

Egeon is tied up and about to be beheaded. Enter the Duke, Dromio of Ephesus and Antipholus of Ephesus.

EGEON

(to ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS) Is not your name, sir, called Antipholus?
And is not that your bondman Dromio?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Within this hour I was his bondman sir,
But he, I thank him, gnawed in two my cords.
Now am I Dromio, and his man, unbound.

EGEON

I am sure you both of you remember me.

EGEON

Why look you strange on me? you know me well.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I never saw you in my life till now.

EGEON

But tell me yet, dost thou not know my voice?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

Neither.

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, and whatsoever a man denies, you are now bound to believe him.

EGEON

(to ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS) Isn't your name Antipholus? And isn't that Dromio, the man bound to you?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

I was bound to him an hour ago, sir, but thankfully he chewed through our ropes. Now I'm Dromio and no longer attached to him.

EGEON

I'm sure you both remember me.

EGEON

Why are you looking at me so strangely? You know me well.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

I never saw you before in my life.

EGEON

tell me this: don't you know my voice?

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS

No.

EGEON

Don't you, Dromio?

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

No sir, trust me, I do not.

EGEON

I am sure you do.

DROMIO OF EPHEBUS

Fine, sir, but I'm sure I don't. And you're in no position to doubt my word.

EGEON

All these old witnesses—I cannot err—
Tell me thou art my son Antipholus.

EGEON

.. All these aging faculties tell
me—and I cannot be wrong—that you are
my son, Antipholus.

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I never saw my father in my life.

Enter Abbess, Adriana, Antipholus of Syracuse and Dromio of Syracuse.

ABBESS

Most mighty duke, behold a man much
wronged.

All gather to see them

ADRIANA

I see two husbands, or mine eyes deceive
me.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

Egeon art thou not, or else his ghost?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

O, my old master.—Who hath bound him
here?

ABBESS

Whoever bound him, I will loose his bonds
And gain a husband by his liberty.—

Speak, old Egeon, if thou be'st the man
That hadst a wife once called Emilia,
That bore thee at a burden two fair sons.

EGEON

If I dream not, thou art Emilia.
If thou art she, tell me where is that son
That floated with thee on the fatal raft?

ABBESS

By men of Epidamnum he and I
And the twin Dromio all were taken up;
But by and by rude fishermen of Corinth
By force took Dromio and my son from
them

ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

I never saw my father in my life.

ABBESS

Mighty duke, look here and see a man who's
been treated most terribly!

Everyone gathers around to look.

ADRIANA

Either my eyes deceive me, or I see two
husbands.

ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

You are Egeon, aren't you? Or are you his
ghost?

DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

Oh, my old master!—Who tied him up?

ABBESS

Whoever tied him up, I will loosen the ropes,
and with his freedom I will gain a husband.

Tell us, old Egeon: are you the man who
once had a wife named Emilia, who gave
birth to two fair sons? Oh, if you are the same

EGEON

If I'm not dreaming, you are Emilia. If it's really
you, tell me what happened to our son, who
floated away with you on that deadly raft.

ABBESS

Some men from Epidamnum rescued me,
our son, and Dromio. But then a gang of
violent fishermen from Corinth kidnapped
Dromio and my son and carried them away.