmingled that same drop again,
Without addition or diminishing,
As take from me thyself and not me too.
How dearly would it touch me to the quick,
Shouldst thou but hear I were licentious
And that this body, consecrate to thee,
By ruffian lust should be contaminate!
Wouldst thou not spit at me and spurn at me
And hurl the name of husband in my face
And tear the stain’d skin off my harlot-brow
And from my false hand cut the wedding-ring
And break it with a deep-divorcing vow?
I know thou canst; and therefore see thou do it.
I am possess’d with an adulterate blot;
My blood is mingled with the crime of lust:
For if we too be one and thou play false,
I do digest the poison of thy flesh,
Being strumpeted by thy contagion.
Keep then far league and truce with thy true bed;
I live unstain’d, thou 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 thee; and this thou didst return from him,
That he did buffet thee, 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 compact?

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* I, sir? I never saw her till this time.

*ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE* Villain, thou liest; for even her very words
Didst thou deliver to me on the mart.

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* I never spake with her in all my life.

*ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE* How can she thus then call us by our names,
Unless it be by inspiration.

*ADRIANA* How ill agrees it with your gravity
To counterfeit thus grossly with your slave,
Abetting him to thwart me in my mood!
Be it my wrong you are from me exempt,
But wrong not that wrong with a more contempt.
Come, I will fasten on this sleeve of thine:

*ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE* To me she speaks; she moves me for her theme:
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 this sure uncertainty,
I’ll entertain the offer’d fallacy.

*LUCIANA* Dromio, go bid the servants spread for dinner.

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* O, for my beads! 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 pratest thou to thyself and answer’st not?
Dromio, thou drone, thou snail, thou slug, thou sot!

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* I, sir, am transformed, master, am I not?

*ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE* I think thou art in mind, and so am I.

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* Nay, master, both in mind and in my shape.

*ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE* Thou hast thine own form.

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* No, I am an ape.

*LUCIANA* If thou art changed to aught, ’tis to an ass.

*DROMIO OF SYRACUSE* ’Tis true; she rides me and I long for grass.

*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
And shrive you of a thousand idle pranks.
Sirrah, if any ask you for your master,
**ACT III**

**SCENE I**

Before the house of ANTMOPHOLUS of Ephesus.

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

ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus: 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 carcanet, And that to-morrow you will bring it home. But here's a villain that would face me down. 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. Thou drunkard, thou, what didst thou mean by this?

DROMIO of Ephesus: Say what you will, sir, but I know what I know; That you beat me at the mart, I have your hand to show: If the skin were parchment, and the blows you gave were ink, Your own handwriting would tell you what I think.

ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus: I think thou art an ass.

DROMIO of Ephesus: Marry, so it doth appear By the wrongs I suffer and the blows I bear. I should kick, being kick'd; and, being at that pass, You would keep from my heels and beware of an ass.

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

BALTHAZAR: Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast.

ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus: O, Signior Balthazar, either at flesh or fish, A table full of welcome make scarce one dainty dish.

BALTHAZAR: Good meat, sir, is common; that every churl affords.

ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus: And welcome more common; for that's nothing but words.

BALTHAZAR: O, Signior Balthazar, either at flesh or fish, A table full of welcome make scarce one dainty dish.

DROMIO of Ephesus: Let him walk from whence he came, lest he catch cold on his feet.

ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus: What patch is made our porter? My master stays in the street.

DROMIO of Ephesus: Right, sir; I'll tell you when, an you tell me wherefore.
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Wherefore? For my dinner: I have not dined to-day.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: [Within] Nor to-day here you must not; come again when you may.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: What art thou that keepest me out from the house I owe?

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

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: O villain! Thou hast stolen both mine office and my name. The one ne'er got me credit, the other mickle blame.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: If thou hadst been Dromio to-day in my place, thou wouldst have changed thy face for a name or thy name for an ass.

LUCE: [Within] What a coil 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 EPHESUS: O Lord, I must laugh! Have at you with a proverb—Shall I set in my staff?

LUCE: [Within] Have at you with another; that's—When? Can you tell?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: [Within] If thy name be call'd Luce—Luce, thou hast answered him well.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Do you hear, you minion? You'll let us in, I hope?

LUCE: [Within] I thought to have asked you.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: [Within] And you said no.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: So, come, help: well struck! There was blow for blow.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Thou baggage, let me in.

LUCE: [Within] Can you tell for whose sake?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: Master, knock the door hard.

LUCE: [Within] Let him knock till it ache.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: You'll cry for this, minion, if I beat the door down.

LUCE: [Within] What needs all that, and a pair of stocks in the town?
For a fish without a fin, there's a fowl without a feather; If a crow help us in, sirrah, we'll pluck a crow together.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Go get thee gone; fetch me an iron crow.

BALTHAZAR: Have patience, sir; O, let it not be so! Herein you war against your reputation And draw within the compass of suspect The unviolated honour of your wife. Once this,—your long experience of her wisdom, Her sober virtue, years and modesty, Plead on her part some cause to you unknown: And doubt not, sir, but she will well excuse Why at this time the doors are made against you. Be ruled by me: depart in patience, And let us to the Tiger all to dinner, And about evening come yourself alone To know the reason of this strange restraint. 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, And that supposed by the common rout Against your yet ungalled estimation That may with foul intrusion enter in And dwell upon your grave when you are dead; For slander lives upon succession, For ever housed where it gets possession.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: You have prevailed: I will depart in quiet, And, in despite of mirth, 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— Hath oftentimes upbraided me withal: To her will we to dinner.

[To Angelo] Get you home And fetch the chain; by this I know 'tis made: Bring it, I pray you, to the Porpentine; For there's the house that chain will I bestow— Be it for nothing but to spite my wife— Upon mine hostess there: good sir, make haste. Since mine 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 some hour hence.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Do so. This jest shall cost me some expense.

[Exeunt]
Sing, siren, for thyself and I will dote:
Spread o'er the silver waves thy golden hairs,
And as a bed I'll take them and there lie,
And in that glorious supposition think
He gains by death that hath such means to die:
Let Love, being light, be drowned if she sink!

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 springeth 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 As good to wink, sweet love, as look on night.

LUCIANA Why call you me love? Call my sister so.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Thy sister's sister.

LUCIANA That's my sister.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE No; it is thyself, mine own self's better part,
Mine eye's clear eye, my dear heart's dearer heart,
My food, my fortune and my sweet hope's aim,
My sole earth's heaven and my heaven's claim.

LUCIANA All this my sister is, or else should be.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Call thyself sister, sweet, for I am thee.
Thee will I love and with thee lead my life:
Thou hast 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 runn'st thou so fast?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Do you know me, sir? Am I Dromio? Am I your man? Am I myself?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Thou art Dromio, thou art my man, thou art thyself.

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

ANTIPHOLUS What woman's man? And how besides thyself? Besides thyself?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Marry, sir, besides myself, I am due to a woman; one that claims me, one that haunts me, one that will have me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE What claim lays she to thee?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Marry sir, such claim as you would lay to your horse; and she would have me as a beast: not that, I being a beast, she would have me; but that she, being a very beastly creature, lays claim to me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE What is she?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE A very reverent body; ay, such a one as a man may not speak of without he say "Sir-reverence." I have but lean luck in the match, and yet is she a wondrous fat marriage.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE How dost thou 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. I warrant, her rags and the tallow in them will burn a Poland winter: 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 Swart, like my shoe, but her face nothing half so clean kept: for why, she sweats; a man may go over shoes in the grime of it.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE That's a fault that water will mend.

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. I warrant, her rags and the tallow in them will burn a Poland winter: if she lives till doomsday, she'll burn a week longer than the whole world.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE What's her name?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Nell, sir; but her name and three quarters, that's an ell and three quarters, will not measure her from hip to hip.
ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Then she bears some breadth?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE No longer from head to foot than from hip to hip: 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 Scotland?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE I found it by the barrenness; hard in the palm of the hand.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Where France?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE In her forehead; armed and reverted, making war against her heir.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Where England?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE I looked for the chalky cliffs, but I could find no whiteness in them; but I guess it stood in her chin, by the salt rheum that ran between France and it.

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, sapphires, declining their rich aspect to the hot breath of Spain; who sent whole armadoes of caracks to be ballast at her nose.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Where stood Belgia, the Netherlands?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Oh, sir, I did not look so low. To conclude, this drudge, or diviner, laid claim to me, call’d me Dromio; swore I was assured 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 as a witch. And, I think, if my breast had not been made of faith and my heart of steel. She had transform’d me to a curtail dog and made me turn i’ the wheel.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Go hie thee presently, post to the road;
An if the wind blow any way from shore,
I will not harbour in this town to-night:
If any bark put forth, come to the mart,
Where I will walk till thou 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.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE There’s none but witches do inhabit here;
And therefore ‘tis high time that I were hence.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE To conclude, this drudge, or diviner, laid claim to me, call’d me Dromio; swore I was assured 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 as a witch. And, I think, if my breast had not been made of faith and my heart of steel. She had transform’d me to a curtail dog and made me turn i’ the wheel.

[Exit]

ANGEL0 Master Antipholus,—

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Ay, that’s my name.

ANGEL0 I know it well, sir, lo, here is the chain.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE I thought to have ta’en you at the Porpentine: The chain unfinished made me stay thus long.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE What is your will that I shall do with this?

ANGEL0 What please yourself, sir: I have made it for you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE Made it for me, sir! I besoke it not.

ANGEL0 Not once, nor twice, but twenty times you have.
Go home with it and please your wife withal;
And soon at supper-time I’ll visit you
And then receive my money for the chain.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE I pray you, sir, receive the money now,
For fear you ne’er see chain nor money more.
The Comedy Of Errors: ACT IV

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, there's no man is so vain

[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, And since I have not much importuned you; Nor now I had not, but that I am bound To Persia, and want guilders for my voyage: Therefore make present satisfaction, Or I'll attach 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 chain: at five o'clock I shall receive the money for the same. Pleaseth you walk with me down to his house, I will discharge my bond and thank you too.

[Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus and DROMIO of Ephesus from the courtezan's]

OFFICER  That labour may you save: see where he comes.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  A man is well holp up that trusts to you: I promised your presence and the chain; But neither chain nor goldsmith came to me. Belike you thought our love would last too long, If it were chain'd together, and therefore came not.

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 doth amount to three odd ducats more Than I stand debted to this gentleman: I pray you, see him presently discharged, 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 chain 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 chain 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 chain 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 chain: Both wind and tide stays for this gentleman, And I, to blame, have held him here too long.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  Good Lord! You use this dalliance to excuse Your breach of promise to the Porpentine. I should have chid you for not bringing it, But, like a shrew, you first begin to brawl.
SECOND MERCHANT  The hour steals on; I pray you, sir, dispatch.

ANGELO  You hear how he importunes me:— the chain!

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 chain or send me by some token.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  Fie, now you run this humour out of breath, where's the chain? 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 chain.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  I owe you none till I receive the chain.

ANGELO  You know I gave it you half an hour since.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  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, arrest him at my suit.

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 attach you by this officer.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  Consent to pay thee that I never had! Arrest me, foolish fellow, if thou darest.

ANGELO  Here is thy fee; arrest him, officer, I would not spare my brother in this case, If he should scorn me so apparently.

OFFICER  I do arrest you, sir: you hear the suit.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  I do obey thee till I give thee 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 bark of Epidamnum That stays but till her owner comes aboard, And then, sir, she bears away. Our fraughtage, sir, I have convey'd aboard; and I have bought The oil, the balsamum and aqua-vitae. 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 EPHESUS  How now! A madman! Why, thou peevish sheep. What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  A ship you sent me to, to hire waftage.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  Thou drunken slave, I sent thee for a rope; And told thee to what purpose and what end.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE  You sent me for a rope's end as soon: You sent me to the bay, sir, for a bark.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS  I will debate this matter at more leisure And teach your ears to list me with more heed. To Adriana, villain, hie thee 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 thee, 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, I hope, for me to compass. Thither I must, although against my will, For servants must their masters' minds fulfil. [Exit]
SCENE II
The house of ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus.

[Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA]

ADRIANA Ah, Luciana, did he tempt thee so?
Mightst thou perceive austerely in his eye
That he did plead in earnest? Yea or no?
Look'd he or red or pale, or sad or merrily?
What observation madest thou in this case
Of his heart's meteors tilting in his face?

LUCIANA First he denied you had in him no right.

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
forsworn he were.

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 thy love?

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

ADRIANA Didst speak him fair?

LUCIANA Have patience, I beseech.

ADRIANA I cannot, nor I will not, hold me still;
M y tongue, though not my heart, shall have his will.
He is deformed, crooked, old and sere,
Ill-faced, worse bodied, shapeless everywhere;
Vicious, ungentle, foolish, blunt, unkind;
Stigmatical 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,
And yet would herein others' eyes were worse.
Far from her nest the lapwing cries away;
M y heart prays for him, though my tongue do curse.

[Enter DROMIO of Syracuse]

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Here! Go; the desk, the purse!
Sweet, now, make haste.

LUCIANA How hast thou lost thy breath?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE By running fast.

ADRIANA Where is thy master, Dromio? Is he well?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE No, he's in Tartar limbo, worse
than hell.
A devil in an everlasting garment hath him;
One whose hard heart is button'd up with steel;
A fiend, a fury, pitiless and rough;
A wolf, nay, worse, a fellow all in buff;
A back-friend, a shoulder-clapper, one
that countermands
The passages of alleys, creeks and narrow lands;
A hound that runs counter and yet draws dryfoot well;
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: he is
rested on the case.

ADRIANA What, is he arrested? Tell me at whose suit.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE I know not at whose suit he is
arrested well;
But he's in a suit of buff which 'rested him, that can
I tell.
Will you send him, mistress, redemption, 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 band?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Not on a band, but on a
stronger thing;
A chain, a chain! Do you not hear it ring?

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, a' turns back for very fear.

ADRIANA As if Time were in debt! How fondly dost
thou reason!
DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Time is a very bankrupt, and owes more than he's worth, to season. Nay, he's a thief too: have you not heard men say Time comes stealing on by night and day? If Time be in debt and theft, and a sergeant in the way, Hath he not reason to turn back an hour in a day?

[Re-enter LUCIANA with a purse]

ADRIANA: Go, Dromio; there's the money, bear it straight; And bring thy master home immediately. Come, sister: I am press'd down with conceit— Conceit, my comfort and my injury.

[Exeunt]

SCENE III
A public place.

[Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse]

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: There's not a man I meet but doth salute me As if I were their well-acquainted friend; And every one doth call me by my name. Some tender money to me; some invite me; Some other give me thanks for kindnesses; Some offer me commodities to buy: Even now a tailor call'd me in his shop And show'd me silks that he had bought for me, And therewithal took measure of my body. Sure, these are but imaginary wiles And Lapland sorcerers inhabit here.

[Enter DROMIO of Syracuse]

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Master, here's the gold you sent me for. What, have you got the picture of old Adam new-apparelled?

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: What gold is this? What Adam dost thou mean?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Not that Adam that kept the Paradise but that Adam that keeps the prison: he that goes in the calf's skin that was killed for the Prodigal; he that came behind you, sir, like an evil angel, and bid you forsake your liberty.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: I understand thee not.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: No? Why, 'tis a plain case: he that went, like a bass-viol, in a case of leather; the man, sir, that, when gentlemen are tired, gives them a sob and 'rests them; he, sir, that takes pity on decayed men and gives them suits of durance; he that sets up his rest to do more exploits with his mace than a morris-pike.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: What, thou meanest an officer?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Ay, sir, the sergeant of the band, he that brings any man to answer it that breaks his band; one that thinks a man always going to bed, and says, "God give you good rest!"

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: Well, sir, there rest in your folly. Is there any ships put forth tonight? May we be gone?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Why, sir, I brought you word an hour since that the bark Expidition put forth to-night; and then were you hindered by the sergeant, to tarry for the hoy Delay. Here are the angels 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 chain 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: Nay, she is worse, she is the devil's dam; and here she comes in the habit of a light wench: and thereof comes that the wenches say "God damn me;" that's as much to say "God make me a light wench." It is written, they appear to men like angels of light: light is an effect of fire, and fire will burn; ergo, light wenches will burn. Come not near her.

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

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Master, if you do, expect spoon-meat; or bespeak a long spoon.
ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: Why, Dromio?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: marry, he must have a long spoon that must eat with the devil.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: Avoid then, fiend! What tell'st thou me of supping?
Thou art, as you are all, a sorceress:
I conjure thee to leave me and be gone.

COURTEZAN: Give me the ring of mine you had at dinner,
Or, for my diamond, the chain you promised,
And I'll be gone, sir, and not trouble you.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: Some devils ask but the parings of one's nail,
A rush, a hair, a drop of blood, a pin,
A nut, a cherry-stone;
But she, more covetous, would have a chain.
Master, be wise: an if you give it her,
The devil will shake her chain and fright us with it.

COURTEZAN: I pray you, sir, my ring, or else the chain:
I hope you do not mean to cheat me so.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: Avaunt, thou witch! Come,
Dromio, let us go.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: "Fly pride," says the peacock: mistress, that you know.

[Exeunt ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse and DROMIO of Syracuse]

COURTEZAN: Now, out of doubt Antipholus is mad,
Else would he never so demean himself.
A ring he hath of mine worth forty ducats,
And for the same he promised me a chain:
Both one and other he denies me now.
The reason that I gather he is mad,
Besides this present instance of his rage,
Is a mad tale he told 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]

SCENE IV
A street.

[Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus and the Officer]

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Fear me not, man; I will not break away:
I'll give thee, ere I leave thee, so much money,
To warrant thee, as I am 'rested for.
My wife is in a wayward mood to-day,
And will not lightly trust the messenger
That I should be attach'd in Ephesus,
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 EPHESUS: Here's that, I warrant you, will pay them all.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: But where's the money?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: Why, sir, I gave the money for the rope.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: I'll serve you, sir, five hundred at the rate.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: To what end did I bid thee hie thee home?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: To a rope's-end, sir; and to that end am I returned.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: And to that end, sir, I will welcome you.

[Beating him]

OFFICER: Good sir, be patient.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: Nay, 'tis for me to be patient; I am in adversity.

OFFICER: Good, now, hold thy tongue.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: Nay, rather persuade him to hold his hands.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Thou whoreson, senseless villain!

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: I would I were senseless, sir, that I might not feel your blows.
ANTIPHOLUS Thou art sensible in nothing but blows, and so is an ass.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS 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. When I am cold, he heats me with beating; when I am warm, he cools me with beating; 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; nay, I bear it on my shoulders, as a beggar won't her brat; and, I think when he hath lamed me, I shall beg with it from door to door.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS Come, go along; my wife is coming yonder.

[Enter ADRIANA, LUCIANA, the Courtezan, and PINCH]

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Mistress, "respice finem," respect your end; or rather, the prophecy like the parrot, "beware the rope's-end."

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS Wilt thou 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!

COURTEZAN Mark how he trembles in his ecstasy!

PINCH Give me your hand and let me feel your pulse.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS 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 thy state of darkness hee thee straight: I conjure thee by all the saints in heaven!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS Peace, doting wizard, peace! I am not mad.

ADRIANA O, that thou wert not, poor distressed soul!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS You minion, you, are these your customers? Did this companion with the saffron 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 doth know you dined at home; Where would you had remain'd until this time, Free from these slanders and this open shame!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS Dined at home! Thou villain, what sayest thou?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Sir, sooth to say, you did not dine at home.

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

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Perdie, your doors were lock'd and you shut out.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS And did not she herself revile me there?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Sans fable, she herself reviled you there.

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

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Certes, she did; the kitchen-vestal scorn'd you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS And did not I in rage depart from thence?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS In verity you did; my bones bear witness, That since have felt the vigour of his rage.

ADRIANA Is't good to soothe him in these contraries?

PINCH It is no shame: the fellow finds his vein, And yielding to him humours well his frenzy.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS Thou hast suborn'd the goldsmith to arrest me.

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

DROMIO OF EPHESUS Money by me! Heart and goodwill you might; But surely master, not a rag of money.
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Went'st not thou 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, wherefore didst thou lock me forth today?
And why dost thou deny the bag of gold?

ADRIANA: I did not, gentle husband, lock thee forth.

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

ADRIANA: Dissembling villain, thou speak'st false in both.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Dissembling harlot, thou art false in all;
And art confederate with a damned pack
To make a loathsome abject scorn of me:
But with these nails I'll pluck out these false eyes
That would behold in me this shameful sport.

[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 EPHESUS: What, will you murder me?
Thou gaoler, thou,
I am thy prisoner: wilt thou 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 offer to bind DROMIO of Ephesus]

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: What wilt thou do, thou peevish officer?
Hast thou delight to see a wretched man
Do outrage and displeasure to himself?

OFFICER: He is my prisoner: if I let him go,
The debt he owes will be required of me.

ADRIANA: I will discharge thee ere I go from thee:
Bear me forthwith unto his creditor,
And, knowing how the debt grows, I will pay it.
Good master doctor, see him safe convey'd
Home to my house. O most unhappy day!

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: O most unhappy harlot!

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: Master, I am here entered in bond for you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Out on thee, villain!
Wherefore dost thou mad me?

DROMIO OF EPHESUS: Will you be bound for nothing? Be mad, good master: cry "The devil!"

LUCIANA: God help, poor souls, how idly do they talk!

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

[Exeunt all but ADRIANA, LUCIANA, Officer and Courtezan]

OFFICER: Say now, whose suit is he arrested at?

OFFICER: One Angelo, a goldsmith: do you know him?

ADRIANA: I know the man. What is the sum he owes?

OFFICER: Two hundred ducats.

ADRIANA: Say, how grows it due?

OFFICER: Due for a chain your husband had of him.

ADRIANA: He did bespeak a chain for me, but had it not.

COURTEZAN: When as 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 chain.

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 hereof at large.

[Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse with his rapier drawn, and DROMIO of Syracuse]

LUCIANA: God, for thy mercy! They are loose again.
ADRIANA  And come with naked swords.
Let's call more help to have them bound again.

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 swords.

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.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Faith, stay here this night; they
will surely do us no harm: you saw they speak us fair,
give us gold: methinks they are such a gentle nation
that, but for the mountain of mad flesh that claims
marriage of me, I could find in my heart to stay here
still and turn witch.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE 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 chain of me,
Though most dishonestly he doth deny it.

SECOND MERCHANT  How is the man esteemed here
in the city?

ANGELO  Of very reverend reputation, sir,
Of credit infinite, highly beloved,
Second to none that lives here in the city;
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 chain about his neck
Which he forswore most monstrously to 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;
And, not without some scandal to yourself,
With circumstance and oaths so to deny
This chain which now you wear so openly:
Beside the charge, the shame, imprisonment,
You have done wrong to this my honest friend,
Who, but for staying on our controversy,
Had hoisted sail and put to sea to-day:
This chain 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
forswore it too.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE  Who heard me to deny it or
forswear it?

SECOND MERCHANT  These ears of mine, thou know'st
did hear thee.
Fie on thee, wretch! 'Tis pity that thou livest
To walk where any honest man resort.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE  Thou art a villain to impeach
me thus:
I'll prove mine honour and mine honesty
Against thee presently, if thou darest stand.

SECOND MERCHANT  I dare, and do defy thee for
a villain.

[They draw]

[Enter ADRIANA, LUCIANA, the Courtezan,
and others]

ADRIANA  Hold, hurt him not, for God's sake! He
is mad.
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: ACT V

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Some get within him, take his sword away: Bind Dromio too, and bear them to my house.

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Run, master, run; for God’s sake, take a house! This is some priory. In, or we are spoil’d!

[Exeunt ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse and DROMIO of Syracuse to the Priory]

[Enter the Lady Abbess, ÆMILIA]

ÆMELIA 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.

ÆMELIA How long hath this possession held the man?

ADRIANA This week he hath 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.

ÆMELIA Hath he not lost much wealth by wreck of sea? Buried some dear friend? Hath not else his eye stray’d his affection in unlawful love? A sin prevailing much in youthful men, Who give their eyes the liberty of gazing. Which of these sorrows is he subject to?

ADRIANA To none of these, except it be the last; Namely, some love that drew him oft from home.

ÆMELIA You should for that have reprehended him.

ADRIANA Why, so I did.

ÆMELIA Ay, but not rough enough.

ADRIANA As roughly as my modesty would let me.

ÆMELIA Haply, in private.

ADRIANA And in assemblies too.

ÆMELIA Ay, but not enough.

ADRIANA It was the copy of our conference: In bed he slept not for my urging it; At board he fed not for my urging it; Alone, it was the subject of my theme;

In company I often glanced it; Still did I tell him it was vile and bad.

ÆMELIA And thereof came it that the man was mad. The venom clamours of a jealous woman Poisons more deadly than a mad dog’s tooth. It seems his sleeps were hinder’d by thy railing, And therefore comes it that his head is light. Thou say’st his meat was sauced with thy upbraidings: Unquiet meals make ill digestions; Therof the raging fire of fever bred; And what’s a fever but a fit of madness? Thou say’st his sports were hindered by thy brawls: Sweet recreation barr’d, what doth ensue But moody and dull melancholy, Kinsman to grim and comfortless despair, And at her heels a huge infectious troop Of pale distemperatures and foes to life? In food, in sport and life-preserving rest To be disturb’d, would mad or man or beast: The consequence is then thy jealous fits Have scared thy husband from the use of wits.

LUCIANA She never reprehended him but mildly, When he demean’d himself rough, rude and wildly. Why bear you these rebukes and answer not?

ADRIANA She did betray me to my own reproof. Good people enter and lay hold on him.

ÆMELIA No, not a creature enters in my house.

ADRIANA Then let your servants bring my husband forth.

ÆMELIA Neither: he took this place for sanctuary, And it shall privilege him from your hands Till I have brought him to his wits again, Or lose my labour in assaying it.

ADRIANA I will attend my husband, be his nurse, Diet his sickness, for it is my office, And will have no attorney but myself; And therefore let me have him home with me.

ÆMELIA Be patient; for I will not let him stir Till I have used the approved means I have, With wholesome syrups, drugs and holy prayers, To make of him a formal man again: It is a branch and parcel of mine oath, A charitable duty of my order. Therefore depart and leave him here with me.

ADRIANA I will not hence and leave my husband here: And ill it doth beseech your holiness To separate the husband and the wife.
AEMELIA Be quiet and depart: thou shalt not have him.

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.

SECOND MERCHANT By this, I think, the dial points
at five:
Anon, I'm sure, the duke himself in person
Comes this way to the melancholy vale,
The place of death and sorry execution,
Behind the ditches of the abbey here.

ANGELO Upon what cause?

SECOND MERCHANT To see a reverend
Syracusian merchant,
Who put unluckily into this bay
Against the laws and statutes of this town,
Beheaded 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; ÆGEON
bareheaded; with the Headsman and
other Officers]

DUKE SOLINUS Yet once again proclaim it publicly,
If any friend will pay the sum for him,
He shall not die; so much we tender 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,
Whom I made lord of me and all I had,
At your important letters,—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—
Doing displeasure to the citizens
By rushing in their houses, bearing thence
Rings, jewels, any thing his rage did like.
Once did I get him bound and sent him home,
Whilst to take order for the wrongs I went,
That here and there his fury had committed.
Anon, I wot not by what strong escape,
He broke from those that had the guard of him;
And with his mad attendant and himself,
Each one with irdful passion, with drawn swords,
Met us again and madly bent on us,
Chased us away; till, raising of more aid,
We came again to bind them. Then they fled
Into this abbey, whither we pursued them:
And here the abbess shuts the gates on us
And will not suffer us to fetch him out,
Nor send him forth that we may bear him hence.
Therefore, most gracious duke, with thy command
Let him be brought forth and borne hence for help.

DUKE SOLINUS Long since thy husband served me in
my wars,
And I to thee engaged a prince's word,
When thou didst make him master of thy bed,
To do him all the grace and good I could.
Go, some of you, knock at the abbey-gate
And bid the lady abbess come to me.
I will determine this before I stir.

[Enter a Servant]

SERVANT 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
Whose beard they have singed off with brands of fire;
And ever, as it blazed, they threw on him
Great pails of puddled mire to quench the hair:
My master preaches patience to him and the while
His man with scissors nicks him like a fool,
And sure, unless you send some present help,
Between them they will kill the conjurer.

ADRIANA Peace, fool! Thy master and his man are here,
And that is false thou dost report to us.

SERVANT 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.

[Enter a Servant]

SERVANT 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.

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SERVANT 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.

[Enter a Servant]
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Justice, most gracious duke, O, grant me justice! Even for the service that long since I did thee, When I bestrid thee in the wars and took Deep scars to save thy life; even for the blood That then I lost for thee, now grant me justice.ÆGEON: Unless the fear of death doth make me dote, I see my son Antipholus and Dromio.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: Justice, sweet prince, against that woman there! She whom thou gavest to me to be my wife, That hath abused and dishonour'd me Even in the strength and height of injury! Beyond imagination is the wrong That she this day hath shameless thrown on me.

DUKE SOLINUS: Discover how, and thou shalt find me just.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: 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, didst thou so?

ADRIANA: No, my good lord: myself, he and my sister Today did dine together. So befall my soul As this is false he burdens me withal!

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

ANGELO: O perjured woman! They are both forsworn: In this the madman justly chargeth them.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: My liege, I am advised what I say, Neither disturbed with the effect of wine, Nor heady-rash, provoked with raging ire, Albeit my wrongs might make one wiser mad. 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; Who parted with me to go fetch a chain, Promising to bring it to the Porpentine, Where Balthazar and I did dine together. 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. There did this perjured goldsmith swear me down

That I this day of him received the chain, Which, God he knows, I saw not: for the which He did arrest me with an officer. I did obey, and sent my peasant home For certain ducats: he with none return'd Then fairly I bespoke the officer To go in person with me to my house. By the way we met M y wife, her sister, and a rabble more Of vile confederates. Along with them They brought one Pinch, a hungry lean-faced villain, A mere anatomy, a mountebank, A threadbare juggler and a fortune-teller, A needy, hollow-eyed, sharp-looking wretch, A dead-looking man: this pernicious slave, Forsooth, took on him as a conjurer, And, gazing in mine eyes, feeling my pulse, And with no face, as ’twere, out-facing me, Cries out, I was possess'd. Then all together They fell upon me, bound me, bore me thence And in a dark and dankish vault at home There left me and my man, both bound together; Till, gnawing with my teeth my bonds in sunder, I gain'd my freedom, and immediately Ran hither to your grace; whom I beseech To give me ample satisfaction For these deep shames and great indignities.

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

DUKE SOLINUS: But had he such a chain of thee or no?

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

SECOND MERCHANT: Besides, I will be sworn these ears of mine Heard you confess you had the chain of him After you first forswore it on the mart: And thereupon I drew my sword on you; And then you fled into this abbey here, From whence, I think, you are come by miracle.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS: I never came within these abbey-walls, Nor ever didst thou draw thy sword on me: I never saw the chain, so help me H eaven! And this is false you burden me withal.

DUKE SOLINUS: Why, what an intricate impeach is this! I think you all have drunk of Circe’s cup. If here you housed him, here he would have been; If he were mad, he would not plead so coldly:
DROMIO OF EPHESUS No, trust me, sir, nor I.
ÆGEON I am sure thou dost.
DROMIO OF EPHESUS Ay, sir, but I am sure I do not; and whatsoever a man denies, you are now bound to believe him.
ÆGEON Not know my voice! O time’s extremity, Has thou so crack’d and splitted my poor tongue In seven short years, that here my only son Knows not my feeble key of untuned cares? Though now this grained face of mine be hid In sap-consuming winter’s drizzled snow, And all the conduits of my blood froze up, Yet hath my life some memory, My wasting lamp some fading glimmer left, My dull deaf ear a little use to hear: All these old witnesses—I cannot err— Tell me thou art my son Antipholus.
ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS I never saw my father in my life.
ÆGEON But seven years since, in Syracusa, boy, Thou know’st we parted: but perhaps, my son, Thou shamest 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 Syracusa in my life.
DUKE SOLINUS I tell thee, Syracusan, twenty years Have I been patron to Antipholus, During which time he ne’er saw Syracusa: I see thy age and dangers make thee dote.
[Re-enter ÆMILIA, with ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse and DROMIO of Syracuse]
ÆMILIA Most mighty duke, behold a man much wrong’d.
[All gather to see them]
ADRIANA I see two husbands, or mine eyes deceive me.
DUKE SOLINUS One of these men is Genius 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: Ægeon art thou not? Or else his ghost?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE: O, my old master! Who hath bound him here?

AEMELIA: Whoever bound him, I will loose his bonds
And gain a husband by his liberty.
Speak, old Ægeon, if thou be'st the man
That hadst a wife once call'd Æmilia
That bore thee at a burden two fair sons:
O, if thou be'st the same Ægeon, speak,
And speak unto the same Æmilia!

ÆGEON: If I dream not, thou art Æmilia:
If thou art she, tell me where is that son
That floated with thee 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: Why, here begins his morning story right;
These two Antipholuses, these two so like,
And these two Dromios, one in semblance,—
Besides her urging of her wreck at sea,—
These are the parents to these children, Which accidentally are met together.
Antipholus, thou camest 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.

ANTIPHOLUS OF Ephesus: Brought to this town by that most famous warrior,
Duke Menaphon, your most renowned uncle.

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]

ANGELO: That is the chain, sir, which you had of me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: I think it be, sir; I deny it not.

ANTIPHOLUS OF Ephesus: And you, sir, for this chain 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 Ephesus: 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 taken for him, and he for me,
And thereupon these errors are arose.

ANTIPHOLUS OF Ephesus: These ducats pawn I for my father here.

DUKE SOLINUS: It shall not need; thy father hath his life.

COURTEZAN: Sir, I must have that diamond from you.

ANTIPHOLUS OF Ephesus: 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 sympathized one day's error
Have suffer'd wrong, go keep us company,
And we shall make full satisfaction.

Thirty-three years have I but gone in travail Of you, my sons; and till this present hour
My heavy burden ne'er delivered.
The duke, my husband and my children both,
And you the calendars of their nativity,
Go to a gossips' feast and go with me;
After so long grief, such festivity!
DUKE SOLINUS With all my heart, I'll gossip 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 EPHESUS Dromio, what stuff of mine hast thou embark'd?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE Your goods that lay at host, sir, in the Centaur.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE He speaks to me. I am your master, Dromio: Come, go with us; we'll look to that anon: Embrace thy 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 EPHESUS 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 EPHESUS That's a question: how shall we try it?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE We'll draw cuts for the senior: till then lead thou first.

DROMIO OF EPHESUS 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]