

SANCHO

I believe those banditti have not killed me. In fact, I believe those stupid cutthroats have left me alone. *(He turns and sees Antonio, who has been watching him with a dagger in hand.)* Damn it! There stands one of the bandits. Oh, why was I beguiled into specially seeking permission to accompany this excursion? I wanted to be near HER on this journey. I imagined I would certainly find an opportunity to finally declare my love. This opportunity has not been found. I must learn where she is. *(to Antonio)* Your honor, do you have any children?

ANTONIO

Four boys.

SANCHO

By the life of those four living 'bandittoninhos,' I entreat you to tell me what has become of the most well-mannered of the three ladies.

ANTONIO

*(pointing to barn)* She is there.

SANCHO

May one enter, right honorable cutthroat?

ANTONIO

You may not!

SANCHO

Highly esteemed despiser of proprietary rights, listen to me. For eighteen years, I have been oppressed by a secret.

ANTONIO

Then you are accustomed to keeping the secret by now.

SANCHO

But I must confide it to the lady you have in there. She waits to hear it, and it will please her. Please let me speak to her, magnanimous disturber of the highway.

ANTONIO

She is tied and gagged.

SANCHO

Shocking. But she has her ears yet, has she not?

ANTONIO

For the present, she still has her ears.

SANCHO

For the present! Horrible. Please, to these "for the present" ears, I would like to speak.

ANTONIO

Very well, but you must not try to liberate the lady.

SANCHO

Do I look like one who would attempt such a thing? I swear to you... I will only want to see and speak to her.

ANTONIO

I will bring her. (*exits into the barn*)