

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0100%3Aact%3D5>

Enter PERIPHANES and APÆCIDES, with thongs in their hands.

PERIPHIANES

Hasn't this fellow quite made a laughing-stock of us two decrepit old people¹?

APAECIDES

Why yes, I' faith, you've really kept me plagued in a shocking fashion.

PERIPHIANES

Now do hold your tongue. Only let me catch the fellow!

APAECIDES

I'll tell you now, that you may know it. It's best for you to seek another companion; so much, while I've been following you, has the congested blood, from weariness, come down into the knees of poor me.

PERIPHIANES

After how many fashions has this fellow made sport of me and you to-day! besides, how he has disembowelled my silver resources for me!

APAECIDES

Away with him from me; for surely he's the son of Vulcan in his wrath: wherever he touches, he sets all on fire; if you stand by him, he scorches you with his heat. *unperceived, from the house.*

EPIDICUS

to himself. More than the twelve Gods, the immortal Gods as many as are in the heavens, are now assistants in my rescue, and are fighting on my side. As to whatever I have offended in, I have aid and assistance at home². All my enemies I quite spurn by the heels³.

PERIPHIANES

looking about. Where in the world shall I look for him?

APAECIDES

So long as you look for him without me, you may look for him even in the middle of the sea, as far as I'm concerned.

EPIDICUS

coming forward, and addressing PERIPHANES Why are you looking for me? Why are you taking this trouble? Why are you worrying him? *Pointing to APÆCIDES*. See, here I am. Have I run away from you? Have I betaken myself from the house? Have I hid myself from your sight? I don't entreat you either. Do you wish to bind me? Look

then, I present my hands. *Holding out his hands*. You have got thongs; I saw you purchase them. Why do you delay now? Do bind me!

PERIPHIANES

It's all over⁴. He gives bail to me of his own accord for his appearance.

EPIDICUS

Why don't you bind me?

APAECIDES

A wicked slave, upon my faith!

EPIDICUS

Really, Apæcides, I don't want you to intercede for me.

APAECIDES

You easily obtain your wish, Epidicus.

EPIDICUS

to *PERIPHANES* . Are you going to do anything?

PERIPHIANES

What, at your pleasure?

EPIDICUS

Troth, at my own, indeed, and not at yours, are these hands to be bound by you to-day.

PERIPHIANES

But I don't choose; I shan't bind them.

APAECIDES

to *PERIPHANES* . He's preparing to throw a dragnet over you; he's framing some plan, I know not what.

EPIDICUS

You are causing delay to yourself, while I stand unbound; bind them, I tell you, bind them together.

PERIPHIANES

But I choose rather to question you unbound.

EPIDICUS

But you shall know nothing.

PERIPHIANES

turning to *APÆCIDES* . What am I to do?

APAECIDES

What are you to do? Let him be complied with.

EPIDICUS

You are a worthy person, Apæcides.

PERIPHIANES

Hold out your hands then.

EPIDICUS

holding out his hands . They don't at all object; bind them fast together too. Don't be afraid. *PERIPHANES binds his hands*. I'm submissive. When the job is done, then pronounce your judgment⁵.

PERIPHIANES

There, that is good.

EPIDICUS

Now then, to the point, with your enquiries of me; ask me what you please.

PERIPHIANES

In the first place, with what assurance did you presume to say that she who was bought the day before yesterday was my daughter?

EPIDICUS

I chose to; on that assurance.

1. **Decrepit old people:** "Decrepitos." From the verb "decrepo," "to crackle," or "make a sputtering," as a candle does when going out, or the wick of a lamp when the oil fails.
2. **Assistance at home:** He alludes to Stratippocles, Telestis, Philippa, Thesprio, and probably Chæribulus, who are all ready to take his part; and, indeed, have good reason to do so, from the opportune discovery which he has just made.
3. **Spurn by the heels:** [Ἀπολακτιζῶ](#). It has been more than once remarked that the use of Greek words was much affected by the Romans, in the same way that we make use of French phrases.
4. **It's all over:** "Ilicet." Literally, "you may begone;" the word used when judicial proceedings had terminated.
5. **Pronounce your judgment:** "Arbitraminor" seems a better reading than "arbitramino."