

WS 2024/25 Lat. Lektüre: Plautus, *Epidicus* Translation 10 (Karanasiou)

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0100%3Aact%3D2>

EPIDICUS

It's proper for yourselves, who are the wiser, to be the first to speak, and for me to speak afterwards.

PERIPHIANES

Aye, aye, of course--come, say on.

EPIDICUS

But you'll laugh at me.

APAECIDES

On my word, we will not do so.

EPIDICUS

Well then, if it pleases you, use my advice; if it doesn't please you, find better. There's neither sowing nor reaping¹ for me in this matter; only that I do wish the same that you wish.

PERIPHIANES

I return you thanks. Make us partakers in your wisdom.

EPIDICUS

Let a wife at once be chosen for your son; and so take vengeance on this music-girl whom he wants to liberate, and who is corrupting him for you; and so let it be managed, that even until her dying day she may remain a slave.

APAECIDES

It ought to be so managed.

PERIPHIANES

I am ready to do anything, so long only as this may be brought about

EPIDICUS

Well then, now there's an opportunity of doing so, before he comes into the city, as to-morrow he will be here; to-day he will not have come.

PERIPHIANES

How do you know?

EPIDICUS

I do know, because another person told me, who came from there, that he would be here in the morning.

PERIPHIANES

Then say you what we are to do.

EPIDICUS

I'm of opinion that you ought to do thus: you must pretend as though you were desirous to give her liberty to the music-girl for your own whim, and as though you were violently in love with her.

PERIPHIANES

To what advantage does that tend?

EPIDICUS

Do you ask that? Why, that you may purchase her beforehand with money, before your son comes, and may say that you bought her to set her at liberty----

PERIPHIANES

I understand.

EPIDICUS

When she's bought, you must remove her somewhere out of the city; unless your own feelings are any way opposed.

PERIPHIANES

O no, skilfully suggested.

EPIDICUS

But what say you, Apæcides?

APAECIDES

Why, what should I? Except that I think you've contrived it very cleverly.

EPIDICUS

Then, in consequence, all thoughts of marriage with her will be removed from him, so that he will make no difficulties as to what you wish.

APAECIDES

Long life to you, wise as you are, it really does please us.

EPIDICUS

Do you then skilfully do whatever you are going to do.

PERIPHIANES

I' faith, you speak to the purpose.

EPIDICUS

I have found, too, how this suspicion may be removed from yourself.

1. Neither sowing nor reaping: "Mihi istic nec seritur nec metitur." This proverbial saying (so well known to every student of the Eton Grammar) merely means, "I have no interest whatever in the matter."