

**TEXT 2**

Akt 1.1

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0112%3Aact%3D1%3Ascene%3D1>

*Enter MICIO, calling to a servant within.*

**MICIO**

Storax! Aeschinus has not returned home from the entertainment last night, nor any of the servants who went to fetch him.<sup>1</sup> *To himself.* Really, they say it with reason, if you are absent anywhere, or if you stay abroad at any time, 'twere better for that to happen which your wife says against you, and which in her passion she imagines in her mind, than the things which fond parents fancy. A wife, if you stay long abroad, either imagines that you are in love or are beloved, or that you are drinking and indulging your inclination, and that you only are taking your pleasure, while she herself is miserable. As for myself, in consequence of my son not having returned home, what do I imagine? In what ways am I not disturbed? For fear lest he may either have taken cold,<sup>2</sup> or have fallen down somewhere, or have broken some limb. Oh dear! that any man should take it into his head, or find out what is dearer to him than he is to himself! And yet he is not my son, but my brother's. He is quite different in disposition. I, from my very youth upward, have lived a comfortable town life, and taken my ease; and, what they esteem a piece of luck, I have never had a wife. He, on the contrary to all this, (...)

<sup>1</sup> **To fetch him:** "[Advorsum ierant](#)." On the duties of the "[adversitores](#)," see the Notes to Bohn's Translation of Plautus.

<sup>2</sup> **Either have taken cold:** Westerhovius observes that this passage seems to be taken from one in the *Miles Gloriosus* of Plautus, **l. 721**, et seq.: "Troth, if I had had them, enough anxiety should I have had from my children; I should have been everlastingly tormented in mind: but if perchance one had had a fever, I think I should have died. Or if one in liquor had tumbled any where from his horse, I should have been afraid that he had broken his legs or neck on that occasion." It may be remarked that there is a great resemblance between the characters of Micio here and Periplecomenus in the *Miles Gloriosus*.