

## The Comedy of Errors abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

### Counsel

**Situation:** Adriana's sister, Luciana, is single and outspoken. Luciana decides to offer the man who looks just like her brother-in-law, thinking he is her brother-in-law, some wise and poignant and eternal suggestions as to how a husband should treat a wife.

**Luciana to Antipholus of Syracuse**

Have you forgot how you two started out?  
Though very small at first, love, as a sprout,  
With care should become a tree. Ease the strain,  
Comfort my sister, cheer her, call her wife.  
If you need to be, be a little vain;  
Sweet breath of flattery doth conquer strife.  
But if you like elsewhere, do it with care.  
Let her not read it in your eye. Speak fair,  
Bear sweet presence, though your heart be tainted.  
Muffle your wayward dalliance with stealth.  
Be secret-false. Need she be acquainted?  
If you did wed my sister for her wealth,  
Then for her wealth's sake, show her more kindness.  
Alas, make us believe that you love us.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE: Sweet mistress, are you a god? Would you create me new?  
Transform me, then, and to your power I'll yield. But if that I am I, then well I know your weeping  
sister is no wife of mine.

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. 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, my dear heart's  
dearer heart, my fortune, and my sweet hope's aim.