

*the Life of Æsop.*

dome, he would amass those Designs together, and  
prejudice his Concernment. Æsop replied, *Man,*  
*mischievous and malicious Artifices, I will obtain*  
*franchisement.*

On a Day, which the Citizens of Samos had devo-  
ted to Festivity, and other Improvements of a general  
Mirth, an *Eagle* in his Flight snatch'd up the Publique  
Ring, and dropp'd it into the Lap of a Slave. The  
*Samians* amaz'd at this ostentful Accident, consulted with  
*Xanthus*, he being both a learned Philosopher and an eminent  
Citizen, being inquisitive to understand what would be the  
effects of this remarkable Prodigy? But *Xanthus* (searching  
into the Time when it happened) was engaged in a dull  
and unactive Melancholy, because he could not untwist  
the Myserie of it. Æsop beholding *Xanthus* so discom-  
posed, addressed himself to him, and enquir'd *what was*  
*the cause of so gloomy a Pensiveness? To Morrow (when you*  
*appear in publique) declare to the Samians, that you are*  
*not dextrous in untying the knotty sense of Mysteries, but*  
*that you have a Servant that can unwind the Intrigues of*  
*them; and when this shall be untwisted, the Honour shall*  
*redound to you: But if the Solution shall not be adequate to*  
*this Portent, the Infamy and Obloquie shall be only thrown*  
*on me, as either the Author or Abettor of such a distorted*  
*Interpretation.* To this Advice of Æsop, *Xanthus* assen-  
ted, and the next Day inform'd the *Samians* what Æsop  
had both suggested and prescrib'd. On which Æsop was  
produc'd: but when the *Samians* view'd the disobliging  
Features of his Face, and Lineaments of his Person,  
they with Derision and Contempt entertain'd him, and  
smiling, demanded, *Whether a Person of so unconcern'd*  
*an Aspect, could untie so mysterious a Portent, by a just*  
*Solution? Æsop waving his Hand, enjoyn'd Silence,*  
and replied, *You Citizens of Samos, you should not only*