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TERENCE

PHORMIO
THE MOTHER-IN-LAW
THE BROTHERS

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
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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 qualities 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 (Philumena) 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 Philumena's mother Myrrina not to reveal the baby's exist-

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tence but refuses to take Philumena back. This refusal creates problems between Pamphilus and his father Laches and Philumena's father Phidippus, 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 (Philumena, 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 Philumena, having been torn from Philumena 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

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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 Philomena 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.

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DIDASCALIA

INCIPIT TERENTI HECYRA
 ACTA LVDIS MEGALENSIBUS
 SEXTO IVLIO CAESARE CN. CORNELIO DOLABELLA
 AEDILIBVS CVRVLIVS
 MODOS FECIT FLACCVS CLAVDI TIBIIS PARIBVS TOTA
 GRAECA MENANDRV
 FACTA EST V
 ACTA PRIMO SINE PROLOGO CN. OCTAVIO TITO MANLIO COS.
 RELATA EST LVICIO AEMILIO PAVLO LVDIS FVNERALIBVS
 NON EST PLACITA
 TERTIO RELATA EST Q. FVLVIO LVC. MARCIO AEDILIBVS
 CVRVLIVS
 EGIT LVC. AMBIVIVS LVC. SERGIVS TVRPPIO
 PLACVIT

C. SLPICI APOLLINARIS PERIOCHA

uxorem ducit Pamphilus Philumenam,
 cui quondam ignorans virgini vitium obtulit,
 cuiusque per vim quem detraxit anulum
 dederat amicae Bacchidi meretriculae.
 profectus dein in Imbrum est; nuptam haud attigit.
 hanc mater vitio gravidam, ne id sciat socrus,
 ut aegram ad sese transfert. revenit Pamphilus,
 deprendit partum, celat; uxorem tamen
 recipere non volt. pater incusat Bacchidis
 amorem. dum se purgat Bacchis, anulum
 mater vitatae forte adgnoscat Myrrina.
 uxorem recipit Pamphilus cum filio.

¹ Founded in 204 B.C. in honour of the Great Mother; held in April.

PRODUCTION NOTICE

Here begins The Mother-in-Law of Terence, acted at the Ludi Megalenses¹ in the curule aedileship of Sex. Iulius Caesar and Cn. Cornelius Dolabella.² Music composed by Flaccus, slave of Claudius, for equal pipes throughout. Greek original by Menander.³ 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. Marcius.⁴ The producers were L. Ambivius and L. Sergius Turpio.⁵ A success.

SYNOPSIS BY C. SLPICIUS APOLLINARIS

Pamphilus married Philumena, 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.

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 *Phormio* note 3).

⁴ The second and third performances were in 160. On Aemilius Paullus see Introduction.

⁵ L. Sergius is unknown.

PERSONAE

PHILOTIS meretrix
SYRA anus
PARMENO servos
LACHES senex
SOSTRATA matrona
PHIDIPPUS senex
PAMPHILUS adulescens
SOSIA servos
MYRRINA matrona
BACCHIS meretrix

Scaena: Athenis

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
MYRRINA, 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 (I)

Hecyra est huic nomen fabulae. haec quom datast,
nova, ei novom intervenit vitium et calamitas
ut neque spectari neque cognosci potuerit.
ita populus studio stupidus in funambulo
5 animum occuparat. nunc haec planest pro nova,
et is qui scripsit hanc ob eam rem noluit
iterum referre ut iterum possit vendere.
alias cognostis eius: quaeso hanc noscite.

PROLOGUS (II)

orator ad vos venio ornatu prologi.
10 sinite exorator sim eodem ut iure uti senem
liceat quo iure sum usus adulescentior,
novas qui exactas feci ut inveterasceret,
ne cum poeta scriptura evanesceret.
in eis quas primum Caecili didici novas
15 partim sum earum exactus, partim vix steti.
quia scibam dubiam fortunam esse scaenicam,
spe incerta certum mihi laborem sustuli.

² nova ei Bentley, nova codd. Don., novae Fleckeisen, (data) novast Marouzeau ⁷ possit codd. pl., posset p Don. edd.

⁶ This is the prologue to the second performance.

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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

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

⁸ For Caecilius see Introduction.

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20 easdem agere coepi ut ab eodem alias discerem
 novas, studiose ne illum ab studio abducerem.
 25 perfecti ut spectarentur: ubi sunt cognitae,
 placitae sunt. ita poetam restitui in locum
 prope iam remotum iniuria advorsarium
 ab studio atque ab labore atque arte musica.
 30 quod si scripturam sprevissem in praesentia
 et in deterrendo voluissem operam sumere,
 ut in otio esset potius quam in negotio,
 deterruissem facile ne alias scriberet.
 nunc quid petam mea causa aequo animo attendite.
 Hecyram ad vos refero, quam mihi per silentium
 35 numquam agere licitumst; ita eam oppressit calamitas.
 eam calamitatem vostra intellegentia
 sedabit, si erit adiutrix nostrae industriae.
 quom primum eam agere coepi, pugilum gloria
 (funambuli eodem accessit expectatio),
 40 comitum conventus, strepitus, clamor mulierum
 fecere ut ante tempus exirem foras.
 vetere in nova coepi uti consuetudine
 in experiundo ut essem; refero denuo.
 primo actu placeo. quom interea rumor venit
 45 datum iri gladiatores, populus convolat,
 tumultuantur, clamant, pugnant de loco.
 ego interea meum non potui tutari locum.
 nunc turba nullast: otium et silentiumst.
 agendi tempus mihi datumst: vobis datur
 potestas condecorandi ludos scaenicos.
 nolite sinere per vos artem musicam
 recidere ad paucos. facite ut vostra auctoritas

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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 man-
 aged 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 dis-
 couraged 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 act⁹ 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

⁹ The word "act" is not here used in the technical sense; act divi-
 sions, which were unknown to Terence, were inserted in his plays by
 Renaissance editors.

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50 meae auctoritati faulrix adiuulrixque sit.
si numquam avare pretium statui arti meae
et eum esse quaestum in animum induxi maximum
quam maxime servire vostris commodis,
sinite impetrare me, qui in tutelam meam
studium suum et se in vostram commisit fidem,
55 ne eum circumventum inique iniqui irrideant.
mea causa causam accipite et date silentium,
ut lubeat scribere aliis mihiq; ut discere
novas expedit posthac pretio emptas meo.

ACTUS I

I. I: PHILOTIS. SYRA.

PHI per pol quam paucos reperias meretricibus
60 fidelis evenire amatores, Syra.
vel hic Pamphilus iurabat quotiens Bacchidi
quam sancte, uti quivis facile posset credere,
numquam illa viva ducturum uxorem domum!
em, duxit!
SYR ergo propterea te sedulo
et moneo et hortor ne quousquam misereat,
65 quin spolies, mutiles, laceres quemque nacta sis.
PHI utine eximium neminem habeam?
SYR ~~ne~~ neminem.
nam nemo illorum quisquam, scito, ad te venit

49-51 = Hau. 48-50 secludit Tyrrell

64 misereat Σ Don., misereas A

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

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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-

the play failed, the aediles would reclaim from the producer the money they had paid to the author. That the aediles ultimately bought the play is implied in the prologue to *The Eunuch* (line 20); it may be that the producer bought the play from the author and sold his production of it to the aediles.

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70 quin ita paret sese abs te ut blanditiis suis
quam minumo pretio suam voluptatem expleat.
PHI hiscin tu, amabo, non contra insidiabere?
SYR tamen pol eandem iniuriumst esse omnibus.
iniurium autemst ulcisci advorsarios,
aut qua via te captent eadem ipsos capi?
eheu me miseram! quor non aut istaec mihi
75 aetas et formast aut tibi haec sententia?

I. II: PARMENO. PHILOTIS. SYRA.

PAR senex si quaeret me, modo isse dicito
ad portum percontatum adventum Pamphili.
audin quid dicam, Scirte? si quaeret me, uti
tum dicas; sin non quaeret, nullus dixeris,
80 alias ut uti possim causa hac integra.
sed videon ego Philotium? unde haec advenit?
Philotis, salve multum.
PHI o salve, Parmeno.
SYR salve mecastor, Parmeno.
PAR et tu edepol, Syra.
dic mi ubi, Philotis, te oblectasti tam diu?
85 PHI minume equidem me oblectavi, quae cum milite
Corinthum hinc sum profecta inhumanissimo.
biennium ibi perpetuom misera illum tuli.
PAR edepol te desiderium Athenarum arbitror,
Philotium, cepisse saepe et te tuom
consilium contempsisse.

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."

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out the intention of talking you into satisfying his desires at the lowest possible price. Are you not going to do some counterplotting against such people, my darling?
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, Scirtus? 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.

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- 90 PHI non dici potest
quam cupida eram huc redeundi, abeundi a milite,
vosque hic videndi, antiqua ut consuetudine
agitarem inter vos libere convivium.
nam illi haud licebat nisi praefinito loqui
95 quae illi placerent.
PAR haud opinor commode
finem statuisset orationi militem.
PHI sed quid hoc negotist? modo quae narravit mihi
hic intus Bacchis! quod ego numquam credidi
fore, ut ille hac viva posset animum inducere
100 uxorem habere.
PAR habere autem?
PHI eho tu, an non habet?
PAR habet, sed firmae haec vereor ut sint nuptiae.
PHI ita di deaeque faxint, si in remst Bacchidis.
sed qui istuc credam ita esse dic mihi, Parmeno.
PAR non est opus prolato hoc. percontarier
105 desiste.
PHI nempe ea causa ut ne id fiat palam?
ita me di amabunt, haud propterea te rogo,
uti hoc proferam, sed ut tacita mecum gaudeam.
PAR numquam tam dices commode ut tergum meum
tuam in fidem committam.
PHI ah! noli, Parmeno.
110 quasi tu non multo malis narrare hoc mihi
quam ego quae percontor scire.
PAR vera haec praedicat
et illud mihi vitiumst maxumum. si mihi fidem
das te taciturnam, dicam.

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- 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 (*evasively*) 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.
PAR ausculta.
PHI istic sum.
PAR hanc Bacchidem
amabat ut quom maxume tum Pamphilus,
quom pater uxorem ut ducat orare occipit
et haec communia omnium quae sunt patrum,
sese senem esse dicere, illum autem unicum,
praesidium velle se senectuti suae.
ill' primo se negare, sed postquam acrius
pater instat, fecit animi ut incertus foret
pudorin anne amori obsequeretur magis.
tundendo atque odio denique effecit senex:
despondit ei gnatam huius vicini proximi.
usque illud visumst Pamphilo ne utiquam grave
donec iam in ipsis nuptiis, postquam videt
paratas nec moram ullam quin ducat dari,
ibi demum ita aegre tulit ut ipsam Bacchidem,
si adesset, credo ibi eius commiseresceret.
ubiquomque datum erat spatium solitudinis
ut colloqui mecum una posset, "Parmeno,
perii! quid ego egi! in quod me conieci malum!
non potero ferre hoc, Parmeno. perii miser!"
PHI at te di deaeque perduint cum isto odio, Lache!
PAR ut ad pauca redeam, uxorem deducit domum.
nocte illa prima virginem non attigit.
quae consecutast nox eam, nihilo magis.
PHI quid ais? cum virgine una adulescens cubuerit
plus potus, sese illa abstinere ut potuerit?
non veri simile dicis neque verum arbitror.

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 Phidippus' 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, then 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, "Parmeno, damn it! What have I done! What have I let myself in for! I won't be able to bear it, Parmeno. 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 following 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.

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- PAR credo ita videri tibi. nam nemo ad te venit
nisi cupiens tui: ille invitus illam duxerat.
- PHI quid deinde fit?
- PAR diebus sane pauculis
post Pamphilus me solum seducit foras
145 narratque ut virgo ab se integra etiam tum siet,
seque ante quam eam uxorem duxisset domum,
sperasse eas tolerare posse nuptias.
"sed quam decrerim me non posse diutius
habere, eam ludibrio haberi, Parmeno,
150 quin integram itidem reddam, ut accepi ab suis,
neque honestum mihi neque utile ipsi virginist."
- PHI pium ac pudicum ingenium narras Pamphili.
- PAR "hoc ego proferre incommodum mi esse arbitror.
reddi patri autem, quoi 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 cotidie.
sed ut fit, postquam hunc alienum ab sese videt,
maligna multo et magis procax facta ilicost.
160 PHI non edepol mirum.
- PAR atque ea res multo maxime
diiunxit illum ab illa, postquam et ipse se
et illam et hanc quae domi erat cognovit satis,
ad exemplum ambarum mores earum existumans.
haec, ita uti liberali esse ingenio decet,

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

- PAR I'm sure it seems so to you. Nobody comes to you who
doesn't desire you, whereas he'd married her against his
will.
- PHI What happened then?
- PAR Well, a few days afterwards, Pamphilus took me aside in
private and told me that, as far as he was concerned, the
girl was still a virgin. He had hoped, before he married
her, he would be able to reconcile himself to the mar-
riage. "But, when I decided that I couldn't keep her any
longer," he said, "it seemed neither honourable for me
nor in the girl's best interest to treat her as a plaything
rather than restoring her intact to her family in the state
in which I received her."
- PHI You make Pamphilus sound like a decent responsible
young man.
- PAR "I can see that it won't do me any good to make this pub-
lic," he said. "On the other hand it would be insulting to
return a bride to her father when there's no fault you can
allege in her. I'm hoping that, when she realises that it's
impossible for us to live together, she'll end up by leaving
me of her own accord."
- PHI What happened in the meantime? Did he continue see-
ing Bacchis?
- PAR Every day. But, as tends to happen, when she saw that he
now belonged to someone else, she immediately became
much more grudging and demanding.
- PHI Heaven knows, it's not surprising.
- PAR But the thing that most of all caused him to part from her
was when he came to a proper understanding of himself
and her and the wife he had at home, judging the charac-
ters of both of them from the way they each behaved.
The wife, as you would expect from a respectable lady,

- 165 pudens, modesta, incommoda atque iniurias
viri omnis ferre et tegere contumelias.
hic animus partim uxoris misericordia
devinctus, partim victus huius iniuriis
paullatim elapsus Bacchidi atque huc transtulit
170 amorem, postquam par ingenium nactus est.
interea in Imbro moritur cognatus senex
horunc. ea ad hos redibat lege hereditas.
eo amantem invitum Pamphilum extrudit pater.
reliquit cum matre hic uxorem. nam senex
175 rus abdidit se, huc raro in urbem commeat.
PHI quid adhuc habent infirmitatis nuptiae?
PAR nunc audies. primo dies complusculos
bene convenibat sane inter eas. interim
miris modis odisse coepit Sostratam,
180 neque lites ullae inter eas, postulatio
numquam.
PHI quid igitur?
PAR si quando ad eam accesserat
confabulatum, fugere e conspectu ilico,
videre nolle. denique, ubi non quit pati,
simulat se ad matrem accersi ad rem divinam, abit.
185 ubi illic dies est compluris, accersi iubet:
dixere causam tum nescioquam. iterum iubet:
nemo remisit, postquam accersunt saepius,
aegram esse simulant mulierem. nostra ilico
it visere ad eam: admisit nemo. hoc ubi senex
190 rescivit, heri ea causa rure huc advenit.

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

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 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,¹² 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 Philumena.
 quid egerint inter se nondum etiam scio,
 nisi sane curaest quorsum eventurum hoc siet.
 habes omnem rem. pergam quo coepi hoc iter.
 195 PHI et quidem ego. nam constitui cum quodam hospite
 me esse illum conventurum.
 PAR di vortant bene
 quod agas!
 PHI vale.
 PAR et tu bene vale, Philotium.

ACTUS II

II. I: LACHES. SOSTRATA.

- LAC pro deum atque hominum fidem, quod hoc genus est,
 quae haec est coniuratio!
 utin omnes mulieres eadem aequae studeant nolintque
 omnia,
 200 neque declinatam quicquam ab aliarum ingenio ullam
 reperias!
 itaque adeo uno animo omnes socrus oderunt nurus.
 viris esse advorsas aequae studiumst, similis pertinaciamst,
 in eodemque omnes mihi videntur ludo doctae ad mali-
 tiam. et
 ei ludo, si ullus est, magistram hanc esse satis certo scio.
 205 SOS me miseram! quae nunc quam ob rem accuser nescio.
 LAC hem!
 tu nescis?
 SOS non, ita me di bene ament, mi Lache,
 itaque una inter nos agere aetatem liceat.

201 *secludunt Bentley edd. nonn. et metrum et sensum suspicantes*

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 overseas.
 PAR Heaven bless your enterprise!
 PHI Goodbye.
 PAR Goodbye to you, Philotis dear. (*Parmeno 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 determined. I reckon that they've all been schooled to wickedness in the same school, and I'm quite sure that, if there is such a school, (*pointing to Sostrata*) she's the headmistress.
 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.

- LAC di mala prohibeant!
- SOS meque abs te immerito esse accusatam postmodo rescisces, scio.
- LAC te immerito? an quicquam pro istis factis dignum te dici potest?
- 210 quae me et te et familiam dedecoras, filio luctum paras. tum autem ex amicis inimici ut sint nobis affines facis, qui illum decrerunt dignum suos quos liberos committerent.
- tu sola exorere quae perturbes haec tua impudentia.
- SOS egon?
- LAC tu inquam, mulier, quae me omnino lapidem, non hominem putas.
- 215 an, qui ruri esse crebro soleo, nescire arbitramini quo quisque pacto hic vitam vostrarum exigat?
- multo melius hic quae fiunt quam illi ubi sum assidue scio,
- ideo quia, ut vos mihi domi eritis, proinde ego ero fama foris.
- iampridem equidem audivi cepisse odium tui Philumenam.
- 220 minumeque adeo mirum, et ni id fecisset magis mirum foret.
- sed non credidi adeo ut etiam totam hanc odisset domum.
- quod si scissem, illa hic maneret potius, tu hinc isses foras.
- at vide quam immerito aegritudo haec oritur mi abs te, Sostrata.
- 225 rus habitatum abii concedens vobis et rei serviens, sumptus vestros otiumque ut nostra res posset pati,

- LAC Heaven forbid!
- SOS Some day you'll come to realise your accusations against me are unjustified, I'm sure.
- LAC Unjustified? Against you? There are no words fit to describe you after what you've done. You've brought disgrace on me and yourself and the family, and you've created sorrow for our son. And on top of that you've turned his wife's family from friends into enemies, when they'd judged him good enough to be entrusted with their daughter. You came along and ruined all this single-handed by your shameless behaviour.
- SOS Me?
- LAC Yes you, woman! You seem to think I'm solid stone, not flesh and blood. Or do you women imagine that, just because I spend most of my time in the country, I don't know how all of you live your lives in town? I know what goes on here much better than in the place where I spend my time, precisely because my reputation abroad depends on your behaviour at home. I heard in fact some time ago that Philumena had taken a dislike to you. I'm not exactly surprised; it would have been more surprising if she hadn't. But I never believed that her hatred would extend to the whole household. If I'd known that, she would have been the one to remain here and you the one to pack your bags.¹³ Can't you see how unfair it is that I should suffer this distress on your account, Sostrata? I went away to live in the country out of consideration for you and to look after our estate, so that our income could

¹³ There is an implied threat here of divorce.

²⁰⁸ scio *Sostratae continuant Bentley edd. pl., Lachetti dant codd.*

meo labori haud parcens praeter aequom atque aetatem
meam.

non te pro his curasse rebus ne quid aegre esset mihi!
 sos non mea opera neque pol culpa evenit.

LAC immo maxime.

230 sola hic fuisti, in te omnis haeret culpa sola, Sostrata.
quae hic erant curares, quom ego vos curis solvi ceteris.
cum puella anum suscepisse inimicitias non pudet?
illius dices culpa factum?

sos haud equidem dico, mi Lache.

LAC gaudeo, ita me di ament, gnati causa. nam de te quidem
satis scio peccando detrimenti nil fieri potest.

235 sos qui scis an ea causa, mi vir, me odisse assimulaverit
ut cum matre 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 arbitror,

240 et merito adeo. nam vostrarum nullast quin gnatum velit
ducere uxorem. et quae vobis placitast condicio datur:
ubi duxere impulsu vostro, vostro impulsu easdem exi-
gunt.

II. II; PHIDIPPUS. LACHES. SOSTRATA.

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

support your expenditure and your life of leisure. I've laboured 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, Lachès 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 refused to let you in 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

- quae ego imperem facere, ego tamen patrio animo victus
faciam
245 ut tibi concedam neque tuae lubidini advorsabor.
LAC atque eccum Phidippum optume video. hinc iam scibo
hic quid sit.
Phidippe, etsi ego meis me omnibus scio esse apprime
obsequentem,
sed non adeo ut mea facilitas corrumpat illorum animos.
quod tu si idem faceres, magis in rem et vostram et nos-
tram id esset.
250 nunc video in illarum potestate esse te.
PHI heia vero?
LAC adii te heri de filia: ut veni, itidem incertum amisti.
haud ita decet, si perpetuam hanc vis esse affinitatem,
celare te iras. si quid est peccatum a nobis, profer:
aut ea refellendo aut purgando vobis corrigemus
255 te iudice ipso. sin east causa retinendi apud vos
quia aegrast, te mihi iniuriam facere arbitror, Phidippe,
si metuis satis ut meae domi curetur diligenter.
at ita me di ament, haud tibi hoc concedo—etsi illi pater
es—
ut tu illam salvam magis velis quam ego. id adeo gnati
causa,
260 quem ego intellexi illam haud minus quam se ipsum
magni facere.
neque adeo clam mest quam esse eum graviter laturum
credo,
hoc si rescierit. eo domum studeo haec prius quam ille
redeat.
PHI Laches, et diligentiam vostram et benignitatem
novi et quae dicis omnia esse ut dicis animum induco,

- deference to my paternal feelings I shall give in to you
and not oppose your whims.
LAC (to himself) There's Phidippus. Excellent! I'll find out
from him what this is all about. (addressing him) Phidip-
pus, I know that I'm extremely indulgent to all my family,
but not to the extent that my generosity corrupts their
characters. If you acted in the same way, it would be to
your advantage and to ours. But, as it is, I see that you are
under the thumb of your womenfolk.
PHI Come on now! Is that so?
LAC I approached you yesterday about your daughter, and
you sent me away just as uncertain as when I came. If you
want this marriage relationship to be lasting, you mustn't
conceal the reasons for your anger in this way. If we have
done anything wrong, bring it out into the open. We'll ei-
ther disprove the allegation or apologise, and we'll make
amends to your satisfaction. But if the reason for keeping
your daughter at home is that she's sick, I reckon you are
doing me an injustice, Phidippus, if you're worried she
may not be looked after well enough in my house. But,
heaven knows, I don't accept—even if you are her fa-
ther—that you are more concerned for her welfare than I
am. I'm concerned for my son's sake, knowing as I do that
he values her no less highly than himself. And I'm very
well aware how upset he'll be if he finds out about this;
that's why I'm keen that she return home before he does.
PHI Laches, I know both your concern and your good will,
and I'm persuaded that everything you say is as you say.

- 265 et te hoc mihi cupio credere: illam ad vos redire studeo
si facere possim ullo modo.
- LAC quae res te id facere prohibet?
- PHI eho, numquidnam accusat virum?
- PHI minime. nam postquam attendi
magis et vi coepi cogere ut rediret, sancte adiurat
non posse apud vos Pamphilo se absente perdurare.
- 270 aliud fortasse aliis vitist: ego sum animo leni natus,
non possum advorsari meis.
- LAC em, Sostrata.
- SOS heu me miseram!
- LAC certumne est istuc?
- PHI nunc quidem, ut videtur. sed numquid vis?
- LAC nam est quod me transire ad forum iam oportet.
eo tecum una.

II. III: SOSTRATA.

- SOS edepol ne nos sumus inique aequae omnes invisae viris
275 propter paucas, quae omnes faciunt dignae ut videamur
malo.
- nam ita me di ament, quod me accusat nunc vir, sum ex-
tra noxiam.
- sed non facilest expurgatu, ita animum induxerunt so-
crus
- omnis esse iniquas. haud pol mequidem. nam numquam
secus
- habui illam ac si ex me esset nata, nec qui hoc mi eveniat
scio;
- 280 nisi pol filium multimodis expecto ut redeat domum.

- 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 com-
pel her forcibly to return, she swore on oath that she
couldn't endure living in your house in Pamphilus' ab-
sence. 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 Phidippus*) 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 unrea-
sonable. 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*)

ACTUS III

III. I: PAMPHILUS. PARMENO. (MYRRINA.)

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! hui!

285 quanto fuerat praestabilius ubivis gentium agere aetatem quam huc redire atque haec ita esse miserum me resciscere!

nam nos omnes quibus est alicunde aliquis obiectus labos,

omne quod est interea tempus prius quam id rescitumst lucrost.

PAR at sic citius qui te expedias his aerumnis reperias:

si non rediisses, haec irae factae essent multo ampliores.

290 sed nunc adventum tuom ambas, Pamphile, scio reverturas.

rem cognosces, iram expadies, rursum in gratiam restitues.

levia sunt quae tu pergravia esse in animum induxti tuom.

PAM quid consolare me? an quisquam usquam gentiumst aequae miser?

prius quam hanc uxorem duxi habebam alibi animum amori deditum.

295 tamen numquam ausus sum recusare eam quam mi obtrudit pater.

ACT THREE

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

PAM I don't believe anyone has ever had more anguish inflicted 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 preferable 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 quarrels, and effect a reconciliation. Things that you've persuaded 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 affections were engaged in another affair, but I never dared refuse the wife my father thrust upon me. And in such a

283 hui *Fleckeisen*, cui *codd*.

iam in hac re, ut taceam, quoivis facile scitust quam fuerim miser.
 vix me illum 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 inventurum arbitror.

300 quod quom ita esse invenero, quid restat nisi porro ut fiam miser?

nam matris ferre iniurias me, Parmeno, pietas iubet; tum uxori obnoxius sum: ita olim suo me ingenio pertulit, tot meas iniurias quae numquam in ullo patefecit loco. sed magnum nescioquid necessest evenisse, Parmeno,

305 unde ira inter eas intercessit quae tam permansit diu.
 PAR haud quidem hercle: parvom. si vis vero veram rationem exsequi,

non maxumas quae maxumae sunt interdum irae iniurias faciunt. nam saepe est quibus in rebus alius ne iratus quidemst,

310 quom de eadem causast iracundus factus inimicissimus. pueri inter sese quam pro levibus noxiis iras gerunt! quapropter? quia enim qui eos gubernat animus eum infirmum gerunt.

itidem illae mulieres sunt ferme ut pueri levi sententia. fortasse unum aliquod verbum inter eas iram hanc concivisse.

PAM abi, Parmeno, intro ac me venisse nuntia.

PAR hem! quid hoc est?

³¹³ concivisse *edd.*, concivisse *Don. in comm.*, concivisset *A*², conciverit *Σ*, consciverit *Don.*, concluderit *A*¹

situation, without my uttering a word, it must be obvious to anyone how miserable I was. I'd hardly torn myself away, disentangled my affections, and transferred them to my wife here, when, lo and behold, some new development has arisen to tear me away from her as well. What's more, I suppose that at the end of all this I'll find either my mother or my wife to be at fault; and, when I do find this out, what's left for me but still more misery? Filial duty bids me bear with any wrongs done by my mother, Parmeno; on the other hand, I am in debt to my wife, who good-naturedly put up with me at the time and has never breathed a word of my many wrongdoings to anyone. But something terrible must have happened, Parmeno, to cause a quarrel between them which has lasted so long.

PAR Good god, no. It's a minor matter. If you really want the true explanation, sometimes the greatest quarrel doesn't imply the greatest wrongdoing. It often happens that in a given situation one man isn't even angry, while with the same justification a hot-tempered person becomes an enemy for life. Look at children, who quarrel among themselves over trivial complaints, and why? Because they are unable to control their impulses. It's the same with these women: they change their minds, just like children. It's likely it was a single word which stirred up this quarrel between them.

PAM Go inside, Parmeno, and announce my return.

PAR (startled by a noise from Phidippus' house) Hello! What's that?

TERENCE

- PAM tace!
- 315 trepidari sentio et cursari rursum prorsum.
- PAR agedum, ad fores
- accedo propius. em, sensistin?
- PAM noli fabularier.
- pro Iuppiter, clamorem audiui.
- PAR tute loqueris, me vetas.
- MYR (*intus*) tace, obsecro, mea gnata!
- PAM matris vox visast Philumena.
- nullus sum!
- PAR quidum?
- PAM perii!
- PAR quam ob rem?
- PAM nescioquod magnum malum
- 320 profecto, Parmeno, me celant.
- PAR uxorem Philumenam
- pavitare nescioquid dixerunt. id si forte est nescio.
- PAM interii! quor mihi id non dixti?
- PAR quia non poteram una omnia.
- PAM quid morbig?
- PAR nescio.
- PAM quid? nemon medicum adduxit?
- PAR nescio.
- PAM cesso hinc ire intro ut hoc quam primum quidquid est
- certo sciam?
- 325 quonam modo, Philumena mea, nunc te offendam affec-
- tam?
- nam si periculum ullum in te inest, perisse me una haud
- dubiumst.

316 accedo *AD¹p¹*, accede *cett.*

320 celant *codd. pl.*, celas *AD¹p¹*

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

- PAM Hush! I can hear sounds of panic and people rushing to and fro.
- PAR Come on, I'm going up closer to the door. (*he does so and listens*) There! Did you hear?
- PAM (*coming up beside him*) Don't speak a word. (*changing his tone as he hears a cry from inside*) Great Jupiter! I heard a scream.
- PAR You're speaking: you told me not to.
- MYR (*inside*) Hush, for goodness' sake, my daughter!
- PAM That sounded like Philumena'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 me, Parmeno.
- PAR They said that your wife Philumena had some sort of a 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 going on? (*turning to go*) In what state will I find you now, Philumena, my darling? If you're in any danger, there's no doubt it's the end of me as well. (*he exits into Phidippus' house, leaving Parmeno on stage alone*)

TERENCE

- PAR non usus factost mihi nunc hunc intro sequi.
nam invisos omnis nos esse illis sentio:
heri nemo voluit Sostratam intro admittere.
330 si forte morbus amplior factus siet
(quod sane nolim, maxime eri causa mei),
servom ilico introisse dicent Sostratae,
aliquid tulisse comminiscetur mali
capiti atque aetati illorum morbus qui auctu' sit.
335 era in crimen veniet, ego vero in magnum malum.
- III. II: SOSTRATA. PARMENO. PAMPHILUS.
- SOS nescioquid iamdudum audio hic tumultuari misera.
male metuo ne Philumenae magis morbus aggravescat,
quod te, Aesculapi, et te, Salus, ne quid sit huius oro.
nunc ad eam visam.
- PAR heus, Sostrata!
SOS hem!
PAR iterum istinc excludere.
- 340 SOS ehem, Parmeno, tun hic eras? perii! quid faciam misera?
non visam uxorem Pamphili, quom in proxumo hic sit ae-
gra?
- PAR non visas? ne mittas quidem visendi causa quemquam.
nam qui amat quoi odio ipso est, bis facere stulte duco:
laborem inanem ipso capit et illi molestiam affert.
345 tum filius tuos intro iit videre, ut venit, quid agat.
- SOS quid ais? an venit Pamphilus?
- PAR venit.

¹⁴ Sostrata here prays to Aesculapius (Greek Asclepius), the god of healing, and Salus (Greek Hygieia), the goddess of good health.

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 Philumena's illness is getting worse. Oh gods of Health and Healing,¹⁴ I pray it is nothing of that sort. I'll go in and see her now. (she moves towards Phidippus' 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.

TERENCE

- SOS dis gratiam habeo.
hem! istoc verbo animus mihi redit et cura ex corde excessit.
- PAR iam ea te causa maxume nunc hoc intro ire nolo.
nam si remittent quippiam Philumena dolores,
350 omnem rem narrabit, scio, continuo sola soli
quae inter vos intervenerit, unde ortumst initium irae.
atque eccum video ipsum egredi. quam tristist!
- SOS o mi gnatel
- PAM mea mater, salve.
- SOS gaudeo venisse salvom. salvan
Philumenast?
- PAM meliusculast.
- SOS utinam istuc ita di faxint!
- 355 quid tu igitur lacrimas? aut quid es tam tristis?
- PAM recte, mater.
- SOS quid fuit tumulti? dic mihi. an dolor repente invasit?
- PAM ita factumst.
- SOS quid morbidist?
- PAM febris.
- SOS cotidiana?
- PAM ita aiunt.
- i sodes intro. consequar iam te, mea mater.
- SOS fiat.
- PAM tu pueris curre, Parmeno, obviam atque eis onera adiuta.
- 360 PAR quid? non sciunt ipsi viam domum qua veniant?
- PAM cessas?

¹⁵ Literally, one recurring daily (quotidian), hence chronic rather than acute.

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 Philumena's 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 quarrel 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 Philumena 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 (rudely) What? Don't they know the way home for themselves?
- PAM What are you waiting for? (Parmeno exits left in the direction of the harbour)

III. III: PAMPHILUS.

- PAM nequeo mearum rerum initium ullum invenire idoneum
unde exordiar narrare quae necopinanti accidunt,
partim quae perspexi hisce oculis, partim quae accepi
auribus,
qua me propter exanimatum citius eduxi foras.
365 nam modo intro me ut corripui timidus, alio suspicans
morbo me visurum affectam ac sensi esse uxorem, ei
mihi!
postquam me aspexere ancillae advenisse, ilico omnes
simul
laetae exclamant "venit," id quod me repente aspexerant.
sed continuo voltum earum sensi immutari omnium,
370 quia tam incommode illis fors obtulerat adventum
meum.
una illarum interea propere praecurrit nuntians
me venisse. ego eius videndi cupidus recta consequor.
postquam intro adveni, extemplo eius morbum cognovi
miser.
375 nam neque ut celari posset tempus spatium ullum dabat
neque voce alia ac res monebat ipsa poterat conqueri.
postquam aspexi, "o facinus indignum" inquam et corri-
pui ilico
me inde lacrumans, incredibili re atque atroci percitus.
mater consequitur. iam ut limen exirem, ad genua accidit
lacrumans misera. miseritumst. profecto hoc sic est, ut
puto:
380 omnibus nobis ut res dant sese, ita magni atque humiles
sumus.
hanc habere orationem mecum principio institit:

PAMPHILUS remains onstage alone.

- 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

- "o mi Pamphile, abs te quam ob rem haec abierit causam
vides.
nam vitiumst oblatum virgini olim a nescioquo improbo.
nunc huc confugit te atque alios partum ut celaret
suom."
385 sed quom orata huius reminiscor nequeo quin lacrumem
miser.
"quaeque fors fortunast" inquit "nobis quae te hodie
obtulit,
per eam te obsecramus ambae, si ius, si fas est, uti
advorsa eius per te tecta tacitaeque apud omnis sient.
si umquam erga te animo esse amico sensisti eam, mi
Pamphile,
390 sine labore hanc gratiam te uti sibi des pro illa nunc rogat.
ceterum de redducenda id facias quod in rem sit tuam.
parturire eam nec gravidam esse ex te solus conscius.
nam aiunt tecum post duobus concubuisse mensibus.
tum, postquam ad te venit, mensis agitur hic iam septi-
mus:
395 quod te scire ipsa indicat res. nunc si potis es, Pamphile,
maxume volo doque operam ut clam partus eveniat pa-
trem
atque adeo omnis. sed si id fieri non potest quin sentiant,
dicam abortum esse. scio nemini aliter suspectum fore
quin, quod veri similest, e te recte eum natum putent.

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 goddess of good luck (see *Phormio* note 63).

she began to plead with me: "Oh my dear Pamphilus, you see the reason why she's left you. She was raped a while ago before her marriage¹⁶ by some reprobate. Now she's taken refuge here to conceal the birth from you and everyone else. When I recall her pleas, I can't help weeping. I'm so distressed."

"Whatever stroke of luck has brought you to us today," she continued, "by that¹⁷ we both implore you, if the laws of men and gods permit, to hide her misfortunes and keep them secret from everybody. If ever you have recognised the love towards you in her heart, my dear Pamphilus, she begs you in return to grant her this favour, which will cost you nothing. As for taking her back, you must do what you think fit. You're the only person who knows that she's having a baby and that it is not yours. I'm told that she slept with you only after two months, and this is now the seventh month since she came to live with you.¹⁸ You know all this perfectly well, as the events show. Now, if it's possible, Pamphilus, what I want above all and am trying to achieve is that the birth should be kept secret from her father and indeed from everybody. But if its discovery can't be prevented, I'll say that there's been a miscarriage. I'm sure that nobody will suspect anything; they'll come to the natural conclusion

¹⁸ Since the marriage took place seven months ago, a baby born from it would be premature but possible; on the other hand those who know that Pamphilus did not touch his wife for two months after the marriage will be aware that the child cannot be his.

- 400 continuo exponetur. hic tibi nil est quicquam incommodi,
et illi miserae indigne factam iniuriam contexeris."
pollicitus sum et servare in eo certumst quod dixi fidem.
nam de redducenda, id vero ne utiquam honestum esse
arbitror
nec faciam, etsi amor me graviter consuetudoque eius
tenet.
- 405 lacrumo quae posthac futurast vita quom in mentem
venit
solitudoque. o fortuna, ut numquam perpetuo's data!
sed iam prior amor me ad hanc rem exercitatum reddidit,
quem ego tum consilio missum feci. idem huic operam
dabo.
- 410 adest Parmeno cum pueris. hunc minumest opus
in hac re adesse. nam olim soli credidi
ea me abstinuisse in principio quom datast.
vereor, si clamorem eius hic crebro exaudiat,
ne parturire intellegat. aliquo mihi
hinc ablegandus dum parit Philumena.
- III. IV: PARMENO. SOSIA. PAMPHILUS.
- 415 PAR ain tu tibi hoc incommodum evenisse iter?
SOS non hercle verbis, Parmeno, dici potest
tantum quam re ipsa navigare incommodumst.
PAR itan est?

⁴⁰⁶ data Don. in comm. edd. pl., bona codd. Don.

¹⁹ The exposure of unwanted babies is common in New Comedy and no doubt reflects real-life practice. Illegitimate babies were particularly at risk. If the father was unwilling to raise the child, the mother

that you were the father. I'll have the baby exposed¹⁹ 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 loneliness. 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 reason. 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 Philumena's in labour. I must send him away somewhere until the baby is born. (*he stands aside*)

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

- PAR (to Sosia) You say it turned out to be an unpleasant journey?
- 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-Tormentor* lines 626-643), give the baby to someone else to expose, in the hope that it might in fact be spared.

- SOS o fortunate, nescis quid mali
 praeterieris qui numquam's ingressus mare.
 420 nam alias ut mittam miseras, unam hanc vide.
 dies triginta aut plus eo in navi fui,
 quom interea semper mortem expectabam miser.
 ita usque advorsa tempestate usi sumus.
 PAR odiosum.
 SOS haud clam mest. denique hercle aufugerim
 425 potius quam redeam, si eo mihi redeundum sciam.
 PAR olim quidem te causae impellebant leves,
 quod nunc minitare facere, ut faceres, Sosia.
 sed Pamphilum ipsum video stare ante ostium.
 ite intro. ego hunc adibo, si quid me velit.
 430 ere, etiam tu hic stas?
 PAM 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 perii! vovisse hunc dicam, si salvos domum
 435 redisset umquam, ut me ambulando rumperet.
 PAM quid cessas?
 PAR quid vis dicam? an conveniam modo?

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

- 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,²⁰ who travelled with me.
 PAR (*aside*) Damn it! I bet he made a vow²¹ that, if he ever got home safely, he'd burst my guts with running errands.
 PAM What are you waiting for?
 PAR What do you want me to say? Or do I just find him?

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 constitui me hodie conventurum eum,
non posse, ne me frustra illi expectet, vola.
PAR at non novi hominis faciem.
PAM at faciam ut noveris.
440 PAM magnus, rubicundus, crispus, crassus, caesius,
cadaverosa facie.
PAR di illum perduint!
quid si non veniet? maneamne usque ad vesperum?
PAM maneto. curre.
PAR non queo: ita defessu' sum.
PAM ille abiit. quid agam infelix? prorsus nescio
445 quo pacto hoc celem quod me oravit Myrrina,
suae gnatae partum. nam me miseret mulieris.
quod potero faciam, tamen ut pietatem colam.
nam me parenti potius quam amori obsequi
oportet. attat! eccum Phidippum et patrem
450 video. horsum pergunt. quid dicam hisce incertu' sum.
- III. V. LACHES. PHIDIPPUS. PAMPHILUS.
LAC dixin dudum illam dixisse se expectare 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 PHIDIPPUS 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.

TERENCE

- 455 LAC ipsus est de quo hoc agebam tecum.
 PAM salve, mi pater.
 LAC gnate mi, salve.
 PHI bene factum te advenisse, Pamphile;
 atque adeo, id quod maxumumst, salvom atque validum.
 PAM creditur.
 LAC advenis modo?
 PAM admodum.
 LAC cedo, quid reliquit Phania
 consobrinus noster?
 PAM sane hercle homo voluptati obsequens
 460 fuit dum vixit; et qui sic sunt haud multum heredem
 iuvant,
 sibi vero hanc laudem relinquont "vixit, dum vixit, bene."
 LAC tum tu igitur nil attulisti plus una hac sententia?
 PAM quidquid est id quod reliquit, profuit.
 LAC immo obfuit.
 nam illum vivom et salvom vellem.
 PHI impune optare istuc licet.
 465 ill' revivescet iam numquam. et tamen utrum malis scio.
 LAC heri Philumenam ad se accersi hic iussit. dic iussisse te.
 PHI noli fodere. iussi.
 LAC 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 nuntiant.

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 Philumena 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!

- 470 PAM ego me scio cavisse ne ulla merito contumelia
fieri a vobis posset; idque si nunc memorare hic velim
quam fideli animo et benigno in illam et clementi fui,
vere possum, ni te ex ipsa haec magis velim resciscere.
namque eo pacto maxime apud te meo erit ingenio fides,
475 quom illa, quae nunc in me iniquast, aequa de me dixerit.
neque mea culpa hoc discidium evenisse, id testor deos.
sed quando sese esse indignam deputat matri meae
quae concedat huiusque mores toleret sua modestia,
neque alio pacto componi potest inter eas gratia,
480 segreganda aut mater a mest, Phidippe, aut Philumena.
nunc me pietas matris potius commodum suadet sequi.
LAC Pamphile, haud invito ad auris sermo mi accessit tuos,
quom te postputasse omnis res prae parente intellego.
verum vide ne impulsus ira prave insistas, Pamphile.
- 485 PAM quibus iris pulsus nunc in illam iniquo' sim,
quae numquam quicquam erga me commeritast, pater,
quod nollem, et saepe quod vellem meritam scio?
amoque et laudo et vehementer desidero.
nam fuisse erga me miro ingenio expertu' sum,
490 illique exopto ut relicuam vitam exigit
cum eo viro me qui sit fortunatior,
quandoquidem illam a me distrahit necessitas.
PHI tibi id in manust ne fiat.
LAC si sanus sies,
iube illam redire.

478 huiusque scripsi, eiusque Bothe, cuiusque codd.

- 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, Phidippus, or Philumena. In this situation 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 LAC matris servibo commodis.
 LAC quo abis? mane!
 PHI mane, inquam! quo abis?
 PHI quae haec est pertinacia?
 LAC dixin, Phidippe, hanc rem aegre laturum esse eum?
 quam ob rem te orabam filiam ut remitteres.
 PHI non credidi edepol adeo inhumanum fore.
 500 ita nunc is sibi me supplicaturum putat?
 sist ut velit reducere uxorem, licet;
 sin aliost animo, renumeret dotem huc, eat.
 LAC ecce autem, tu quoque proterve iracundus es.
 PHI percontumax redisti huc nobis, Pamphile.
 505 LAC decedet iam ira haec, etsi merito iratus est.
 PHI quia paullum vobis accessit pecuniae,
 sublati animi sunt.
 LAC etiam mecum litigas?
 PHI deliberet renuntietque hodie mihi
 velitne an non, ut alii, si huic non est, siet.
 510 LAC Phidippe, ades, audi paucis. abiit. quid mea?
 postremo inter se transigant ipsi ut lubet,
 quando nec gnatus neque hic mi quicquam obtempe-
 rant,
 quae dico parvi pendunt. porto hoc iurgium
 ad uxorem quous haec fiunt consilio omnia,
 515 atque in eam hoc omne quod mihi aegrest evomam.

⁴⁹⁵ mane $\gamma D^2 L$, ades *cett.* (*nisi* ades mane $D^1 p^1$) *edd. pl.*

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

- PAM That's not my intention, father. I shall devote myself to
 my mother's happiness. (*he turns to go*)
 LAC Where are you going? Stop! Stop, I say! Where are you
 going? (*Pamphilus rushes into his house*)
 PHI (*to Laches*) Why is he so stubborn?
 LAC Didn't I tell you, Phidippus, that he would take this
 badly? That's why I begged you to send your daughter
 back.
 PHI I didn't believe, for god's sake, he would be so lacking in
 human feeling. Does he really suppose I'll now go down
 on my knees to him? If in fact he wants to take his wife
 back, he can. But if he intends otherwise, he must return
 the dowry to me and go his way.
 LAC Listen to that! You're another person being perverse and
 bad-tempered!
 PHI (*shouting offstage*) You've returned to us in a very defiant
 mood, Pamphilus.
 LAC He'll soon get over his resentment, even if it is justified.
 PHI (*stung by this last remark*) You people are getting above
 yourselves, just because you've come into a bit of money.
 LAC Are you picking a quarrel with me as well?
 PHI (*formally*) He must consider his position and let me
 know today whether he wants her or not, so that someone
 else can have her if he doesn't. (*he makes to leave*)
 LAC Phidippus, come here, listen a moment. (*Phidippus*
stalks off into his house) (*to himself*) He's gone. What do I
 care? In the end they can sort it out for themselves to
 their own liking; neither he nor my son takes any notice
 of me or attaches any importance to what I say. I'll report
 this dispute to my wife, since all of this is due to her
 scheming, and vent all my annoyance on her. (*he exits*
into his house)

TERENCE

ACTUS IV

IV. I: MYRRINA. PHIDIPPUS.

- MYR perii! quid agam? quo me vortam? quid viro meo respon-
debo
misera? nam audivisse vocem pueri, visust vagientis:
ita corripuit derepente tacitus sese ad filiam.
quod si rescierit peperisse eam, id qua causa clam me
habuisse
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 aut hominem deputas adeo
esse?
525 nam si utrumvis horum, mulier, umquam tibi visus fo-
rem,
non sic ludibrio tuis factis habitus essem.
MYR quibus?
PHI at rogitas?
peperit filia. hem! taces? ex qui?
MYR istuc patrem rogarest aequom?
perii! ex quo censes nisi ex illo quoi datast nuptum, ob-
secro?
PHI credo, neque adeo arbitrari patris est aliter. sed demiror

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.²² I suppose he's coming out to find me. I'm done for! *(she moves away from the door)*
- Enter PHIDIPPUS 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 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 husband 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 averts 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 husband'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

- 530 quid sit quam ob rem hunc tanto opere omnis nos celare
volueris
partum, praesertim quom et recte et tempore suo pepe-
rerit.
adeon pervicaci esse animo ut puerum praeoptares pe-
rire,
ex quo firmiorem inter nos fore amicitiam posthac scires,
potius quam advorsum 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 hac re quod locuta's olim, quom illum generum cepi-
mus.
nam negabas nuptam posse filiam 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 adules-
centiae.
nam id innatumst. at pol iam aderit se quoque etiam
quom oderit.
sed ut olim te ostendisti, eadem esse nil cessavisti usque
adhuc
- 545 ut filiam ab eo abduceres neu quod ego egissem esset
raturum.

⁵⁴³ nam id *metro consulentes Bentley edd.*, nam id omnibus *codd.*

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 baby²⁴ 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 natural. 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.

id nunc res indicium haec facit quo pacto factum volueris.

MYR adeon me esse pervicacem censes, quoi mater siem, ut eo essem animo, si ex usu esset nostro hoc matrimonium?

PHI tun prospicere aut iudicare nostram in rem quod sit potes?

550 audisti ex aliquo fortasse qui vidisse eum diceret exeuntem aut intro euntem ad amicam. quid tum postea? si modeste ac raro haec fecit, nonne ea dissimulare nos magis humanumst quam dare operam id scire qui nos oderit?

555 nam si is posset ab ea sese derepente avellere quicum tot consuisset annos, non eum hominem ducere nec virum satis firmum gnatae.

MYR mitte adolescentem, obsecro, et quae me peccasse ais. abi, solus solum conveni, roga velitne an non uxorem. sist ut dicat velle se, redde; sin est autem ut nolit, recte ego consului meae.

560 PHI siquidem ille ipse non volt et tu sensi in eo esse, Myrrina, peccatum, aderam quouis consilio fuerat ea par prospici. quam ob rem incendor ira esse ausam facere haec te iniussu meo.

interdico ne extulisse extra aedis puerum usquam velis. sed ego stultior meis dictis parere hanc qui postulem. 565 ibo intro atque edicam servis ne quoquam efferri sinant.

558 an non uxorem Σ, uxorem an non A metro incerto

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 benefit?

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 onstage alone)

- MYR nullam pol credo mulierem me miseriorem vivere.
 nam ut hic laturus hoc sit, si ipsam rem ut siet resciverit,
 non edepol clam mest, quom hoc quod leviust tam animo
 irato tulit,
 nec qua via sententia eius possit mutari scio.
 570 hoc mi unum ex plurimis miseriis relicuom fuerat ma-
 lum,
 si puerum ut tollam cogit, quous nos qui sit nescimus
 pater.
 nam quod compressast gnata, forma in tenebris nosci
 non quitast,
 neque detractum ei tum quicquamst qui posset post
 nosci qui siet;
 ipse eripuit vi, in digito quem habuit virgini abiens anu-
 lum.
 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
 tuam
 propter meos mores hinc abisse, etsi ea dissimulas sedu-
 lo.
 verum ita me di ament itaque obtingant ex te quae ex-
 optem mihi ut
 580 numquam sciens commerui merito ut caperet odium
 illam mei,
 teque ante quod me amare rebar, ei rei firmasti fidem.
 nam mi intus tuos pater narravit modo quo pacto me
 habueris
 praepositam amoris tuo. nunc tibi me certumst contra
 gratiam

- 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 iden-
 tity we don't know. When my daughter was raped, she
 couldn't recognise her assailant in the darkness, and she
 didn't snatch 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 dis-
 like. 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-

- 585 referre, ut apud me praemium esse positum pietati scias.
mi Pamphile, hoc et vobis et meae commodum famae
arbitror:
ego rus abituram hinc cum tuo me esse certo decrevi
patre,
ne mea praesentia obstet neu causa ulla restet relicua
quin tua Philumena ad te redeat.
- PAM quaeso, quid istuc consilist?
illius stultitia victa ex urbe tu rus habitatum migres?
590 haud facies, neque sinam ut qui nobis, mater, male dic-
tum velit,
mea pertinacia esse dicat factum, haud tua modestia.
tum tuas amicas te et cognatas deserere et festos dies
mea causa nolo.
- SOS nil pol iam istaec mihi res voluptatis ferunt.
dum aetatis tempus tulit, perfuncta satis sum. satias iam
tenet
595 studiorum istorum. haec mihi nunc curast maxuma ut ne
quoi mea
longinquitas aetatis obstet mortemve exspectet meam.
hic video me esse invisam immerito: tempust me conce-
dere.
sic optume, ut ego opinor, omnis causas praecidam omni-
bus:
et me hac suspicione exsolvam et illis morem gessero.
600 sine me, obsecro, 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!

- 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 be 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-mongers saying that all this is due to my obsti-
nacy rather than to your unselfishness, mother. Besides, I
don't want you to abandon your friends and relatives and
your public festivals²⁶ 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 Phidippus' 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
non tute incommodam rem, ut quaequest, in animum induces pati?
si cetera ita sunt ut vis itaque uti esse ego illa existumo,
605 mi gnate, da veniam hanc mihi, redduc illam.

PAM
vae misero mihi!

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 accepi, uxor.
istuc est sapere, qui ubiquomque opus sit animum possis flectere,
quod sit faciendum fortasse post, idem hoc nunc si feceris.
610 SOS fors fuat pol.

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

SOS
spero ecastor.

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

SOS
ita ut iubes faciam.

PAM
pater!

LAC
quid vis, Pamphile?

PAM
hinc abire matrem? minume.

LAC
quid ita istuc vis?

PAM
quia de uxore incertus sum etiam quid sim factururus.

LAC
quid est?

615
quid vis facere nisi redducere?

⁶⁰⁴ illa *Erasmus edd.*, 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?

- PAM equidem cupio et vix contineor.
sed non minuat meum consilium. ex usu quod est id
persequar.
credo ea gratia concordēs, si non redducam, fore.
- LAC nescias. verum id tua refert nil utrum illaec fecerint
quando haec aberit. odiosa haec est aetas adulescentulis.
620 e medio aequom excederest. postremo nos iam fabulae
sumus, Pamphile, "senex atque anus."
sed video Phidippum egredi per tempus. accedamus.
- IV. III: PHIDIPPUS. LACHES. PAMPHILUS.
- PHI tibi quoque edepol sum iratus, Philumena,
graviter quidem. nam hercle factumst abs te turpiter.
625 etsi tibi causast 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 concessuram hinc Sostratam,
630 ne reveareatur minus iam quo redeat domum.
- PHI ah!
nullam de his rebus culpam commeruit tua.
a Myrrina haec sunt mea uxore exorta omnia.
- PAM mutatio fit.
- PHI ea nos perturbat, Lache.

⁶¹⁷ credo *codd.* Don., non credo *edd. nonn.* concordēs CP¹D²LE,
concordēs magis *cett.* Don. si non *codd.* Don., si *edd. nonn.*

⁶³³ mutatio fit Pamphilo dat A², Phidippo *cett.*

- PAM (*aside*) That's what I want, and I can scarcely restrain my-
self. But I won't alter my decision. I'll persist with the
proper course. (*to Laches*) I believe it will help to recon-
cile 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 irk-
some 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 PHIDIPPUS 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, Phi-
dippus, just at the right moment.
- PHI How so?
- PAM (*aside*) What shall I tell them? How can I explain the situ-
ation?
- 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 anus*) was the title of a story.

- PAM dum ne redducam, turbent porro quam velint.
 635 PHI ego, Pamphile, esse inter nos, si fieri potest,
 affinitatem hanc sane perpetuam volo.
 sin est ut aliter tua siet sententia,
 accipias puerum.
 PAM sensit peperisse. occidi!
 LAC puerum? quem puerum?
 PHI natus est nobis nepos.
 640 nam abducta a vobis praegnas fuerat filia,
 neque fuisse praegnatem umquam ante hunc scivi diem.
 LAC bene, ita me di ament, nuntias; et gaudeo
 natum illum et tibi illam salvam. sed quid mulieris
 uxorem habes aut quibus moratam moribus?
 645 nosne hoc celatos tam diu! nequeo satis
 quam hoc mihi videtur factum prave proloqui.
 PHI non tibi illud factum minus placet quam mihi, Lache.
 PAM etiamsi dudum fuerat ambiguom hoc mihi,
 nunc non est quom eam sequitur alienus puer.
 650 LAC nulla tibi, Pamphile, hic iam consultatiost.
 PAM periil
 LAC hunc videre saepe optabamus diem
 quom ex te esset aliquis qui te appellaret patrem.
 evenit. habeo gratiam dis.
 PAM nullu' sum!
 LAC redduc uxorem ac noli advorsari mihi.
 655 PAM pater, si ex me illa liberos vellet sibi

643 sic δ Don. natum filium A. tibi et $\gamma D^2 L$

- 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

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 eius alienum esse animum a me sentiam
nec conventurum inter nos posthac arbitror,
660 quam ob rem redducam?
- LAC mater quod suasit sua
adulescens mulier fecit. mirandumne id est?
censen te posse reperire ullam mulierem
quae careat culpa? an quia non delincunt viri?
- PHI vosmet videte iam, Lache et tu Pamphile,
665 remissan opus sit vobis reductan domum.
uxor quid faciat in manu non est mea:
neutra in re vobis difficultas a me erit.
sed quid faciemus puero?
- LAC ridicule rogas.
quicquid futurumst, huic suum reddas scilicet
670 ut alamus nostrum.
- PAM quem ipse neglexit pater,
ego alam?
- LAC quid dixti? eho! an non alemus, Pamphile?
prodemus, quaeso, potius? quae haec amentias?
enimvero prorsus iam tacere non queo.
nam cogis ea quae nolo ut praesente hoc loquar.
675 ignarum censes tuarum lacrimarum esse me
aut quid sit id quod sollicitare ad hunc modum?
primum hanc ubi dixti causam, te propter tuam
matrem non posse habere hanc uxorem domi,
pollicitast ea se concessuram ex aedibus.
680 nunc postquam ademptam hanc quoque tibi causam
vides,
puer quia clam test natus, nactus alteram's.

- my wife, I'm quite sure she would not have kept from me
what I see she has kept secret. It's clear that she's turned
against me, and I don't think we'll be able to live together
in the future: why should I take her back?
- LAC She's young and she did what her mother urged her to do.
Is that surprising? Do you suppose you can find a perfect
woman? Or is it that men have no failings?
- PHI You two, Laches and Pamphilus, must decide whether
you want to send her back to us or take her back home.
What my wife does is not in my control, but either way I
won't create any difficulties. But what shall we do with
the child?
- LAC That's a ridiculous question. Whatever happens, you
must of course give Pamphilus his child back, so that we
can bring it up as ours.
- 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 Phidippus*). 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

TERENCE

- errās tui animi si me esse ignarum putas.
 aliquando tandem huc animum ut adiungas tuom,
 685 quam longum spatium amandi amicam tibi dedi!
 sumptus quos fecisti in eam quam animo aequo tuli!
 60 egi atque oravi tecum uxorem ut duceres,
 tempus dixi esse. impulsu duxisti meo.
 quae tum obsecutus mihi fecisti ut decuerat.
 690 nunc animum rursus ad meretricem inducti tuom,
 quoi tu obsecutus facis huic adeo iniuriam.
 nam in eandem vitam te revolutum denuo
 video esse.
- PAM mene?
 LAC te ipsum. et facis iniuriam:
 confingis falsas causas ad discordiam,
 695 ut cum illa vivas, testem hanc quom abs te amoveris;
 sensitque adeo uxor. nam ei causa alia quae fuit
 quam ob rem abs te abiret?
- 6 PHI plane hic divinat. nam id est.
 PAM dabo iusiurandum nil esse istorum mihi.
 LAC ah!
- PAM redduc uxorem aut quam ob rem non opus sit cedo.
 LAC non est nunc tempus.
- 700 PAM in culpa non est. post de matre videro.
 PAM omnibu' modis miser sum nec quid agam scio.
 tot nunc me rebus miserum concludit pater.
 abibo hinc, praesens quando promoveo parum.
 705 nam puerum iniussu, credo, non tollent meo,
 praesertim in ea re quom sit mi adiutrix socrus.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

- 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*)

- LAC fugis? hem! nec quicquam certi respondes mihi?
num tibi videtur esse apud sese? sine.
puerum, Phidippe, mihi cedo. ego alam.
- PHI maxume.
non mirum fecit uxor si hoc aegre tulit.
- 710 amarae mulieres sunt: non facile haec ferunt.
propterea haec irast. nam ipsa narravit mihi.
id ego hoc praesente tibi nolueram dicere,
neque illi credebam primo. nunc verum palamst.
nam omnino abhorrrere animum huic video a nuptiis.
- 715 LAC quid ergo agam, Phidippe? quid das consili?
PHI quid agas? meretricem hanc primum adeundam censeo.
oremus, accusemus, gravius denique
minitemur si cum illo habuerit rem postea.
- LAC faciam ut mones. eho puere, curre ad Bacchidem hanc
- 720 vicinam nostram: huc evoca verbis meis.
at te oro porro in hac re adiutor sis mihi.
- PHI ah!
iamdudum dixi idemque nunc dico, Lache.
manere affinitatem hanc inter nos volo,
si ullo modost ut possit, quod spero fore.
- 725 LAC sed vin adesse me una dum istam convenis?
LAC immo vero abi, aliquam puero nutricem para.

⁷¹⁹ puere curre *Erasmus*, curre puer *F*, puer curre *cett.*

- LAC (*shouting after him*) Are you running away? Hey! Aren't you going to give me a definite answer? (*to Phidippus*) Do you think he's all right? But never mind him. Give me the child, Phidippus. I'll bring it up.
- 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.³¹ 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 What shall I do then, Phidippus? What's your advice?
- PHI What should you do? I suggest that we approach this mistress of his first. Let's appeal to her, put the accusation in front of her, and finally threaten some firm action if she has anything to do with him in the future.
- LAC I'll do as you suggest. (*calling inside*) Hey, boy! Run next door to Bacchis' house and tell her I want her out here. (*a slave emerges and departs on this errand*) (*to Phidippus*) And please continue to stand by me in this.
- PHI Well, I've said it all the time and I say it again now, Laches. I 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. (*Phidippus 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 videndumst ne minus propter iram hinc impetrem quam
possiem,
730 aut ne quid faciam plus quod post me minus fecisse satiu'
sit.
aggrediar. Bacchis, salve.
- BAC salve, Lache.
- LAC credo edepol te non nil mirari, Bacchis,
quid sit quapropter te huc foras puerum evocare iussi.
- BAC ego pol quoque etiam timida sum quom venit mi in men-
tem quae sim,
735 ne nomen mihi quaesti obsiet. nam mores facile tutor.
- LAC si vera dices, nil tibist a me pericli, mulier.
nam iam aetate ea sum ut non siet peccato mi ignosci
aequom.
quo magis omnes res cautius ne temere faciam accuro.
nam si id facis facturave's bonas quod par est facere,
740 inscitum offerre iniuriam tibi immerenti iniquomst.
- BAC est magna ecastor gratia de istac re quam tibi habeam.
nam qui post factam iniuriam se expurget parum mi pro-
sit.
- sed quid istuc est?
- LAC meum receptas filium ad te Pamphilum.
- BAC ah!

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
clumsy 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., dicis cett.

TERENCE

- LAC sine dicam. uxorem hanc prius quam duxit, vestrum
amorem pertuli.
745 mane. nondum etiam dixi id quod volui. hic nunc uxorem
habet.
quaere alium tibi firmiorem dum tibi tempus consulen-
dist.
nam neque ille hoc animo erit aetatem neque pol tu ea-
dem istac aetate.
BAC quis id ait?
LAC socrus,
BAC mene?
LAC te ipsam. et filiam abduxit suam
puerumque ob eam rem clam voluit, natus quist, extin-
guere.
750 BAC aliud si scirem qui firmare meam apud vos possem fidem
sanctius quam iusiurandum, id pollicerer tibi, Lache,
me segregatum habuisse, uxorem ut duxit, a me Pamphi-
lum.
LAC lepida's. sed scin quid volo potius sodes facias?
BAC quid vis? cedo.
LAC eas ad mulieres huc intro atque istuc iusiurandum idem
755 pollicere illis. exple animum eis teque hoc crimine ex-
pedi.
BAC faciam quod pol, si esset alia ex hoc quaestu, haud face-
ret, scio,
ut de tali causa nuptae mulieri se ostenderet.
sed nolo esse falsa fama gnatum suspectum tuom,
nec leviozem vobis, quibus est minime aequom, eum
viderier

⁷⁴⁶ firmiorem *edd.*, firmiorem amicū Σ, amicū firmiorem A

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 profes-
sion would do: face up to a married woman for such a
purpose. But I don't want your son to come under suspi-
cion 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.

- 760 immerito. nam meritis de mest quod queam illi ut com-
modem.
- LAC facilem benivolumque lingua tua iam tibi me reddidit.
nam non sunt solae arbitratae haec: ego quoque etiam
credidi.
nunc quam ego te esse praeter nostram opinionem com-
peri,
fac eadem ut sis porro. nostra utere amicitia ut voles.
765 aliter si facies—reprimam me ne aegre quicquam ex me
audias.
verum hoc moneo unum: qualis sim amicus aut quid pos-
siem
potius quam inimicus, periculum facias.
- V. II: PHIDIPPUS. BACCHIS. LACHES.
- PHI nil apud me tibi
defieri patiar, quin quod opus sit benigne praebeatur.
- sed quom tu satura atque ebria eris, puer ut satur sit faci-
to.
- 770 LAC noster socer, video, venit. puero nutricem adducit.
Phidippe, Bacchis deierat persancte—
- PHI haecin east?
LAC haec est.
PHI nec pol istae metuont deos neque eas respicere deos opi-
nor.
BAC ancillas dedo: quolubet cruciatu per me exquire.
775 haec res hic agitur. Pamphilo me facere ut redeat uxor
oportet. quod si perficio non paenitet me famae,

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

- 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 be-
lieved 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 any-
thing 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 PHIDIPPUS 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 Phidippus' house)
- LAC (to himself) I see our father-in-law's back. He's bringing a
nurse for the baby. (to Phidippus) Phidippus, 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

- solam fecisse id quod aliae meretrices facere fugitant.
 LAC Phidippe, nostras mulieres suspectas fuisse falso
 nobis in re ipsa invenimus. porro hanc nunc experiamur.
 nam si compererit crimini tua se uxor credidisse,
 780 missam iram faciet. sin autemst ob eam rem iratus gna-
 tus,
 quod peperit uxor clam, id levest. cito ab eo haec ira
 abscedet.
 profecto in hac re nil malist quod sit discidio dignum.
 PHI velim quidem hercle.
 LAC exquire: adest. quod satis sit faciet ipsa.
 PHI quid mihi istaec narras? an quia non tute ipse dudum
 audisti
 785 de hac re animus meus ut sit, Laches? illis modo explete
 animum.
 LAC quaeso edepol, Bacchis, quod mihi's pollicita tute ut ser-
 ves.
 BAC ob eam rem vin ergo intro eam?
 LAC i atque exple animum eis; coge ut credant.
 BAC eo, etsi 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 adveneris rescis-
 cent.
 792 nam illas errore et te simul suspicione exsolves.

⁷⁷⁹ credidisse *D¹p Don.*, falso credidisse *codd. pl.*, se credidisse *A*

⁷⁹¹ PH. at easdem amicas fore tibi promitto rem ubi cognorint *codd. pl.*, *versum omittit A*, post 783 habent *Dp*

- 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
 accusation, 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?³⁴ 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 his mistress.
 LAC But they'll become your friends, once they find out why
 you've come.³⁵ You'll have saved them from error and
 yourself from suspicion.

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

³⁵ The Calliopian MS (Σ) preserve an extra line here (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.

BAC perii! pudet Philumena. me sequimini huc intro ambae.
 LAC quid est quod mihi malim quam quod huic intellego evenire,

795 ut gratiam ineat sine suo dispendio et mihi prosit?
 nam sist ut haec nunc Pamphilum vere ab se segregarit,
 scit sibi nobilitatem ex eo et rem natam et gloriam esse.
 referet gratiam ei unaque nos sibi opera amicos iunget.

V. III: PARMENO. BACCHIS.

PAR edepol ne meam erus esse operam deputat parvi preti,
 800 qui ob rem nullam misit frustra ubi totum desedi diem,
 Myconium hospitem dum exspecto in arce Callidemidem.

itaque ineptus hodie dum illi sedeo, ut quisque venerat,
 accedebam: "adulescens, dic dum, quaeso, mi, es tu Myconius?"

"non sum." "at Callidemides?" "non." "hospitem ecquem Pamphilum

805 hic habes?" omnes negabant, neque eum quemquam esse arbitror.

denique hercle iam pudebat: abii. sed quid Bacchidem ab nostro affine exeuntem video? quid huic hic est rei?
 BAC Parmeno, opportune te offers. propere curre ad Pamphilum.

PAR quid eo?

BAC dic me orare ut veniat.

BAC (to herself) Damnation! I'm embarrassed to face Philumena. (pulling herself together) You two, follow me inside. (she exits into Phidippus' 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 gratitude 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 anyone 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 person exists. In the end, for god's sake, I got embarrassed and left. (seeing Bacchis emerging from Phidippus' 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 Pamphilus, 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 aliud dicam?
BAC etiam: cognosse anulum illum Myrrinam
gnatae suae fuisse quem ipsus olim mi dederat.
- PAR scio.
tantumnest?
BAC tantum. aderit continuo hoc ubi ex te audiverit.
sed cessas?
PAR minime equidem. nam hodie mihi potestas non datast.
815 ita cursando atque ambulando totum hunc contrivi diem.
- BAC quantam obtuli adventu meo laetitiam Pamphilo hodie!
quot commodas res attuli! quot autem ademi curas!
gnatum ei restituo, qui paene harum ipsiusque opera
periit;
uxorem, quam numquamst ratus posthac se habiturum,
reddo.
- 820 qua re suspectus suo patri et Phidippo fuit, exsolvi.
hic adeo his rebus anulus fuit initium inveniundis.
nam memini abhinc mensis decem fere ad me nocte
prima
confugere anhelantem domum sine comite, vini plenum,
cum hoc anulo. extimui ilico. "mi Pamphile," inquam
"amabo,
825 quid exanimatus, obsecro? aut unde anulum istum nactus?
dic mi." ille alias res agere se simulare. postquam id
video,

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

- PAR To you?
BAC No, to Philumena.
PAR What's this about?
BAC (*rudely*) 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. (*Parmeno lingers*) 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 Phidippus 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 ago³⁶ he came rushing to my house as night
fell, out of breath, all by himself,³⁷ the 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 accompanied by a slave.

- nescioquid suspicari magis coepi, instare ut dicat.
homo se fatetur vi in via nescioquam compressisse,
830 dicitque sese illi anulum, dum luctat, detraxisse.
eum haec cognovit Myrrina in digito modo me habentem.
rogat unde sit. narro omnia haec. inde est cognitio facta
Philumenam compressam esse ab eo et filium inde hunc
natum.
haec tot propter me gaudia illi contigisse laetor,
etsi hoc meretrices aliae nolunt. neque enim in rem
nostram
835 ut quisquam amator nuptiis laetetur. verum ecastor
numquam animum quaesti gratia ad malas adducam partem.
ego dum illo licitumst usa sum benigno et lepido et comi.
incommodum mihi nuptiis evenit, factum fateor.
at pol me fecisse arbitror ne id merito mi eveniret.
840 multa ex quo fuerint commoda, eius incommoda aequomst ferre.

V. III: PAMPHILUS. PARMENO. BACCHIS.

- PAM vide, mi Parmeno, etiam sodes ut mi haec certa et clara
attuleris.
ne me in breve conicias tempus gaudio hoc falso frui.
visumst.
PAR certe?
PAR certe.
PAM deus sum si hoc itast.
PAR verum reperies.

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

I saw that, my suspicions increased and I insisted on an answer. The fellow admitted he'd raped some girl in the street, and said he'd snatched the ring off her in the struggle. Well, just now Myrrina here recognised the ring, which I was wearing on my finger. She asked where I had got it, and I told her the whole story. That's how it came out that it was Philumena who had been raped by him and it is his son who has now been born. I am delighted to have been the cause of so much joy for him, though this is not how other women of my sort feel. It's not in our interest for any lover to be happily married. But I swear I'll never bring myself to behave meanly for the sake of my profession. While circumstances allowed us to be together, I found him kind, charming, and generous. His marriage was a blow to me, I have to admit. But, heavens, I don't think I did anything to deserve it. When you've had so many good times from a man, it's only right to put up with the bad ones.

Enter PAMPHILUS left with PARMENO.

- PAM My dear Parmeno, make sure once more, if you will, that what you're telling me is clear and definite, and that you're not condemning me to momentary enjoyment of a spurious happiness.
PAR I have made sure.
PAM Absolutely?
PAR Absolutely.
PAM I'm a god, if this is right.
PAR You'll find it's true.

TERENCE

- PAM manedum sodes. timeo ne aliud credam atque aliud nunties.
 845 PAR maneo.
 PAM sic te dixi 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 fortunatior venustisque adeo plenior? egon pro hoc te nuntio qui donem? qui? qui? nescio.
 850 PAR at ego scio.
 PAM quid?
 PAR nihilo enim.
 nam neque in nuntio neque in me ipso tibi boni quid sit scio.
 PAM egon qui ab Orco mortuorum me reducem in lucem feceris sinam sine munere a me abire? ah, nimium me ignavom putas.
 sed Bacchidem eccam video stare ante ostium.
 855 me expectat, credo. adibo.
 BAC salve, Pamphile.
 PAM o Bacchis, o mea Bacchis, servatrix mea!
 BAC bene factum et volup est.
 PAM factis ut credam facis, antiquamque adeo tuam venustatem obtines

845 dixi Bentley edd. pl., dixisse (= iamb. oct.) codd. Don.

853 ignavom A, ingratus Σ

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 keeps 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-

- ut voluptati obitus, sermo, adventus tuos, quoquomque
adveneris,
860 semper siet.
BAC at tu ecaster morem antiquom atque ingenium obtines,
ut unus hominum homo te vivat numquam quisquam
blandior.
PAM hahaha! tun mihi istuc?
BAC recte amasti, Pamphile, uxorem tuam.
nam numquam ante hunc diem meis oculis eam quod
nossem videram.
perliberalis visast.
PAM dic verum.
BAC ita me di ament, Pamphile.
865 PAM dic mi, harum rerum numquid dixi iam patri?
BAC nil.
PAM neque opus est.
adeo muttito. placet non fieri hic itidem ut in comoediis
omnia omnes ubi resciscunt, hic quos par fuerat rescis-
cere
sciunt. quos non autem aequomst scire neque resciscent
neque scient.
- BAC immo etiam qui hoc occultari facilius credas dabo.
870 Myrrina ita Phidippo dixit iureiurando meo
se fidem habuisse et propterea te sibi purgatum.
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.

- ways be a delight to meet you, talk with you, have a visit
from you, wherever it may be.
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
yours.
PAM Hahaha! Are *you* saying that to *me*?
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.
PAM Tell me, have you told my father³⁸ 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
know.
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.

³⁸ Or "her father"; the Latin is not specific.

TERENCE

- PAR tamen suspicor:
875 ego hunc ab Orco mortuom? 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 praetereat quod facto usu'
sit?
PAM sequere me intro, Parmeno.
PAR sequor. equidem plus hodie boni
880 feci imprudens quam sciens ante hunc diem umquam.
Ω plaudite!

⁸⁷⁷ an... sit *Parmenoni dant codd. pl. Don., Pamphilo Ap^l, Bacchidi*
Don. in comm.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

- PAR Well, I have my suspicions. (*musings 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 to-
day unwittingly than I've ever done on purpose before.
ALL (*to the audience*) Give us your applause.³⁹

³⁹ See *Phormio* note 74.