

WS 2024/25 Lat. Lektüre: Plautus, *Epidicus* Translation 5 (Karanasiou)

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

Enter STRATIPPOCLES and CHÆRIBULUS.

STRATIPPOCLES

I've told you all the matter, Chæribulus, and I have fully disclosed to you the sum of my griefs and loves.

CHÆR.

You are foolish, Stratippocles, beyond your age and lineage. Does it shame you, because you have bought a captive girl, born of good family, from among the spoil? Who will there be to impute it as a fault to you?

STRATIPPOCLES

Through doing this, I've found that those who are envious are all enemies to me; but I've never offered violence¹ or criminal assault against her chastity.

CHÆR.

Then, so far, in my opinion at least, you are a still more deserving man, inasmuch as you are temperate in your passion.

STRATIPPOCLES

He effects nothing who consoles a desponding man with his words: he is a friend, who, in dubious circumstances, aids in deed when deeds are necessary.

CHÆR.

What do you wish me to do?

STRATIPPOCLES

To lend me forty minæ of silver, to be paid to the Banker from whom I borrowed it on interest.

CHÆR.

On my word, if I had it, I would not deny you.

STRATIPPOCLES

What then does it signify your being bounteous in talk, if all aid in the matter² is dead outright.

CHÆR.

Why faith, I myself am quite wearied and distracted with being dunned.

STRATIPPOCLES

I had rather my friends of that sort were thrust into a furnace than into litigation³. But now I could wish to buy me the assistance of Epidicus at a weighty price, a fellow whom I'll hand over well-liquored with stripes to the baker⁴, unless he this day finds me forty minæ before I've mentioned to him the last syllable of the sum.

EPIDICUS

apart . The matter's all right; he promises well; he'll keep faith, I trust. *Ironically*. Without any expenditure of my own, an entertainment⁵ is already provided for my shoulder-blades. I'll accost the man. *He goes up to STRATIPPOCLES*. The servant Epidicus wishes health to his master Stratippocles, on his arrival from abroad.

STRATIPPOCLES

turning round . Where is he?

EPIDICUS

Here he is; I'm delighted that you have returned safe.

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1. **Never offered violence:** This is a very important passage, as it relieves the Audience from the apprehension they might otherwise feel in the Fifth Act, that Stratippocles had unconsciously been guilty of incest.
 2. **If all aid in the matter:** The same sentiment occurs in the *Trinummus*, l. 439.
 3. **Into litigation:** "Quam Foro." Literally, "than in the Forum." He plays on the resemblance of the words "furno," "oven" or "furnace," and "Foro," the "Forum." He had rather see his friends dead outright, than worried by their creditors.
 4. **To the baker:** For the purpose of taking his place at the hand-mill for grinding corn, which was probably done in the same building where the bread was baked, and was a most laborious operation.
 5. **An entertainment:** As already mentioned, "symbola" was a club entertainment, or pic-nic (in the original sense of the word), where each provided his own share of the provisions.