

WS 2024/25 Lat. Lektüre: Plautus, *Epidicus* Translation 14 (Karanasiou)

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

PERIPHIANES

Do you say so? You chose to?

EPIDICUS

I do say so. Even lay me a wager that she is not the daughter----

PERIPHIANES

A woman whom the mother declares she doesn't know?

EPIDICUS

Then, if she isn't the daughter of her mother, make me a bet about it, my didrachm to your talent¹.

PERIPHIANES

Why, that's a mere catch. But who is this woman?

EPIDICUS

The mistress of your son, that you may know the whole matter.

PERIPHIANES

Did I not give you the thirty minæ for my daughter?

EPIDICUS

I confess that they were given, and that with that money I purchased this Music-girl, your son's mistress, instead of your daughter. As to those thirty minæ, in fact, I imposed upon you.

PERIPHIANES

For what reason did you play a trick upon me about that hired Music-girl?

EPIDICUS

I' faith, I really did do it, and I think it was rightly done.

PERIPHIANES

In the last place, what has been done with the silver I gave you?

EPIDICUS

I'll tell you; I gave it to a person neither bad nor yet good²--your son Stratippocles.

PERIPHIANES

Why did you dare to give it him?

EPIDICUS

Because it pleased me.

PERIPHIANES

stamping . Plague on it! what insolence is this?

EPIDICUS

Am I to be bawled at just as if I were a slave?

PERIPHIANES

ironically . As you are a free man, I rejoice.

EPIDICUS

I have deserved to become so.

PERIPHIANES

You--deserved?

EPIDICUS

Go look in-doors; I'll let you know that this is the truth.

PERIPHIANES

What's the matter?

EPIDICUS

The thing itself will tell you so at once. Only do go in-doors.

PERIPHIANES

Aye, aye! this is not without its meaning. Do you keep an eye on him, Apæcides. *Goes into his house.*

APAECIDES

What's the meaning of this, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS

I' faith, it's with the greatest injustice that I'm standing here bound, through whose aid his daughter has been discovered to-day.

APAECIDES

Do you say that you have found his daughter?

EPIDICUS

I have found her, and she is at home. But how hard it is, when, for services done, you reap a harvest of evil.

APAECIDES

What, her whom this day we've both been weary with seeking throughout the city?

EPIDICUS

I'm weary with finding, you weary with seeking. *from the house.*

PERIPHIANES

at the door, to those within . Why do you entreat me thus earnestly in his behalf? For

I find that he does deserve that I should be pleased to act according to his deserts. *To EPIDICUS*. Hold out your hands, you, that I may unbind them.

EPIDICUS

Don't you touch them.

PERIPHIANES

But do you present them to me.

EPIDICUS

I don't choose.

PERIPHIANES

You don't do right.

EPIDICUS

Upon my faith, I'll never allow myself to be unbound this day, unless you give me satisfaction.

PERIPHIANES

You ask what's very fair and very just. Shoes, a tunic, and a cloak I'll give you.

EPIDICUS

What next, after that?

PERIPHIANES

Your freedom.

EPIDICUS

But after that? There's need for a new-made freed-man to pick a bit³.

PERIPHIANES

It shall be given; I'll find you food.

EPIDICUS

On my word, never this day shall you release me, unless you beg my pardon.

PERIPHIANES

I do entreat you, Epidicus, to forgive me, if unawares in fault I've done anything wrong. But by way of return for this matter, be a free man.

EPIDICUS

Against my inclination do I grant you this pardon, but I'm compelled by necessity. Unbind them then, if you choose. *He holds out his hands, which are unbound by PERIPHIANES, and they go into his house. coming forward.*

This is that man who by his roguery⁴ has gained his freedom. Clap your hands, and fare you well! Stretch your loins, and rise from your seats.

1. **My didrachm to your talent:** The moderate odds of three thousand to one.
2. **Nor yet good:** "Indigno" is read here in some editions for "benigno," and is, perhaps, a better reading; though Epidicus may, possibly, as Post suggests, intend to allude satirically to the undecided and versatile character of Stratippocles.
3. **To pick a bit:** "Pappet." "Pappo" properly signifies "to eat pap," as children do.
4. **By his roguery:** -- "Malitia," "artfulness." "trickery."