

# The Comedy of Errors

## 4.1

*Enter Second Merchant, Angelo the goldsmith, and  
an Officer*

**SECOND MERCHANT** *(to Angelo)*

You know since Pentecost the sum is due,  
And since I have not much importuned you;  
Nor now I had not, but that I am bound  
To Persia, and want guilders for my voyage.  
Therefore make present satisfaction, 5  
Or I'll attach you by this officer.

**ANGELO**

Even just the sum that I do owe to you  
Is growing to me by Antipholus,  
And in the instant that I met with you  
He had of me a chain. At five o'clock 10  
I shall receive the money for the same.  
Pleaseth you walk with me down to his house,  
I will discharge my bond, and thank you too.

*Enter Antipholus of Ephesus and Dromio of Ephesus  
from the Courtesan's house (the Porcupine)*

**OFFICER**

That labour may you save. See where he comes.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS** *(to Dromio)*

While I go to the goldsmith's house, go thou 15  
And buy a rope's end. That will I bestow  
Among my wife and her confederates  
For locking me out of my doors by day.  
But soft, I see the goldsmith. Get thee gone.  
Buy thou a rope, and bring it home to me. 20

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

I buy a thousand pound a year, I buy a rope.  
*Exit*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS** *(to Angelo)*

A man is well help up that trusts to you!  
I promise—Ad your presence and the chain,  
But neither chain nor goldsmith came to me.  
Belike you thought our love would last too long 25

If it were chained together, and therefore came not.

**ANGELO**

Saving your merry humour, here's the note  
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat,  
The fineness of the gold, and chargeful fashion,  
Which doth amount to three odd ducats more 30  
Than I stand debted to this gentleman.  
I pray you see him presently discharged,  
For he is bound to sea, and stays but for it.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I am not furnished with the present money.  
Besides, I have some business in the town. 35  
Good signor, take the stranger to my house,  
And with you take the chain, and bid my wife  
Disburse the sum on the receipt thereof.  
Perchance I will be there as soon as you.

**ANGELO**

Then you will bring the chain to her yourself? 40

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

No, bear it with you, lest I come not time enough.

**ANGELO**

Well, sir, I will. Have you the chain about you?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

An if I have not, sir, I hope you have;  
Or else you may return without your money.

**ANGELO**

Nay, come, I pray you, sir, give me the chain. 45  
Both wind and tide stays for this gentleman,  
And I, to blame, have held him here too long.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Good Lord! You use this dalliance to excuse  
Your breach of promise to the Porcupine.  
I should have chid you for not bringing it, 50  
But like a shrew you first begin to brawl.

**SECOND MERCHANT** *(to Angelo)*

The hour steals on. I pray you, sir, dispatch.

**ANGELO** *(to Antipholus)*

You hear how he importunes me. The chain!

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Why, give it to my wife, and fetch your money.

**ANGELO**

Come, come, you know I gave it you even now. 55  
 Either send the chain, or send me by some token.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**  
 Fie, now you run this humour out of breath.  
 Come, where's the chain? I pray you let me see it.

**SECOND MERCHANT**  
 My business cannot brook this dalliance.  
 Good sir, say whe'er you'll answer me or no; 60  
 If not, I'll leave him to the officer.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**  
 I answer you? What should I answer you?

**ANGELO**  
 The money that you owe me for the chain.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**  
 I owe you none till I receive the chain.

**ANGELO**  
 You know I gave it you half an hour since. 65

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**  
 You gave me none. You wrong me much to say so.

**ANGELO**  
 You wrong me more, sir, in denying it.  
 Consider how it stands upon my credit.

**SECOND MERCHANT**  
 Well, officer, arrest him at my suit.

**OFFICER (to Angelo)**  
 I do, and charge you in the Duke's name to obey me. 70

**ANGELO (to Antipholus)**  
 This touches me in reputation.  
 Either consent to pay this sum for me,  
 Or I attach you by this officer.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**  
 Consent to pay thee that I never had?  
 Arrest me, foolish fellow, if thou dar'st. 75

**ANGELO**  
 Here is thy fee: arrest him, officer.  
 I would not spare my brother in this case  
 If he should scorn me so apparently.

**OFFICER (to Antipholus)**  
 I do arrest you, sir. You hear the suit.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**  
 I do obey thee till I give thee bail. 80

(To Angelo) But, sirrah, you shall buy this sport as dear  
As all the metal in your shop will answer.

**ANGELO**

Sir, sir, I shall have law in Ephesus,  
To your notorious shame, I doubt it not.

*Enter Dromio of Syracuse, from the bay*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Master, there's a barque of Epidamnum 85  
That stays but till her owner comes aboard,  
And then she bears away. Our freightage, sir,  
I have conveyed aboard, and I have bought  
The oil, the balsamum, and aqua-vitae.  
The ship is in her trim; the merry wind 90  
Blows fair from land. They stay for naught at all  
But for their owner, master, and yourself.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

How now? A madman? Why, thou peevish sheep,  
What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

A ship you sent me to, to hire waftage. 95

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Thou drunken slave, I sent thee for a rope,  
And told thee to what purpose and what end.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

You sent me for a rope—'s end as soon.  
You sent me to the bay, sir, for a barque.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I will debate this matter at more leisure, 100  
And teach your ears to list me with more heed.  
To Adriana, villain, hie thee straight.  
Give her this key, and tell her in the desk  
That's covered o'er with Turkish tapestry  
There is a purse of ducats. Let her send it. 105  
Tell her I am arrested in the street,  
And that shall bail me. Hie thee, slave. Be gone!±±  
On, officer, to prison, till it come.

*Exeunt all but Dromio of Syracuse*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

To Adriana. That is where we dined,  
Where Dowsabel did claim me for her husband. 110  
She is too big, I hope, for me to compass.

Thither I must, although against my will;  
For servants must their masters' minds fulfil.

*Exit*