

“The Comedy of Errors”
by William Shakespeare

As Antipholus was going to prison, he met Dromio of Syracuse, his brother's slave. Mistaking him for his own, he ordered him to go to Adriana his wife and tell her to send the money for which he was arrested. Dromio, wondering that his master should send him back to the strange house where he dined and from which he had just before been in such haste to depart, did not dare to reply. Though he came to tell his master the ship was ready to sail, he saw Antipholus was in no humor to be jested with. He therefore went away, grumbling within himself that he must return to Adriana's house, “Where Dowsabel claims me for a

husband. I must go for servants must obey their masters' commands.”

Adriana gave him the money. As Dromio was returning he met Antipholus of Syracuse, still amazed at the surprising adventures he met with. His brother, being well known in Ephesus, there was hardly a man he met in the streets but saluted him as an old acquaintance. Some offered him money which they said was owing to him. Some invited him to come and see them and some gave him thanks for kindnesses they said he had done them, all mistaking him for his brother. A tailor showed him some silks he had bought for him and insisted upon taking measure of him for some clothes.

Antipholus began to think he was among a nation of sorcerers and witches.

Dromio did not at all relieve his master from his bewildered thoughts by asking him how he got free from the officer who was carrying him to prison and by giving him the purse of gold which Adriana had sent to pay the debt with. Dromio's talk of the arrest, of a prison, and of the money he had brought from Adriana perfectly confounded Antipholus. He said, "This fellow Dromio is certainly distracted, and we wander here in illusions." Terrified at his own confused thoughts, he cried out, "Some blessed power deliver us from this strange place!"

Now another stranger came up to him. She was a lady, and she, too, called him Antipholus and told him he had dined with her that day. She asked him for a gold chain which she said he had

promised to give her. Antipholus now lost all patience, and, calling her a sorceress, he denied that he had ever promised her a chain, or dined with her, or had even seen her face before that moment. The lady persisted in affirming he had dined with her and had promised her a chain. Antipholus still denying, she further said that she had given him a valuable ring, and, if he would not give her the gold chain, she insisted upon having her own ring again. On this Antipholus became quite frantic and, again calling her sorceress and witch and denying all knowledge of her or her ring, ran away from her.