

WS 2024/25 Lat. Lektüre: Plautus, *Epidicus* Translation 6 (Karanasiou)

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

EPIDICUS

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

STRATIPPOCLES

I believe you as much in that as I do myself.

EPIDICUS

Have you been well all along?

STRATIPPOCLES

I've been free from disease; in mind I've been ailing.

EPIDICUS

As regarded myself, I've taken care of what you entrusted to me; it has been obtained; the female captive has been bought, about which matter you were sending me letters so often.

STRATIPPOCLES

You've lost all your labour.

EPIDICUS

But why have I lost it?

STRATIPPOCLES

Because she is not dear to my heart, nor does she please me.

EPIDICUS

What means it, then, that you gave me such strict injunctions, and sent letters to me?

STRATIPPOCLES

Formerly I did love her; but now another passion influences my heart.

EPIDICUS

I' faith, it is a shocking thing for that to be unpleasant for a man which you have managed well for him; where I've done well, I've in reality done ill, since love has shifted sides.

STRATIPPOCLES

I wasn't right in my mind when I sent those letters to you.

EPIDICUS

Is it proper that I should be the atonement for your folly, so as for you to substitute my back as the scape-goat¹ for your folly?

STRATIPPOCLES

Why are we making words about that? This man *pointing to himself* has need of forty minæ, ready money, and in all haste, for him to pay a Banker, and speedily too.

EPIDICUS

Only tell me from what quarter you wish me to get them. From what banker am I to seek them?

STRATIPPOCLES

From where you like. But if I don't finger them before sunset, don't you enter my house; off with yourself to the mill.

EPIDICUS

You easily say that without risk and concern, and with a gay heart. I know our floggers; I feel the pain when I'm beaten.

STRATIPPOCLES

How say you now? Will you suffer me to destroy myself?

EPIDICUS

Don't do that. I'll cope with this peril and bold attempt in preference.

STRATIPPOCLES

Now you please me; now do I commend you.

EPIDICUS

I'll submit to this in any way that's pleasing to you.

STRATIPPOCLES

What then is to be done about this music-girl?

EPIDICUS

Some method shall be found out; by some means I'll disengage myself; some way I shall get extricated.

STRATIPPOCLES

You are full of scheming; I know you of old.

EPIDICUS

There is a rich Captain of Eubœa², abounding in plenty of gold, who, when he knows that that one was bought for you, and that this other one has been brought here, will forthwith be entreating you, of his own accord, to transfer that other one to him. But where is she whom you have brought with you?

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1. **As the scape-goat:** "Succidanea" was a term applied to a victim, substituted in place of another which had not given favourable omens.
 2. **Captain of Eubœa:** The Captain is elsewhere called a Rhodian. Probably it is meant that Rhodes was the place of his birth, and the island of Eubœa that of his residence.