

THE PERCUSIVE PICKPOCKET

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EXT. MARKET - DAY

NOBLE is walking along with a money pouch at his side.
PICKPOCKET bumps into him.

PICKPOCKET
Oops, sorry sir!

PICKPOCKET brushes off NOBLE.

NOBLE
It's no trouble, think nothing of
it.

PICKPOCKET begins to walk away. NOBLE looks down at where his
money pouch was but is now gone.

NOBLE
(CONT'D)
Hey, wait a minute.

NOBLE grabs PICKPOCKET.

NOBLE (CONT'D)
Just what are you trying to pull?

PICKPOCKET
Sir?

NOBLE
Did you really think you could just
pickpocket me and get away with it?

PICKPOCKET
Pickpocket!?! I would never do that!

NOBLE
Then how do you explain this?

NOBLE gestures at his empty belt.

PICKPOCKET
Your belt, sir?

NOBLE
My lack of a money bag.

PICKPOCKET
Are you sure you had one?

NOBLE
I had it before we collided but
it's gone now.

PICKPOCKET
 Well that is very strange.
 (PICKPOCKET studies the
 empty belt)
 Wait, is this it?

PICKPOCKET holds up the money pouch.

NOBLE
 Ah, so you admit your guilt.

NOBLE takes the pouch.

PICKPOCKET
 Nothing of the sort, it was on the
 other side of your belt.

NOBLE
 Was it really?

PICKPOCKET
 Yes.

NOBLE
 Well then, my mistake.
 (NOBLE returns the pouch
 to his belt)
 I do apologize for accusing you of
 theft.

PICKPOCKET
 It's nothing, really. I mean, if I
 were guilty I'd be hanged, but
 that's all.

NOBLE
 Well, good day.

They begin to walk away.

NOBLE (CONT'D)
 No, stop.

PICKPOCKET turns back.

PICKPOCKET
 What now?

NOBLE
 What now, you've done it again! You
 stole my money bag!

PICKPOCKET

Again with this? Why would I want to steal a bag? I could get a bag anywhere.

NOBLE

You didn't steal it for the bag, you stole it for the money inside of it.

PICKPOCKET

Are you sure you didn't just misplace it again?

NOBLE

Where could I have put it?

PICKPOCKET

Check under your foot.

NOBLE

It's not going to be under my-
(NOBLE lifts up his foot
and finds the money pouch
under it. NOBLE picks it
up.)

Oh.

PICKPOCKET

Now can I be on my way? I have many things which I must do before the sun sets.

NOBLE

Not until I'm certain that you won't be making off with my money.

PICKPOCKET

What grounds do ye have for accusing me of theft? All I've done is help you find the purse which you've misplaced several times.

NOBLE

But I only misplaced it when you were nearby.

PICKPOCKET

Really. Then where is it now?

NOBLE looks at his hand to see that the pouch has again vanished.

NOBLE

Ah!

PICKPOCKET

It's on your head.

NOBLE retrieves the pouch from his head.

NOBLE

Well can you really blame me for thinking you stole it? You're called "Pickpocket" after all.

PICKPOCKET

And who told you I was called that?

NOBLE

It's written in the script, see?

NOBLE pulls out the script and PICKPOCKET comes over to look at it.

NOBLE (CONT'D)

See, I'm "Noble" and you're "Pickpocket".

PICKPOCKET

Well how do you like that?

BYSTANDER walks onto the scene.

BYSTANDER

No no no, I simply won't have it. Clearly the writer of this sketch couldn't think of a proper punchline and decided to just make the ending meta. Well I simply won't stand for this utter laziness and lack of originality.

PICKPOCKET

But aren't you part of the meta now?

BYSTANDER

Oh.