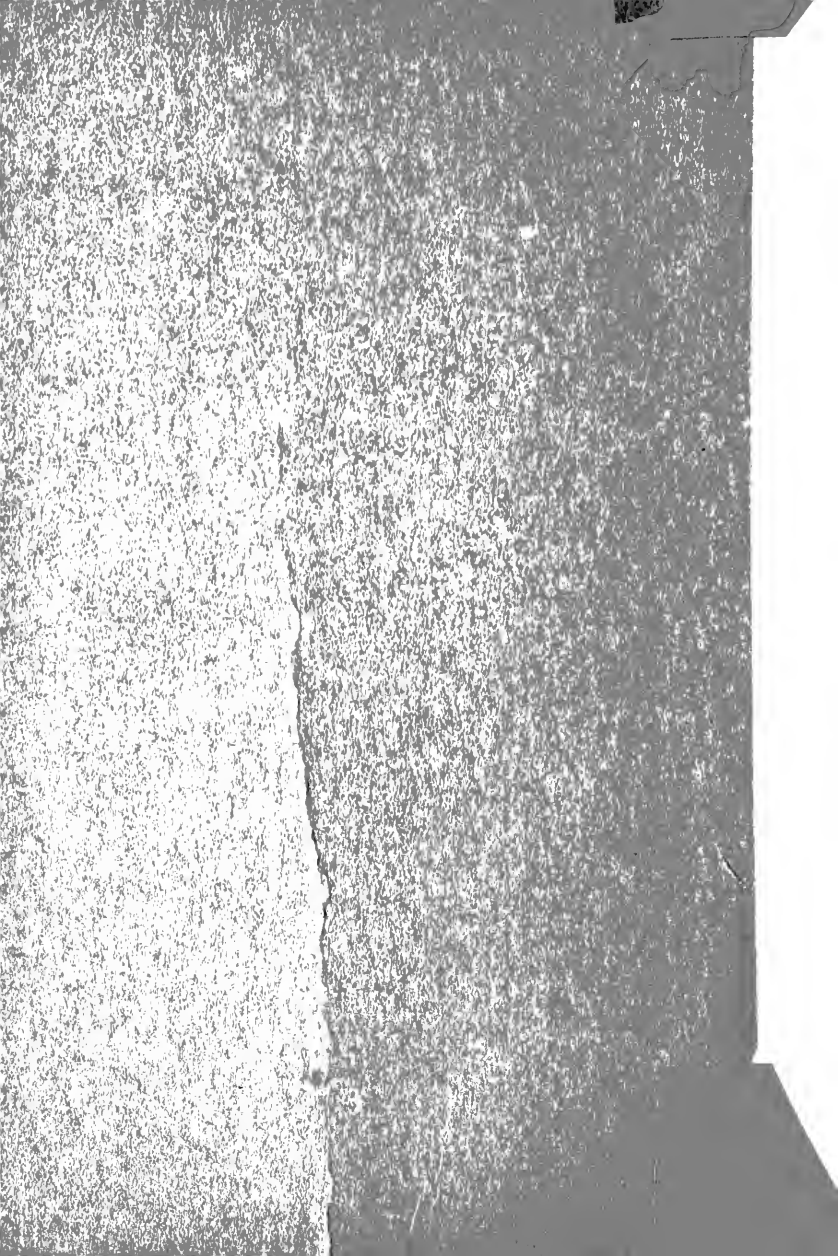




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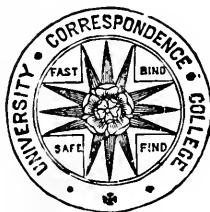
BY

A. F. BURNET, M.A. LOND.,

AND

J. H. HAYDON, M.A. CAMB. AND LOND.,

EXHIBITIONER IN LATIN AT INTER. ARTS, UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR IN  
CLASSICS AT B.A., GOLD MEDALLIST AT M.A.



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# TERENCE'S ADELPHI.

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## PROLOGUE.

As the author has perceived that the play we are going to act is criticised by his enemies, and that his opponents pick it to pieces, he will give evidence about himself, and you will be his judges whether his practice should be regarded as a merit or a fault. There is a comedy of Diphilus, the *Synapothnescontes*; this Plautus rendered in his play the *Commorientes*. In the Greek play at its beginning there is a young man who carries off a maid-servant from her master; this part Plautus has left untouched. The present author has taken that part for himself for the *Adelphi*, and has translated and rendered it word for word. This we are now going to act as a new piece; do you examine whether you are of opinion that a theft has been committed, or that a piece, which was passed over in neglect, is now rehandled. For as to the assertion which those spiteful people make, that men of noble birth help the author and constantly write with him, what they account a forcible slander, this he considers his greatest glory—that he finds favour in the eyes of those who find favour in the eyes of all of you and the people generally, and whose services in war, at leisure, or in business, no one has disdained to use at his own convenience.

After this do not look for the argument of the play. The old men who will come on first will partly reveal it, in part the players will unfold it in their acting. See that your kind attention encourages the poet's industry still to write.

## ACT THE FIRST.

### SCENE I.

*Athens: a place where four streets meet. The houses of MICIO and SOSTRATA open on the stage. This scene is unchanged throughout the play. Enter MICIO.*

26. MICIO (*calling*). Storax!—(*advancing to front of stage*). Æschinus has not returned from supper to-night, nor any one of the slaves who had gone to meet him. In good sooth people say it with truth, that if you are away anywhere, or linger there, it is better for you that what your wife says against you, or thinks of you, in her wrath should come to pass, than what your loving parents do. Your wife, if you linger, either thinks you are in love, or that someone is in love with you, or that you are drinking and making merry, and that it is all very well for you, while it is hard for her, left all alone. But as for *me*, what are *my* thoughts, because my son has not returned! By what cares am I now troubled! for fear he should have caught cold, or fallen somewhere, or broken his leg, or something. Ah! to think that any man should take it into his head to get a thing which is dearer to him than he is to himself! And yet, this boy is not my son, but my brother's. He, indeed, has been of a very different disposition from me ever since we were boys. I have followed our easy-going town life and ways of leisure, and have never had a wife, which my married friends think a lucky thing. He—the reverse of all this—spends his life in the country; always lives thriftily and roughly; has married a wife; two sons were born; of these I adopted the elder for myself; I have brought him up from a baby, have kept him and loved him as if my own; therein I take my joy; this alone I love. I do my best that he should love me likewise in return. I give, I,

forgive; I do not hold it necessary that he should do everything by my authority; finally, the freaks which youth is prone to, in which others indulge without their father's knowledge, these I have accustomed my son not to conceal from me. For the man who has been accustomed to lie to his father, or cheat him, will all the more venture to deceive others. / I believe it to be better to keep one's hold on the children of gentlemen by honour and gentlemanly feeling than by fear. These ideas do not suit my brother, nor please him. He often comes to me exclaiming: 'What are you doing, Micio? Why are you ruining our boy? Why is he in love? Why does he drink? Why do you provide the funds for these indulgences? You are gratifying his desire for fine clothing; you are too utterly senseless.' He is too utterly hard beyond what is just and right, and is very far wrong, in my opinion at least, in thinking that a sway which is founded on force is stronger or more durable than that which is gained by friendship. Thus runs my theory, and thus I convince myself. The man who does his duty by force of punishment, as long as he thinks what he does will be found out, so long he is afraid; if he hopes that it will be secret, he returns again to his natural bent. He whom you unite to yourself by ties of kindness acts sincerely, tries to do as he has been done by, and whether in your presence or not will be the same. This is a father's duty, to accustom his son to do what is right rather of his own free will than because of the fear of another; herein a father and a master differ; let the man who cannot do that confess that he does not know how to manage children. (*Catches sight of DEMEA.*) But is this the very man of whom I was talking? positively it is he. I see he is somewhat out of temper; I suppose he is going to scold at once, as usual. (*To DEMEA, who enters*) I am very glad to see you well, Demea.

## SCENE II.

81. DEMEA. Ah, well met! You are the very person I am anxious to find.

MI. Why are you out of temper?

DE. Are you asking me, when we have an Æschinus, why I am out of temper?

MI. (*aside*). Did I not say this would happen? (*Aloud*) What has he done?

DE. You ask what he has done! A fellow who is ashamed of nothing, fears no one, and does not think that any law restrains him. Now, I say nothing of what was done before this; but what outrage has he perpetrated just now?

MI. What is this, pray?

DE. He has broken open the door and rushed into another man's house; he has thrashed the master himself and his whole household almost to death; he has forcibly carried off the woman with whom he was in love. Everyone is exclaiming that it was a most disgraceful deed. How many people have told me of it on my way here! it is on the lips of the whole people. In fine, if an example is to be quoted, does he not see his brother looking after the property, staying in the country, thrifty and sober? None of *his* actions are like this. When I say this to him, I say it to you, Micio; it is you who allow him to be corrupted.

MI. There is simply nothing more unjust than a man with no experience of life, who thinks nothing right except what he has done himself.

100. DE. What do you mean by that?

MI. Because you, Demea, are a bad judge of these things. There is nothing shameful, believe me, in a young man loving women and drink, nothing at all; nor in breaking open a door. If you and I did not do these things, it was our poverty that would not allow us to do so. Do you now regard as a merit of yours what you then did from lack of means? It is unfair, for if there had been money to do it on we would have done

it. And you, if you had the feelings of a man, would now allow that son of yours to do so while he may, thanks to his years, rather than that he should still take the same course at a less fitting age, after he has tumbled you out of doors a corpse long waited for.

111. DE. By Jupiter! Why, man, you are driving me to madness. There is nothing shameful in a young man behaving like this!

MI. Tut! Listen, do not deafen me too often about this affair. You gave me your son to adopt; he became mine. If he does anything wrong, Demea, he does the wrong at my cost; I bear the greatest part in it. He gives a feast, he drinks, he reeks of essences—it is at my expense. He is in love—the money shall be paid by me as long as it is convenient; when it ceases to be so he will be turned out of doors, perhaps. He breaks open doors—they shall be rebuilt. He has torn his dress—it shall be mended; and, thank Heaven, I have the money to do these things with, and as yet it is not distressing to me. In fine, either leave off or bring me some umpire or other, and I will show that you are committing very many errors in this matter.

124. DE. Ah me! Learn to be a father from those who really know what it is.

MI. You are his father by nature, I by good counsel.

DE. *You* counsel anything!

MI. Oh, if you are going on, I shall be off.

DE. And is this your method?

MI. Am I, then, to listen so often to the same thing?

DE. It is a worry to me.

MI. And to me also. But, Demea, let us both look after our fair share; you after the one boy, I likewise after the other. For to look after both is about equal to asking back the one you gave me.

DE. Oh, Micio!

MI. That's what I think.

DE. Well, then, if that is your opinion, let him squander, gamble, go to ruin; I wash my hands of it. Now, if after this another word——'

MI. Are you angry again, Demea?

135. DE. Do not you believe me? Am I asking back the boy I gave you? It's very hard. I am not a stranger to him. If I stand in the way—all right, I have done. You wish me to look after one: well, I will. And, thanks be to Heaven, since *he* is what I mean him to be. That son of yours will find out for himself later; I do not wish to say anything too severe against him.

[*Exit towards Forum.*]

141. MR. What he says is neither all wrong nor all right; still, these doings are somewhat annoying to me; but I did not wish to show *him* that I was vexed. For this is the kind of man he is: when I want to quiet him I contradict him of set purpose and out-face him. Yet he scarcely takes it reasonably. But if I were to increase or be an assistant to his passion I should assuredly be as mad as he. And yet Æschinus really does me some injustice in this affair. He said the other day that he wished to marry. I was hoping that his young blood had by this time cooled down, and was glad of it. But now here it is all over again; yet, whatever it is, I mean to know and meet the fellow, if he is in the Forum.

[*Exit towards Forum.*]

## ACT THE SECOND.

### SCENE I.

(Enter ÆSCHINUS, leading the music-girl, attended by his slave, PARMENO, and followed by the slave-dealer, SANNIO.)

155. SANNIO (*shouting*). I beseech you, fellow-countrymen, bring help to the poor innocent man before you: come to the rescue of the helpless.

ÆSCHINUS (*to the music-girl*). Quietly now! Now stand here on this spot. Why are you looking back? There is no danger. He shall never touch you while I am here.

SA. I will, indeed, though everyone is against me.

Æs. (*to the music-girl*). Wretch as he is, he will not expose himself to be thrashed a second time to-day.

SA. Listen, Æschinus! that you may not be able to say that you were ignorant of my character. I am a dealer.

Æs. I am aware of that.

SA. But as good as any man has been in any country with the best of characters. And as to the excuse you may make afterwards, that you are sorry this injustice was done me, (*snapping his fingers*) I won't give *that* for it. Just believe it, I will follow up my rights, nor will you ever get off with words for having wronged me in the matter. I know these fine speeches of yours, 'I am sorry for it; I will give an oath you are unworthy of such a wrong,' though I have been treated in an unworthy way.

166. Æs. (*to PARMENO*). Get away in front quickly, and open the doors.

SA. (*trying to stop him*). But you think nothing of all I say.

Æs. (*to the slave-girl*). Go inside at once.

SA. (*blocking the way*). Nay, but I won't allow it.

Æs. Come this way, Parmeno. (*PARMENO moves near to SANNIO.*) You have gone too far that way (*placing PARMENO close to SANNIO*). Stand here near him; there! that's how I mean it. Now take care not to move your eyes from mine in any direction, so that there may be no delay, if I nod my head, before your fist is planted at once on his cheek.

SA. That is just the very thing I mean to test. (*The music-girl at a sign from ÆSCHINUS advances towards the door.*)

Æs. (*to PARMENO*). Now then! look out! (*To SANNIO, who seizes hold of the music-girl*) Hands off the woman! (*Nods to PARMENO, who gives SANNIO a cuff on the head.*)

SA. (*putting his hands to his head*). What a scandalous outrage!

Æs. He will give you another if you don't look out. (*PARMENO strikes SANNIO again.*)

SA. Ah! poor me!

Æs. (*to PARMENO*). I had not given the nod; but rather err on that side than the other, all the same. (*To the music-girl*) Go in at once.

175. SA. (*indignantly*). What is this? Is it a kingdom, Æschinus, that you are master of here?

Æs. If I were, you would be dressed according to your merits.

SA. What business have you with me?

Æs. None.

SA. What? do you know what sort of man I am?

Æs. I have no wish to.

SA. Have I meddled with anything of yours?

Æs. If you had you would have got something unpleasant.

SA. Then how are *you* rather allowed to keep my girl, for whom I paid my money? Answer me that.

Æs. It will be better for you not to have made a brawl here in front of the house. If you persist in being



troublesome you shall be presently hurried off inside, and there shall be soundly lashed to death with thongs.

SA. I, a free man! with thongs!

Æs. It will be just so.

SA. What a vile creature! Is it here that they say liberty is equal for all men?

Æs. If you have quite done railing, wretch, please listen to me this moment.

185. SA. Is it I who have railed against you, or you against me?

Æs. Be done with this nonsense, and return to business.

SA. What business? Where am I to return to?

Æs. Do you mean me at once to tell you what has reference to you?

SA. I wish you would, provided you say something fair; for there has been no harm first done you by me.

Æs. Why, good heavens! even that remains to be seen.

SA. Pray return, Æschinus, to the point with which you started.

Æs. You bought her for twenty minæ—bad luck may it bring you! The same amount of money shall be given to you.

SA. What? If I do not wish to sell her to you will you force me?

Æs. By no means.

SA. Because that is what I feared.

Æs. Nor do I think she should be sold, as she is a free woman; for I formally maintain her freedom by legal process. Now look, which of the two do you choose: either to take the money or to get up your case? Consider the matter, wretch, till I come back. [*Exit into Micio's house.*]

196. SA. By the powers above! I am not at all surprised at people who begin to go mad with their wrongs. He has hurried me out of my house and assaulted me; he has taken away my girl against my will; he has inflicted on me more than five hundred cuffs on the ear—on me, poor man! And on account of these crimes he asks that she should be handed over to him at cost-price.

However, as he has earned it so well, let it be done ; he demands his right. Well, I am quite anxious for it, if he would only pay the money. But this is nonsense I am talking. Whenever I say that I will sell the girl at such a price he will call people to witness on the spot to say I have sold her, and that it is all moonshine about the money. 'Another day: call again to-morrow.' Even that I can endure provided he pays, although it is an injustice. But I am thinking about what is the regular thing ; when you have taken up this trade of mine you must bear the wrongs done you by young men, and say nothing about them. But nobody will pay ; it is in vain that I make these calculations to myself.

## SCENE II.

(*The door of MICIO's house opens. SYRUS appears speaking to ÆSCHINUS within. SANNIO draws back.*)

209. SYRUS. You keep quiet, I will talk to him. I'll soon make him take the money greedily, and even say he has been treated well (*turning from the door to SANNIO*). What's this about you, Sannio, that I hear you have had some little fighting-match with my master ?

SA. I never saw fighting more unequally matched than was that between us to-day. We both got tired, I with being beaten perpetually, and he with beating for ever.

Sy. It was your own fault.

SA. What was I to do ?

Sy. You ought to have humoured the young man.

SA. How could I do so better, when I to-day even submitted my very face to assault ?

Sy. Come now, do you know what I am going to say ? It is sometimes the greatest gain to neglect money at the right occasion ! Do you see ? Were you afraid, if you had yielded from your claim a little and humoured the young man, most foolish of creatures, that it would not pay you with interest ?

SA. I do not buy hope for money.

Sy. You'll never make your fortune. Go to, Sannio ; you have no idea how to lure men.

221. SA. I believe your plan is the better one, but I was never clever enough not to prefer to take whatever I could get on the spot.

SY. Come now; I know your disposition. As if twenty minæ were really either here or there to you as long as you oblige our friend here! (*pointing to ÆSCHINUS'S house*). Besides, they say you are starting for Cyprus.

SA. (*aside, anxiously*). Ah!

SY. That you bought up many articles to carry thither, and that the vessel is hired: this I know; you are hesitating about it. When you return from there, all the same, I hope you will do this bit of business.

SA. I will not stir anywhere. (*Aside*) By heaven, it's all over with me! It is with this hope that they began the business.

SY. (*aside*). He's afraid. I have given the creature a twinge.

228. SA. (*aside*). Oh, what a shame! Mark this, how he has caught me in the very nick of time. Many of the women are bought, and also other things which I am taking from here to Cyprus. Unless I go to the mart there I sustain a very great loss. Now, if I leave *this* business and attend to it then, when I have come back from there, it's all up; the whole thing will have cooled down. 'You're coming now at last? Why did you let it rest? Where were you?' So that it is better to lose it than either to remain here now so long, or to follow the matter up afterwards.

SY. Well, have you finished counting up what you think will be your return.

SA. Is this worthy of him? To think that Æschinus should begin this? To demand to take away the girl by violence?

239. SY. (*aside*). He's wavering. (*Aloud*) I have this one proposition; see if it pleases you. Rather than that you should run the risk, Sannio, of keeping or losing it all, halve it. He will scrape ten minæ from somewhere or other.

SA. Alas! poor wretch, am I now running a risk about the principal? Is he ashamed of nothing? He

had loosened all my teeth ; besides that, my whole head is one bump with his blows. On the top of it all, is he cheating me into the bargain ? I do not go a step.

SY. As you please. Do you wish anything now, or may I go ?

SA. No, no ; good heavens ! I beg this of you, Syrus, however this thing has been done, rather than for me to go to law about it, let my money be paid me, at any rate, as much as she was bought for. (*Giving money to SYRUS.*) Syrus, I know that before this you have never made a friend of me ; you shall have cause to call me mindful and grateful.

SY. I will do my utmost (*breaking off*)—but I see Ctesipho coming. He is delighted about the girl.

SA. What about the request I make ?

SY. Wait a little (*draws SANNIO to back of stage*).

### SCENE III.

(*Enter CTESIPHO, not seeing SYRUS or SANNIO.*)

254. CTESIPHO. You may be glad to take a kindness, when you need it, from any man ; but indeed that especially gives pleasure if he who ought rightly to be so is your benefactor. Oh, my brother, my brother ! what praise am I to give you now ? This I know very well, I shall never say anything so magnificently that your merits will not surpass it. So this one thing I think I have chiefly more than anyone else, that no one has a brother more endowed with the highest qualities.

SY. (*advancing*). Ctesipho !

CT. Syrus, where is Æschinus ?

SY. (*pointing to house*). He is there, awaiting you at home.

CT. Ah !

SY. What is it ?

CT. What is it ? It is by his aid, Syrus, that I now live ; delightful fellow ! Why, he thought that everything was secondary for him in comparison with my convenience ; he transferred to himself the slanders, the

scandal, my love and my sin; he can do nothing more.  
(*In alarm*) Why, pray, did the door rattle?

SY. Stay, stay; it is my master himself who is coming out.

## SCENE IV.

(*Enter ÆSCHINUS from MICIO'S house.*)

265. ÆSCHINUS. Where is that impious wretch?

SA. That's me he's looking for. Is he bringing anything out? I am done for! I see nothing.

ÆS. (*seeing CTESIPHO*). Ah, well met! It's you yourself I am looking for. How goes it, Ctesipho? The whole thing is safely disposed of; but do lay aside your sadness.

CT. Indeed I do so, when I have you as a brother. O my Æschinus, my dear brother! Ah! I am afraid to praise you more to your face, lest you should think I do so for the sake of flattering rather than because I am really grateful.

ÆS. Come, come, foolish boy, as if we now did not know each other, Ctesipho! This I am sorry for, that we learnt of it almost too late, and were almost reduced to such a position that even if everyone wished to do so they could not help you at all.

CT. I was ashamed.

ÆS. Ah, that is folly, not shame! Almost to leave your country for an insignificant matter! A frightful thing to say. I pray Heaven to prevent such conduct.

276. CT. I was wrong.

ÆS. (*turning to SYRUS*). What, pray, does Sannio say to us?

SY. He is subdued already.

ÆS. I will go to the Forum that I may pay him off. You go within to *her*, Ctesipho!

[*Exeunt ÆSCHINUS towards Forum, CTESIPHO into MICIO'S house.*]

SA. (*apart*). Syrus, be persistent!

SY. (*aloud to ÆSCHINUS, who is going off stage*). Let us go, for our man is going to Cyprus.

SA. Not even so much as *that!* (*showing tip of finger*). Although I positively remain here with nothing to do.

SY. It shall be paid: don't be afraid.

SA. But see that he pays it all.

SY. He'll pay it all. Just you be quiet, and follow this way.

SA. I am following.

(*As SANNIO goes off after ÆSCHINUS, CTESIPHO reappears at door of house.*)

CT. Here, here, Syrus!

SY. What is it?

CT. I implore you, outright, pay off that vile man of yours as soon as possible, in case, if he is more provoked, this affair somehow should get to the ears of my father, and I should be ruined for ever.

SY. It will not be so. Keep up your heart. Meanwhile, do you enjoy yourself with her inside, and pray order couches to be set, and the rest of the things to be got ready. When the business is finished, I will come home with the provisions.

CT. Yes, please. As this matter has gone off well, let us spend the day in feasting.

## ACT THE THIRD.

### SCENE I.

(SOSTRATA comes out of house, followed by the old nurse  
CANTHARA.)

288. SOSTRATA. I implore you, dear nurse, what will happen now?

CANTHARA. Do you ask what will happen? Everything will surely go well, I hope.

So. The pains, poor child, are just beginning for the first time.

CA. Are you afraid *now*, as if you had never been present at a birth, and never had a child yourself?

So. Oh dear! I have no one: we are alone. Besides, Geta is not here, nor anyone to send for the midwife, nor to fetch Æschinus.

CA. Why *he* will be here at once; for he never lets a single day pass without coming always.

So. He alone is the cure for my griefs.

CA. Under the circumstances, it could scarcely have happened better than it has, my mistress, since she has secretly married him so, as far as regards him in particular. Such a man, of such descent and spirit, and born of such a wealthy house!

So. Certainly it is as you say. I pray the Gods that he may be preserved to us.

### SCENE II.

(GETA rushes on, not seeing SOSTRATA and CANTHARA, who withdraw in alarm to back of stage.)

299. GETA. Things are now at such a pass, that if everyone were to bring their plans together, and should

seek some escape from this evil which has befallen me, my mistress, and my mistress's daughter, they would give no assistance. Alas, wretch that I am! So many dangers suddenly surround us, from which one cannot escape—violence, poverty, wrong, desertion, dishonour. Oh, this generation! Oh, the outrage! Oh, impious races! What an unnatural man!

So. (*apart*). Oh dear me! why ever is it that I see Geta thus fearful and hurrying?

GE. Why, neither his honour, nor his oath, nor his pity, prevented nor deterred the villain, nor the fact that confinement was drawing near for her to whom he had unworthily offered his false love.

So. (*apart*). I do not quite understand what he says.

CA. (*apart*). Pray let us go nearer, Sostrata.

310. GE. Oh dear me! I am scarcely master of myself, so much do I glow with passion. There is nothing that I should like better than that the whole household should meet me, that I might vent on them the whole of this wrath of mine while this sickness is fresh. I should think it enough punishment in my eyes so long as I could take my vengeance on them in my own way. First of all, I would snuff out the life of the old man himself who produced that wretch. Then again for Syrus, his instigator, oh, in what a way would I mangle him! In the first place, I would fling him in the air by the waist, and set him down again head-foremost, so that he might scatter the road with his brains. The eyes of the young man himself I would tear out, and after that would fling him headlong down. The others I would hunt down, drive along, whirl away, buffet and lay flat. But am I delaying to impart this calamity to my mistress at once? (*Hurries towards* SOSTRATA'S house.)

320. So. Let us call him back. Geta!

GE. (*without looking back*). Hallo! Whoever you are, leave me alone.

So. I am Sostrata.

GE. (*turning hastily*). Where is she? It is you yourself I am looking for. I am waiting for you. You have met me in the very nick of time. Oh, my mistress!



So. What is it? Why do you tremble?

GE. Ah me! (*walking wildly up and down*).

So. Why do you hurry so, good Geta? Take breath again.

GE. Absolutely.

So. What is that 'absolutely,' then?

GE. We are absolutely undone. It is all over with us.

So. Speak out what it is, I implore you.

GE. Already.

So. *What* is already, Geta?

GE. Æschinus.

So. What has he done, then?

GE. He is estranged from our household.

So. Alas! I am undone! Why?

GE. He has begun to love another.

So. Alas! wretch that I am!

GE. And he does not carry it on secretly, but with his own hands publicly carried her off from her master.

So. Is this absolutely certain?

GE. Quite certain; with these eyes I saw it, Sostrata.

330. So. Oh, wretched woman that I am! What now can you believe? or whom? What! our Æschinus? the very life of us all, in whom all our hopes, all our resources, were placed! who swore that he would never live one day without her? who said that he would place his child in his father's lap, and would so beseech him that he might acknowledge her as his wife?

GE. Mistress, cease your tears, and rather consider what must be done for the matter in the future. Are we to suffer it in silence, or to tell someone?

CA. What, what! Are you sane, good fellow? Do you, then, think this should be published anywhere?

GE. I, at least, think not. The fact itself shows, in the first place, that he is alienated from us. Now, if we publish it openly, he will deny it, I am sure. Then the reputation and life of your daughter will be in danger. Again, if he should confess it ever so much, since he loves another, it is not expedient that she should be given to him. Wherefore in every way there is need for keeping silence.

341. So. Ah! not for worlds! I will not do it.

GE. What will you do?

So. I will publish it.

CA. Ah, Sostrata dear, consider the thing you are doing.

So. Things cannot be in a worse pass than that in which they now stand. If he denies it, my witness is the ring which he had lost. Finally, since I have the full knowledge that this fault is far removed from me, and that no reward passed between us, nor anything unworthy of her or me, Geta, I will go to law.

350. GE. What's your plan? I allow that you say what is better.

So. You go and, as far as possible, tell Hegio, her relative, the whole affair in order; for he was the nearest friend of my Simulus, and has been most attentive to us.

GE. For, by heaven! no one else considers us.

So. You hasten, dear Canthara; run and fetch the midwife, that she may not be late for us when she is needed. [*Exeunt.*

### SCENE III.

(*Enter DEMEA from Forum.*)

355. DEMEA. I am indeed lost! I have heard that my son Ctesipho was hand-in-hand with Æschinus in the abduction. This calamity remains for wretched me, if he can persuade him, even him, who is worth something, to villainy. Where am I to look for him? I suppose Æschinus has taken him off somewhere; that villain has persuaded him, I know well enough. But see. I see Syrus coming; I shall know now from him where he is. But, by heaven! he is one of that gang; if he has perceived I am looking for him, the villain will never tell me. I will not show that that is what I mean.

(*Enter SYRUS, who pretends not to see DEMEA.*)

364. SYRUS. Just now we told the old man the whole thing in order—how it happened. I never saw anyone better pleased.

DE. (*aside*). Heavens! the folly of the creature!

SY. He praised his son, and thanked me for having given him the advice.

DE. (*aside*). I am bursting with rage!

SY. He paid down the money on the spot. Besides that he gave us half a mina to spend, and that was divided very much to my liking.

DE. (*aside*). Ah! If you mean anything to be properly looked after, you should give it to this fellow. (*Advances towards SYRUS.*)

SY. (*affecting surprise*). Oh, Demea; I hadn't noticed you. How goes it?

DE. 'How goes it?' I cannot admire your conduct enough.

375. SY. It *is* foolish, by heaven! and, to speak the honest truth, ridiculous. (*Calling into the house*) Clean the rest of the fish, Dromo. Let that big conger there play a little while in the water; when I have returned he shall be boned. I don't want it done before.

DE. (*interrupting*). To think that these atrocities——

SY. They find no favour in *my* sight, and I often protest. (*Calling into house*) Stephanio, see that these salt fish are beautifully soaked.

DE. For heaven's sake! which is it? Does he do it on purpose? or does he think it will be creditable to him if he has sent his son to destruction? Alas! wretch that I am! I seem to see the day already when he will fly from home to some country to take foreign service in his poverty!

385. SY. O Demea, what you say is true wisdom; not only to see what lies at one's feet, but also to look forward to the things which are to come.

DE. What! is that music-girl at this moment in your house?

SY. Behold her within!

DE. How now; is he then going to live at home?

SY. I think so, such is his folly.

DE. That these things should happen!

SY. The foolish indulgence and wicked leniency of his father——

DE. I, indeed, am ashamed and annoyed about my brother.

SY. There is too much—I do not say so, Demea, because you are here before me—far too much difference between you. You from top to toe are nothing but wisdom; he is a mere nothing. But would you allow *your* son there to do these things?

396. DE. Would I allow him? or would I not have scented it out six whole months before he began anything of the sort?

SY. Are you telling me of your watchfulness?

DE. May my son but always be, as he now is, I pray!

SY. As each of you means his son to be, so he is.

DE. What of him? Have you seen him to-day?

SY. Your son? (*Aside*) I will send him away to the country. (*Aloud*) I suppose he has been doing something in the country for a long time past.

DE. Are you quite sure that he is there?

SY. Oh, it was I myself who took him out.

DE. That is a very good thing; I was afraid he was staying here.

SY. And very angry too.

DE. Why, indeed?

SY. He attacked his brother at the Forum with a reprimand about that wretched music-girl.

DE. Do you really say so?

405. SY. Ah, he kept nothing back. For just as the money happened to be being counted out, unexpectedly the fellow interposed; he begins to cry out, 'Oh, Æschinus! that you should commit such outrages! that you should commit these deeds unworthy of our race!'

DE. Oh, I am weeping for joy!

SY. 'It is not this money you are losing, but your life.'

DE. May he be spared, I trust; he is like his ancestors.

SY. Ah!

DE. Syrus, he is full of precepts like these.

SY. Ho, ho! (*Bowing to DEMEA*) He has had one at home from whom he might learn them.

413. DE. I spare no pains. I pass nothing over; I accustom him to it; in short, I bid him look into the lives of all men as into a mirror, and take from others a pattern for himself. 'Do this.'

SY. Correctly too, truly.

DE. 'Avoid that.'

SY. Cleverly advised!

DE. 'This is a credit to a man.'

SY. That's the way!

DE. 'That is blameworthy.'

SY. Most excellent!

DE. Now, further—

419. SY. By heaven! I have not time to listen now. I have come across some fish to my liking; I must take care that they are not spoilt. For with us, Demea, that is as heinous a crime as with you not to do the things which you have just spoken of; and, as far as I can, I give my commands to my fellow-servants after that same fashion of yours: 'This is salted, that is overdone, this is not washed clean enough. That is right; remember to do it so again.' I advise them with great pains as far as, in my poor wisdom, I can. Finally, Demea, I bid them look into their pans as into a mirror, and advise them what ought to be done. I feel that what we do is foolish. But what is one to do? As a man is, so you must humour him. Is there anything else you wish?

431. DE. Yes, that better wits be given you.

SY. Are you going to the country from here?

DE. Straight.

SY. For what would you do here, where, whatever you wisely enjoin, no one would obey you?

[Exit SYRUS into MICIO'S house.]

435. DE. Truly I am going away from here, since he, on whose account I had come here, has gone off to the country; 'tis he alone I look after—he belongs to me. My brother himself must see to the other fellow, since he so wills. But who is this man here, whom I see in the distance? Is it Hegio, our tribesman? Unless my eyes deceive me, it is he, by heaven! Ah! the man has been my friend ever since I was a boy: ye Gods! verily now—

adays there is a great dearth of citizens of that stamp, men of old-fashioned character and honour; the state would be slow to reap any harm from him. How I rejoice! When I see even the relics of this stock remaining, it is still a pleasure to live. I will await the man here, that I may greet him and speak to him.

## SCENE IV.

(Enter HEGIO from Forum, in conversation with GETA, not seeing DEMEA, who retires to back of stage.)

447. HEGIO. By the immortal Gods, Geta, an unworthy outrage! What story are you telling me?

GE. That is what was done.

HE. To think that such an ungentlemanly outrage should have sprung from that household! O Æschinus! really what you have done is not like your father.

DE. (*aside*). That means he has heard about this music-girl. That conduct is now grieving a stranger, while his father thinks nothing of it. Ah, how I wish he were somewhere near here and could hear this.

HE. Unless they do what it is just they should, they will not carry off the matter so easily.

GE. On you, Hegio, all our hope rests; we have only you—you are our advocate, you are our father. The old man entrusted us to you when he was dying. If you abandon us, we are undone.

458. HE. Don't say that. I will never desert you, nor do I think I could do so in common honour.

DE. (*aside*). I will approach him. (*Aloud*) I greet you very heartily, Hegio.

HE. Ah, you are the very man I was looking for. How are you, Demea?

DE. What is the matter?

HE. Your elder son Æschinus, whom you gave to your brother to adopt, has not played the part of a good man or a gentleman.

DE. What is that you mean?

HE. Did you know our friend and contemporary Simulus?

DE. How should I not?

HE. Your son has secretly married his maiden daughter.

DE. What!

HE. Wait a bit: you have not yet heard the worst of it, Demea.

DE. Is there, then, anything more still?

469. HE. More, certainly! for that, at least, is to be tolerated to some extent: it's human nature. After the thing was done he comes of his own accord to the girl's mother, weeping, praying, beseeching, giving his word of honour, and swearing that he will take her home. It was pardoned, kept secret, taken on trust. But now that the girl's confinement is at hand—and this is the tenth month—our good friend, so help me, Heaven! has got a music-girl to live with; his wife he deserts.

DE. You say this for certain?

478. HE. The girl's mother is at hand, the girl herself, the facts are before us, and Geta here besides, who, as servants go, is neither bad nor lazy; he keeps the two women, and alone provides for the whole household; take him off, bind him, and extort the story.

GE. Nay, good heavens! Do torture me, if it has not turned out so. Demea, he will not deny it in the long-run; bring him here himself to face me.

DE. I am ashamed; and I do not know what to do nor what to say to him.

489. HE. She is now appealing to your honour, Demea, that she may get from you by favour, what force compels you to give. I pray Heaven that this may be done first as befits you. But if your intention, Demea, is otherwise, with all my might I will protect her and my dead friend. He was related to me; together were we brought up from the time we were little children; together we always were, at home and abroad; together we endured terrible poverty. On that account I will struggle, do my best, test the law—in fine, lose my life rather than abandon these women. What answer do you make me?

DE. I will approach my brother, Hegio.

500. HE. But, Demea, see that you keep this in mind;

in proportion as you fare most easily, as you are most powerful, wealthy, prosperous, well-born, the more it behoves you fairly to recognise what is just and fair, if you mean to be called truly good. (*Turns to go.*)

DE. Come back. Everything which it is fair should be done, shall be done.

HE. It is proper for you to do so. Geta, take me indoors to Sostrata. [*Exeunt HEGIO and GETA.*]

DE. This has not happened without my giving warning. I only pray that the end may be here. But that excessive licence will assuredly end in some great misfortune. I will go and look for my brother, to vent all this on him. [*Exit DEMEA.*]

#### SCENE V.

(*HEGIO appears at door of SOSTRATA'S house, and speaks to her within.*)

511. HEGIO. Take care to be of good cheer, Sostrata, and take care that you console your daughter as far as you can. I will call on Micio, if he is at the Forum, and will tell him in order how the affair has been carried on. If it turns out that he is prepared to do his duty, let him do it; but if his opinion on this matter is different, let him give me an answer, that I may know as soon as possible what to do. [*Exit to Forum.*]



## ACT THE FOURTH.

### SCENE I.

(CTESIPHO. comes out of MICIO's house, talking to SYRUS.)

516. CTESIPHO. Do you say that my father has gone from town to the country?

SY. Some time ago.

CT. Tell me about it, please.

SY. He is at his farm. Now at this very moment, I believe, he is engaged in some work.

CT. I wish indeed he were! I wish he would so tire himself out, as far as is consistent with his safety, as absolutely not to be able to rise from his bed within three days from now.

SY. May that be the case, better than that if anything can be!

521. CT. Just so; for this day I distractedly yearn to spend all through in gladness, as I have begun. And the country there I hate so much for no other reason than because it is near. But if it was further away, night would have been upon him there before he could come back here again. Now, when he does not see me there, he will at once hurry back here, I am quite sure. He will ask me persistently where I have been; saying: 'I have not seen you all the time to-day.' What am I to say?

SY. Is there nothing in your head?

CT. Never a thing.

SY. The more fool you. Have you no client, friend, guest?

CT. I have; what next?

SY. So that you may have business with them.

530. CT. When I have *not*? It cannot be done.

SY. It can.

CT. During the day, yes. But if I stay here all night, what reason am I to give, Syrus?

SY. Pooh! how I could wish it was the custom to have business with our friends by night also! Come, take your ease! I am well up to his way of thinking. When he is boiling over most furiously, then I make him as quiet as a lamb.

CT. How?

SY. He likes to hear you praised. I make a perfect god of you in his eyes. I enumerate your virtues.

CT. Mine?

SY. Yes, yours. At once the man's tears fall like a child's for joy. (*Looking round sees DEMEA.*) Here he is for you!

CT. What, pray, is it?

SY. 'Speak of the devil——'

CT. Is it my father?

SY. 'Tis he himself.

CT. Syrus, what are we to do?

SY. Just you go away indoors, and I will see to it.

CT. If he asks at all, you have seen me nowhere; did you hear?

SY. Is it possible for you to be quiet? (*CTESIPHO hides behind door.*)

## SCENE II.

(*DEMEA enters without seeing SYRUS, who keeps close to door of house.*)

540. DE. Surely I am an unfortunate creature! In the first place, nowhere in the world can I find my brother. Besides that, while I was looking for him, I saw one of the farm-servants; he says my son is not in the country; and I don't know what to do.

CT. (*whispering to SYRUS*). Syrus!

SY. (*apart*). What is it?

CT. Is he looking for me?

SY. Yes.

CT. I am lost.

SY. Come, be of good heart.

DE. What ill-luck is this, plague on it? I can't quite make it out. Unless I am to believe that this is what I was born for, to endure troubles. I am the first to feel our misfortunes; I am the first to find them all out; further, I am the first to announce them; I am the only one to feel it, if anything happens.

SY. (*aside*). I am laughing at him; he says he is the first to know; he alone is ignorant of the whole affair.

DE. Now, I am returning. I am coming to see if my brother has happened to return.

CT. (*whispering*). Syrus! see that he does not rush straight in here.

550. SY. (*apart*). Do be quiet. I'll take care.

CT. (*apart*). Never, never, on my oath, will I entrust that affair to you. For now I will shut myself up in some room or other with her; that is safest.

SY. (*apart*). Go on; I will send him away all the same.

(CTESIPHO disappears, and SYRUS comes hastily forward, pretending not to notice DEMEA.)

DE. But here is that rascal Syrus.

SY. (*speaking in a whining tone*). Nobody, on my oath, can stay on *here*, if this is the way things go on. I should like to know, anyhow, how many masters I have; what a trouble this is!

DE. (*aside*). What is he whining about? What does he mean? (*Aloud*) I say, my good fellow, is my brother at home?

SY. What the devil are you 'good fellowing' me for? I am done for.

DE. What's the matter with you?

SY. Do you ask? Ctesipho has all but killed me—oh dear!—and that music-girl with his fists.

DE. Ah! What's that you say?

SY. Look! see how he has cut my lip.

560. DE. Why?

SY. He says it is at my instigation that she was bought.

DE. Did you not say that you had just taken him from town to the country?

SY. It was so. But he came here afterwards, raving; he spared nothing. To think that he was not ashamed to thrash an old man! He, whom I dandled in my arms just lately, when he was a little fellow *so high*!

DE. I praise him; Ctesipho, you are your father's own son. Away, I consider you a man.

SY. You praise him? Surely he will keep his hands to himself after this, if he is wise.

DE. Bravely done!

SY. Very, as he has conquered a wretched woman and a poor slave, who did not dare to strike him back. Ho, ho, very bravely done!

DE. He could not have done better. He perceived that you were the prime mover in this affair, just like myself. But is my brother within?

SY. No, he's not.

DE. I am wondering where to find him.

570. SY. I know where he is; but never, never will I tell you.

DE. What! What are you saying there?

SY. Just *so much*.

DE. Your head shall be taken off at once.

SY. But I do not know the name of the man; still, I know where the place is.

DE. Tell me the place, then.

SY. Do you know the porch by the market down this way?

DE. How should I not?

SY. Pass this way straight up the street. When you have got there, there is a slope right down in front of you; go right down there. After that there is a chapel on this hand; there hard by is an alley.

DE. What alley, pray?

SY. There, where there is also a large wild fig-tree.

DE. I know it.

SY. Go down that way.

DE. *That* alley is a blind one.

SY. So it is, good heavens! Ah! what a fool I am! I was wrong. Go back to the porch. Indeed, you will go more directly that way, and there is less chance of going wrong. Do you know the house of the rich Cratinus here?

581. DE. I know it.

SY. When you have passed it, go to the left straight up the street; when you have come to the temple of Diana, go to the right. Before you come to the city gate, beside the very pool, there is a small flour-mill, and a workshop opposite it; he is there.

DE. What is he doing there?

SY. He has ordered some out-of-door seats to be made with oak legs.

DE. On which you can drink; very good indeed. But do I delay to hasten to him? [Exit.

SY. Go, by all means; I will exercise you to-day as you deserve, old dry-bones! (*Turning to audience*) Æschinus is provokingly long in coming. The lunch is being spoilt. As for Ctesipho, he is absorbed in his love affair. I will look out for myself at once; for I will approach the table at once and pick out what is the very nicest, and leisurely lengthen out the day by sipping the ladles.

[Exit into Micio's house.

### SCENE III.

(*Enter MICIO and HEGIO in conversation.*)

592. MICIO. I find no reason in this affair, Hegio, why I should be so greatly praised. It is my duty I am doing; I am mending the fault which originated with us. Unless you think I am one of that set of men who think an insult is being wantonly done them if you complain of the one which they themselves have done, and positively accuse you; are you thanking me because I have not done that?

HE. Ah, by no means. I never conceived you to be other than you are. But I ask you to come with me to the girl's mother, Micio, and to say to the poor woman

just what you have said to me, that this suspicion was incurred on account of his brother and the music-girl.

601. MI. If you think that is fair, or if there is any necessity to do so, let us go.

HE. You are doing right; for not only will you relieve the mind of the woman at once who is fading away with distress and grief, but also you will have done your duty. But if you think otherwise, I will tell her myself what you have said to me.

MI. Oh no; I will go.

HE. You are doing right. All people whose fortunes are rather bad are somehow or other more suspicious; they take everything rather as an insult; they always think they are being balked of their rights because of their poverty. So to clear yourself to her face to face is the better way to appease her.

MI. You say what is both right and true.

HE. Follow me in, then, this way.

MI. Certainly. [*Exeunt into SOSTRATA'S house.*]

#### SCENE IV.

(*Enter ÆSCHINUS from the Forum.*)

610. ÆSCHINUS. I am in torture of mind that this great misfortune should suddenly confront me; so that it is neither certain what I am to do with myself, nor how I am to act. My limbs are tottering with fear; my mind is stupefied with terror. No device can remain in my breast. Alas! how can I get myself free from this coil? Such a suspicion about me has now fallen on me, and that, too, not without justice. Sostrata believes that I bought the music-girl for myself: this the old nurse has pointed out to me. For, as she happened to be sent from home for the midwife, the moment I saw her I at once go up to her. I ask her how Pamphila is getting on; if her confinement is at hand; and whether she is fetching the midwife on that account. She cries out: 'Away, away at once, Æschinus! You have cajoled us long enough. Your promise has deceived us enough up to now.' 'How now?' said I; 'what is that you say, pray?' 'Good-

bye; stick to the girl who takes your fancy.' I perceived in a moment that they suspected it; but still I restrained myself in order not to say anything about my brother to that talkative women, and not to let the matter become public. Now what am I to do? Am I to say that the girl is my brother's? But that ought by no means to get abroad anywhere. Well, I put that aside; it can be managed that it may not come out in any way. I am afraid they may not believe the truth itself; so many probable circumstances unite herein. I carried her off myself; I myself in person paid the money. She was conveyed away home to my house. All this, I confess, was done by my fault. To think that I did not tell the story to my father; however it had happened, I should have won his consent to let me marry her. It has been put off and off all this time. Now, Æschinus, from this moment bestir yourself. This is the first thing now: I will go to the ladies to clear myself. I will go up to the door. Ah me! I perpetually tremble when I begin to knock at this door; poor creature that I am. Hi, hi! I am Æschinus; open the door at once, some one of you. Someone is coming out, I will retire in this direction.

## SCENE V.

(MICIO comes out of the house and speaks through the door to SOSTRATA within.)

634. MICIO. You do just as I have said, Sostrata. I will see Æschinus that he may know how the affair has been arranged. But who knocked at the door here?

Æs. (*aside*). By heaven, it is my father! I am lost!

MI. Æschinus!

Æs. (*aside*). What is his business here?

MI. Was it you who knocked at this door? (*Aside*) He is silent. Why should I not fool him a little while? It would be better, since he has never chosen to tell me about this himself. (*To ÆSCHINUS*) Do you not give me any answer?

Æs. I did not knock at that door, as far as I know.

MI. Just so; for I was wondering what was your business here. (*Aside*) He blushed; it is all right.

Æs. Tell me, father, pray, what is *your* business there?

644. MI. None at all. A certain friend of mine just brought me here from the Forum as his legal witness.

Æs. What.

MI. I will tell you. Some poor women live here. As I suppose, you do not know them, and, indeed, I know it for certain, for they have not moved here long.

Æs. What next, then?

MI. There is a girl with her mother.

Æs. Go on.

MI. This girl is bereft of her father. This friend of mine is his nearest relation. The laws oblige her to marry him.

Æs. (*aside*). I am lost!

MI. What's the matter?

Æs. Nothing. All right; go on.

MI. He has come to take her away with him, for he lives at Miletus.

Æs. What! to take the girl away with him?

655. MI. That is so.

Æs. I pray you—as far as Miletus?

MI. Yes.

Æs. (*aside*). I am distracted. (*Aloud*) What of the women? What do they say?

MI. What do you think they would? Why, nothing. The mother has made up a story that a child has been born by some other man; but she does not name him. She says he was first, and that the girl ought not to be married to my friend.

Æs. What! And after that, does not that plea appear just to you?

MI. No.

Æs. No! I beseech you. Will he then take her away from our city, father?

MI. Why should he not take her away?

Æs. You have acted harshly, pitilessly, and what's more, if I must speak more freely, in a way unworthy of a gentleman.



655. MI. Why?

Æs. Do you ask me? What, pray, do you think will be the feelings of that wretched man who used to love her? Who, poor fellow, very likely loves her now to distraction, when he sees her being hurried away from him, carried off before his eyes? A cruel outrage, father!

MI. How so? Who betrothed her? Who gave her away? Whom did she marry, and when? Who gave his consent to this? Why did he marry a stranger?

Æs. Ought a girl of her age, then, to have sat at home idle, waiting till a relation should come from heaven knows where? It would have been fair, father, for you to say these things and defend it.

676. MI. Ludicrous! Was I to plead the case against the man for whom I came as a legal witness? But what affair is it of ours, Æschinus? or what have we to do with them? (*ÆSCHINUS bursts into tears.*) What is the matter? Why are you crying?

Æs. Father, listen, I implore you.

MI. Æschinus, I have heard and know everything. For I love you, and on that account what you do is all the more an anxiety to me.

Æs. May I deserve your love while your life lasts, my father, no less sincerely than I am terribly grieved to have been guilty of this fault, and am ashamed to see you!

683. MI. By heaven! I believe you; for I know that your disposition is a noble one. But I fear that you are too careless. In what state, pray, do you think you are living? You have secretly married a girl, whom it was not lawful for you to marry. That first fault to start with is a great one—a great one—but still human; other good men have often done likewise. But after that occurred, pray, did you show caution at all? Did you take precaution at all, on your own account, to see what was to be done? or how it was to be done? if you were ashamed to speak openly to me yourself, how was I to find out. While you were hesitating about these matters, ten months went by. You have betrayed both yourself and your poor wife and son, as far as in you lay. Why, did you believe that the Gods would settle this business

for you while you were asleep? and that she would be led home to your chamber without your help? I should hope that you are not equally thoughtless of your other affairs. Be of good cheer, you shall marry this girl.

695. Æs. What!

Mi. I say, be of good cheer.

Æs. Father, I beseech you, are you making a fool of me now?

Mi. I make a fool of you? Why?

Æs. I do not know. Because I wish so distractedly that this is real. I fear all the more.

Mi. Go home, and pray the Gods that you may fetch your wife; go away.

Æs. What, my wife at once?

Mi. At once!

Æs. At once?

Mi. As far as possible, at once.

Æs. May all the Gods hate me, if I do not love you now more than my own eyes.

Mi. What? More than her?

Æs. As much.

Mi. You are very kind.

Æs. Oh! where is the Milesian?

Mi. He is dead; he has gone away; he has gone on board his ship; but why do you wait?

Æs. Do you go away, father, and do you rather pray to the Gods, for I know for certain that they will hearken to you more, as you are a much better man than I.

706. Mi. I am going within, that what is necessary may be prepared; you do as I have said, if you are wise.

[Exit into house.]

Æs. What is this state of things? Is this to be a father, or this to be a son? If he had been a brother, or a companion, how could he have obliged me more? Is he not to be loved? Is he not to be cherished in my heart? Ah! And so by his kindness he has given me such great anxiety in case I should happen to do what he would dislike! Forewarned, forearmed. But I am delaying to go inside, lest I myself be the cause of delay for my own marriage.

## SCENE VI.

(Enter DEMEA.)

713. DEMEA. I am tired out with walking. O that great Jupiter may confound you, Syrus—you and your directions! I have trudged all over the town from end to end, to the gate, to the pool, where not? Neither was there any workshop there, nor did anyone say that he had seen my brother. But now I have decided to sit in blockade here at his house, on and on till he has come back. (*Goes towards house.*)

## SCENE VII.

(*As DEMEA approaches house, the door opens and MICIO appears.*)

719. MICIO (*speaking to ÆSCHINUS within*). I will go and tell them there is no delay with us.

DE. (*aside*). But here he is himself. (*Aloud*) I have been looking for you a long time, Micio.

MI. Why ever?

DE. I am bringing you word of other fearful misdeeds of that virtuous young man.

MI. Just see, now!

DE. They are unheard-of, heinous!

MI. Come now!

DE. You do not know what sort of man he is.

MI. I do know.

DE. You fool! you vainly imagine that I am talking about a music-girl. This crime is against a free girl.

MI. I know.

DE. What! you know it and allow it?

MI. Why should I not allow it?

DE. Tell me, do you not cry out? are you not in a fury?

MI. No; I had rather indeed——

DE. A child has been born.

MI. Heaven preserve me!

DE. The girl has nothing.

MI. So I have heard.

DE. And she is to be married without a dowry.

MI. I suppose so.

730. DE. What is to happen now?

MI. Why, just what the matter requires. The girl will be moved from her house to mine.

DE. Oh, Jupiter! ought things to be done in *that* way?

MI. What can I do more?

DE. What could you do? If you are not really and truly grieved at this affair, it is at any rate only natural to pretend to be.

MI. Why, I have already betrothed the girl; the affair has been settled; their wedding is being arranged; I have relieved them of all fear. This is still more 'natural.'

DE. However, Micio, does the deed please you?

MI. Not if I could change it. But now that I cannot, I bear it calmly. Such is the life of man, just as when you play with dice, if the number which you most need to throw does not turn up, that you should cleverly manipulate the one which does happen to turn up.

742. DE. A fine manipulator! why, by your cleverness, twenty minæ have disappeared for the music-girl; and she, as soon as possible, must be cast off somewhere, if not for money, then without it.

MI. Neither will she have to be, nor indeed do I wish to sell her.

DE. What will you do then?

MI. She will stay at home.

DE. By the Gods above! That music-girl and the lawful wife in the same house!

MI. Why not?

DE. Do you imagine you are in your senses?

MI. I rather think so.

DE. So help me, Heaven! when I see your folly, I believe you will do it, to have someone to sing with.

MI. Why not?

DE. And the newly-made bride will learn the same thing.

MI. Just so.

DE. You will dance between them, dragging a rope.

MI. All right.

DE. 'All right?'

752. MI. And you at the same time with us, if it is necessary.

DE. Alas! are you not ashamed of this?

MI. Now then, Demea, away with this passion of yours, and as it behoves you, be blithe and cheerful at your son's marriage. I am going to call on them; afterwards I will come back here.

[*Exit into SOSTRATA's house.*]

DE. O Heaven! what a life! what conduct! what insanity! The wife will come without a dowry; the music-girl is in the house; the household is expensive; the young man corrupted with luxury; the old man out of his wits. If the goddess of Safety herself desired it, she absolutely cannot preserve this household.

### SCENE VIII.

(*The door of MICIO's house opens, and SYRUS reels on to the stage.*)

763. SYRUS. Well, Syrus, my boy, you have taken tender care of yourself, and have done your duty nobly. Go to. But now that I was well filled with everything inside, I had a fancy to stroll out here.

DE. Pray look at this; a pattern of discipline.

SY. But here is our old man close by. How goes it? Why are you gloomy?

DE. Oh, wretch!

SY. Oh, that's enough! are you wasting words, old wiseacre?

DE. If you were mine——

SY. You would have been rich, Demea, and would have laid your fortune on a sure basis.

DE. I should take care to make an example of you to everybody.

SY. Why? what have I done?

DE. Do you ask? At the height of the bother, and on the occasion of the greatest sin, which is scarcely

settled yet satisfactorily, you have been drinking, wretch, as if the matter had gone off well.

SY. (*aside*). Indeed, I wish I had not come out here.

### SCENE IX.

(DROMO comes out of MICIO's house.)

776. DROMO. Here, Syrus! Ctesipho asks for you to come back.

SY. (*apart to DROMO*). Be off!

DE. What is he saying about Ctesipho?

SY. Nothing.

DE. Here, monster, is Ctesipho within?

SY. He is not.

DE. Why does this man mention him?

SY. It is another man, a wretched little hanger-on. Do you know him?

DE. (*going towards door*). I will be certain of the matter at once.

SY. What are you doing? Where are you going to?

DE. Leave me alone.

SY. Don't, I say!

DE. Will you not keep your hands off, you scoundrel? Or do you prefer that I should scatter your brains for you on the spot?

SY. He's off! Scarcely a pleasant boon companion, I must say, especially for Ctesipho! What am I to do now? Unless, while these bothers are quieting down, I go away meanwhile into a corner somewhere and sleep off this little drop of wine. I'll do so. (*Reels off stage.*)

### SCENE X.

(MICIO comes out of SOSTRATA's house, speaking to her within.)

787. MICIO. Everything has been made ready by us, Sostrata, just as I said, whenever you like. Pray who is knocking at the door so violently at my house?

DE. (*bursting frantically from MICIO's house*). Alas!

what am I to do? How am I to proceed? What am I to exclaim, or to complain? O Heaven! O Earth! O Seas of Neptune!

MI. (*aside*). Look out for yourself! He has found out the whole thing. That is what he's calling out now. It's all up! We are in for a row; I must go to the rescue.

DE. Here he is, the corrupter in common of my children.

MI. Do suppress your passion at last and return to your senses.

795. DE. I have suppressed it, I am myself again, I forbear all revilings: let us look into the case itself. This was agreed between us (it was from you yourself that it proceeded), that you were not to look after my son, nor I after yours? Answer me that.

MI. That was arranged; I do not deny it.

DE. Why is he now drinking at your house? Why do you harbour my son? Why do you buy a sweetheart for him, Micio? Is it in any way less just for me to have the same prerogative over you as you have over me? Since I don't look after your son, don't you look after mine.

MI. What you say is not just.

DE. Not?

MI. For the old proverb runs thus, you see, that the property of friends is mutually common.

DE. Most humorous! Now at last that speechifying of yours has begun.

806. MI. Listen to a few words, unless it annoys you, Demea. In the first place, if this stings you—the expense which our sons incur—be sure, I pray you, to consider this. You once were bringing up according to your means these two boys, because you thought your property would be enough for both, and then, I suppose, you expected that I would marry. Keep to that same good old calculation. Hoard, scrape, and save; see that you leave as much as possible to them. You keep that glory. Let them enjoy my property, which has come to them unexpectedly. Nothing will come off the capital. What has come to them from this quarter just consider it all as clear gain. If you will only turn that over seri-

ously in your mind, Demea, you will once for all remove trouble from me, yourself, and them.

DE. I do not mind about the money, but their morals.

820. MI. Wait! I know; I was coming to that very point. There are many indications in a man, Demea, from which a guess is easily made, where two men do the same thing, so that you can often say, 'This the one may do with impunity; the other not,' not because the thing is different, but because the man who does do it is different. And I see these traits are present in them, so that I trust all will be as we wish. I see that they have taste, understanding, reverence on occasion, and love for each other. One can be certain that their disposition and spirit is that of gentlemen. On any day you may bring them back. Yes, but you might fear that in money-matters all the same they are rather slack. Oh, my dear Demea! All other things we judge more wisely with age, but this is the only fault that old age brings to men: we are more engrossed in business than is sufficient; and in this age will sharpen them enough.

835. DE. Only take care that these exceedingly fine arguments of yours and your unruffled disposition do not upset me too much.

MI. Peace! it won't be so. Away with these fears of yours at once. Give yourself up to me to-day. Smooth out your brow.

DE. Why, so the occasion demands. It must be done. However, to-morrow with the dawn I shall go from town to the country with my son.

841. MI. By night, I think: only *do* be merry to-day.

DE. And I will take away that music-girl of yours there along with me from town.

MI. You'll have won the day. By that means you will bind your son to her once for all. Only see that you keep her.

DE. I'll see to that, and then I'll see that in cooking and grinding she is covered with ashes, smoke, and flour-dust. On the top of this I'll make her gather stubble at broad mid-day. I'll make her as baked and black as a cinder.



850. MI. All right. Now you seem to me to be a sensible man. (*Caricaturing DEMEA*) 'And indeed I will force my son to love her alone, even then if he does not wish it.'

DE. Are you laughing at me? You are fortunate in being in that humour. *I* have some feelings.

MI. Oh! Are you going on?

DE. This moment I am done, this moment.

MI. Go inside, then, and let us spend the day on that business to which it is devoted.

## ACT THE FIFTH.

### SCENE I.

(Enter DEMEA from MICIO's house.)

855. DEMEA. No one has ever had a rule of life so well thought out but that business, age, experience always brings something new, or gives some warning; so that you find yourself ignorant of what you may imagine you have understood, and that you reject on trial what you have thought most important. And this is what has happened to me; for I am laying aside the rugged life which I have lived until to-day, now that my course is almost run. Why do I do this? I have found out that in very reality there is nothing better for a man than affability and kind-heartedness. It is easy for anyone to see this is true from the case of my brother and myself. He has always spent his days in ease, in feasting; kind-hearted and affable, he affronts no one to his face, has a smile for all; for himself he has lived, for himself he has spent his money. All speak well of him, and love him. Now I am the typical rustic, fierce, surly, sparing, grim, close-fisted. I married; what trouble have I beheld in that! My sons were born, another anxiety. But heigho! while I am anxious to do as much possible for them, I have worn out my life and my age in money-getting. Now at the end of my life this is the profit that I get from them for my toil—hatred. *He*, on the other hand, gets without toil the advantages of being a father. Him they love, and me they avoid. To him they confide all their plans. They have an affection for him, and stay

with him, while I am deserted. They wish him to live, but my death no doubt they hope for. So he has made these children, brought up by my great toil, his own at little expense. I get all the trouble; he gets the pleasure. Come, come, this moment, let me try the opposite course to see if I can speak gently or act kindly, since he challenges me to it. I, too, demand to be loved and made much of by my own children. If that is achieved by giving and complying, I will not play second fiddle. The property will not stand it. That matters very little to me, as I am the eldest.

## SCENE II.

(SYRUS *appears at door.*)

882. SYRUS. Here, Demea, your brother implores you not to stay longer away.

DE. Who is this? Oh, my dear Syrus, how do you do? How are you? How goes it?

SY. All right.

DE. That is well. (*Aside*) Already now I have added these three remarks, to begin with, beyond my bent: 'My dear;' 'How are you?' 'How goes it?' (*To SYRUS*) You are by no means a bad slave, and I would gladly do you a good turn.

SY. I am grateful to you.

DE. But, Syrus, what I say is true, and you shall soon have proof of it in very reality.

## SCENE III.

(GETA *appears at the door of SOSTRATA'S house, speaking to her within.*)

889. GETA. Mistress, I am coming to these gentlemen out here to see how soon they are to fetch the girl. But here is Demea. Good health to you!

DE. Oh, what is your name?

GE. Geta.

DE. Geta, I have to-day decided in my mind that you are a man of very great worth; for he is certainly a slave

of well proved fidelity, to whom his master is all in all, as I have perceived yours is to you, Geta, and on that account, if any opportunity has occurred, I should be glad to do you a good turn. (*Aside*) I am practising being polite, and it is going on well.

GE. It is kind of you to think so.

DE. I am gradually making the lower classes mine a little.

#### SCENE IV.

(ÆSCHINUS comes on from MICIO's house, not seeing DEMEA.)

899. ÆSCHINUS. They weary me to death while they try to make my marriage too ceremonious ; they are taking up the day in making preparations.

DE. How goes it, Æschinus ?

ÆS. Ah, my father, were you here then ?

DE. By heaven ! I am your father both by nature and disposition ; a father who loves you more than these eyes of his. But why do you not bring your wife home ?

ÆS. I want to ; but this is my cause of delay : the flute-player and those who are to sing the nuptial song.

DE. Ho, ho ! Will you listen to this old fellow here ?

ÆS. What is it ?

DE. Away with these things—the nuptial song, the crowds, the torches, the flute-players—and order this wall in the garden to be knocked down as soon as possible. Bring her home this way ; make it one house ; bring over both her mother and the whole household to us.

910. ÆS. I agree, oh, most charming of fathers !

DE. Well done ! Now I am called charming. My brother's house will become a thoroughfare, he will bring a rabble home, he will lose a lot by the expense. What does it matter to me ? I am charming, and am getting into popularity. (*Aloud to ÆSCHINUS*) Bid that nabob at once pay down twenty minæ on the spot. Syrus, are you delaying to go and do it ?

SY. What am I to do ?

DE. Knock it down. [*Exit SYRUS.*] (*To GETA*) You go off and bring them across.

GE. The Gods bless you, Demea, when I see that you befriend our family so heartily.

DE. I think you all deserve it. [*Exit GETA.*] (*To ÆSCHINUS*) What do you say?

ÆS. I think so, too.

920. DE. It is far better than for that sick woman, whose baby is just born, to now be led hither through the street.

ÆS. I could imagine really nothing better, my dear father.

DE. That is my way; but here is Micio coming out of doors.

#### SCENE V.

(*MICIO comes hastily from his house.*)

924. MICIO. My brother orders it. Where is he? Do you order this, Demea?

DE. Yes, I do order it, and both in this matter and in all others, that we should as far as possible make this household one, and cultivate them, assist them, unite them to us.

ÆS. So let it be, pray, father.

MI. I think quite the same.

DE. Nay, by heaven! it so behoves us. In the first place, his wife has a mother.

MI. She has. What next?

DE. A virtuous and modest woman.

MI. So they say.

DE. Rather elderly.

MI. I know *that*.

DE. She has long been past bearing on account of her years; nor is there anyone to care for her. She is all alone.

MI. What subject is he driving at?

DE. It is right that you should marry her, and that you (*turning to ÆSCHINUS*) should do your best to get it carried out.

934. MI. But me marry her ?

DE. You.

MI. I ?

DE. You, I say.

MI. You are talking nonsense.

DE. (*to ÆSCHINUS*). If you were a man he would do it.

ÆS. My dear father !

MI. But why are you listening to him, ass that you are ?

DE. You are doing no good. It can't happen otherwise.

MI. You are raving.

ÆS. Allow me to win you over, my dear father (*laying his hand on Micio's shoulder*).

MI. You are mad ; hands off !

DE. (*laying his hand on Micio's other shoulder*). Come, grant this favour to your son.

MI. (*shaking him off*). Are you quite in your senses ? Am I to become a bridegroom at last in my sixty-fifth year, and to marry a broken-down old woman ? Is this what you are persuading me to ?

ÆS. Do so ; I have given them an assurance.

MI. Oh, you gave an assurance, did you ? Do the bountiful with yourself, my boy.

DE. Come, now, what if he were to ask you something greater ?

MI. As if this was not the very greatest thing of all.

DE. Grant this favour ?

ÆS. Don't be annoyed.

DE. Come, promise ?

MI. Won't you leave me alone ?

ÆS. No, not unless I can win you over.

MI. Why, this is violence.

DE. Come, be generous, Micio !

944. MI. Even though this seems to me to be perverse, foolish, absurd, and far from suitable to my years, be it so, if you wish it so eagerly.

ÆS. That's right ; I am obliged to you with good reason.

DE. (*aside*). But what am I to say, when what I wish

is accomplished? What is there now which remains? (*Aloud*) Hegio is their nearest relation, connected with us, a poor man; we ought to do something good for him.

MI. Do what?

DE. There is a little bit of a farm here near the town which you often let. Let us give it to him to enjoy.

MI. But is it a little one?

DE. If it is large, still it should be done. He is like a father to the girl here, he is a good man, he is our relation; it is right to give it to him. Do I not at last appropriate that saying, Micio, which you said well and wisely some time ago: 'It is the common vice of all, that we are too much engrossed in business when we are old?' We ought to avoid this stain; it is said with truth and ought to be practically proved.

955. Æs. My dear father!

MI. Well, then, let it be given to him as Demea here wishes it.

Æs. I am glad.

DE. Now you are really my brother in mind and body alike. (*Aside*) I am hoisting him with his own petard.

## SCENE VI.

(*SYRUS comes out of MICIO'S house.*)

958. SYRUS. What you have ordered has been done, Demea.

DE. You are an honest fellow. So, really now, in my opinion, indeed, I consider it right that Syrus should be free.

MI. *Him* free? For what reason, pray?

DE. Many.

SY. Oh, my dear Demea, really now, you are a worthy man; I have taken care of those boys of yours most diligently ever since they were boys; I have taught them, advised them, and have ever given all the good instructions I could.

DE. The thing is clear; and indeed these lessons in addition, to be a trusty caterer, to carry off a music-girl, to prepare banquets at noon, these are not the services of an ordinary man.

SY. Oh, charming creature !

DE. Last of all, to-day he was the helper in buying this music-girl ; he managed it ; it is right to do him a good turn ; others will be better ; finally, my son here means it done.

969. MI. Do you mean it to be done ?

Æs. I do wish it.

MI. If, indeed, you mean it—Syrus, here ! come here to me. Be a free man.

SY. You are very kind. I am grateful to you all, and, moreover, to you in particular, Demea.

DE. I am glad.

Æs. I am, too.

SY. I believe it. O that my joy may be complete, so that I could see my wife Phrygia free as well as myself !

DE. A most excellent woman, indeed.

SY. And, indeed, to-day she was the first to give suck to your grandson, his son.

DE. But seriously, by heaven ! there is no doubt that it is right for her to be set free, if she was the first to give it suck.

MI. On that account ?

DE. On that account ; in fine, take from me the money she costs.

SY. May Heaven always give you all your desires, Demea !

979. MI. Syrus, you have got on finely to-day.

DE. If, indeed, you do your duty further, Micio, and have given him some little in hand to live upon, he will return it to you quickly.

MI. Less than that ! (*snapping his fingers*).

Æs. He is an honest man.

SY. I will certainly give it back ; do just give it.

Æs. Come, father !

MI. I'll think of it afterwards.

DE. (*to ÆSCHINUS*). He'll do it.

SY. Oh, excellent man !

Æs. Oh, my most delightful father !

MI. What is all this ? What has so suddenly changed



your character? What whim is it? What is this sudden generosity of yours?

985. DE. I will tell you. So that I might show that your reputation with your nephews for good-nature and good-fellowship did not spring from integrity of life, no, nor from what is just and fair, but from flattery, indulgence, and squandering, Micio. So now, if my style of life is objectionable to you on that account, Æschinus, because I do not humour you in absolutely everything in every way, right or wrong, I wash my hands of it. Fling away, boy; do what you please. But if you rather choose that someone should reprove you and correct you and assist you at the proper times in cases in which, on account of your youth, you are short-sighted, or too extravagantly impetuous, or are taking too little thought, behold me here to perform this for you.

995. Æs. We put it in your hands, father; you know better what ought to be done. But what will become of my brother?

DE. I allow it; let him keep her; let him stop short at his marriage with her.

MI. That is right.

CANTOR. Applaud.



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