

Cleante and Toinette Scene

TOINETTE (*not recognising Cléante*) Who are you? What is it you want, Sir?

CLÉANTE It's me, Toinette. Cléante...

TOINETTE Oh it's you? What a surprise! What are you coming here for?

CLÉANTE To learn my destiny! I must speak to Angélique, consult the feelings of her heart, and ask her what she means to do about this fatal marriage with Thomas Diafoirus.

TOINETTE Oh, I see. You already know... But you can't speak so easily to Angélique; you must take precautions, you know how closely she's watched by her step-mother.

CLÉANTE That's why I'm dressed like this. I'm not here as Cléante, but as the friend of her music-master. I'm not stupid, Toinette.

TOINETTE No, but you are in love.

ARGAN Toinette, who are you talking to?

TOINETTE To myself, Sir, only to myself. (*She ushers Cléante out of the room. The both leave*)

Cleante and Argan Scene

CLÉANTE Sir, I am delighted to find you up, and to see you better.

TOINETTE (*pretending to be angry*). What? Better? What are you talking about? My master's mortally ill!

CLÉANTE I am so sorry, Sir. I hoped you were better and looking at your face, you are...

TOINETTE What do you mean "looking at your face"? He looks very bad! Look at him properly!

BERALDINE He walks, sleeps, eats, and drinks, like other folks, but that does not hinder him from being very ill.

ARGAN Quite true.

CLÉANTE I am heartily sorry for it, Sir.

ARGAN State your business, young man.

TOINETTE "I am delighted to find you better". The cheek!

CLEANTE Monsieur Argan, I am sent here by your daughter's music-master; he was obliged to go into the country for a few days, and as I am his intimate friend, he has asked

me to come here in his place... to go on with the lessons... for fear that, if they were discontinued... your daughter should forget what she has already learnt.