

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

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0100%3Aact%3D3>

EPIDICUS, alone.

EPIDICUS

to himself. I do think that in the Attic land there is no spot of land so fertile as is this Periphanes of ours; why, from the locked and sealed-up money-chest I summon forth silver just as much as I please. But this, i' troth, I am afraid of, that if the old man should come to know it, he'll be making parasites of elm-twigs¹, to be shaving me quite clean. But one matter and consideration disturbs me--what music-girl, one that goes out on hire, I'm to show to Apæcides. *He muses*. And that as well I've got: this morning the old gentleman bade me bring for him on hire some music-girl to his house here, to sing for him while he was performing a sacrifice². She shall be hired, and be instructed beforehand in what way she's to prove herself cunning towards the old man. I'll away in-doors; I'll get the money out of the swindled old fellow. *He goes into the house of PERIPHANES*.

(...)

Enter EPIDICUS, from the house of PERIPHANES, with a bag of money round his neck.

EPIDICUS

to PERIPHANES, within the house. You've done your duty then; it now befits me to do mine. Through this care of mine, you may be allowed to be at ease. *In a lower voice*. This, in fact, is now lost to you; don't at all be setting your hopes on it. *Holding some of the coins in his hands*. How very shining it is! You only trust me for that. This way I'm going to act, this way my forefathers have acted before me. O ye immortal Gods, what a brilliant day you have bestowed upon me in this how propitious and how favourable to my requests! But why do I delay to take my departure hence, that I may bear this supply with lucky auspices to the colony³. I'm delaying while I'm standing here. But what means this? Before the house I see the two companions, my master and Chæribulus. *Accosting them*. What are you doing? Take this, will you. *Gives STRATIPPOCLES the bag of money*.

STRATIPPOCLES

How much is there in this?

EPIDICUS

As much as is enough, and more than enough; a superabundance; I've brought more by ten minæ than you owe to the Banker. So long as I please and obey you, I value my own back at a straw.

-
- 1. Parasites of elm-twigs:** He alludes to the propensity of Parasites for devouring to the bone all who came in their way.
 - 2. Performing a sacrifice:** It was the custom, while private person were sacrificing to the Lares or household Gods, to have music performed upon the harp or the pipe.
 - 3. To the colony:** He means the house of Chæribulus, which has just been peopled by his master.