

CAPTIVI,
OR
THE CAPTIVES

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Captiui* was praised by Lessing as one of the finest plays ever put on the stage. Dousa, the great Dutch scholar, said that whenever he opened the *Captiui*, he himself became a captive of the play. The driving force behind the action is not passionate love as in other comedies, but the touching devotion of a slave, Tyndarus, to his master, Philocrates.

Philocrates is a young man from Elis. The Eleans are at war with the Aetolians, and Philocrates and Tyndarus have been taken prisoners. They are sold to an old Aetolian called Hegio.

Hegio has already bought a number of Elean captives, but not in order to make money as a slave-dealer. His aim is a noble one: his son Philopolemus was taken prisoner by the Eleans, and Hegio is trying to exchange one of his captives for his son.

Philopolemus is not Hegio's only child. We learn that he had a second son. When this second son was four years old, he was kidnapped by Hegio's own slave Stalagmus, and both slave and son disappeared for good. Hegio has long since given up all hope of ever finding his kidnapped son again. But he is all the keener to retrieve Philopolemus.

Hegio has found out that Philocrates belongs to a

wealthy family, and he hopes that he will be able to exchange Philopolemus for him. What he cannot know is that Philocrates and Tyndarus have exchanged their clothes; Philocrates pretends to be Tyndarus, and Tyndarus pretends to be Philocrates. In this way they want to trick Hegio and set Philocrates free. They manage to persuade Hegio to send Philocrates, whom he believes to be the slave, to Elis to bring back Philopolemus. Meanwhile, Tyndarus is to stay at Hegio's place.

The scheme does not work for long. Aristophontes, another of Hegio's captives, is at Hegio's brother's place. When he hears that Philocrates is also a prisoner, he asks if he can speak to him and is brought to Tyndarus. Aristophontes, who does not know about the captives' trick, reveals the truth to Hegio, who is deeply upset at having lost a captive who would have been invaluable for getting his son back. Tyndarus gets punished very severely. He will have to do the hardest kind of slave labor until he dies. Nevertheless, he remains defiant and does not regret saving his master.

But Philocrates returns soon and brings with him not only Philopolemus but also Stalagmus, Hegio's slave. Hegio is sorry for punishing Tyndarus so hard. He questions Stalagmus about his other son's fate and finds out that Stalagmus sold this other son to Philocrates' family. Tyndarus turns out to be Hegio's other son. Both sons are restored to Hegio, and Stalagmus gets the punishment he deserves.

Since the *Captiui* is such an unusual comedy, it would be interesting to know something about the Greek original. Plautus mentions neither the name of the original play nor its author, and other potential sources of information

such as papyrus finds or comments in later literature are equally unhelpful in this respect; we do know that a certain Posidippus wrote a play of the same name, but in the absence of more detailed information, it is impossible to draw any conclusions. At least we have some indications as to when Plautus' play was first performed. In l. 90, Ergasilus speaks of going to the *Porta Trigemina* to earn money, presumably as a porter. A market at this place existed as early as 193. The other pieces of evidence are less clear-cut, but perhaps convincing when considered in their entirety rather than one by one. In l. 888, there is a pun on *boia*, a forked stick used to punish slaves, and the Celtic Boii. The Boii were finally defeated in the battle of Mutina in 193, and when Scipio Nasica held a triumph in 191, he presumably had Boii in his train. The *Captiui* is likely to have been staged after this event. Can we be more precise? In l. 162 there is a pun on soldiers from Placentia in Etruria. This need not be a topical reference, but if it is, it may refer to the resettlement of the town in 190 at Scipio Nasica's command (Placentia was attacked by the Boii in 200). Similarly, the pun on naval troops in l. 164 might refer to Regillus' naval triumph in 189. It is possible that Tyndarus is punished by being sent to the quarry, because this is what happened to the Aetolian leaders in 190 (Livy 37. 3, 8). Rome defeated the Aetolians in 189, and that may well be the year when *The Captives* were first performed; a positive portrayal of Aetolians while they were still fighting with Rome is unlikely.

For the text of the *Captiui* we by and large have to rely on the Palatine manuscripts. The Ambrosian palimpsest has only preserved traces of this play.

PLAUTUS

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CAPTIVI

ARGVMENTVM

Captust in pugna Hegionis filius;
Alium quadrum fugiens seruos uendidit.
Pater captiuos commercatur Aleos,
Tantum studens ut natum <captum> recuperet;
5 Et inibi emit olim amissum filium.
Is suo cum domino ueste uersa ac nomine
Vt amittatur fecit; ipsus plectitur;
Et is reduxit captum, et fugitiuom simul,
Indicio cuius alium agnoscit filium.

arg. 4 captum add. Bothe
arg. 5 inibi P, in ibus Gulielmus

THE CAPTIVES

PLOT SUMMARY

Hegio's son was taken prisoner in battle. A runaway slave sold his other son when he was four years old. The father bought Elean captives, being very keen on recovering the son who was taken prisoner. And among them he bought the son he had lost long ago. This one exchanged clothes and names with his master and brought it about that the master was sent off. He himself was punished. And the master brought back the captive son and the runaway slave together. With information provided by this slave, Hegio recognizes his other son.

5

PLAUTUS

PERSONAE

ERGASILVS parasitus

HEGIO senex

LORARIVS

TYNDARVS seruos captiuos

PHILOCRATES adulescens captiuos

ARISTOPHONTES adulescens

PVER

PHILOPOLEMVS adulescens

STALAGMVS seruos

SCAENA

in Aetolia

THE CAPTIVES

CHARACTERS

ERGASILUS a hanger-on; Philopolemus' friend

HEGIO an old man; a very dignified Aetolian

SLAVE-OVERSEER works for Hegio

TYNDARUS a slave, prisoner of war; serves Philocrates, but
turns out to be Hegio's son

PHILOCRATES a young prisoner of war; from Elis

ARISTOPHONTES a young man; Philocrates' friend from
Elis

SLAVE-BOY works in the kitchen

PHILOPOLEMUS a young man; Hegio's other son, prisoner
of war in Elis

STALAGMUS a slave; of bad character

STAGING

We are in a city in Aetolia. The stage represents a street in it. On the street there is Hegio's house. To the left, the street leads to the harbor; to the right, to the city center. The house of Hegio's brother is off-stage, in the direction of the city center.

PROLOGVS

hos quos uidetis stare hic captiuos duos,
 illi quia astant, hi stant ambo, non sedent;
 hoc uos mihi testes estis me uerum loqui.
 4 senex qui hic habitat Hegio est huius pater.
 21 hic nunc domi seruit suo patri, nec scit pater;
 22 enim uero di nos quasi pilas homines habent.
 5 sed is quo pacto seruat suo sibi patri,
 id ego hic apud uos proloquar, si operam datis.
 seni huic fuerunt filii nati duo;
 alterum quadrum puerum seruos surpuit
 eumque hinc profugiens uendidit in Alide
 10 patri huiusce <hominis>. iam hoc tenetis? optume est.
 negat hercle illuc ultimus. accedito.
 si non ubi sedeas locus est, est ubi ambules,
 quando histriōnem cogis mendicarier.
 ego me tua causa, ne erres, non rupturus sum.
 15 uos qui potestis ope nostra censerier
 accipite reliquon: alieno uti nil moror.
 fugitiuos ille, ut dixeram ante, huius patri

2 illi qui astant *BD*, illi qui stant *VEJ*, illi quia astant *Lindsay*

21, 22 *hic posuit Niemeyer*

10 patri huiusce <hominis> *Lindsay in apparatu*

¹ The censors classified and registered citizens according to their property. Those who had enough to pay taxes were on the censor's list and were called *assidui* (permanent residents), a word connected with

PROLOGUE

Tyndarus and Philocrates are standing in front of Hegio's house, chained together. Enter the SPEAKER OF THE PROLOGUE.

Those two prisoners you can see standing here, they're both standing, not sitting, because the people back there are standing (*points to some spectators standing at the back*). You're my witnesses that I'm speaking the truth. The old man who lives here, Hegio, is this one's (*points to Tyndarus*) father. Now this chap (*points to Tyndarus*) is his own father's slave at home, and his father doesn't know it. Yes, the gods really treat us humans like footballs. But how it happened that he's his own father's slave, that I'll tell you here, if you give me your attention. This 4 old man had two sons. A slave snatched one of them when he was a four-year-old boy, and on his flight from here he sold him in Elis to the father of this man (*points to Philocrates*). Do you get it now? Excellent. (*looks around*) That one at the very back says no. Step forward. (*a spectator comes to the stage*) If there's no room for you to sit, there's room for you to walk (*points to the exit*), since you force an actor to turn beggar. Don't be fooled, I'm not going to crack my lungs for your sake. (*to the rest of the audience*) You who have enough property to be on the censor's 11 list,¹ receive the instalment that's still due; I don't much like to be in debt. As I said before, that runaway slave sold his master (*points to Tyndarus*) to the father of this chap here (*points to*

sedere (sit), hence the jocular contrast between the man who cannot sit and those who are on the censor's list.

domo quem profugiens dominum apostulerat uendidit.
 is postquam hunc emit, dedit eum huic gnato suo
 20 peculiarem, quia quasi una aetas erat.
 23 rationem habetis, quo modo unum amiserit.
 postquam belligerant Aetoli cum Aleis,
 25 ut fit in bello, capitur alter filius.
 medicus Menarchus emit ibidem in Alide.
 coepit captiuos commercari hic Aleos,
 si quem reperiire posset qui mutet suom,
 illum captiuom: hunc suom esse nescit qui domi est.
 30 et quoniam heri inaudiuit de summo loco
 summoque genere captum esse equitem Aleum,
 nil pretio parsit, filio dum parceret:
 reconciliare ut facilius posset domum,
 emit hosc' de praeda ambos de quaestoribus.
 35 hisce autem inter sese hunc confinxerunt dolum,
 quo pacto hic seruos suom erum hinc amittat domum.
 itaque inter se commutant uestem et nomina;
 illuc uocatur Philocrates, hic Tyndarus:
 huius illic, hic illius hodie fert imaginem.
 40 et hic hodie expediet hanc docte fallaciam,
 et suom erum faciet libertatis compotem,
 eodemque pacto fratrem seruabit suom
 reducemque faciet liberum in patriam ad patrem
 imprudens: itidem ut saepe iam in multis locis
 45 plus insciens quis fecit quam prudens boni.
 sed inscientes sua sibi fallacia
 ita compararunt et confinxerunt dolum
 itaque hi commenti de sua sententia
 ut in seruitute hic ad suom maneat patrem:

34 hosce e Studemund dubitanter

Philocrates), the master he'd snatched when he was running away from home. After this man bought him, he gave him to his son here (*points to Philocrates*) as his own because their age was roughly the same. Well, you understand how he lost one son. Now that the Aetolians are fighting with the Eleans, his other son's taken prisoner, as so happens in a war. A doctor, Menarchus, bought him in the same place, in Elis. This man here began to buy Elean prisoners of war in the hope of finding someone he could exchange his son for, I mean the prisoner; he doesn't know that this chap here at home (*points to Tyndarus*) is his son as well. And since he heard yesterday that an Elean knight of the highest rank and the highest family connections had been taken prisoner, he didn't spare his wallet so long as he could spare his son. In order to be able to get him back home more easily, he bought these two from among the spoils from the quaestors.² But they've come up with a scheme among themselves how this slave here (*points to Tyndarus*) can send his master home. So they interchange clothes and names among each other. That one (*points to Tyndarus*) calls himself Philocrates, this one (*points to Philocrates*) Tyndarus. That one's posing as this one and this one as that one today. And this chap here (*points to Tyndarus*) will carry out this trick brilliantly today; he'll set his master free and by the same stroke he will, unknowingly, save his brother and let him return home to his father as a free man: just as often before in many places a person's done more good unknowingly than knowingly. But in their scheme they've unknowingly prepared, contrived, and devised their trick in such a way, all at their own suggestion, that this chap here (*points to Tyndarus*) is remaining in slavery at his father's.

² The quaestors were Roman officials whose main duties were money-related. They sold booty in auctions.

- 50 ita nunc ignorans suo sibi seruit patri;
homunculi quanti sunt, quom recognoscit!
haec res agetur nobis, uobis fabula.
sed etiam est paucis uos quod monitos uoluerim.
prefecto expediet fabulae huic operam dare:
55 non pertractate facta est neque item ut ceterae:
nec spurcidici insunt uorsus immemorables;
hic nec periurus leno est nec meretrix mala
nec miles glorirosus; ne uereamini
quia bellum Aetolis esse dixi cum Aleis:
60 foris illic extra scaenam fient proelia.
nam hoc paene iniquum est, comicò choragio
conari desubito agere nos tragediam.
proin si quis pugnam exspectat, litis contrahat:
ualentiorum nactus aduersarium
65 si erit, ego faciam ut pugnam inspectet non bonam,
adeo ut spectare postea omnis oderit.
abeo. ualete, iudices iustissimi
domi duellique duellatores optumi.

ACTVS I

I. i: ERGASILVS

- ERG iuuentus nomen indidit "Scorto" mihi,
70 eo quia inuocatus soleo esse in conuiuio.
scio apsurde dictum hoc derisores dicere,
at ego aio recte. nam scortum in conuiuio
sibi amator, talos quom iacit, scortum inuocat.
estne inuocatum <scortum> an non[?] planissime;
75 uerum hercle uero nos parasiti planius,

60 illuc P, illi Lindsay

74 scortum add. Bentley

So now he's his own father's slave and doesn't know him. Of 50 what little importance humans are when I think about it! For us this will be fact, for you it will be fiction. But there's still something else I'd like to point out to you briefly. It'll definitely be worth paying attention to this play: it hasn't been composed in the hackneyed fashion or the same way as the others; there are no dirty lines in it that are unfit to be repeated. Here there's no pimp perjuring himself, no bad prostitute, no boastful soldier. Don't be afraid because I said that the Aetolians are at war with the Eleans: the battles will take place out there, off-stage. Well, 60 it would almost be unfair if we were suddenly to try staging a tragedy with our comedy get-up. So if anyone's looking for a battle scene, he'd better pick some quarrels. If he picks on a stronger opponent, I bet he'll watch such an unpleasant battle scene that he'll hate watching all of them afterwards. Now I 66 leave the stage. Farewell, most just of judges at home and best of warriors in war.

Exit the SPEAKER OF THE PROLOGUE off the stage; exeunt Tyndarus and Philocrates into the house.

ACT ONE

Enter ERGASILUS from the right.

- ERG The young people have given me the name "The Prostitute" because people shout out when I'm at a banquet. I 70 know the mockers say that's an absurd nickname, but I claim it has a point; well, when a lover throws the dice at a banquet, he shouts out his prostitute's name. Is the prostitute's name shouted out or not? It clearly is. But when it comes to us hangers-on, people shout "out" even more 75

80

85

90

95

100

quos numquam quisquam nec uocat neque inuocat.
 quasi mures semper edimus alienum cibum;
 ubi res prolatae sunt, quom rus homines eunt,
 simul prolatae res sunt nostris dentibus.
 80
 quasi, quom caletur, cocleae in occulto latent,
 suo sibi succo uiuont, ros si non cadit,
 item parasiti rebus prolatis latent
 in occulto miseri, uictitant suco suo,
 dum ruri rurant homines quos liguriant.
 prolatis rebus parasiti uenatici
 [canes] sumus, quando res redierunt, Molossici
 odiosicique et multum incommodestici.
 et hic quidem hercle, nisi qui colaphos perpeti
 potes parasitus frangique aulas in caput,
 uel ire extra Portam Trigeminam ad saccum licet.
 quod mihi ne eueniait nonnullum periculum est.
 nam postquam meus rex est potitus hostium—
 ita nunc belligerant Aetoli cum Aleis;
 nam Aetolia haec est, illi est captus [in] Alide
 Philopolemus, huius Hegionis filius
 senis qui hic habitat, quae aedes lamentariae
 mihi sunt, quas quotiensquomque conspicio fleo;
 nunc hic occipit quaestum hunc fili gratia
 dishonestum et maxume alienum ingenio suo:
 homines captiuos commercatur, si queat
 aliquem inuenire, suom qui mutet filium.
 quod quidem ego nimis quam cupio <et opto> ut impe-
 tret;

86 canes del. *Pylades*, ante Molossici posuit Niemeyer

89 potes P, potes<t> Brix 94 illuc P, illi Lindsay in del. Brix

102 cupio <et opto> ut Niemeyer

clearly; no one ever calls on us or calls out our names. Like mice we're constantly eating other people's food. When it's vacation and people go to the countryside, it's also vacation for our teeth. Just as snails hide in a secret place when it's hot and live on their own juice if no dew falls, hangers-on hide in a secret place during vacation, poor devils, and live on their own juice while the people they sponge on live a country life in the countryside. During vacation we hangers-on are hunting dogs;³ after vacation we are Molossian dogs,⁴ Molestan dogs, and veritable Labra-bores. And here at any rate, unless as a hanger-on you can bear blows, and pots being broken on your head, you can just as well go outside the Three-Arch Gate⁵ to carry a porter's bag. There's quite some danger that this will happen to me. Well, after my patron fell into the enemy's hands—you see, the Aetolians are at war with the Eleans now; this is Aetolia, and Philopolemus was taken prisoner there, in Elis; he's the son of Hegio, the old man living here, whose house makes me lament —every time I see it I have to cry. Now for his son's sake he began this degrading business here, which is completely out of keeping with his character: he's buying prisoners in the hope of finding someone he could exchange his son for. I really wish and desire very much that

³ I.e., thin as greyhounds and hunting for meals.⁴ A famous breed of dog, similar to modern mastiffs, strongly built.⁵ The *Porta Trigemina* was between the Aventine Mount and the river; the road through the gate led to Ostia.

PLAUTUS

105

nam ni illum recipit, nihil est quo me recipiam.
 n_{eque} ulla est spes iuuentutis, sese omnes amant;
 ill' demum antiquis est adulescens moribus,
 quoius numquam uolunt tranquillauit gratis.
 condigne pater est eius moratus moribus.
 nunc ad eum pergam. sed aperitur ostium,
 und' saturitate saepe ego exii ebrius.

110

HEG. LORARIVS. ERGASILVS

aduorte animum sis: tu istos captiuos duos,
 heri quos emi de praeda de quaestoribus,
 is indito catenas singularias
 istas, maiores, quibus sunt iuncti, demito;
 sinito ambulare, si foris, si intus uolent,
 sed uti asseruentur magna diligentia.
 liber captiuos ausi ferae consimilis est:
 semel fugiendi si data est occasio,
 satis est, numquam postilla possis prendere.

115

LOR omnes profecto liberi lubentius
 sumus quam seruimus.

120

HEG non uidere ita tu quidem.
 LOR si non est quod dem, mene uis dem ipse . . . in pedes?
 HEG si dederis, erit extemplo mihi quod dem tibi.
 LOR ausi me ferae consimilem faciam, ut praedicas.
 HEG ita ut dicis: nam si faxis, te in caueam dabo.
 sed satis uerborum est. cura quae iussi atque abi.

125

104 nulla *P*, nec ulla *Brix*, non ulla *Lindsay in apparatus*
 111 a quaestoribus *Fleckeisen*

THE CAPTIVES

105

he succeeds in it: if he doesn't get him back, there's nowhere for me to go. There's no hope in the young people, they all love only themselves. Only that young chap belongs to the old school: I've never lightened his countenance without some tangible reward. His father has the same good character. Now I'll call on him. (*moves toward the door, then stops*) But there opens the door I often came out of, tipsy from having filled myself so well. (*steps aside*)

Enter HEGIO from his house, followed by a SLAVE-OVERSEER.

110

HEG Pay attention, will you? Those two prisoners I bought from among the spoils from the quaestors yesterday, put one of these separate chains on each of them and take off the heavier ones they're bound with now. Let them walk around outside or inside if they wish, provided they're watched over very carefully. A free man taken prisoner is like a wild bird: once he's given a chance of escape, it's enough, you can never catch him afterwards.

115

OVER Well, we'd all rather be free than slaves.

120

HEG You at any rate don't seem to be like that.⁶

125

OVER If I don't have anything to give you, do you want me to give you . . . the slip?

HEG If you give me the slip, there will immediately be something I can give you.

130

OVER I'll be like a wild bird, just as you tell me.

135

HEG Just as you say: if you do so, I'll give you a cage to be in. But enough small talk. Do take care of what I ordered

125

⁶ He implies that the overseer did not save any money to buy his freedom.

PLAUTUS

ego ibo ad fratrem ad alios captiuos meos,
uisam ne nocte hac quippiam turbauerint.
ind' me continuo recipiam rursum domum.

130 ERG aegre est mi hunc facere quaestum carcerarium
 propter sui gnati miseriam miserum senem.
 sed si ullo pacto ille hic conciliari potest,
 uel carnuficinam hunc facere possum perpeti.
 quis hic loquitur?

HEG ego, qui tuo maerore maceror,
 macesco, consenesco et tabesco miser;
 ossa atque pellis sum misera . . . macritudine;
 neque umquam quicquam me iuuat quod edo domi:
 foris aliquantillum etiam quod gusto id beat.

135 HEG Ergasile, salue.

ERG di te bene ament, Hegio.

HEG ne fle.

140 ERG egone illum non fleam? egon non defleam
 talem adulescentem?

HEG semper sensi filio
 meo te esse amicum et illum intellexi tibi.

ERG tum denique homines nostra intellegimus bona,
 quom quae in potestate habuimus ea amisimus.
 ego, postquam gnatus tuos potitust hostium,
 expertus quanti fuerit nunc desidero.

145 HEG alienus quom eius incommodum tam aegre feras,
 quid me patrem par facere est, quoi ille est unicus?

THE CAPTIVES

and go away. I'll go to my brother's to my other prisoners.
I'll check that they didn't create any trouble last night.
From there I'll return home immediately.

Exit the SLAVE-OVERSEER into Hegio's house; ERGASILUS approaches, but is not yet fully visible.

129 ERG (*loudly enough for Hegio to hear*) I'm sad that this unfortunate old man has to do prison business because of his son's unfortunate circumstances. (*aside*) But if the son can be got back here in any way, I could even bear it if the father were doing executions.

HEG (*looking around*) Who's speaking here?

135 ERG (*comes to Hegio and starts crying*) I, a wretched man who is growing weary, thin, old, and weak because of my grief for you. (*aside*) I'm skin and bones from miserable . . . thinness. (*to Hegio*) And nothing I eat at home ever pleases me. (*aside*) But the tiniest morsel I taste outside makes me happy.

HEG Hello, Ergasilus.

ERG May the gods love you dearly, Hegio.

HEG Stop crying.

140 ERG Should I not cry for him? Should I not weep without restraint for such a man?

HEG I always felt that you were close to my son and I saw that he was close to you.

ERG Only when we've lost what we once had in our power do we understand our blessings. After your son fell into the enemy's hands I realized how much he meant to me and now I long for his return.

145 HEG Since you as an outsider find it so hard to bear his misfortune, what must I as his father do, for whom he is the only son?

135 miser (miseri B¹) amacritudine *P*, miser macritudine *Nonius*

PLAUTUS

- 150 ERG alienus? ego alienus illi? aha, Hegio,
numquam istuc dixis neque animum induxis tuom;
tibi ille unicust, mi etiam unico magis unicus.
HEG laudo, malum quom amici tuom ducis malum.
nunc habe bonum animum.
- ERG eheu, huic illud dolet,
quia nunc remissus est edendi exercitus.
HEG nullumne interea nactu's, qui posset tibi
remissum quem dixti imperare exercitum?
- 155 ERG quid credis? fugitant omnes hanc prouinciam,
quoi optigerat postquam captust Philopolemus tuos.
HEG non pol mirandum est fugitare hanc prouinciam.
multis et multigeneribus opus est tibi
militibus: primundum opus est Pistorensibus;
eorum sunt aliquot genera Pistorensium:
opus Panicis est, opus Placentini quoque;
opus Turdetanis, opus Ficedulensibus;
iam maritumi omnes milites opus sunt tibi.
- 160 ERG ut saepe summa ingenia in occulto latent!
hic qualis imperator nunc priuatus est.
HEG habe modo bonum animum, nam illum confido domum
in his diebus me reconciliassere.
nam eccum hic captiuom adulescentem Aleum,
prognatum genere summo et summis ditiis:
hoc illum me mutare—
- 165 ERG 169 eccum <intus> Redslab

⁷ *Pistorenses* = inhabitants of Pistorium, pun on *pistor* (miller/baker); *Panici* = *Punici* (Phoenicians?), pun on *panis* (bread); *Placentini* = inhabitants of Placentia (modern Piacenza), pun on *placenta* (cake);

THE CAPTIVES

- 150 ERG Outsider? I an outsider to him? No, no, Hegio, never say that, and never believe that. To you he's the only one, but to me he's even more of an only one than an only one. (*starts crying again*)
HEG I praise you for considering a friend's misfortune to be your own misfortune. Now take heart.
ERG Oh, oh, oh, this one (*points to his stomach*) is in pain about the eating force having been dismissed now.
HEG Haven't you found anyone in the meantime who could mobilize the force for you again which you said has been dismissed?
ERG Would you believe it? All and sundry have been shying away from this task ever since your Philopolemus was captured, who it had been allotted to.
HEG Well, it's not strange that they've been shying away from this task. You need many soldiers of different kinds:⁷ first you need the ones from Bakerville. There are several types of soldiers from Bakerville: you need those from Breading and you also need those from the Cake District. You need soldiers from Thrushia and you need soldiers from Puerto Fico. Then you also need all the soldiers from the coast.
ERG How often the greatest talents lie hidden! So great a commander is a private citizen today.
HEG Do cheer up: I am confident that I shall get him back home in a few days. Look here (*points to his house*), there's a young prisoner from Elis, from a great family and with great wealth. Exchanging him for my son—

⁷ *Turdetani* = a Spanish tribe, pun on *turdus* (thrush); *Ficedulenses* = comic formation, pun on *ficedula* (beccafico, a bird considered a delicacy).

PLAUTUS

<ERG> confido fore.
 [ERG] ita di deaque faxint. sed num quo foras
 uocatus <es> ad cenam?
 HEG nusquam, quod sciām.
 sed quid tu id quaeris?
 ERG quia mi est natalis dies;
 propterea <a> te uocari ad te ad cenam uolo.
 HEG facete dictum! sed si pauxillo potes
 contentus esse.
 ERG ne perpauxillum modo,
 nam istoc me assiduo uictu delecto domi;
 age sis, roga emptum: "nisi qui meliorem afferet
 180 quaē mi atque amicis placeat condicio magis,"
 quasi fundum uendam, meis me addicam legibus.
 HEG profundum uendis tu quidem, hau fundum, mihi.
 sed si uenturu's, temperi.
 ERG em, uel iam otium est.
 HEG i modo, uenare leporem: nunc erim tenes;
 185 nam meus scruposam uictus commetat uiam.
 ERG numquam istoc uinces me, Hegio, ne postules:
 cum calceatis dentibus ueniam tamen.
 HEG asper meus uictus sane est.
 ERG sentisne essitas?
 HEG terrestris cena est.
 ERG sus terrestris bestia est.
 190 HEG multis holeribus.
 ERG curato aegrotos domi.
 numquid uis?
 HEG uenias temperi.

171–2 partes sic distribuit Lindsay 173 es add. s
 175 a add. Schoell 176 pauxillum P, pauxillo Lambinus

THE CAPTIVES

ERG (*interrupting*) I trust it's going to work out. May the gods and goddesses bring it about. (*after a pause*) But have you been asked out for dinner anywhere?
 HEG (*cautiously*) No, nowhere as far as I know. But why do you ask?
 ERG Because it's my birthday. That's why I want to be invited by you to a dinner at your place.⁸ 175
 HEG Wittly said! But only if you can be content with little. So long as it's not too little: with that kind of meal I constantly entertain myself at home. Go on, will you; demand to buy:⁹ (*very formally*) "It's settled unless anyone offers a better deal, which I and my associates like more." As if I were selling a plot by auction, I'll award myself to you, on my own terms. 181
 HEG You're not selling mé your plot, but your plight. But if you're going to come, come early. 195
 ERG There you go, I'm free even now.
 HEG No, do go and hunt for the hare: at present you have the hedgehog; my food comes and goes on a stony path. 185
 ERG You'll never get the better of me that way, Hegio, don't expect to do so: I'll still come, with shoes on my teeth.
 HEG My food is very rough. 200
 ERG Do you eat briars?
 HEG It's a dinner that grows on the ground.
 ERG The pig's an animal that grows on the ground.
 HEG With many vegetables. 190
 ERG Then look after the sick at home. (*turning to go*) Is there anything you want?
 HEG Come early. 205

8 Under normal circumstances Ergasilus would have to invite Hegio to the birthday dinner. 9 Parody of an auction.

PLAUTUS

ERG memorem mones.
 HEG ibo intro atque intus subducam ratiunculam,
 quantillum argenti mi apud tarpezitam siet.
 ad fratrem, quo ire dixeram, mox iuero.

ACTVS II

II. i: LORARI. TYNDARVS. PHILOCRAVES

195 LOR si di immortales id uoluerunt, uos hanc aerumnam exse-
 qui,
 decet id pati animo aequo: si id facietis, leuior labos erit.
 domi fuitis, credo, liberi:
 nunc seruitus si euenit, ei uos morigerari mos bonust
 et erili imperio eamque ingenii usotris lenem reddere.
 200 indigna digna habenda sunt, erus quae facit.
 200^a TYN + PHILOC oh! oh! oh!
 LOR eiulatione haud opus est, [multa] oculis aciem minuitis;
 in re mala animo si bono utare, adiuuat.
 TYN at nos pudet, quia cum catenis sumus.
 LOR at pigeat postea
 nostrum erum, si uos eximat uinculis,
 205 aut solutos sinat quos argento emerit.
 206 TYN quid a nobis metuit? scimus nos
 206^a nostrum officium quod est, si solutos sinat.

201 multa oculis multa mira clitis P, [multa] oculis aciem minuitis
Niemeyer

204 uinculis P, uinclus *Lindsay* (*qui duo cola esse putat*)

THE CAPTIVES

ERG You're reminding someone who remembers.

Exit ERGASILUS to the right.

HEG I'll go in and reckon up my balance inside, how little
 money I have at the banker's. Soon I'll go to my brother,
 where I said I was going.

Exit HEGIO into his house.

ACT TWO

Enter two SLAVE-OVERSEERS from Hégio's house, followed
 by slaves and by PHILOCRAVES and TYNDARUS, who have
 exchanged clothes. They are in light fetters.

OVER (in a patronizing tone) If it is the will of the immortal 195
 gods that you should undergo this affliction, you ought to
 bear it patiently. If you do so, your burden will be lighter.
 I believe you were free at home; if slavery has now been
 inflicted on you, it's a good idea to comply with it and with
 your master's authority and to soften slavery through
 your attitude toward it. The wrongs a master does must 200
 be deemed right.

TYN + PHILOC No, no, no!

OVER There's no need for wailing; you're merely diminishing
 your eyes' sharpness. In a bad situation it helps to keep a
 stiff upper lip.

TYN But we're ashamed of being in chains.

OVER But our master would be annoyed later if he took the fet-
 ters off you, or if he let you loose, since he bought you for 205
 good money.

TYN (with indignation) What does he fear from us? We know
 what our duty is if he lets us loose.

PLAUTUS

LOR at fugam fingitis: sentio quam rem agitis.
 PHILOC nos fugiamus? quo fugiamus?
 LOR in patriam.
 PHILOC apage, hau nos id deceat,
 fugitiuos imitari.
 LOR immo edepol, si erit occasio, hau dehortor.
 210 TYN unum exorare uos sinite nos.
 LOR quidnam id est?
 TYN ut sine hisce arbitris
 atque uobis nobis detis locum loquendi.
 LOR fiat. apscedite hinc: nos concedamus huc.
 sed breuem orationem incipisse.
 215 TYN em istuc mihi certum erat. concede huc.
 215^a LOR abite ab istis.
 TYN obnoxii ambo
 uobis sumus propter hanc rem, quom quae uolumus nos
 copia est; ea facitis nos compotes.
 218- 19 PHILOC secede huc nunciam, si uidetur, procul,
 220 ne arbitri dicta nostra arbitrari queant
 neu permanet palam haec nostra fallacia.
 nam doli non doli sunt, ni astu colas,
 sed malum maximum, si id palam prouenit.
 nam si erus tu mi es atque ego me tuom esse seruom assi-
 mulo,
 225 tamen uiso opus est, cauto est opus, ut hoc sobrie sineque
 arbitris
 accurate [hoc] agatur, docte et diligenter;
 tanta incepta res est: hau somniculose hoc
 agendum est.

215^a abite P, ite Lindsay (qui credit 215 + 215a esse octonarium trochaicum) 217 ea *fide* Niemeyer

THE CAPTIVES

OVER But you're planning to flee: I can feel what you're up to.

PHILOC We should flee? Where should we flee?

OVER To your country.

PHILOC Nonsense, that wouldn't be appropriate for us, imitating runaway slaves.

OVER Oh no, I'm not discouraging you if there's a chance.

TYN Let us persuade you to do us one favor.

210

OVER What's that?

TYN Give us the opportunity to speak without being overheard by these people (*points to the slaves*) or by you.

OVER All right. (*to the slaves*) Go away from here. (*to the other overseer*) We should move here. (*to Tyndarus*) But don't start a long talk.

TYN Well, I hadn't planned it. (*to Philocrates*) Move over here.

OVER (*to the slaves*) Go away from them.

TYN (*to the overseers*) We're both obliged to you for this, since we have the opportunity to say what we want; you give it to us.

PHILOC (*to Tyndarus*) Now step aside here, far away, please, so that no witnesses can witness our words and this scheme of ours doesn't leak out into the public. (*they walk away*) Unless you manage it cleverly, trickery isn't trickery, but greatest torture, if it ceases to be secret; if you're my master and if I pretend to be your slave, still, we have to watch out, we have to be cautious that this is done soberly, without witnesses, and precisely, cleverly, and carefully. Such a great task's been begun: it mustn't be carried out in a dozy way.

220

225

222 ni P, ni<si> Lindsay

226 hoc del. Guyet

PLAUTUS

TYN ero ut me uoles esse.

PHILOC spero.

TYN nam tu nunc uides pro tuo caro capite
230 carum offerre <me> meum caput uilitati.

PHILOC scio.

TYN at scire memento, quando id quod uoles habebis;
nam fere maxuma pars morem hunc homines habent:
quod sibi uolunt,
dum id impetrant, boni sunt;
sed id ubi iam penes sese habent,
235 ex bonis pessumi et fraudulentissimi
fiunt.

PHILOC nunc ut mihi te uolo esse autumo.
quod tibi suadeam, suadeam meo patri.
pol ego si te audeam, meum patrem nominem:
nam secundum patrem tu es pater proximus.

240 TYN audio.
PHILOC et propterea saepius ted ut memineris moneo:
non ego erus tibi, sed seruos sum; nunc opsecro te hoc
unum—
quoniam nobis di immortales animum ostenderunt
suom,
ut qui erum me tibi fuisse atque ess' nunc conseruom ue-
lint,
quod antehac pro iure imperitabam meo, nunc te oro per
precem—

245 per fortunam incertam et per mei te erga bonitatem pa-
tris,
perqu' conseruitum commune, quod hostica euenit
manu,
ne me secus honore honestes quam quom seruibas mihi,
atque ut qui fueris et qui nunc sis meminisse ut memine-
ris.

THE CAPTIVES

TYN I will be as you want me to be.

PHILOC I hope so.

TYN Now you can see that for *your* dear life I'm holding *my* 229
own dear life cheap.

PHILOC I know.

TYN But remember to know when you have what you want:
most people have the habit of being good while they're
trying to achieve what they want for themselves, but of
235 turning from good to very bad and treacherous once they
have attained it.

PHILOC Now I'm telling you how I want you to be toward me.
What I'm advising you I'd advise my own father. Well, if I
had a choice I'd call *you* my father: next to my real father
you are the closest thing to a father I have.

240 TYN I'm attending to you.

PHILOC And that's why I remind you more often to remember:
I'm not your master, but your slave. Now I beg you for
this one thing—since the immortal gods have shown us
their will, namely that I've *been* your master and that I'm
now your fellow servant; what I used to order you to do
before, as was my right, I'm now asking you by way of
entreayt—by our uncertain fortune, by my father's good-
ness toward you, and by our shared slavery, which the
enemy's power has inflicted on us: don't honor me less
than when you were my slave and remember carefully
who you were and who you are now.

230 me add. Hermann

231 scire memento P, transp. Fleckeisen

244 quod P, quom Fleckeisen

PLAUTUS

TYN scio equidem me te esse nunc et te esse me.
 PHILOC em istuc si potes
 250 memoriter meminisse, inest spes nobis in hac astutia.

II. ii: HEGIO. PHILOCrates. TYNDARVS
 HEG iam ego reuortar intro, si ex his quae uolo exquisiuero,
 ubi sunt isti quos ante aedis iussi huc produci foras?
 PHILOC edepol tibi ne in quaestione essemus cautum intelle-
 go,
 ita uimclis custodiisque circummoeniti sumus.

255 HEG qui cauet ne decipiatur uix cauet quom etiam cauet;
 etiam quom cauisse ratus est saepe is cautor captus est,
 an uero non iusta causa est ut uos seruem sedulo,
 quos tam grandi sim mercatus praesenti pecunia?

PHILOC nec pol tibi nos, quia nos seruas, aequum est uitio uor-
 tere,

260 HEG nec te nobis, si abeamus hinc, si fuat occasio.
 HEG ut uos hic, itidem illic apud uos meus seruatur filius.

PHILOC captus est?

HEG ita.

PHILOC non igitur nos soli ignauit fuimus.

HEG secede huc. nam sunt quae <ego> ex te solo scitari uolo,
 quarum rerum te falsiloquom mi esse nolo.

PHILOC non ero
 265 quod sciām. si quid nescibo, id nescium tradam tibi.

263 quae ex te P, ego add. Fleckeisen, ex te quae Camerarius
 265 nesciui P, nescibo Acidalius

THE CAPTIVES

TYN I know that I am *you* now and that *you* are *me*.
 PHILOC Well then, if you can remember this carefully, there's
 hope for us in this scheme.

pter HEGIO from his house.

EG (loudly, to those inside) I'll come back in a moment if I
 find out from these men what I want. (to the overseers)
 Where are the ones I had brought out here in front of the
 house?

HILOC (approaching Hegio) Well, I can see that you took pre-
 cautions that we shouldn't require looking for: we're
 completely surrounded by fetters and guards.

255 EG He who takes precautions against being deceived is
 hardly cautious even when he *is* cautious; even when he
 thinks that he's been cautious such a cautious person has
 often been caught out. But don't I have good reason to
 guard you carefully, since I paid such a high price for you
 cash down?

HILOC It wouldn't be fair of us to blame you for guarding us;
 (cheekily) and it wouldn't be fair of you to blame us if we
 clear out from here if we get a chance.

260 EG My son's being held prisoner there at your place, just as
 you are here.

HILOC Has he been captured?

EG Yes.

HILOC So we were not the only cowards.

265 EG (leads him further away from Tyndarus) Step over here:
 there are things I'd like to ask you in private. I don't want
 you to lie to me about these issues.

HILOC I won't lie about what I know. If I don't know about
 something, I'll give it to you as unknown.

- TYN nunc senex est in tonstrina, nunc iam cultros attinet.
ne id quidem, inuolucrum inicere, uoluit, uestem ut ne
inquiet.
- 270 HEG sed utrum strictimme attonsurum dicam esse an per pec-
tinem
nescio; uerum, si frugi est, usque ammutilabit probe.
- PHILOC proximum quod sit bono quodque a malo longissime,
id uolo; quamquam non multum fuit molesta seruitus,
nec mi secus erat quam si essem familiaris filius.
- TYN eugepae! Thalem talento non emam Milesium,
275 nam ad sapientiam huius <hominis> nimius nugator fuit.
ut facete orationem ad seruitutem contulit!
- HEG quo de genere natust illic Philocrates?
- PHILOC Polyplusio:
quod genus illi est unum pollens atque honoratissimum.
- HEG quid ipsus hic? quo honore est illic?
- 280 PHILOC summo, atque ab summis uiris.
HEG tum igitur ei quom †in Aleis tanta† gratia est, ut prae-
dicas,
quid diuitiae, suntne opimae?
- PHILOC unde excoquat sebum senex.
- HEG quid pater? uiuitne?
- PHILOC uiuom, quom inde abimus, liquimus;
nunc uiuat<ne> necne, id Orcum scire oportet scilicet.

267 inuolucre *P*, inuolucrum *Turnebus*275 hominis *add. Niemeyer*280 in Aleis tam gratia *Niemeyer*283 uiuat *P*, uiuatne *Bothe*

- TYN (*aside, with joy*) Now the old man's at the barber's, now
he's already holding the razor near him.¹⁰ He didn't even
want to put a cover over him so as not to make his clothes
dirty. But whether I should say he's going to give him a
close shave or one through the comb I don't know. Yet if
he does a decent job, he'll fleece him properly.
- 270 HEG How about you? Tell me, do you prefer to be a slave or a free man?
- PHILOC What's closest to good and furthest from evil, that's
what I want; but slavery wasn't very troublesome for me,
and I wasn't in a different situation from being a son of
the house.
- TYN (*aside*) Bravo! I wouldn't buy Thales of Miletus¹¹ for a
talent: compared with this man's wisdom he was a mere
amateur. How brilliantly he's adapted his way of speaking
to being a slave!
- 275 HEG What family does Philocrates belong to there?
- PHILOC The Moneybag family; that family has the greatest
influence and the highest standing there.
- HEG How about himself? How's his standing?
- PHILOC Very high, and he's of most distinguished ancestry.
- 280 HEG Well then, since he has such great influence among the
Eleans, as you're saying, how about his wealth; is it fat?
- PHILOC So fat that the old man could get dripping out of it.
- HEG What about his father? Is he alive?
- PHILOC When we went away from there, we left him alive;
whether or not he's alive now the Underworld should
know of course.

¹⁰ Cutting someone's hair is a metaphor for tricking him; cf. English
“fleece.” ¹¹ Famous pre-Socratic philosopher, engineer, and scientist; one of the Seven Sages.

PLAUTUS

TYN salua res est, philosophatur quoque iam, non mendax modo est.

285 HEG quid erat ei nomen?

PHILOC Thesaurochrysonicochrysides.

HEG uidelicet propter diuitias inditum id nomen quasi est.

PHILOC immo edepol propter avaritiam ipsius atque audaciam.

nam illi quidem Theodoromedes fuit germano nomine.

HEG quid tu ais? tenaxne pater est eius?

290 PHILOC immo edepol pertenax; quin etiam ut magis noscas: Genio suo ubi quando sacrificat,

ad rem diuinam quibus opus est, Samiis uasis utitur, ne ipse Genius surrupiat: proinde alius ut credat uide.

HEG sequere hac me igitur. eadem ego ex hoc quae uolo exquaesiiero.

295 PHILOCrates, hic fecit hominem frugi ut facere oportuit. nam ego ex hoc quo genere gnatus sis scio, hic fassust mihi;

haec tu eadem si confiteri uis, tua <ex> re feceris: quae tamen sci scire me ex hoc.

300 TYN fecit officium hic suom, quom tibi est confessus uerum, quamquam uolui sedulo meam nobilitatem occultare et genus et diuitias meas, Hegio; nunc quando patriam et libertatem perdidisti, non ego istunc me potius quam te metuere aequom censereo.

uis hostilis cum istoc fecit meas opes aequabilis;

288 illi EV, illic BD, ille *Camerarius*

291 est opus P, opus est s 296 ex add. *Valla*

297 scio P (scito V²), sci *Lindsay in apparatu*

THE CAPTIVES

TYN (aside) The situation's safe: he's even philosophizing now, not just lying.

HEG What was his name? 285

PHILOC Goldtreasure-Goldwinson.

HEG I take it that that name, so to speak, was given to him for his wealth.

PHILOC No, for his greed and audacity. (aside) His real name there was Theodoromedes.

HEG What do you say? Is his father stingy?

290 PHILOC No, more than that, incredibly stingy; well, to give you a better idea of him: when he's sacrificing to his Guardian Spirit, he uses Samian earthenware¹² as vessels needed for the ceremony so his Guardian Spirit himself cannot steal them. So you can see for yourself how he trusts others.

HEG (walks toward Tyndarus) Well then, follow me this way. (aside) I'll find out from this one (points to Tyndarus) what I want to know in the same way. (turning to Tyndarus) Philocrates, this chap did the decent thing for a decent man to do: I know from him what family you come from, he admitted it to me; if you want to confess these same things, it'll be to your own advantage. Still, you should know that I know them from him.

300 TYN (in a sad, dignified voice) He did his duty when he confessed the truth to you, however keen I was to conceal my noble birth, my family connections, and my wealth from you, Hegio; now that I've lost home and freedom, I don't think it's fair that he should fear me rather than you. The power of the enemy has put my lot on an equal footing

12 The cheapest vessels available, of very low quality.

305

memini, quom dicto haud audebat: facto nunc laedat li-
cet.

sed uiden? fortuna humana singit artatque ut lubet:
me qui liber fueram seruom fecit, e summo infumum;
qui imperare insueram, nunc alterius imperio opsequor.
et quidem si, proinde ut ipse fui imperator familiae,
habeam dominum, non uerear ne iniuste aut grauiter mi-
imperet.

Hegio, hoc te monitum, nisi forte ipse non uis, uoluerim.
loquere audacter.

TYN tam ego fui ante liber quam gnatus tuos,
tam mihi quam illi libertatem hostilis eripuit manus,
tam ille apud nos seruit quam ego nunc hic apud te ser-
uio.

est profecto deus, qui quae nos gerimus auditque et ui-
det:

is, uti tu me hic habueris, proinde illum illuc curauerit;
bene merenti bene profuerit, male merenti par erit.
quam tu filium tuom tam pater me meus desiderat.

HEG memini ego istuc. sed faterin eadem quae hic fassust
michi?

TYN ego patri meo esse fateor summas diuitias domi-
meque summo genere gnatum. sed te opteſtor, Hegio,
ne tuom animum auariorem faxint diuitiae meae:
ne patri, tam etsi sum unicus, decere uideatur magis,
me saturum seruire apud te sumptu et uestitu tuo
potius quam illi, ubi minime honestum est, mendican-
tem uiuere.

309 uolueram *P*, uoluerim *Brix*

321 unicus sum *P*, sum unicus *Mueller*

305

with his. I remember the time when he didn't dare to hurt me by word: now he can do so by deed. But can you see? Fortune moulds and pinches human life as she likes. She turned me, who'd been free, into a slave, from the highest into the lowest. I, who was used to issuing commands, now obey another's command. And if I were to have a master like the one I was when I was commander of our family, I shouldn't be afraid that he would order me around in an unjust or harsh way. (*pauses*) Hegio, I'd like to remind you of one thing, unless you object.

310

HEG Speak boldly.

TYN Once I was just as free as your son; the enemy's armed force has taken freedom away from me just as it did from him; and he's a slave at our place just as I'm now a slave at yours. There really is a god who hears and sees what we are doing. He will look after him there the way you treat me here. The man deserving well he will reward well, the man deserving badly he will treat in the same way.¹³ My father's missing me just as you're missing your son.

315

HEG I remember that. But do you admit the same things this chap has admitted to me?

320

TYN I do admit that my father has great wealth at home and that I come from a great family. But I entreat you, Hegio, do not let my riches make you greedier; otherwise it might seem more appropriate to my father that even though I'm his only son, I should be a well-fed slave at your place, nourished and clothed at your expense, rather than live as a beggar back there, where it would be most disgraceful.

¹³ Here and in the following passages there is much dramatic irony: the truth of Tyndarus' words is greater than he himself knows.

325

HEG ego uirtute deum et maiorum nostrum diues sum satis.
non ego omnino lucrum omne esse utile homini existi-

tum:
scio ego, multos iam lucrum lutulentos homines reddidit;
est etiam ubi profecto damnum praestet facere quam lu-

crum.
odi ego aurum: multa multis saepe suasit perperam.
nunc hoc animum aduorte, ut ea quae sentio pariter

330

scias.
filius meus illic apud uos seruit captus Alide:
eum si reddis mihi, praeterea unum nummum ne quis,

et te et hunc amittam hinc. alio pacto abire non potes.

TYN optumum atque aequissum oras optumusque homi-

num es homo.
sed is priuatam seruitutem seruit illi an publicam?

335

HEG priuatam medici Menarchi.

PHILOC pol isquidem huius est cluens.
tam hoc quidem tibi in procliu quam imber est quando

pluit.

HEG fac is homo ut redimatur.

TYN faciam. sed te id oro, Hegio—

HEG quiduis, dum ab re ne quid ores, faciam.

TYN ausculta, tum scies.

ego me amitti, donicum ille huc redierit, non postulo.

uerum te quaeso [ut] aestumatum hunc mihi des, quem

mittam ad patrem,

ut is homo redimatur illi.

HEG immo alium potius misero
hinc, ubi erunt industiae, illuc, tuom qui conueniat pa-

trem,

qui tua quae tu iusseris mandata ita ut uelis perforat.

340 ut del. Bosscha

540

HEG Thanks to the gods and our ancestors I'm rich enough. I 325

don't think that all sorts of profit are useful for a man under all circumstances; I know that profit has already corrupted many men. In some cases, in fact, it's better to make a loss than a profit. I hate gold: it has often led many people to act badly on many issues. Now pay attention so that you know what I think as well as I do. My son was taken prisoner and is a slave there, at your place, in Elis. If you return him to me, you needn't give me a single ses-

330

terce in addition and I'll send you and this chap (*points to Philocrates*) away from here. On no other terms can you get away.

TYN What you say is absolutely fine and fair and you're the finest man of all. But is he the slave of a private citizen or of the state?

HEG Of a private citizen, the doctor Menarchus. 335

PHILOC (*interrupting*) That man is this one's (*points to Tyndarus*) client! That requires as little effort as water when it's raining. (*moves out of earshot after a stern gesture from Tyndarus*)

HEG Have him ransomed.

TYN I will. But I ask you for this, Hegio—

HEG (*eagerly*) I'll do anything you like so long as you don't ask for anything that upsets my plan.

TYN Listen, then you'll know. I don't demand to be sent away until your son's returned. But I do ask you to give me this man (*points to Philocrates*) on bail to send him to my father so that that chap is ransomed there.

HEG No, I'd rather send someone else there when there's a truce; he can go to your father and carry out your instructions according to your wishes.

340

541

- 5 TYN at nihil est ignotum ad illum mittere: operam luseris.
 hunc mitte, hic transactum reddet omne, si illuc uenerit,
 nec quemquam fideliores nec quoi plus credit potes
 mittere ad eum nec qui magis sit seruos ex sententia,
 neque adeo quoi suom concredat filium hodie audacius.
 0 ne uereare, meo periclo huius ego experiar fidem,
 fretus ingenio eius, quod me ess' scit erga sese beniuolu-
 lum.
- HEG mittam equidem istunc aestumatum tua fide, si uis.
- TYN uolo;
 quam citissime potest, tam hoc cedere ad factum uolo.
- HEG num quale causa est quin, si ille huc non redeat, uiginti
 minas
 mihi des pro illo?
- TYN optuma immo.
- 5 HEG soluite istum nunciam,
 atque utrumque.
- TYN di tibi omnes omnia optata offerant,
 quom me tanto honore honestas quomque ex uinculis
 eximis.
 hoc quidem hau moleustum est iam, quod collus collari
 caret.
- HEG quod bonis bene fit beneficium, gratia ea grauida est
 bonis.
- 0 nunc tu illum si illo es missurus, dice, [de]monstra, prae-
 cipe
 quae ad patrem uis nuntiari. uin uocem hac ad te?
- TYN uoca.

359 monstra *Camerarius* (*cf. Mil.* 256)

- 5 TYN But there's no point in sending him someone he doesn't know; you'll waste your effort. Send this one (*points to Philocrates*), he'll sort out everything once he gets there. You can't send him anyone more faithful, anyone he trusts more, any slave who conforms more to his wishes, in short, anyone he would entrust his son to more readily today. Don't be afraid, I'll put his faithfulness to the test at my own risk; I trust in his character because he knows that I wish him well.
- 345 HEG All right, I'll send him on bail on your guarantee, if you want to.
- TYN I do; I want this matter to come to pass as quickly as possible.
- HEG Do you have any objection to giving me twenty minas for him if he doesn't return here?
- TYN No, that's perfectly fine.
- HEG (*to overseers*) Release that one (*points to Philocrates*) now; both, actually. (*the overseers are taking off the fetters*)
- 355 TYN May all the gods fulfill all your wishes since you're honoring me with such great honor and since you're releasing me from the fetters. Yes, that's not disagreeable at all now, having a neck that doesn't have a necklace on.
- HEG A good deed done to good people brings gratitude full of good things. Now if you're going to send him there, tell him, show him, teach him what you want to be reported to your father. Do you want me to call him over here to you?
- TYN Yes, do.

II. iii: HEGIO. PHILOCrates. TYNDARVS
 HEG quae res bene uortat mihi meoque filio
 uobisque, uolt te nouos erus operam dare
 tuo ueteri domino, quod is uelit, fideliter.
 nam ego te huic dedi aestumatum uiginti minis,
 hic autem te ait mittere hinc uelle ad patrem,
 meum ut illic redimat filium, mutatio
 inter me atque illum ut nostris fiat filiis.

PHILOC utroque uorsum rectum est ingenium meum,
 ad ted atque illum; pro rota me uti licet:
 uel ego huc uel illuc uortar, quo imperabis.

HEG tute tibi [ea] tuopte ingenio prodes plurimum,
 quom seruitutem ita fers ut <eam> ferri decet.
 sequere. em tibi hominem.

TYN gratiam habeo tibi,
 quom copiam istam mi et potestatem facis,
 ut ego ad parentes hunc remittam nuntium,
 qui me quid rerum hic agitem et quid fieri uelim
 patri meo ordine omnem rem illuc perferat.
 nunc ita conuenit inter me atque hunc, Tyndare,
 ut te aestumatum in Alidem mittam ad patrem,
 si non rebitas huc, ut uiginti minas
 dem pro te.

PHILOC recte conuenisse sentio.
 nam pater exspectat aut me aut aliquem nuntium
 qui hinc ad se ueniat.

TYN ergo animum aduortas uolo
 quae nuntiare hinc te uolo in patriam ad patrem.

PHILOC Philocrates, ut adhuc locorum feci, faciam sedulo
 ut potissimum quod in rem recte conducat tuam,
 id petam id persequarque corde et animo atque auribus.

HEG (approaching Philocrates) May this turn out well for me,
 and for my son, and for you two: your new master wants
 you to devote yourself faithfully to your old master's
 wishes: I've given you to him on a bail of twenty minas,
 and he says he wants to send you off to his father so that
 he, the father, can ransom my son there, so that an ex-
 change of our sons can take place between me and him. 365

PHILOC My efforts are directed in both directions, toward you
 and him. You can use me as a wheel: I will turn here or 370
 there, where you command.

HEG You benefit greatly from your own character since you're
 bearing your slavery as one ought to bear it. Follow me.
 (leads him to Tyndarus) Here's the man for you.

TYN (to Hegio) I'm grateful to you for giving me the chance
 and opportunity to send him back to my parents as a mes-
 senger. He'll bring a full and detailed account to my fa-
 ther there, how I'm doing here and what I wish to be
 done. (to Philocrates) Now the agreement between me
 and him, Tyndarus, is that I can send you to Elis to my fa-
 ther on bail; if you don't return here, I have to give him
 twenty minas for you. 375 380

PHILOC I think that's a good agreement: your father is expect-
 ing either me or some other messenger who is coming to
 him from here.

TYN Well then, I'd like you to pay attention to what I want you
 to report home to my father from here.

PHILOC Philocrates, as I've done so far, I'll continue to do this
 eagerly: with heart, mind, and ears I will look for and
 strive after what benefits you most. 385

364 aestumatum huic dedi *P. transp. Bothe*

371 ea del. *Fleckisen* 372 eam add. *Schoell ex 371*

380 huc *P. Loman*

387 petam *P. petam<que> Niemeyer*

PLAUTUS

- 390 TYN facis ita ut te facere oportet. nunc animum aduortas uolo:
omnium primum salutem dicio matri et patri
et cognatis et si quem alium benevolentem uideris;
me hic ualere et seruitutem seruire huic homini optumo,
qui me honore honestiorem semper fecit et facit.
- PHILOC istuc ne praecipias, facile memoria memini tamen.
TYN nam equidem, nisi quod custodem habeo, liberum me
esse arbitror.
395 dicio patri quo pacto mihi cum hoc conuenerit
de huius filio.
- PHILOC quae memini, mora mera est monerier.
TYN ut eum redimat et remittat nostrum huc amborum ui-
cem.
- PHILOC meminero.
- HEG at quam primum pote: istuc in rem
utrique est maxume.
- PHILOC non tuom tu magis uidere quam ille suom gnatum
cupit.
- 400 HEG meus mihi, suos quoique est carus.
PHILOC numquid aliud uis patri
nuntiari?
- TYN me hic ualere et (tute audacter dicio,
Tyndare) inter nos fuisse ingenio hau discordabili,
nec te commeruisse culpam (nec me aduorsatum tibi)
beneque ero gessisse morem in tantis aerumnis tamen;
nec med umquam deseruisse te nec factis nec fide,
rebus in dubiis, egenis. haec pater quando sciet,
405 Tyndare, ut fueris animatus erga suom gnatum atque se,

¹⁴ Tyndarus is Philocrates' guardian, so he has some authority despite being a slave.

THE CAPTIVES

- 390 TYN You're acting as you ought to. Now I'd like you to pay at-
tention: first of all give my regards to my mother and fa-
ther and relatives and if you see anyone else who wishes
me well. Say that I'm doing well here and that I'm a slave
of this excellent man, who's always honored me with his
respect, and is doing so now.
- PHILOC Don't instruct me about that; I remember it easily all
the same.
- TYN Well, except for having a guard, I consider myself to be
free. Tell my father about my agreement with this man
regarding his son.
- PHILOC It's mere delay to be reminded of what I remember.
- TYN He is to ransom him and send him back here in exchange
for the two of us.
- PHILOC I'll remember.
- HEG But as quickly as possible: that's of the highest impor-
tance to each of us two.
- PHILOC You don't want to see *your* son more than *he* wants to
see *his*.
- HEG My son is dear to me, his own son is dear to everybody.
- PHILOC (*turning back to Tyndarus*) Do you want your father to
be told anything else?
- 400 TYN Yes, that I'm doing well here and—you should say so
boldly, Tyndarus—that we got on with each other with-
out the least disagreement; that you haven't committed
any offense (and that I didn't oppose you);¹⁴ that you
obeyed your master well, even in such great trials and
tribulations; and that you never deserted me in word or
deed, in dangers and in need. When my father knows
what your attitude was toward his son and himself, Tyn-

410 numquam erit tam auarus quin te gratiis emittat manu:
et mea opera, si hinc rebito, faciam ut faciat facilius.
nam tua opera et comitate et uirtute et sapientia
fecisti ut redire liceat ad parentes denuo,
quom apud hunc confessus es et genus et diuitias meas:
quo pacto emisisti e uincis tuom erum erum tua sapientia.

415 PHILOC feci ego ista ut commemoras, et te meminisse id gra-
tum est mihi.

merito tibi ea euenerunt a me; nam nunc, Philocrates,
si ego item memorem quae me erga multa fecisti bene,
nox diem adimat; nam quasi seruos [meus] essem, nihil
setius
<tu> mihi opsequiosus semper fuisti.

420 HEG di uostram fidem,
hominum ingenium liberale! ut lacrumas excutiunt mihi!
uideas corde amare inter se. <quibus et> quantis laudi-
bus
suom erum seruos collaudauit!

425 PHILOC polistic me hau centesumam
partem laudat quam ipse meritust ut laudetur laudibus.
HEG ergo quom optume fecisti, nunc adest occasio
bene facta cumulare, ut erga hunc rem geras fideliter.

430 PHILOC magis non factum possum uelle quam opera experiar
persequi;
id ut scias, Iouem supremum testem laudo, Hegio,
me infidelem non futurum Philocrati—

435 HEG probus es homo.

408 gratus *P*, gratiis plurimi *edd.* 414 ista *P*, ita *Bothe*
417 si *P*, quasi *Fleckeisen* meus *del.* *Guyet*, mi *Bentley*
418 tu *add.* *Fleckeisen* 420 quibus et *add.* *Gertz*, <eris hunc>
laudibus *Lindsay in apparatu*

440 darus, he'll never be so greedy as not to make you a free
man at his own expense. And if I return from here, I'll use
my own efforts to make him do so more readily; well,
through *your* efforts, kindness, noble spirit, and wisdom
you've let me return to my parents again, when you ad-
mitted my family and my riches to this man (*points to*
Hegio). By this stroke you released your master from the
fetters through your wisdom.

445 PHILOC I did as you say and I'm thankful that you remember it.
You deserved that I did these things for you: if I were now
to say in the same way, Philocrates, how many good turns
you did *me*, the day wouldn't be long enough; you were
always no less obedient to me than if you'd been my
slave.

450 HEG (*half aside*) Immortal gods, I implore your faith! The no-
ble character of the men! How they bring tears to my
eyes! You can see that they love each other from the
heart. With what great praises did the slave praise his
master!

455 PHILOC The praise he's giving me is not one per cent of how
he's deserved to be praised himself.

460 HEG (*to Philocrates*) Well then, since you behaved very well,
you now have the opportunity to crown your good deeds
by acting faithfully toward this man (*points to* *Tyn-
darus*).

465 PHILOC I'm just as keen on trying to follow it through in deed
as I am on wanting it done. To assure you, I'll call upon
great Jupiter as my witness, Hegio, that I shan't be un-
faithful to Philocrates—

470 HEG (*interrupting*) You're a decent fellow.

430 PHILOC nec me secus umquam ei facturum quicquam quam memet mihi.

TYN istaec dicta; te experiri et opera et factis uolo; et, quo minus dixi quam uolui de te, animum aduortas uolo,

435 atque horunc uerborum causa caue tu mi iratus fuas; sed, te quaeſo, cogitato hinc mea fide mitti domum te aestumatum, et meam esse uitam hic pro te positam pignori, ne tu me ignores, quom extemplo meo e conspectu ap- cesseris,

440 quom me seruom in seruitate pro te hic reliqueris tuque te pro libero esse ducas, pignus deserbas nec des operam pro me ut huius huc reducem facias filium;

scito te hinc minis uiginti aestumatum mittier. fac fidele sis fidelis, caue fidem fluxam geras: nam pater, scio, faciet quae illum facere oportet omnia; serua tibi in perpetuom amicum me, atque hunc inuen- tum inueni.

445 haec per dexteram tuam te dextera retinens manu opsecro, infidelior mi ne fuas quam ego sum tibi. tu hoc age. tu mihi eris nunc es, tu patronus, tu pater, tibi commendo spes opes meas.

PHILOC mandauisti satis.
satin habes, mandata quae sunt facta si refero?

TYN satis.

PHILOC et tua et tua huic ornatus reueniam ex sententia. numquid aliud?

TYN ut quam primum possis redeas.

439 fidelis sis fidelī *P*, sed fidele aduerbiū testatur Nonius

430 PHILOC —and that I shan't treat him any differently from how I'd treat myself.

TYN These are words; I want to test you in your efforts and deeds. And insofar as I said less about you than I wanted, I want you to pay attention. Don't be angry with me because of these words. But please consider that you're being sent home on my pledge on bail and that my life is put down here as a security for you; so don't forget me as soon as you get out of sight, while leaving me here as a slave in slavery instead of you; and don't consider yourself free and desert your pledge without making an effort to save me by getting this man's son back here. Remember that you're being sent off on a bail of twenty minas. Make sure you're absolutely faithful, take care you don't have fluctuations in your faithfulness: I know my father will do everything he ought to; save me as your friend for good and find this man (*points to Hegio*) as your friend, the one you've already found to be so. I entreat you by your right hand, holding you back with my right hand: don't be less faithful to me than I am toward you. Pay attention. Now *you* are my master, *you* are my patron, *you* are my father. I command my hopes and my fortunes to you.

440 PHILOC Enough commands. Is it enough for you if I bring back your commands as accomplishments?

TYN It is.

PHILOC I'll return here equipped according to (*turning to Tyn- darus*) your wishes and to (*turning to Hegio*) yours. Anything else?

TYN Yes, come back as soon as you can.

PLAUTUS

PHILOC res monet.
HEG sequere me, uiaticum ut dem a tarpezita tibi,
eadem opera a praetore sumam syngraphum.
TYN quem syngraphum?
HEG quem hic ferat secum ad legionem, hinc ire huic ut liceat
domum.
tu intro abi.
TYN / bene ambulato.
PHILOC / bene uale.
HEG edepol rem meam
constabiliui, quom illos emi de praeda a quaestoribus;
expediui ex seruitute filium, si dis placet.
at etiam dubitauai, hos homines emerem an non emerem,
diu.
seruate istum sultis intus, serui, ne quoquam pedem
efferat sine custode<la. iam> ego apparebo domi;
ad fratrem modo <ad> captiuos alias inuiso meos,
eadem percontabor ecquis hunc adulescentem nouerit.
sequere tu, te ut amittam; ei rei primum praeuorti uolo.

ACTVS III

III. i: ERGASILVS

ERG miser homo est qui ipse sibi quod edit quaerit et id aegre
inuenit,
sed ille est miserior qui et aegre quaerit et nihil inuenit;

457 custodela *Gruterus*, iam add. *Bothe*, ego <desubito> *Schoell*
458 ad add. *Fleckiese* (cf. 126)

¹⁵ Roman official, mainly responsible for jurisdiction.

THE CAPTIVES

PHILOC The situation demands it.

HEG (*to Philocrates*) Follow me so I can give you some travelling money from the banker's, and at the same time I'll get a passport from the praetor.¹⁵ 450

TYN What passport?

HEG (*to Tyndar*) One to take with him to the army so he gets permission to go home. You go inside.

TYN (to Philocrates) Have a good trip.

PHILOC Goodbye.

Exit TYNDARUS into the house.

HEG (*to the audience*) I really did strengthen my cause when I bought those people from among the booty from the quaestors. Gods willing, I've freed my son from slavery. But I hesitated for a long time whether I should buy these people or not. (*to overseers and slaves*) Slaves, guard that man inside, will you, so that he doesn't set his foot outside anywhere without a guard. I'll be home in a moment. I'm just going to see my other prisoners at my brother's. At the same time I'll ask if anyone knows this young man here. (*to Philocrates*) Follow me so that I can send you off; I want to sort out this business first.

The overseers and slaves go inside. Exeunt HEGIO and PHILOCRATES to the right.

ACT THREE

Enter ERGASILUS from the right.

ERG Wretched is the man who has to look for his food himself and has a hard time finding it, but more wretched is the

ill' miserrumst, qui quom esse cupit, *< tum >* quod edit
non habet.
nam hercle ego huic die, si liceat, oculos effodiam lu-
bens,
ita malignitate onerauit omnis mortalis mihi;
nec ieuniiosiorem nec magis effertum fame
uidi nec quoi minus procedat quicquid facere occuperit,
ita[que] uenter gutturque resident esurialis ferias.
ilicet parasiticæ arti maxumam malam crucem,
ita iuuentus iam ridiculos inopesque ab se segregat.
nil morantur iam Lacones unisupsellii uiros,
plagipatidas, quibus sunt uerba sine penu et pecunia:
eos requirunt qui lubenter, quom ederint, reddant domi;
ipsi opsonant, quae parasitorum ante erat prouincia,
ipsi de foro tam aperto capite ad lenones eunt
quam in tribu aperto capite sontes condemnant reos;
nec ridiculos iam terrunci faciunt, sese omnes amant.
nam *< ego >* ut dudum hinc abii, accessi ad adulescentes in
foro.
“saluete,” inquam. “quo imus una?” inquam [ad pran-
diuum]: atque illi tacent.
“quis ait ‘hoc’ aut quis profitetur?” inquam. quasi muti si-
lent,
nec me rident. “ubi cenamus?” inquam. atque illi ab-
nuont.
dico unum ridiculum dictum de dictis melioribus,

463 *tum add.* Niemeyer468 ita *Pylades*476 aperto capite sontes *P.* s. a. c. *Brix*478 ut *P.* *< ego >* ut *Seyffert*, ut*< i >* *Lindsay*479 ad prandium del. *Lindsay*

one who has a hard time looking for it and doesn't find anything. And that one is most wretched who doesn't have anything to eat when he wishes to eat. Well, if I were allowed to, I'd happily tear out this day's eyes: it's given all mortals such a supply of meanness. I haven't seen a more hungriful day than this or one more stuffed with starvation, or one that's less successful in anything it's begun to do: my stomach and throat are sitting through this hunger-holiday in complete idleness. The hanger-on's art can now go and be hanged: the youngsters nowadays 465 keep entertainers without money at a distance from themselves. They can't be bothered about us Spartan one-bench¹⁶ men any longer, us blow-bearers, who have bonmots without food and money. They're looking for people who willingly return the favor at home when they've eaten. They themselves go shopping, which used to be the hangers-on's task before, they themselves go from the market to the pimps, as barefaced as they condemn guilty defendants in court.¹⁷ They don't care 470 tuppence¹⁸ for entertainers any longer, they all love only themselves. When I went away from here some time ago, I approached young men on the market. “Hello there,” I say. “Where are we going together?” I say. And they fall silent. “Who says ‘here’ or who’s volunteering?” I say. They’re silent as if they were dumb, and they don’t give 475 me a smile. “Where are we dining?” I say. And they shake their heads. I tell one of my better jokes, for which I used

¹⁶ An *unisupsellum* is a bench for a single person, as distinct from the regular couches where respectable guests would lie together during dinner. ¹⁷ Reference to the *comitia tributa*, popular assemblies in which some court cases were decided. ¹⁸ Lit. a *terruncius*, a copper coin of low value weighing three *unciae*, worth a quarter of an *as*.

485

quibus solebam menstrualis epulas ante adipiscier:
 nemo ridet; sciui extemplo rem de compecto geri;
 ne canem quidem irritatam voluit quisquam imitarier,
 saltem, si non arriderent, dentes ut restringerent.
 abeo ab illis, postquam uideo me sic ludificarier;
 pergo ad alios, uenio ad alios, deinde ad alios: una res!
 omnes <de> compecto rem agunt, quasi in Velabro olea-
 rii.

490

nunc redeo inde, quoniam me ibi uideo ludificarier.
 item alii parasiti frustra obambulabant in foro.
 nunc barbarica lege certum est ius meum omne perse-
 qui:

495

qui consilium iniere, quo nos uictu et uita prohibeant,
 is diem dicam, irrogabo multam, ut mihi cenas decem
 meo arbitratu dent, quom cara annonae sit. sic egero.
 nunc ibo ad portum hinc: est illuc mi una spes cenatica;
 si ea decollabit, redibo huc ad senem ad cenan asperam.

HEG

III. ii: HEGIO
 quid est suauius quam bene rem gerere
 bono publico, sicut ego feci heri, quom
 emi hosce homines: ubi quisque uident,
 eunt obuiam gratulanturque eam rem.
 ita me miserum restitando
 retinendol[que] lassum reddiderunt:
 uix ex gratulando miser iam eminebam.

489 de add. Fleckeisen

503 que del. Hermann

¹⁹ A market district in Rome.²⁰ I.e., Roman law.²¹ It is to the public good to get a citizen back.

485

to get banquets lasting a whole month. No one's laughing.
 I knew immediately they were acting out a conspiracy.
 No one was even willing to imitate an angry dog and
 at least bare their teeth if they wouldn't smile at me. I left
 them after seeing that I was being made a fool of like this.
 I approached others, I came to others, then to others still:
 same story! All were acting out a conspiracy, like the oil-
 sellers in the Velabrum.¹⁹ Now I'm returning from there
 since I can see that I'm being made a fool of. Other hang-
 ers-on were also wandering around on the market, all for
 nothing. Now I've decided to pursue my full rights with
 foreign law;²⁰ I'll summon the people to court who've
 come up with the plan to deprive us of livelihood and life,
 and as penalty I'll inflict on them that they have to give
 me ten dinners at my own discretion, when the price of
 food is high. That's how I like it. Now I'll go off to the har-
 bor; that's where my last hope is, dinner-wise. If that falls
 through, I'll return here to the old man and his rough
 dinner.

490

495

496

*Exit ERGASILUS to the left.**Enter HEGIO with Aristophontes from the right, accompanied by slaves.*

HEG (*joyfully*) What's sweeter than being successful and con-
 tributing to the public good,²¹ just as I did yesterday
 when I bought these people? Whenever anyone sees
 me, they come toward me and congratulate me on it.
 Poor me! They completely exhausted me by stopping me
 and holding me up. Poor me! I could barely emerge from

500

PLAUTUS

505 tandem abii ad praetorem; ibi uix requieui:
 506 rogo syngraphum: datur mi ilico:
 506^a dedi Tyndaro: ille abiit domum.
 508 inde ilico praeuortor domum, postquam id actum est;
 508^a ego protinus ad fratrem inde abii,
 -mei ubi sunt alii captiui.
 509 rogo Philocratem ex Alide
 509^a ecquis omnium norit:
 510 tandem hic exclamat eum
 510^a sibi esse sodalem;
 511 dico eum esse apud me hic.
 511^a extemplo orat opsecratque
 eum sibi ut liceat uidere:
 514- iussi ilico hunc exsolui. nunc tu sequere me,
 15 ut quod me orauisti impetres, eum hominem uti conue-
 nias.

III. iii: TYNDARVS

TYN nunc illud est quom me fuisse quam esse nimio maulelim:
 nunc spes opes auxiliaque a me segregant spernuntque
 se.
 hic ille est dies quom nulla uitiae meae salus sperabilest,
 neque exitium exitio est neque adeo spes, quae mi hunc
 aspellat metum,
 nec subdolis mendaciis mihi usquam mantellum est
 meis,
 nec sycophantiis nec fucis ullum mantellum obuiam est,
 nec deprecatio perfidiis meis nec malefactis fuga est,
 nec confidentiae usquam hospitium est nec deuorticu-
 lum dolis:
 operta qua fuere aperta sunt, patent praestigiae,
 omnis palam est res, nec de hac re negotium est

THE CAPTIVES

the flood of congratulations. At last I went away to the 505 praetor. There I could barely calm down: I asked for a passport; I was given one immediately. I gave it to Tyn-
 darus; he went home. After this was done, I immediately went toward my home first. Straightaway I went to my brother's, where the other prisoners of mine are. I asked if anyone among all those people knew Philocrates from Elis. At last this chap (*points to Aristophontes*) called out 510 that he's his chum. I said he's at my place here. He imme-
 diately asked and begged to be allowed to see him. At once I had him untied. (*to Aristophontes*) Now follow me (514-15) so you get what you asked me for and meet the man.

Exit HEGIO into his house, followed by Aristophontes and the slaves.

Exit TYNDARUS from the house.

TYN Now's the time when I'd much prefer *having* lived to 520 *living*. Now my hopes, resources, and help are deserting me and leaving me in the lurch. This is the day when no rescue for my life can be hoped for, when there's no way to get out of harm's way, when there's no hope that could drive out my fear, when there's no cloak for my sly lies anywhere, when there's no cloak at hand for my tricks and disguises, when there's no begging for pardon for my falsehoods, no escape for my misdeeds, and when there's no shelter for my boldness, no resort for my deceptions 525

517 spernuntque me *P*, spernuntque se *Gulielmus*

521 *uersum del. Niemeyer*

525 res palam est *P*, *transp. Bothe*

530

quin male occidam oppetamque pestem eri uicem
meamque.
perdidit me Aristophontes hic modo qui uenit intro;
is me nouit, is sodalis Philocrati et cognatus est.
nec iam Salus seruare, si uolt, me potest, nec copia est,
nisi si aliquam corde machinor astutiam.
quam, malum? quid machiner? quid comminiscar?
maxumas
nugas ineptus incipisco. haereo.

III. iv: HEGIO. TYNDARVS. ARISTOPHONTES

HEG quo illum nunc hominem proripuisse foras se dicam ex
aedibus?

TYN nunc enim uero ego occidi: eunt ad te hostes, Tyndare.
quid loquar? quid fabulabor? quid negabo aut quid fate-
bor? [mihi]

res omnis in incerto sita est. quid rebus confidam meis?
utinam te di prius perderent quam periisti e patria tua,
Aristophontes, qui ex parata re imparatam omnem facis.
occisa est haec res, nisi reperio atrocem mi aliquam astu-
tiam.

540 HEG sequere. em tibi hominem. adi, atque alloquere.

TYN quis homo est me hominum miserior?
ARI quid istuc est quod meos te dicam fugitare oculos, Tyn-
dare,

proque ignoto me aspernari, quasi me numquam noue-
ris?

equidem tam sum seruos quam tu, etsi ego domi liber fui,
tu usque a puero seruitutem seruuiusti in Alide.

527 hic qui uenit modo *P*, *transp. Lindsay*, istic q. u. m. *Niemeyer*
532 ineptias *P*, ineptus *Leo* incipisse *BVE*, incepisse *OJ*, incipisco
Camerarius 535 mihi del. *Lindemann*

560

530

anywhere. What was covered is uncovered, my tricks lie open, the whole thing's out. There's no doubt about it: I'll die miserably and reach the end on account of master and myself. Aristophontes here, who just came in, has destroyed me. He knows me, he's a friend and relative of Philocrates'. Salvation herself cannot save me any longer, if she wants to, and there is no opportunity, unless I think up some trick in my heart. But what trick, damn it? What can I think up? What can I come up with? I'm a fool, I'm beginning something really stupid. I'm stuck.

535

Enter *HEGIO* and *ARISTOPHONTES*, followed by slaves.

HEG I wonder where that chap's now rushed out of the house
to?

TYN (*to himself*) Now I'm truly dead: the enemy's coming to-
ward you, Tyndarus. What will I say? What will I tell
him? What will I deny or what will I admit? The whole
matter's on uncertain ground. How could I be confident
about my situation? I wish the gods had destroyed you
before you disappeared from home, Aristophontes;
you're turning the whole thing from settled back to un-
settled. This matter's dead unless I find some shocking
trick for myself.

535

HEG (*to Aristophontes*) Follow me. Here's your man. Go and
address him.

TYN (*aside*) Who on earth is more wretched than me? (*pre-
tends not to know Aristophontes*)

ARI What's the matter? I wonder why you're avoiding eye-
contact with me, Tyndarus, and why you're snubbing me
as if I were a stranger, as if you'd never got to know me?
Yes, I am a slave like you, even if I was free at home and
you were a slave in Elis from childhood.

540

561

- 545 HEG edepol minime miror, si te fugitat aut oculos tuos,
aut si te odit, qui istum appelles Tyndarum pro Philo-
crate.
- TYN Hegio, hic homo rabiosus habitus est in Alide,
ne tu quod istic fabuletur auris immittas tuas.
nam istic hastis insectatus est domi matrem et patrem,
et illic isti qui insputatur morbus interdum uenit.
proin tu ab istoc procul recedas.
- HEG ultro istum a me!
- ARI ain, uerbero?
- me rabiosum atque insectatum esse hastis meum memo-
ras patrem,
- 550 et eum morbum mi esse, ut qui me opus sit insputarier?
ne uerere, multos iste morbus homines macerat,
quibus insputari saluti fuit atque is profuit.
- HEG quid tu autem? etiam huic credis?
- ARI quid ego credam huic?
- 555 HEG insanum esse me?
- ARI uiden tu hunc quam inimico uoltu intuetur? concedi op-
tum est,
- TYN Hegio: fit quod tibi ego dixi, gliscit rabies, caue tibi.
- 560 HEG credidi esse insanum extemplo, ubi te appellauit Tynda-
rum.
- TYN quin suom ipse interdum ignorat nomen nec scit qui siet.
- HEG at etiam te suom sodalem esse aibat.

550 sputatur MSS, insputatur *Pylades ex codice antiquo*
558 ego del. Bothe

²² People spat out when they saw an epileptic fit; this apotropaic rite was meant to protect from infection (cf. Plin. *nat.* 28, 35). Hegio goes one step further and humorously treats being spat on as a cure.

- 545 HEG (to Aristophontes) Seriously, I'm not surprised at all if he's avoiding you, or eye-contact with you, or if he hates you, since you address him as Tyndarus instead of Philocrates.
- TYN Hegio, this man was considered a lunatic in Elis, so don't take what he says seriously; at home he chased his mother and father with spears, and there he sometimes gets the illness that is spat upon.²² So go far away from him.
- HEG (to slaves) Away with him from me!
- ARI (to Tyndarus) Do you say so, you thug? Are you telling him that I'm a lunatic and chased my own father with spears? That I have the illness that makes it necessary to spit on me?
- 550 HEG Stop being afraid, that illness tortures a lot of people for whom being spat on was helpful and beneficial.
- ARI (to Hegio) How's this? You too? Do you actually believe him?
- HEG Believe him in what?
- ARI That I'm mad?
- TYN (to Hegio) Can you see how he's looking around with such a hostile expression on his face? It's best for you to leave, Hegio: what I told you is happening, his frenzy is increasing; look out for yourself.
- 555 HEG I immediately believed that he's mad when he called you Tyndarus.
- TYN Well, from time to time he doesn't even know his own name and has no idea who he is.
- HEG But he also said he's your friend.

TYN hau uidi magis.
 et quidem Alcumeus atque Orestes et Lycurgus postea
 una opera mihi sunt sodales qua iste.
 ARI at etiam, furcifer,
 male loqui mi audes? non ego te noui?
 HEG pol planum id quidem est,
 non nouisse, qui istum appelles Tyndarum pro Philo-
 crate.
 quem uides, eum ignoras: illum nominas quem non ui-
 des.
 ARI immo iste eum sese ait qui non est esse et qui uero est ne-
 gat.
 TYN tu enim repertu's, Philocratem qui superes uerius.
 ARI pol ego ut rem uideo, tu inuentu's, uera vanitudine
 qui conuincas. sed quaeso hercle, agedum aspicere ad me.
 TYN em.
 ARI dic modo:
 <tun> negas te Tyndarum esse?
 TYN nego, inquam.
 ARI tun te Philocratem
 esse aies?
 TYN ego, inquam.
 ARI tune huic credis?
 HEG plus quidem quam tibi . . . aut mihi.
 nam illequidem, quem tu hunc memoras esse, hodie hinc
 abiit Alidem
 ad patrem huius.
 ARI quem patrem, qui seruos est?

571 te negas *P*, tun negas te *Bosscha*

573 hunc memoras esse *P*, esse hunc memoras *Bothe*

TYN A likely story. Then Alcumeus, Orestes, and Lycurgus²³
 are my friends just as much as he is.
 ARI You good-for-nothing, you even dare abuse me? Don't I
 know you?
 HEG Well, it's obvious you don't know him, since you call him
 Tyndarus instead of Philocrates. You don't know the man
 you see; you name the man you don't see.
 ARI No, he says he's someone he isn't and he denies being the
 one he really is.
 TYN (*hinting*) Yes, you've been found to get the better of
 Philocrates just by telling the truth.
 ARI As I see this matter, you've been found to confute the
 truth with your falsehood. But I ask you seriously, go on:
 look at me.
 TYN All right.
 ARI Just tell me: do you deny that you're Tyndarus?
 TYN Yes, I do, I assure you.
 ARI Do you say that you're Philocrates?
 TYN Yes, I assure you.
 ARI (*to Hegio*) Do you believe him?
 HEG More than you, surely . . . (*suspiciously*) or myself: well,
 the one who you say this one here is went to Elis today to
 this one's father.
 ARI What father? He's a slave.

²³ Three famous madmen in Greek mythology. Alcumeus/Alc-
 maeon and Orestes became mad after killing their mothers. Lycurgus
 became mad because he had banned the cult of Dionysus and subse-
 quently killed his own son.

- 575 TYN et tu quidem
seruos es, liber fuisti, et ego me confido fore,
si huius luc reconciliasso in libertatem filium.
- ARI quid ais, furcifer? tun te gnatum <esse> memoras libe-
rum?
- TYN non equidem me Liberum, sed Philocratem esse aio.
- ARI ut scelestus, Hegio, nunc iste <te> ludos facit?
quid est?
580 nam is est seruos ipse, nec praeter se umquam ei seruos
fuit.
- TYN quia tute ipse eges in patria nec tibi qui uiuas domi est,
omnis inueniri similis tui uis; non mirum facis:
est miserorum ut malevolentes sint atque inuideant bo-
nis.
- ARI Hegio, uide sis ne quid tu huic temere insistas credere.
atque, ut perspicio, profecto iam aliquid pugnae edidit.
filium tuom quod redimere se ait, id ne utiquam mi pla-
cet.
- TYN scio te id nolle fieri; efficiam tamen ego id, si di adiuuant.
illum restituam huic, hic autem in Alidem me meo patri.
propterea ad patrem hinc amisi Tyndarum.
- ARI quin tute is es:
nec praeter te in Alide ullus seruos istoc nomine est.
- TYN pergin seruom me exprobrare esse, id quod ui hostili op-
tigit?
- ARI enim iam nequeo contineri.

575 seruos et P. s. es Fleckeisen

577 te gnatum P, te gnatum esse Pylades, tete gnatum Gruterus

579 te add. Gruterus

582 inuenire P, inueniri Camerarius tibi P, tui Fleckeisen

585 edidit P, dedit Scioppius

- 576 TYN (to Aristophontes) And you're also a slave and were free
before; and I trust I'll be free if I restore this man's son to freedom here.
- ARI What are you saying, you thug? Are you telling us that you are a born free man?
- TYN I'm not saying that I'm Freeman,²⁴ but Philocrates.
- ARI What's that? How this thug is now making a fool of you, Hegio! He himself is a slave and he never had a slave 580 besides himself.
- TYN Just because you yourself are a pauper in our country and don't have anything to live on at home, you want everyone to be found to resemble you. No big surprise: it's typical of wretched people to be spiteful and jealous of respectable ones.
- ARI Hegio, do make sure you don't continue to trust this man blindly. As I can see it, he has indeed already given you some trouble. I'm not at all happy about him saying he'll ransom your son.
- TYN I know you don't want it done; but I'll carry it through nevertheless if the gods help me. I'll restore that man to this one here (*points to Hegio*), and this one here will in turn restore me to my father in Elis. That's why I sent Tyndarus to my father.
- ARI No, you yourself are him. Besides you there isn't any slave with that name in Elis.
- TYN Are you continuing to reproach me for being a slave, which became my lot because of armed conflict?
- ARI Seriously, I can't control myself any longer.

²⁴ In the Latin there is a pun on *Liber* (Bacchus) and *liber* (free).

PLAUTUS

- TYN heus, audin quid ait? quin fugis?
iam illic hic nos insectabit lapidibus, nisi illunc iubes
comprehendi.
- ARI crucior.
- TYN ardent oculi: fit opus, Hegio;
uiden tu illi maculari corpus totum maculis luridis?
atra bilis agitat hominem.
- ARI at pol te, si hic sapiat senex,
pix atra agitet apud carnuficem tuoque capiti illuceat.
- TYN iam deliramenta loquitur, laruae stimulant uirum,
<Hegio.>
- HEG quid si hunc comprehendendi iusserim?
- TYN sapias magis.
- 600 ARI crucior lapidem non habere me, ut illi mastigiae
cerebrum excutiam, qui me insanum uerbis concinnat
suis.
- TYN audin lapidem quaeritare?
- ARI solus te solum uolo,
Hegio.
- HEG istinc loquere, si quid uis, procul. tamen audiam.
- TYN namque edepol si adbites propius, os denasabit tibi
mordicus.
- 605 ARI nec pol me insanum, Hegio, esse creduis
nec fuisse umquam, neque esse morbum quem istic au-
tumat.
- uerum si quid metuis a me, iube me uinciri: uolo,
dum istic itidem uinciatur.
- TYN immo enim uero, Hegio,
istic qui uolt uinciatur.

597 atra pix *P*, transp. Lindemann

THE CAPTIVES

- TYN (to Hegio) Hey, can you hear what he's saying? Why don't
you run away? In a moment he'll chase us with stones
here unless you have him arrested.
- ARI I'm being tormented!
- TYN His eyes are ablaze. He's having a fit, Hegio. Can't you
see that his whole body is covered with lurid spots? Black
bile²⁵ is driving him mad.
- ARI If this old man did the sensible thing, black pitch would
drive *you* mad at the hangman's and would light up your
head.
- TYN Now he's raving; evil spirits are driving him, Hegio.
- HEG What if I have him put under restraint?
- TYN You'd be doing the sensible thing.
- ARI I'm in agony because I don't have a stone to smash out
the brains of this whipping-post, who's driving me mad
with his words.
- TYN Can you hear? He's looking for a stone.
- ARI Hegio, I'd like to speak to you one to one.
- HEG Speak from there, from a distance, if you want anything.
I'll listen all the same.
- TYN Yes, because if you get any closer he'll bite your nose off.
- 600 ARI Hegio, don't believe that I'm mad, or that I've ever been,
or that I have the illness he says. But if you fear anything
from me, have me tied up. I want it, so long as this chap is
also tied up.
- TYN No, no, no, Hegio, let the one be tied up who wants it.

²⁵ One of the four humors, responsible for madness and melancholy.599 HEG hercle quid *B¹VEJ*, HEG quid *B³*, <Hegio> HEG quid
Lindsay, hercle qui . . . iusseris *Leo* (*qui omnia Tyndaro dat*)

ARI tace modo. ego te, Philocrates
 610 false, faciam ut uerus hodie reperiare Tyndarus.
 611 quid mi abnutas?
 12 TYN tibi ego abnuto?
 ARI quid agat, si apsis longius?
 HEG quid ais? quid si adeam hunc insanum?
 TYN nugas! ludificabitur,
 615 garriet quoi nec pes umquam nec caput compareat.
 ornamenta apsunt: Aiacem, hunc quom uides, ipsum uides.
 HEC nihil facio. tamen adibo.
 TYN nunc ego omnino occidi,
 nunc ego inter sacrum saxumque sto, nec quid faciam
 scio.
 HEC do tibi operam, Aristophontes, si quid est quod me uelis.
 ARI ex me audibis uera quae nunc falsa opinare, Hegio.
 620 sed hoc primum, me expurigare tibi uolo, me insaniam
 nec tenere nec mi esse ullum morbum, nisi quod seruio.
 at ita me rex deorum atque hominum faxit patriae com-
 potem,
 ut istic Philocrates non magis est quam aut ego aut tu.
 HEG echo dic mihi,
 quis illic igitur est?
 ARI quem dudum dixi a principio tibi.
 625 hoc si secus repieres, nullam causam dico quin mihi
 et parentum et libertatis apud te deliquio siet.
 HEG quid tu ais?
 TYN me tuom esse seruom et te meum erum.

²⁶ Ajax, son of Telamon, a mythological hero driven mad by Athena; killed the flocks and then committed suicide.

²⁷ *Saxum*, the flint knife used by priests to kill sacrificial victims.

ARI Just shut up. I'll make sure, you false Philocrates, that
 611 you'll be discovered to be the true Tyndarus today. (*Tyndarus is making signs to Aristophontes*) Why are you
 -12 shaking your head at me?
 TYN I'm shaking my head at you?
 ARI (to Hegio) What would he be doing if you were further
 away?
 HEG (to Tyndarus) What do you say? What if I approach this
 lunatic?
 TYN Nonsense! He'll make a fool of you, he'll waffle things
 615 you cannot make head or tail of. The stage get-up is miss-
 ing, but when you see him, you see Ajax²⁶ himself.
 HEG I don't care. I'll approach him all the same. (*moves to-*
ward Aristophontes)
 TYN (aside) Now I'm done for completely, now I'm standing
 between altar and knife²⁷ and I don't know what to do.
 HEG I'm attending to you, Aristophontes, if there's anything
 you want to tell me.
 ARI You'll hear the truth from me, Hegio, which you're now
 believing to be a lie. But first I want to clear myself with
 you: I'm not mad and there's nothing wrong with me ex-
 cept that I'm a slave. But as truly as the king of gods and
 men may restore me to my own country, that man is no
 more Philocrates than I or you.
 HEG Oho! Tell me, who is he then?
 ARI The one I told you right from the start. If you find this
 otherwise, I have no objection to losing parents and free-
 dom at your place.
 HEG (to Tyndarus) What do you say?
 TYN That I'm your slave and that you're my master.

PLAUTUS

HEG haud istuc rogo.
 fuit in liber?
 TYN fui.
 ARI enim uero non fuit, nugas agit.
 TYN qui tu scis? an tu fortasse fuisti meae matri opstetrix,
 630 qui id tam audacter dicere audes?
 ARI puerum te uidi puer.
 TYN at ego te uideo maiorem maior: em rursum tibi.
 meam rem non cures, si recte facias. num ego euro tuam?
 HEG fuitne huic pater Thesaurochrysonicochrysides?
 ARI non fuit, neque ego istuc nomen umquam audiui ante
 635 hunc diem.
 ||| Philocrati Theodoromedes fuit pater.
 TYN pereo probe.
 quin quiescis . . . dierectum cor meum? ac suspende te.
 tu sussultas, ego miser uix asto prae formidine.
 HEG satin istue mihi exquisitum est, fuisse hunc seruom in
 Alide
 neque esse hunc Philocratem?
 ARI tam satis quam numquam hoc inuenies secus.
 640 sed ubi is nunc est?
 HEG ubi ego minime atque ipsus se uolt maxume.
 643 sed uide sis.
 ARI quin exploratum dico et prouisum hoc tibi.
 644 HEG certon?
 ARI quin nihil, inquam, inuenies magis hoc certo certius.
 645 Philocrates iam inde usque amicus fuit mihi a puero
 puer.

THE CAPTIVES

HEG That's not what I'm asking. Were you free before?
 TYN Yes, I was.
 ARI No, he wasn't, he's fooling you.
 TYN (to Aristophontes) How do you know? Were you perhaps
 my mother's midwife, as you dare to state this so boldly? 630
 ARI When I was a boy I saw you as a boy.
 TYN And now that I'm a grown-up I see you as a grown-up.
 There you go, tit for tat! You wouldn't meddle with my
 business if you did the right thing. I'm not meddling with
 yours, am I?
 HEG Was his father Goldtreasure-Goldwinson?
 ARI No, he wasn't, and I've never heard that name before this
 day. Philocrates' father was Theodoromedes.
 TYN (aside) I'm dying thoroughly. Calm down, my heart . . .
 damn it all, hang yourself! You are jumping up and down,
 while I, poor devil, can barely stand for fear.
 HEG Is it absolutely clear that this man was a slave in Elis and
 that he isn't Philocrates?
 ARI So absolutely that you'll never find it to be otherwise. But 640
 where is he now?
 HEG Where I want him to be least and where he wants to be
 most. But are you quite sure?
 ARI Yes, I'm telling you that this has been investigated and
 checked for you.
 HEG For certain?
 ARI Yes, I assure you, you won't find anything more certain
 that this certainty. Philocrates has been my friend since
 we were both boys.

631 maior maiorem *P, transp. Brix*

PLAUTUS

HEG tum igitur ego deruncinatus, deartuatus sum miser
642 huius scelesti techinis, qui me ut lubitum est ductauit
dolis.
ARI sed qua facie est tuos sodalis Philocrates?
HEG dicam tibi;
ARI macilento ore, naso acuto, corpore albo, oculis nigris,
subrufus aliquantum, crispus, cincinnatus.
HEG conuenit.
TYN ut quidem hercle in medium ego hodie pessume pro-
cesserim.
650 uae illis uirgis miseris, quae hodie in tergo morientur
meo.
HEG uerba mihi data esse uideo.
TYN quid cessatis, compedes,
currere ad me meaque amplecti crura, ut uos custodiam?
HEG satin med illi hodie scelesti capti ceperunt dolo?
655 illic seruum se assimulabat, hic sese autem liberum.
nuculeum amisi, reliqui pignerri putamina.
ita mi stolido sursum uorsum os subleuere offuciis.
hicquidem me numquam irridebit. Colaphe, Cordalio,
Corax,
ite istinc, efferte lora.
COL num lignatum mittimur?
III. v: HEGIO, TYNDARVS, ARISTOPHONTES
HEG inicite huic manicas <maxumas> mastigiae.
660 TYN quid hoc est negoti? quid ego deliqui?

641-2 post 645 posuit Brix

659 maxumas add. Spengel

²⁸ Pun on the two meanings of *conuenit*. Hegio means that the description fits; Tyndarus says that there is an agreement between two parties.

THE CAPTIVES

HEG So I've been cut up and dismembered by this rascal's tricks, poor me; he led me on with his tricks as he liked. But what does your friend Philocrates look like?
641 ARI I'll tell you. He has a narrow face, a sharp nose, fair complexion, dark eyes, and his hair is somewhat reddish, wavy, and curly.
HEG That agrees.
TYN (aside) It does agree²⁸ . . . with me having come to the fore most inauspiciously today. Bad luck to those wretched rods that will die on my back today.
HEG I can see I've been fooled.
TYN (aside) Shackles, why are you hesitating to rush to me and embrace my shins so I can guard you?
HEG Haven't those rascals who were caught caught me out well with their trick today? That one was pretending to be a slave, and this one to be free. I threw away the nut and kept the shell as a surety. They fooled²⁹ me in every conceivable way, idiot that I am. But this one will never have the laugh on me. (shouting into the house)
655 Colaphus, Cordalio, Corax, get out from there, bring out your straps.
Enter three OVERSEERS with whips and chains.
COL Are we being sent to collect firewood³⁰?
HEG Put the heaviest handcuffs onto this rascal. (*the overseers are obeying*)
TYN What's the matter? What have I done wrong?
660

²⁹ Lit. "they smeared my face," a phrase based on the practical joke of painting the face of someone who is sleeping (Non. p. 65 Lindsay).

³⁰ A joke; loads of firewood are bound with straps, as are slaves.

PLAUTUS

		rogas,
HEG	sator sartorque scelerum et messor maxume?	
TYN	non "occatorem" dicere audebas prius? nam semper occant prius quam sariunt rustici.	
HEG	at<tat> ut confidenter mihi contra astitit!	
TYN	debet innocentem seruolum atque innoxium confidentem esse, suom apud erum potissimum.	
HEG	astringite isti sultis uehementer manus.	
TYN	tuos sum, tu has quidem uel praecidi iube. sed quid negoti est? quam ob rem suscenses mihi?	
HEG	quia me meamque rem, quod in te uno fuit, tuis scelestis, falsidicis fallaciis delacerauisti deartauistisque opes. confecisti omnis res ac rationes meas: ita mi exemisti Philocratem fallaciis. illum esse seruom credidi, te liberum; ita uosmet aiebatis itaque nomina inter uos permutastis.	
TYN	fateor omnia	
	facta esse ita ut <tu> dicis, et fallaciis abiisse eum aps te mea opera atque astutia; an, opsecro hercle te, id nunc suscenses mihi?	
HEG	at cum cruciatu maxumo id factum est tuo.	
TYN	dum ne ob male facta peream, parui existumo. si ego hic peribo, ast ille ut dixit non redit, at erit mi hoc factum mortuo memorabile, <me> meum erum captum ex seruitute atque hostibus reducem fecisse liberum in patriam ad patrem, meumque potius me caput periculo praeoptauisse quam is periret ponere.	

THE CAPTIVES

HEG You're asking, you sower, hoer, and greatest reaper of crimes?

TYN Didn't you want to say "harrower" earlier? Farmers always harrow before they hoe.

HEG Look at that, how boldly he's stood up to me!

TYN An innocent and blameless slave ought to be bold, especially in front of his master. 665

HEG (*to overseers*) Tie up his hands tightly, will you.

TYN I'm yours, you can even have them cut off. But what's the matter? Why are you angry with me?

HEG Because as far as you could you hacked me and my hopes to pieces and tore my chances to shreds through your wicked and false swindles. You've destroyed all my plans and calculations by snatching Philocrates from me through your swindles. I believed that he is a slave and that you are free; so you said yourselves and interchanged your names. 670

TYN I admit that everything was done as you say, and that he left you because of my tricks, my effort, and my cunning. Seriously, I ask you, is that why you're angry with me now? 680

HEG You'll pay for doing this with the hardest torture.

TYN So long as I don't die for bad deeds, I don't care. If I die here and if he doesn't return as promised, this deed of mine will still be worth remembering when I'm dead: that I made it possible for my master, who was a prisoner, to return from slavery and the enemy to his own land and his father as a free man, and that I preferred to put my own life at risk rather than let him die. 685

685 me add. *Pulades*

- 690 HEG facito ergo ut Accherunti clueas gloria.
 TYN qui per uirtutem periit, at non interit.
- HEG quando ego te exemplis excruciaro pessumis
 atque ob sutelas tuas te morti misero,
 uel te interiisse uel periisse praedicent;
 dum pereas, nihil interdico aiant uiuere.
 695 TYN pol si istuc faxis, hau sine poena feceris,
 si ille huc rebitet, sicut confido affore.
- ARI pro di immortales! nunc ego teneo, nunc scio
 quid hoc sit negoti. meus sodalis Philocrates
 in libertate est ad patrem in patria <domo>.
 700 | bene est, nec quisquam est mi aequae melius quo uelim.
 sed hoc mihi aegre est, me huic dedisse operam malam,
 qui nunc propter me meaque uerba uinctus est.
 HEG uotuin te quicquam mi hodie falsum proloqui?
 TYN uot[a]uisti.
 HEG quor es ausus mentiri mihi?
 705 TYN quia uera obessent illi quo operam dabam:
 nunc falsa prosunt.
 HEG at tibi oberunt.
 TYN optume est.
 at erum seruauui, quem seruatum gaudeo,
 quoi me custodem addiderat erus maior meus.
 sed malene id factum <tu> arbitrare?
 HEG pessume.
 710 TYN at ego aio recte, qui aps te seorsum sentio.
 nam cogitato, si quis hoc gnato tuo

691 pessumis excruciauero *P*, transp. *Camerarius*, p. cruciauero
Brix 694 dicant *P*, aiant *Fleckensein*
 699–700 domo *add. Schoell*, neque <usquam> *Lange* qui bene est in
 fine uersus 699 ponit

- HEG Then make sure that you're famous in the Underworld.
 TYN A man who dies as a result of his noble character does not 690
 perish.
- HEG When I've tortured you in the harshest ways and put you
 to death for your tricks, they can say that you've perished
 or that you've merely died; so long as you die, I don't for-
 bid them to say that you're alive.
- TYN If you do that, you won't have done it without suffering 695
 for it if that man returns here, as I'm sure he will.
- ARI (aside) Immortal gods! Now I grasp it, now I know what's
 going on. My friend Philocrates is at home with his father
 in freedom. That's good, and there isn't anyone toward 700
 whom I'm better disposed. But I'm upset that I did this
 chap here a bad turn, who's now in fetters because of me
 and my words.
- HEG Didn't I forbid you to tell me any lies today?
- TYN You did.
- HEG Why did you dare lie to me?
- TYN Because the truth would have been an obstacle to the 705
 man I was trying to help, whereas lies are useful.
- HEG But they'll be harmful to you.
- TYN Very well. But I saved my master and I'm happy that he's
 saved; my old master had made me his guardian. But do
 you think this was a bad deed?
- HEG A very bad one.
- TYN But I say it was a good one; my opinion is not the same as 710
 yours. Well, think about it, if a slave of yours were to do

704 uotuisti *Pareus* (*uotuin* in 703)
 709 tu *add. Pylades*

PLAUTUS

tuos seruos faxit, qualem haberes gratiam?
emitteresne necne eum seruom manu?
essetne apud te is seruos acceptissimus?
responde.

HEG opinor.

TYN quor ergo iratus mihi es

HEG quia illi fuisti quam mihi fidelior.

TYN quid? tu una nocte postulauisti et die
recens captum hominem, nuperum, nouicium,
te perdocere ut melius consulerem tibi

quam illi quicum una <a> puero aetatem exegeram?

HEG ergo ab eo petito gratiam istam. ducite
ubi ponderosas, crassas capiat compedis.

inde ibis porro in latomias lapidarias.

ibi quom alii octonus lapides effodiunt, nisi cotidiano sesqueopus confeceris,
“Sescentoplago” nomen indetur tibi

ARI per deos atque homines ego te optestor, Hegio,
ne tu istunc hominem perduis.

HEG curabitur;

nam noctu neruo uinctus custodibitur,
interdius sub terra lapides eximet:
diu ego hunc cruciabo, non uno apsoluam die.

ARI certumne est tibi istuc?

HEG non moriri certius.

abducite istum actutum ad Hippolytum fabrum,
iubete huic crassas compedis impingier;
inde extra portam ad meum libertum Cordalum
in lapicidinas facite deductus siet:

720 a add. *Pylades*

THE CAPTIVES

this for your son, what gratitude would you feel toward him? Would you set that slave free or not? Wouldn't that slave be your favorite? Answer me.

715

HEG I think so.

TYN Then why are you angry with me?

HEG Because you've been more faithful to him than to me.

TYN What? You expected to teach me in one night and one day, a man taken prisoner recently, a fresh novice, to look after your interests better than those of a man I'd spent my life with from childhood? 72

HEG Then ask him for thanks for that. (*to overseers*) Take him to a place where he puts on heavy, hefty shackles. (*to Tyndarus*) From there you'll go straight to the stone quarries. While others are digging out eight blocks each there, they'll call you Beatnik unless you finish half as much work again every day. 7.

ARI I entreat you by the gods and men, Hegio, don't lose that man.

HEG I'll see to that:³¹ at night he'll be guarded bound with a fetter, and during the day he'll hew out stones underground. I'll torture him for a long time, I won't let him off the hook in a single day.

ARI Is that settled for you?

HEG Death isn't more settled than that. (*to overseers*) Take him away to the blacksmith Hippolytus immediately, and have hefty shackles put on him. Have him brought from there to the quarries to my freeman Cordalus outside the

³¹ Pun on the two meanings of *perdere*; Aristophontes means "lose" in the sense of "destroy," while Hegio deliberately understands it as "let escape."

PLAUTUS

- 740 TYN atque hunc me uelle dicite ita curarier
ne qui deterius huic sit . . . quam quo pessum est.
periculum uitiae meae tuo stat periculo.
- 745 TYN post mortem in morte nihil est quod metuam mali,
etsi periuio usque ad summam aetatem, tamen
breue spatium est perferundi quae minitas mihi.
uale atque salve, etsi aliter ut dicam meres.
tu, Aristophontes, de me ut meruisti, ita uale;
nam mihi propter te hoc optigit.
- HEG abducite.
- TYN at unum hoc quaeso, si hic rebitet Philocrates,
ut mi eius facias conueniundi copiam.
- 750 HEG periistis, nisi hunc iam e conspectu abducitis.
- 750 TYN uis haec quidem hercle est, et trahi et trudi simul.
HEG illuc est abductus recta in phylacam, ut dignus est.
ego illis captiuis aliis documentum dabo,
ne tale quisquam facinus incipere audeat.
quod apsque hoc esset, qui mihi hoc fecit palam,
usque offrenatum suis me ductarent dolis.
- 755 TYN nunc certum est nulli posthac quicquam credere.
satis sum semel deceptus. sperauit miser
ex seruitate me exemisse filium:
ea spes elapsa est. perdidi unum filium,
puerum quadrum quem mihi seruos surpuit,
neque eum seruom umquam repperi nec filium;

THE CAPTIVES

- 740 gate. And say that I want him to be looked after in such a way that it should in now way be worse for him . . . than it is for the one for whom it is worst.
- 740 TYN Why should I demand to be well against your will? The risk to my life is at your own risk. After death, there is no evil in death for me to fear. Even if I live to a great age, it's still only a short period for me to bear what you're threatening me with. Farewell and be well, even though you deserve that I should say otherwise. You, Aristophontes, may you fare as you've deserved of me: this has happened to me because of you.
- 745 HEG (*to overseers*) Take him away.
- 745 TYN But I ask you for one thing: give me a chance to meet Philocrates if he comes back here.
- 745 HEG (*to overseers*) You're dead if you don't remove him from my sight immediately. (*the overseers are dragging Tyndarus away*)
- 750 TYN That's violence, being pulled and pushed at the same time.
- Exit TYNDARUS to the left with the overseers.*
- 750 HEG That man's been taken away into custody directly as he deserves. I'll give those other prisoners a warning example so that nobody dares to begin such a trick. If it hadn't been for the man who revealed it to me they'd have blinded me and led me on with their tricks permanently. Now I definitely won't trust anyone in anything in future. Once bitten, twice shy. Dear me, I was hoping that I'd ransomed my son from slavery; that hope has fallen through. I lost *one* son, a boy of four years, whom a slave snatched away from me, and I've never found that slave

maior potitus hostium est. quod hoc est scelus?
 quasi in orbitatem liberos produxerim.
 sequere hac. reducam te ubi fuisti. neminis
 miserere certum est, quia mei miseret neminem.
 exauspicai ex uinculis. nunc intellego
 redauspicandum esse in catenas denuo.

ACTVS IV

IV. i: ERGASILVS

Iuppiter supreme, seruas me measque auges opes,
 maxumas opimitates opiparasque offers mihi,
 laudem, lucrum, ludum, iocum, festiuitatem, ferias,
 pomparam, penum, potationes, saturitatem, gaudium,
 nec quoiquam homini supplicare nunc^{iam} certum est
 mihi;
 nam uel prodesse amico possum uel inimicum perdere,
 ita hic me amoenitate amoena amoenus onerauit dies.
 sine sacris hereditatem sum aptus effertissumam.
 775 nunc ad senem cursum capessam hunc Hegionem, quo
 boni
 tantum affero quantum ipsus a dis optat, atque etiam am-
 plius.
 nunc certa res est, eodem pacto ut comici serui solent,
 coniciam in collum pallium, primo ex med hanc rem ut
 audiat;

772 nunc P, nunc^{iam} Geppert

or my son again. The *older* one's fallen into the enemy's hands. What misfortune is this? As if I'd got children only to be childless again! (*to Aristophontes*) Follow me this way. I'll take you back to where you were before. I'm definitely not going to have pity on anyone, since no one has pity on me.

I left the fetters under good omens. Now I understand I have to enter the chains again under bad omens.

Exeunt HEGIO and ARISTOPHONTES with slaves to the right.

ACT FOUR

Enter ERGASILUS from the left.

ERG Great Jupiter, you save me, prosper my property, and bring me huge and lavish prosperity, praise, profit, pleasure, laughter, liveliness, and leisure, a parade of dishes, provisions, parties for drinking, fullness, joy. I definitely won't seek anyone's goodwill from now on; I can help a friend or destroy an enemy: this beautiful day has loaded me down with beautiful beauty. I've got hold of a stuffed inheritance with no strings attached.³² Now I'll direct my course to this old chap Hegio; I'm bringing him as much good as he himself wishes for from the gods, and even more. Now I've decided I'll throw my cloak round my neck the same way slaves in comedy usually do, so he can

³² Lit. "without sacrifices"; Festus (p. 370 Lindsay) tells us that people did not just inherit money, but with it the obligation to perform certain sacrifices.

PLAUTUS

780

spero que me ob hunc nuntium aeternum adepturum ci-
bum.

IV. ii: HEGIO. ERGASILVS

- HEG quanto in pectore hanc rem meo magis uoluto,
tanto mi aegritudo auctior est in animo.
ad illum modum sublitum os esse mi hodie!
neque id perspicere quiui.
785 quod quom scibitur, per urbem irridebor.
quom extemplo ad forum aduenero, omnes loquentur:
“hic ille est senex doctus quo uerba data sunt.”
sed Ergasilius estne hic procul quem uideo?
collecto quidem est pallio. quidnam acturust?
790 ERG moue aps te moram atque, Ergasile, age hanc rem.
eminor interminorque, ne [quis] mi opstiterit obuiam,
nisi quis satis diu uixisse sese homo arbitrabitur.
nam qui opstiterit ore sistet.
HEG hic homo pugilatum incipit.
ERG facere certum est. proinde ut omnes itinera insistant sua:
ne quis in hanc plateam negoti conferat quicquam sui.
795 nam meum est ballista pugnum, cubitus catapulta est
mihi,
umerus aries, tum genu ad quemqu' iecero ad terram
dabo,
dentilegos omnis mortalis faciam, quemque offendero.
HEG 796 qua illaec eminatio est nam? nequeo mirari satis.
800 ERG faciam ut huius diei locique meique semper meminerit.

785 <tum> per Lindemann *ut tetrameter fiat*

791 quis del. Guyet

795 hac platea P, hanc plateam Bothe

796 meus . . . pugnus P, sed pugnum grammaticus testatur (Keil 5.
587. 12)

THE CAPTIVES

hear this from me first. I expect that for this message I'll 780
get food forever.

Enter HEGIO from the right.

- HEG The more I'm turning this matter around in my heart, the
more my grief increases inside me. Is it possible that I
was fooled like that today? I couldn't see through it. Once
this is known, I'll be a laughing-stock throughout the city.
As soon as I come to the market, everybody will be say-
ing: “This is that clever old man who was tricked.” (*looks
around*) But isn't this Ergasilius I can see in the distance?
He's girded up his cloak. What on earth is he going to do?
(*steps aside*)

- 790 ERG Stop delaying and sort this out, Ergasilius. I issue a warn-
ing and a threat: let no one stand in my way unless he
believes he's lived long enough: anyone who stands in my
way will stand on his head. (*shadow-boxes*)

- HEG (*aside*) He's beginning a boxing-match.
ERG I mean what I say. So all should stick to their own paths.
Let no one bring any business of his into this street: 795
my fist is a stone, my elbow is an arrow, my shoulder is a
battering ram, and I'll knock to the ground anyone I di-
rect my knee at. I'll make all mortals tooth-collectors,
whomever I meet.

- HEG (*aside*) What do all those threats mean? I can't help won-
dering.

- ERG I'll make sure that he remembers this day, this place, and 800

PLAUTUS

- qui mi in cursu [opstiterit], faxo uitae is extemplu opstite-
rit sua.
- HEG quid hic homo tantum incipisset facere cum tantis minis?
ERG prius edico, ne quis propter culpam capiatur suam:
contineat uos domi, prohibete a uobis uim meam.
805 HEG mira edepol sunt ni hic in uentrem sumpsit confiden-
tiām.
uae misero illi, quoius cibo iste factust imperiosior!
ERG tum pistores scrofipisci, qui alunt furfuribus sues,
quarum odore praeterire nemo pistrinum potest:
eorum si quoiusquam scrofam in publico conspexero,
ex ipsis dominis meis pugnis exculcabo furfures.
810 HEG basilicas edictiones atque imperiosas habet:
satur homo est, habet profecto in uentre confidentiam.
ERG tum piscatores, qui praebent populo piscis foetidos,
qui aduehuntrt quadrupedanti, crucianti cantherio,
815 quorum odos subbasilicanos omnis abigit in forum,
eis ego ora uerberabo surpiculis piscariis,
ut sciant alieno naso quam exhibeant molestiam.
tum lanii autem, qui concinnant liberis orbas ouis,
qui locant caedundos agnos et dupla agnina danunt,
qui Petroni nomen induit uerueci sectario,
eum ego si in uia Petronem publica conspexero,
et Petronem et dominum reddam mortalis miserrimos.
820

801 in cursu *del. Bothe*, opstiterit¹ *del. Lindsay*

³³ According to Paul the Deacon (p. 227 Lindsay), *petro* is a term for a country yokel derived from *petra* (stone). While he is probably right about usage, the derivation seems wrong. *Petro* is a Sabellian first name connected with the word for “four,” just as the Latin name *Quintus* originally just meant “child born in the fifth month of the year.” *Petro* became a derogatory term, just as Spanish *Diego* became English “dago.”

THE CAPTIVES

- me for good. If anyone stands in my way during my jour-
ney, I’ll make sure that he’ll immediately stand in the way
of his own survival.
- HEG (*aside*) What great task is he beginning to do with such
great threats?
- ERG I’m announcing it in advance so that no one comes to
grief for failing to take the right measures. Stay at home,
keep my violence away from you.
- HEG (*aside*) It would be strange if he hasn’t put boldness into
his belly. Bad luck to the wretched chap whose food has
made him all too domineering!
- ERG Next point: the millers feeding sows, who raise pigs with
the husks, because of whose stench no one can go past
the mill; if I see a sow of any one of them in public, I’ll
knock the husks out of their owners themselves with my
fists.
- HEG (*aside*) He has royal and imperious proclamations; the
man is full, yes, he has boldness in his belly.
- ERG Next point: the fishmongers, who ride here on a jogging,
jolting gelding and who offer the people stinking fish
whose stench drives all loafers in the arcade out into
the market, I’ll whack their faces with their fish baskets
so that they know what a nuisance they are to the pub-
lic nose. Next point now: the butchers who arrange for
sheep to be bereft of their children, who arrange for the
lambs to be slaughtered and then sell the meat for double
the price, who call the wether followed by the flock their
Petro;³³ if I set my eyes on this Petro in a public street, I’ll
make both Petro and its master the most wretched of
mortals.

In our passage, the butchers probably use the name as an affectionate term, while Ergasilus shows contempt.

805

810

815

820

PLAUTUS

- HEG eugepae! edictiones aedilicias hicquidem habet,
mirumque adeo est ni hunc fecere sibi Aetoli agorano-
825 ERG mum.
non ego nunc parasitus sum sed regum rex regalior,
tantus uentri commeatus meo adest in portu cibus.
sed ego cesso hunc Hegionem onerare laetitia senem,
qui homine <homo> adaeque nemo uiuit fortunatior.
HEG quae illaec est laetitia quam illic laetus largitur mihi?
830 ERG heus ubi estis? <ecquis hic est?> ecquis hoc aperit os-
tium?
HEG hic homo ad cenam recipit se ad me.
ERG aperite hasce ambas fores
prius quam pulsando assulatum foribus exitium affero.
833 HEG perlubet hunc hominem colloqui.
833^a Ergasile.
ERG Ergasilum qui uocat?
834 HEG respice.
ERG Fortuna quod tibi
834^a nec facit nec faciet, [hoc] me iubes.
835 sed quis est?
HEG respice ad me, Hegio sum.
ERG oh mihi,
836 quantum est hominum optumorum optume, in
836^a tempore aduenis.
HEG nescioquem ad portum nactus es ubi cenes, eo fastidis.
ERG cedo manum.
HEG manum?
ERG manum, inquam, cedo tuam actutum.

824 Aetoli sibi Guyet

828 homo add. Lindsay, quo mihi homine Niemeyer

830 ecquis hic est add. Bothe 834^a hoc del. Brix

THE CAPTIVES

- HEG (aside) Bravo! This man has an aedile's edicts,³⁴ and it would be a surprise indeed if the Aetolians haven't made him their market inspector.
825 ERG Now I'm not a hanger-on, but a regular royal king of kings, if the supply for my stomach in the harbor is anything to go by—food! But I'm delaying weighing old Hegio here down with joy; no man's luckier than him.
HEG (aside) What is that joy this joyful creature is giving me?
ERG (knocking at the door) Hello, where are you? Is anyone 830 here? Is anyone opening this door?
HEG (aside) He's coming for dinner at my place.
ERG Open this door, both leaves, before I bring destruction to it by battering it to splinters.
HEG (aside) I really want to speak to him. (loudly) Ergasilus.
ERG Who's calling Ergasilus?
HEG Kindly look at me.
ERG Look at you kindly?³⁵ You're telling me to do what Good Fortune isn't doing for you, or ever will do. But who is it?
835 HEG Kindly look at me. I'm Hegio.
ERG (looks back) Oh best man of all best men, you're coming just in time.
HEG You've found someone at the harbor where you can eat, that's why you're too proud for me.
ERG Give me your hand.
HEG My hand?
ERG I'm telling you, give me your hand immediately.

³⁴ The aediles were magistrates with police functions, but they also exercised legal jurisdiction.³⁵ Pun on the two meanings of *respicere*: "look back" and "look on someone with favor."

- 840 HEG tene.
 ERG gaude.
 HEG quid ego gaudeam?
 ERG quia ego impero, age gaude modo.
 HEG pol maerores mi anteuortunt gaudiis.
 ERG iam ego ex corpore exigam omnis maculas maerorum
 tibi.
 gaude audacter.
 HEG gaudeo, etsi nil scio quod gaudeam.
 ERG bene facis. iube—
 HEG quid iubeam?
 ERG ignem ingentem fieri.
 HEG ignem ingentem?
 ERG ita dico, magnus ut sit.
 HEG quid? me, uolturi,
 tuan causa aedis incensurum censes?
 ERG noli irascier.

 iuben an non iubes astitui aulas, patinas elui,
 laridum atque epulas foueri fociulus feruentibus?
 alium piscis praestinatum abire?
 HEG hic uigilans somniat.
 ERG alium porcinam atque agninem et pullos gallinaceos?
 HEG scis bene esse, si sit unde.
 ERG pernam atque ophthalmiam,
 horaeum, scombrum et trygonum et cetum et mollem
 caseum?
 HEG nominandi istorum tibi erit magis quam edundi copia
 hic apud med, Ergasile.
 ERG mean me causa hoc censes dicere?

840 noli irascier *P*, gaude modo *Brix* (noli irascier *falso* ex 845)

- 840 HEG (*stretches it out*) Take it.
 ERG (*grasping it*) Be happy.
 HEG What should I be happy for?
 ERG Because I'm ordering you to be, go on, just be happy.
 HEG Well, sadness has the upper hand over joy in my case. 840
 ERG Just be happy! I'll immediately drive all spots of grief out
 of your body. Rejoice boldly.
 HEG I am rejoicing, even if I don't know what I should be re-
 joicing for.
 ERG Thank you. Order—
 HEG (*interrupting*) What should I order?
 ERG —a huge fire to be made.
 HEG A huge fire?
 ERG Yes, I'm saying it should be big.
 HEG (*angrily*) What? You vulture, do you think I'll set fire to
 my house for your sake?
 ERG Don't be angry. Are you ordering the pots to be set near 846
 the fire, yes or no? The pans to be washed, and the lard
 and titbits to be heated up in burning braziers? Someone
 else to go and buy fish?
 HEG He's sleeping with open eyes.
 ERG Another one to buy pork and lamb and spring chicken? 850
 HEG You know how to have a good time if you have the means.
 ERG Ham and sea-bream, salted fish, mackerel, and sting-ray,
 and dolphin, and soft cheese?
 HEG You'll have more of a chance to name those things than to
 eat them here at my place, Ergasilus.
 ERG Do you think I'm saying this for my own sake?

855 HEG nec nil hodie nec multo plus tu hic edes, ne frustra sis.
 ERG proin tu tui cottidiani uicti uentrem ad me afferas.

HEG quin ita faciam, ut <tu>te cupias facere sumptum, etsi
 ego uotem.

HEG egone?

ERG tune.

HEG tum tu mi igitur erus es.

ERG immo beneuolens.

HEG uin te faciam fortunatum?

HEG malim quam miserum quidem.

ERG cedo manum.

HEG em manum.

ERG di te omnes adiuuant.

HEG nil sentio.

860 ERG non enim es in senticeto, eo non sentis. sed iube
 uasa tibi pura apparari ad rem diuinam cito,
 atque agnum afferri proprium pinguem.

HEG quor?

ERG ut sacrificies.

HEG quoi deorum?

ERG mi hercle, nam ego nunc tibi sum summus Iuppiter,
 idem ego sum Salus, Fortuna, Lux, Laetitia, Gaudium.

865 ERG proin tu deum hunc saturitate facias tranquillum tibi.

HEG esurire mihi uidere.

ERG miquidem esurio, non tibi.

HEG tuo arbitratu, facile patior.

ERG credo, consuetu's puer.

856 te P, tute Bentley

862 <album> agnum Niemeyer

HEG You won't eat nothing here today, but you won't eat much more either, don't be fooled. So bring me a stomach 855 ready for your everyday fare.

ERG No, I'll take care that you yourself wish to squander money, even if I forbade it.

HEG I?

ERG Yes, you.

HEG Then you're my master.

ERG No, your well-wisher. Do you want me to make you happy?

HEG Yes, certainly, rather than unhappy.

ERG Give me your hand.

HEG Here's my hand. (*stretches it out*)

ERG (*grasping it*) All the gods are helping you.

HEG I don't feel a thing.

ERG Well, you're not in a thicket, that's why you're too thick to 860 feel anything.³⁶ But order clean vessels to be prepared for you for religious rites quickly, and a suitable fat lamb to be brought here.

HEG Why?

ERG So you can sacrifice.

HEG To what god?

ERG To me: I'm great Jupiter for you now; I'm also Salvation, Fortune, Light, Joy, and Happiness. So placate this god 865 by making him full.

HEG I can feel that you're hungry.

ERG No, I can feel that I'm hungry, *you* can't.

HEG As you wish, I can easily bear it.

ERG I believe so, you got used to it as a boy.³⁷

³⁶ Pun on *sentire* (feel) and *senticetum* (thicket of briars).

³⁷ *Pati* (bear it) is interpreted by Ergasilus as being at the receiving end in sexual intercourse.

- HEG Iuppiter te dique perdant.
 ERG te hercle . . . mi aequom est gratias
 agere ob nuntium; tantum ego nunc porto a portu tibi
 boni:
 870 nunc tu mihi places.
- HEG abi, stultu's, sero post tempus uenis.
 ERG igitur olim si aduenissem, magis tu tum istuc diceres;
 nunc hanc laetitiam accipe a me quam fero. nam filium
 tuom modo in portu Philopolemum uiuom, saluom et
 sospitem
 875 uidi in publica celoce, ibidemque illum adulescentulum
 Aleum una et tuom Stalagmum seruom, qui aufugit
 domo,
 qui tibi surrupuit quadrimum puerum filiolum tuom.
 HEG abi in malam rem, ludis me.
- ERG ita me amabit sancta Saturitas,
 Hegio, itaque suo me semper condecorat cognomine,
 ut ego uidi.
- HEG meum gnatum?
 ERG tuom gnatum et genium meum.
 880 HEG et captiuom illum Alidensem?
 ERG μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλωνα.
 HEG et seruolum
 meum Stalagmum, meum qui gnatum surrupuit?
 ERG ναὶ τὰν Κόραν.
 HEG iam hodie—
 ERG ναὶ τὰν Πραινέστην.

879 meum<ne> Bentley

882 diu P, hodie Niemeyer

³⁸ Ergasilus begins with an oath by Apollo, the god of prophecy, mu-

- 870 HEG May Jupiter and the gods destroy you.
 ERG No, you . . . should thank me for my message; so much
 good am I now bringing to you from the harbor. Now you
 should propitiate me.
- HEG Go away, you're being silly, you're coming too late, be-
 hind schedule.
- ERG If I'd come before, then you could have said this with
 better reason; now receive from me the joy I'm bringing:
 I just saw your son Philopolemus in the harbor, alive,
 safe, and sound, in a swift-boat belonging to the state,
 and there I also saw that young man from Elis together
 with him, and your slave Stalagmus, who fled from home
 and snatched your son from you when he was a four-year-
 old boy.
- HEG Go be hanged, you're pulling my leg.
- ERG As truly as holy Fullness will love me, Hegio, and as truly
 as she may always grace me with her name, I have seen
 him.
- HEG My son?
- ERG Your son and my guardian spirit.
- HEG And that prisoner from Elis?
 ERG Yes, by Apollo.
- HEG And my slave Stalagmus, who snatched my son away?
- ERG Yes, by Cora.³⁸
- HEG Did he—
 ERG (*interrupting*) Yes, by Praeneste.

sic, and many other things. He continues to swear by Proserpina, whose Greek name is Cora/Core, but since Cora is also a Volscian town, he turns to unusual oaths by Italian cities. Praeneste is modern Palestrina. Signea, Frusino, and Alatrium are nowadays better known as Segni, Frosinone, and Alatri.

- HEG uenit?
 ERG *vai τὰν Σιγνέαν.*
 HEG certon?
 ERG *vai τὰν Φρουσινῶνα.*
 HEG uide sis.
 ERG *vai τὸν Ἀλάτριον.*
 HEG quid tu per barbaricas urbis iuras?
 ERG quia enim item asperae
 sunt ut tuom uictum autumabas esse.
 HEG uae aetati—
 ERG *tuae!*
 HEG quippe quando mihi nil credis, quod ego dico sedulo.
 ERG sed Stalagmus quoius erat tunc nationis, quom hinc abit?
 Siculus.
 HEG at nunc Siculus non est, Boius est, boiam terit:
 liberorum quaerundorum causa ei, credo, uxor data est.
 HEG dic, bonan fide tu mi istaec uerba dixisti?
 ERG *bona.*
 HEG di immortales, iterum gnatus uideor, si uera autumas.
 ERG ain tu? dubium habebis etiam, sancte quom ego iurem
 tibi?
 postremo, Hegio, si parua iuri iurando est fides,
 uise ad portum.
 HEG facere certum est, tu intus cura quod opus est.
 sume, posce, prome quiduis, te facio cellarium.
 ERG nam hercle, nisi mantiscinatus probe ero, fusti pectito.

885 tuae *Ergasilo dat Lindsay*
 888 et *P.* at *Camerarius*

- 885 HEG —come already today?
 ERG Yes, by Signea.
 HEG Definitely?
 ERG Yes, by Frusino.
 HEG Are you quite sure?
 ERG Yes, by Alatrium.
 HEG Why are you swearing by foreign cities? 884
 ERG Because they're as rough as you said your food is.
 HEG Bad luck to—
 ERG (*interrupting*) You! Since you won't believe a word of
 what I'm saying in earnest. But what was Stalagmus' na-
 tionality when he went away from here?
 HEG Sicilian.
 ERG Now he's not a Sicilian, he's a Boian and embracing a
 Boian lady.³⁹ I guess she was given to him in marriage
 with a view to begetting children.
 HEG Tell me, did you tell me about this in good faith? 890
 ERG Yes, I did.
 HEG Immortal gods, I seem born again if you're speaking the
 truth.
 ERG Do you say so? You'll still doubt it when I'd give you a sol-
 emn oath? Well then, Hegio, if you have little faith in my
 oath, go and look in the harbor.
 HEG I'll certainly do so. You take care inside of what's needed.
 Take, demand, help yourself to anything you like. I 895
 hereby make you my butler.
 ERG Yes, if I don't tuck in⁴⁰ properly, you can comb me down
 with a club.

³⁹ The "Boian lady" is a neck collar used for torturing slaves.
⁴⁰ *Mantiscinari*, of doubtful meaning. Perhaps connected with *mantis* (sauce); hence my translation. Possibly punning on Greek *mantis* (soothsayer).

PLAUTUS

HEG aeternum tibi dapinabo uictum, si uera autumas.
 ERG unde id?
 HEG a me meoque gnato.
 ERG sponden tu istud?
 HEG spondeo.
 ERG at ego tuom tibi aduenisse filium respondeo.
 900 HEG cura quam optume potes.
 ERG bene ambula et redambula.

IV. iii: ERGASILVS

905 ERG illie hinc abiit, mihi rem summam creditit cibarium.
 di immortales, iam ut ego collos praetruncabo tegoribus!
 quanta pernis pestis ueniet, quanta labes larido,
 quanta sumini apsumedo, quanta callo calamitas,
 quanta laniis lassitudo, quanta porcinariis!
 nam si alia memorem, quae ad uentris uictum condu-
 cunt, mora est.
 nunc ibo ut pro praefectura mea ius dicam larido,
 et quae pendent indemnatae pernae, is auxilium ut fe-
 ram.

IV. iv: PVER

910 PVER Diespiter te dique, Ergasile, perdant et uentrem tuom,
 parasitosque omnis, et qui posthac cenam parasitis dabit.
 clades calamitasque, intemperies modo in nostram adue-
 nit domum.
 912 quasi lupus esuriens metui ne in me faceret impetum.

912 metui *P*, timui *A*, fortasse *mi* timui

⁴¹ Here and in what follows we find a parody of a *sponsio*, a type of binding agreement. After Hegio makes his promise, the food belongs to

THE CAPTIVES

HEG I'll serve you meals for good if you're telling the truth.
 ERG Out of whose pocket?
 HEG Out of mine and that of my son.
 ERG Are you giving me your word?⁴¹
 HEG Yes, I am giving you my word.
 ERG And I am giving you this word: your son's arrived.
 HEG Attend to it as well as you can.
 ERG Have a good walk there and a good walk back.

Exit HEGIO to the left.

900 ERG He's left and he's put me in charge of the food depart-
 ment. Immortal gods, how I will chop the necks off the
 backs in a moment! What havoc will fall on the ham, what
 loss on the lard, what utter consumption on the udder,
 what misfortune on the meat, what sleepiness on the
 slaughterers and pork-butchers! Well, if I were to men-
 tion the other things which help toward the stomach's
 sustenance it would just cause delay. Now I'll go in order
 to pass judgment on the lard by virtue of my office and to
 bring help to the ham hanging unsentenced.

905 Exit ERGASILUS into the house. There is noise inside.

Enter a SLAVE-BOY from Hegio's house.

910 BOY May Jupiter and the gods destroy you, Ergasilius, and
 your stomach, and all hangers-on, and anyone who gives
 a dinner to hangers-on hereafter. Damage, loss, and mis-
 fortune just came into our house. I was afraid that he'd

915 Ergasilius. Ergasilius in turn puns on *spondere* and *respondere*: he "gives
 a reply" and "makes a *sponsio*" to the effect that Hegio's son has come.

PLAUTUS

912^a ubi uoltus <e>sur<ie>ntis ***** impetum
nimisque hercle ego illum male formidabam, ita frende-
bat dentibus.
915 adueniens deturbauit totum cum carni carnarium;
arripuit gladium, praeruncauit tribus tegoribus glandia;
aulas calicesque omnis confregit, nisi quae modiales
erant.
coquom percontabatur possentne seriae feruescere.
cellas refregit omnis intus recclusitque armarium.
asseruate istunc, sultis, serui. ego ibo ut conueniam se-
nem,
920 dicam ut sibi penum aliud [ad]ornet, siquidem sese uti
uolet;
nam hic quidem ut adornat aut iam nihil est aut iam nihil
erit.

ACTVS V

v. i: HEGIO. PHILOPOLEMVS. PHILOCRATES

HEG Ioui disque ago gratias merito magnas,
quom te reducem tuo patri reddiderunt
quomque ex miseriis plurumis me exemerunt,
quaes adhuc te carens dum hic fui sustentabam,
quomque hunc conspicor in potestate nostra,
quomque haec reperta est fides firma nobis.
PHILOP satis iam dolui ex animo, et cura satis me et lacrumis
macerauit,

912^a uersus non inuenitur in P

915 praeruncauit A, praeruncauit P

926 conspicio P, conspicor Geppert

914 carne Ω, carni Bothe

920 adornet A, ornet P

THE CAPTIVES

915 dash at me like a hungry wolf. When the face of the hun-
dry *** dash. I was terribly scared of him, the way he was
gnashing his teeth! When he arrived he threw down the
whole meat stand with the meat. He grabbed a sword
and chopped the sweet-breads off three meat-joints. He
smashed all pots and dishes to pieces, except those that
were bucket-sized. He asked the cook if the storage-vats
could stand the heat of cooking. He broke open all lar-
ders inside and opened up the pantry. (*shouting to those*
inside) Watch that man, will you, slaves! I'll go meet mas-
ter. I'll tell him to get other provisions for himself, if he
wants to use any himself: the way this chap here goes
about it, there's either nothing left now or there will be
nothing left in a moment.

Exit SLAVE-BOY to the left.

ACT FIVE

Enter HEGIO, PHILOPOLEMUS, PHILOCRATES, and STA-
LAGMUS from the left, the latter in chains.

HEG (*to Philopolemus*) I give great thanks to Jupiter and the
gods, and deservedly so, for bringing you back and re-
turning you to your father, for freeing me from the many
miseries which I endured until now while I was here
without you, for seeing this man (*points to Stalagmus*) in
our power, and for finding that this man's (*points to Philo-*
crates) promise was a firm one.

PHILOP (*to Hegio*) I've already had enough mental torture, I've
worn myself out enough through worry and tears, and

PLAUTUS

satis iam audiui tuas aerumnas, ad portum mihi quas me-
morasti.

930 hoc agamus.

PHILOC quid nunc, quoniam tecum seruau i fide-
tibique hunc reducem in libertatem feci?

HEG fecisti ut tibi,
Philocrates, numquam referre gratiam possim satis,
proinde ut tu promeritu's de me et filio.

PHILOC immo potes,
pater, et poteris et ego potero, et di eam potestatem da-
bunt

935 ut beneficium bene merenti nostro merito muneres;
sicut tu huic potes, pater mi, facere merito maxume.

HEG quid opus uerbis? lingua nulla est qua negem quicquid
roges.

PHILOC postulo aps te ut mi illum reddas seruom, quem hic re-
liquera

940 liquera
pignus pro me, qui mi melior quam sibi semper fuit,
pro bene factis eius ut ei pretium possim reddere.

HEG quod bene fecisti referetur gratia. id quod postulas,
et id et aliud quod me orabis impetrabis. atque te
nolim suscensere quod ego iratus ei feci male.

PHILOC quid fecisti?

945 HEG in lapicidinas compeditum condidi,
ubi resciui mihi data esse uerba.

PHILOC uea misero mihi,
propter meum caput labores homini euenisce optumo!

HEG at ob eam rem mihi libellam pro eo argenti ne duis:
gratiis a me, ut sit liber, ducito.

THE CAPTIVES

I've already heard enough about your hard times, which
you told me about at the harbor. Let's turn to this matter.

930

PHILOC Well then; I kept my promise toward you and re-
turned this chap (*points to Philopolemus*) to you in free-
dom.

HEG Philocrates, you've made sure that I'll never be able to
show you enough gratitude for your kindness toward me
and my son.

PHILOC No, father, you are able to, and you will be, and I will
also be, and the gods will give us the ability to reward a
man who is kind to us with our kindness; just as you can
be kind to this man for his great kindness, my father.

935

HEG (*to Philocrates*) What need is there for words? I don't
have any tongue with which I could refuse anything you
ask for.

PHILOC I want you to give me back that slave I left here as se-
curity for myself. He's always been better to me than to
himself. I'd like to reward him for his services.

940

HEG For your kindness toward us you'll receive thanks. What
you're requesting, this and anything else you ask me for,
you'll get it. (*hesitates for a moment*) And I wouldn't want
you to be angry with me for treating him badly in my
rage.

PHILOC What did you do?

HEG I had him wear shackles and put him into the quarries
when I found out that I'd been tricked.

945

PHILOC Oh no, I'm so wretched! Because of me the best of
men had to suffer!

HEG But because of that you shouldn't give me a farthing⁴² for
him. Take him from me for free so that he can be free.

⁴² Lit. a silver *libella*, i.e., a tenth of a *denarius*.

PLAUTUS

PHILOC edepol, Hegio,
facis benigne. sed quaeso hominem ut iubeas arcessi.

HEG licet.
ubi estis uos? ite actutum, Tyndarum huc arcessite.
uos ite intro. interibi ego ex hac statua uerbere uolo
erogitare meo minore quid sit factum filio.
uos lauate interibi.

PHILOP sequere hac, Philocrates, me intro.

PHILOC sequor.

V. ii: HEGIO. STALAGMVS

HEG age tu illuc procede, bone uir, lepidum mancipium
meum.

955 STA quid me oportet facere, ubi tu talis uir falsum autumas?
fui ego bellus, lepidus: bonus uir numquam, nec frugi
bonae,
neque ero umquam: ne <in> spem ponas me bonae frugi
fore.

HEG propedium ubi loci fortunae tuae sint facile intellegis.
si eris uerax, tua ex re facies . . . ex mala meliusculam.
recte et uera loquere, sed nec uere nec <tu> recte adhuc
fecisti umquam.

STA quod ego fatear, credin pudeat quom autumes?
HEG at ego faciam ut pudeat, nam in ruborem te totum dabo.
STA heia, credo ego imperito plagas minitaris mihi.
tandem istaec aufer, dic quid fers, ut feras hinc quod pe-
tis.

957 umquam *P*, numquam Vahlen in add. Guyet
960 tu add. Schoell *hoc loco (alii alibi, sed cf. Men. 960)*

⁴³ I.e., he will beat him until he is bleeding everywhere.

THE CAPTIVES

PHILOC My sincere thanks, Hegio. But please have him brought here.

HEG Of course. (*to those inside the house*) Where are you? 950
(*two overseers enter from the house*) Go immediately, fetch Tyndarus here. (*exeunt overseers to the left*) You two go in. In the meantime I want to get the information out of this whipping-post here (*points to Stalagnus*) as to what's happened to my younger son. You have a bath meanwhile.

PHILOP Philocrates, follow me in, this way.

PHILOC I'm following you.

Exeunt PHILOPOLEMUS and PHILOCrates into the house.

HEG Go on, step forward there, my good man, my charming slave.

955 STA What should I do when a man like you is telling lies? Yes, I was pretty and charming; but never a good man or of good character, and I never will be. Don't set your hopes on me being of good character in future.

HEG You grasp pretty easily what sort of situation you're in. If you're truthful, you'll turn your situation . . . from a bad one into a slightly better one. Tell me the honest truth; but so far you've never behaved truthfully or honestly.

STA Do you believe I feel shame just because you're telling me what I'd admit myself?

HEG But I'll make sure that you will feel shame: I'll make you blush all over.⁴³

STA Goodness, I suppose you are threatening a complete novice with a beating: me. Stop that now and tell me what you're proposing, so that you can get from me what you demand.

PLAUTUS

- 965 HEG satis facundus. sed iam fieri dicta compendi uolo.
 STA ut uis fiat.
- HEG bene morigerus fuit puer, nunc non decet.
 hoc agamus. iam animum aduorte ac mihi quae dicam
 edissere.
 si eris uerax, <e> tuis rebus feceris meliusculas.
- STA nugas istaec sunt. non me censes scire quid dignus siem?
 970 HEG at ea supterefugere potis es pauca, si non omnia.
 STA pauca effugiam, scio; nam multa euinent, et merito
 meo,
 quia et fugi et tibi surrupui filium et eum uendidi.
- HEG quo homini?
 STA Theodoromedi in Alide Polyplusio,
 sex minis.
- 975 HEG pro di immortales, is quidem huius est pater
 Philocratis.
 STA quin melius noui quam te et uidi saepius.
 HEG serua, Iuppiter supreme, et me et meum gnatum mihi.
 Philocrates, per tuom te genium opsecro, exi, te uolo!
- v. iii: PHILOCrates. HEGIO. STALAGMVS
- PHILOC Hegio, assum. si quid me uis, impera.
- HEG hic gnatum meum
 tuo patri ait se uendidisse sex minis in Alide.
- 980 PHILOC quam diu id factum est?
 STA hic annus incipit uicesumus.
 PHILOC falsa memorat.

965 dictis compendium uolo *P*, d. u. c. *Bothe*, dicta compendi uolo
Guyet
 968 e add. *Camerarius*
 975 Philocratis *B*, Philocrates *EJ*

THE CAPTIVES

- 965 HEG You're quite eloquent. But I want you to save your words. 965
 STA Yes, as you wish.
- HEG (*aside*) As a boy he obeyed me well, but now it's inappropriate. (*aloud*) Let's sort this out. Pay attention now and answer my questions. If you're truthful, you'll improve your situation slightly.
- STA That's nonsense. Do you think I don't know what I deserve?
- HEG But you can escape a little of it, if not all. 970
- STA I'll escape precious little, I know: many things will happen, and I deserve them because I ran away and snatched your son and sold him.
- HEG To whom?
- STA To Theodoromedes Moneybag in Elis, for six minas.
- HEG Immortal gods, that's the father of this man here, Philocrates.
- STA Well, I even know him better than I know you and I've seen him more often.
- HEG Great Jupiter, save me and save my son for me. (*into the house*) Philocrates, I beg you by your guardian spirit, come out, I want to speak to you! 976

Enter PHILOCrates from the house.

- PHILOC Hegio, here I am. If you want anything from me, I'm at your command.
- HEG This man says he sold my son to your father in Elis for six minas.
- PHILOC How long ago did this happen? 980
- STA Almost twenty years.
- PHILOC He's telling lies.

STA aut ego aut tu. nam tibi quadrimulum
 || tuos pater peculiarem paruolo puero dedit.
 PHILOC quid erat ei nomen? si uera dicis, memoradum mihi.
 STA Paegnium uocitatust, post uos indidistis Tyndaro.
 985 PHILOC quor ego te non noui?
 STA quia mos est obliuisci hominibus
 nec nouisse quoius nihil sit facienda gratia.
 PHILOC dic mihi, isne istic fuit, quem uendidisti meo patri,
 qui mihi peculiaris datus est?
 STA huius filius.
 HEG uiuitne is homo?
 STA argentum accepi, nil curauit ceterum.
 990 HEG quid tu ais?
 PHILOC quin istic ipsust Tyndarus tuos filius,
 ut quidem hic argumenta loquitur. nam is mecum a pue-
 ro puer
 bene pudiceque educatust usque ad adolescentiam.
 HEG et miser sum et fortunatus, si <uos> uera dicitis;
 eo miser sum quia male illi feci, si gnatus meust.
 995 eheu, quom ego plus minusque feci quam <me> aequom
 fuit.
 quod male feci crucior; modo si infectum fieri possiet!
 sed ecum incedit hoc ornatus haud ex suis uirtutibus.

V. iv: TYNDARVS. HEGIO. PHILOCrates. STALAGMVS
 TYN uidi ego multa saepe picta, quae Accherunti fierent
 cruciamenta, uerum enim uero nulla adaeque est Acche-
 runs

982 paruolum *P*, paruolo *Lindemann ex codice*993 uos *add. Camerarius*995 me *add. Bentley*

STA (*to Philocrates*) Either I or you; your father gave you a lit-
 tle four-year-old as your own when you were a little boy.
 PHILOC What name did he have? If you're telling the truth,
 tell me.
 STA He was called Paegnium, and later you gave him the
 name Tyndarus.
 PHILOC Why don't I know you?
 STA Because it's people's custom to forget and not to know
 someone whose goodwill is to be regarded as worthless.
 PHILOC Tell me, was the one you sold to my father the one I
 was given as my own?
 STA Yes, the son of this man here (*points to Hegio*).
 HEG Is he alive?
 STA I received the money, I didn't care about the rest.
 HEG (*to Philocrates*) What do *you* say?
 PHILOC Well, Tyndarus himself is your son, according to the
 evidence this man's producing: from a young age till
 adulthood, he was brought up with me in a good and de-
 cent fashion.
 HEG I'm both wretched and lucky if you two are telling the
 truth. I'm wretched because I treated him badly, if he's
 my son. Dear me, I did both more and less than I ought
 to have done. I'm in agony because I treated him badly;
 if only it could be undone! (*looks down the street*) But
 look, here he comes, in an outfit that doesn't suit his
 noble conduct.

*Enter overseers with TYNDARUS from the left. He is in chains
 and has a crowbar in his hands.*

TYN I've often seen many pictures of the tortures taking place
 in the Underworld, but truly there's no Underworld that

PLAUTUS

- 1000 atque ubi ego fui, in lapicidinis. illic ibi demum est locus
ubi labore lassitudo est exigunda ex corpore.
nam ubi illo adueni, quasi patricis pueris aut monerulae
aut anites aut coturnices dantur, quicum lusitent,
itidem mi haec aduenienti upupa qui me delectem data
est.
- 1005 sed erus eccum ante ostium, et erus alter eccum ex Alide
redit.
- HEG salue, exoptate gnate mi.
- TYN hem, quid "gnate mi"?
attat, scio quor te patrem assimiles esse et me filium:
quia mi item ut parentes lucis das tuendi copiam.
- PHILOC salue, Tyndare.
- TYN et tu, quoius causa hanc aerumnam exigo.
- 1010 PHILOC at nunc liber in diuitias faxo uenies. nam tibi
pater hic est; hic seruos qui te huic hinc quadrimundum sur-
puit,
uendidit patri meo te sex minis, is te mihi
paruolum peculiarem paruolo puero dedit
illi; <hi>c indicium fecit; nam hunc ex Alide hac reduci-
mus.
- 1015 TYN quid huius filium?
PHILOC intus eccum fratrem germanum tuom.
[TYN quid tu ais? adduxtin illum huius captiuom filium?
PHILOC quin, inquam, intus hic est.
TYN fecisti edepol et recte et bene.
- 1014 illic P, ill . . . A, illi hic *Lindsay reduximus Brix*
1016–22 uersus desunt in A

THE CAPTIVES

1000 can match the place where I was, in the quarries. That,
then, is the place where weariness has to be driven out of
one's body through hard work: just as patrician boys are
given jackdaws or ducks or quails to play with, I was given
this crow⁴⁴ for entertainment (*looks at the crowbar*), as
soon as I arrived there. But look, my master's in front of
the door, and my other master's returned from Elis.

1005 HEG Greetings, my son; I've been longing for you.

TYN What do you mean, "my son"? (*pauses*) Oh, I know why
you pretend that you're my father and I'm your son: be-
cause like parents you let me see the light.

PHILOC Greetings, Tyndarus.

TYN And greetings to you, for whose sake I've been going
through this affliction.

1010 PHILOC But now I'll make sure you come to riches as a free
man: this man here (*points to Hegio*) is your father. This
here (*points to Stalagmus*) is the slave who snatched you
away from him when you were four years old and who
sold you to my father for six minas; when you and I were
little boys, he in turn gave you to me there to be my own.
This man (*points to Stalagmus*) indicated it: we brought
him back from Elis.

TYN What about his son?

PHILOC In there, look, is your true brother.

TYN What do you say? Did you bring back that son of his, the
prisoner?

PHILOC Yes, I assure you, he's in here.

TYN You did what's right and good.

⁴⁴ Lit. "hoopoe," a crowbar shaped like this bird's bill.

PLAUTUS

- PHILOC nunc tibi pater hic est. hic fur est tuos qui paruom hinc te apstulit.
- TYN at ego hunc grandis grandem natu ob furtum ad carnuficem dabo.
- 1020 PHILOC meritus est.
- TYN ergo edepol <merito> meritam mercedem dabo. sed <tu> dic oro: pater meus tune es?
- HEG ego sum, gnate mi.
- TYN nunc demum in memoriam redeo, quom mecum recognito.]
nunc edepol demum in memoriam regredior audisse me quasi per nebulam, Hegionem meum patrem uocarier.
- 1025 HEG is ego sum.
- PHILOC compedibus quaeso ut tibi sit leuior filius atque huic grauior seruos.
- HEG certum est principio id praeuortier. eamus intro, ut arcessatur faber, ut istas compedis tibi adimam, huic dem.
- \ STA quo peculi nihil est, recte feceris.
- V. V: GREX
- 1030 GREX spectatores, ad pudicos mores facta haec fabula est, neque in hac subigitationes sunt neque ulla amatio nec pueri suppositio neque argenti circumductio, neque ubi amans adulescens scortum liberet clam suom patrem.
- 1035 huius modi paucas poetae reperint comoedias, ubi boni meliores fiant. nunc uos, si uobis placet et si placuimus neque odio fuimus, signum hoc mittite: qui pudicitiae esse uoltis praemium, plausum date.
- 1020 merito add. Gruterus 1021 tu add. Havet
1022 cogito P, recogito Gruterus

THE CAPTIVES

- PHILOC Now this man (*points to Hegio*) is your father. This man (*points to Stalagmus*) is the thief who snatched you from here when you were little.
- TYN But now that we're both adults I'll hand him over to the hangman for the theft.
- PHILOC He's deserved it.
- 1020 TYN Then I'll give him his deserved reward deservedly. (*to Hegio*) But please do tell me: are you my father?
- HEG I am, my son.
- TYN Now at last I begin to remember when I think about it.]
Now at last I begin to remember hearing, through a fog, as it were, that my father's called Hegio.
- HEG That's me!
- PHILOC (*to Hegio*) Please let your son lose the weight of the shackles and let him have a slave who gains their weight.
- HEG I'll definitely attend to that first. Let's go in so the blacksmith can be sent for, so that I can take these shackles off you and give them to this chap (*points to Stalagmus*).
- STA You will do well, as I have nothing of my own.
- Exeunt ALL who are still on stage.*
Enter the whole TROUPE.
- 1030 TROUPE Spectators, this play was written to promote decent behavior, and in it there is no fondling, no love affair, no fraudulent introduction of a boy-child into a family, no cheating someone out of his money, no scene in which a young lover sets free a prostitute behind his father's back. Poets come up with few comedies of this kind, where the good become better. Now if you like it and if you liked us and if we weren't tedious, give us the following sign: you who want virtue to be rewarded, give us your applause.
- 1035