

The Comedy of Errors abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1.2

Pleading

Situation: Antipholus of Ephesus enters and defends himself to the duke for his actions by recounting recent events, such as being locked out of his home, being denied his gold chain, losing his gold and being tied up. Taking it all in, Egeon, his father, being led to the gallows, believes he sees his son from Syracuse.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS: Justice, most gracious duke. O, grant me justice.

EGEON ASIDE: 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. Beyond imagination is the wrong that she this day hath shameless thrown on me.

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

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS: This day, great duke, she shut the doors upon me while she with harlots feasted in my house.

DUKE: A grievous fault. Say, woman, didst thou so?

ADRIANA: No, my good lord. Myself, he, and my sister today did dine together.

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 to the Duke

**My liege, do note, I am neither disturbed
With the use of wine, nor rashly provoked
With raging ire. This woman locked me out
This day. The goldsmith left for his store
To fetch a chain, when later he did shout
I had received it, which I saw not, for
The which he did arrest me. My peasant
Returned not with gold for which he'd been sent
To secure my release. The officer
Went home with me for bail when a living,
Lean-faced dead man, my wife and her sister
Fell on me, binding my hands, till gnawing
With my teeth did free me, when I did race
Immediately hither unto your Grace.**

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS: I beseech you 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 locked out.

DUKE: 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.

