

Enter Syrus, from the house.

Syr. It has been done as you ordered, Demea. 958

Dem. You are a worthy fellow. Upon my faith,—in my opinion, at least,—I think Syrus ought at once to be made free.

Mic. He free! For what reason?

Dem. For many.

Syr. O my *dear* Demea! upon my word, you are a worthy man! I have strictly taken care of both these *sons* of yours, from childhood; I have taught, advised, *and* carefully instructed them in every thing I could.

Dem. The thing is evident; and then besides *all* this, to cater *for them*, secretly bring home a wench, prepare a morning entertainment;¹ these are the accomplishments of no ordinary person.

Syr. O, what a delightful man!

Dem. Last of all, he assisted to-day in purchasing this Music-wench—he had the management of it; it is right he should be rewarded; other servants will be encouraged *thereby*: besides, he (*pointing to Æschinus*) desires it to be so.

Mic. (*to Æschinus.*) Do you desire this to be done?

Æsch. I do wish it.

Mic. Why then, if you desire it, just come hither, Syrus, to me (*performing the ceremony of manumission*); be a free man.²

Syr. You act generously; I return my thanks to you all;—and to you, Demea, in particular.

Dem. I congratulate you.

Æsch. And I.

Syr. I believe you. I wish that this joy were made complete—that I could see my wife, Phrygia,³ free as well.

Dem. Really, a most excellent woman.

Syr. And the first to suckle your grandchild, his son, today (*pointing to Æschinus*).

Dem. Why really, in seriousness, if she was the first to do so, there is no doubt she ought to be made free.

Mic. *What*, for doing that?

Dem. For doing that; in fine, receive the amount from me⁴ at which she is valued. 977

¹ *A morning entertainment*)—Ver. 969. A banquet in the early part or middle of the day was considered by the Greeks a debauch.

² *Be a free man*)—Ver. 974. He touches Syrus on the ear, and makes him free. The same occurs in the Epidicus of Plautus, Act V., Sc. 2, l. 65.

³ *My wife, Phrygia*)—Ver. 977. The so-called marriage, or rather cohabitation, of the Roman slaves will be found treated upon in the Notes to Plautus. Syrus calls Phrygia his wife on anticipation that she will become a free woman.

⁴ *Receive the amount from me*)—Ver. 981. The only sign of generosity he has yet shown.