

Student Essay on Discuss the Comic Effects Brought about by Having Two Sets of Identical Twins.

Discuss the Comic Effects Brought about by Having Two Sets of Identical Twins. by William Shakespeare

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Essay

In the drama 'The Comedy of Errors', Shakespeare creates comic effects by introducing two sets of identical twins. They are Antipholus of Syracuse and Antipholus of Ephesus, Dromio of Ephesus and Dromio of Syracuse. These identical twins are separated and eventually met at Ephesus where they are mistakenly identified by the people and even each other. This confusion creates simultaneous comic effects to the characters and the book as a whole.

In Act 1 Scene 2, Antipholus of Syracuse asks Dromio of Syracuse to keep the money given from the merchant. He then went straight to the Centaur to keep it, "Go bear it to the Centaur where we host." Being mistakenly identifying S.A. (Antipholus of Syracuse) as his master, E.A. (Antipholus of Ephesus), E.D. (Dromio of Ephesus) went to fetch him to come to dinner. This incident got S.A. really angry. Due to this S.A. doubts about the money he asks him to keep and says, "Where is the money that I gave you?" Being honest, E.D. deny of having the money and was beaten by S.A, "Why you gave no gold to me." In conclusion to this confusion, S.A. thinks that Ephesus is haunted and spelled and that he mistakenly identifies S.D. is also spelled and therefore he deny the money, "Dark-working sorcerers that change the mind, soul-killing witches that deform the body." This confusion creates comic effects because we can see that the characters are assuming illogical reasons such as spells to the errors arose by having two sets of identical twins.

Later when S.A. met S.D., S.A. again asks for the gold and scolded S.D. for denying it earlier, "Thou didst deny the gold's receipt." S.D. then also deny meeting him, "I did not see you since you sent me hence." and also got beaten. During this conversation, Adriana and Luciana came and mistakenly identified S.A. as E.A. Although being confused S.A. accepts Adriana's invitation to dine together, "Until I know this sure uncertainty, I'll entertain the offered fallacy."