

The Comedy of Errors abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Joy

Situation: While Adriana, the Courtesan, Antipholus of Ephesus and his Dromio are fussing about who dined with whom and who denied what to whom, Egeon, watching all the confusion as he's being led to the gallows, is sure he sees his son from Syracuse.

DUKE TO COURTESAN: Saw'st thou him enter at the abbey here?

COURTESAN: As sure, my liege, as I do see your Grace.

DUKE: Why, this is strange. Go call the Abbess hither.

Egeon to Antipholus of Ephesus

Most mighty duke, haply I see a friend,
Close to me, who'll save my life and extend
The sum to deliver me. I am sure
You remember me. You know me well. Grief
Hath changed me but doth not my voice confer
It's I who speak? Hast time in seven brief
Years so cracked my poor tongue that my one gained
Son knows not my feeble key? Though this grained
Face be hid in drizzled snow with once free
Conduits froze up leaving blood bereft,
Yet in my night of life some memory,
My wasting lamps some fading glimmer left,
Though these dull deaf ears mostly now useless.
Tell me thou art my son Antipholus.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS: I never saw you in my life till now.

EGEON: Dromio, nor thou?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS: No, trust me, sir, nor I.

EGEON: I am sure thou dost.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS: Ay, sir, but I am sure I do not.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS: I never saw my father in my life.