

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

#### 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: Ah, gentlemen! You again? I'm very sorry, but I can't serve anyone today.

Captain: And why might that be, if you are at liberty to say?

Innkeeper: That's a very fine cheek, asking me that! Do you think that anyone gives me credit for what I spend in my establishment?

Captain: Aha! So that's your motive? And aren't we people worthy of credit?

Innkeeper: Not for me, no. And I had no intention of charging you, which was enough of a favour; so, do me the honour of never coming back to my establishment.

Arlequin: Do you think that money is everything in this base world? Does it count for nothing that we have sung the praises of your establishment high and low? I've even dedicated a sonnet to you and in it I celebrate your partridge stew and your hare pie! ... And as for the Captain, be assured that he would stand alone against a whole army to defend the good name of your establishment. Does that count for nothing? Does everything in this world have to be counted in money?

Innkeeper: I am in no mood for jokes! I have no need for your sonnets, nor for the Captain's sword, which could be put to much better use!

Captain: By Jove ... I will put it to good use routing a scoundrel! (*Threatening him and hitting him with his sword.*)

Innkeeper: (*Shouting.*) What's this? Are you attacking me? Help! Police!

Arlequin: (*Holding the Captain back.*) Do not ruin yourself for such a despicable being!

Innkeeper: Someone! Police!

*Servants come out of the inn.*

Captain: I'll have you all!

Innkeeper: Will no-one help me?