

MOLIÈRE

THE CHASE-SCENE DOCTOR

(LE MÉDECIN VOLANT/
THE FLYING DOCTOR, c. 1645)

A One-Act Comedy

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A One-Act Comedy

CHARACTERS

VALÈRE (vah-LEHR), Lucile's fiancé.

SABINE (zah-BEE-nuh), cousin of Lucile.

SGANARELLE (Zgah-nah-REHL),

valet of Valère; originally played by Moliere himself

GORGIBUS (GOR-gee-boos), father of Lucile.

GROS-RENÉ (groh-ruh-NAY), valet of Gorgibus; originally played

by actor Mr. Du Parc aka Gros-René

LUCILE (loo-SEE-uh), daughter of Gorgibus.

A LAWYER (LOY-yuhr).

SCENE I

VALÈRE, SABINE.

VALÈRE - Hey, Sabine, what do you have for me?!

SABINE: There really is a lot of news. My uncle absolutely wants my cousin Lucile to marry Villebrequin [VEEL-bruh-KEH], and it's gone so far that I believe they would have been married today if she didn't already love you. But since Lucile confided in me about your secret love, and that we saw through the machinations of my horrid uncle, we are working hard on a plan to quelch the wedding.

Right now, as I speak to you, my cousin is pretending to be sick. And the wretched old man, who is just too befoolable, sends me to fetch a doctor. If you could get one of your closest friends, and knows the deal here: he could pretend to be a doctor and advise the patient to get some fresh air in the country. My fine uncle will not fail to put my cousin up in a bungalow in the back forty of his property: this way you could get there without the old man's knowledge, marry her, and let him piss away the whole time with Villebrequin.

VALÈRE But the means of finding a doctor available right now, or someone willing to risk so much for me? To be honest, I don't know anybody.

SABINE Come on: what if you had even (chuckle) your valet, Sganarelle, dressed as a doctor? God love him, there is nobody easier to fool than my uncle Gorgibus.

VALÈRE No, Sganarelle's a limited lout who will spoil everything; but (sigh) we must use him, there's nobody else. I'll get him, see you later.

(exit SABINE.)

Where the blazes is this plus-size fellow now? Ah, here he is, all of him.

SCENE II

VALÈRE and SGANARELLE
(SGANARELLE enters.)

VALÈRE Oh, my poor Sganarelle! How happy I am to see you! I need you for an important thing; but, since I don't know what you can do ...

SGANARELLE What can I do, sir? Use me only for something of real importance: for example, send me to look at a clock and I'll tell you what time it is; send me to the market to see how much butter costs; lead me to a horse and I'll water it: then you will know what I can do.

VALÈRE It is not any of that: you must pretend to be a doctor.

SGANARELLE Me, a doctor, sir! I am ready to do whatever you want; but to play a doctor, it is better I do nothing at all. (Thinking) And how do I go about it, good God? Hand to my heart, Sir, you've got to be kidding me.

VALÈRE Come on, go and do it: I'll give you a newly-minted silver coin.

SGANARELLE Eeek! For a silver coin, I will *not* say that I am *not* a doctor; but, can't you see, sir? It's written all over my face: I do not have a subtle mind, to tell you the truth. (Eyeing him) But, if I do take up this doctor thing, where do I

go, what do I do?

VALÈRE To the house of the upstanding Gorgibus, to see his daughter, who is ill; (rethinking) but you are a lunkhead who, instead of doing it right, could well ...

SGANARELLE Hey! my God, Monsieur, don't you worry; I tell you that I can kill a patient as well as any city doctor. They say, you know: "After death comes the doctor" ... a remedy often comes too late 2 ...

But if I get involved, they will say: "After the doctor comes death!" ... The more I think about it, it is very difficult to play a doctor; what if I don't pull it off ...?

VALÈRE Come now, there is nothing easier: Gorgibus is, so to say, not the sharpest tool in the shed, and will be so impressed with your delivery, as long as you talk about Hippocrates and Galen, 3 and say it all with a bit of grandeur.

SGANARELLE I get it: talk philosophy, mathematics, etcetera, etcetera. Let me do it, Monsieur; if he is a pushover, as you say, I have a response for everything. Just come and give me a doctor's outfit, and tell me what to do, and give me my fee up-front, which you promised would be two silver coins.

(exit VALÈRE and SGANARELLE, continuing to grumble their gizzards. 4)

SCENE III

(enter GORGIBUS and GROS-RENÉ.)

GORGIBUS Go quickly and get a doctor; my daughter is as sick as a dog: hurry up!

GROS-RENÉ What the hell! Why would you want to give your daughter to an old man? Don't you think she'd prefer a young man, who fits better? Don't you see how they'd come together ... [etc., 5; actor improvises this out]

GORGIBUS Go quickly; it's clear that her being sick will delay the wedding.

GROS-RENÉ And I'm angry to boot: I thought I had eaten all the fiber I need to keep myself regular, 6 and yet here I am with the runs. I need a doctor myself, as well as for your daughter: I'm frantic; it's all do-do or die.

(exit GROS-RENÉ)

SCENE IV

SABINE, GORGIBUS, SGANARELLE.

SABINE Great to see you, uncle; I've got some good news. I found the most skillful doctor in the world for you, a man who comes from overseas. He knows the most beautiful secrets, so will undoubtedly cure dear Lucile. Thank goodness someone dependable told me about him. Will you see him now? He is so learned that I wish I were sick, so that he could cure me.

GORGIBUS Put up or shut up; where is he then?

(enter SGANARELLE as a doctor)

SABINE He was just behind me ... here he is.

GORGIBUS Doctor, I'm your most humble servant. I sent for someone to see my daughter, who is ill; I place all my hopes in you.

SGANARELLE Hippocrates says, and Galen by excellent reason persuades us, that a person does not feel well when they are ill. You are right to put your hopes in my hands; for I am the greatest, the cleverest, the most visionary physician in all the faculty of the School of Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral.

GORGIBUS I am most impressed.

SGANARELLE All other physicians are hacks, compared to me, nothing more than artless blunderers. I have special talents, I have secrets. Salamalec, salamalec. 'Rodrigue, do you have the courage?...' 7 Signor, si; signor, non. Per omnia saecula saeculorum.

[etc., free to improvise out, e.g. mek-uh-lek-uh-hi, mek-uh-hi-nee-ho]

But now, let us see the patient.

(SGANARELLE begins to inspect GORGIBUS)

SABINE Hey! he's not the sick one, it's his daughter.

SGANARELLE No matter: the blood of the father and the daughter are one and the same thing; and any deviations from the

norm I see in the father, I can then perceive the illness of the girl. Monsieur Gorgibus, would there be any way to get a urine sample from the patient?

GORGIBUS Yes, indeed! Ah, Sabine! Quickly go get it, er, what he asked for.

(SABINE exits and immediately returns with a bed-pot for SGANARELLE)

[optional gag: SABINE, in view of the audience, but not of GORGIBUS, pours from a white wine bottle into the bed-pot]

Doctor, I am very afraid that she will die.

SGANARELLE Oh, be not afraid! She must not let herself die without this doctor's prescription.

(SGANARELLE takes the bed-pot and sips from it)

This urine indicates great heat, a great inflammation of the intestines: that being said, it's not *_so_ bad, non est disputandum.* 8

GORGIBUS Oy, what is this? Sir, tell me you're not swallowing it!

SGANARELLE Do not be so surprised; doctors, ordinarily, are content with looking at it; but I, who am a doctor above the common hackney-scriblers, I swallow it. Because with *gustibus* I discern better the cause and effect of the illness. But, to tell you the truth, there was too little to determine a firm opinion: have her piss some more.

(exit SABINE and immediate entrance)

SABINE I had a hard time making her go.

SGANARELLE What is this, good-for-nothing?! Make her piss copiously, copiosamente. If that's all the pee there is, my dear, it will take the rest of my life to suss out the problem.

(again, quick exit and entrance of SABINE)

SABINE That's all there is: she can't wee any more.

SGANARELLE. What, hey! Monsieur Gorgibus, your daughter only

pees drops? (firmly) Your daughter is a poor pisseuse; I can see that I will have to order a pissing potion for her. Erm, would there not be a way to see the patient?

SABINE She is up; if you want, I'll bring her.

(exit SABINE, immediately enter LUCILE and SABINE.)

SCENE V

LUCILE, SABINE, GORGIBUS, SGANARELLE.

SGANARELLE Very well! Little lady, are you sick?

LUCILE Yes, sir.

SGANARELLE So much the worse! Being sick is a sure sign that you are not doing well. Do you have a headache, feel great pain in your your kidneys?

LUCILE Yes, sir.

SGANARELLE Very bene, thank you. Ovid, a truly great physician, 8 in the chapter he wrote on the nature of animals, said ... a hundred beautiful things. But in terms of the humors which have connectivity ... have a great deal of connection. For example, as melancholy is the enemy of joy, and the bile which is spread through the body causes us to turn yellow, and that there is nothing more contrary to health than disease, we can say, with the great man Ovid, how very ill your daughter is. I must give you a prescription.

GORGIBUS Quickly: a table, some paper, some ink!

SGANARELLE Is there anyone here who can write?

GORGIBUS Can you not write?

SGANARELLE Oof! I can't remember it; I have so much going on in my head that I forget half of it ... But yes, I think it would be necessary for your daughter to get some fresh air, to relax in the country.

GORGIBUS We have a very beautiful property out of town, and a bungalow at the far end; if you think it appropriate, I will put her there.

SGANARELLE Come, let's go visit the place.

(exit ALL.)

SCENE VI
THE LAWYER

THE LAWYER Word around town is that Monsieur Gorgibus's daughter is ill: I must inquire about her health, and offer her my services as a friend to her whole family. Hey! hey! Is Monsieur Gorgibus there?

(enter GORGIBUS)

SCENE VII
GORGIBUS, THE LAWYER.

GORGIBUS Monsieur, I am your very humble servant ...
[etc., mumbling more fiddle-faddle of greeting]

LAWYER I just learned of your daughter's illness. In my capacity, I have come to testify on behalf of the party of the first part, and to offer myself for anything you may need.

GORGIBUS Oh, the most learned man just arrived to help us.

THE LAWYER I see ... can I talk to him for just a moment?

SCENE VIII
GORGIBUS, THE LAWYER, SGANARELLE.

GORGIBUS (to SGANARELLE) Doctor, here is a very clever friend of mine who would like to talk to you, to get your take.

(enter SGANARELLE as the doctor.)

SGANARELLE Very sorry, I have no time, Monsieur Gorgibus: I have to see patients. You simply must forgive me.

THE LAWYER Sir, after what Monsieur Gorgibus told me of your merit and your knowledge, I had the greatest impulse in the world to have the honor to make your acquaintance, and I took the liberty to greet you for this purpose: I believe it will be worth our time. Anyone will agree that those who excel in some science are worthy of great praise, and particularly those who take up the profession of medicine, both because of its

usefulness and because it contains within it several other sciences, which makes it very difficult to synthesize its varied part; and it is very apt that Hippocrates said in his first aphorism: *Vita brevis, ars vero longa, occasio autem præceps, experimentum periculosum, iudicium difficile.* 10

SGANARELLE (to GORGIBUS) *Ficile tantina pota baril cambustibus.*
[seems to finish what the LAWYER is saying, but is nonsense]

The LAWYER You are, I suppose, not among these doctors who deal in a kind of medicine that is strictly rational or dogmatic? Can I assume that your practice is, every day, full of miraculous recoveries: *experientia magistra rerum?* 11 The first men who took up the profession of medicine were worshipped for achieving science as a kind of art, even beauty, and that they were placed among the gods for the amazing cures they concocted every day. Yet there are cases beyond our efforts, neither all our remedies nor all we know: *interdum docta plus valet arte malum.* 12

Sir, I fear I may be holding you back: I take my leave of you, in the hope that I will have the honor of future conversation with you, at your leisure. Your time is precious indeed. [etc., some improvisation here]

(exit LAWYER)

GORGIBUS: What do you think of that man?

SGANARELLE He knows a little something. If he had stayed even a little longer, such sublime and fancy material I would lay ... thick ... on . But for now, I take leave of you. (begins to exit, turns back)

Hey! what do you want me to do now?

GORGIBUS I know what I owe you. (GORGIBUS moves to give him a money-bag)

SGANARELLE (with sudden mock-humility) Oh come now, Monsieur Gorgibus. I couldn't take anything now, I'm not a filching mercenary. I'm your very humble servant ...

(SGANARELLE takes the money.)

(Aside.)

My word, I'm an ambidexter, getting paid by both masters!

(exit SGANARELLE offstage, and
exit GORGIBUS into his house)

SCENE IX

(enter VALÈRE)

VALERE What the deuce has Sganarelle done? I have not heard
from him, and until he returns, I'm downright nerve-wracked.

(enter SGANARELLE in his valet coat.

NB: the valet and doctor coats are the main ingredients of the
quick-changes to come)

But hey, here he is. Well, Sganarelle! What have you been doing
since I left you?

SCENE X

SGANARELLE, VALÈRE.

SGANARELLE Oh, so much! Wonders on wonders, miracle upon
miracle. I have done so well that Gorgibus takes me for a skill-
ful doctor. I got myself into his house, saw the daughter, and
advised him to send her to the bungalow at the end of their
property, very far from the pleasant old cuff, so that you can
easily go and see her, and he won't suspect a thing.

VALÈRE Ah, you bring me joy! I'll waste no time, I'll go and
see her.

(exit VALÈRE.)

SGANARELLE I must admit that this Gorgibus is a real corky-
brained customer to be deceived in this way.

(seeing GORGIBUS enter.)

Oh, caught in the wrong coat! This doctor-pose takes a toll. But
the tables might be turned; I'll make hay 'til the cows come
home!

SCENE XI

SGANARELLE, GORGIBUS.

GORGIBUS Good day, Monsieur.

SGANARELLE Monsieur, your servant. You see in me a low-tide fellow, in a desperate way; do you happen to know a doctor who has recently come to town, doing astounding cures?

GORGIBUS: Yes! Not only do I know him, but he has just left my house.

SGANARELLE I am his brother, Monsieur: we are twins like the Gemini; and, as we are two of a kind, we are sometimes taken for each other.

GORGIBUS Ah-ha, the devil take me, I see what you mean! So what's your name then?

SGANARELLE Narcissus, Sir, at your service. For your kind information, when I was with him, I may have accidentally spilled two vials of distillates that he carelessly placed at the edge of a table. His temper flared so that he kicked my Fun 13 out of the house, and never wants to see me again: I'm just a poor, wayfaring stranger...

GORGIBUS Go, I'll be your make-peace: We've become bosom-friends, and I promise to make things right. I'll talk with him as soon as I can.

SGANARELLE I'll be in your debt, Monsieur Gorgibus.

(exit SGANARELLE, with sudden re-entrance in the doctor's robe.)

SCENE XII

SGANARELLE, GORGIBUS.

SGANARELLE I hate to say it, but when patients do not follow the doctor's advice, and they stagger back into debaucheries, that ...

GORGIBUS Monsieur Doctor, sorry to interrupt. I ask for a favor.

SGANARELLE What is it, Monsieur? There should be no question of doing it, yes?

GORGIBUS Monsieur, I have just met your brother, who is quite sorry for ...

SGANARELLE My brother?! Now he's a scoundrel, Monsieur. A right miscreant, he is.

GORGIBUS I believe he is honestly sorry to have made you go haywire.

SGANARELLE And he's a real arak-guzzler too, Monsieur Gorgibus; I have to be honest.

GORGIBUS Come now, sir, do you want to lose the poor boy to a gutter-death?

SGANARELLE Let him do it. What a gaffer to even get you involved. But if you want, hear for yourself the pert prattle he speaks. Just please, don't tell me about it.

GORGIBUS In the name of God, Monsieur Doctor, do this, for my sake! If I am able to do anything else for you, I will do so with an open heart. Look, I promised him.

SGANARELLE You entreat me so endearingly, that ... although I had firmly vowed never to forgive him, I will. It's based purely on my deep regard for you, Monsieur. Trust me on this one, I'm doing this against my better instincts. Goodbye, Monsieur.

GORGIBUS Monsieur, your very humble servant.

(exit SGANARELLE offstage.)

I'm going to find the ebb-water fellow to bring these great tidings.

(exit GORGIBUS into the house.)

SCENE XIII

VALÈRE, soon SGANARELLE enters.

VALÈRE I must admit that I would never believe that Sganarelle would get the job done so well.

(SGANARELLE enters as the valet.)

Ah, my good fellow, I am really in your debt! How happy I am!
Also that ...

SGANARELLE Stop my vitals, it's easy for you to say. But I
ran into Gorgibus, and everything would have come apart at the
seams if I hadn't done a make-do on the spot.

(noticing GORGIBUS' entrance, cross in front to block his view
of VALÈRE)

But quickly now, flee!

(exit VALÈRE)

And now here's my cue.

SCENE XIV

GORGIBUS, SGANARELLE.

GORGIBUS Where have you been? I was looking for you everywhere
to tell you that I spoke to your brother: he assured me that he
forgave you. But, to be make sure it's hunky-dory, I want him to
see it for myself. Just take rest in my home, and I will go and
fetch him.

SGANARELLE Ah, Monsieur Gorgibus, I don't think you'll find him
so quickly. Even then I won't be able to stand my ground: I know
he'll lambast my sides. [Improvisation: I'm a vapping coward,
etc.]

GORGIBUS Oof-oh, you will stay put, and to be sure I'll lock the
door. Don't worry so much: I'm going to find your brother, and,
I assure you, he will run out of steam.

(exit SGANARELLE into the front door, and reappearing in the
house window; exit GORGIBUS.)

SGANARELLE (at the window) Oh gods, there's no escape for me
this time! It is a dark and stormy night: this situation is like
a sudden cloudburst. It will hail on my back such cudgel strokes
that I will be at death's door. Only the greatest doctor in the
world, with the strongest, hottest iron to cauterize the gaping
wounds, will be enough to save me. Yes, I'm in a bad way; but

why let it get to me? Since I've already done this much, let's take the bear by the tooth and plunge this sump-pump dry. Yes, I will scuttle-butt my way again, and show that Sganarelle is as full of cunning as an egg is full of yolk! 14

(SGANARELLE jumps out of the window and exits.)

SCENE XV

GROS-RENÉ, GORGIBUS, SGANARELLE.

GROS-RENÉ (seeing SGANARELLE) Ah-ha, what cheek! This nincompoop is jumping the gun, pun intended! I will sit tight, watch it all like a hawk, and call the bastard out when the time comes.

(GROS-RENÉ goes upstage, semi-hidden; enter GORGIBUS.)

GORGIBUS For the love of me, I cannot find this doctor: how he's escondido'd himself away, I don't know.

(SGANARELLE enters, as the doctor.)

Ah, now he turns up. Monsieur, I know you've forgiven your brother, but it's not enough for me. I beg you, for my satisfaction, to embrace him in my presence. He is, as we speak, in my house. I've been looking for you everywhere; can you follow this through?

SGANARELLE You are deranged, Monsieur Gorgibus: isn't it enough that I forgive him? I never want to see his grimaced face again.

GORGIBUS: But, sir, for my sake.

SGANARELLE Aw, I cannot seem to refuse you anything: tell him to come down.

(GORGIBUS enters his house by the door, while SGANARELLE takes the window.)

GORGIBUS (at the window) Here is your brother! He has been patiently waiting for you. He has promised to do everything that I wish.

SGANARELLE (at the window) Monsieur Gorgibus, just one thing: make him come here: pray, may I ask to hear his pardon in private, because whenever you give him a public forum, he will, without a doubt, humiliate me a hundred-fold, and combust me a

hundred times more, and in front of everyone.

(GORGIBUS returns from the house by the door, and SGANARELLE again by the window.)

GORGIBUS Yes indeed, I will go and tell him.

(To SGANARELLE as the doctor.)

Monsieur, he says he is ashamed, and he asks you to come in, so that he may ask your forgiveness in private. The door is open, you may enter; I implore you to do me this service, do not frustrate the matter further.

SGANARELLE There is nothing I would not do in your service. You shall hear how I deal with him.

(exits through the door to the open window.)

Ah, there you are, you grating eye-sore!

(as the valet, alternating with quick-changes to the doctor and back)

— My dear brother, I beg your pardon, I promise you that it is not at all my fault.

(doctor) — Not your fault, you boozy dungheap, you fumbling clod-pate? Come here, I'll teach you a lesson. To have the gall to pester a gentleman like Monsieur Gorgibus, to wear him out with your rakehelly foolishness!

(valet) — My brother, we're blood ...

(doctor) — Shut up, I tell you.

(valet) — I didn't mean to offend ...

(doctor) — Shut up, you flearing fool!

(GROS-RENÉ comes forward.)

GROS-RENÉ What the hell is this racket?

GORGIBUS It is the doctor and Narcissus, his brother; they've had a dreadful row, but they're coming to an agreement.

GROS-RENÉ What the devil! They go together like frick and frack!

SGANARELLE (from the window) Drunk sack that you are, I need to teach you some manners. How he lowers his eyesight! He can see that he has comported himself without honor, the old Topper. What a dissembling funster, how he plays the saint all of a sudden!

GROS-RENÉ Monsieur, ask him this tiny favor, to show the other brother in the window.

GORGIBUS Yes! Monsieur (to SGANARELLE), please ... show your brother in the window.

SGANARELLE (as the doctor in the window) He is not worth a bean, to be in the presence of honorable people. I can barely endure him near me myself.

GORGIBUS Sir, do not refuse me this, after all you have given me.

SGANARELLE (from the window) Monsieur Gorgibus, you truly have such influence over me that anything you want, I'll do it. Come out, come out, wherever you are, you sour rogue.

(After having disappeared for a moment, SGANARELLE reappears as the valet.)

— Monsieur Gorgibus, I owe you the world.

(He disappears again, and immediately reappears in a doctor's robe.)

— Hi-yo! Do you see how debauched is this dismal ditty?

GROS-RENÉ My faith, they are a matching set. But to prove it, ask him for this favor-let, that you want to see them together.

GORGIBUS Ah, but do me the honor of seeing you two together, and do greet him at the window, like brothers.

SGANARELLE (from the window) To anyone other than you I would refuse it; but to manifest my loving loyalty to you, I resolve to do it, however difficultly, and first things first: that he ask your forgiveness for all the trouble he has put you through. (SGANARELLE quick-change to valet.)

— Yes, Monsieur Gorgibus, I beg your pardon for perturbing you so much; and I vow to you, my brother, in the presence of Monsieur Gorgibus here, to do so well from this day forward that you will have nothing to complain about. I am asking you, pray, to put aside what has happened.

(SGANARELLE kisses his hat and collar, as pledge.)

GORGIBUS Well, they are dead ringers, aren't they?!

GROS-RENÉ I say! By my word, this is flagrant sorcery and enchantments!

SGANARELLE (coming out of the house, as the doctor)
Monsieur, I made sure to lock the door behind me. He is such a shameful cuss, I didn't want him to come down with me: I have a reputation to protect. I wouldn't want him to be seen in my company. You let him out whenever you want. I bid you good day, your servant ... [etc., more mumbling as he goes]

(SGANARELLE pretends to go away, returning back through the window, and quick-change to valet)

GORGIBUS I must go and rescue this poor boy; in truth, he's been through enough, and the doctor did show some forbearance.

(GORGIBUS enters his house and comes back out with SGANARELLE, dressed as a valet, but with the doctor's outfit in hand, which he tries to hide onstage)

SGANARELLE Monsieur, I thank you for the trouble you have taken and for your kindness: for my whole life I will be in your debt.

GROS-RENÉ Hold on, where did the doctor go?
(looking at SGANARELLE as he tries to leave)

GORGIBUS He is gone.

GROS-RENÉ (finding SGANARELLE's doctor outfit, and grabbing SGANARELLE)
Now I've got you; I've caught you red-handed. Here is the varlet who duped you, pretending to be a doctor. While he was hoodwinking you, playing you for a fool on your own property, Valère and your daughter have been together, doing deeds most foul.

GORGIBUS Ah, woe is me! But I will have you hanged, you glib-tongued vagrant. (to SGANARELLE.)

SGANARELLE Monsieur ... what will hanging me get you ... really? But hold your breath, just one word, please: it is true that it is by my own, pure imagination that my master is with your daughter. But in serving them I have not wronged you. He is a man who can be married without shame. Believe me, don't make such an uproar; it might turn out to be at your expense, and

make all of you look bad. Speaking of looking bad, may doomsday fall on the head of your over-grown Simon-soon-again 15 there (to GROS-RENÉ) and his little friend, Villebrequin too! [improvisation here, e.g. just look around, if you want to see paradise, look here, to Lucile and Valère:] But here are our lovers now.

SCENE XVI AND LAST

VALÈRE, LUCILE, GORGIBUS.

(enter VALÈRE and LUCILE)

LUCILE and VALÈRE We ask for forgiveness, on our knees.

GORGIBUS (with open arms) I forgive you. You are truly an upstanding son-in-law, and I am actually charmed being fooled by Sganarelle. Let's all enjoy the wedding, and drink to the health of everyone.

END

FOOTNOTES

1 Villebrequin is only mentioned as the other lover; he does not appear as a character.

2 " 'After death, the doctor' means that one finds a remedy for a patient after they have died, when it is too late." (*Furetière Dictionary*, 1690).

3 People continued to rely on these two medical authorities in the 17th century, being ancient Greek and Roman physicians, either/both ignorant or indifferent to new experience or research.

4 Grumble their gizzards: talk in a dissatisfied manner; here, continuing to negotiate the terms of the deal.

5 In the original script, literally "Galimatias," gobbledegook: This indicates that the actor improvises.

6 Literally, tiles: new soles under the shoes. "It is said proverbially and figuratively of a starving man who has had a good meal, that he has made himself a new stomach." (*Dictionary of the French Academy*, 1694).

7 "Rodrigue, as-tu du coeur?" line taken from Pierre Corneille, *Le Cid*, act I, sc. v; spoken by Don Diego to Don Rodrigo.

8 Translator insertion: from the maxim, *De gustibus non est disputandum*, or In matters of taste there can be no argument.

9 Ovid (d. c. 17 CE) was a Latin poet, best-known for the epic-style *Metamorphoses* and elegies, not a physician at all.

10 *Vita brevis ...*: from the aphorisms of Hippocrates: Life is short, art is long; the occasion fleeting, the experience full of perils, the appreciation difficult.

11 *Experientia magistra rerum*: "It is experience that teaches all things." Adage ascribed to Erasmus. The lawyer compliments a doctor who practices empirical medicine, rather than the dogmatic and rational methods doctors in charge in France at that time (called the Faculty) insisted on.

12 *Interdum docta plus valet arte malum*: "At times the disease/evil is stronger than trained art." (Ovid, *Epistulae ex Ponto* (*Pontic Epistles*, c. 13 CE), book I, canto III (to Rufinus), v. 18).

13 Kicked my Fun is a 17th-century euphemism for kicked my behind. To fun also meant to trick.

14 Lit. the king of rogues.

15 Simon-soon-again is a useless, loitering fellow (likely-pseudonym Cocke Lorel, *Order of Knaves*, c. 1651). Or use *nare-a-face-but-his-own*: a poor, useless fellow (from B.E. [anon.], *Dictionary of the Canting Crew*, 1698).

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