A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS  Betsy Burr

- Hail, Caesar!
- Peace to you, O foreigner! Arise! You are?
- I am Orestes, Excellency, an Arabian exile.
- Why are you in exile, Orestes?
- I used to be a spy, O Caesar.
- A messy business! Have you eaten?
- Yes, thank you, sire. I ate a cheese and veal pie -- excellent, too. O Caesar, I have one desire. I foresee easy forays for you, sire, if I am a spy for you. I have an eyepiece to use to spy...
- An eyepiece! Have you seen an enemy army?
- Yes, Excellency, in a secure city adjacent to a forest, two armies.
- I have seen your city, and I say your city is empty! Are you a spy for anyone else? You are under arrest! Seize him, men!
- O Caesar, you are too wise to use force! I am innocent! I see two cities: one is empty, and one two armies occupy. I am your ally, and I have a double use to you, sire. You see, I am a spy and I am a seer, too.
- If you are a seer, I ask you, are you a teller of fortunes?
- Yes, Caesar, I foresee nine seasons of easy successes for you before you expire.
- Nine seasons! And am I to expire in nine seasons? Why? Will I be sick, spy?
- O Caesar, you will expire before you are ill of a disease, to my sorrow. Have you any enemies?
- A few, a few.
- I foresee you will have two eulogies, O Caesar: one orator to accuse your enemies and one to excuse them; one to expiate and one to extenuate; one to say "peace, peace" and one to argue for "an eye for an eye"; one to attest to your tyranny and one to attest to your energy and excellence; a forum for forensic science, before your enemies' demise. Yes, eventually your enemies will expire too ... Excellency, are you OK? Excuse Orestes, Caesar, if I've foreseen too far!
- O well, if I have nine seasons before I sleep, I say to arms! A sea of enemies awaits, Orestes! To arms!

Do readers know of any "pure" rebuses longer than this one?

KICKSHAWS  Faith W. Eckler

From the Mailbag: What a ridiculous way to spend eight bills.
Test Your Wits: Adam's apple, Alice's restaurant, Aladdin's lamp, Banquo's ghost, Buridan's (or Balaam's) ass, Charley's aunt, Cleopatra's needle, Cook's tour, Finian's rainbow, Gilligan's island, Grant's tomb, Gulliver's travels, Halley's comet, Hamlet's soliloquy, Hernando's hideaway, Hobson's choice, Hogan's alley, Jacob's ladder, Martha's vineyard, Montezuma's revenge, Morgan's raiders, Noah's ark, Occam's razor, Pandora's box, Peter's Pence, Pike's peak, Portnoy's complaint, Rosamund's bower, Seward's folly, Shay's rebellion, Whistler's mother

1. anti auntie
2. pro pro
3. post post
4. anti ante
5. milli-Milly
6. homo homo
7. pneumo new-mow
8. hydro hide row
9. tri try
10. sub sub

Alphabet Soup: minestrone
Syllabic Crosswords Revisited: CON VER GENT MAN LY

INSTRUCTIONS:

Word fiction or be sent to New Jersey David Silv

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