

ACT IV

SCENE I. A public place.

*Enter Second Merchant, ANGELO, and an Officer*

**2nd Merchant** You know since Pentecost the sum is due,  
And since I have not much importuned you;  
Nor now I had not, but that I am bound  
To Persia, and want guilders for my voyage:  
Therefore make present satisfaction,  
Or I'll attach you by this officer.

**ANGELO** Even just the sum that I do owe to you  
Is growing to me by Antipholus,  
And in the instant that I met with you  
He had of me a chain: at five o'clock  
I shall receive the money for the same.  
Pleaseth you walk with me down to his house,  
I will discharge my bond and thank you too.

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus and DROMIO of Ephesus from the courtesan's*

**Officer** That labour may you save: see where he comes.

**ANT [EPH]** While I go to the goldsmith's house, go thou  
And buy a rope's end: that will I bestow  
Among my wife and her confederates,  
For locking me out of my doors by day.  
But, soft! I see the goldsmith. Get thee gone;  
Buy thou a rope and bring it home to me.

**DRO [EPH]** I buy a thousand pound a year: I buy a rope.  
*Exit*

**ANT [EPH]** A man is well help up that trusts to you:  
I promised your presence and the chain;  
But neither chain nor goldsmith came to me.  
Belike you thought our love would last too long,  
If it were chain'd together, and therefore came not.

**ANGELO** Saving your merry humour, here's the note  
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat,  
The fineness of the gold and chargeful fashion.  
Which doth amount to three odd ducats more  
Than I stand debted to this gentleman:  
I pray you, see him presently discharged,  
For he is bound to sea and stays but for it.

**ANT [EPH]** I am not furnish'd with the present money;  
Besides, I have some business in the town.  
Good signior, take the stranger to my house  
And with you take the chain and bid my wife  
Disburse the sum on the receipt thereof:  
Perchance I will be there as soon as you.

**ANGELO** Then you will bring the chain to her yourself?

**ANT [EPH]** No; bear it with you, lest I come not time enough.

**ANGELO** Well, sir, I will. Have you the chain about you?

**ANT [EPH]** An if I have not, sir, I hope you have;  
Or else you may return without your money.

ANGELO Nay, come, I pray you, sir, give me the chain:  
Both wind and tide stays for this gentleman,  
And I, to blame, have held him here too long.

ANT [EPH] Good Lord! you use this dalliance to excuse  
Your breach of promise to the Porpentine.  
I should have chid you for not bringing it,  
But, like a shrew, you first begin to brawl.

2nd Merchant The hour steals on; I pray you, sir, dispatch.

ANGELO You hear how he importunes me;--the chain!

ANT [EPH] Why, give it to my wife and fetch your money.

ANGELO Come, come, you know I gave it you even now.  
Either send the chain or send me by some token.

ANT [EPH] Fie, now you run this humour out of breath,  
where's the chain? I pray you, let me see it.

2nd Merchant My business cannot brook this dalliance.  
Good sir, say whether you'll answer me or no:  
If not, I'll leave him to the officer.

ANT [EPH] I answer you! what should I answer you?

ANGELO The money that you owe me for the chain.

ANT [EPH] I owe you none till I receive the chain.

ANGELO You know I gave it you half an hour since.

ANT [EPH] You gave me none: you wrong me much to say so.

ANGELO You wrong me more, sir, in denying it:  
Consider how it stands upon my credit.

2nd Merchant Well, officer, arrest him at my suit.

Officer I do; and charge you in the duke's name to obey me.

ANGELO This touches me in reputation.  
Either consent to pay this sum for me  
Or I attach you by this officer.

ANT [EPH] Consent to pay thee that I never had!  
Arrest me, foolish fellow, if thou darest.

ANGELO Here is thy fee; arrest him, officer,  
I would not spare my brother in this case,  
If he should scorn me so apparently.

Officer I do arrest you, sir: you hear the suit.

ANT [EPH] I do obey thee till I give thee bail.  
But, sirrah, you shall buy this sport as dear  
As all the metal in your shop will answer.

ANGELO Sir, sir, I will have law in Ephesus,  
To your notorious shame; I doubt it not.

*Enter DROMIO of Syracuse, from the bay*

DRO [SYR] Master, there is a bark of Epidamnum  
That stays but till her owner comes aboard,  
And then, sir, she bears away. Our fraughtage, sir,  
I have convey'd aboard; and I have bought  
The oil, the balsamum and aqua-vitae.  
The ship is in her trim; the merry wind  
Blows fair from land: they stay for nought at all  
But for their owner, master, and yourself.

ANT [EPH] How now! a madman! Why, thou peevish sheep,  
What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?

DRO [SYR] A ship you sent me to, to hire waftage.

ANT [EPH] Thou drunken slave, I sent thee for a rope;  
And told thee to what purpose and what end.

DRO [SYR] You sent me for a rope's end as soon:  
You sent me to the bay, sir, for a bark.

ANT [EPH] I will debate this matter at more leisure  
And teach your ears to list me with more heed.  
To Adriana, villain, hie thee straight:  
Give her this key, and tell her, in the desk  
That's cover'd o'er with Turkish tapestry,  
There is a purse of ducats; let her send it:  
Tell her I am arrested in the street  
And that shall bail me; hie thee, slave, be gone!  
On, officer, to prison till it come.

*Exeunt Second Merchant, Angelo, Officer, and Antipholus of Ephesus*

DRO [SYR] To Adriana! that is where we dined,  
Where Dowsabel did claim me for her husband:  
She is too big, I hope, for me to compass.  
Thither I must, although against my will,  
For servants must their masters' minds fulfil.

*Exit*