

RESOURCES

THE STORY OF THE CHAIN

The Chain is Made

Angelo the Goldsmith is making a beautiful Gold Chain for Antipholus of Ephesus, so he can give it to his wife. Antipholus realises he's late for dinner and asks Angelo to say to his wife that he was just watching the chain being made.

Antipholus of Ephesus (to Angelo):

*Say that I lingered with you at your shop
To see the making of her carcanet,
And that tomorrow you will bring it home*

The Chain is promised to another person

Antipholus of Ephesus is locked out of his house by his wife because she has confused Antipholus of Syracuse with her husband. Antipholus of Ephesus is so cross about this he goes to the pub and promises the chain to another lady he knows, a courtesan.

Antipholus of Ephesus (to Angelo):

*That chain will I bestow-
Be it for nothing but to spite my wife-
Upon mine hostess there.*

Angelo:

I'll meet you at that place some hour hence.

Angelo gives the Chain to the wrong person

On the way to deliver the chain to Antipholus of Ephesus, Angelo bumps into Antipholus of Syracuse. He gives a confused Antipholus of Syracuse the chain and says he will collect the money from Antipholus' house.

Antipholus of Syracuse:

Made it for me sir? I bespoke it not.

Angelo (to Antipholus of Syarcuse):

*Not once, not twice, but twenty times you have.
Go home with it and present your wife withal,
And soon at supper time I'll visit you,
And then receive the money for the chain.*

Angelo is asked for money which he owes

Balthazar demands money from Angelo which he owes. Angelo promises he can have it once Antipholus pays and they set off together to Antipholus' house.

Angelo (to Balthazar):

*Pleaseth you walk with me down to his house,
I will discharge my bond, and thank you too.*

Antipholus of Ephesus is arrested for not paying for the chain

Antipholus of Ephesus bumps into Angelo in the street. He is angry because Angelo did not meet him in the pub as he promised. Angelo demands his money, believing that he has already given Antipholus the Chain. Eventually Angelo has Antipholus arrested.

Antipholus:

Arrest me foolish fellow, if thou dar'st.

Angelo:

*Arrest him, officer.
I would not spare my brother in this case.*

Dromio of Syracuse is sent to Adriana's House to get bail for Antipholus of Ephesus

Dromio of Syracuse is sent by the arrested Antipholus to get bail for the chain. Adriana gives him the money and gives Dromio strict instructions to bring Antipholus straight home.

Adriana (to Dromio):

*Go Dromio, there's the money. Bear it straight,
And bring thy Master home immediately.*

Antipholus of Syracuse, wearing the Chain, bumps into the Courtesan Antipholus of Ephesus promised the Chain to.

Antipholus of Syracuse, oblivious to the chaos his having the chain is causing, wears the chain proudly around his neck. Unfortunately for him he bumps into the other lady that Antipholus of Ephesus promised the chain to. She demands the chain but he refuses to give it to her and calls her a witch. The lady is very upset and decides she will tell Antipholus' wife that Antipholus is mad and robbed her.

Courtesan (Alone):

*My way now is to hie home to his house,
And tell his wife that, being lunatic,
He rushed into my house and took perforce
My ring away. This course I fittest choose,
For forty ducats is too much to lose.*

Confusion reigns as the characters meet and argue about the course of events

Dromio of Ephesus meets the arrested Antipholus of Ephesus. His master demands to know where the money is to pay his way out of jail; Dromio is confused, he had only been sent to buy a rope. Antipholus flies into a rage and tries to beat Dromio. He is stopped in his tracks by the sudden appearance of Adriana, Luciana, and the Courtesan. Antipholus argues with Adriana: she claims that he dined at home, while her husband tells her that he was shut out of his own house.

Adriana:

O husband, God doth know you dined at home

Antipholus of Ephesus:

Dined at home? Thou, villain, what sayst thou?

Dromio of Ephesus:

Sir, sooth to say, you did not dine at home

Antipholus and Dromio are locked up and then seem to break out of Jail

The Officer explains to Adriana that Antipholus of Ephesus owes money to Angelo the goldsmith for a gold chain. Adriana promises the officer that she will pay what her husband owes. Dromio and Antipholus of Ephesus are locked up until the debt has been paid. The Courtesan says that she saw Antipholus wearing the chain.

As they talk, Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse rush in with drawn swords, and everyone runs away, mistaking them for Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus, who they think have somehow escaped their imprisonment. Antipholus of Syracuse orders his slave to take their belongings on board a ship.

Antipholus of Syracuse:

*I will not stay tonight for all the town;
Therefore away, to get our stuff aboard.*

Angelo and Balthazar bump into Antipholus of Syracuse with the Chain

Angelo is busy trying to explain to Balthazar that, despite having given Antipholus the Chain, he hasn't yet received any money when Antipholus of Syracuse appears wearing the chain. Angelo confronts him about denying the existence of the Chain. Antipholus fights back saying he never denied having it. At that moment Adriana, Luciana and the Courtesan arrive. Dromio and Antipholus decide to hide in a priory.

Dromio of Syracuse:

Run, master, run!

In, or we are spoiled.

The truth is revealed

Just as the Duke appears, Adriana, seeing the Duke, appeals to him for aid in removing her husband from the abbey, describing his madness and their attempts to control him. The Duke, remembering promises that he made to Adriana when she married Antipholus, agrees to mediate--but just then a messenger comes in, with news that Antipholus and Dromio (of Ephesus) have escaped. Adriana calls him a liar, saying that her husband is in the abbey, but then Antipholus himself rushes in, accompanied by his slave and demanding that the Duke grant him justice against his wife, who has locked him out of the house, allowed him to be arrested, and then had him locked up. There is a flurry of charges and countercharges, and the Duke summons the Abbess, hoping that she can untangle the mess.

Egeon, meanwhile, goes up to Antipholus of Ephesus, mistaking him for the son he brought up. Antipholus is confused and says that he never saw his father in his life, and that he has always been a citizen of Ephesus. Then, the Abbess enters, bringing with her Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse. The Abbess greets Egeon and declares that she is his wife, Emilia, long separated from him, and that the identical men are their twin sons. The rest of the tangle is quickly explained: the ring is returned to the Courtesan and the gold chain is finally paid for.

Antipholus of Syracuse:

I was ta'en for him, and he for me,

And thereupon these errors are arose.