

An excerpt from Master Pierre Pathelin

Guillaume: Let's see... twenty-four sous each, for six yards, comes to nine francs.

Pathelin: Hmm, that's six gold pieces?

Guillaume: Perfectly!

Pathelin: Now, sir, will you trust me, until you come for them? You don't really have to take it as credit, you will take them at my house, in gold or in coin.

Guillaume: By Our Lady! I'm not sure I want to go so far out of my way.

Pathelin: You haven't said a single word, by St Giles, that isn't the gospel truth. It's very well said, that you wouldn't want to go out of your way. But you've never before had any reason to come and drink in my house, and this time you shall have a drink there!

Guillaume: And, by Saint John, I hardly do anything other than drink with my customers. But it's poor practice to trust credit on a first sale like this.

Pathelin: Are you worried I'll drag you down? When I offer you gold instead of common coin? By God, you'll even eat the goose my wife is roasting!

Guillaume: He's driving me nuts! Go ahead, then, leave the cloth here and I will bring it along when I come.

Pathelin: Nothing doing! Would I burden you with that? Not in the least. I'll tuck it under my arm.

Pierre Pathelin is an accomplished trickster who cheats everyone he can. Guillaume's his latest victim, but Guillaume's got his own games... and so does everyone else in this hilarious farce of twists, turns, and come-uppance.