**Bourgeois Gentleman**

**CHARACTERS:**

MR JOURDAIN, a Bourgeois

MRS JOURDAIN, his Wife

DORANTE, a Nobleman

DORIMENE, a Noblewoman

LUCILLE, Mr. Jourdain=s daughter

CLEONTE, his Valet and Suitor to Nicole

NICOLE, his Servant

MUSIC MASTER, DANCING MASTER

FENCING MASTER, PHILOSOPHY MASTER

MASTER TAILOR and HIS APPRENTICE

**TWO LACKEYS**

**A STUDENT**

SINGERS and MUSICIANS

**COOKS**

**In the Turkish Ceremony: MUFTI, DERVISHES, TURKS, SINGERS and**

**DANCERS**

**ACT I**

**Scene 1: Music Master, Dancing Mstr, 3 Singers, 2 Violinists, 4 Dancers**

**The overture is performed by a musical ensemble. At a table at Center**

**Stage a student of the MUSIC MASTER composes a serenade requested by**

**the master of the household.**

MUSIC MASTER **(To his Musicians)** Into this room, please. You may sit

here until he comes.

DANCIN' MSTR **(To his Dancers)** And you as well. This way, please.

MUSIC MASTER Is it done?

STUDENT Yes.

MUSIC MASTER Let's see. That's' fine.

DANCIN' MSTR Is this something new?

MUSIC MASTER Yes, it's a melody for a serenade that I had him compose

while waiting for our man to be awakened.

DANCIN' MSTR May I look at it?

MUSIC MASTER You will hear both melody and lyrics when he comes,

which will be soon.

DANCIN' MSTR Business is good for both of us these days, isn't it?

MUSIC MASTER Indeed it is, thanks to the man we found here. What a

sweet source of revenue he is, our Mr. Jourdain, with his

notions of nobility and gallantry, and how wonderful it

would be for your dancing and my music were everyone

like him.

DANCIN' MSTRI Wouldn't go that far. If only he weren't such a poor

student.

MUSIC MASTER He may learn poorly but he pays well and that is what

our professions need more than anything else.

DANCIN' MSTR Yes, but I must confess that for me it's the glory, the

recognition that counts. How distasteful it is in any of the

fine arts to produce for fools, to have one's compositions

sullied by the barbarism of a simpleton. True pleasure is

only to be derived by working for people with a refined

appreciation of the arts, who know how to respond to the

beauty of a given work and how to gratify its creator with

appropriate praise. Yes, the sweetest reward for the artist is

the honor bestowed upon him by the adulation and

celebrity of his work. Enlightened praise is the most

exquisite form of satisfaction for the artist and, in my

opinion, he can ask for no greater recompense than that for

his efforts.

MUSIC MASTER I agree and I relish it as much as you do. There is

certainly nothing more flattering than the applause of

which you speak. But one does not live by praise alone,

however enlightened it might be. It must be blended with

something a bit more substantial. For me, the best way to

praise is with an open purse. It's true that we are dealing

here with a man of meager wit, who utters nothing but

nonsense and whose applause is always ill times and

inappropriate; but his money more than compensates for

the inadequacies of his judgment. There is discernment in

his purse and gold in his praise. Thus our ignorant

bourgeois is of more value to us than the highly cultured

lord who introduced us here.

DANCIN' MSTR There is an element of truth in what you say, but I feel

that you overemphasize the importance of money, and that

a true gentleman should never concern himself with

anything as base as that.

MUSIC MASTER You are, nevertheless, very quick to accept the money

that our man gives you.

DANCIN' MSTR Of course, but it takes more than that to make me happy. I

only wish that along with his wealth, he possessed greater

refinement of taste.

MUSIC MASTER That would please me as well. After all, this is the very

thing the two of us are striving to develop in him. But we

must keep in mind, however, that it is through him that we

are establishing our reputations, and that his purse paves

the way for the praise of others.

DANCIN' MSTR Here he comes.

**Scene 2: Mr Jourdain, Music Master, Dancing Mstr, Violinists, Singers,**

**Dancers, Two Lackeys, Student.**

MR JOURDAIN Well, gentlemen, what have we here? May I look at your

little ditty?

DANCIN' MSTR How's that? What little ditty?

MR JOURDAIN Eh? Over there... What do you call that? Your prologue or

your dialogue of songs and dance?

DANCIN' MSTR Aha!

MUSIC MASTER Yes, sir. We're ready for you.

MR JOURDAIN I'm sorry you had to wait for me, but the fact is that I am

dressing myself today as do the people of quality, and I had

a devil of a time trying to put on a pair of silk stockings

that my tailor sent me.

MUSIC MASTER We are here solely to await your pleasure, sir.

MR JOURDAIN I would like both of you to stay until my new outfit

arrives, so that you might see me in it.

DANCIN' MSTR Whatever pleases you, sir.

MR JOURDAIN You shall see me properly decked out from head to toe.

MUSIC MASTER We do not doubt it, sir.

MR JOURDAIN This oriental robe was especially made for me.

DANCIN' MSTR It is truly beautiful, sir.

MR JOURDAIN My tailor told me that people of quality dress like this in

the morning.

MUSIC MASTER That suits you perfectly, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Lackeys! Hey there! My two lackeys!

**The Two LACKEYS Enter.**

1ST LACKEY What is it, sir?

MR JOURDAIN Nothing. I just wanted to know if you could hear me.

**The LACKEYS bow and Exit.**

MR JOURDAIN **(To the MASTERS)** What do you think of my liveries?

DANCIN' MSTR They are magnificent, sir.

MR JOURDAIN **(Half-opening his robe to reveal a straight pair of**

**breeches of red velvet and a green velvet spencer)** And

this is something casual for my morning exercises.

MUSIC MASTER It is truly elegant, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Lackeys!

**The LACKEYS re enter.**

1ST LACKEY Yes, sir?

MR JOURDAIN The other lackey.

2ND LACKEY Sir?

MR JOURDAIN (Removes robe) Hold my robe. (To the MASTERS) How

do I look?

DANCIN' MSTR Very good. One couldn't possibly look any better.

MR JOURDAIN Let's have a look at your little chore.

MUSIC MASTER First I would like you to listen to a melody that he has

just composed for the serenade that you commissioned. He

is a student of mine with a true gift for this type of thing.

MR JOURDAIN Yes, but this isn't something for a student to do; were you

too good to do this yourself?

MUSIC MASTER Sir, you must not be misled by the word "student," for

the knowledge of this kind of student can match that of the

greatest masters. Just listen and you will find the melody to

be of incomparable beauty.

SINGER**(Singing)** I languish here night and day,

And I've known naught but deep despair

Since I became the slave of your eyes oh so fair.

If you so poorly treat, Iris, one who loves thee,

Alas, what would you do were I your enemy?

Mr JOURDAIN I find this song a little too dreary; it puts me to sleep.

Couldn't you liven it up a bit here and there?

MUSIC MASTER The music must coincide with the words, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Someone taught me a really nice one a while ago. Hold

onY How does it go?

MUSIC MASTER In faith, sir, I have no idea.

MR JOURDAIN There's lamb in it.

MUSIC MASTER Lamb, sir?

MR JOURDAIN Yes... Ah! **(Begins to sing)**

Oh, how sweet and pretty

Did my Jeannie appear.

Oh, how fair and saintly,

No lamb could be as dear.

Alas, alas, so very cruel,

My sweet faced Jeannie,

The tiger would never be.

**Mr Jourdain looks around him expectantly.**

MR JOURDAIN Now wasn't that nice?

MUSIC MASTER As nice as could be.

DANCIN' MSTR And you sing it so well.

MR JOURDAIN That's without ever having learned music.

MUSIC MASTER You ought to learn music as well as dancing, sir. These

two arts are very closely related.

DANCIN' MSTR And they open the mind to beautiful things.

MR JOURDAIN Do the people of quality also learn music?

MUSIC MASTER Yes, sir.

MR JOURDAIN So then shall I. But I don't know where I'll find the time to

fit it in for, in addition to the fencing master who is

teaching me, I have also engaged a philosophy master who

is to start this morning.

MUSIC MASTER Philosophy is not without some importance, but music,

sir. Music.

DANCIN' MSTR Music and dancing music and dancing, that's all that's

really necessary.

MUSIC MASTER There is nothing more useful in a state than music.

DANCIN' MSTR There is nothing more necessary for mankind than

dancing.

MUSIC MASTER Without music a state could not subsist.

DANCIN' MSTR Without dancing man can do nothing.

MUSIC MASTER All the disorder, all the wars that we see in the world

stem from not learning music.

DANCIN' MSTR All of man's misfortunes, all the afflictions that fill the

pages of history, all the blunders of politicians and the

failures of great commanders, all of this was brought about

by want of dancing skill.

MR JOURDAIN How is that?

MUSIC MASTER Is not war the outcome of a lack of union among men?

MR JOURDAIN That is true.

MUSIC MASTER And if all men were to learn music, would that not be a

means of promoting harmony among them and of

achieving universal peace?

MR JOURDAIN You are right.

DANCIN' MSTR When a man commits some breach of conduct, be it in

the affairs of the family, government or army, don't we

always say that he took the wrong step in the matter in

question?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, we say that.

DANCIN' MSTR And the act of taking a wrong step, could that be due to

anything else but the lack of dancing skill?

MR JOURDAIN That is true. Both of you are right.

DANCIN' MSTR We point that out so that you might appreciate the

excellence and usefulness of dancing and music.

MUSIC MASTER Would you like us to show you our compositions?

MR JOURDAIN Yes.

MUSIC MASTER As I have already told you, this is a minor work that I

composed a while back which demonstrates the various

emotions that music can express.

MR JOURDAIN Very good.

MUSIC MASTER **(To the Singers)** Come forward. **(To Mr Jourdain)** You

must picture dressed as shepherds.

MR JOURDAIN Why always as shepherds? That's all you see everywhere.

DANCIN' MSTR When you have people speaking to music, for the sake of

believability they must do so as shepherds. For a prince or

a townsman to his express his arduous feelings in a musical

dialogue would be highly unnatural, and this is why the

singing roles have always been assigned to shepherds.

MR JOURDAIN All right, then. Let's see.

**DIALOGUE TO MUSIC between a Two Male Singers and One Female**

**Singer.\***

My heart in love's domain hath strayed,

The tender prey to its snares must it be.

For sighs and languishing do comprise

cruel love's serenade.

Surmount this barricade,

Foolish heart, naught's more sweet

Than is our liberty.

Ah! What a joy it is

When two hearts beat together.

MR JOURDAIN Is that it?

MUSIC MASTER Yes.

MR JOURDAIN That's what I call a very nice piece of work, and there are

some very wise sayings in it.

DANCIN' MSTR And now, for my part, I present a little work comprised of

some of the most beautiful movements and attitudes with

which a dance might be varied.

MR JOURDAIN Will they be shepherds again?

DANCIN' MSTR They'll be whatever you like.

**BALLET SEQUENCE with Four Dancers executing all the different**

**movements and steps at the command of the Dancing Mstr.**

DANCIN' MSTR **(To the Dancers)** Ready, dancers, with solemnity...

Begin. Let's go dancers, up tempo. Solemnly, now, for the

saraband. And now, the bourree. Cheerfully, now, for the

gaillarde. And now to conclude with the glorious Canarian

air.

**\* This song becomes excessively tedious if sung in its entirety. For this**

**reason, the Comedie Francaise sings an abbreviated version. My translation**

**limits itself to the excerpts sung by the Comedie Francaise and can be sung**

**to the music. Attention to meter and rhyme necessitated some slight liberties**

**with meaning.**

**ACT II**

**Scene 1: Mr Jourdain, Music Master, Dancing Mstr, Lackeys**

MR JOURDAIN That was no stupid thing they just did. Those fellows

really know how to flap about.

DANCIN' MSTR The dance will be all the more impressive once its

blended with the music and, in the little ballet that we have

prepared for you, you will see something truly elegant.

MR JOURDAIN That's for a little later, and the person that I'm having all

this done for is to do me the honor of coming here for

dinner.

DANCIN' MSTR All is in readiness.

MUSIC MASTER May I add, sir, that this is inadequate. A person with

your sumptuous tastes and refined inclinations should hold

concerts at his residence every Wednesday and Thursday.

MR JOURDAIN Do the people of quality hold them?

MUSIC MASTER Yes, sir.

MR JOURDAIN So then shall I. Will they be beautiful?

MUSIC MASTER Without a doubt. You will need three voices: a treble, a

counter tenor, and a bass, which will be accompanied by a

bass viol, a theorbolute, and a harpsichord for the sustained

bass, and finally two violins for the ritournelles.

MR JOURDAIN You must also add a trumpet marine. Now there's an

instrument that really pleases me, and that is very

harmonious.

MUSIC MASTER Leave those matters to us, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Well, anyway, don't forget to send me the musicians who

are to sing at the table.

MUSIC MASTER You will have everything you need.

MR JOURDAIN But above all, make sure the ballet is beautiful.

DANCIN' MSTR Everything will be as you like it including among other

things, certain minuets that you shall see.

MR JOURDAIN Ah! The minuet is my dance! I want you to see me dance

it. Let's do it, master.

DANCIN' MSTR A hat, sir, if you please.

**Mr Jourdain takes the hat off his Lackey's head and wears it over his**

**nightcap. The Dancing Mstr takes Mr Jourdain's hand and sings the**

**melody to a Minuet to which he makes his student dance.**

DANCIN' MSTR La la la... Watch the cadence, if you please. La la la... Lift

the right leg La la laYTry not to move your shoulder so

muchY La la la... Don't hold your arms so rigidly...

La la la... Lift up your head... Kindly turn out your toes;

don't turn them in... La la la... Hold your body straight...

MR JOURDAIN Aha?

MUSIC MASTER A matchless performance!

MR JOURDAIN That reminds me; teach me how I should bow when

greeting a marchioness, for I shall soon have need to know.

DANCIN' MSTR How to bow when greeting a marchioness?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, a marchioness by the name of Dorimene.

DANCIN' MSTR Give me your hand.

MR JOURDAIN No, you just have to do it. I'll remember it.

DANCIN' MSTR Well, if you wish to greet her with great respect, you must

bow once and fall back; then, advancing towards her, you

make three more bows bending down to her knees on the

last one.

MR JOURDAIN Let's see you do it.

**The Dancing Mstr takes the three bows.**

MR JOURDAIN Good!

1ST LACKEY (Entering) Sir, your fencing master is here.

MR JOURDAIN Have him come in and give me my lesson. **(To the Music**

**Master and Dancing Mstr)** I'd like you to watch me at

this.

**Scene 3: Mr Jourdain, Dancing Mstr, Music Master, Fencing Mstr, 1st**

**Lackey.**

FENCIN' MSTR **(Taking two foils from the Lackey and handing one to**

**Mr. Jourdain)** Let's begin, sir, with the salute. Your body

erect, leaning slightly upon the left thigh. Your legs not so

far apart. Your wrist opposite your hip. The tip of your

sword at shoulder level. Your arm not quite so extended.

Your left hand at eye level. Angle your shoulder more.

Your head up. Assume a look of confidence. Advance.

Your body steady. Hit me in quart and follow through. One,

two. Recover. Once again, steadily. One, two. Jump backwards.

When you thrust, sir, you must disengage your

sword first and then have your body lean into that attack.

One, two. Let's go. Hit me in tierce and follow through.

Advance. Thrust from there. One, two. Recover. Once

more. One, two. Jump backwards. (He scores two or three

touches as he calls out.) On guard, sir. On guard!

MR JOURDAIN Aha!

MUSIC MASTER You're doing marvelously.

FENCIN' MSTR As I have already told you, the whole secret of fencing

consists of two things: to give and not to receive, and, as I

showed you the other day by means of demonstrative

reasoning, it is impossible to receive if you know how to

deflect the sword of your adversary from the line of your

body. This can be accomplished quite simply by a slight

movement of the wrist either inward or outward.

MR JOURDAIN In this way, therefore, a man of little courage can be sure

to kill without being killed himself?

FENCIN' MSTR Without a doubt. Did you not see the demonstration?

MR JOURDAIN Yes.

FENCIN' MSTR And from this you can see the basis for the esteem that the

state must bestow upon the men of our profession, and why

the science of arms is so vastly superior to all the useless

sciences such as dancing, music andY

DANCIN' MSTR Easy does it, my good fencing master. I'll have you speak

more respectfully of dancing.

MUSIC MASTER I'll thank you, sir, not to abuse the excellence of music.

FENCIN' MSTR I find you both very laughable in your wish to compare

your sciences to mine.

DANCIN' MSTR Behold the man of importance.

MUSIC MASTER Behold the funny animal with his plas-tron!

FENCIN' MSTR My little dancing master, I'm going to teach you some

very fancy steps; and you, my little musician, are going to

have some very pretty tunes sliced out of you.

DANCIN' MSTR I'll teach you your own trade, swashbuckler!

MR JOURDAIN **(To Dancing Mstr)** Are you mad, quarreling with

someone who understands tierce and quart, and who knows

how to kill a man by demonstrative reasoning?

DANCIN' MSTR I scoff at his demonstrative reasoning and at his tierce

and his quart!

MR JOURDAIN **(To the Dancing Mstr)** Gently, I say!

FENCIN' MSTR **(To Dancing Mstr)** How's that? You impertinent dwarf!

MR JOURDAIN Oh! My fencing master...!

DANCIN' MSTR **(To Fencing Mstr)** How's that? You bulky drayhorse!

MR JOURDAIN Oh! My dancing master...!

FENCIN' MSTR If I go after you...

MR JOURDAIN **(To Fencing Master)** Gently!

DANCIN' MSTR If I lay my hands on you...

MR JOURDAIN **(To Dancing Mstr)** Easy now!

FENCIN' MSTR I'll slice you in such a way...

MR JOURDAIN **(To Fencing Mstr)** Please...!

DANCIN' MSTR I'll thrash you so that you...

MR JOURDAIN **(To Dancing Mstr)** I beg you...

MUSIC MASTER **(To Dancing Mstr)** Let's teach him how to speak.

MR JOURDAIN **(To Music Master)** Good heavens! Stop this!

**Scene 4: Mr Jourdain, Dancing Mstr, Music Master, Fencing Mstr,**

**Philosophy Mstr, Two Lackeys**

MR JOURDAIN **(As Philosophy Mstr enters)** Hello, my dear

philosopher! You arrived in the nick of time with your

philosophy. Come here and make these people stop

fighting.

PHLSPHY MSTR What is it? What is the problem, gentlemen?

MR JOURDAIN Each of them is arguing about the superiority of his

profession to the point where they're insulting each other

and threatening to come to blows.

PHLSPHY MSTR Come now, gentlemen, Must you allow yourselves to be

carried away by such passion? Haven't you read Seneca's

learned treatise on anger? Is there anything more base and

shameful than this passion which turns man into a

ferocious beast? And must not our behavior be ever subject

to the dictates of reason?

DANCIN' MSTR Indeed, sir, he has been offending both of us with his

slurs on dancing which is my profession, and music, the

specialty of my colleague here.

PHLSPHY MSTR A man of wisdom is above all the insults directed

towards him, and the best answer to an offense is

moderation and patience.

FENCIN' MSTR They both had the audacity to want to compare their

professions with mine.

PHLSPHY MSTR Must you let that disturb you? Men should never fight

over vainglory and rank, for the only true distinguishing

attributes of mankind are wisdom and virtue.

DANCIN' MSTR I'll have him know that dancing is a science to which one

could never pay sufficient homage.

MUSIC MASTER And for my part let him know that music is a science

that has been revered throughout the centuries.

FENCIN' MSTR And I assert to both of them that the science of arms is the

most beautiful and most necessary of all sciences.

PHLSPHY MSTR And just where does that leave philosophy? How dare

the three of you address me with such arrogance, and give

shamelessly the name of science to things that don't even

merit the name of art, and that can only be classified under

the shabby titles of gladiator, singer and mountebank?

FENCIN' MSTR Be gone, you mongrel of a philosopher!

MUSIC MASTER Be gone, you pedant good for nothing!

DANCIN' MSTR Be gone, you pompous pedagogue!

PHLSPHY MSTR How's that? Scoundrels that you are...!

**The Philosophy Master lunges at them as the Dancing, Music and Fencing**

**Masters beat him.**

MR JOURDAIN My learned philosopher!

FENCIN' MSTR A plague on the animal!

MR JOURDAIN Gentlemen!

PHLSPHY MSTR Impudent dogs!

MR JOURDAIN My learned philosopher!

DANCIN' MSTR To blazes with the pompous ass!

MR JOURDAIN Gentlemen!

PHLSPHY MSTR Villains!

MR JOURDAIN My learned philosopher!

MUSIC MASTER The devil take the impertinent runt!

MR JOURDAIN Gentlemen!

PHLSPHY MSTR Knaves! Tramps! Traitors! Impostors!

MR JOURDAIN My learned philosopher! Gentlemen! My learned

philosopher! Gentlemen!

**All the Masters exit fighting.**

MR JOURDAINOh, fight on as you will; there's nothing I can do about it,

and I'm not going to spoil my robe trying to keep you apart.

I'd be crazy to butt into that and chance getting myself hurt.

**Scene 5: Philosophy MSTR, Mr Jourdain, Two Lackeys**

PHLSPHY MSTR **(Straightening his collar and regaining his**

**composure)** And, now to our lesson.

MR JOURDAIN Ah, sir! I am sorely distressed by the beating they gave

you.

PHLSPHY MSTR That was nothing. A philosopher knows how to take

things as they come and I'm going to compose a satire in

the style of Juvenal that will cut them most splendidly to

shreds. But enough of that. What is it that you wish to

learn?

MR JOURDAIN As much as I can for I have the most burning desire to be

learned, and I am extremely angry with my parents for not

making me study all the sciences when I was young.

PHLSPHY MSTR A most reasonable sentiment. Nam sine doctrina vita est

quasi mortis imago. You understand that... You know Latin,

of course?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, but let's make believe I don't. Tell me what it means.

PHLSPHY MSTR That means that without science life is practically an

image of death.

MR JOURDAIN That Latin is right.

PHLSPHY MSTR Are you familiar with any of the principles or

fundamentals of the various sciences?

MR JOURDAIN Oh yes. I know how to read and write.

PHLSPHY MSTR Where would you like us to begin? Do you want me to

teach you logic?

MR JOURDAIN What's logic?

PHLSPHY MSTR It is logic that teaches the three operations of the mind.

MR JOURDAIN And what are they, these three operations of the mind?

PHLSPHY MSTR The first, the second and the third. The first is to

conceive properly by means of universals; the second is to

judge properly by means of categories; and the third is to

draw the correct conclusion by means of the figures

Barbara, Celarent, Darii, Ferio, Baralipton, and so forth.

MR JOURDAIN Those words are much too unlovely. I don't find that logic

very nice. Let's learn something more pretty.

PHLSPHY MSTR Would you care to learn ethics?

MR JOURDAIN Ethics?

PHLSPHY MSTR Yes.

MR JOURDAIN What does it have to say, this ethics?

PHLSPHY MSTR It deals with happiness, teaches men to moderate their

passions and...

MR JOURDAIN Oh, no! I'll have none of that! I'm as bilious as the devil,

and no ethics is going to deny me my bellyful of passion

when I feel like it.

PHLSPHY MSTR Is it physics that you want to learn?

MR JOURDAIN Physics? What's that about?

PHLSPHY MSTR It is physics that explains the principles of natural things

and the properties of the bodies, that discusses the nature of

the elements metals, minerals, rocks, plants, and animals,

and teaches us the causes of all the meteors, rainbows,

will o the wisps, comets, lightning flashes, thunderclaps,

thunderbolts, rainfalls, snowfalls, hailstorms, winds, and

whirlwinds.

MR JOURDAIN There's too much hurly burly in all that, too much

confusion.

PHLSPHY MSTR What is it then that you want me to teach you?

MR JOURDAIN Teach me how to spell.

PHLSPHY MSTR With pleasure.

MR JOURDAIN Afterwards, you will teach me the almanac, so that I'll

know when there's a moon and when there isn't.

PHLSPHY MSTR So be it. However, to pursue your idea properly, and to

treat this matter as a philosopher, I must proceed according

to the order of things and begin by developing a precise

understanding of the nature of the French letters and of the

different way each is pronounced; and accordingly, I must

tell you that the letters are divided into vowels...so called

because they express the voice, and into the consonants...

so called because they sound with the vowels and

function only to mark the various articulations of the voice.

There are five French vowels: A, E, I, O, U.

MR JOURDAINI understand all that.

PHLSPHY MSTR The vowel A is pronounced by opening the mouth

wide...A, A.

MR JOURDAIN A, A. Yes.

PHLSPHY MSTR The vowel E is pronounced by bringing the upper and

lower jaws closer together...A, E.

MR JOURDAIN A, E. A, E. Good heavens! Yes! Oh, how beautiful that is.

PHLSPHY MSTR And the vowel I by bringing the jaws even closer tog

ether and drawing back the corners of the mouth towards

the ear...A, E, I.

MR JOURDAIN A, E, I, I, I, I, I. That's true! Long live science!

PHLSPHY MSTR The vowel O is formed by re opening the jaws and

drawing the upper and lower lips close to each other at the

corners: O

MR JOURDAIN O, O. Nothing could be more true. A, E, I, O, I, O. That's

really admirable! I, O. I, O.

PHLSPHY MSTR The overture of the mouth forms an actual circle that

represents an O.

MR JOURDAIN O, O, O. You're right! Oh, what a beautiful thing it is to

know something!

PHLSPHY MSTR The vowel U is formed by bringing the teeth together

without clenching them entirely, and extending the lips

forward, drawing them close to each other but without

having them meet: U

MR JOURDAIN U, U. You're absolutely right! U!

PHLSPHY MSTR Your lips should protrude as if you were pouting;

therefore, when you wish to ridicule someone, all you have

to do is say U.

MR JOURDAIN U, U. That's true! Ah, why did I not study sooner so that I

might know all this?

PHLSPHY MSTR Tomorrow we shall discuss the other letters which are

the consonants.

MR JOURDAIN Are there as many curious things about them as there are

in these?

PHLSPHY MSTR To be sure. The consonant D, for example, is

pronounced by placing the tip of your tongue above the

upper teeth: Da.

MR JOURDAIN Da, Da.. Yes! Ah, what beautiful things! What beautiful

things!

PHLSPHY MSTR The F by pressing the upper teeth against the lower lip:

fa.

MR JOURDAIN Fa, Fa. That's true! Ah, father and mother of mine, how

mad I am at you!

PHLSPHY MSTR And the R by curling the tip of the tongue back against

the high point of the palate so that, being brushed by the air

that escapes forcefully, the tongue yields and snaps back to

its original position making a kind of trill: R R R Ra.

MR JOURDAIN R R R Ra. R R R Ra. That's true! Oh, what a clever man

you are! And how much time I have wasted! R R R Ra

PHLSPHY MSTR I will explain all these curiosities to you in depth.

MR JOURDAIN Pray, do. Moreover, I must tell you a secret. I am in love

with a person of very high quality and I would like you to

help me write something to her in a short letter that I would

drop at her feet.

PHLSPHY MSTR Very well.

MR JOURDAIN That will be very gallant, right?

PHLSPHY MSTR To be sure. Do you wish to write to her in verse?

MR JOURDAIN No, no. No verse.

PHLSPHY MSTR Then you only want prose?

MR JOURDAIN No, I want neither prose nor verse.

PHLSPHY MSTR But it's got to be one or the other, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Why?

PHLSPHY MSTR For the simple reason, sir, that one can only express

one's self in prose or in verse.

MR JOURDAIN Is there nothing then but prose or verse?

PHLSPHY MSTR No, sir. All that is not prose is verse, and all that is not

verse is prose.

MR JOURDAIN And when one speaks, what's that?

PHLSPHY MSTR Prose.

MR JOURDAIN How's that? When I say: "Nicole, bring me my slippers

and give me my nightcap," that's prose?

PHLSPHY MSTR Yes, sir.

MR JOURDAIN By Jupiter! I've been speaking prose for forty years

without even knowing it, and I am greatly obliged to you

for having taught me that. I would like you to put in the

letter: "Beautiful marchioness, your beautiful eyes make

me die of love;" but I would like that to be said in a gallant

fashion, and that it have a more genteel turn.

PHLSPHY MSTR Say that the fire of her eyes reduces your heart to ashes;

that you suffer day and night from the throes of a...

MR JOURDAIN No, no, no. I don't want all that. I only want what I said to

you: "Beautiful marchioness, your beautiful eyes make me

die of love."

PHLSPHY MSTR But you must expand on that a bit.

MR JOURDAIN No, I tell you, those are the only words I want in the letter

but phrased in style and with a proper arrangement. I

beseech you to show me the various ways they can be put.

PHLSPHY MSTR Well, first of all, they can be arranged as you said:

"Beautiful marchioness, your beautiful eyes make me die

of love." Or: "Of love they make me die, beautiful

marchioness, your beautiful eyes." Or: "Your beautiful eyes

of love they make me, beautiful marchioness, die." Or:

"Die your beautiful eyes, beautiful marchioness, of love

they make me." Or: "They make me your beautiful eyes

die, beautiful marchioness, of love." Or:Y

MR JOURDAIN But of all those ways, which is the best?

PHLSPHY MSTR They way you said it: "Beautiful marchioness, your

beautiful eyes make me die of love."

MR JOURDAIN I have never studied and I got that with the first try. I

thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I beseech you

to come early tomorrow.

PHLSPHY MSTR I shall not fail to do so. Remember now: Fa Fa Fa. (He

exits)

MR JOURDAIN (To 1st Lackey) How's that? My coat hasn't arrived yet?

1ST LACKEY No, sir.

MR JOURDAIN That blasted tailor makes me wait on a day when I have so

many things to do. I'm boiling with rage! May the quartan

fever strangle that wretched tailor! The devil take that

tailor! The plague choke that tailor! If I had my hands on

him now, that hateful tailor, that mongrel of a tailor, that

treacherous tailor, I'dY

Scene 6: Mr Jourdain, Master Tailor, Apprentice Tailor (carrying coat),

Lackey

MR JOURDAIN Ah, there you are! I was about to get mad at you.

MSTR TAILOR I was unable to come sooner, and I had twenty people

working on your outfit.

MR JOURDAIN The silk stockings that you sent me were so tight that I

had a devil of a time trying to put them on, and there are

already two runs in them.

MSTR TAILOR They'll stretch easily.

MR JOURDAIN Of course, they will if I keep getting runs; and these shoes

you made me are hurting me ferociously.

MSTR TAILOR Not at all, sir.

MR JOURDAIN What do you mean, not at all?

MSTR TAILOR No, they don't hurt you at all.

MR JOURDAIN I tell you they are hurting me!

MSTR TAILOR You're just imagining that.

MR JOURDAIN Imagine it because I feel it. That's why!

MSTR TAILOR Hold on, sir. Behold the most beautiful and best matched

coat in all the court. To design a sedate outfit without using

black is a true work of art, and I'd venture that your most

gifted tailors in court wouldn't do as well had they six tries

at it.

MR JOURDAIN What the deuce is this? You've got the flowers upside

down.

MSTR TAILOR You never told me, did you, that you wanted them right

side up?

MR JOURDAIN Did I have to tell you that?

MSTR TAILOR Yes, indeed. All the people of quality wear them thus.

MR JOURDAIN People of quality wear them upside down?

MSTR TAILOR Yes, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Oh, well, in that case, I guess it's all right.

MSTR TAILOR If you wish, I'll put them right side up.

MR JOURDAIN No, no.

MSTR TAILOR You just have to say the word.

MR JOURDAIN No, I tell you, you did the right thing. Do you think the

outfit will look well on me?

MSTR TAILOR What a question! I'll defy any painter with his brush to do

better. I have an apprentice at my place who is the greatest

genius in the world when it comes to making breeches, and

I have another whose talent for doublets makes him the

hero of our time.

MR JOURDAIN Are the wig and plumes as they should be?

MSTR TAILOR Everything is just right.

MR JOURDAIN (Looking at the coat) Aha, my dear tailor, this is

something you made from the material of my last outfit. I

recognize it.

MSTR TAILOR Well, sir, the fact is that the material seemed so beautiful to

me that I felt like using it to cut out a coat for myself.

Would you like to try on your outfit?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, give it to me.

MSTR TAILOR Wait. That's not the way it's done. I have brought some

people who will dress you to music. Clothes like these

must be put on with ceremony. You there! Enter. Dress the

gentleman as you do for people of quality.

Four Apprentices enter and two of them remove his exercise breeches while

the other two remove his spencer. Then they put on his new

outfit. Mr. Jourdain walks among them showing them his

outfit to see if it's all right This is all done with orchestral

accompaniment.

APPRENTICE My Gentleman, may I request a gratuity for the apprentices?

MR JOURDAIN What did you call me?

APPRENTICE My Gentleman.

MR JOURDAIN "My gentleman?" This is what it's like to dress a person of

quality. Go about dressed as a bourgeois and you'd never

anyone say to you: "My Gentleman."

He hands the Apprentice Tailor some money.

APPRENTICE Your Lordship, we are deeply obliged.

MR JOURDAIN "Your lordship!" Hoho! "Your lordship!" Hold on, my

friend. "Your lordship" deserves something, and those are

no little words, "Your lordship." Here you are, that's what

your lordship gives you. He hands out more money.

APPRENTICE Your lordship, we shall all drink to the health of your Grace.

MR JOURDAIN "Your Grace!" Oh! Oh! Oh! Wait. Don't leave. "Your

Grace" to me! (Aside) Good heavens, if he goes as far as

Your Highness, he'll have my entire purse. (Aloud as he

hands out more money) Here you are. That's for "My

Grace."

APPRENTICE We thank his Lordship most humbly for his generosity.

MR JOURDAIN A good thing he stopped for I was about to give him

everything.

**The four Apprentice Tailors express their joy with a dance upon their**

**exit.**

**ACT III**

**Scene 1: Mr Jourdain, Nicole, Two Lackeys**

MR JOURDAIN Follow me as I walk about town to show my new outfit;

and take special care, both of you, to stay close behind me

so that everyone will know that you are mine.

LACKEYS Yes, sir.

MR JOURDAIN Call Nicole for me. I have to give her some orders. Don't

bother. There she is... Nicole!

NICOLE What is it?

MR JOURDAIN Listen.

NICOLE Hahahahaha.

MR JOURDAIN What are you laughing at?

NICOLE Hahahahaha.

MR JOURDAIN What's that hussy up to?

NICOLE Hahaha... Oh, my, don't you look dandy! Hahaha.

MR JOURDAIN What's that?

NICOLE Hoho... Saints above! Hahahaha...

MR JOURDAIN Little vixen that you are, are you making fun of me?

NICOLE Oh, no sir. I'd just feel awful if I didY Hahahaha

MR JOURDAIN I'll punch you in the nose if you laugh anymore.

NICOLE Sir, I can't help itY Hahahaha

MR JOURDAIN You won't stop?

NICOLE Sir, please forgive me, but you look so funny that I can't keep

from laughing... Hahahaha...

MR JOURDAIN Did you ever see such insolence?

NICOLE You couldn't look more funny if you triedY Hahaha

MR JOURDAIN I'llY

NICOLE Please excuse me, sirY Hahahahaha

MR JOURDAIN See here, if I hear the slightest titter out of you, I'm going

to give you the biggest slap that was ever given.

NICOLE Very good, sir. It'sY finishedY I won't laugh anymoreYheheh

MR JOURDAIN See that you don't. Now in preparation for later on, you

must cleanY

NICOLE Hahahaha...

MR JOURDAIN You must clean thoroughly...

NICOLE Hahahahaha...

MR JOURDAIN I say that you must clean the parlor andY

NICOLE HahahahahaY

MR JOURDAIN Again!

NICOLE **(Crumbling with laughter)** Go to it, sir. I=d rather you hit me

and let me laugh my bellyful. I=d be better for it.

HahahahaY

MR JOURDAIN This is too much!

NICOLE For mercy=s sake, sir, please let me laughY HahahaY

MR JOURDAIN If I lay my hands on youY

NICOLE Sir, I shall split my sides if I don=t laughY hahaha

MR JOURDAIN Did you ever see such a brazen female who laughs in my

face instead of taking orders?

NICOLE What do you want me to do, sir?

MR JOURDAIN I want you to think about preparing the house for the

company that will be arriving soon.

NICOLE By the saints, sir, I don=t feel like laughing anymore. All that

company of yours makes such a mess around here that all it

takes to put me in a bad mood is to hear mention of it.

MR JOURDAIN Perhaps for your sake I ought to shut the house up to

everyone?

NICOLE No, sir, not to everyone; just to certain people.

**Scene 3: Mr Jourdain, Nicole, Mrs. Jourdain, Two Lackeys**

MRS JOURDAIN Aha! Here's a new kettle of fish! What kind of a get up is

that? Do you care that little about what people will think to

deck yourself out like that? Do you really want to be the

laughing stock wherever you go?

MR JOURDAIN Only the fools will laugh at me, dear wife.

MRS JOURDAIN Well, they've already started. In fact, your peculiar ways

have been making people laugh for quite some time now.

MR JOURDAIN And just who are these people, if you please?

MRS JOURDAIN People who are right and who have more sense than you.

For my part, I am scandalized by the life you are leading. I

don't know what's become of our house. You'd think we

were having daily carnivals here. And just so there'll be no

let up, we disturb the entire neighborhood with early

morning screeching of fiddlers and singers.

NICOLE Madame speaks the truth, sir. I'll never be able to keep a clean

house with that bunch of people you have coming here.

They have feet that look for mud in all sections of town just

to bring it here; and poor Francoise has just about worn

himself out scrubbing the floors that your fancy masters

dirty regularly every day.

MR JOURDAIN Hold on there, our servant Nicole, you've got a pretty

sharp tongue for a peasant girl.

MRS JOURDAIN Nicole is right, and she's got more sense than you. I'd

like to know what you expect to do with a dancing master

at your age?

NICOLEAnd with a fencing master whose foot stomping shakes the whole

house and uproots the tiles of the parlor floor.

MR JOURDAIN Be quiet, my servant and my wife.

MRS JOURDAIN Do you want to learn how to dance for the time when

your legs give out?

NICOLE Do you have a notion to kill someone?

MR JOURDAIN Be still, I tell you! You're ignorant creatures, the both of

you, and you don't know the advantages of all that.

MRS JOURDAIN You ought to be thinking instead about marrying off

your daughter who is of age now.

MR JOURDAIN I'll think about marrying off my daughter when the right

party comes along; but I also want to think about learning

the finer things.

NICOLE I also heard, madame, that he hired today, to top it all, a

philosophy master.

MR JOURDAIN That's right. I want to be learned and to know how to

reason about things with people of culture.

MRS JOURDAIN Soon you'll be going to the lycee for a whipping, at your

age.

MR JOURDAIN And why not? Would to heaven I be whipped right now in

front of everyone and knew what they teach at the lycee.

MRS JOURDAIN Oh, yes indeed, a lot of good that will do you.

MR JOURDAIN To be sure.

MRS JOURDAIN You really need all that to run your household.

MR JOURDAIN Certainly. Both of you are talking like imbeciles, and your

ignorance makes me ashamed. (To Mrs Jourdain) For

example, do you happen to know what you're speaking

right now?

MRS JOURDAIN Yes, I know that what I'm saying is right and that you

ought to be thinking about another way of life.

MR JOURDAIN I'm not talking about that, I tell you. I'm asking you: what

I am speaking with you and what I am saying to you now;

what is it?

MRS JOURDAIN Nonsense.

MR JOURDAIN No, no. It's not that. What both of us are saying, the form

of language we are using this instant.

MRS JOURDAIN Well, what about it?

MR JOURDAIN What is that called?

MRS JOURDAIN That's called whatever one wants to call it.

MR JOURDAIN That's prose, imbecile!

MRS JOURDAIN Prose?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, prose. All that prose is not verse, and all that verse is

not prose. So there! That's what studying is all about. (To

Nicole) And you, do you know what you have to do to say

U?

NICOLE What?

MR JOURDAIN Go ahead. Say U and see.

NICOLE All right, U.

MR JOURDAIN Yes, but when you say U, what are you doing?

NICOLE I'm doing what you tell me to do.

MR JOURDAIN Oh, how strange it is to have to deal with simpletons! You

extend the lips forward, and you bring the upper and lower

jaws close together; U, do you see? I'm pouting: U.

NICOLE Oh, yes, that's just dandy.

MRS JOURDAIN Now isn't that admirable.

MR JOURDAIN Other things are completely different. If only you had

seen O, and DA, DA, and FA, FA.

MRS JOURDAIN What's all that gibberish?

NICOLE What's all that going to get you?

MR JOURDAIN Seeing ignorant females drives me mad.

MRS JOURDAIN Go on, you ought to send all those people packing with

their stuff and nonsense.

NICOLE And especially that lout of a fencing master who fills the house

with dust.

MR JOURDAIN Aha! That fencing master really grates you. I'm going to

show you now just how impertinent you really are. **(He**

**calls for the foils and gives one to Nicole.)** Now then,

demonstrative reasoning, the line of the body. When you

push in quart, you have only to do this; when you push in

tierce, you just have to do that. In that way you'll never get

killed. Isn't it nice to be so sure of things when you're

fighting someone? Here, I'll show you. Make a few thrusts

at me.

NICOLE Very well, like this? **(Nicole makes several thrusts at him.)**

MR JOURDAIN Gently now! Oh! Easy does it! A plague on the little

vixen!

NICOLE You told me to thrust.

MR JOURDAIN Yes, but you're thrusting in tierce before thrusting quart,

and you're not giving me the chance to parry.

MRS JOURDAIN You are mad, my husband, with all your silly notions and

you've been acting like this since you started mixing with

the nobility.

MR JOURDAIN When I mix with the nobility I show my sound judgment,

and it's much better than mixing with your common folk.

MRS JOURDAIN Oh, yes indeed. There's a great deal to be gained by

keeping such fancy company; and you've been acting very

smart with that fine count of yours whose got you so

bamboozled.

MR JOURDAIN Quiet! Think about what you're saying. Do you realize,

my dear wife, who it is you're talking about when you

speak of him. He's a person of much greater importance

than you might think...a lord of great esteem at court, who

speaks to the king just like I speak to you. Don't you

consider it a great honor for me that a person of such

quality be seen coming to my house so often, and that he

call me his dear friend and treat me as if I was his equal?

You could never imagine how kind he's been to me and

how he has overwhelmed me by the compliments he has

paid me in front of everyone.

MRS JOURDAIN Oh yes, he's nice to you and pays you compliments as he

borrows your money.

MR JOURDAIN Indeed! Isn't it an honor for me to loan money to a man of

such rank? And could I do any less for a lord who calls me

his dear friend?

MRS JOURDAIN And this lord, what does he do for you?

MR JOURDAIN Things that would astonish you if you knew.

MRS JOURDAIN How's that?

MR JOURDAIN Enough. I can't explain that. All you have to know is that,

if I loaned him money, he'll return it to me and soon.

MRS JOURDAIN Yes, wait for that.

MR JOURDAIN Certainly. Didn't he tell me so?

MRS JOURDAIN Yes, yes, he won't fail to fail to do so.

MR JOURDAIN He gave me his word as a gentleman.

MRS JOURDAIN Fiddlesticks!

MR JOURDAIN Ah! But you're a stubborn one, my dear wife. I tell you

he'll keep his word; I'm sure of it.

MRS JOURDAIN And I'm quite sure that he won't, and that all those

compliments are to puff you up.

MR JOURDAIN Hold your tongue. Here he comes.

MRS JOURDAIN That's all we need now. He's here perhaps to borrow

some more money from you. Just the sight of him turns my

stomach.

MR JOURDAIN Quiet, I say!

**Scene 4: Mr Jourdain, Mrs Jourdain, Nicole, Dorante**

DORANTE My dear friend, Mr Jourdain, how are you?

MR JOURDAIN Well enough, sir, to render you whatever service I may.

DORANTE And, Mrs Jourdain there, how is she?

MR JOURDAIN Mrs Jourdain is doing as well as she can.

DORANTE My, my, Mr Jourdain! Your attire is absolutely matchless!

MR JOURDAIN As you see.

DORANTE You look thoroughly striking in that outfit, and there's not a

gentleman at court that could top you.

MR JOURDAIN Aha!

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside) He scratches him where he itches.

DORANTE Good heavens, Mr Jourdain, I could hardly wait to see you. I

respect you more than any man in the world, and I was

discussing you again this morning in the king's chambers.

MR JOURDAIN You do me too much honor, sir. (To Mrs Jourdain) In the

king's chambers!

DORANTE Come now, put your hat on.

MR JOURDAIN Sir, I know the respect that I owe you.

DORANTE Good Lord, put it on. Let's not stand on ceremony, I beseech

you.

MR JOURDAIN SirY

DORANTE Put it on, I say, Mr. Jourdain; you are my friend.

MR JOURDAIN Sir, I am your servant.

DORANTE I'll not put my hat on unless you put on yours.

MR JOURDAIN (Putting on his hat) I would rather be unmannerly than

bothersome.

DORANTE (Aside) I am your debtor, you know.

MRS JOURDAIN Yes, we know only too well.

DORANTE You have generously loaned me money on several occasions,

and you have obliged me in what is certainly the most

gracious of manners.

MR JOURDAIN You jest, sir.

DORANTE But I know how to acknowledge favors, and repay what is

loaned.

MR JOURDAIN I have no doubts about that, sir.

DORANTE I'd like to settle our account, and I am here so that we might

work it out together.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside, softly, to Mrs Jourdain)** There! Do you see your

impertinence, wife?

DORANTE I am a man who likes to discharge his debts as soon as

possible.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside, softly, to Mrs Jourdain)** I told you!

DORANTE Let's see how much I owe you.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside, softly, to Mrs Jourdain)** You and your ridiculous

suspicions!

DORANTE Do you remember the total amount of money you loaned me?

MR JOURDAIN I believe so. I've kept a little memorandum. Here it is. On

one occasion I gave you two hundred louis d'or.

DORANTE That is true.

MR JOURDAIN Another time. Six score.

DORANTE Yes.

MR JOURDAIN And once, one hundred and forty.

DORANTE You're right.

MR JOURDAIN These three items amount to four hundred and sixty louis

which comes to five thousand and sixty francs.

DORANTE Your figures are correct. Five thousand and sixty francs.

MR JOURDAIN One thousand thirty two francs to your plume merchant.

DORANTE Exactly.

MR JOURDAIN Two thousand eighty francs to your tailor.

DORANTE That is true.

MR JOURDAIN Four thousand three hundred and seventy nine francs,

twelve sous and eight deniers to your cloth merchant.

DORANTE Very good. Twelve thousand and eight deniers. The account is

accurate.

MR JOURDAIN And one thousand seven hundred forty-eight francs, seven

sous and four deniers to your saddler.

DORANTE All true. What does that come to?

MR JOURDAIN Sum total: Fifteen thousand and eight-hundred francs.

DORANTE The sum total is exact. Fifteen thousand and eight hundred

francs. Add to that the two hundred pistoles that you are

going to give me, and that will make exactly sixteen

thousand francs that I will pay the first chance I get.

MRS JOURDAIN **(Aside to Mr Jourdain)** There. Didn't I tell you?

MR JOURDAIN Hush!

DORANTE Loaning me that sum won't put you out, I hope.

MR JOURDAIN Oh, no!

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside to Mr Jourdain) That man is milking you dry.

MR JOURDAIN Hold your tongue!

DORANTE If that would inconvenience you, I could go elsewhere.

MR JOURDAIN No, sir.

MRS JOURDAIN He won't be happy until he's put you in the poorhouse.

MR JOURDAIN Quiet, I say.

DORANTE You have only to say that this would cause the slightest

difficulty.

MR JOURDAIN Not at all, sir.

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside) What a cajoler!

MR JOURDAIN Keep quiet!

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside) He'll drain the last sou out of you.

MR JOURDAIN (Aside) Will you be still?

DORANTE I have several people who would gladly oblige me, but since

you are my best friend, I felt that asking anyone else would

be an injustice to you.

MR JOURDAIN You do me too much honor, sir. I shall go fetch what you

need.

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside) What? You're going to give him that too?

MR JOURDAIN (Aside) What can I do? Do you expect me to refuse a man

of such rank, a man who only this morning spoke of me in

the king's chambers?

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside) Off with you; you're a born dupe.

**Scene 5: Dorante, Mrs Jourdain, Nicole**

DORANTE You are sad of countenance; what can be the matter, Mrs.

Jourdain?

MRS JOURDAIN My head may not be swelled up but it's still larger than

my fist.

DORANTE Where is your daughter? I don't see her.

MRS JOURDAIN My daughter is doing quite nicely where she is.

DORANTE How is she getting along?

MRS JOURDAIN On her two legs.

DORANTE Wouldn't you like to come with her one of these days to the

ballet or comedy theater at court?

MRS JOURDAIN Yes, indeed, we really feel like laughing. Don't we ever

feel like laughing?

DORANTE I imagine, Mrs Jourdain, that you had many suitors in your

younger days, being as beautiful and sweetly humored as

you were.

MRS JOURDAIN Indeed, sir! Has Mrs Jourdain grown decrepit, and does

she have the shakes already?

DORANTE Ah! In faith, Mrs. Jourdain, I beg your pardon. It did not occur

to me that you are young; I am absent of mind more than

not, and I beseech you to forgive my impertinence.

**Scene 6: Mr Jourdain, Mrs Jourdain, Dorante, Nicole**

MR JOURDAIN Here are two hundred louis d'or in exact count.

DORANTE I assure you, Mr. Jourdain, that I am completely at your

disposal, and that I am most eager to be of service to you at

court.

MR JOURDAIN I am much obliged, Sir.

DORANTE If Mrs. Jourdain wishes to see the royal entertainment, I'll get

her the best seats in the house.

MRS JOURDAIN Mrs. Jourdain kisses your hand.

DORANTE **(Aside to Mr Jourdain)** As I advised you in my letter, our

beautiful marchioness will be here soon for the ballet and

dinner; I finally got her to agree to attend the

divertissement you're planning in her honor.

MR JOURDAIN Let's move off a bit, for obvious reasons.

**They move to one side of the stage.**

DORANTE It's been eight days since our last meeting, and I have not sent

you news about the diamond you gave me which I was to

present to her as a gift from you; but the fact is that I had a

devil of a time overcoming her scruples, and it was only

today that she agreed to accept it.

MR JOURDAIN How did she like it?

DORANTE She loved it! And, unless I'm sadly mistaken, the beauty of that

diamond will have a very favorable effect on her feelings

towards you.

MR JOURDAIN Would to heaven that be so!

MRS JOURDAIN **(Aside to Nicole)** Once he's with him, he can never part

company.

DORANTE I got her to appreciate the richness of the gift and the depth of

your love.

MR JOURDAIN Your kindness overwhelms me, and it confounds me to

see a person of your quality stoop to do what you are doing

for me.

DORANTE You jest, sir. Do scruples of that sort carry any weight with

friends? And would you not do the same for me were the

occasion to arise?

MR JOURDAIN Oh, certainly, and with the greatest of pleasure!

MRS JOURDAIN **(To Nicole)** Oh how his presence weighs on me.

DORANTE For my part, when it comes to serving a friend, nothing else

matters; and when you told me in confidence about your

arduous feelings for that delightful marchioness whom I

know socially, you saw how quickly I offered to serve the

cause of your love.

MR JOURDAIN True. These favors are what confound me.

MRS JOURDAIN **(To Nicole)** Will he ever leave?

NICOLE They do get on well together.

DORANTE You have taken the right steps to captivate her, for there is

nothing that women love more than to have money spent

on them. And your frequent serenades, your incessant

bouquets, the superb fireworks on water, the diamond she

received from you and the entertainment you are preparing

for her, will all serve to express your love far more

eloquently than any words that you yourself might utter.

MR JOURDAIN If money could put me on the road to her heart, I would

spend my last sou. A woman of quality has charms that

dazzle me, and it is an honor that I would buy at any cost.

MRS JOURDAIN (To Nicole) What are they talking about all this time?

Sneak up on them and listen.

DORANTE You will soon have the pleasure of seeing her and then you

may feast your eyes to your heart's content.

MR JOURDAIN To have a free rein, I have arranged to have my wife dine

at my sister's where she will spend the entire afternoon.

DORANTE You did the wise thing, for your wife's presence would

complicate matters. I have given the necessary orders to the

cook and have made all the arrangements for the ballet. It is

I who planned the entire affair and, if my orders are carried

out properly, I am sure that...

**Mr Jourdain suddenly notices Nicole eavesdropping and slaps her.**

MR JOURDAIN Aha! That's for your impertinence! (To Dorante) Let us

leave, if you please.

**Dorante and Mr Jourdain exit**

**Scene 6: Mrs Jourdain, Nicole**

NICOLE By the saints, madame! I paid a high price for my curiosity, but I

believe they're up to something. They're talking about some

affair that they don't want you to attend.

MRS JOURDAIN I've had suspicions about my husband for some time

now, Nicole. Unless I'm sorely mistaken, there's some love

affair in the works, and I've been trying to get to the bottom

of it; but let's think about my daughter. You know how

much Cleonte loves her. He's a fine lad and I want to help

his courtship along and give him Lucille, if I can.

NICOLE In truth, madame, I can't tell you how happy I am that you feel

this way since your esteem for Cleonte is no greater than

my love for his valet, and I would like our marriage to take

place in the shadow of theirs.

MRS JOURDAIN Go tell Cleonte that I want him here immediately so that

I might be with him as he asks my husband for Lucille's

hand in marriage.

NICOLE I shall go at once, madame, and with great joy for this is the nicest

errand I shall ever do.

**Mrs Jourdain exits and Nicole is alone**

NICOLE Oh, how gladdened certain hearts will be when they hear what I

have to say.

**Scene 7: Nicole, Cleonte, Covielle**

NICOLE **(To Cleonte)** Ah! There you are. I've been looking for you. I am

an ambassadress of joy and I come...

CLEONTE Off with you, traitor! I'll have no more of your treacherous

speeches.

NICOLE Is this the way your receive me...?

CLEONTE Be gone, I say. Go at once and tell your unfaithful mistress that

she will no longer dupe the overly simple Cleonte.

NICOLE What madness is this that grips him? My poor Covielle, tell me

what this is all about.

COVIELLE Your poor Covielle? You little minx! Quickly now! Out of my

sight and leave me in peace.

NICOLE What? You, too?

COVIELLE Out of my sight, I say, and never speak to me again.

NICOLE **(Aside)** Saints above! I wonder what's bitten the two of them. I

must tell my mistress about this.

**Scene 8: Cleonte, Covielle**

CLEONTE Can you imagine anyone treating a sweetheart like that...a

sweetheart second to none in faithfulness and passion?

COVIELLE It's a dreadful thing they did to us.

CLEONTE I display towards a person all the ardor and tenderness

conceivable. She is all that I love in this world, and she

occupies my every thought. All my concern, all my desires,

all my joy centers upon her. Everything I say, think or

dream concerns her. She is the reason for the very breath I

take and for every beat of my heart. And this is the worthy

recompense for such affection! It's been two days now

since I've seen her...two days that have seemed like two

frightful centuries. I meet her by chance; my heart is

transported by the sight of her. My face bursts with joy; I

fly to her in ecstasy...only to have that unfaithful creature

look the other way as she brushes past me as if never in her

life had she seen me.

COVIELLE My sentiments exactly.

CLEONTE Could anything ever match, Covielle, the perfidy of that

ungrateful Lucille?

COVIELLE And that of that hussy, Nicole?

CLEONTE After all the ardent sacrifices, sighs and vows that her charms

drew out of me.

COVIELLE After all those assiduous compliments, courtesies and favors

that I have showered upon her in the kitchen.

CLEONTE All the tears that I shed at her feet!

COVIELLE All the buckets of water that I drew for her!

CLEONTE All the ardor I've shown cherishing her more than myself.

COVIELLE All the heat I've endured turning the spit for her.

CLEONTE She avoids me disdainfully!

COVIELLE She snubs me impudently!

CLEONTE Such perfidy deserves the greatest punishment.

COVIELLE Such treachery merits a thousand slaps in the face.

CLEONTE Never speak to me of her again, I beseech you.

COVIELLE I, sir? God forbid!

CLEONTE You are never to proffer excuses for the actions of that

unfaithful creature.

COVIELLE Have no fear.

CLEONTE No, all your speeches in her defense will be to no avail.

COVIELLE I wouldn't dream of it!

CLEONTE I am determined to retain my ill feelings and to break all

communication with her.

COVIELLE I agree with that.

CLEONTE She is perhaps attracted by the looks of that fancy count that

visits her, and the dazzling effect that gentility has upon her

is quite obvious to me; but honor dictates that I not allow

her fickleness to prevail. I shall match her step for step in

her headlong rush to change things, so that it won't be she

alone who will reap the satisfaction of this separation.

COVIELLE Beautifully said. Those are my sentiments exactly.

CLEONTE Help me retain my resentment towards her and to resist

whatever remaining tenderness I might feel towards her

that might cause me to speak in her favor. Describe her to

me in such a way as to have her appear contemptible in my

eyes. Emphasize all the defects that you see in her that

should arouse my displeasure.

COVIELLE In her, sir? She's a childish snob, a pretentious coquette whose

physical attributes are hardly enrapturing. I see nothing in

her that is not mediocre, and you could find a hundred

others more worthy of you. First of all, she has small eyes.

CLEONTE That's true; her eyes are small, but they are full of fire. They

sparkle, they pierce, they excite like nothing else on earth.

COVIELLE She has a wide mouth.

CLEONTE Yes, but it has charm that is not seen on other mouths. The

desire that wells up in me when I gaze upon it renders it the

most attractive and lovable mouth in the world.

COVIELLE She is rather small of build.

CLEONTE Yes, but she is graceful and well proportioned.

COVIELLE She affects a non chalance of speech and action.

CLEONTE That is true; but she does so with such gracefulness, and her

ways are so engaging, so indescribably charming that they

capture my heart.

COVIELLE As for her wit...

CLEONTE Ah! That she has, Covielle, the most refined, the most delicate.

COVIELLE Her conversation...

CLEONTE Her conversation is charming.

COVIELLE She is always serious.

CLEONTE Would you prefer a perpetual display of joviality? Is there

anything more insufferable than a woman who laughs at

anything?

COVIELLE Lastly, she is as capricious as anyone I know in this world.

CLEONTE Yes, she is capricious, I agree. But when a woman is beautiful,

everything about her is becoming, and there is nothing we

cannot endure from her.

COVIELLE Well, since that's the way it is, it's obvious that you wish to

love her always.

CLEONTE I? I would rather die, and I shall hate her as much as I have

loved her.

COVIELLE How will you do that since you find her so perfect?

CLEONTE My vengeance will be all the more striking because of this. As

beautiful, attractive and lovable as I find her, I shall

nevertheless hate her and leave her, and this will amply

demonstrate my strength of will. Here she comes.

**Scene 10: Cleonte, Covielle, Lucille, Nicole**

NICOLE **(To Lucille)** For my part, I was thoroughly shocked by it.

LUCILLE It can be nothing else, Nicole, but what I said. But there he is.

CLEANTE **(To Covielle)** I don't even want to speak to her.

COVIELLE I shall do likewise.

LUCILLE What is this all about, Cleonte? What's troubling you?

NICOLE What ails you, Covielle?

CLEONTE What is it that grieves you thus?

NICOLE What is it that puts you in such a bad humor?

LUCILLE Have you lost your tongue, Cleonte?

NICOLE Are you dumb, Covielle?

CLEONTE Oh, what a brazen creature!

COVIELLE Oh, what a Judas!

LUCILLE I can see that our recent meeting has upset you.

CLEONTE **(To Covielle)** Aha! She realized what she has done.

NICOLE The reception we gave you this morning got your dander up.

COVIELLE **(To Cleonte)** She has guessed where the shoe pinches.

LUCILLE Isn't it true, Cleonte, that this is the cause of your resentment?

CLEONTE Yes, faithless one, that is it, since speak I must; and I say to you

that you are wrong to believe that your unfaithfulness will

prevail, for it shall be I who will be first to break our

relationship, thereby depriving you of the satisfaction of

rejecting me. It will be difficult, of course, for me to

overcome my love for you. This will occasion much

anguish. I shall suffer for a time but I shall get over it; and I

would rather put a dagger through my heart than to be so

weak as to return to you.

COVIELLE **(To Nicole)** That goes for me, too.

LUCILLE That's much ado about nothing. I'd like to explain to you,

Cleonte, why I avoided you this morning.

CLEONTE **(Drawing away from her)** No, I don't want to hear it.

NICOLE **(To Covielle)** I'd like to tell you why we passed you by so

quickly.

COVIELLE (Drawing away from her) No, I don't want to listen.

LUCILLE **(Following Cleonte)** I want you to know that this morning...

CLEONTE **(Retreating further**) No, I tell you.

NICOLE I want you to understand...

COVIELLE **(Retreating further)** No traitoress.

LUCILLE Listen!

CLEONTE I'll have none of it.

NICOLE Let me explain.

COVIELLE I am deaf.

LUCILLE Cleonte!

CLEONTE No.

NICOLE Covielle!

COVIELLE Not at all!

NICOLE Stop this!

CLEONTE Nonsense.

NICOLE Hear me!

COVIELLE Folderol!

LUCILLE Wait a moment!

CLEONTE In no way.

NICOLE A little patience.

COVIELLE Fiddlesticks.

LUCILLE Just two words.

CLEONTE No, it's over.

NICOLE One word.

COVIELLE No, it's finished.

LUCILLE **(Stopping the chase after Cleonte)** Very well then. Since you

refuse to listen, you can keep your opinions and do

whatever you please.

NICOLE **(Also stopping)** Since that's the way you're going to act, you can

take it anyway you like.

CLEONTE **(Turning to Lucille)** All right, let's hear what you have to say.

LUCILLE **(Avoiding Cleonte**) I no longer wish to discuss it.

COVIELLE **(Turning to Nicole)** Very well, what was that all about?

NICOLE **(A avoiding Covielle**) I no longer wish to explain it to you.

CLEONTE **(To Lucille)** Tell me...

LUCILLE **(Still drawing away)** No, I shall tell you nothing.

COVIELLE **(Following Nicole)** Explain to me...

NICOLE **(Drawing away)** No, I shall explain nothing.

CLEONTE For pity's sake...

LUCILLE No, I say.

COVIELLE Have a heart...

NICOLE I'll have none of it.

CLEONTE I beseech you.

LUCILLE Let me be.

COVIELLE I beg you.

NICOLE Go away.

CLEONTE Lucille!

LUCILLE No.

COVIELLE Nicole!

NICOLE In no way.

CLEONTE For heaven's sake!

LUCILLE I don't want to.

COVIELLE Speak to me!

NICOLE Not at all.

CLEONTE Remove my doubts.

LUCILLE No, I shall do nothing.

COVIELLE Ease my mind.

NICOLE No, I don't feel like it.

CLEONTE Very well, ingrate, since you care so little about my suffering,

and since you refuse to explain your abuse of my love for

you, I shall make this our last meeting and go off to some

distant place and die of a broken heart. **(He starts to leave)**

COVIELLE **(Following Cleonte)** Me, too.

LUCILLE Cleonte!

NICOLE Covielle!

CLEONTE (Stops) Yes?

COVIELLE (Stops) What is it?

LUCILLE Where are you going?

CLEONTE Where I told you.

COVIELLE We are going off to die.

LUCILLE You're going to die, Cleonte?

CLEONTE Yes, cruel one, since this is your wish.

LUCILLE I? I want you to die?

CLEONTE Yes.

LUCILLE Who told you this?

CLEONTE (Nearing her) What else am I to make of your refusal to remove

my suspicions?

LUCILLE Am I to blame? Had you only been willing to listen to me,

would I not have told you that the incident that has so

sorely grieved you was due to the presence this morning of

an old aunt who is convinced that a girl is dishonored by

the mere approach of a man, who lectures us constantly on

this subject and who depicts all men as devils to be

shunned?

CLEONTE This is the truth you're telling me, isn't it, Lucille?

COVIELLE You're not lying to us?

LUCILLE Nothing could be more true.

NICOLE That's exactly the way it was.

COVIELLE (To Cleonte) Well, do we accept this?

CLEONTE Ah, Lucille, just one word from your mouth and the anguish in

my heart is appeased. Who can resist the persuasion of

one's beloved?

COVIELLE With what ease do these infernal creatures cajole us!

**Scene 11: Mrs. Jourdain, Cleonte, Lucille, Covielle, Nicole**

MRS JOURDAIN I am pleased to see you, Cleonte, and you arrive just in

time. Here comes my husband. This is the moment for you

to ask for Lucille's hand in marriage.

CLEONTE Ah, madame, what sweetness do your words contain, and how

they respond to the yearnings of my heart! Could ever there

be a more delightful order, a more precious favor?

**Scene 12: Cleonte, Mr. Jourdain, Mrs Jourdain, Lucille, Nicole, Covielle**

CLEONTE Sir, for some time now I have wanted to make a certain request

of you. The matter is of such moment to me that I have

decided to do so personally rather than engage anyone else

to act in my behalf, and, without further ado, I shall request

of you the glorious honor of becoming your son in law.

MR JOURDAIN Before giving you my answer, may I ask you, sir, if you

are a gentleman?

CLEONTE Sir, most people can answer that question with little hesitation

or difficulty. They have no qualms about assuming that

title, and seem to do so nowadays with the blessings of

society. As for myself, I must confess that my convictions

in this regard are somewhat stronger. I feel that all forms of

imposture are unworthy of a man of honor, and that it is

shameful to disguise what heaven has made us by parading

about with a stolen title and presenting a false image of

one's self For my part, I was born of parents who held

positions that were undoubtedly honorable. I acquired the

honor that comes from six years of service in the military

and my resources are sufficient for me to maintain a

passably high rank in the world. But despite all of this, I

don't have the slightest intention of bestowing upon myself

a title to which others in my place would feel justified in

laying claim, and I shall state to you frankly that I am not a

gentleman.

MR JOURDAIN Let's shake on that, sir. My daughter is not for you.

CLEONTE How's that?

MR JOURDAIN You are not a gentleman; you shall not have my daughter.

MRS JOURDAIN What's all this gentleman stuff? Does our family descend

from Saint Louis?

MR JOURDAIN Hold your tongue, wife. I know what you're leading up to.

MRS JOURDAIN Don't both of us descend from plain working people?

MR JOURDAIN There goes that slanderous tongue of yours again!

MRS JOURDAIN And wasn't your father a tradesman just like mine?

MR JOURDAIN The plague take that woman! It's always the same story

with her. If your father was a tradesman, that was his bad

fortune; but it is only the ignorant who would say that of

my father. For my part, all I have to tell you is that I want a

gentleman for a son in law.

MRS JOURDAIN What your daughter needs is a husband who suits her.

She'd be better off with an upright young man who is rich

and handsome than with a penniless and homely

gentleman.

NICOLE That's true. We have the son of a gentleman in our village who is

the clumsiest and biggest nincompoop I ever saw.

MR JOURDAIN Hold that impertinent tongue of yours! You are forever

sticking your nose into the conversation. I have enough

money for my daughter; all that I need is honor, thus it is

my wish that she be a marchioness.

MRS JOURDAIN A marchioness?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, a marchioness.

MRS JOURDAIN God forbid!

MR JOURDAIN My mind is made up.

MRS JOURDAIN And my mind will never consent to it. There can be

painful disadvantages to marrying above one's station. I

don't want a son in law who'll reproach my daughter for her

parents; nor do I want her children to be ashamed to call

me Grandma. If she had to visit me dressed as a grand lady,

and if by accident she failed to greet someone in the

neighborhood, they would be quick to say all kinds of nasty

things about her. Things like: "Look at the fancy marchioness

with her haughty airs. She's the daughter of Mr.

Jourdain. When she was little, she was only too happy to

play the fine lady with us. She wasn't always as uppish as

that. Her two grandfathers sold cloth at St. Innocent's Gate,

and they made lots of money for their children for which

they're probably paying now in the other world, for you

don't get rich by being honest." I'll have none of that

tittle tattle. In a word, I want a man who'll be beholden to

me for my daughter, and to whom I can say: "Sit there,

son in law, and join me for dinner."

MR JOURDAIN There's that small mind of yours at work again, always

clinging to the bottom rung of the ladder. No more

discussion! My daughter will be a marchioness in spite of

everyone and, if you keep pestering me, I'll make her a

duchess! (He exits)

MRS JOURDAIN Cleonte, you mustn't let this discourage you. (To Lucille)

Follow me, child, and tell your father firmly that you either

marry Cleonte or you marry no one.

**Scene 13: Covielle, Cleonte**

COVIELLE You really handled that nicely with your fancy notions.

CLEONTE What would you have me do? For me, it was a matter of

principle.

COVIELLE Principles with a man like that? Can't you see that he's mad,

and would it have cost you anything to go along with his

fancies?

CLEONTE You're right; but I didn't think I would have to give proof of

nobility to be the son in law of Mr. Jourdain.

COVIELLE Ha! Haha!

CLEONTE What are you laughing at?

COVIELLE At a way I just thought to trick our man into giving you what

you want.

CLEONTE How?

COVIELLE The idea is really very funny.

CLEONTE What is it?

COVIELLE There was a certain masquerade performed just recently that

fits in perfectly here, and I plan to make it a part of a little

joke I shall play on our foolish friend. The whole thing is a

bit farcical, but with him we could venture anything.

There's no need for elaborate subterfuge for he'll play his

role marvelously and will believe whatever nonsense we

deem to tell him. I have the actors and the costumes. Leave

everything to me.

CLEONTE But tell me...

COVIELLE I'll explain it all to you, but let's withdraw from here for here

he comes.

**Scene 14: Mr. Jourdain, Lackey**

MR JOURDAIN What the devil was that all about? All that they can

criticize me for is my respect for nobility. For my part,

there is nothing more beautiful than to hobnob with great

lords. With them, there is nothing but honor and civility,

and I would give two fingers of my hand to have been born

a count or a marquis.

1ST LACKEY Sir, the count is here and he's got a lady with him.

MR JOURDAIN Good heavens! I've got some orders to give. Tell him I'll

be with them in a moment.

**Scene 15: Dorimene, Dorante, Lackey**

1ST LACKEY The master said to tell you he'll be with you in a moment.

DORANTE Very good.

**The Lackey exits**

DORIMENE I don't know, Dorante. Allowing you to bring me to a house

where I know no one is another strange thing for me to do.

DORANTE Where else would you have me entertain you then, madame,

since our fear of gossip has ruled out your house or mine?

DORIMENE But you fail to mention that little by little I am compromising

myself by accepting each day your lavish testimonials of

love. My defenses are futile; there is a genteel persistence

about you that overcomes my resistance and causes me to

comply with all your wishes. It began with your frequent

visits which were followed in turn by declarations of love,

serenades, entertainments and gifts. I opposed all these

things, but you are not one to lose heart, and my resolve

grows weaker with each day. I find myself no longer

capable of contesting anything, and I believe that this will

ultimately lead to marriage...something I had not even

remotely considered.

DORANTE In faith, madame, you should be married already. You are a

widow and depend on no one but yourself. I am my own

master and love you more than life itself. What is there to

keep you from making the rest of my days those of untold

bliss?

DORIMENE Good heavens, Dorante! There are many qualities that both

parties must have in order to live happily together, and the

two most reasonable people in the world can often have

difficulty in establishing a satisfying union.

DORANTE You are wrong, madame, to anticipate so many difficulties, and

the experience that you have had provides no conclusions

for others to draw.

DORIMENE Well, my conclusion is always the same. The expenses that

you undergo in my behalf trouble me for two reasons: one

is that they commit me more that I care to be. and the

other...please, don't take offense...the other is that I am sure

that they are more than you can afford, and I don't want

that.

DORANTE Ah! Madame, I beg you not to esteem so highly something that

is unworthy of my love for you, and to allow**... (Mr. Jourdain**

**interrupts him with his entrance)** Here is the master

of the household.

**Scene 16: Mr Jourdain, Dorante, Dorimene, Lackey**

MR JOURDAIN **(After making his second bow to Dorimene and finding**

**himself too close to complete with the third bow)** Er...

Step back a little, madame.

DORIMENE How's that?

MR JOURDAIN Just one step, please.

DORIMENE What?

MR JOURDAIN Back up a little for the third.

DORANTE Madame, Mr. Jourdain is very strong on etiquette.

MR JOURDAIN Madame, it is a great glory for me to see myself being so

fortunate to be so happy to have the good fortune of your

having had the kindness to grant me your presence; and, if I

merited enough to...um...merit a merit like yours, and if

heaven...envious of my good fortune...had granted me...the

advantage of seeing myself worthy...of the...um...

DORANTE That will do, Mr. Jourdain. Madame does not care for great

compliments and she recognizes your nimble wit. **(Aside to**

**Dorimene)** As you can tell by his manners, you're dealing

with a rather ridiculous bourgeois.

DORIMENE **(Aside to Dorante)** That's rather obvious.

DORANTE Madame, here is my best friend.

MR JOURDAIN You do me too much honor.

DORANTE A gentleman to the core.

DORIMENE I hold him in very high esteem.

MR JOURDAIN I have done nothing as yet, madame, to deserve such

consideration.

DORANTE **(Aside to Mr Jourdain)** Take care not to mention the diamond

you gave her.

MR JOURDAIN Can't I even ask how she likes it?

DORANTE How's that? You must do nothing of the sort. That would be

most ungentlemanly of you and, to act as a man of

refinement, you must pretend that it was not you who gave

her this gift**. (Aloud)** Mr. Jourdain says, madame, that he is

delighted to have you as his guest.

DORIMENE He does me great honor.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside to Dorante)** How obliged I am to you, sir, for

speaking to her thus in my behalf

DORANTE **(Aside to Mr. Jourdain)** I can't tell you how difficult it was for

me to get her to come here.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside to Dorante)** I don't know how I can ever repay

you for it.

DORANTE He says, madame, that he considers you the most beautiful

person in the world.

DORIMENE How very gracious of him.

MR JOURDAIN Madame, it is you who are gracious, and...

DORANTE Let us proceed with the dinner.

1ST LACKEY **(Entering and addressing Mr Jourdain)** Everything is

ready, sir.

DORANTE Let's sit at the table and bring in the musicians.

**Six cooks perform a dance which constitutes the third interlude, concluded**

**by bringing in a table laden with various dishes for the feast, Mr Jourdain,**

**Dorimene and Dorante take their seats.**

**ACT IV**

**Scene 1: Mr. Jourdain, Dorante, Dorimene, Lackeys, Cooks, Singers**

DORIMENE Really, Dorante, what's a thoroughly sumptuous meal!

MR JOURDAIN You jest, madame. I only wish that it was more worthy of

you.

DORANTE Mr. Jourdain is right, madame, to speak thus, and he obliges

me by the excellent manner in which he does you the

honors of his household. I agree with him that the dinner is

not worthy of you. Since it is I who ordered it, and since I

am not as enlightened in these matters as are some of my

friends, its preparation is not particularly ingenious. You

will find in it certain culinary incongruities and some

barbarous examples of taste. If Damis had a hand in it, all

would have been done according to rule. It would have

abounded in elegance and erudition, and he would have

expanded upon each course, thereby convincing you of his

exceptional competence in the science of good eating. He

would have spoken to you of bread "de rive," slanted and

golden at each end and with a crust that crumbles tenderly

in the mouth; of a fragrant, velvety wine with a heartiness

that does not overpower; of a breast of lamb garnished with

parsley; of a loin of veal "de riviere" this long, white,

delicate, pate of almonds in the mouth; a partridge imbued

with a surprising aroma; and, for his chef d'oeuvre, he

would have intoned upon a pearled bouillon soup backed

up by a young plump turkey bordered by squabs and

crowned with white onions stuffed with chicory. However,

for my part, I can only confess my ignorance, and join Mr.

Jourdain in his most proper wish that the dinner were more

worthy of being offered to you.

DORIMENE My only response to that compliment lies in the way I am

eating.

MR JOURDAIN Ah! Such beautiful hands!

DORIMENE My hands are very ordinary, Mr. Jourdain, but you're probably

referring to the diamond which is indeed beautiful.

MR JOURDAIN Me, madame? Heaven keep me from ever wishing to

discuss it; that would not be very gentlemanly on my part,

and the diamond is a mere trifle.

DORIMENE You are very gallant.

MR JOURDAIN You are much too kind.

DORANTE **(After signaling to Mr Jourdain)** Come now, some wine for

Mr Jourdain, and for these gentlemen who will be so kind

as to sing a drinking song for us.

DORIMENE To blend good food with music is to provide the perfect

seasoning. How admirably you do entertain me!

MR JOURDAIN Madame, it is not...

DORANTE Mr Jourdain, let us listen to these gentlemen; their singing will

surpass anything we might say.

**The Singers take glasses and sing two drinking songs accompanied by**

**the orchestra.**

DRINKING SONG:

Be always faithful, forever be true

To your beloved; Then you will know

All the joy that love can bestow.

Often in anger and passion,

We're spiteful and unyielding,

But love's sole demand

Is to love constantly.

A sip or two, Louise,

As we begin the round,

Ah, how a glass that you hold becomes a thing of beauty!

You and the wine combine to overpower me,

And my heart for them both is by love doubly bound.

Glass in hand, you and I,

Let's vow, let's vow, my beauty,

To love for all eternity.

Bring on the wine,

Let good cheer flow for everyone!

Pour it, my lad, pour it;

Pour it; pour it freely,

Until they say "Enough!"

DORIMENE No one could possibly sing any better. That was absolutely

beautiful.

MR JOURDAIN I see here, madame, something even more beautiful.

DORIMENE Dear me! Mr. Jourdain is more gallant than I thought.

DORANTE How's that? Madame, for whom do you take Mr. Jourdain?

MR JOURDAIN I would have her take me for what I would say.

DORIMENE Again!

DORANTE You don't know him.

MR JOURDAIN She shall know me whenever she pleases.

DORIMENE Oh, you're too much for me.

DORANTE He is a man with a ready wit; but you have not observed,

madame, that Mr. Jourdain waits until you have served

yourself and then eats what you leave.

DORIMENE Mr Jourdain is a man who charms me...

MR JOURDAIN If I could charm your heart, I would be...

**Scene 2: Enter Mrs Jourdain**

MRS JOURDAIN Aha! Look at the fine company we have here, and I can

see that I was not at all expected. Thus it was for this

beautiful affair, my dear husband, that you were so anxious

to pack me off to your sister's for dinner. Downstairs looks

like a playhouse and up here I'm interrupting what could

pass for a wedding banquet. So this is how you squander

your money! You send me away and then lavish fine ladies

with music and entertainment.

DORANTE What do you mean, Mrs. Jourdain? Where did you get the

bizarre notion that your husband is squandering his money,

and that it is he who is regaling this lady? Please know that

this is my affair and that your husband's role was merely to

avail me of his home. I would thank you to observe things

more carefully before you speak.

MR JOURDAIN Yes, you impertinent creature! It is the count who is

giving all this to the lady here who is a person of quality.

He has done me the honor of accepting my house and of

desiring my company .

MRS JOURDAIN Folderol! I know what I know.

DORANTE May I suggest a better pair of spectacles for you, Mrs.

Jourdain.

MRS JOURDAIN I have no need of spectacles, sir, for I see things very

clearly. I have you know that I am not a fool, and that I

have sensed for some time now that something was going

on. May I say, sir, that it is highly unworthy of a great lord

like yourself to prey on the foolishness of my husband?

And you, madame, please know that it ill befits a great lady

like yourself to spread dissension in a household and to

allow my husband to be in love with you.

DORIMENE What is the meaning of all of this? Really, Dorante! You

abuse me by subjecting me to the delusions of this

intemperate person.

**Dorimene exits.**

DORANTE **(Following Dorimene)** Madame! Hold on! Where are you

running?

MR JOURDAIN Madame! My dear count! Offer her my apologies and try

to bring her back.

**Mr Jourdain turns to Mrs Jourdain**

MR JOURDAIN Ah! Brazen creature that you are! Here's more of your fine

doings. Insulting me like that in front of everyone and

chasing people of quality from my house.

MRS JOURDAIN To hell with their quality!

MR JOURDAIN You wretch! I don't know what keeps me from cracking

your skull with the pieces of the dinner that you came here

to disturb. **(The table is removed).**

MRS JOURDAIN Who cares about that? I am defending my rights, and all

womankind will back me!

MR JOURDAIN You would do well to stay clear of my temper!

**Scene 3: Mrs Jourdain exits as Covielle enters in disguise**

MR JOURDAIN What an unfortunate time to arrive. I felt like saying such

pretty things, and never was my wit so sharp. (Seeing

Covielle but not recognizing him) But what is this I see?

COVIELLE Sir, I don't know if I have the honor of being known by you.

MR JOURDAIN No.

COVIELLE **(Lowering his hand to a foot from the ground)** I knew you

when you were no taller than that.

MR JOURDAIN Me?

COVIELLE Yes, you were the most beautiful child in the world, and all the

ladies would hold you in their arms and kiss you.

MR JOURDAIN They kissed me?

COVIELLE Yes. I was a very close friend of your late father.

MR JOURDAIN Of my late father?

COVIELLE Yes. He was a most respectable gentleman.

MR JOURDAIN What did you say?

COVIELLE I said he was a most respectable gentleman.

MR JOURDAIN My father?

COVIELLE Yes.

MR JOURDAIN You knew him well?

COVIELLE Certainly.

MR JOURDAIN And did you know hin to be a gentleman?

COVIELLE Most assuredly.

MR JOURDAIN Who can understand this world?

COVIELLE How's that?

MR JOURDAIN There are foolish people who tell me he was a shopkeeper.

COVIELLE He, a shopkeeper? That's utter slander. He never was that. He

was always considerate, always eager to be of service, and,

since he was an expert in fabrics, he would go everywhere

for his selections and have them brought to his place so that

he might give them to his friends...for money.

MR JOURDAIN Sir, I am delighted to make the acquaintance of someone

who can attest to the fact that my father was a gentleman.

COVIELLE Sir, I shall proclaim that to the entire world.

MR JOURDAIN I shall be much obliged. May I ask the purpose of your

visit

COVIELLE Since my last meeting with your late father, the distinguished

gentleman, I have traveled all over the world.

MR JOURDAIN All over the world!

COVIELLE Yes.

MR JOURDAIN I'd say that's quite a ways from here.

COVIELLE To be sure. I returned from these long voyages just four days

ago and because of my concern for anything that might

affect you, I come here to bring you the best news in the

world.

MR JOURDAIN Pray what might that be?

COVIELLE Did you know that the son of the Great Turk is here?

MR JOURDAIN Me? No.

COVIELLE How's that? He has an absolutely magnificent cortege.

Everyone goes to see him, and he has been received in this

country as a lord of great importance.

MR JOURDAIN In faith, I did not know that.

COVIELLE What is to your advantage is the fact that he is in love with

your daughter.

MR JOURDAIN The son of the Great Turk?

COVIELLE Yes, and he wants to be your son in law.

MR JOURDAIN My son in law, the son of the Great Turk?

COVIELLE The son of the Great Turk, your son in law. And since I have

been to see him, and since I understand his language perfectly,

we had a long conversation during which he said:

"Acciam croc soler ouch alla moustaph gidelum amanahem

marahini oussere carbulath?" That is to say: "Have you not

seen the beautiful young person who is the daughter of Mr.

Jourdain, the Parisian gentleman?"

MR JOURDAIN The son of the Great Turk said that about me?

COVIELLE Yes. When I replied that I was a special friend of yours, and

that I had seen your daughter, he said: "Marababashem!" ...

That is to say: "Ah! How I love her!"

MR JOURDAIN Marababashem means "Ah! How I love her!"

COVIELLE Yes.

MR JOURDAIN In faith, you did well to tell me that because I myself

would have never believed that this Marababashem could

have meant "Ah! How I love her!" It's an admirable

language, this Turkish.

COVIELLE More admirable than you might believe. Do you know what

Cacaracamouchen means?

MR JOURDAIN Cacaracamouchen? No.

COVIELLE That means "My dear soul."

MR JOURDAIN Cacaracamouchen means "My dear soul."

COVIELLE Yes.

MR JOURDAIN That's marvelous! Cacaracamouchen, my dear soul. Who

would have thought that? I find that amazing!

COVIELLE Finally, sir, to conclude my message, I must tell you that he is

coming to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage and, in

order that his father in law be worthy of him, he wishes to

make you a Mamamouuchi, which is a great dignitary in

his country.

MR JOURDAIN A Mamamouchi?

COVIELLE Yes, a Mamamouchi which means in our language a paladin.

Paladin! It's one of those ancient titles that...er..., you

know...paladin! There is nothing more noble than that in

the world, and you will rank among the greatest lords on

earth.

MR JOURDAIN The son of the Great Turk does me great honor, and I

beseech you to conduct me to his home so that I might

thank him.

COVIELLE How's that? Why, he's at this moment on his way here.

MR JOURDAIN He's coming here?

COVIELLE Yes, and he's bringing with him all the ceremonial trappings

for your investiture.

MR JOURDAIN I must say he's very prompt.

COVIELLE His love cannot tolerate any delay.

MR JOURDAIN The only problem is that my daughter is as stubborn as

can be and has this fellow Cleonte on her mind and swears

that she won't marry anyone but him.

COVIELLE She'll change her mind once she sees the son of the Great Turk,

and then a wonderfully romantic episode will take place

here. The fact is that the son of the Great Turk resembles

Cleonte...well almost anyway. I have just seen him...they

showed him to me, and the love that she has for one could

easily be passed on to the other and...

**Cleonte, disguised as the son of the Great Turk, enters with three**

**PAGES carrying his train.**

COVIELLEI hear him coming... There he is!

**Scene 4: Mr. Jourdain, Covielle (in disguise), Cleonte (in disguise), 3**

**Pages**

CLEONTE Amboushabim oqui boraf, Jordina, salamalequi.

COVIELLE **(To Mr. Jourdain)** That is to say: "Mr. Jourdain, may your

heart be all year like a rose bush in bloom." This illustrates

the obliging manner of speech in those countries.

MR JOURDAIN I am the most humble servant of His Turkish Highness.

COVIELLE **(To Cleonte)** Carigar camboto oustin moraf.

CLEONTE Oustin yoc catamalequi basurn base all moran.

COVIELLE He says that heaven should give you the strength of lions and

the prudence of serpents.

MR JOURDAIN His Turkish Highness does me too much honor, and I wish

him all kinds of prosperity.

COVIELLE Ossa binamen sadoc babally oracaf ouram.

CLEONTE Bel men.

COVIELLE He says that you are to go with him quickly to prepare yourself

for the ceremony so that afterwards you might see your

daughter and conclude the marriage.

MR JOURDAIN All that in two words?

COVIELLE Yes, the Turkish language is like that; it says a lot in few

words. Now go with him quickly where he wishes.

**Mr Jourdain exits with Cleonte and the pages, leaving Covielle alone**

**on stage.**

COVIELLE Hahaha! My God, that was funny! What a dupe! Had he

learned his role by heart, he couldn't have possibly played

it better. Hahaha!

**Scene 5: Dorante, Covielle**

**Dorante enters.**

COVIELLE Would you be so kind, sir, as to help us in a certain bit of

business that is in progress?

DORANTE Ah! Ah! Covielle! Who would have recognized you? What an

outfit!

COVIELLE You see! Hahaha!

DORANTE What are you laughing at?

COVIELLE At something that really calls for it, sir.

DORANTE How's that?

COVIELLE Sir, I could give you several tries at guessing the stratagem we

are using on Mr. Jourdain to persuade him to give his daughter

to my master.

DORANTE What the stratagem is I cannot guess, but I can guess that it

will succeed since it is you who is behind it.

COVIELLE I see that you know me well, sir.

DORANTE Tell me what it is.

COVIELLE Let us withdraw to make room for what I see coming. You will

be able to witness a part of the affair as I tell you the rest.

**Dorante and Covielle withdraw as the Turkish Ceremony begins.**

**THE TURKISH CEREMONY**

Mufti, Turks, Dervishes, Mr. Jourdain, Singers and Dancers.

Six Turks enter gravely, two by two to the sound of instruments. Each pair

carries a carpet with which they dance several steps. They then raise their

carpets high and the Turkish singers and musicians pass underneath. The

Mufti and his company of Dervishes complete the procession. The Turks

then spread the carpets on the ground and kneel on them while the Mufti

and his Dervishes remain standing in the middle. As the Mufti invokes

Mohammed in pantomime with contorted gestures and grimaces, the Turks

prostrate themselves, singing "Alli, " and then return to a kneeling position

with arms raised singing "Allah. " This switching continues until the

invocation is over at which point they all rise and sing "Allah eckber" **(God**

**is Great),** and two Dervishes escort Mr. Jourdain **(now in Turkish garb,**

**but sans turban and sabre).**

TEXT TRANSLATION

MUFTI **(To Jourdain)**

Se ti sabir, ti responder If you know, you answer;

Se non sabir, If you don't know

Tazir, tazir. Quiet, quiet.

Mi star mufti. I be mufti.

Ti qui star, ti? Who be you?

Non intendir? You don't understand?

Tazir, tazir. Quiet, quiet.

**Two Dervishes lead Mr. Jourdain offstage.**

*The Language being spoken is lingua franca, a hybrid language comprised of*

*Italian, French, Spanish, Greek and Arabic; it was used in Mediterranean ports.*

*The translation is provided merely for edification and is not meant to be sung.*

TEXT TRANSLATION

MUFTI Dice, Turque, Tell me, Turk,

qui star quista? who be that one?

Anabista? An Anabaptist?

Anabista? An Anabaptist?

TURKS Ioc. No.

MUFTI Zuinglista? A Zuinglian?

TURKS Ioc. No.

MUFTI Coffita? A coffite?

TURKS Ioc. No.

MUFTI Hussita? Morista? A Hussite? A Moor?

Fronista? ???

TURKS Ioc ioc, ioc. No, no, no!

MUFTI Ioc, ioc, ioc! No, no, no.

Star Pagana? Is he a pagan?

TURKS Ioc. No.

MUFTI Luterana? A Lutheran?

TURKS Ioc. No.

MUFTI Puritana? A Puritan?

TURKS Ioc. No.

MUFTI Bramina? A Brahman?

TURKS Ioc, ioc, ioc. No, no, no.

MUFTI Ioc, ioc., ioc. No, no, no

Mahametana? A Mohamedan?

TURKS Hi Valla. Hi Valla. Yes, that=s it. Yes, that=s it.

MUFTI Como chamara? What=s his name?

TURKS Jordina. Jourdain.

MUFTI (Leaping at him)

Jordina? Jourdain?

TURKS Jordina. Jourdain.

MUFTI Mahameta, To Mohamed

per Jordina .for Jourdain.

Mi pregar I pray

sera e matina day and night

Voler far That he make

un paladina a paladin

De Giordina, of Jourdain,

de Giordina of Jourdain

Dar Turbanta Give him a turban

e dar scarcina and a sword

Con galera With a galley

e brigantine and brigantine

Per defenderPalestina To defend Palestine

Mahameta, To Mohamed,

per Giordina for Jourdain

Mi pregar sera e matina I pray day and night.

**(To the Turks)**

Star bon Turca, Giordina Is Jourdain a good Turk?

TURKS Hi Valla; Hi valla! Yes, that=s it. Yes, that=s

it.

MUFTI **(Dancing and singing)**

Ha la ba la chou ba la ba la ba laY

**Mufti exits.**

TURKS Ha la ba la chou ba la ba la ba laY

**Mufti re enters wearing an oversized ceremonial turban decorated with**

**four or five rows of lighted candles. Two Dervishes accompany him bearing**

**the Koran and wearing pointed hats which are also set with lighted candles.**

**The other two dervishes bring in Mr. Jourdain who is terrified by the**

**ceremony and they make him kneel with his hands on the ground so that the**

**Mufti might use his back as a sort of stand for the Koran. The Mufti makes**

**a second burlesque invocation closing and opening his mouth without**

**tittering a word; he then speaks vehemently, alternating between soft and**

**thunderous tones, slaps his sides as if to force out the words, pounds on the**

**Koran front time to time and turns its pages precipitously. Finally, he raises**

**his hands and shoutsY**

MUFTI Hou!

**During the second invocation, the Turks bow and straighten up three times**

**singing "Hou!" each time.**

MR JOURDAIN **(After they remove the Koran from his back)** Ah!

MUFTI **(To Mr. Jourdain)** Ti non star furba? You are not a knave?

TURKS No, no, no!

MUFTI Non star forfanta?

You are not an impostor?

TURKS No, no, no!

MUFTI Donar Turbanta.

Give the turban.

TURKS Ti non star furba?

No, no, no.

Non star fortanta?

No, no, no.

Donar turbanta.

**The Turks put the turban on Mr. Jourdain's head singing and dancing to**

**the music.**

MUFTI **(Giving the sword to Mr. Jourdain)** Ti star nobile, non star

fabbola. You're a noble and that's no fable.

Pigliar sciabbola. Take the sword.

**The Turks draw their swords, dancing about, beating Mr. Jourdain with**

**their swords, and repeat these words:**

MUFTI Dara, dara, bastonnara.

Hit him, hit him with a with a stick.

**The Turks repeat the words, dancing about Mr. Jourdain and beating him**

**with sticks.**

MUFTI Non tener honta Don't be ashamed Questa star l'ultima affronta.

This is the last affront.

**The Mufti begins his third invocation, leaning on the dervishes who support**

**him reverently; the Turks then exit with the Mufti and, as they do, they sing,**

**dance, and leap about him bringing along Mr. Jourdain in their wake.**

**ACT V**

**Scene 1: Mr. Jourdain, Mrs. Jourdain**

MRS JOURDAIN Oh my God! Have mercy on me! What is this I see

before me? What a figure! Are you about to play the

mummer? Is it masquerade time? Speak, why don't you?

What is this? Who decked you out like that?

MR JOURDAIN Listen to that brazen creature speaking like that to a

mamamouchi!

MRS JOURDAIN What's that?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, you must treat me with more respect now that they

made me a mamamouchi.

MRS JOURDAIN What kind of beast is that?

MR JOURDAIN Mamamouchi in our language means paladin.

MRS JOURDAIN Balleting? At your age your dancing the ballet?

MR JOURDAIN What an ignoramus! I said paladin. It's a very high

dignitary, and they just now performed the ceremony

making me one.

MRS JOURDAIN What ceremony?

MR JOURDAIN Mahameta per Jordina.

MRS JOURDAIN What does that mean?

MR JOURDAIN Jordina, that is to say, Jourdain.

MRS JOURDAIN What about Jourdain?

MR JOURDAIN Voler far un paladina de Jordina.

MRS JOURDAIN What?

MR JOURDAIN Dar turbanto con galera.

MRS JOURDAIN What the deuce does that mean?

MR JOURDAIN Dara, dara, bastonnara!

MRS JOURDAIN What kind of gibberish is that?

MR JOURDAIN Non tener honta, questa star l'ultima affronta.

MRS JOURDAIN What is the meaning of all this?

MR JOURDAIN **(Dancing and singing)** Hou la ba, ba la chou, ba la ba, ba

la da. **(He falls to the ground)**

MRS JOURDAIN Heaven help us! My husband has gone mad!

MR JOURDAIN **(Rising)** Be still, insolent one! You must show respect to

your mamamouchi.

**Mr Jourdain exits.**

MRS JOURDAIN Where did this madness come upon him? Quickly now, I

must prevent him from going out. **(Notices Dorante and**

**Dorimene)** Aha! That's all I need to know! I've got trouble

closing in on me from all sides!

**Mrs Jourdain exits.**

**Scene 2: Dorante and Dorimene**

DORANTE Yes, madame, you're about to witness the most amusing

episode conceivable. Were you to search the world over,

you would not possibly find a man more mad than he; and

then, madame, we must serve the cause of Cleonte's love

by assisting in his little masquerade. He is a very decent lad

and worthy of our concern.

DORIMENE I think very highly of him, and he is deserving of good

fortune.

DORANTE Aside from that, madame, a ballet shall be performed here

which we should not miss for it will be much to our liking,

and I also must see if an idea of mine will succeed.

DORIMENE I have seen the magnificent preparations, and these are things,

Dorante, that I can no longer endure. Yes, it is my wish

finally that you put an end to these lavish expenditures on

my behalf, and to see that you do, I have decided to marry

you with no further delay. The true secret to all these things

is that they lead ultimately to marriage.

DORANTE Ah! Madame, is it possible that you favor me with such sweet

decision?

DORIMENE This is only to avoid your total impoverishment since it is

obvious that at this rate you will soon be without a sou.

DORANTE How obliged am I to you, madame, for your concern over my

estate!

DORIMENE I shall make good use of both; but here comes your man.

What a vision of splendor!

**Scene 3: Mr. Jourdain, Dorante, Dorimene**

DORANTE Sir, madame and I have come to render homage to your newly

bestowed dignity, and to rejoice with you over the

forthcoming marriage of your daughter to the son of the

Great Turk.

MR JOURDAIN **(After making three bows Turkish style)** Sir, I wish you

the strength of snakes and the wisdom of lions.

DORIMENE Sir, I am extremely pleased to be among the first to

congratulate you over the high degree of glory to which

you have been elevated.

MR JOURDAIN Madame, I wish that your rosebush will be in bloom all

year, and I am infinitely obliged to you for taking part in

the honors that are happening to me, and I am very glad to

see you here again so that I might apologize most humbly

for the nastiness of my wife.

DORIMENE That was nothing. Such comportment is excusable on the part

of a woman to whom your heart is so precious, and it is not

at all strange that the possession of a man like you should

inspire fits of alarm.

MR JOURDAIN The possession of my heart is a thing that you have

completely acquired.

DORANTE As you see, madame, our Mr. Jourdain is not among those who

allow themselves to be blinded by their own prosperity;

despite his rise to glory, he still deigns to recognize his

friends.

DORIMENE That is the mark of a truly generous person.

DORANTE Where is his Turkish Highness? We would like to pay him our

respects as friends of yours.

MR JOURDAIN Here he comes now. I've sent for my daughter to give him

her hand.

**Scene 4: Cleonte (in disguise), Covielle (in disguise), Jourdain, Dorante,**

**Dorimene**

DORANTE **(To Cleonte)** Sir, we bow before your highness as friends of

your father in law and extend our most respectful assurance

of our very humble services.

MR JOURDAIN Where is that interpreter to tell him who you are and to

have him understand what you say. You will see that he'll

answer you, and that he speaks Turkish marvelously. Hey

there! Where the devil did he go? (To Cleonte) Straf, strif,

strof, straf. This gentleman is a grande segnore, grande

segnore, grande segnore, and the lady is a dama, granda

dama.

**Cleonte pretends not to understand, and Mr. Jourdain begins pointing and**

**making elaborate gestures.**

MR JOURDAIN Oh, my... Him, sir, him French mamamouchi, and her, her

French mamamouchi lady... I can't speak more clearly than

that... Ah, good. Here comes the interpreter.

**Scene 5: Mr. Jourdain, Cleonte, Dorante, Dorimene, Covielle**

**Covielle enters in disguise**

MR JOURDAIN Where have you been? We can't say anything without you.

**(Pointing to Cleonte)** Tell him that the gentleman and lady

are people of high quality and that they come to pay their

respects as my friends, and to assure him of their services.

**(To Dorante and Dorimene)** Watch how he answers.

COVIELLE Alabala crociam acci boram alabamen.

CLEONTE Catalequi tubal ourin soter amalouchan.

MR JOURDAIN What did I tell you!

COVIELLE He said that the garden of your family should forever be

sprinkled by the rain of prosperity.

MR JOURDAIN I told you he speaks Turkish!

DORANTE How remarkable.

**Scene 6: Lucille, Mr. Jourdain, Dorante, Dorimene, Cleonte, Covielle**

MR JOURDAIN Come join us, my daughter, and give your hand to this

gentleman who is doing you the honor of asking to marry

you.

LUCILLE What is this, father? What type of garb is that? Are you playing

in some comedy?

MR JOURDAIN No, no, this is no comedy; it is a very serious matter. You

are to be honored more greatly than anyone could possibly

wish. **(Pointing to Cleonte)** Behold, the husband that I

give you.

LUCILLE To me, father?

MR JOURDAIN Yes, to you. Come now, join hands with him and be

thankful to Heaven for your good fortune.

LUCILLE I do not want to get married.

MR JOURDAIN Well, I want it, and I am your father.

LUCILLE I'll do nothing of the sort.

MR JOURDAIN Enough of that! Come now, your hand.

LUCILLE No father, as I told you, there is no power on earth that can force

me to have any other but Cleonte as a husband, and I will

resort to the most drastic measures rather to allow myself

to... **(Suddenly recognizing Cleonte beneath his**

**disguise.)** It is true that as my father you are entitled to my

complete obedience, and you may, therefore, dispose of me

however you wish.

MR JOURDAIN Ah! I am delighted to see you regain your sense of duty so

promptly. How pleasing it is to have an obedient daughter.

**Scene 7: Lucille, Mr. Jourdain, Cleonte, Covielle, Dorante, Dorimene,**

**Mrs. Jourdain**

MRS JOURDAIN Well now, what do we have here? They tell me you're

going to marry your daughter off to a mummer.

MR JOURDAIN Is there no holding that impertinent tongue of yours?

You're always sticking that shrewish nose of yours into

everything, and there's no way of teaching you to be

sensible.

MRS JOURDAIN You're the one without a modicum of sense, and you flit

from one folly to another. What is it this time? What do

you plan to do with these people?

MR JOURDAIN I plan to marry our daughter to the son of the Great Turk.

MRS JOURDAIN The son of the Great Turk?

MR JOURDAIN **(Pointing to Covielle)** Yes. Pay him your compliments

through the interpreter over there.

MRS JOURDAIN I don't need any interpreter; I'll tell him myself to his

face that he'll not have my daughter.

MR JOURDAIN There you go again! Will you be still?

DORANTE Come now, Mrs. Jourdain, are you really turning down such an

honor? You are rejecting his Turkish Highness as a son inlaw?

MRS JOURDAIN By the saints, sir, mind your own business.

DORIMENE This is a great glory that should not be refused.

MRS JOURDAIN Madame, I shall thank you also not to trouble yourself

with matters that do not concern you.

DORANTE Our concern for your welfare stems only from our feelings of

friendship for both of you.

MRS JOURDAIN I can do quite nicely without your friendship.

DORANTE Your daughter, however, has agreed to comply with the wishes

of her father.

MRS JOURDAIN My daughter has agreed to marry a Turk?

DORANTE Most assuredly.

MRS JOURDAIN She can forget her Cleonte?

DORANTE What is there that one would not do to become a great lady?

MRS JOURDAIN If she ever did anything like that, I'd strangle her with

my own hands.

MR JOURDAIN Enough of your cackling. I'm telling you that the marriage

will take place.

MRS JOURDAIN And I'm telling you that it won't

MR JOURDAIN Oh, this is too much!

LUCILLE Mother!

MRS JOURDAIN Be gone, traitoress!

MR JOURDAIN What? Are you now criticizing her for obeying me?

MRS JOURDAIN She's my daughter as well as yours!

COVIELLE **(Still in disguise, To Mrs. Jourdain)** Madame!

MRS JOURDAIN And what have you got to say?

COVIELLE Just a word.

MRS JOURDAIN I've got no use for your "word."

COVIELLE (To Mr. Jourdain) Sir, if I could just have a word with her

alone, I promise you that she'll comply with your wish.

MRS JOURDAIN Never!

COVIELLE Would you just listen to me?

MRS JOURDAIN No.

MR JOURDAIN Listen to him.

MRS JOURDAIN No, I don't care to.

MR JOURDAIN He'll tell you.

MRS JOURDAIN I don't want him to tell me anything.

MR JOURDAIN Did you ever see such a stubborn woman? Would it harm

you to listen to him?

COVIELLE All I ask is that you listen; you may then do as you please.

MRS JOURDAIN All right then, what is it?

COVIELLE (Aside to Mrs. Jourdain) We have been trying to catch your

eye for an hour. Don't you see that all this is simply to have

us conform to the foolish notions of your husband, that we

are using this disguise to dupe him, and that the son of the

Great Turk is none other than Cleonte himself.

MRS JOURDAIN (Aside to Covielle) Aha!

COVIELLE (Aside to Mrs. Jourdain) And that I, Covielle, am the

interpreter?

MRS JOURDAIN Ah! Well, in that case, I shall yield.

COVIELLE Act as though you know nothing.

MRS JOURDAIN (Aloud) Yes, that settles it! I consent to the marriage.

MR JOURDAIN Ah! At last everyone is acting sensibly. (Aside to Mrs.

Jourdain) You didn't want to listen to him, but I knew that

once you did, you'd know just who it is we have here in the

son of the Great Turk.

MRS JOURDAIN Yes, I see things very clearly now and I like what I see.

You may send for the notary.

DORANTE Very well put. And now, Mrs. Jourdain, to complete your

happiness and to remove whatever feelings of jealousy you

may have had concerning your husband, I shall announce

that my lady and I plan to avail ourselves of the services of

the same notary.

MRS JOURDAIN I consent to that also.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside to Dorante)** That was just to fool her, wasn't it?

DORANTE **(Aside to Mr. Jourdain)** Of course. We must amuse her with

this little pretense.

MR JOURDAIN **(Aside)** Good, good! **(Aloud**) Quickly now, summon the

notary.

DORANTE As we await his arrival and his drawing up of the contracts, let

us see our ballet which we present for the entertainment of

his Turkish Highness.

MR JOURDAIN An excellent idea. Let's take our places.

MRS JOURDAIN And Nicole?

MR JOURDAINI give her to the interpreter, and my wife to whoever will

take her.

COVIELLE Sir, I thank you. (Aside) If a greater fool than this could ever

exist, all the way to Rome would I travel to announce it.

**The play ends with the ballet, THE BALLET OF NATIONS. The second of**

**the French segment, sung and danced by 3 women and 3 men in costumes**

**from Poitiers.**

Wander with me

Off to yon meadow

There to behold

A tale of love unfold

There neath the tree

Two doves intoning

Sweet sounds of love and fidelity

So glad of heart

We can also be,

If you=d love me

For all eternity.

Oh! How sweet is the world!

Oh! How bright are the days!

When two hearts are as one,

And the power,

The rapture of love

Unfolds its wondrous ways! THE END