

WS 2024/25 Lat. Lektüre: Plautus, *Epidicus* Translation 3 (Karanasiou)

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Pl.+Epid.+1>

THESPRIO

Whichever way the wind is at sea, Epidicus, in that direction the sail is shifted.

EPIDICUS

Woe unto wretched me! He has utterly undone me!

THESPRIO

What's the meaning of this? What's the matter, pray?

EPIDICUS

Well now--she whom he has bought, at what sum has he purchased her?

THESPRIO

A very little.

EPIDICUS

That I don't ask you.

THESPRIO

What then?

EPIDICUS

For how many minæ?

THESPRIO

holding up all his fingers four times. For so many.

EPIDICUS

Forty minæ?

THESPRIO

For that purpose, he borrowed the money on interest of a Banker at Thebes, at a didrachm for each silver mina per day.

EPIDICUS

Surprising!

THESPRIO

This Banker, too, has come together with him, and is dunning for his money.

EPIDICUS

Immortal Gods! now I'm fairly done for!

THESPRIO

Why so, or what's the matter, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS

He has proved my ruin!

THESPRIO

Who?

EPIDICUS

Who? He who lost his arms.

THESPRIO

But why so?

EPIDICUS

Because he himself was every day sending me letters from the army--but I shall hold my tongue; it's best to do so. It's best for a man in servitude to know more than he says; that's true wisdom.

THESPRIO

On my faith, I don't understand why you are alarmed. You are frightened, Epidicus; I see it by your countenance. You seem here, in my absence, to have got into some scrape or other.

EPIDICUS

Can't you cease annoying me?

THESPRIO

I'll be off. *Moves as if going.*

EPIDICUS

Stand still; I'll not let you go from here. *Holds him.* THES. Why do you hold me back?

EPIDICUS

Is he in love with her whom he has purchased out of the spoil?

THESPRIO

Do you ask me? He dotes to death upon her.

EPIDICUS

The hide will be stripped from off my back.

THESPRIO

He loves her, too, more than ever he loved you.

EPIDICUS

May Jupiter confound you!

THESPRIO

Let me go now; for he has forbidden me to go to our house; he ordered me to come here *pointing to the house* to our neighbour's, Chæribulus; there he bade me wait; he's about to come there himself.

EPIDICUS

Why so?

THESPRIO

I'll tell you; because he doesn't wish to meet with or see his father, before he has paid down this money which is owing for her.

EPIDICUS

O dear! an involved business, i' faith.

THESPRIO

Do let go of me, that I may now be off forthwith.

EPIDICUS

When the old gentleman knows this, our ship will fairly founder.