

Beraldine and Argan Scene

BERALDINE Well, brother! Here I am! How are you doing?

ARGAN Ah! very bad, Beraldine; very bad.

BERALDINE (*pulls the curtains open*) How is that?

ARGAN (*finishing his soup*) No one would believe how very feeble I am.

BERALDINE That's very sad, indeed. Come on, come and join me here.

ARGAN No! I cannot move... and I have hardly enough strength to speak.

BERALDINE Suit yourself, I'll sit on your bed then.

ARGAN No, please, stay where you are! You could be contagious... and I don't want you to jeopardise the treatment Monsieur Purgon arranged for me.

BERALDINE You haven't changed since I saw you last!

ARGAN Of course, not. How long are you planning on staying here?...

BERALDINE As long as you need me.

ARGAN You must leave, Beraldine. I don't really need you. Béline doesn't like you staying with us... You must go!

BERALDINE I wouldn't stay here even if you begged me! I came, brother, to propose a match for my niece Angélique. I have a lovely young man in mind who goes by the name of Cleante....

ARGAN Sister, don't speak to me of that wicked, good-for-nothing, insolent, brazen-faced girl. I will put her in a convent before two days are over.

BERALDINE It's your wife's idea, isn't it? She doesn't fail to advise you to get rid of your daughters; and I have no doubt that, through a spirit of charity, she would be charmed to see them both become good nuns.

ARGAN Oh, I see! My poor wife again! It is she who does all the harm, and everybody hates her.

BERALDINE No, of course not. You, for one, can't wait to give your daughter in marriage to a doctor, whether she loves him or not!

ARGAN Yes, and I have reasons for that. I wish to have a son-in-law who suits my needs.

BERALDINE It's intolerable to see how you're infatuated with your doctors, and how you are so determined to be ill. One great proof that you are well, and that you have a perfectly strong body, is that you have not yet died of all the medicine your doctors had made you swallow.

ARGAN (*he's hurt*) I have a strong body? I can hardly walk, I am confounded to these four walls, nobody's interested in me, nobody talks to me anymore. I am lonely and miserable, sister.

BERALDINE Let me help you, my darling brother. Get up, put your best clothes on, let's go for a long walk in your beautiful gardens, let's have a dance party tonight, let's marry Angélique to the man she loves and be happy again!!