

**ANGELO** (*stage whispers*)

'Tis so; and that self chain about his neck  
Which he forswore most monstrously to have.  
Good sir, draw near to me, I'll speak to him.

*(raises voice)*

Signior Antipholus,  
This chain you had of me; 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**

Thou art a villain to impeach me thus:  
I'll prove mine honor and mine honesty  
Against thee presently, if thou darest stand.

**SECOND MERCHANT**

I dare, and do defy thee for a villain.

*They draw swords and prepare to fight.*

*Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA from stage right.*

**ADRIANA**

Hold, hurt him not, for God's sake! He is mad.  
Some get within him, take his sword away:  
Bind Dromio too, and bear them to my house.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Run, master, run; for God's sake, take a house!  
This is some priory. In, or we are spoil'd!

*Exit ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE stage rear.*

*Enter EMILIA, the Abbess, from stage rear.*

**START**  
**EMILIA**

Be quiet, people. Wherefore throng you hither?

**ADRIANA**

To fetch my poor distracted husband hence.  
Let us come in, that we may bind him fast.

*ADRIANA tries to exit stage rear into the Priory, but EMILIA blocks her way, no matter which path she tries.*

**EMILIA**

No, not a creature enters in my house.  
He took this place for sanctuary.  
Therefore depart and leave him here with me.

**ADRIANA**

I will not hence and leave my husband here:  
And ill it doth beseem your holiness  
To separate the husband and the wife.

**EMILIA**

Be quiet and depart: thou shalt not have him.

*Exit EMILIA stage rear.*

*SOUND OPERATOR plays Sound Cue #1 ("Fanfare").*

*Enter DUKE SOLINUS and EGEON from stage right. EGEON stands in front of stage left pillar, his wrists bound by rope.*

**LUCIANA**

Complain unto the duke of this indignity.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Yet once again proclaim it publicly,  
If any friend will pay the sum for him,  
He shall not die; so much we tender him.

**ADRIANA** (*bows to DUKE SOLINUS*)

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,  
This ill day, a most outrageous fit of madness took  
him;  
That desperately he hurried through the street,  
With him his bondman, all as mad as he—  
Then they fled into this abbey, whither we pursued  
them:  
And here the abbess shuts the gates on us.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

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 SERVANT from stage right.*

**SERVANT**

O mistress, mistress, shift and save yourself!  
My master and his man are both broke loose,

**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.

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS and DROMIO OF EPHESUS from stage right.*

**ADRIANA**

Ay me, it is my husband! Witness you,  
That he is borne about invisible:  
Even now we housed him in the abbey here;  
And now he's there, past thought of human reason.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS** (*bows*)

Justice, most gracious duke, O, grant me justice!

**EGEON** (*steps forward, addressing audience*)

Unless the fear of death doth make me dote,  
I see my son Antipholus and Dromio.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Justice, sweet princess, against that woman there!  
She whom thou gavest to me to be my wife,  
Beyond imagination is the wrong  
That she this day hath shameless thrown on me.

**DUKE SOLINUS** (*stands, with ANTIPHOLUS to his right and*

*ADRIANA and LUCIANA to his left*)

Discover how, and thou shalt find me just.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

This day, great duke, she shut the doors upon me,  
While she with harlots feasted in my house.  
(*points stage left*)

**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.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Saw'st thou him enter at the abbey here?

**ADRIANA**

As sure, my liege, as I do see your grace.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Why, this is strange. Go call the abbess hither.  
I think you are all mated or stark mad.

*Exit LUCIANA stage rear.*

**EGEON**

Most mighty duke, vouchsafe me speak a word:  
*(bows)*  
Haply I see a friend will save my life  
And pay the sum that may deliver me.

**DUKE SOLINUS**

Speak freely, Syracusan, what thou wilt.

**EGEON** *(approaches ANTIPHOLUS)*

Is not your name, sir, call'd Antipholus?  
And is not that your bondman, Dromio?  
Why look you strange on me? You know me well.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I never saw you in my life till now.

**EGEON**

O, grief hath changed me since you saw me last,  
And careful hours with time's deformed hand

Have written strange defeatures in my face:  
But tell me yet, dost thou not know my voice?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Neither.

**EGEON**

Dromio, nor thou?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

No, trust me, sir, nor I.

**EGEON** *(steps downstage center, addressing audience)*

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?

*(turns toward ANTIPHOLUS)*

Tell me thou art my son Antipholus.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I never saw my father in my life.

**STOP**

*EGEON, devastated, stumbles back toward stage left and almost collapses from dismay.*

*Enter EMILIA from stage rear with ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

**EMILIA**

Most mighty duke, behold a man much wrong'd.

*ALL gather to look at the men.*

**ADRIANA**

I see two husbands, or mine eyes deceive me.