

Innkeeper – a rough and emotional businessman able to don the pretentious air of a maître d’

Actors should prepare this scene.

Scene IV

THE INNKEEPER steps out of his inn to see El Capitan and Arlequin who have come to beg for a free meal.

INNKEEPER: Oh, gentlemen! It’s you? I’m very sorry, but today I can’t serve anyone in my hostelry.

EL CAPITAN: And why not, if I may ask?

INNKEEPER: You’re pretty brazen to be asking that! Do you think anyone gives me the provisions I need on credit?

INNKEEPER: You’re pretty brazen to be asking that! Do you think anyone gives me the provisions I need on credit?

EL CAPITAN: Aha! So that’s the reason! Aren’t we substantial people who are eligible for credit?

INNKEEPER: Not to me. And since I never expected to get my money back, I’ve given away enough free meals now; therefore, be so good as not to return to my establishment.

ARLEQUIN: Do you think money is everything in this vile world? Do you count as nothing the praises we have heaped on your inn everywhere we go? I’ve even dedicated a sonnet to you in which I extol your stewed partridges and your hare pies! ...And as for the Captain here, be assured that, singlehanded, he will uphold the good repute of your inn against a whole army. Does that have no value? Everything in this world must be cash!

INNKEEPER: I’m in no mood for jokes! I don’t need your sonnets or the Captain’s sword, which he could put to better use.

EL CAPITAN: By God, I’ll use it to teach a scoundrel a lesson!

(Threatening him and beating him with the sword.)

INNKEEPER *(yelling)*: What’s this? Beating me? Help! Police!

ARLEQUIN *(restraining the CAPTAIN)*: Don’t get into trouble on account of this low creature!

EL CAPITAN: I'm going to kill him. (*Striking him.*)

INNKEEPER: Help! Police!

SERVANTS (*coming out of the inn*): Look, they're killing our master!

INNKEEPER: Help me!

EL CAPITAN: I won't leave one of them alive!

INNKEEPER: Won't anybody come?