

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**  
**By William Shakespeare**

**ACT I**

**SCENE I. A hall in DUKE SOLINUS' palace.**

*Enter DUKE SOLINUS, AEGEON, Gaoler, 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;  
It hath in solemn synods been decreed  
To admit no traffic to our adverse towns: if any Syracusian born.  
Therefore by law thou art 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 for what cause thou camest to Ephesus.

**AEGEON**

In Syracuse was I born, and wed  
With her I lived in joy; our wealth increased  
By prosperous voyages I often made  
To Epidamnu. My spouse:  
From whom my absence was not six months old  
Had made provision for her following me  
And soon and safe arrived where I was.  
There had she not been long, but 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,--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  
Did but convey unto our fearful minds  
A doubtful warrant of immediate death;  
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;  
O, let me say no more!  
Gather the sequel by that went before.

#### **DUKE SOLINUS**

Nay, forward, old man; do not break off so;

#### **AEGEON**

For, ere the ships could meet by twice five leagues,  
We were encounter'd by a mighty rock;  
Which being violently borne upon,  
Our helpful ship was splitted in the midst;  
Her part, poor soul! Was carried with more speed before the wind;  
And in our sight they three were taken up  
By fishermen of Corinth, as we thought.  
At length, another ship had seized on us;  
And, knowing whom it was their hap to save,  
Gave healthful welcome to their shipwreck'd guests;  
And would have reft the fishers of their prey,  
Had not their bark been very slow of sail;  
And therefore homeward did they bend their course.  
Thus have you heard me sever'd from my bliss;  
That by misfortunes was my life prolong'd,  
To tell sad stories of my own mishaps.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

And for the sake of them thou sorrowest for,  
What hath befall'n of them and thee 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,  
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;

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Hapless AEgeon, whom the fates have mark'd  
To bear the extremity of dire mishap!  
Now, trust me, were it not against our laws,  
My soul would sue as advocate for thee.  
Therefore, merchant, I'll limit thee this day  
To seek thy life by beneficial help:  
Gaoler, take him to thy custody.

**Gaoler**

I will, my lord.

**AEGEON**

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

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. The Mart.**

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

**First Merchant**

This very day a Syracusian merchant  
Is apprehended for arrival here;  
And not being able to buy out his life  
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.

*Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

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.  
Please you, I'll meet with you upon the mart

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Farewell till then:

*Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

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 thou art return'd so soon?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Return'd so soon! rather approach'd too late:  
My mistress is so 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**

O,--sixpence, that I had o' Wednesday last  
To pay the saddler?  
The saddler had it, sir; I kept it not.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I am not in a sportive humour now:  
Tell me, and dally not, where is the money?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Come, Dromio, come, these jests are out of season;  
Where is the gold I gave in charge to thee?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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 EPHEBUS**

My charge was but to fetch you from the mart  
Home to your house, sir, to dinner:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

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;  
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 me thus unto my face,  
Being forbid?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Nay, and you will not, sir, I'll take my heels.

*Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Upon my life,  
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.**

*Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA*

**LUCIANA**

Perhaps some merchant hath invited him,  
And from the mart he's somewhere gone to dinner.  
be patient, sister.

**ADRIANA**

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

**LUCIANA**

O, know he is the bridle of your will.  
Why, headstrong liberty is lash'd with woe.  
Men,  
Lords of the wide world and wild watery seas,  
Are masters to their females,  
Then let your will attend on their accords.

**ADRIANA**

This servitude makes you to keep unwed.  
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.  
We bid be quiet when we hear it cry;  
So thou, that hast no unkind mate to grieve thee,  
With urging helpless patience wouldst relieve me,

**LUCIANA**

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**ADRIANA**  
Say, didst thou speak with him? know'st thou his mind?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Ay, ay, he told his mind upon mine ear:  
I scarce could understand it.

**LUCIANA**

Spake he so doubtfully, thou couldst not feel his meaning?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Nay; and withal so doubtfully that I could scarce understand them.

**ADRIANA**

But say, I prithee, is he coming home?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Why, mistress, sure my master is horn-mad.  
When I desired him to come home to dinner,  
He ask'd me for a thousand marks in gold:  
'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 EPHEBUS**

Quoth my master:  
'I know,' quoth he, 'no house, no wife, no mistress.'

**ADRIANA**

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

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Go back again, and be new beaten home?  
Between you I shall have a holy head.

**ADRIANA**

Hence, fetch thy master home.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ADRIANA**

Unfeeling fools can with such wrongs dispense.  
Sister, you know he promised me a chain;  
Would that alone, alone he would detain,  
So he would keep fair quarter with his bed!



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

*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  
See, here he comes.

*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?  
Wast 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,  
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 displeas'd.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I am glad to see you in this merry vein:  
What means this jest?

**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.  
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.  
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.  
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;  
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:

**LUCIANA**

Fie, brother! how the world is changed with you!  
She sent for you by Dromio home to dinner.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

By Dromio?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

By me?

**ADRIANA**

By thee;

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Did you converse, sir, with this gentlewoman?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Villain, thou liest;

**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.

To me she speaks;

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**

I am transformed, master, am I not?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I think thou art in mind, and so am I.

**ADRIANA**

Come, come, no longer will I be a fool,  
Come, sir, to dinner.  
Come, sister. Dromio, keep the gate.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Am I in earth, in heaven, or in hell?  
Sleeping or waking? mad or well-advised?

**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:  
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 EPHEBUS**

Say what you will, sir, but I know what I know;  
That you beat me at the mart, I have your hand to show:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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

**BALTHAZAR**

I hold your dainties cheap, sir, and your  
welcome dear.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

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

**BALTHAZAR**

Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Ay, to a niggardly host, and more sparing guest:  
But, soft! my door is lock'd. Go bid them let us in.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Maud, Bridget, Marian, Cicel, Gillian, Ginn!

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

[Within] Mome, malt-horse, capon, coxcomb,  
idiot, patch!  
Either get thee from the door, or sit down at the hatch.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

What patch is made our porter? My master stays in  
the street.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Who talks within there? ho, open the door!

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

[Within] Right, sir; I'll tell you when, an you tell  
me wherefore.

**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.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

O villain! thou hast stolen both mine office and my name.

**LUCE**

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

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Let my master in, Luce.

**LUCE**

[Within] Faith, no; he comes too late;

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

[Within] If thy name be call'd Luce--Luce, thou hast answered him well.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

So, come, help: well struck! there was blow for blow.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Thou baggage, let me in.

**LUCE**

[Within] Can you tell for whose sake?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Master, knock the door hard.

**LUCE**

[Within] Let him knock till it ache.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ADRIANA**

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

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

[Within] By my troth, your town is troubled with unruly boys.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ADRIANA**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

You would say so, master, **ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

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

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

A man may break a word with you, sir, I pray thee, let me in.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

[Within] Ay, when fowls have no feathers and fish have no fin.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Well, I'll break in: go borrow me a crow.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

A crow without feather? Master, mean you so?  
If a crow help us in, sirrah, we'll pluck a crow together.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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.  
Be ruled by me: depart in patience,  
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,  
For slander lives upon succession,  
For ever housed where it gets possession.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

You have prevailed: I will depart in quiet,  
*To Angelo*  
Get you home  
And fetch the chain;  
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.

**ANGELO**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Do so. This jest shall cost me some expense.  
*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. The same.**

*Enter LUCIANA and ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse*

**LUCIANA**



And may it be that you have quite forgot  
A husband's office? shall, Antipholus.  
Even in the spring of love, thy love-springs rot?  
If you did wed my sister for her wealth,  
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;  
Alas, poor women! make us but believe,  
Being compact of credit, that you love us;  
Then, gentle brother, get you in again;  
Comfort my sister, cheer her, call her wife:  
'Tis holy sport to be a little vain,  
When the sweet breath of flattery conquers strife.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Sweet mistress--what your name is else, I know not,  
Nor by what wonder you do hit of mine,--  
Teach me, dear creature, how to think and speak;  
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.

**LUCIANA**

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

**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**

No;  
It is thyself, mine own self's better part,  
Mine eye's clear eye, my dear heart's dearer heart,

**LUCIANA**

All this my sister is, or else should be.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Call thyself sister, sweet, for I am thee.  
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 a woman's man

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What woman's man?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I am due to a woman; one  
that claims me,

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What claim lays she to thee?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Marry sir, such claim as you would lay to your horse;

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What is she?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

A very reverent body;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;

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What's her name?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Nell, sir 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, that I amazed ran from her as a witch:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Go hie thee presently, post to the road:  
I will not harbour in this town to-night:  
If every one knows us and we know none,  
'Tis time, I think, to trudge, pack and be gone.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE** *Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

There's none but witches do inhabit here;  
*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 chain.

**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.

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.

**ANGELO**

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

*Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What I should think of this, I cannot tell:

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,  
And since I have not much importuned you;  
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,  
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 EPHEBUS**

I see the goldsmith. Get thee gone;  
Buy thou a rope and bring it home to me.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS** *Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

A man is well help up that trusts to you:  
I promised your presence and the chain;  
But neither chain nor goldsmith came to me.

**ANGELO**

Saving your merry humour, here's the note  
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat,  
Which doth amount to three odd ducats more  
Than I stand debted to this gentleman:  
I pray you, see him presently discharged,

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I am not furnish'd with the present money;  
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 EPHEBUS**

No; bear it with you.

**ANGELO**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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 EPHEBUS**

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

**ANGELO**

Come, come, you know I gave it you even now.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Fie, now you run this humour out of breath,  
where's the chain? **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 EPHEBUS**

what should I answer you?

**ANGELO**

The money that you owe me for the chain.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I owe you none till I receive the chain.

**ANGELO**

You know I gave it you half an hour since.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

You wrong me much to say so.

**ANGELO**

You wrong me more, sir, in denying it:

**Second Merchant**

Well, officer, arrest him at my suit.

**Officer**

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

**ANGELO**

Either consent to pay this sum for me  
Or I attach you by this officer.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Arrest me, foolish fellow, if thou darest.

**ANGELO**

Here is thy fee; arrest him, officer,

**Officer**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I do obey thee till I give thee bail.

**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. they stay for nought at all  
But for their owner, master, and yourself.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

How now! a madman!  
What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

A ship you sent me to, to hire waftage.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Thou drunken slave, I sent thee for a rope;

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I will debate this matter at more leisure  
And teach your ears to list me with more heed.  
To Adriana, villain, hie thee straight:  
There is a purse of ducats; Tell her I am arrested in the street  
And that shall bail me; hie thee, slave, be gone!

*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:

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?  
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.  
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;

He is deformed, crooked, old and sere,  
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,  
My 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.

**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;  
Will you send him, mistress, redemption, the money in his desk?

**ADRIANA**

Go fetch it, sister.

*Exit Luciana*

This I wonder at,  
That he, 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:  
*Re-enter LUCIANA with a purse*

**ADRIANA**

Go, Dromio; there's the money, bear it straight;  
And bring thy master home immediately.  
*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.

*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:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What, thou meanest an officer?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Ay, sir, I brought you word an hour since that the  
bark Expedition 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;  
*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; Come not near her.

**Courtezan**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

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**

Master, be wise:

**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: *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,  
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 EPHEBUS**

Fear me not, man; I will not break away:  
I'll give thee, ere I leave thee, so much money,  
*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?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

I'll serve you, sir, five hundred at the rate.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

To what end did I bid thee hie thee home?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

And to that end, sir, I will welcome you.

**Officer**

Good sir, be patient.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Nay, I am in adversity.

**Officer**

Good, now, hold thy tongue.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Come, go along; my wife is coming yonder.

*Enter ADRIANA, LUCIANA, the Courtezan, and PINCH*

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Wilt thou still talk?

**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,

**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.

**PINCH**

I charge thee, Satan, housed within this man,  
To yield possession to my holy prayers  
And to thy state of darkness hie thee straight:  
I conjure thee by all the saints in heaven!

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ADRIANA**

O, that thou wert not, poor distressed soul!

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Did this companion 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,

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Dined at home! Thou villain, what sayest thou?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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

**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 EPHEBUS**

Thou hast suborn'd the goldsmith to arrest me.

**ADRIANA**

Alas, I sent you money to redeem you,  
By Dromio here.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Money by me!  
But surely master, not a rag of money.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

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 EPHEBUS**

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:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Say, wherefore didst thou lock me forth to-day?  
And why dost thou deny the bag of gold?

**ADRIANA**

I did not, gentle husband, lock thee forth.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

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

**ADRIANA**

thou speak'st false in both.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

thou art false in all;  
*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?

**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*

**ADRIANA**

What wilt thou do, thou peevish officer?

**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!

**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: 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:

**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 he doth deny it.

**Second Merchant**

How is the man esteemed here in the city?

**ANGELO**

Of very reverend reputation, sir,

**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  
Signior Antipholus,  
With circumstance and oaths so to deny  
This chain which now you wear so openly:  
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,

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Thou art a villain to impeach me thus:

*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;

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, AEMILIA*

**AEMELIA**

Be quiet, people. Wherefore throng you hither?

**ADRIANA**

To fetch my poor distracted husband hence.

**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 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.

**AEMELIA**

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?  
Which of these sorrows is he subject to?

**ADRIANA**

To none of these, except it be the last;

**AEMELIA**

You should for that have reprehended him.

**ADRIANA**

Why, so I did.

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**AEMELIA**

Ay, but not rough enough.

**ADRIANA**

It was the copy of our conference:  
Alone, it was the subject of my theme;  
In company I often glanced it;  
Still did I tell him it was vile and bad.

**AEMELIA**

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.  
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,  
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.

**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,

**ADRIANA**

I will attend my husband, for it is my office,

**AEMELIA**

Be patient; for I will not let him stir  
Till I have used the approved means I have,  
Therefore depart and leave him here with me.

**ADRIANA**

I will not hence and leave my husband here:

**AEMELIA**

Be quiet and depart: thou shalt not have him.  
*Exit*

**LUCIANA**

Complain unto the duke of this indignity.

**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.

*Enter DUKE SOLINUS, attended; AEGEON 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;

**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,  
--this ill day

A most outrageous fit of madness took him;  
Once did I get him bound and sent him home,  
Whilst to take order for the wrongs I went,  
He broke from those that had the guard of him;  
And with his mad attendant and himself,  
Met us again and madly bent on us,  
Chased us away;. 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,  
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,  
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  
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.

*Cry within*

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

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Come, stand by me; fear nothing.

**ADRIANA**

Ay me, it is my husband!

*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 thou gavest to me to be my wife,  
That hath abused and dishonour'd me  
Even in the strength and height of injury!  
This day, great duke, she shut the doors upon me,

**DUKE SOLINUS**

A grievous fault! Say, woman, didst thou so?

**ADRIANA**

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

**LUCIANA**

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,  
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,  
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,, 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  
My wife, her sister, and a rabble more  
Of vile confederates. Along with them

They brought one Pinch, a hungry lean-faced villain,  
And, gazing in mine eyes, feeling my pulse,  
And  
Cries out, I was possess'd. Then all together  
They fell upon me, bound me,  
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;

**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  
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,

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Why, what an intricate impeach is this!  
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 Porpentine.

**Courtezan**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

'Tis true, my liege; this ring I had of her.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Saw'st thou him enter at 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.

*Exit one to Abbess*

**AEGEON**

Most mighty duke, vouchsafe me 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 thou wilt.

**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.

**AEGEON**

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

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I never saw you in my life till now.

**AEGEON**

O, grief hath changed me since you saw me last:  
But tell me yet, dost thou not know my voice?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Neither.

**AEGEON**

Dromio, nor thou?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

No, trust me, sir, nor I.

**AEGEON**

I am sure thou dost.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Ay, sir, but I am sure I do not;

**AEGEON**

Not know my voice! O time's extremity,  
Hast 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?  
All these old witnesses--I cannot err--  
Tell me thou art my son Antipholus.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I never saw my father in my life.

**AEGEON**

But seven years since, in Syracuse, boy,  
Thou know'st we parted:

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I ne'er saw Syracuse in my life.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

I tell thee, Syracusan, twenty years  
Have I been patron to Antipholus,  
During which time he ne'er saw Syracuse:

*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 mine eyes deceive me.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Which is the natural man,  
And which the spirit?

**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 art thou not?

**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 Aegeon, if thou be'st the man  
That hadst a wife once call'd Aemilia  
That bore thee at a burden two fair sons:  
O, if thou be'st the same Aegeon, speak,  
And speak unto the same Aemilia!

**AEGEON**

If I dream not, thou art Aemilia:  
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,--  
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:

*To Luciana*

What I told you then,  
I hope I shall have leisure to make good;

**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

**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 ta'en 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.

**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.  
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:  
Embrace thy brother there; rejoice with him.  
*Exeunt Antipholus of Syracuse and Antipholus of Ephesus*

**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**

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*

