

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE (to DROMIO)

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:
Get thee away.

Exit DROMIO OF SYRACUSE stage right.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE (to FIRST MERCHANT)

A trusty villain, sir, that very oft,
When I am dull with care and melancholy,
Lightens my humor with his merry jests.

FIRST MERCHANT

Sir, I commend you to your own content.

Exit FIRST MERCHANT stage left.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE (walks downstage center)

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 from stage right.

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:
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.

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

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.
(gestures toward stage right)

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

What, wilt thou flout me thus unto my face,
Being forbid? There, take you that, sir knave.
(beats DROMIO with his hat)

DROMIO OF EPHESUS (covers face with hands and sinks to knees)

What mean you, sir? For God's sake, hold your
hands!

ANTIPHOLUS keeps hitting him; **DROMIO** is now lying on his back
on the floor.

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

*Exit DROMIO OF EPHESUS stage right. ANTIPHOLUS throws his hat
after him.*

START

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Upon my life, by some device or other
The villain is o'er-raught of all my money.
I'll to the Centaur, to go seek this slave:
I greatly fear my money is not safe.

Exit ANTIPHOLUS stage right.

STAGEHANDS move bench to center stage, setting it at an angle facing stage right.

STOP

*** SCENE 3. (ACT II, SCENE II)**

Outside of Antipholus of Ephesus's house.

Enter NARRATOR from stage rear, coming downstage center.

NARRATOR

Now Dromio of Syracuse, our first Dromio, comes back and has no idea why Antipholus of Syracuse thinks he was just there. They wind up at the house of Adriana, who thinks Antipholus of Syracuse is actually Antipholus of Ephesus, her husband and his twin—who we haven't met yet. Confused? Good! So are they!

Exit NARRATOR stage left.

Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE from stage rear; he stands in front of bench.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

The gold I gave to Dromio is laid up
Safe at the Centaur; I could not speak with Dromio
since at first
I sent him from the mart. See, here he comes.

Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE from stage right.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

How now sir! Is your merry humor alter'd?
Jest with me again. You received no gold?
Your mistress sent to have me home to dinner?