

(...)

Syr. May all the Gods always grant you, Demea, all you desire. 978

Mic. Syrus, you have thrived pretty well to-day.

Dem. If, in addition, Micio, you will do your duty, and lend him a little ready money in hand for present use, he will soon repay you.

Mic. Less than this (*snapping his fingers*).

Æsch. He is a deserving fellow.

Syr. Upon my word, I will repay it; only lend it me.

Æsch. Do, father.

Mic. I'll consider of it afterward.

Dem. He'll do it, *Syrus*.

Syr. O most worthy man!

Æsch. O most kind-hearted father!

MIC. How is this? What has so suddenly changed your disposition, *Demea*? What caprice is *this*? What means this sudden liberality?¹

Dem. I will tell you:—That I may convince you of this, Micio, that the fact that they consider you an easy and kind-hearted man, does not proceed from your real life, nor, indeed, from *a regard for* virtue and justice; but from your humoring, indulging, and pampering them. Now therefore, *Æschinus*, if my mode of life has been displeasing to you, because I do not quite humor you in every thing, just *or* unjust, I have done: squander, buy, do what you please. But if you would rather have one to reprove and correct those faults, the results of which, by reason of your youth, you can not see, which you pursue too ardently, *and* are thoughtless upon, and in due season to direct you; behold me ready to do it for you.

Æsch. Father, we leave it to you; you best know what ought to be done. But what is to be done about my brother?

Dem. I consent. Let him have *his mistress*:² with her let him make an end of *his follies*.

Mic. That's right. (*To the Audience.*) Grant us your applause. 997

¹ *This sudden liberality*)—Ver. 989. “Quid prolubium? Quae istaec subita est largitas?” Madame Dacier tells us that this passage was borrowed from Coecilius, the Comic Poet.

² *Let him have his mistress*)—Ver. 1001. It must be remembered that he has the notions of a Greek parent, and sees no such criminality in this sanction as a parent would be sensible of at the present day.