1. Q of the Continuum noticed this amusing reaction sequence. He asks that you suggest mechanisms and intermediates for the process, then summons a mariachi band to help.

2. Taskmaster Peryite likes brevity. A concise synthesis of Grandifloracin uses an interesting dimerization approach from salicylic acid. Propose a mechanism to the Lord of Pestilence for this transformation.

OH OH LAH NalO₄

$$H_2O$$
 H_2O
 H_2