INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The Mother-in-Law, like Phormio, was based on a Greek original by Apollodorus. It was Terence's least successful play in his lifetime in that it failed to get a hearing at its first two productions and finally succeeded only through the perseverance of Terence's producer Lucius Ambivius Turpio. Its failures may have been as much to do with the circumstances of the festivals as with the quality of the play, since we hear of rival entertainers, such as tightrope walkers, boxers, and gladiators, forcing their way into the theatre; but it is true that it is an unusually sombre play surrounded by much doubt and uncertainty in which the path to the happy ending is by no means clear. The degree of uncertainty may be due to Terence if, as is often supposed, the Greek original had a divine prologue which told the audience the true situation from the outset and enabled it to foresee the dénouement.

The essence of the plot (as of Menander's The Arbitration) is that a young man (Pamphilus) has married a girl (Philumen) whom he had earlier raped without knowing her identity and is outraged when she bears an "illegitimate" baby which is in fact his own. Pamphilus discovers the newly-born baby when he returns from a business trip on which he has been sent by his father; he promises Philumen's mother Myrrina not to reveal the baby's existence but refuses to take Philumen back. This refusal creates problems between Pamphilus and his father Laches and Philumen's father Philippus, when they discover the baby and assume it to be Pamphilus' own. Pamphilus tries to claim that he is acting out of loyalty to his mother Sostrata, the "mother-in-law" of the title, who had at the beginning of the play been involved in an unexplained quarrel with her daughter-in-law (Philumen, trying to conceal her pregnancy, had gone home to her own mother and they had refused to let Sostrata in), but Sostrata removes this excuse by selflessly offering to go and live on the family farm to keep out of the young couple's way. The problem is resolved when the two fathers, suspecting that Pamphilus' refusal is due to a continuation of his premarital affair with the courtesan Bacchis, summon her to explain the situation. She goes in to tell the womenfolk that this affair is long since over, and Myrrina recognises a ring Bacchis is wearing as belonging to Philumen, having been torn from Philumen by Pamphilus at the time of the rape and then presented to Bacchis. The way is now clear for the resumption of the marriage and the happy ending; it is decided not to tell those who do not need to know (that is, the fathers) the truth of the situation.

The play is unique among Terence's plays in having only a single pair of lovers; the plot is double only to the extent that there are two sets of parents. It is also unique in that the sympathy lies squarely with the female characters. The two mothers do their best for their respective children and are quite unjustly and unpleasantly criticised by their husbands for causing all the friction between the families. Indeed, it is possible to read the play as a criticism of the patriarchal society, whose conventions are preserved only by
TERENCE

a fiction; the two patresfamilias have no control over what is going on and are in the end kept out of the secret, while the women are shamefully treated and get no redress. Pamphilus has some redeeming features, notably the genuineness of his feelings both for Bacchis and for Philumena and his loyalty to his promise to Myrrina when in the end it would have been easier for him to declare the illegitimacy of the child; but it is hard to sympathise with him when he has committed what must be the most unpleasant rape in comedy and never in the play shows any regret. In this respect he suffers by comparison with his counterpart Charisios in Menander's The Arbitration, who has two long expressions of remorse at his treatment of his wife.

Of the minor characters, Parmeno is the most ineffective of Terence's slaves; having been introduced at the beginning as a gossiping source of information about Pamphilus' situation, in the end he has to be sent on various errands to keep him out of the way, possessing as he does the crucial knowledge that Pamphilus did not touch his wife for two months after the wedding, so that the baby cannot possibly be his. Bacchis stands beside Thais of The Eunuch as a bona meretrix, willing to face opprobrium in order to save the marriage of her former lover; the brief scene of flirtation between her and Pamphilus at the end of the play must be the most charming scene in comedy between a young man and a courtesan.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Editions


Criticism


DIDASCALIA

INCIPIT TERENTI HECYRA
ACTA LYDIES MEGALENSIBUS
SEXTO IVLIO CAESARE CN. CORNELIO DOLABELLA
AEDILIBVS CVRBLIBVS
MODO FECIT FLACCVS CLAVDI TIBIBS FARIBVS TOTA
GRAECA MENANDRVS
FACTA EST V
ACTA PRIMO SINE PROLUGO CN. OCTAVIO TTO MANLIO CO.
RELATA EST LVICO AEMILIO PAULO LVDIS FUNERALIBVS
NON EST PLACITA
TERTOIO RELATA EST Q. FVLIVIO LVC. MARCIO AEDILIBVS
CVRBLIBVS
EGIT LVC. AMBIVIBVS LVC. SERGIVS TVBPIO
PLACIT

C. SULPICI APOLLINARIS PERIOCHA

uxorem ducit Pamphilus Philumenam,
cui quondam ignorans virginit vittum obtulit,
cuiusque per vim quem detrasat anulum
dererat amicae Baccidis meretriculae.
profectus dein in Imbrum est; nuptam Laud attigit.
hanc mater vitio gravidam, ne id sciat scorus,
ut aegram ad se rem transferat revenit Pamphilus,
dependit partum, celat; uxorem tamen
recipere non volt. pater incusat Baccidis
amorem. dum se purgat Baccis, anulum
mater vitiatae forte adgnoscit Myrrina.
uxorem recipit Pamphilus cum filio.

PRODUCTION NOTICE

Here begins The Mother-in-Law of Terence, acted at the Ludi
Megalenses in the curule aedileship of Sex. Iulius Caesar and
Cn. Cornelius Dolabella. Music composed by Flaccus, slave
of Claudius, for equal pipes throughout. Greek original by
Menander. The author's fifth play, performed first without
prologue in the consulship of Cn. Octavius and Ti. Manlius.
Performed again at the funeral games of L. Aemilius Paulus. A
failure. Performed for the third time in the curule aedileship
of Q. Fulvius and L. Marcus. The producers were L. Ambivius

SYNOPSIS BY C. SULPICIUS APOLLINARIS

Pamphilus married Philumen, whom he had earlier raped not
knowing who she was; he had taken her ring by force and given
it to his girlfriend, the courtesan Bacchis. He then departed to
Imbros without touching his wife. The girl being pregnant as a
result of the rape, her mother takes her home to hide this fact
from her mother-in-law, pretending that she is sick. Pamphilus
returns, discovers the baby, and keeps it secret, but he refuses
to take his wife back. His father blames his love for Bacchis.
While Bacchis is clearing herself of this charge, Myrrina,
the mother of the raped girl, chances to recognise the ring, and
Pamphilus takes his wife back together with his son.

It was the occasion of four of Terence's plays.

1 Founded in 204 B.C. in honour of the Great Mother; held in April.
2 That is, in 165 B.C., which makes this Terence's second play. It is
his fifth (as stated below) if this unsuccessful first performance is
ignored. 3 In fact by Apollodorus (see Florus note 3).
4 The second and third performances were in 160. On Aemilius
Paulus see Introduction. 5 L. Sergius is unknown.
PERSONAE

PHILOTIS meretrix
SYRA amas
PARMENO servos
LACHES senex
SOSTRATA matrona
PHIDIPPUS senex
PAMPHILUS aulescens
SOSIA servos
MYRIRNA matrona
BACCHIS meretrix

Scena: Athens

CHARACTERS

PHILOTIS, a young courtesan
SYRA, an old woman
PARMENO, slave of Laches
LACHES, an old man, husband of Sostrata, father of Pamphilus
SOSTRATA, a matron, wife of Laches, mother of Pamphilus
PHIDIPPUS, an old man, husband of Myrrina, father of Philumena
PAMPHILUS, a young man, son of Laches and Myrrina, husband of Philumena
SOSIA, another slave of Laches
MYRIRNA, a matron, wife of Phidippus, mother of Philumena
BACCHIS, a courtesan, lover of Pamphilus

Staging

The stage represents a street in Athens. On it are three houses, belonging to Laches, Phidippus, and the courtesan Bacchis. The exit on the audience's right leads to the forum, that on their left to the harbour and the country.
HECYRA

PROLOGUS (1)

Hecyra est huic nomen fabulae. haec quom datast, nova, et novum intervenit vitium et calamitas ut neque spectari neque cognoscipotuerit. ita populus studio stupidus in funambulo animum occuparat. nunc haec planest pro nova, et ut qui scrispit hanc ob eam rem noluit iterum referre ut iterum possit vendere. alias cognostis eius: queso hanc noscite.

PROLOGUS (II)
orator ad vos venio ornatu prologi.
is in eis exorator sin eodem ut iure uti senem licet quo iure sum usus aulescetior, novas qui exactas faci ut inveterascerent, ne cum poeta scriptura evanescet.
in eis quas primum Caecili didici novas partim sum earun exactus, partim vix steti. quia sebam dubiam fortunam esse scenicae, spe incerta certum mihi laborum sustuli.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PROLOGUE (1)6

The title of this play is The Mother-in-Law. When it was performed as a new play, it suffered a novel form of misfortune, a disaster which prevented it from being watched or given a hearing: the audience took a foolish fancy to a tightrope walker who claimed their attention. Now it is offered as a genuinely new play; it is not the case that the author has chosen to present it a second time in order to sell it a second time. You have given a hearing to his other plays; please give a hearing to this one.

PROLOGUE (2)7

I come to you as an advocate in the guise of a prologue. Allow me to succeed in my advocacy; let me enjoy as an old man the same privilege as I did in my younger days, when I ensured that new plays which had been driven off the stage became established and that the scripts did not vanish from sight along with the playwrights. When I first put on new plays by Caecilius,8 I was driven off the stage in some of them, and struggled to hold my ground in others. I realised that a theatrical career was a precarious one; success was uncertain and the only certainty

6 This is the prologue to the second performance.

7 This is the prologue to the third performance, and was evidently spoken, like the prologue to The Self-Tormenter, by Ambivius Turpio himself.

8 For Caecilius see Introduction.
was toil. But I set myself to revive these same plays in order to obtain other new ones from the same author. I was very eager that he should not be discouraged from his profession. I managed to get the plays performed, and, once they were known, they were a success. In this way I restored the playwright to his place, when the the attacks of his opponents had practically driven him from his profession and from his craft and from the dramatic art. But if I had rejected his works at the time and had chosen to spend my time discouraging him, thus consigning him to idleness rather than to industry, I could easily have discouraged him from writing any further plays.

Now for my sake listen to my request with open minds. I am presenting "The Mother-in-Law" to you again, which I have never been allowed to play in silence; it has been so dogged by disaster. But your good sense, allied to my efforts, can mitigate the disaster. The first time I tried to perform the play, I was forced off the stage early; there was talk of boxers—and added to that a promise of a tightrope walker—crowds of supporters, general uproar, and women screaming. I decided to use my old practice on this new play and continue the experiment: I put it on a second time. The first act went well. But then a rumour arose that there was going to be a gladiatorial show: crowds rushed in, with much confusion, shouting, and fighting for places, and in these circumstances I couldn't preserve my place.

Now there is no disturbance; all is peace and quiet. I have the chance to perform the play; and you the opportunity to add lustre to the dramatic festivals. Do not allow the dramatic art to fall into the hands of a few through your negligence. Make sure

8 The word "act" is not here used in the technical sense; act divisions, which were unknown to Terence, were inserted in his plays by Renaissance editors.
THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

that your influence aids and abets my influence.
I have never priced my art on the basis of greed; I have adopted the principle that the greatest reward for me is to serve your interests the best. So let me prevail on you not to allow an author who has entrusted his career to my keeping and himself to your protection to be cheated and unfairly derided by unfair critics. For my sake listen to my plea and grant me silence, so that other authors may be encouraged to write and it may be worth my while in the future to put on new plays bought at my own expense.\(^{10}\)

ACT ONE

Enter PHILOTIS and SYRA from Bacchis' house talking together.

PHI Heaven knows, you can find precious few lovers who turn out faithful to their mistresses, Syra. Take Pamphilus here (pointing to his house). How often he swore to Bacchis, and how solemnly, so that no one could possibly have doubted him, that he would never take a wife so long as she was alive! Now look, he’s taken one!

SYR And that’s why I constantly urge and exhort you never to take pity on a lover but strip, flay, and fleece every one you get.

PHI Without any exception at all?

SYR None. Not one of them, I assure you, comes to you with—

\(^{10}\) The obvious sense of pretio meo is “at my own expense,” though Donatus takes it as meaning “at a price set by me,” and explains that, if.
TERENCE

quin ita paret sese abs te ut blanditias suis quum minus pretio suam voluptatem expelat.

70 hiscin tu, amabo, non contra insidiae

PHI timem pol eandem inurumunst esse omnibus.

SYR inurum autem ulisci adversarios, aut qua via te caperent eadem ipsos capi?
eheu me miseram! quor non aut istae mihi aetas et formast aut tibi haec sententia?

75 I. II: PARMENO. PHILOTIS. SYRA.

PAR senex si quaeere me, modo iese dico ad portum percontatum adventum Pamphilii. audin quid dicam, Scirte? si quaeere me, uti tum dicat; sin non quaeere, nullus dixeris,

80 alias ut uti possim causa hac integra. sed video ego Philotium? unde haec advenit?

PHI o salve, Parmeno.

SYR salve mecastor, Parmeno.

PAR et tu edepol, Syra.

85 PHI minume equitem me oblectavi, quae cum milite Corinthum hinc sum profecta inhumanissimo. biennium ibi perpetuum misera illum tuli.

PAR edepol te desiderium Athenarum arbitror. Philotium, cepisse saxe et te tuum consilium contempsisse.

---

PHI But even so, by heaven, it's not fair to treat them all the same.

SYR Not fair to get revenge on your enemies or to catch them out in the same way as they try to catch you? Oh dear, oh dear! If only either I had your youth and beauty or you had my sense!

Enter PARMENO from Laches' house.

PAR (speaking back inside the house) If the old man asks for me, say I've just gone to the harbour to find out when Pamphilus is arriving. Do you hear what I'm saying, Scirte? If he asks for me, then say that; if he doesn't, don't say a word, so that I can keep the excuse to use another time. (seeing the women) But is that my dear little Philotis? Where did she come from? Philotis, a very good day to you.

PHI Good day, Parmeno.

SYR (coming forward) Good day and god bless, Parmeno.

PAR And to you, Syra, god bless you too.11 (turning back to Philotis) Tell me, Philotis, where have you been enjoying yourself all this time?

PHI I've scarcely been enjoying myself; I tell you, having left here for Corinth with that brute of a soldier and endured two whole years of misery with him.

PAR Yes, by heaven, and I expect you were often homesick for Athens and regretted your decision to leave.

---

11 Parmeno answers Syra's slightly extravagant mecastor (an oath by Castor) with an equally extravagant edepol (an oath by Pollux). Both are here translated "god bless."
TERENCE

90 PHI
non dici potest
quam cupidam eram huc redeundi, abeundi a milite,
vosque hic videndi, antiqua ut consuetudine
agitarem inter vos libere convivium.
nam illi haud licebat nisi praefinito loqui
quae illi placaret.

95 PAR
haud opinor commode
finem statuisse orationi militem.

PHI
sed quid hoc negotiist? modo quae narravit mihi
hie intus Bacchis! quod ego numquam credidi
fore, ut ille haec viva posset animum inducere
uxorem habere.

100 PAR
habere autem?

PHI
eho tu, an non habet?

PAR
habet, sed firmae haec vereor ut sint nuptiae.

PHI
ita diisseque faciunt, si in remst Bacchis.

PAR
sed qui istuc crescet ita esse dic mihi, Parmeno.

PHI
non est opus prolato hoc. percontarier
desistet.

105

PHI
nempe ea causa ut ne id fiat palam?
ita me di amabunt, haud propter eum rogo,
uit hoc proferam, sed ut tacita mecum gaudem.

PAR
numquam tam dices commode ut tergum meum
tuam in fidem committam.

PHI
ah! noli, Parmeno.

110 PAR
quasi tu non multo malis narrare hoc mihi
quam ego quae percontor scire.

PAR
vera haec prae dicat
et illud mihi vittimmest maximum, si mihi fidem
das te tacituras, dicam.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PHI
I can't tell you how eager I was to come back here, to get
away from the soldier, and see all of you here, and freely
enjoy your company just as in the old days. There I wasn't
allowed to say anything except what would please him,
and that was strictly defined.

PAR
I don't imagine you enjoyed having the soldier regulate
your speech.

PHI
But what's going on? What a story Bacchis just told me
inside! It's something I never believed could happen,
that he could bring himself to take a wife while she was
alive.

PAR
Take a wife?

PHI
Oh, come on! Hasn't he taken a wife?

PAR
He has, but I'm afraid it isn't a secure marriage.

PHI
May all the gods and goddesses grant it so, if that will
benefit Bacchis! But tell me, Parmeno, why I should
believe what you're telling me.

PAR
(ecasively) It's not something to make public. Don't
question me further.

PHI
You mean, you don't want it to come out into the open?
As heaven is my witness, I'm not asking you so I can make
it public; I just want to enjoy it quietly by myself.

PAR
You're a clever talker but you'll never persuade me to risk
my back on your word.

PHI
Oh, don't, Parmeno! As if you weren't much more eager
to tell me the story than I am to have my questions an-
swered!

PAR
(aside) She's right. It's my greatest failing. (aloud) If you
give me your word you'll keep it quiet, I'll tell you.
PHI
ad ingenium redis.
fidem do: loquere.
asculata.
istic sum.

115
amabat ut quom maxume tum Pamphilus,
quom pater uxorem ut ducat orare occipit
et haec communia omnium quae sunt patrum,
ese senem esse dicere, illum autem unicum,
praestium velle se senectuti suae.

120
ill' primo se negare, sed postquam acrius
pater instat, fecit animi ut incertus foret
pudor in amori obsequetur magis.
tundendo atque odio denique effect senex:
despondit ei gnatam luinus vicini proximi.

125
usque illud visumst Pamphilus ne utiquam grave
donec iam in ipsis nuptias, postquam videt
paratas nec moram ullam quin ducat dari,
ihi demum ita aegril tulit ut ipsam Bacchidem,
si adissent, credo ihi eius commiseresceret.

130
ubiquomque datum erat spatiun solitudinis
ut colloqui mecum una posset, "Parnemo,
perri! quid ego eg! in quod me conici malum!
non potero ferre hoc, Parnemo, perri miser!"

135
at te di deaesque perdunt cum isto odio, Lachel!
ut ad paucu redeam, uxorum deduct domum.
nocte illa prima virgineum non attigit.
que consecutaest nox eam, nihil magis.

PHI
quis ais? cum virgine una adulescens cubuerit
plus potus, sese illa abstinere ut potuerit?

140
non veri simile dicis neque verum arbitror.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PHI
That's more like you. I give you my word. Say on.

PAR
Listen.

PHI
I'm all yours.

PAR
Pamphilus was as much in love with Bacchis as ever,
when his father began to beg him to get himself a wife,
using the standard arguments that all fathers use. He was
an old man, he said; he had only one son; and he needed
some security for his old age. Pamphilus at first refused;
but, when his father pressed him harder, he became
quite uncertain whether to obey his sense of duty or his
love. In the end his father was so insistent and tiresome
that he prevailed, and he arranged for Pamphilus to
marry the daughter of our next-door neighbour here
(pointing to Philipps' house). This didn't seem particularly
serious to Pamphilus right up to the actual time of
the wedding. But when he saw everything was ready and
that there was no reason now to postpone the marriage,
than finally he was so upset that I believe even Bacchis
herself would have pitied him, had she been present.
Whenever he found a moment to himself in which he
could confide in me, he'd say, "Parnemo, damn it! What
have I done! What have I let myself in for? I won't be able
to bear it, Parnemo. Poor me, I'm ruined!"

PHI
May all the gods and goddesses destroy you, Laches, you
and your tiresome behaviour!

PAR
To cut the story short, he married the girl and took her
home. On that first night he didn't touch her. The follow-
ning night, the same.

PHI
What are you saying? A young man went to bed with a girl
after plenty to drink and was able to keep his hands off
her? It's an unlikely story. I don't believe it.
TERENCE

PAR credo ita videler tibi, nam nemo ad te venit
nisi cupiens tui: ille invitus illam duxerat.

PHI quid deciderit?

PAR diebus sane pauculis
post Pamphilus me solum seducit fons
145 narratque ut virgo ab se integra etiam tum siet,
seque ante quam eam uxorem duxisset domum,
sperasse eas tolerare posse nuptias.
"sed quam decerem me non posse diutius
habere, eam ludibrio haberi, Parmeno,
150 quin integram itidem reddam, ut accepi ab suis,
neque honestum mihi neque utile ipsi virginum."

PHI pium ac pudicum ingenium narras Pamphili.

PAR "hoc ego proferre incommodum mi esse arbitror.
reddi patri autem, quot tu nil dicas viti,
155 superbumst. sed illam spero, ubi hoc cognoverit
non posse se mecum esse, abituram denique."

PHI quid interea? ibatne ad Bacchidem?

PAR sed ut sit, postquam hunc alienum ab seae videt,
maligna multo et magis proca facta licerit.
160 PHI non edepol mirum.

PAR atque ea res multo maxime
diuisit illum ab illa, postquam et ipse se
154 et illum et hanc quae domi erat cognovit satis,
ad exemplum ambarum mores earum existimans.
haec, ita uti liberali esse ingenio decet,
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165 pudens, modesta, incommoda atque injurias viri omnis ferre et tegere contumelas. hic animus partim uxoris misericordia devinctus, partim victus huius injurias paulatim elapsus Bacchidi atque huc transtulit amorem, postquam pati ingenium nactus est. interea in Imbro mortuor cognatus senex horunc. ea ad hos redibat lege hereditas. eo amantem invitus Pamphilum extrudit pater. reliquit cum mater hic uxorem. nam senex

170 rus absidit se, lucro raro in urbem commeat.

PHI quid adhuc habent infirmitas nuptiae?
PAR nunc andec. primo dies complusclos bene conveniat sane inter eas. interim miris modis odisse coepit Sostratam,
neque lites uiae inter eas, postulatio numquam.

PHI quid igitur?
PAR si quando ad eam accesserat confabulatum, fugere e conspecto ilico, videre nolle. dixisse, ubi non quid pati, simulat se ad matrem accessi ad rem divinam, abit.

180 ubi illic dies est complurus, accorsi iubet: dixere causam tum nescioquum. iterum iubet: nemo remisit, postquam accessusaeplius, aegram esse simulat mulierem, nostra ilico it visere ad eam: admisit nemo. hoc ubi senex rescivit, heri ea causa rure huc adventit.

12 An island in the northeast Aegean Sea, off the coast of Thrace.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW
was modest and restrained: she put up with all her husband’s unkindness and ill-treatment, and she said nothing of his insulting behaviour. At this point, his heart was being partly won over by compassion for his wife, and partly worn down by Bacchis’ unpleasantness, he gradually withdrew from Bacchis and transferred his love to his wife, having found a similar nature to his own. Meanwhile an elderly relative of the family died on Imbros, and his property by law reverted to us. Pamphilus was forced to go out there by his father against his will, being in love. He left his wife here with his mother. The old man has buried himself in the country and rarely comes here into town.

PHI So where’s the insecurity in the marriage so far?
PAR I’ll tell you. At first for several days the two women did get on very well together. But presently the young woman conceived an inexplicable hatred for Sostrata. There wasn’t any dispute between them or any complaint.

PHI What then?
PAR Whenever Sostrata went up to her for a chat, she would immediately disappear from sight and refuse to see her. In the end, when she couldn’t stand it any longer, she pretended that her mother had sent for her to take part in a religious ceremony, and off she went home. When she’d been there several days, Sostrata sent for her. The family made some excuse. She sent for her again, still no response. After several more attempts, they pretended the young woman was sick. So our mistress went at once to pay a visit, but they wouldn’t let her in. Yesterday, when the old man found out, he came in from the country to deal with the matter, and immediately called upon
TERENCE

patrem continuo convenit Philumerae.
quid egerint inter se nundum etiam scio, 
nisi sane curaest quorum eventurum hoc siet. 
habes omnem rem, pergum quo coepti hoc iter.
195 PHI et quidem ego, nam constitui cum quodam hospite 
me esse illum conventurum.
PAR quod agas!
PHI vale.
PAR et tu bene vale, Phibtium.

ACTUS II

II. I: LACHES. SOSTRATA.
LAC pro deum atque hominum fideum, quod hoc genus est, 
quae haec est comuratio!
utin omnes mulieres eadem acque studeant nolintque omnia, 
200 neque declinatam quiequam ab aliarum ingenio ullam reperias!
itaque adeo uno animo omnes scires oderunt nurus, 
virus esse adversas acque studeat, similis pertinaciat, 
in eodemque omnes mihi videntur ludo ductae ad multiam. et
el ludu, si illus est, magistram hanc esse satis certo scio.
SOS me miseram! quae nunc quam ob rem accuser nescio.
205 SOS tu nescis?
LAC hem!
SOS non, ita me di bene amunt, mi Lache, 
itaque una inter nos agere aetatem licet.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

Philumena's father. What passed between them I haven't 
yet discovered, though naturally I'm concerned how this 
is going to turn out. There you have the whole story. I'll 
go on my way.

PHI So will I. I've an appointment to meet a client from over-
seas.
PAR Heaven bless your enterprise!
PHI Goodbye.
PAR Goodbye to you, Philotis dear. (Parenno exits left in the 
direction of the harbour and Philotis and Syra right in 
the direction of the forum, leaving the stage empty)

ACT TWO

Enter LACHES from his house, followed by SOSTRATA.

LAC (to himself) In the name of gods and men, what a breed 
they are, what a gang of conspirators! All women have 
identical likes and dislikes about everything! You can't 
find a single one whose character differs in any respect 
from the others! In particular, all mothers-in-law with 
one accord hate their daughters-in-law; and they're all 
just as keen to oppose their husbands and just as deter-
mined. I reckon that they've all been schooled to wicked-
ness in the same school, and I'm quite sure that, if there 
is such a school, (pointing to Sostrata) she's the headmis-
tress.

SOS Oh dear! I've no idea what I'm being accused of now.
LAC What! You've no idea?
SOS No, heaven help me. Laches dear; let us live out our lives 
together in peace.
The Mother-in-Law

...I'm sorry, Heaven forbid! We are not going to make this public. There are no words to describe how I feel after what you've done. You've created such sorrow for our family and our friends. I have never been so angry with you. You've turned my life into a nightmare. You've destroyed my happiness. I will not allow you to destroy my family. You are attention-seeking. I will not be swayed by your demands. I will not allow you to dictate my life. You are a monster. You are a disgrace. You are a burden. You are a liability. You are a pest. You are a problem. You are a thorn in my flesh. You are a blemish on my reputation. You are a stain on my conscience. You are a blot on my character. You are a blot on my family. You are a blot on my offspring. You are a blot on my future. You are a blot on my past. You are a blot on my present. You are a blot on my future. You are a blot on my character. You are a blot on my conscience. You are a blot on my family. You are a blot on my offspring. 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You are a blot on your character. You are a blot on your conscience. You are a blot on your family. You are a bl...
TERENCE

meo labori hau d parces praeter aequum atque aetatem
non te pro his curasse rebus ne quid aegre esset mihi
non mea opera neque pol culpa evenit.
SOS immo maxume.
LAC sola hic fuisti, in te omnis haaret culpa sola, Sostrata.
230 quae hic erant curares, quom ego vos curis solvi ceteris.
cum puella anum suscepisse inimicitias non pudet?
illis dies culpa factum?
SOS haud equidem dico, mi Lache.
LAC gaudeo, ita me diament, gnati causa, nam de te quidem
satis scio peccando detrimenti nihil potest.
235 SOS qui scis an ea causa, mi vir, me odisse astimulaverit
ut cum mater plus una esset?
LAC quid ais? non signi hoc sat est,
quod heri nemo voluit visentem ad eam te intro admit-
tere?
SOS enim lassam oppido tum esse aibant: eo ad eam non
admissa sum.
LAC tuos esse ego illi mores morbum magis quam ullam aliam
rem arbitrator,
240 et merito adeo. nam vostrarum nullast quin gnati velit
ducere uxor et quae vobis placitast condicio datur:
ubi ducere impulsi vostro, vostro impulsi easdem exi-
gunt.

II. II: PHIDIPPUS. LACHES. SOSTRATA.

PHI etsi scio ego. Philumena, meum ius esse ut te cogam

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

support your expenditure and your life of leisure. I've la-
boured unsparingly beyond what could be expected of a
man of my age. In return you might have taken some care
not to cause me any distress.
SOS It's not my doing or my fault, for heaven's sake.
LAC It is, very much so. You were here alone, and you alone
must bear the whole blame, Sostrata. You should have
looked after things here, since I had relieved you of all
other responsibilities. Aren't you ashamed, at your age, to
have started a quarrel with a girl? Are you going to say it
was her fault?
SOS No, certainly not, Lachés dear.
LAC I'm delighted to hear it, heaven help me, for our son's
sake. As for you, I'm quite sure you won't do your reputation
any harm however badly you behave.
SOS (ignoring this insult) How do you know, husband dear,
that she didn't just pretend to hate me, so that she could
spend more time with her mother?
LAC What are you saying? Isn't it proof enough that they re-
 fused to let you to yesterday when you tried to visit her?
SOS As a matter of fact, they said she was extremely tired at
the time. That's why I wasn't let in.
LAC I reckon it's your behaviour which is making her sick
rather than anything else. And no wonder. All you women
want your sons to marry, and you get the match you want.
Then, having pushed them into marriage, you push them
out again.

Enter PHIDIPPUS from his house.

PHI (speaking back inside the house) I know I have the right,
Philumena, to compel you to obey my orders. But in
TERENCE

quae ego imperem facere, ego tamen patrio animo victus
faciam

ut tibi concedam neque tuae lubidini adversabor.

LAC

atque ecum Philippum optume video. hinc iam scio
hie quid sit.

Philippe, etsi ego meis me omnibus scio esse apprime
obsequentem,

sed non adeo ut mea facilitas corrupta illorum animos.
quod tu si idem faceres, magis in rem et vostram et nos-
tram id esset.

PHI

nunc video in illarum potestate esse te.

250

LAC

heia vero?

adit te heri de filia: ut veni, itidem incertum amisti.

haud ita decet, si perpetuum hanc vis esse affinitatem,
celare te iras: si quid est peccatum a nobis, profer:

aut ea refendendo aut purgando vobis corrigamus

te iudice ipso. sine causa retinendi apud vos

qua aegrat, te mihi inuium facere arbitror, Philippes,

simulti satis ut meae domi curetur diligenter.
at ita me di ament, haud tibi hoc concedo—essi illi pater

ut tu illam salvam magis velis quam ego. id adeo guati
causa,

260

quem ego intellexi illum hau dem minus quam se ipsum

magis facere.

neque adeo clam nesit quam esse eum graviter laturum

credor,
hoc si reserit. eo domum studio haece prius quam ille

redeat.

PHI

Laches, et diligentiam vostram et benigne tam

novi et quae dicis omnia esse ut dicis minus induco,
TERENCE

et te hoc mihi cupio credere: illam ad vos recircire studeo si facere possim ullo modo.

LAC quae res te id facere prohibet?
PHI eho, numquidnam accusat virum?
LAC minune, nam postquam attendi magis et vi coepi cogere ut rediret, sancte adlurat non posse apud vos Pamphilo se absente perdurare.
PHI alinque fortasse alius vitis: ego sum animo leni natus, non possum adversari meis.

LAC em, Sostrata.
SOS heu me miseram!
LAC certumne est istuc?
LAC nunc quidem, ut videtur, sed numquid vis?
PHI nam est quod me transire ad forum iam oportet.
LAC e tecum una.

II. III: SOSTRATA.

SOS edepol ne nos sumus inique aeque omnes invisae viris propter paucas, quae omnes faciunt dignae ut videamus malo.
nam ita me diament, quod me accusat nunc vir, sum extra noxiam.
sed non facilest expurgatu, ita animum induerunt sorcis
omnis esse iniquas, haud pol mequidem, nam numquam secus
habui illam ac si ex me essest nata, nec qui hoc mi eveniat scio;
nisi pol filium multimodis especto ut redeat domum.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

In turn I want you to believe this of me, that I am eager for her to return to you if I can achieve it by any means.

LAC So what's stopping you? Hey! Surely she's not making some complaint against her husband?
PHI Not at all. When I pressed her further and tried to compel her forcibly to return, she swore on oath that she couldn't endure living in your house in Pamphilo's absence. I suppose everyone has his own failing: in my case I was born with an easygoing nature, and I can't oppose my family.

LAC (turning to Sostrata). There you are, Sostrata.
SOS Oh! What a misery!
LAC (to Philippus) Is that settled then?
PHI It seems so, for the present at least. But was that all? I've some business I must attend to now in the forum.
LAC I'll come with you. (they exit right in the direction of the forum)

SOSTRATA is left on stage alone.

SOS Heaven knows, it really is unfair that we women are all equally hated by our husbands because of a few who make it seem that we all deserve such treatment. As heaven is my witness, I am not guilty of what my husband now accuses me. But it's not easy to clear myself, when they're so convinced that all mothers-in-law are unreasonable. But not me, for heaven's sake. I've never treated her otherwise than as if she were my own daughter, and I don't know why this is happening to me. Heaven knows, I'm really looking forward to my son's return. (she exits into her house)
III. I: PAMPHILUS. PARMENO. (MYRRINIA.)

PAM
nemini plura acerba credo esse ex amore homini umquam oblata
quam mi. heu me infelicem! hancin ego vitam parsi perdere!
hacin causa ego eram tanto opere cupidus redeundi domum! hi!
quanto fuerat praestabilis ubivis gentium agere actatem
quam huc redire atque haec ita esse miserum me rescirem?
nam nos omnes quibus est alicunde aliquid objectus labos,
onne quod est interea tempus prius quam id rescitumst lucrost.

PAR
at sic sitiis qui te expediis his acruminis reperias:
si non rediisses, haec tace factae essent multo amphières.

PAM
sed nune adventum tuum ambas, Pamphile, scio reveruturas.
rem cognosces, iram expedes, rum rem in gratiam resti-
tues. levia sunt quae tu pergravia esse in animum induxi tuom.

PAM
quid consolare me? an quisquam usquam gentiumst
aeque miser?
prius quam hanc uxorem duxi habebam alibi animum
amori deditum.

tamen nunquam ausus sum reecusare eam quam mi
obtrudit pater.

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THE MOTHER-IN-LAW
ACT THREE

Enter PAMPHILUS and PARMENO left from the direction of the harbour.

PAM I don’t believe anyone has ever had more anguish in-
flicted on him by love than I have. Oh! What an evil fate!
Was this the life I refrained from destroying? Was it for
this I was so eager to return home? Oh! How much pref-
erable it would have been to live out my days anywhere
else in the world than to come back here and discover
this awful situation! For all of us who have some trouble
coming our way from somewhere, the time intervening
before we discover it is all gain.

PAR But this way you’ll get to free yourself from these worries
all the sooner. If you hadn’t come back, their quarrels
would have become far more serious. As it is, I know
your return will bring them both back to their senses,
Pamphilus. You’ll ascertain the facts, settle their quar-
rels, and effect a reconciliation. Things that you’ve per-
suaded yourself are very serious(are actually trifles).

PAM Why try to console me? Is there anyone in the whole
world as miserable as I am? Before I married, my affec-
tions were engaged in another affair; but I never dared
refuse the wife my father thrust upon me. And in such a

283 hui Fleckesen, cui could.
iam in hac re, ut taceam, quovis facile scitust quam fuerim miser.
vix me illin abstraxi atque impeditum in ea expedivi animum meum,
vixque huc contuleram: em, nova res ortast porro ab hac quae me abstrahat.
tum matrem ex ea re me aut uxorem in culpa inventum arbitror.

quam quom ita esse invenero, quid restit nisi porro ut fiam miser?
nam matris ferre injurias me, Parmeno, pietas iubet;
tum iuxi ob oxonia sum: ita olim suo me ingenio pertulit,
tot meas injurias quae numquam in ullo patefecit loco.

sed magnum nescioquid necessest evenisse, Parmeno,
unde ipse inter eas intercessit quae tam permaner diu.

hand quidem hercle: parvum, si vis vero veram rationem exsequi,
non maximaque quae maxumae sunt interdum iiae injurias faciunt. nam saepe est quibus in rebus alius ne iratus qui demest,
quom de eadem causast iracundus factus mimicissimus.
pueri inter sese quam pro levibus nostris iras gerunt!
quapropter quia enim qui eos gubernat animus eum inurnum gerunt.

itidem illae: mulieres sunt ferme ut pueri levi sententia.
fortasse unum aliquid verbum inter eas tran hane concivisse.

abi, Parmeno, intro ac me venisse nuntia.

hem! quid hoc est?

310 concivisse edd., concivisse Don. in comm., concivisset A²,
conceverit Σ, concaverit Don., concluserit A¹

176
TERENCE

PAM 315 trepidari sentio et cursari rursum prorsum. tacet!
PAR accedo propius. eum, sensistis?
PAM agedum, ad fores noli fabularier.
PAR pro Iuppiter, clamorem audivi.
PAR tute loqueris, me vetas.
MYR (intus) tace, obsecro, mea gnata!
PAM matris vox visis! Philumenae.
PAM nullus sum!
PAR quidum?
PAM perill! quam ob rem?
PAM nescioquod magnum malum
PAR profecto, Parmeno, me celant.
PAR uxorem Philumenam pavitaire nescioquid dixerunt. id si forte est nescio.
PAM interdil quor mihi id non disti?
PAR quia non potem una omnia.
PAM quid morbist?
PAR nescio.
PAM quid? nemo medicum adecuit?
PAR nescio.
PAM cessi hinc ire intro ut hoc quam primum quidquid est certo sciam?
PAM quonam modo, Philumenae mea, aude te offendam affectam?
PAM nam si periculum ullum in te inest, perisse me una hand
dubiumst.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAM Hush! I can hear sounds of panic and people rushing to
PAR and fro.
PAR Come on, I'm going up closer to the door. (he does so and
PAR listens) There! Did you hear?
PAR (coming up beside him) Don't speak a word. (changing
PAR his tone as he hears a cry from inside) Great Jupiter! I
PAR heard a scream.
PAR You're speaking; you told me not to.
PAR (inside) Hush, for goodness' sake, my daughter!
PAM That sounded like Philumenae's mother. I'm done for!
PAR How so?
PAM I'm ruined!
PAR Why?
PAM There must be some terrible trouble they're hiding from
PAR me, Parmeno.
PAR They said that your wife Philumenae had some sort of a
PAR fever. I don't know; perhaps that's it.
PAM I'm lost! Why didn't you tell me?
PAR (defensively) I couldn't tell you everything at once.
PAM What's the matter with her?
PAR I don't know.
PAM What! Has nobody sent for a doctor?
PAR I don't know.
PAM Why don't I go straight inside and find out for sure what's
PAR going on? (turning to go) In what state will I find you
PAR now, Philumenae... my darling? If you're in any danger,
PAR there's no doubt it's the end of me as well. (he exits into
PAR Philippus' house, leaving Parmeno on stage alone)

315 accede AD1p1, accedecott.
330 celat coedl. pl., celat AD1p1

178
TERENCE

PAR non usus factost mihi nunc hunc intro sequi. nam invisos omnis nos esse illis sentio: heri nemo voluit Sostratam intro admittere. si forte morbus amplior factus sit (quod sane nolim, maxume eri causa mei), servor ilico introisse dicent Sostratae, alicubi tulisse comminiscetur multi capiti atque aetati illorum morbus qui auctu’s sit. era in crimen veniet, ego vero in magnum malum.

III. II: SOSTRATA. PARMENO. PAMPHILUS.

SOS nescioquid iamdudum audio hic tumultuario miserus. male metuo ne Philumenae magis morbus aggravescat, quod te, Aesculapi, et te, Salus, ne quid sit huius oris. nunc ad eam visam.

PAR hem! heus, Sostrata!

PAR iterum istinc excludere.

SOS ehem, Parmeno, tum hic eras? perill quid faciam miseris? non visum uxorem Pamphilii, quem in proximo hic sit aegra?

PAR non visas? ne mittas quidem visendi causa quemquam. nam qui amat quiud odio ipsus est, bis facere studte duco: laborem inanem eum capere et illi molestiam afferre.

SOS tum filius tuus intro iit videre, ut venit, quid aget.

PAR quid ait? an venit Pamphilus?

SOS venit.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAR (to himself) There’s no point in me following him inside now. I can see that none of us is welcome there; yesterday nobody would let Sostrata in. If for some reason the illness gets more serious, which I certainly hope it doesn’t, especially for my master’s sake, they’ll immediately say that a slave of Sostrata’s was inside the house and claim that he brought in something harmful to their health and well-being which made the illness worse. My mistress will be blamed, and I’ll be in for a thrashing.

Enter SOSTRATA from Laches’ house.

SOS (to herself) Oh dear, I’ve been hearing sounds of commotion here for some time. I’m terribly afraid that Philumen’s illness is getting worse. Oh gods of Health and Healing, I pray it is nothing of that sort. I’ll go in and see her now. (she moves towards Philippus’ door)

PAR Hey, Sostrata!

SOS (not yet seeing him) What’s that?

PAR You’ll be refused admittance again.

SOS (turning round) Oh Parmeno, is that you? Damn it! What can I do, poor me? Am I not to visit Pamphilus’ wife, when she is lying sick next door to us here?

PAR Not visit her? Don’t even send anyone to ask about a visit. To love someone who’s taken a dislike to you is stupid twice over, if you ask me; you’re wasting your own time and you’re causing annoyance to the other person. Besides, your son went inside as soon as he arrived to see how she’s doing.

SOS (surprised) What are you saying? Is Pamphilus back?

PAR Yes, he is.

180
TERENCE

SOS

dis gratiam habeo.

hem! istoc verbo animus mihi redit et cura ex corde ex-
essit.

PAR

iam ea te causa maxume nunc hoe intro ire nolo.

nam si remittent quippiam Philumenae dolores,

350

omnem rem narrabit, scio, continuo sola soli

quae inter vos interveniit, unde ortumst initium iiae.

atque occum video ipsum egredi. quam tristis!

SOS

mea mater, salve.

PAR

gaudeo venisse salvom. salvan

SOS

Philumenast?

PAM

meliuscalst.

SOS

utinam istuc ita di fixint!

360

PAR

quid tu igitur lacrimas? aut quid es tam tristis?

SOS

recte, mater.

PAM

et quid tumulti? dic mihi, an dolor repente invasit?

PAM

ita factumst.

PAR

quid morbit?

SOS

febris.

PAM

cotidiana?

PAR

ita aiunt.

SOS

i sodes intro. consequat iam te, mea mater.

PAM

fat.

PAR

tu puertis curre, Parmeno, obviam atque eis onera adiuta.

360

PAR

quid? non scint ipsi viam domum qua veniant?

PAM

cessas?

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

SOS

Thank heaven! Oh! That news has restored my spirit and

banished the cares from my heart.

PAR

That's why I particularly don't want you to go in there

now. If Philumenas pain eases at all, I'm sure she'll tell

him the whole story at once while they're alone together,

and explain what came between you, and how this quar-
rel began. But there he is coming out. How gloomy he

looks!

Enter PAMPHILUS from Phidippus' house in a disturbed state.

SOS

My son!

PAM

Mother dear, good day.

SOS

I'm glad you're safely back. Is Philumenas all right?

PAM

She's a little bit better.

SOS

The gods grant it so! But why are you weeping? Why do

you look so gloomy?

PAM

It's all right, mother.

SOS

What was the commotion about? Tell me, did she have a

sudden attack of pain?

PAM

Yes, that was it.

SOS

What sort of illness is it?

PAM

A fever.

SOS

A mild one.\(^{15}\)

PAM

So they say. But go back inside, if you will, mother dear.

I'll follow in a moment.

SOS

All right. (she goes back into her house)

PAM

(to Parmeno) You run and meet the slaves, Parmeno, and

help them with the baggage.

PAR

(ridiilig) What? Don't they know the way home for them-

selves?

PAM

What are you waiting for? (Parmeno exits left in the direc-

tion of the harbour)

\(^{15}\) Literally, one recurring daily (quotidian), hence chronic rather

than acute.
PAM: I can't think of a suitable point from which to begin to tell the things that have befallen me so unexpectedly—some seen with these very eyes, others heard with these ears—and have sent me rushing out of the house so distraught. I dashed inside just now full of anxiety, expecting to see my wife suffering from an illness very different from the one I found, but oh dear! As soon as the maids saw I was back, they all cried out in one voice “He's come,” full of joy because they had not expected to see me.

But the next moment I noticed a change in all their expressions, because my return happened to have come at a most inconvenient time. Presently one of them ran ahead in a hurry to report my arrival. I followed straight behind her, eager to see my wife. When I got inside the room, I immediately recognised to my dismay what was wrong with her. The situation allowed them no time to cover it up, and she herself could only utter cries prompted by her pains. When I saw her, I cried out “It's outrageous!” and dashed out from the room at once in tears, overwhelmed by the terrible unbelievable turn of events.

Her mother came after me. As I was going out of the door, she fell to her knees, weeping miserably. I was stirred to pity. It's quite true, if you ask me, that we are all proud or humble according to our circumstances. Then
TERENCE

"o mi Pamphile, abs te quam ob rem haec abierit causam vides.

nam vitium obstatum virginis olim a nece quo improbo.
nunc hunc confugit te atque alios partum ut celaret suum."

sed quom orata huius reminiscor nequeo quin lacrumer

miser.

"quaeque fors fortunast" inquit "nobis quae te hodie

obtulit.

per eam te obsecreamus ambae, si ius, si fas est, uti

adversa cius per te tecta tacitaque apud omnis sient.

si umquam erga te animo esse amico sensisti eam, mi

Pamphile,

sine labore hanc gratiam te uti sibi des proilla nunc rogat.

ceterum de redituenda id facias quod in rem sit tuam.

parturire eam nee gravidam esse ex te solus conscia's.

nam ait tertum post duobus concubuisse mensibus.

tum, postquam ad te venit, mensis agit: hic iam septi-

num:

quod te sceire ipsa indicat res. nunc si potisses, Pamphile,

mactume volo doque operam ut clam partus eveniat pat-

trem

atque adeo omnis. sed si id fieri non potest quin sentiant,

dicam abortum esse. scio nemini alter suspicium fore

quin, quod veri similist, e te recte eum natum putant.

16 Literally, "as a virgin," the assumption being that respectable girls preserved their virginity until marriage.

17 There is an allusion here in the Latin to Fors Fortuna, the god-

dess of good luck (see Thormio note 63).
TERENCE

400 continuo exponetur. hic tibi nil est quicquam incommodi,
et illi miserae indigna factam intueram contexteris."
pollicitus sum et servare in eo certumst quod dixi fidem.
nam de reducte nda, id vero ne utiquam honestum esse
arbitor
nec factam, etsi amor me graviter consuetudoque eius
tenet.

405 lacrumo quae posthac futurast vita quom in mentem
venit
solitudo que. o fortuna, ut nuncquam perpetuo's data!
ser iam prior amor me ad hanc rem exercitatum reddidit,
quem ego tum consilio missum feci. idem huic operam
dabo.

adest Parmeno cum puercis. hunc minumest opus
in hac re adesse. nam olim soli credidi
ea me abstinuisse in principio quom datat.
veror, si clamorem eius hic crebro exacuit,
ne parturire intellegat. aliquo mihi
hinc ablegandum dnum parit Philumenas.

III. IV: PARMENO. SOSIA. PAMPILUS.

410 PAR ait tu tibi hoc incommodum evenisse iter?
SOS non hercle verbis, Parmeno, dici potest
tantum quam re ipsa navigare incommodum.
PAR itan est?

415 data Don. in comm. edd. pl., bona codd. Don.

10 The exposure of unwanted babies is common in New Comedy
and no doubt reflects real-life practice. Illegitimate babies were partic-
ularly at risk. If the father was unwilling to raise the child, the mother

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

that you were the father. I'll have the baby exposed10 at
once. That way there'll be no problem for you, and you'll
have covered up the dreadful wrong done to the poor
girl."
I gave my promise and I'm determined to honour my
undertaking. As for taking her back, I don't believe that
would be at all honourable, and I won't do it, in spite of
the love and intimacy which bind me so strongly to her. I
weep when I think of the life ahead of me and the loneli-
ness. Oh fortune, how impermanent a gift you are. But
my previous love affair has given me good practice in this
sort of thing. I managed to get over that one through rea-
son. I'll see if I can do the same with this one.

(looking down the street) Here comes Parmeno with
the slaves. He's the last person we want involved in
the situation. He's the only person I let know at the time that
I didn't touch the girl when we were first married. I'm
afraid that, if he hears these repeated cries, he'll realise
that Philumenas in labour. I must send him away some-
where until the baby is born. (he stands aside)

Enter PARMENO left from the direction of the harbour together
with SOSTA and other slaves carrying baggage.

PAR (to Sosta) You say it turned out to be an unpleasant jour-
ney?
SOS God knows, Parmeno, words really can't express quite
how unpleasant it actually is to travel by sea.
PAR Is that so?

might, as here and often elsewhere in drama (compare The Self-
Torturer lines 626–643), give the baby to someone else to expose,
in the hope that it might in fact be spared.
TERENCE

sos o fortunate, nescis quid mali
praeterritis qui nunquam's ingressus maris.
420 nam alias ut mittam miseras, inam hanc vide.
dies triginta aut plus eo in navi fui,
quom interea semper mortem expectabam miser.
ita usque adversa tempestate usi sumus.
par odiosum.
sos hau da clam mest. denique hercle aufigerim
425 potius quam redeam, si eo milhi redeundum sciam.
par olim quidem te causae impellebant leves,
quod nunc minitare facere, ut faceres, Sosia.
sed Pamphilum ipsum video stare ante ostium.
430 ite intro. ego hunc adibo, si quid me velit.
ere, etiam tu hic stas?
par et quidem te exspecto.
par quid est?
PAM in arcem transcurso opus est.
par quoi homini?
PAM tibi.
PAR in arcem? quid eo?
PAM Callidemidem hospitem
Myconium, qui mecum una vectust, conveni.
PAR peril vovisse hunc dicam, si salvos domum
435 redisset quam, ut me ambulando rumperet.
PAM quid cessas?
PAR quid vis dicam? an conveniam modo?

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

sos You lucky devil, you don't know what misery you've missed by never going to sea. To say nothing of other sufferings, consider this one aspect. I was on the voyage for thirty days or more, and all the time I was in misery, expecting death at any moment; the weather we had was so foul all the way.
par How tiresome!
sos Don't I know it? In the end, by god, I would rather run away than come back home if I knew I had to go back there again.
par (with a smile) In the old days it didn’t take much to make you do what you’re threatening to do now, Sosia. (seeing Pamphilus) But there’s Pamphilus himself standing in front of the door. (to Sosia and the slaves) You go inside. (they exit into Laches' house) I'll go up and see if there's anything he wants from me. (approaching Pamphilus) Master, are you still standing here?
pam Yes, and I've been looking for you.
par What for?
pam I need someone to run over to the acropolis.
par (without enthusiasm) And who might that be?
pam You.
par To the acropolis? Why there?
pam Go and find Callidemides, my host from Myconos, who travelled with me.
par (aside) Damn it! I bet he made a vow that, if he ever got home safely, he’d burst my guts with running errands.
pam What are you waiting for?
pam What do you want me to say? Or do I just find him?

20 Myconos, a Cycladic island not far from Delos, is not on the direct route from Imbros (line 171) to Athens, but a slip making this journey by the more sheltered route could well have called in there.

21 It was common practice for travellers to vow a sacrifice or dedication to an appropriate deity if they returned safely home from their trip.
 TERENCE

PAM immo quod constituie me hodie convenerutum eum,
non posse, ne me frustra illi expectet, vola.
PAR at non novi hominis faciem.
PAM at faciam ut noveris.
440 magnus, rubicundus, crispus, crassus, caesius,
cadaverosa facie.
PAR quid si non veniet? maneasme usque ad vesperum?
PAM maneto. curre.
PAR non quo; ita defessu sem.
PAM ille abit. quid agam infelix? prorsus nescio
445 quo pacto hoc celem quod me oravit Myrrina,
suae gnatae partum. nam me miseret nulleris.
quod potero faciam, tamen ut pietatem colam.
nam me parenti potius quam amor obsequi
opertet. atta! eccum Phidippum et patrem
video. hortum pergunt. quid dicam hisce incertu sem.
III. V. LACHES. PHIDIPPS. PAMPHILUS.
LAC dixit duorum illum dixisse se espectare filium?
PHI factum.
LAC venisse aiunt. redeat.
PAM causam quam dicam patri
quam ob rem non redducam nescio.
LAC quem ego hic audivi loqui?
PAM certum affirmarest viam me quam decrevi persequi.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAM No. I made an appointment to meet him today. Tell him I
can't, so he doesn't waste his time waiting for me there.
Off you go.
PAR But I don't know what he looks like.
PAM I'll tell you how to recognise him. (inventing wildly) He's
tall, ruddy, curly-haired, fat, grey-eyed, and with a face
like a corpse.
PAR (aside) To hell with him! (to Pamphilus) What if he
doesn't come? Am I to stay there right until evening?
PAM Yes, stay. Now run.
PAR I can't. I'm so tired. (he goes off right reluctantly, leaving
Pamphilus on stage alone)
PAM That's got rid of him! What am I going to do, poor me?
I've no idea how to keep the secret Myrrina begged me to
keep, the fact that her daughter's having a baby. I'm sorry
for the woman, so I'll do what I can, so long as I maintain
my duty as a son. I must put my mother first before my
love. (looking down the street to the right) Oh no! There are
Phidippus and my father. They're coming this way. I just
don't know what to say to them.

Enter LACHES and PHIDIPPS right from the direction of the
forum.

LAC Didn't you just tell me she said she was waiting for my
son's return?
PHI Yes, I did.
LAC I'm told he's arrived. So she can come back.
PAM (aside) I don't know what reason to give my father for not
taking her back.
LAC (to Phidippus) Who was that speaking?
PAM (aside) I'm determined to persist in following the path
I've chosen.
LAC ipsum est de quo hoc agebam tecum.

PAM salve, mi pater.

LAC gnate mi, salve.

PHI bene factum te advenisse, Pamphile; atque adeo, id quod maximum, salvum atque validum. creditur.

PAM advenis modo?

LAC admodum.

PAM cedo, quid reliquit Phania consobrinus noster?

PAM sane hercle homo voluptati obsequens fuit dum xixit; et qui sic sunt haud multum heredem invant.

PHI sibi vero hane laudem relinquunt "vixit dum xixit, bene."

LAC tum tu igitur nil attulisti plus una hae sententia?

PAM quidquid est id quod reliquit, profuit.

LAC imo obfuit.

PAM nam illum vivum et salvum vellem.

PHI impune optare istuc licet.

LAC ill' revivescet iam nunquam. et tamen utrum mals scio.

PHI hen Philumenam ad se accersi hic iussit. dic iussisse te.

LAC noli fodere. iussi.

PHI sed eam iam remittet.

PHI scilicet.

PAM omnem rem scio ut sit gesta. adveniens audivi modo.

LAC at istos invidos di perdant qui haec lubenter nutiant.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

LAC (to Phidippus) It's the very person we were talking about.

PAM (to Laches) Good day, my dear father.

LAC My dear son, good day.

PHI It's good news that you're back, Pamphilus, and safe and well too, which is the important thing.

PAM Quite so.

LAC Have you just arrived?

PAM Just now.

LAC (eagerly) Tell me, how much did our cousin Phania leave?

PAM Well actually, he was a great pursuer of pleasure while he lived, and men of that type don't do much for their heirs. What they do leave is an epitaph for themselves: "He lived, while he lived, well."

LAC You mean you've brought back nothing except one single well turned phrase?

PAM However little he did leave, it's a profit.

LAC (self-righteously) No, it's a loss. I'd rather he was safe alive.

PHI It's easy enough for you to express that wish. He's never going to return from the dead. (aside) And I know which you'd prefer.

LAC (to Pamphilus) Yesterday Phidippus here ordered Philumen to be brought over to him. (aside to Phidippus). Say you ordered her.

PHI (aside to Laches) Don't nudge me. (aloud) Yes I did.

LAC Now he'll send her back straightaway.

PHI Of course.

PAM I know the whole story. I heard it just now when I arrived.

LAC Confound those spiteful people who take delight in spreading gossip!

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TERENCE

470 PAM ego me scio cavisse ne uilla merito contumelia
fieri a vobis posset; idque si nunc memorare hic velim
quam fidelis animo et benigno in illam et elementi sui,
vere possum, ut ex ipsa haec magis velim rescircere.
namque eo pacto maxume apud te nec esse ingenio fides,
quom illa, quae nunc in me iniquus, aequa de me dixerit.
neque mea culpa hoc discidium evenisse, id testor deos.
se quod sese esse indigna deputat matri meae
quae concedat hucusque mores toleret sua modestia,
neque alio pacto componi potest inter eas gratia,
segregans aut mater a mest, Philidpe, aut Philumena.
nunc mea pietas matris potius commodum suadet sequi.

LAC Pamphile, hau invitno ad aris sermo mi accessit tuos,
quom te postputasse omnis res prae parente intellege.
verum vide ne impulsus ira prave insistas, Pamphile.

485 PAM quibus iris pulsus nunc in illam iniquo' sim,
quae numquam quicquam erga me committerat, pater.
quad nobilit, et saeppe quod vellem meriti scio?
amoque et laudo et vehementer desidero.
nam fuisset erga me miro ingenio expertus' sum,
illicus exopto ut reliquam vitam egit
cum eo vixi me qui sit fortunator,
quandoquidem illam a me distralit necessitas.

PHI tibi id in manust ne fiat.

LAC si sanus sies,
iube illam redire.

478 hucusque scripti, elisque Bothe, cuiusque codd.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAM (slowly and deliberately) I'm conscious of having taken
every care not to give your family any just grounds for
complaint. If I cared to recall here and now how loyal and
kind and understanding I've been to her, I could do it
quite truthfully, except that I should prefer you to hear it
from her own lips. That will be the best way to give you
confidence in my character, when she who now does me
wrong speaks out and does me justice. I call the gods to
witness that this separation has not come about through
any fault of mine. Since she thinks it beneath her dignity
to defer to my mother and to tolerate her ways with some
proper restraint on her own part, and since there is no
other way in which they can be reconciled, I must give up
either my mother, Philidpues, or Philumena. In this situa-
tion my duty as a son bids me give preference to my
mother's interests.

LAC Pamphilus, I was not displeased to hear what you had to
say. I appreciate that you have put your mother before
everything else. But mind that resentment doesn't lead
you to pursue the wrong course, Pamphilus.

PAM (with passion) What resentment could make me treat her
unjustly now, father, when she has never done anything
against my wishes and I know she has often done things
just to please me? I have nothing but love and praise for
her and I miss her desperately, knowing from experience
how wonderfully well disposed she was towards me. And
I pray that she may pass the rest of her life with a husband
more fortunate than I am, since she's torn away from me
by fate.

PHI It's in your power to prevent it.

LAC If you have any sense, tell her to come back.
TERENCE

PAM  non est consilium, pater.
495 latic servibo commodis.
LAC  quo abis? mane!
PHI  mane, inquam! quo abis?
LAC  quae haec est pertinacia?
PHI  dixi, Philipphe, hanc rem aegrre laturum esse eum?
LAC  quam ob rem te orabam filiam ut remitteres.
PHI  non credidi cedepol adeo inhumanum fore.
500 ita nunc sis me supplicatum putat?
LAC  sist ut velit redducere uxorem, licet;
PHI  sin aliost animo, renumeret dotem huc, eat.
LAC  ecce autem, tu quoque proterve incendus es.
PHI  percontumus redisti huc nobis, Pamphilus.
505 LAC  decedet iam ira haec, etsi merito iratus est.
PHI  quia paullum vobis accessit pecuniae,
LAC  sublati animi sunt.
PHI  etiam mecum litiges?
510 LAC  deliberet renuntietque hodie mihi
PHI  velinm an non, ut ali, si huic non est, siet.
LAC  Philipphe, ades, audes paucis. abit. quid mea?
PHI  postremo inter se transigant ipsi ut lubet,
LAC  quando nec gnatus neque hic mi quicquam obtempe-
PHI  quae dico parvi pendunt. porto hoc irgium
515 ad uxorem quosq haec sint consilio omnia,
atque in eam hoc omne quod mihi aegress evomam.

495 mane γDIL, ades cett. (nisi ades mane Dipp) edd. pl.
TERENCE

ACTUS IV

IV. I: MYRRINA. PHIDIPPOS.

MYR perir! quid agam? quo me vortam? quid viro meo respon-
debi
misera? nam audivisse vocem puer| visut vagi\nita corripuit derepente tacitus sese ad filiam.
quod si rescierit peperisse eam, id qua causa clam me
habe\n
520 dicam non edepol scio.

sed ostium concrepuit. credo ipsum exire ad me. nulla
sum!

PHI uxor ubi me ad filiam ire sensit, se duxit foras.
atque eccam video. quid ais, Myrrina? heus, tibi dico.

MYR mihine, vir?

PHI vir ego tuos sim? tu virum me an hominem deputas adeo
esse?

525 nam si utrumvis horum, mulier, unquam tibi visus fo-
rem,
non sic ludibrio tuis factis habitus esset.

MYR quibus?

PHI at rogitas?

peperit filia. hem! taces? ex qui?

MYR istuc patrem rogarest aequum?

perir! ex quo censes nist ex illo quo dataet ruptum, ob-
secro?

PHI credo, neque adeo arbitrari patris est aliter. sed demior

22 See Phormio note 62.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

ACT FOUR

Enter MYRRINA from her house in an agitated state.

MYR (to herself) Damn it all! What am I going to do? Which
way can I turn? Oh dear, what shall I tell my husband? He
must have heard the baby crying; he dashed into our
daughter’s room so suddenly without saying a word. If he
discovers she’s had a child, heaven help me, I’ve no idea
what reason I can give him for keeping it secret. But
there’s the door. I suppose he’s coming out to find me.
I’m done for! (She moves away from the door)

Enter PHIDIPPOS from his house.

PHI When my wife realised I was going in to see my daughter,
she ran outside. (seeing Myrrina) And there she is. What
do we have to say for yourself, Myrrina? Hey, I’m talking
to you.

MYR (with assumed innocence) To me, husband?

PHI (furiously) Your husband, am I? Do you reckon me a hus-
bond or even a human being? If you’d ever seen me as
either of these, woman, you wouldn’t have made a fool of
me like this by your doings.

MYR What doings?

PHI Do you need to ask? Our daughter has had a baby. (Myrrina
cverts her eyes) What! Not a word? Whose child
is it?

MYR Is that a proper question for her father to ask? Damn it
all! Whose child do you suppose it is other than her hus-
bond’s, for heaven’s sake?

PHI (calming down) I believe you. Indeed it’s not for her
father to think otherwise. But I can’t imagine why it is

200
TERENCE

530 quid sit quam ob rem hunc tanto opere omnis nos celare
volueris
partum, praeeritum quem et recte et tempore suo pepe-
erit.
adeo pervicaci esse animo ut puerum praeoptares pe-
rire.
ex quo firmiorem inter nos fore amicitiam posthaec scires,
potius quam adversum animi tui lubidinem esset cum illo
nupta!
535 ego etiam illorum esse hanc culpam credidi, quae test
penes.

MYR misera sum.

PHI utinam sciam ita esse istuc! sed nunc mi in mentem venit
de haec re quod locuta's olm, quom illum generum cepi-

mus.
nam negabas nuptam posse filliam te tuam pati
cum eo qui meretricem amaret, qui pernoctaret foris.
540 MYR quamvis causam hunc suspicari quam ipsam veram ma-

volo.

PHI multo prius scivi quam tu illum habere amicam, Myrrina.
verum id vitium numquam decrevi esse ego adul-

scentiae.
nam id innatumst. at poliam aderit se quoque etiam
quom oderit.
sed ut olim te ostendisti, eadem esse nil cessavisti usque
adhuc.
545 ut filliam ab eo abduceres ne quod ego egissem esset
ratum.

202

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

that you were so anxious to keep the birth from all of us, especially when it was a normal birth and at the right
time.\(^{23}\) (a thought strikes him) Can it be that you are so
perverse? Do you prefer to see the death of a baby\(^{24}\) who
you knew would create a stronger bond of friendship
between our two families for the future rather than the
continuation of a marriage which was not to your liking? I
actually thought the fault lay with them, when it lies with
you.

MYR I'm so unhappy!

PHI If only I believed you!\(^{25}\) But I've just remembered what
you said on the subject at the time when we took him as
our son-in-law. You said you couldn't bear to see your
daughter married to a man who kept a mistress and spent
his nights away from home.

MYR (aside) Better he suspect any other reason than the true
one.

PHI I knew he had a lover long before you did, Myrrina. But
I've never considered this a vice in a young man. It's natu-
ral. For heaven's sake, the time will soon come when he
even hates himself for it. But you've never to this day
made any change to the attitude you revealed then, that
you wanted to get your daughter away from him and

\(^{23}\) Phidippus has evidently seen a normal healthy baby and not
bothered to calculate the length of the gestation period (see note 18).

\(^{24}\) Phidippus infers from the concealment of the birth that Myrrina
is intending to expose the baby.

\(^{25}\) That is, "that you are unhappy because you are being falsely
accused," which is the implication of Myrrina's preceding remark.

\(^{43}\) nam id metro consulentes Bentley e dd., nam id omnibus codd.
id nunc res indicium haec facit quo pacto factum value-rist.

MYR adeon me esse pervicacem censes, quot mater siem, ut eo essem animo, si ex usu esset nostro hoc matrimo-nium?

PHI tum prospicere aut judicare nostram in rem quod sit pote?

550 andisti ex aliquo fortasse qui vidisse eum diceret exeuntem aut intro eumtem ad amicam. quis tum postea?
si modeste ac raro haec fecit, nonne ea dissimulare nos magis humanumst quam dare operam id seire qui nos oderit?
nam si is posset ab ea sese derepente avellere

555 quicum tot consuisset annos, non eum hominem duce-re-

MYR nce virum satis firmum gnatae.

560 PHI mitte adulescentem, obseco, et quae me peccasse ais. abi, solus solum conveni,

roga velitne an non uxorem. sist ut dicit velle se, redde; sin est autem ut nolit, recte ego consulhi meae.

PHI siquidem ille ipse non volt et tu sensti in eo esse, Myrrina,

peccatum, aderam quutos consilio fuerat ea par prospici.

quam ob rem incendor ira esse ausam facere haec te inissu neo.

interdico ne exulisse extra aedem puernum usquam velis.

sed ego stultior mei dicitis parere hanc qui postulem.

565 ibo intro atque edicam servis ne quoquam efferi sinant.

\^{558} an non uxorem Σ, uxorem an non A metro incerto

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

undo my arrangement. What has happened here makes it clear enough what your intentions were.

MYR Do you suppose me so perverse that I would treat my own daughter like that, if this marriage was to our bene-

fit?

PHI Are you capable of looking ahead or judging what is to our advantage? Maybe you heard someone claiming to have seen him coming away from his mistress or going in to see her. What of it? If his visits were discreet and not too frequent, surely it is more human for us to turn a blind eye than to make it our business to find them out and make him hate us? If he was able to tear himself away at a moment's notice from an affair that had lasted for so many years, I would see him as lacking in human feeling and not a very stable husband for our daughter.

MYR Never mind the young man, for goodness' sake, and the misdeeds which you say I have committed. Go and speak to him in private, and ask him whether he wants his wife or not. If it turns out that he says yes, give her back to him. If he says no, then I've done the right thing by my daughter.

PHI Even if he is unwilling and you felt that the wrong was on his side, Myrrina, I was here and the decision should have been taken on my advice. So I'm incensed that you've ventured to act without my permission. I forbid you to take the baby anywhere outside the house. (aside) But I'd be a fool to expect her to do what I tell her! I'll go inside and give instructions to the slaves not to let it be taken out anywhere. (he exits into his house, leaving Myrrina on stage alone)
TERENCE

MYR nullam pol credo mulierem me miserorem vivere. nam ut hic laturus hoc sit, si ipsam rem ut siet resceiverit, non edeplol clam mest, quom hoc quod leviust tam animo irato tultit, nec qua via sententia eius possit mutari scio.

570 hoc mi unum ex plurumis miseris relicum fuerat malum, si puerum ut tollam cogit, quouis ros qui sit nescimus pater.

nam quod compressast gnata, forma in tenebris nosci
non quitast,

neque detractum ei tum quiequant qui posset post
noscii qui siet;

ipse eripuit vi, in digito quem habuit virginis abiens anulum.

575 simul vereor Pamphilum ne orata nostra nequeat diutius celare, quom sciet alienum puerum tolli pro suo.

IV. II: SOSTRATA. PAMPHILUS.

SOS non clam mest, gnate mi, tibi me esse suspectam, uxorem
propter meos mores hince abisse, etsi ea dissimulas sedulio.

verum ita me di ament itaque obtingant ex te quae ex-
optem mihi ut

580 numquam sciens commercui mererit ut caperet odium illam mei,
teque ante quod me amare rebar, ei rei firmasti fidem.
nam mi intus tus pater narravit nodo quo pacto me habueris
praepositam amori tuo, nunc tibi me certumst contra
gratiam

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

MYR (to herself) For heaven's sake, I don't think there's a more miserable woman alive than me. If he finds out the true state of affairs, it's only too clear to me how he's going to react, when he's lost his temper at a less serious thing like this. And I don't know how I can make him change his mind. After all my countless miseries, it will be the last straw if he forces me to raise a child whose father's identity we don't know. When my daughter was raped, she couldn't recognise her assailant in the darkness, and she didn't match any possession of his at the time by which he could be identified later; in fact he himself as he left stole a ring from her, which she was wearing on her finger. At the same time I'm afraid that Pamphilus won't be able to keep the secret I asked of him any longer, when he finds out that someone else's child is being raised as his. (she exits into her house, leaving the stage empty)

Enter SOSTRATA and PAMPHILUS from their house.

SOS I'm well aware, my son, that you suspect that it's because of my behaviour that your wife has left us, even though you're doing your best to disguise the fact. But I swear by the favour of heaven and every hope I have of you that I've never consciously done anything to deserve her dislike. As for yourself, I always imagined that you loved me and now you've confirmed my belief. Your father told me inside just now how you've put consideration for me above your love. Now I've decided to repay your kind-
TERENCE

referre, ut apud me praemium esse postum pietati acias.
mix Pamphile, hoc et vobis et meae commodum famae
arbitror:
ego rus abiturum hinc cum tuo me esse certo decrivi
patre,
ne mea praesentia obstet nea causa ulla restet relicua
quin tua Philumena ad te reedemain.
PAM
quaeo, quidistue consilist?
illius stultitia victa ex urbe tu rus habitation migres?
hand facies, neque sinam ut qui nobis, mater, male dic-
tum velit,
mea pertinacia esse dicat factorum, haud tua modestia.
tum tuas amicas te et cognatas deseere et festos dies
mea causa nolo.
SOS
nil poliam istae mihi res voluptatis ferunt.
dum aetatis tempus tulit, perfuncta satis sum. satis iam
tenet
studiorum istorum. haec mihi nunc curasti maxuma ut ne
quod mea
longinquitas aetatis obstet mortemve expectet meam.
hic video me esse invisum immerto: tempust me conce-
dere.
sic optune, ut ego opinor, omnis causas praevidam omni-
bus:
et me hac suspicione exalvam et illis morem gessero.
sine me, obseco, hoc effugere volgus quod male audit
mulierum.
PAM
quam fortunatus ceteris sum rebus, absque una hac fo-
ret,
hanc matrem habens talem, illam autem uxorem!

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

ness, to show you how highly I value a son's loyalty. Pam-
philus my dear, this is what I consider best for the pair of
you and for my reputation. I've made up my mind to go
and live on the farm with your father. Then I won't he in
your way, and there'll be no remaining reason why your
Philumena should not come back to you.
PAM
for heaven's sake, what kind of a scheme is this? You
abandon the city for the country just because of her stu-
pidity? You'll do nothing of the sort. And I won't have
slander-monger saying that all this is due to my obsti-
nacy rather than to your unsocialness, mother. Besides, I
don't want you to abandon your friends and relatives and
your public festivals for my sake.
SOS
Heaven knows, those things don't give me any pleasure
nowadays. While my time of life allowed it, I had my fill
of them, but now I'm bored with such pursuits. My chief
concern now is not to be a nuisance to anybody in my old
age or have people looking forward to my death. I see
that I'm hated here, though it's not my fault. It's time for
me to withdraw. As I see it, this is the best way to put an
end to all these problems: I'll clear myself of suspicion
and I'll let them (pointing to Philippus' house) have their
way. I implore you, let me escape the common reproach
of womankind.27
PAM
How lucky I am in everything, apart from one matter,28
having a mother like you and a wife like her!

26 The religious festivals were one of the attractions of life in the
city, and provided women in particular with the opportunity to so-
cialise. 27 That is, the charge that mothers-in-law hate their daugh-
ters-in-law. 28 That is, the existence of the child.
TERENCE

SOS
obsecro, mi Pamphilus,
non tute incommodam rem, ut quaequest, in animum
duces pati?

PAM

SOS
et mihi quidem! nam haec res non minus me male habet
quam te, gnate mi.

IV. III: LACHES. SOSTRATA. PAMPHILUS.
LAC
quem cum istoc sermonem habueris procul hinc stans
accept, uxor.
istuc est sapere, qui ubiquoquque opus sit autimum possis
flectere,
quod si faciundum fortasse post, idem hoc nunc si feceris.

610 SOS
foris fuat pol.

LAC
abi rus ergo, ibi ego te et tu me feres.

SOS
spero ecasor.

LAC
i ergo intro et compone quae tecum simul
ferantur. dixi.

SOS
ita ut iubes faciam.

PAM

LAC
quid vis, Pamphilus?

PAM
hine abire matrem? minume.

LAC
quid ita istuc vis?

PAM
quia de uxor incertus sum etiam quid sin facturus.

LAC
quid est?

615 SOS

\footnote{illa Erasmus add., illam codd. Don. (illam retinet Marouzeau ea}
post itaque addito)

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

SOS
I beg you, my dear Pamphilus, can’t you bring yourself to
put up with that problem, whatever it is? If everything
else is as you wish and things are as I believe them to be,
grant me this favour, my son, and take her back.

PAM
Oh dear! I’m so miserable!

SOS
So am I! This situation is as distressing to me as it is to
you, my son.

LACHES has entered from his house unseen during the previous
scene.

LAC (to Sostrata) I’ve been standing over here, my dear, and I
overheard your conversation from a distance. It shows
good sense to be willing to change your mind when the
need arises, and to do now what you might well have to
do later.

SOS
Heaven grant you’re right!

LAC
So off you go to the farm, where I’ll put up with you and
you with me.

SOS
I certainly hope we will.

LAC
Go inside then, and get together what you need to take
with you. That’s all. (he turns away)

SOS
I’ll do as you suggest. (she exits into her house)

PAM
Father!

LAC
What do you want, Pamphilus?

PAM
Is mother to go away? No, on no account.

LAC
How do you mean?

PAM
Because I’m still uncertain what to do about my wife.

LAC
What’s this? What else do you want but to take her back?
TERENCE

PAM equidem cupio et vix contineor.

sed non minuam meum consilium. ex usu quod est id persecur.

credo ea gratia concordes, si non redducam, fore.

LAC nescias. verum id tua refert nil utrum illaece fecerint
quando haec abierit. odiosa haec est aetas adultusculis.

620 e medio aequum excederest. postremo nos iam labulae
sumus. Pamphile, "senex atque amus."

sed video Phidippum egredi per tempus. accedamus.

IV. III: PHIDIPUS, LACHES, PAMPHILUS.

PHI tibi quoque edepol sum iiratus, Philumena,
graviter quidem. nam hercle factumst abs te turpiter.

625 etsi tibi causat de hac re: mater te impulit.

huic vero nullast.

LAC opportune te mihi,

Phidippe, in ipso tempore ostendis.

PHI quid est?

PAM quid respondebo his? aut quo pacto hoc aperiam?

LAC dic filiae rus concessarum hinc Sostratam.

630 ne revereartur minus iam quo redact dominum.

PHI nullam de his rebus culpam commeruit tua.
a Myrrina haec sunt mea uxor exorta omnia.

PAM mutatio fit.

PHI ea nos perturbat, Lach.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAM (aside) That's what I want, and I can scarcely restrain myself. But I won't alter my decision. I'll persist with the proper course. (to Laches) I believe it will help to reconcile them, if I don't take her back.

LAC You can't tell. But it makes no difference to you what they do, once your mother's gone away. Old people are irksome to the young. It's the right thing for her to get out of your way. (smiling ruefully) In the end we're just the old couple in the story.29 Pamphilus. (as Phidippus' door opens) But here's Phidippus coming out, just when we want him. Let's approach him.

Enter PHIDIPUS from his house.

PHI (speaking back to Philumena inside) In heaven's name, Philumena, I'm angry with you too, exceedingly so. By god, you've acted disgracefully. You do have an excuse, though: your mother put you up to it. She has none.

LAC (accosting him) You've appeared very conveniently, Phidippus, just at the right moment.

PHI How so?

PAM (aside) What shall I tell them? How can I explain the situation?

LAC Tell your daughter that Sostrata is going to retire to the farm, so she needn't be afraid to come home any more.

PHI Oh! Your wife's not at all to blame for this. It all started with my wife Myrrina.

PAM (aside) That's a change!

PHI She's the one who's stirred up this trouble, Laches.

29 The reference is uncertain. Donatus suggests that "The Old Man and the Old Woman" (senex atque amus) was the title of a story.
PAM dum ne redducam, turbent porro quam velit.
635 PHI ego, Pamphilus, esse inter nos, si fieri potest, affinitatem hanc sane perpetuum volo.
sin est ut aliter tua siet sententia, accipias puerum.
PAM sensit peperisse. occidil!
LAC puerum? quem puerum?
PHI natus est nobis nepos.
640 LAC nam abducta a vobis praegnas fuerat filia, neque fuisse praegnatum unquam ante hunc scivi diem.
LAC bene, ita me di ament, nuntias; et gaudeo
PHI natum illum et tibi illum salvam. sed quid mulieris
LAC uxorem habes aut quibus moratam moribus?
645 etiamsi dudum fuerat ambiguam hoc mihi,
PAM nunc non est quom eam sequitur aliquis puer.
LAC nulla tibi, Pamphilus, hic iam consultatist.
650 PHI non tibi illud factum minus placet quam mihi, Lache.
PAM perit!
LAC hunc videre saepe optabamus diem
PAM quom ex te esset aliquis qui te appellaret patrem.
PAM evenit: habeo gratiam dis.
655 PAM nullus sum!
LAC redduc uxorem sc noli adversari mihi.
PAM pater, si ex me illa liberos vellet sibi

\[\text{(646 sic \& Don. natum illum A. tibi et } \gamma \text{v} \text{.)}\]

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAM (aside) As long as I don’t have to take her back, they can stir up all the trouble they like.
PHI (to Pamphilus) Pamphilus, my own wish is for the family connection between us to be a truly lasting one, if that’s possible. But if in fact you have other ideas, you must take the child.\[30\]
PAM (aside) He’s found out about the birth. I’m lost!
LAC Child? What child?
PHI We have a grandson. Our daughter was pregnant when she was removed from your house, though I didn’t find out about the pregnancy until today.
LAC Heaven help me! That’s good news. I’m delighted a child’s been born and your daughter’s safe and well. But what sort of a woman do you have for a wife? Is this how she usually behaves? To think we’ve been kept in the dark for so long! I can hardly express in words how perverse her conduct strikes me as being.
PHI I am just as displeased at her actions as you are, Laches.
PAM (aside) Whatever doubts I had before, I’ve none now, if she’s bringing someone else’s child with her.
LAC (to Pamphilus) You’ve no longer any room for deliberation, Pamphilus.
PAM (aside) I’m ruined!
LAC This is the day we often longed to see, when you would have a child to call you father. It’s come, and I give thanks to the gods.
PAM (aside) I’m done for!
LAC Do what I tell you and take back your wife.
PAM Father, if she wanted to have children by me and remain

\[\text{30 In case of a divorce (which is implied in the phrase “other ideas”), the custody of the child reverted to the father.}\]
aut se esse mecum nuptam, satis certo scio,
non clam me haberet quae celasse intellego.
nunc quom quid alenum esse animum a me sentiam
nec conventurum inter nos posthac arbitror,
quam ob rem reductam?

660

LAC mater quad suis tua
adolescens mulier fecit. mirandumne id est?
censet te posse reperire ullam multierem
quae careat culpa? an quia non delineat virtus?

PHI vosmet videte iam, Lache et tu Pamphilus,
remissam opus sit vobis reductam domum.
uxor quid faciat in manu non est mea:
neutra in re vobis difficulatias a me erit.

sed quid faciemus puero?

LAC ridicule rogas.
quicquid futurum est, huic suum redandas sellicet
ut alamus nostrum.

670

PAM quem ipse neglexit pater,
egam alam?

LAC quid dixist? chol an non amenus, Pamphilus?
prodeamus, queso, potius quae haec amertiam?
enum vero prorsus iam taceat non queo.
nam cogis ea quae nolo ut praesente hoc loquer.

675

ignarum censes tuum lacrimarum esse me
aut quid sit id quod sollicitare ad hunc modum?
primum haec ubi disti causam, te propter tuam
matrem non posse habere hanc uxorem domi,
pollicitast ea se concessaram ex aestus.

680

nunc postquam aedemptam hanc quoque tibi causam
vides,
puer quia clam testatus, nactus alteram's.

PAM (forgetting himself) Bring up a child which its own father
has disowned?

LAC (not quite comprehending) What did you say? Oh! Shall
we not bring it up. Pamphilus? Would you rather we
abandoned it, if you please? What sort of a madness is
this? (changing his tone) Really, I can't hold my tongue
any longer. You're forcing me to say what I don't want to
say in front of him (pointing to Phileatus). Do you sup-
pose I haven't noticed your tears or realised what it is that
is upsetting you so? Originally you gave the excuse that
you couldn't keep your wife at home because of your
mother; so your mother undertook to leave the house.
Now, when you see this excuse removed from you, you've
found yourself another one, that she had a baby without
your knowledge. If you think I don’t know what’s in your mind, you’re mistaken. How long I allowed you to carry on an affair with a mistress, so that you might some day in the end turn your mind in the direction of marriage! How patiently I bore the expense of that affair! I begged and implored you to take a wife. I said it was time. You took one in response to my prompting. You did the proper thing then in complying with my wishes. But now you’ve turned your attention to your mistress again; you’re complying with her wishes and committing a wrong against your wife. I see you’ve relapsed once more into your old way of life.

PAM (indignantly) Me?

LAC Yes, you. And you’re doing her a wrong. You’re inventing false excuses for a quarrel, so that you can live with your mistress without your wife looking over your shoulder. And in fact your wife has realised this. What other reason could she have for leaving you?

PHI (aside) The man must have second sight. That’s exactly it.

PAM I will swear on oath that none of this is true.

LAC Oh! Take your wife back then or tell us why you don’t want to.

PAM Now’s not the time.

LAC Well, take the child. It’s certainly not to blame. I’ll see about the mother later.

PAM (aside) I’m thoroughly miserable, and I don’t know what to do. Oh dear, my father has me cornered with all these arguments. I’ll be off, since I’m not achieving anything by staying here. They won’t raise the child without my permission, I’m sure, especially since my mother-in-law is on my side in this. (he rushes off left)
TERENCE


PHI non mirum fecit uxor si hoc aegre tult.

LAC amarae mulieres sunt: non facile haec ferunt. propiterea haec trast. nam ipsa narravit mihi. id ego hoc praesente tibi notheram dicere, neque illi credebam primo. nunc verum palamst. nam omnino abhorrire animum hauc video a nuptiis.

PHI By all means. No wonder my wife has taken this badly. Women are prickly creatures: they don’t take these things easily. This is what’s caused all the ill-feeling: she told me herself. I didn’t want to say it in your son’s presence, and I didn’t believe her at first. But now the truth is out. I can see that he’s temperamentally quite unsuited to married life.

LAC quid ergo agam, Philippus? quid das consili? 

PHI What shall I do then, Philippus? What’s your advice?

LAC faciam ut moneas. ego puere, curre ad Bacchidem hanc vicinam nostram: huc evoca verbis meis. at te oro porro in hac re adiutor sis mihi.

PHI ah!

LAC iamdudum dixi idemque nunc dico, Lache.

PHI I should say the same thing to you, too. I hope it will.

PHI Well, I’ve said it all the time and I say it again now. I don’t want this marriage alliance between us to last, if it’s at all possible, and I hope it will. But do you want me to be present when you speak to her?

LAC No. You go off and find a nurse for the baby. (Philippus exits right in the direction of the forum)

31 See lines 536–540.
TERENCE

ACTUS V

V. I: BACCHIS, LACHES.

BAC non hoc de nihilost quod Laches me nunc conventam esse expetit.
nec pol me multum fallit quin quod suspicor sit quod velit.
LAC videndumus ne minus propter iram hincimpetrem quam possiem,
aut ne quid faciam plus quod post me minus fecisse satiu'sit.
aggradiar. Bacchis, salve.

BAC salve, Lache.
LAC credo edepol te non nil mirari. Bacchis,
quid sit quapropter te hue foras puerum evocare iussi.
BAC ego pol quoque etiam timida sum quem venit mi in men-
tem quae sim,
735 ne nomen mihi quaeest obst. nam mons facile tutor.
LAC si vera dices, nil tibist a me perich, mulier.
nam tam aetate ea sum ut non siet peccato mi ignosci
aequum.
quo magis omnes res cautius ne temere faciam accuro.
nam si id facis facturavos bonas quod par est facere,
inscitum offerre iniuriam tibi imponent iniuomst.
740 BAC est magna escator gratia de iste re quam tibi habeam.
nam qui post factam iniuriam se expurge; parum mi pros-
sit.

sed quid istue est?
LAC meum receptas filium ad te Pamphilum.
BAC ah!

222

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

ACT FIVE

Enter BACCHIS from her house, accompanied by two maids.

BAC (to herself) It's not for nothing that Laches wants to get in
touch with me now. And, unless I'm much mistaken, I've
a good idea of what he's after.
LAC (to himself) I must be careful not to lose my temper and
so achieve less than I might have, or overdo things and
then regret it afterwards. I'll approach her. (to Bacchis)
Good day, Bacchis.

BAC Good day, Laches.
LAC I suppose you must really be quite puzzled, Bacchis, why
I sent my slave to call you out here.
BAC I'm also rather apprehensive, heaven knows, when I re-
member what I am. I hope the reputation of my profes-
sion won't count against me, my behaviour I can easily
defend.
LAC (awkwardly polite) If you tell the truth, you're in no dan-
ger from me, my good woman. I'm now at an age where I
can't expect any indiscretion to be excused, so I'm all the
more careful in all situations not to act too hastily. If you
are behaving as an honest woman should and intend to go
on doing so, it would be wrong of me to offer you a
chummy insult when you don't deserve it.
BAC (amused) Lord knows, I should be very grateful to you
for that remark. An apology after an insult wouldn't do
much for me. But what is this about?
LAC You're receiving visits from my son Pamphilus.

BAC Oh?

729 hinc Bentley, hanc codd.
736 dices Dp Don., dicit cett.
TERENCE

LAC sine dicam. uxorem hanc prius quam duxit, vostrum amorem pertuli.  
mane. nondum etiam dixi id quod volui. hic nunc uxorem habet.  
quaeque alium tibi firmiorem domi tibi tempus consulendum dist.  
nam neque ille hoc animo erit actatem neque pol tu eadem istae actate.

BAC quis id ait?  
LAC socrus.  
BAC mene?  
LAC te ipsum et filiam abduxist suam puerumque ob eam rem clam voluit, natus quist, extinguere.

BAC allud si scirem qui firmare meam apud vos possem fidem sanctius quam iusturandum, id pollicer tibi, Lache, me segregatum habuisses, uxorem ut duxit, a me Pamphilum.

LAC lepida's. sed scini quid volo potius sodes facias?  
BAC quid vis? cedo.  
LAC eas ad mulieres hac intro atque istuc iusturandum idem policere illis. exple animum eis teque hoc crimine expedi.

BAC faciam quod pol, si esset alia ex hoc quiesu, hand face-ret, scio, ut de tali causa nuptae mulieri se ostenderet.  
sed nolo esse falsa fama gnatum suspicium tuum, nec leviorem vobis, quibus est minume aequum, eum videriter

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

LAC Let me speak. Before he took a wife, I put up with your love affair. (Bacchis begins to protest) Wait! I haven't yet said what I wanted to say. He now has a wife. So find yourself a more permanent lover, while you have time to do what's best for yourself. He won't feel the way he does for ever, and you won't always be of the same age.

BAC (returning to Laches' accusation) Who says so?

LAC His mother-in-law.

BAC Of me?

LAC Yes, you. And she's taken her daughter back, and for the same reason has decided to do away with the baby that's been born without anybody being told.

BAC (earnestly) If I knew a more solemn way to convince you of my truthfulness than by swearing an oath, I would use it, Laches, to assure you I have had no dealings with Pamphilus since the day he married.32

LAC That's very nice of you! But do you know what I'd rather you did, if you will?

BAC What? Tell me.

LAC Go inside to the women and give them the same solemn assurance. Put their minds at rest and clear yourself of this accusation.

BAC All right. I'll do what I'm sure nobody else of my profession would do: face up to a married woman for such a purpose. But I don't want your son to come under suspicion through a false rumour, nor you of all people to think

32 This statement contradicts that of Parmeno at lines 157–159. Either Bacchis is lying here to protect herself and Pamphilus, or Parmeno was embellishing his story there in order to impress Philotis.
THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

him irresponsible when he doesn’t deserve it. From me he deserves all the help I can give him.

LAC Your words have filled me with generosity and good will towards you. The women weren’t the only ones who believed the story. I did so too. Now that I’ve found you a different person from what we expected, just go on being that way, and you may make what use of our friendship you will. If you don’t—but I’ll refrain from saying anything that might upset you. However, I’ll give you one piece of advice: try me and see what sort of a friend I am and what I can do for you as a friend rather than as an enemy.

Enter PHIDIPPOS right bringing a NURSE for the baby.

PHI (to the nurse) I’ll see you don’t lack anything in my house; whatever you need will be generously provided. But when you’ve had enough to eat and drink, make sure the baby is satisfied. (the nurse exits into Philippus’ house)

LAC (to himself) I see our father-in-law’s house. He’s bringing a nurse for the baby: (to Phidippus) Philippus, Bacchis has sworn a most solemn oath—

PHI (looking at Bacchis with some distaste) Is that her?

LAC Yes, it is.

PHI Their sort don’t fear the gods, for heaven’s sake, and I don’t expect the gods take any notice of them.

BAC (with dignity) My maids are at your disposal; you have my permission to examine them under whatever torture you like.33 What’s happening here is this. I see it as my duty to ensure that Pamphilus’ wife goes back to him. If I succeed in that, I don’t mind it being said of me that I am

---

33 The evidence of slaves was admissible in a court of law only when obtained under torture.

226
TERENCE

solum fecisse iud quod aliae meretrices facere fugitabant.

LAC philippe, nostra mulieres suspectas fuisse falsas
nobilis in re ipsa invenimus. porro hanc uunc experiamur.
nam si compererit crimini tua se uxor credidisse,
missam iram factet. sit autem ob eam rem iratus gnatus,
quod peperit uxor clam, id levest. cito ab eo haec ira
abscedet.

profecto in haec re nil malist quod sit discidio dignum.

PHI velit quidem herele.

LAC exquire: adestr. quosdam sit factet ipsa.

PHI quid mihi iste acc narrares? an quia non tute ipse dudum
audisti

785 de haec re animus meus ut sit, Laches? illis modo expelte
animum.

LAC quaeo edepol, Bacchis, quod mihi's pollicita tute ut ser-
vae.

BAG ob eam rem vin ergo intro eam?

LAC iatque exple animum eis; coge ut credant.

BAG eo, et si scio pol eis fore meum conspectum invisum
hodie.

nam nupta meretrici hostis est, a viro ubi segregatast.

790 LAC at haec amicae erunt, ubi quam ob rem advenit rescis-
cent.

792 nam illas errore et te simul suspicione exsolves.

779 credidisse Dp Don., falsa credidisse codd. pl., se credidisse A
791 PHI. at eadem amicas fore tibi primito rem. ubi cognorint codd.
pl., versus omittit A, post 783 habent Dp

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

the only woman in my profession to have done what the
others wouldn’t dream of doing.

LAC Phidippus, we’ve discovered that in fact we’ve suspected
our wives wrongly; let’s now give Bacchis a hearing in her
turn. If your wife finds out that she has believed a mere
acquamation, she’ll put aside her anger. And if my son re-
sents the fact that his wife has had a child without telling
anybody, it’s no great matter; he’ll soon get over it. It’s
quite clear there’s nothing here that justifies a separation.

PHI By god, I hope so.

LAC Well, examine her (pointing to Bacchis): she’s at your ser-
vice. I’m sure she’ll give you satisfaction.

PHI Why are you saying this to me? Didn’t you hear me telling
you just now how I feel in this? Laches? It’s just the
women you need to satisfy. (he exits into his house)

LAC (to Bacchis) I beg you in heaven’s name, keep the prom-
ise you made me.

BAC You want me to go inside for that purpose?

LAC Yes, go and satisfy them. Make them believe you.

BAC I’ll go, though I know they’re going to hate the sight of
me, by heaven. When a bride’s parted from her husband,
there’s no love lost between her and her mistress.

LAC But they’ll become your friends, once they find out why
you’ve come.33 You’ll have saved them from error and
yourself from suspicion.

34 Phidippus has stated that he is keen to preserve the marriage re-
relationship between the two families (see lines 722–724).

35 The Calligraphian MS (E) preserve an extraneous line (791) in which
Phidippus virtually repeats what Laches has just said. The line looks
like a doublet of 790 and is here omitted; it would be out of keeping with
Phidippus’ hostile attitude to Bacchis.
TERENCE

BAC  peril pudet Philumenae. me sequimini hue intro ambac.
LAC  quid est quod mihi malim quam quod huic intellego eve-
nire,
ut gratiam ineat sine suo dispendio et mihi prosit?
nam sirt ut haec nunc Pamphilum vere ab se segregari,
scit sibi nobilitatem ex eo et rem natam et gloriam esse.
referet gratiam ei unaque nos sibi opera amicos lunget.

V. III: PARMENO, BACCHIS.

PAR  edepol ne meam erus esse operam deputat parvi preti,
qui ob rem nullam misit frustra ubi totum desidi diem,
Myconium hospitem dum especto in arce Callidem-

dem.
aque ineptus hodie dum illi sedec, ut quisque venerat,
accedebam: "adulescens, dic dum, quaeso, mi, es tu My-
conius?"

"non sum."

"at Callidemides?"

"non."

"hospitem ec quem
Pamphilum
hie habes?"

"omnes negabant, neque eum quemquam
esse arbitror.
denique hercle iam pudebat: abii, sed quid Bacchidem
ab nostro affine exenuntis video? quid huic hie est rei?

BAC  Parmeno, opportune te offeres. propere curre ad Pamphi-

PAR  quid co?

BAC  dic me orare ut veniat.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

BAC  (to herself) Damnation! I'm embarrassed to face Philu-
mena. (pulling herself together) You two, follow me in-
side. (she exits into Philippus' house with her maids)

LAC  (to himself) There's nothing I'd rather see happen than
what I see happening to her: she's earning herself grati-

tude at no cost and doing me a good turn. If it's true
that she's now broken off with Pamphilus, she knows that
fame and fortune and glory all await her as a result. She'll
be repaying his kindness and at the same time winning
our friendship. (he exits into his house, leaving the stage
empty)

Enter PARMENO right from the direction of the forum, looking
hot and tired.

PAR  (to himself) Believe me, my master doesn't put much
value on my services. For no reason at all he sent me on a
pointless errand. I've been sitting around the whole day
on the acropolis waiting for Callidemides, this visitor
from Myconos. I sat there like a fool, and, whenever any-
one came past, I went up to him and said: "Excuse me,
young man, are you from Myconos?" "Not me." "Are you
Callidemides?" "No." "Do you have a friend here called
Pamphilus?" They all said no. I don't think any such per-
son exists. In the end, for god's sake, I got embarrassed
and left. (seeing Bacchis emerging from Philippus' 
house) But why's Bacchis coming out of our in-laws'
house? What's she up to there?

BAC  Parmeno, you're just in time. Run off and find Pam-
philus, and look sharp about it.

PAR  What for?

BAC  Tell him, I beg him to come.
TERENCE

PAR  ad te?
BAC  immo, ad Philumenam.

810  PAR  quid reist?
BAC  tua quod nil refert percontari desinas.
PAR  nil alius dicam?
BAC  etiam: cognosce anulum illum Myrrinam
gnatae suae fuisse quem ipse olim mi desider.
PAR  scio.
BAC  tantumnest?
PAR  tantum. aderit continuo hoc ubi exte audierit.
sed cessas?
PAR  minume quidem. nam hodie mihi potestas non data est.
BAC  ita cursando atque ambulando totum hunc contrivi diem.

815  BAC  quantum obtuli adventu meo laetitiam Pamphilus hodie!
      quot commodas res attuli! quot autem adem curas!
      gnatum ei restitu, qui paene harunc ipsiusque opera
      perit;
      uxor, quam numeram ratus posthac se habiturum,
      reddo.

820  BAC  qua re suspectus suo patri et Philippo fuit, exolvi.
      hic adeo his rebus anulus fuit inimicum inveniurum.
      nam memini abhinc mensis decem fere ad me nocte
      prima
      confugere anhelantium domum sine comite, vici plebs,
      cum hoc anulo. extimul illico. "mi Pamphile," inquam
      "namabo.

825  BAC  quid examinatu's, obsceco? aut unde anulum istum natu's?
PAR  die mi." ille alias res agere se simulare. postquam id
      video.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAR  To you?
BAC  No, to Philumen.
PAR  What's this about?
BAC  (rudey) Stop asking questions. It's not your business.
PAR  No further message?
BAC  Yes. Say that Myrrina has recognised the ring he once
      gave me. It had belonged to her daughter.
PAR  I see. Is that all?
BAC  That's all. He'll come at once when he hears what you
      have to say. (Permeno ligers) What are you waiting for?
PAR  I'm not waiting at all. I haven't been allowed to wait all
      day. I've wasted the whole time running around doing
      errands. (he exits left, leaving Bacchis onstage alone)
BAC  (to herself) How much happiness I've given Pamphilus
      by coming here today! How many blessings I've brought
      him, and how many worries I've removed! I'm restoring
      to him a son, who almost lost his life thanks to the women
      and himself, and I'm giving him back a wife, whom he
      never imagined he'd have again. And I've cleared away
      the suspicions which his father and Philippus had of
      him. It was in fact this ring (pointing to her finger) which
      led to the recognition of the truth. I remember that about
      ten months ago he came rushing to my house as night
      fell, out of breath, all by himself. He was worse for wine,
      with this ring. I was frightened out of my wits. "My dear
      Pamphilus," I said, "my darling, why are you in such a
      state, for goodness' sake? And where did you get that
      ring? Tell me." He pretended he hadn't heard me. When

36 That is, ten lunar months, equivalent to nine calendar months.
37 A young man out on the town would normally have been accom-
panied by a slave.
nescioquid suspicarier magis coepi, instare ut dicat.
homo se fatetur vi in via nescioquam compressisse,
dictaque se illi anulum, dum lactat, detraxisse.
eum haec cognovit Myrrha in digito modo me habentem.

830
togat unde sit. narro ommisit haec. inde est cognitio facta
Philumenam compressam esse ab eo et ilium inde hunc
naturum.
haec tot propter me gaudia illi contigisse laetor,
et si hoc meretrices aliae nolunt: neque enim in rem
nostram
835
ut quisquam amator nuptiis laetetur. verum ecator
numquam animo quaesti gratia ad malam adducam partis.
ego dum illo licitum stat usum benigno et lepido et comi.
incommodo mihi nuptiis event, factum fateor.
at pol me fecisse arbitror ne id merito mi eveniret.
840
multa ex quo fucesint commoda, eius incommoda aequumst ferre.

V. III: PAMPHILUS. PARMENO. BACCHUS.
PAM vide, mi Parmeno, etiam sodas ut mi haec certa et clara
attuleris.
ne me in brevi conicias tempus gaudio hoc falsa frui.
PAR visumst.
PAM certen?
PAR certe.
PAM deus sum si hoc itat.
PAR verum reperies.

830 habentem codd., habente Bentley edd. pl.
TERENCE

PAM manedum sodes. timeo ne alid credam atque alid nutacies.

845 PAR maneo.

PAM sic te dixe opinor, invenisse Myrrinam Bacchidem anulum suum habere.

PAR factum.

PAM eum quem olim ei dedi, eaque hoc te mihi nuntiare iussit. itanest factum?

PAR ita, inquam.

PAM quis mest fortunator venustatisque adeo plenior?

PAM egon pro hoc te nuntio qui donem? qui? qui? nescio.

850 PAR at ego scio.

PAM quid?

PAR nihil enim.

PAM nam neque in nuntio neque in me ipso tibi boni quid sit scio.

PAM egon qui ab Orco mortuum me reducem in lucem feceris sinam sine munere a me abire? ah, nimium me ignavom putas.

sed Bacchidem eccam video stare ante ostium. me exspectat, credo. adibo.

855 BAC salve, Pamphile.

PAM o Bacchis, o mea Bacchis, servatrix mea!

BAC bene factum et volup est.

PAM factis ut credam factis, antiquanque adeo tuam venustatem obtines.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAM Wait a moment, if you don’t mind. I’m worried that you’re telling me one thing and I’m believing another.

PAR I’m waiting.

PAM This is what I think you said. Myrrina has discovered Bacchis wearing her ring.

PAR Exactly.

PAM The one I gave her some time ago? And she told you to tell me the news? Is that it?

PAR Yes, that’s it, I’m telling you.

PAM (ecstatically) Who is more fortunate than me or indeed luckier in love? (hugging Parmeno) What reward shall I give you in return for this news? What? What? I’ve no idea.

PAR (disengaging himself) Well, I have.

PAM What?

PAR Nothing. I can’t see what good I or my news have done you.

PAM (expansively) I was dead and you brought me back from hell into the light of day. Can I let you go off after that without a reward? Oh, you must think I’m a despicable wretch! (suddenly seeing Bacchis) But look, there’s Bacchis standing in front of our door. I suppose she’s looking for me. I’ll go up to her. (he does so, while Parmeno keep his distance)

BAC Good day, Pamphilus.

PAM (throwing his arms round her) Oh Bacchis, oh my darling Bacchis, my salvation!

BAC You’re welcome. It’s a pleasure.

PAM Your deeds speak for you. (stepping back and looking at her fondly) And you still retain your old charm! It will al-
TERENCE

ut voluptati obitus, sermo, adventus tuis, quoquonque ad veneris,
semper siet.

860

BAC at tu ecaster morem antiquam atque ingenium oblines,
ut unus hominum homo te vivat nunquam quisquam blandior.

PAM hahahae! tum mihi istuc?

865

BAC recte amasti, Pamphile, uxorem tuam.
nam nunquam ante hunc dieum meis oculis eam quod
nossesm viseram.

PAM perliberalis visis.

BAC dic verum.

PAM ita me di ament, Pamphile.

BAC dic mi, harum rerum nunquid dicti iam patri?

PAM nil.

870

BAC neque opus est.

PAM adeo muttito, placet non fieri hic itidem ut in comedias
omnia omnes ubi resciscunt. hic quos par fuerat resciscere
scirent. quos non autem aequum scribere neque resciscunt
neque scient.

BAC immo etiam qui hoc occulti facultas credas dabo.

PAM Myrrina ita Phidippus dixit iure iurandolo meo
se fidem habuisse et propertia te sibi purgatum.

875

PAM optumest,

Speroque hanc rem esse eventuram nobis ex sententia.

PAR ere, licetne scire ex te hodie quid sit quod feci boni?
aut quid istuc est quod vos agitis?

PAM non licet.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

ways be a delight to meet you, talk with you, have a visit
from you, wherever it may be.

879

BAC And you're still your old self with your old ways. I swear
it. There's not a man alive with a smoother tongue than
your.

PAM Hahahah! Are you saying that to me?

884

BAC (more seriously) You were right to fall in love with your
wife, Pamphilus. As far as I know, I'd never set eyes on
her before today. She seems a very nice lady.

PAM (a little embarrassed) Tell me the truth.

BAC (laughing) It is the truth, as heaven is my witness,
Pamphilus.

889

PAM Tell me, have you told my father anything about this?

BAC Not a thing.

PAM There's no need to, not even a whisper. I don't want what
happens in comedies to happen here, where everybody
finds out everything. In this case those who need to know
know already; those who don't must not find out or ever

BAC Well, I'll give you a reason to believe we can keep the se-
cret fairly easily. Myrrina told Phidippus that she was
convinced by my oath and that you're therefore cleared
in her eyes.

PAM That's excellent. And I hope this whole situation will turn
out to our liking. (Bacchis exits into her house)

PAR (coming up to Pamphilus) Master, am I allowed to know
what good thing I've done today? Or what exactly you all
are up to?

PAM No, you're not.

88 Or "her father"; the Latin is not specific.

238
PAR tamen suspicio: ego hunc ab Orco mortuam? quo pacto?
PAM nescis, Parmeno, quantum hodie profueris mihi et ex quanta aerumna extraxeris.
PAR immo vero scio, neque imprudens feci.
PAM ego istuc satis scio.
PAR an temere quicquam Parmeno praeterea quod facto usu sit?
PAM sequere me intro, Parmeno.
PAR sequor. equidem plus hodie boni feci imprudens quam sciens ante hunc diem unquam.
Ω plaudite!


THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

PAR Well, I have my suspicions. (musing to himself) I brought him back from hell when he was dead? How?
PAM You've no idea, Parmeno, what a good turn you've done me today and what distress you've rescued me from.
PAR (bluffing) Yes, I have. I knew perfectly well what I was doing.
PAM (also bluffing) I'm sure you did.
PAR Would Parmeno be so careless as to pass by anything which needed to be done?
PAM Follow me inside, Parmeno.
PAR I'm coming. (to himself) Truly, I've done more good today unwittingly than I've ever done on purpose before.
ALL (to the audience) Give us your applause.30

30 See Phormio note 74.