

“The Comedy of Errors”  
by William Shakespeare

Poor old Aegeon endeavored in vain to make his son accept him, thinking that his griefs and the anxieties suffered had so strangely altered him that his son did not know him. Perhaps he was ashamed to acknowledge his father in his misery.

In the midst of this perplexity, the lady abbess and the other Antipholus and Dromio came out. Adriana saw two husbands and two Dromios standing before her. These riddling errors, which had so perplexed them, were clearly made out. The duke saw two Antipholuses and two Dromios, so exactly alike. He conjectured aright of these seeming mysteries. He remembered the story Aegeon had told him earlier

and he said these men must be the two sons of Aegeon and their twin slaves.

An unlooked-for joy indeed completed the history of Aegeon. The tale he had in the morning told in sorrow under sentence of death came to a happy conclusion before the sun set. The lady abbess made herself known to be the long-lost wife of Aegeon and the fond mother of the two Antipholuses.

When the fishermen took the eldest Antipholus and Dromio away from her, she entered a nunnery. By her wise and virtuous conduct, she was at length made lady abbess of this convent. In discharging the rites of hospitality to an unhappy stranger, she had unknowingly protected her own son.

Joyful congratulations and affectionate greetings between these long-separated parents and their children made them for a while forget that Aegeon was yet under sentence of death. When they became a little calm, Antipholus of Ephesus offered the duke the ransom money. The duke freely pardoned Aegeon and would not take the money. The duke went with the abbess and her newly found husband and children into the convent to hear this happy family discourse at leisure of the blessed ending of their adverse fortunes.

The two Dromios' humble joy must not be forgotten. They had greetings and congratulations, too. Each Dromio pleasantly complimented his brother on his good looks, being well pleased to see

his own person (as in a glass) show so handsome in his brother.

Adriana so well profited by the good counsel of her mother-in-law that she never after cherished unjust suspicions nor was jealous of her husband.

Antipholus of Syracuse married the fair Luciana, the sister of his brother's wife. The good old Aegean lived at Ephesus many years with his wife and sons. Nor did the unraveling of these perplexities so entirely remove every ground of mistake for the future. Sometimes, to remind them of adventures past, comical blunders would happen. The one Antipholus, and the one Dromio, be mistaken for the other, making altogether a pleasant and diverting Comedy of Errors.