

## The Comedy of Errors abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

### Counsel

**Situation: Adriana, believing the Antipholus she saw escape to the safety of the Abbey is her husband, seeks to take him home. The Abbess, protecting the men in the Abbey, tells Adriana to just cool it and counsels her in the ways of men, much as Adriana's sister Luciana had earlier.**

ABBESS: Be quiet, people. Wherefore throng you hither?

ADRIANA: To fetch my poor distracted husband hence.

ABBESS: What sorrow is he subject to?

ADRIANA: Some love that drew him oft from home.

ABBESS: You should for that have reprehended him.

ADRIANA: Why, so I did, as roughly as my modesty would let me.

ABBESS: Haply in private.

ADRIANA: And in assemblies too. 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; still did I tell him it was vile and bad.

#### Abbess to Adriana

**The rough clamors of a jealous woman  
Spews venom and poisons more deadly than  
A mad dog's tooth. Hath not else his eye strayed  
His affection, a sin prevailing much  
In youthful men with gazing eyes that stayed  
Not at home? Young married men can seek such  
Unlawful love. Your noisy meals make ill  
Digestions when thy harsh upbraidings fill  
Your dinner conference, breeding a fever.  
What's a fever but a fit of madness?  
You say his sweet recreation sports were  
Barred by thy brawls, leading to disturbed stress.  
The consequence is, then, thy jealous fits  
Hath scared thy husband from the use of wits.**

ADRIANA: Good people, enter and lay hold on him.

ABBESS: No, not a creature enters in my house. 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. I'll be his nurse. Let me have him home with me.

ABBESS: 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. Depart and leave him here with me.