

THE COMEDIES OF ARISTOPHANES: VOL. 3

ARISTOPHANES:
CLOUDS

Sommerstein



edited with Translation and Notes by

Alan H. Sommerstein

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PREFACE

This third volume of *The Comedies of Aristophanes* follows the pattern of its two predecessors, except that in citing poetic fragments, where a modern edition has become standard I no longer normally give a parallel reference to an older one. For the principles followed in compiling the critical apparatus, the reader is referred to page 20 of the first volume (*Acharnians*); I here repeat my grateful acknowledgement of the help provided by Sir Kenneth Dover, while emphasizing that I am wholly responsible for any errors or shortcomings. I am also happy to thank Jeffrey Henderson and Giuseppe Mastro-marco for their continuing assistance and encouragement.

But my greatest debt of gratitude this time must be to the medical, nursing and auxiliary staff of University Hospital, Nottingham, but for whom I very much doubt if this volume would ever have been completed. It would not be appropriate to dedicate to them an edition of a play in which all scientific activity is condemned as useless and anti-social; that tribute must await a better occasion. Let me for the time being merely put on record my thanks for the wonderful treatment (in every sense of those words) that I received at their hands when I needed it in 1980 and 1981.

Alan H. Sommerstein
Nottingham, November 1981

REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

REFERENCES

Fragments of iambic and elegiac poetry are cited from M.L. West, *Iambi et Elegi Graeci* (Oxford, 1971-2) and also where appropriate from B. Gentili and C. Prato, *Poetae Elegiaci: Testimonia et Fragmenta* (Leipzig, 1979-). Fragments of Sappho and Alcaeus have been cited from E. Lobel and D.L. Page, *Poetarum Lesbiorum Fragmenta* (Oxford, 1955); of Pindar, from B. Snell and H. Maehler, *Pindari Carmina cum Fragmentis: Pars II* (Leipzig, 1975); of other lyric poets, from D.L. Page, *Poetae Melici Graeci* (Oxford, 1962); of Aeschylus, from A. Nauck, *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*² (Leipzig, 1889) and H.J. Mette, *Die Fragmente der Tragödien des Aischylos* (Berlin, 1959); of Sophocles, from S.L. Radt's fourth volume of the new *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta* (Göttingen, 1977)*; of Euripides, from Nauck; of the minor tragedians, from B. Snell's first volume of *TrGF* (Göttingen, 1971); of Attic comedy, from T. Kock, *Comicorum Atticorum Fragmenta* (Leipzig, 1880-8)** or C. Austin, *Comicorum Graecorum Fragmenta in Papyris Reperta* (Berlin, 1973), the latter indicated by *CGF*.

Fragments of, and testimonies concerning, the Presocratics and Sophists, are cited from H. Diels, *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*⁶ ed. W. Kranz (Berlin, 1951-2). Fragments of Aristotle are cited from the edition of V. Rose (Leipzig, 1886).

References to Menander by play and line are to the edition of F.H. Sandbach (Oxford, 1972).

For the law-code of Gortyn, cited on 1425-6, see R.F. Willetts, *The Law Code of Gortyn* (Berlin, 1967).

*Except where "Radt" is specified, the references also apply to A.C. Pearson, *The Fragments of Sophocles* (Cambridge, 1917).

**Unless otherwise stated, the references also apply to J.M. Edmonds, *The Fragments of Attic Comedy* (Leiden, 1957-61).

SELECT LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ach.</i>	<i>Acharnians.</i>
<i>Aesch.</i>	<i>Aeschylus.</i>
<i>AJPh</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology.</i>
<i>Andoc.</i>	<i>Andocides.</i>
<i>Ap. Rh.</i>	<i>Apollonius Rhodius.</i>
<i>Ar.</i>	<i>Aristophanes.</i>
<i>Arist.</i>	<i>Aristotle.</i>
<i>BCH</i>	<i>Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique.</i>
<i>CGF</i>	<i>Austin, Comicorum Graecorum Fragmenta in Papyris Reperta</i> (see References).
<i>Char.</i>	<i>Characters</i> (Theophrastus).
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology.</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly.</i>
<i>CR</i>	<i>Classical Review.</i>
<i>Dein.</i>	<i>Deinarchus.</i>
<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Demosthenes.</i>
<i>Demetr. Eloc.</i>	<i>Demetrius of Phalerum, On Style.</i>
<i>D-K</i>	<i>Diels-Kranz, Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> (see References).
<i>D.L.</i>	<i>Diogenes Laertius.</i>
<i>D.S.</i>	<i>Diodorus Siculus.</i>
<i>Eccl.</i>	<i>Ecclesiazusae.</i>
<i>epigr.</i>	epigram (cited from Page, <i>Epigrammata Graeca</i> , q.v.)
<i>Et. Mag.</i>	<i>Etymologicum Magnum.</i>
<i>Eur.</i>	<i>Euripides.</i>
<i>Euthd.</i>	<i>Euthydemus</i> (Plato).
<i>FGrH</i>	<i>F. Jacoby, Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> (Berlin and Leiden, 1923-58).
<i>fr.</i>	fragment.
<i>G-P</i>	<i>Gentili and Prato</i> (see References).
<i>gr.</i>	<i>graecus.</i>
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies.</i>
<i>HA</i>	<i>Historia Animalium</i> (Aristotle).
<i>Hdt.</i>	<i>Herodotus.</i>
<i>Hes.</i>	<i>Hesiod.</i>
<i>HF</i>	<i>Hercules Furens</i> (<i>The Madness of Heracles</i>) (Euripides).
<i>h.Hom.Dem.</i>	Homeric Hymn to Demeter.
<i>h.Hom.Pan.</i>	Homeric Hymn to Pan.

Hippocr.	Hippocratic treatise.
HP	<i>Historia Plantarum</i> (Theophrastus).
HSCP	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i> .
Hyp.	Hypereides.
ICS	<i>Illinois Classical Studies</i> .
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> .
Isocr.	Isocrates.
JHS	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i> .
Kinkel	G. Kinkel, <i>Epicorum Graecorum Fragmenta</i> vol. i (Leipzig, 1877).
Lex. Vind.	<i>Lexicon Vindobonense</i> .
Lys.	Lysias.
Lys.	<i>Lysistrata</i> .
MDAI(A)	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts (Athenische Abteilung)</i> .
Men.	Menander.
N.H.	<i>Naturalis Historia</i> (Pliny the Elder).
PA	J. Kirchner, <i>Prosopographia Attica</i> (Berlin, 1901-3).
Page	(i) <i>Poetae Melici Graeci</i> (see References). Citations with “Page” are to fragment numbers for individual poets, not to the continuous numbering. (ii) D.L. Page, <i>Epigrammata Graeca</i> (Oxford, 1975).
Paus.	Pausanias.
Peregr.	<i>On the Death of Peregrinus</i> (Lucian).
Phd.	<i>Phaedo</i> (Plato).
Phdr.	<i>Phaedrus</i> (Plato).
Pind.	Pindar.
Pl.	Plato.
Plut.	Plutarch.
PMG	<i>Poetae Melici Graeci</i> (see References). Citations with ‘PMG’ (used only for anonymous poems) are to the continuous numbering running through the book.
Proleg.	W.J.W. Koster, <i>Scholia in Aristophanem: Pars I: Fasc. Ia: Prolegomena de Comoedia</i> (Groningen, 1975)
PSI	<i>Publicationi della Società Italiana per la Ricerca dei Papiri Greci e Latini in Egitto: Papiri Greci e Latini</i> .
QUCC	<i>Quaderni Urbinati di Cultura Classica</i> .
schol.	scholium or scholia.
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> .
Snell	<i>TrGF</i> vol. i (see References).

Soph.	Sophocles.
<i>Thesm.</i>	<i>Thesmophoriazusae.</i>
<i>Thg.</i>	<i>Theogony</i> (Hesiod).
Thphr.	Theophrastus.
Threatte	L. Threatte, <i>The Grammar of Attic Inscriptions</i> (Berlin, 1980-).
<i>Tht.</i>	<i>Theaetetus</i> (Plato).
Thuc.	Thucydides.
<i>TrGF</i>	<i>Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta</i> (Göttingen, 1971-); “ <i>TrGF 20</i> ” means that the person in question is author no. 20 in <i>TrGF</i> vol. i.
<i>YCS</i>	<i>Yale Classical Studies</i> .
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i> .

CORRIGENDA

- p. 7, l. 14. For ‘Holkamensis’ *read* ‘Holkhamensis’.
- p. 103, l. 1. For ‘stung by hornets’ *read* ‘stung by my sentences, as if by hornets’.
- p. 119, l. 4 from bottom. For ‘Little’ *read* ‘little’.
- p. 123, l. 10. For ‘PHEIDIPPEDES’ *read* ‘PHEIDIPIIDES’.
- p. 161, n. on l. 51. For ‘be’ *read* ‘be-’.
- p. 168, n. on l. 156. For ‘Chaerephon’s’ *read* ‘Chaerephon’s’.
- p. 175, 2nd n. on l. 273. For ‘Nimas:’ *read* ‘Mimas:’.
- p. 175, n. on l. 274. For ‘stage-alter’ *read* ‘stage-altar’.
- p. 176, n. on l. 285. For “heaven“ ’ *read* “heaven” ’.
- p. 193, n. on l. 595. For ‘they’ *read* ‘thy’.
- p. 198, n. on l. 687. For ‘these names endings’ *read* ‘these names have endings’.
- p. 199, n. on l. 745. For ‘weight’ *read* ‘weigh’.
- p. 202, 2nd n. on l. 838. For ‘(ii) is’ *read* ‘(ii) in’.
- p. 202, n. on l. 845. For ‘insame:’ *read* ‘insane:’.
- p. 206, n. on l. 953. For ‘if’ *read* ‘it’.
- p. 207, l. 3. For ‘opponent’ *read* ‘opponent’.
- p. 210, n. on l. 1003. For ‘or orators.’ *read* ‘of orators.’.
- p. 227, n. on l. 1415. For ‘retors’ *read* ‘retorts’.
- p. 230, n. on l. 1464. For ‘affection’ *read* ‘affection’.

CLOUDS

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Clouds was originally produced at the City Dionysia of 423 B.C., when it was placed third and last, Cratinus being victorious with *The Wine-flask* (*Pūtineē*), a brilliant satire on his own bibulousness, and Ameipsias second with *Connus*. This reverse seems to have hurt Aristophanes deeply, for he regarded *Clouds* as his best play (*Wasps* 1047), and after an interval¹ he began to revise the play, apparently intending to produce it again. The task of revision was abandoned incomplete²; nevertheless, soon afterwards³, copies of the revised version were circulating among the literary public alongside copies of the version produced in 423, and it is the revised version that has survived. The extent of the revision will be considered below.

The main subject of the play is the growth, in the Athens of the late fifth century, of new and untraditional forms of education, above all education in rhetoric, which Aristophanes here professes to regard as the art of winning arguments (in assembly, courts and elsewhere) which on the merits of the case one deserves to lose, or, in a phrase which must already have been current (see on 112-5). "making the worse argument into the better". With rhetoric are associated other things studied and taught by the thinkers and educators whom, following Plato, we are accustomed to label "the sophists", such as cosmology and meteorology (e.g. 95-97, 368-407), biology (144-168) and grammar (658-691)⁴. All these pursuits are depicted as useless and absurd. The gravest accusation made against the sophists, however, is that of atheism: they are

1. An indication of date is provided by lines 551-9, which can hardly have been written before 419 –since they imply that at least three comedies attacking Hyperbolus had been produced since Eupolis' *Maricas* (*Lenaea* 421), and we know that no such play appeared at the 421 City Dionysia – but must have been written before Hyperbolus was ostracized, which probably occurred early in 416.

2. This is shown (i) by the absence of a formally and theatrically indispensable choral ode after 888, (ii) by the retention of passages (notably 575-594) closely tied to the ephemeral circumstances of the year 423.

3. A *terminus ante quem* is given by the production of Eupolis' *Baptai*, which contained a rejoinder (Eupolis fr. 78) to the charge of plagiarism made against Eupolis in *Clouds* 553-4. *Baptai* satirized Alcibiades among others (schol. Aristides 3.444 Dindorf) and is unlikely to be later than 415.

4. For an account of the sophists and their contribution to Greek thought see W.K.C. Guthrie, *A History of Greek Philosophy* iii (Cambridge, 1969) 3-319.

presented as denying the existence of Zeus and the other traditional gods and as believing in new deities of their own (cf. *Frogs* 888-894; Pl. *Apol.* 26b), and it is primarily for this that the Clouds, who from the first (302ff, 563ff, 595ff) indicate to the audience that they *do* honour the traditional gods, engineer the punishment of the sophists and of their dupe Strepsiades (1461; cf. 1508-9).

It was necessary to the plot that some one person should be singled out as the typical sophist, and Aristophanes' choice fell upon Socrates: partly because this relentless questioner and arguer, who frequented the Agora and the wrestling-schools and hardly ever left the city, must have been a more familiar figure to a greater number of people than teachers such as Prodicus and Hippias, who taught mostly in private for high fees and were often away from Athens; partly no doubt because certain aspects of Socrates the man lent themselves particularly easily to caricature, for example his notoriously ugly appearance (Pl. *Symp.* 215a-b). That Socrates was far from a typical sophist, Aristophanes either did not know or did not care: he may not have taught dishonest rhetoric, but he certainly (like the Worse Argument in the play) questioned and confuted those whose zeal for traditional beliefs was stronger than their understanding of the grounds on which these beliefs might be based, and his young admirers will have been encouraged by his example to do likewise; he may not have disbelieved in the gods, but he certainly (if the early Platonic dialogue *Euthyphro* is anything to go by) queried the foundations of the conventional concept of piety. It may well be that in this play there is not one serious accusation made by Aristophanes against Socrates which he did not sincerely believe to be justified⁵. It must of course be noted that the unfair image of Socrates created by comedy and public opinion will have played its part, many years later, in bringing about his condemnation (the Platonic Socrates [*Apol.* 18b-c] asserts that this prejudice is more dangerous to him than the charges made by his actual accusers); but it should also be noted that by devoting time to refuting the false allegations of teaching science and dishonest rhetoric, Socrates in his defence speech was trying to divert attention from other matters on which the prosecution's case was far stronger⁶.

The fragments of the original version of *Clouds* (Ar. fr. 376-386) are too slight to give much idea of how it differed from the version we possess. Our main information comes from one of the ancient synopses (Hypotheses) to our play (Hypothesis VI Hall-Geldart = VII Coulon = I Dover):

5. M. Nussbaum, *YCS* 26 (1980) 43-97, goes so far as to argue that in *Clouds* Socrates' theory and method of education are presented with essential faithfulness and subjected to valid and telling criticisms that anticipate those made by Plato in the *Republic*.

6. Such as the fact that some of those who had been most in his company had done great harm to Athens (cf. *Aeschines* 1.173).

This play is the same as the first⁷, but has been revised in details, as though the poet intended to produce it again but, for whatever reason, did not do so. To speak generally, there has been revision in almost every part of the play; some parts have been removed, new sections have been woven in, and changes have been made in arrangement and in the exchanges between characters. Certain parts in their present form belong entirely to the revised version: thus the parabasis of the chorus⁸ has been replaced, and where the just argument talks to the unjust⁹, and lastly where the school of Socrates is burned.

Of the three major changes here mentioned, only the last will have seriously affected the structure of the play, and altogether the revision does not seem to have been as far-reaching as has sometimes been supposed¹⁰.

There is an excellent edition of *Clouds* by Sir Kenneth Dover (Oxford, 1968); the very full commentary of W.J.M. Starkie (London, 1911) remains valuable. W.J.W. Koster's edition of the Aristophanic scholia is now complete for *Clouds*: D. Holwerda has edited the ancient scholia (Groningen, 1977) and those of Tzetzes (Groningen, 1960), while the scholia of Eustathius, Thomas Magister, Triclinius and later commentators have been edited by Koster himself (Groningen, 1974).

7. That is, it is not an entirely new play like the second *Thesmophoriazusae*.

8. This refers only to the speech 518-562 (the "parabasis" in the narrower sense of the term), which discusses, among other things, the failure of the original play. A scholiion on 520 states that the corresponding speech in the original play was in a different metre (no doubt anapaestic tetrameters).

9. Referring perhaps to the altercation 889-948. Others take it as referring to the speech of the Better Argument in 961-1023, or to the entire *agōn* 889-1104; but it is only in the initial altercation that the Better Argument can properly be said to be talking to the Worse.

10. In addition to the passages in our play whose content shows that they were composed for production in 423 and not later, several others (1113-30, 1196-1200, 1417) are positively attested by various sources as having been included in the original play. See further Dover's introduction to his edition (pp. lxxx-xcviii) and my notes on 888-9 and 1437-9.

NOTE ON THE TEXT

Both in antiquity and in the Middle Ages *Clouds* was one of the most popular of Aristophanes' comedies. Six papyri¹ preserve at least part of some 180 lines of the play, and there are over a hundred and thirty medieval manuscripts, divided basically into two families, with RV on the one side and the later mss. (*n*) on the other. Where there is a clear-cut division between the two families, RV are more often wrong than right. There is, however, a good deal of contamination, as well as some evidence that variants were inherited from antiquity, and no reading found in R or in V or in the bulk of the relatively uninterpolated *n* mss. can be excluded from consideration merely on stemmatic grounds².

Within the *n* family two main groups of mss. are discernible. Of the four mss. which represent the family in the apparatus of this edition, K belongs to one group and NΘ to the other, while E is a ms. of the first group with corrections derived from a ms. of the second group. Continually, however, readings straddle the divide between the two groups.

All the *n* mss. contain some conjectures by scholars of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Two of the later of these, Thomas Magister and Demetrius Triclinius, can be said to have produced recensions of the text, the latter, at any rate, more than once.

In the apparatus RVEKNΘ³ and (where available) the papyri are cited regularly, other mss. only for true or plausible readings. A reading is ascribed to Thomas or Triclinius when it is sufficiently widespread in mss. reflecting

1. Two of these happen not to be cited in the apparatus: Π5 (Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 1371), of the fifth century, which contains parts of lines 1-11 and 38-48, and Π62 (Laurentian Papyrus III 318), of the fourth century, which contains parts of lines 1-7.

2. I do not think that the passages (predominantly in the first 630 lines of the play) where V preserves the truth alone or almost alone can all be explained away as Dover, p. cx, attempts to do. Actually, over the play as a whole, V is right alone more often than R is.

3. The four *n* mss. selected are the same four chosen by Dover. Between them they contain almost all the medieval readings absent from RV that have some chance of being inherited from antiquity. The main exception is the remarkable reading of Vb3 at 1373, which conceivably may derive from the commentary of Tzetzes (cf. schol. U ad loc.)

the recension of the scholar in question to make it probable that it originates with him. The good conjectures at 151, 533, 538 and 680 are probably post-Triclinian.

The manuscripts of *Clouds* are not well reported. Dover's edition gives a full report of the readings of RVEKΝΘ and selected readings of other mss.; in his introduction, pp. xcix-cxxv, he lists, with references, the mss. collated by him and those on which published information exists, and discusses the history of the text. For further information and corrections see Koster's and Holwerda's introductions to their editions of the scholia (though their conclusions about ms. relationships with respect to the scholia are not necessarily, and do not profess to be, valid with respect to the text of the play).

SIGLA

Manuscripts		Century
Π6	Berlin Papyrus 13225+13226 (contains fragments of 177-270, 936-973)	5th
Π7	PSI 1171 (contains 577-635)	3rd
Π8	Berlin Papyrus 13219 (contains fragments of 946-1015)	5th/6th
Π9	Strasbourg Papyrus inv. 621 (contains 1372-85, 1407-28)	5th/7th
R	Ravennas 429	10th
V	Venetus Marcianus 474	11th/12th
E	Estensis gr. 127 (=a. U.5.10)	14th
K	Ambrosianus C222 inf.	13th/14th
N	Neapolitanus 184 (=II F 27)	15th
Θ	Laurentianus <i>conv. soppr.</i> 140	14th
A	Parisinus Regius 2712	14th
M	Ambrosianus L39 sup.	early 14th
Md1	Matritensis 4683	late 13th
Np1	Neapolitanus 179 (= II F 22)	late 14th
Np5	Neapolitanus 182 (= II F 25)	15th
P14	Parisinus Regius 2827	15th
U	Vaticanus Urbinas 141	14th

Vb3	Vaticanus Barberinianus I 126	14th
Vs1	Vaticanus Regiae Suecorum 147	early 14th
X	Laurentianus XXXI 13	15th
al.	one or more mss. among those with a basically pre-Thoman text in addition to the ms. or mss. specifically cited	
Thom.	the recension of Thomas Magister (c. 1300)	
Trcl.	one or another of the successive recensions of Demetrius Triclinius (c. 1315-30)	
Vv2	Vaticanus gr. 57 (text Thoman)	14th
Vv4	Vaticanus gr. 918 (text Thoman)	(1362)
Ct1	Cantabrigiensis 2626, first part (representing an early state of the Triclinian text)	(c.1320)
L	(Oxoniensis Bodleianus) Holkamensis 88 (representing the final state of the Triclinian text)	early 15th
Ct3	Cantabrigiensis 2614	15th
Ln5	(Londiniensis) Harleianus 5725	15th or 16th
V3	Venetus Marcianus 473	14th
Ald.	the Aldine <i>editio princeps</i> (Venice, 1498)	
n	the agreement of EKNΘ	
n'	n with the exception of that ms. (or correction, variant, etc.) which is cited for a different reading	
codd.	= RVn	

Other Sigla

Σ	scholion
λ	lemma (of scholion)
γρ	reading noted in ms. or scholia as a variant
i	implied by or inferable from
ac	before correction
pc	after correction

- s above or below the line
E¹(et sim.) the hand of the original copyist
E²(et sim.) a later hand
Suda^F,
Suda^{rell} etc. variant readings in the Suda are thus referred to
(“rell.” = the remaining mss)
[E¹](et sim.) the reading of the hand in question is no longer legible.

ΝΕΦΕΛΑΙ

CLOUDS

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΣΤΡΕΨΙΑΔΗΣ Φεύδωνος Κικυννυεύς, πατήρ.
ΦΕΙΔΙΠΠΙΔΗΣ, υἱός.
ΟΙΚΕΤΗΣ Στρεψιάδου.
ΜΑΘΗΤΗΣ Σωκράτους.
ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ.
ΧΟΡΟΣ Νεφελῶν.
ΚΡΕΙΤΤΩΝ ΛΟΓΟΣ.
ΗΤΤΩΝ ΛΟΓΟΣ..
ΧΡΗΣΤΗΣ Α, δημότης Στρεψιάδου.
ΧΡΗΣΤΗΣ Β.
ΧΑΙΡΕΦΩΝ.

ΚΩΦΑ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΜΑΘΗΤΑΙ Σωκράτους.
ΚΛΗΤΗΡ τοῦ προτέρου χρήστου.
ΞΑΝΘΙΑΣ καὶ ἄλλοι οὐκέται Στρεψιάδου.

CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

STREPSIADES, *son of Pheidon, of Cocyrrna.*
PHEIDIPPIDES, *his son.*
SLAVE of *Strepsiades.*
STUDENT of *Socrates.*
SOCRATES.
CHORUS of *Clouds.*
THE BETTER ARGUMENT.
THE WORSE ARGUMENT.
FIRST CREDITOR, *a fellow-demesman of Strepsiades.*
SECOND CREDITOR.
CHAEREPHON.

SILENT CHARACTERS

STUDENTS of *Socrates.*
WITNESS accompanying *First Creditor.*
XANTHIAS and other slaves of *Strepsiades.*

ΣΤΡΕΨΙΑΔΗΣ

'Ιού λοῦ.

Φ Ζεὺς βασιλεῦ, τὸ χρῆμα τῶν νυκτῶν ὅσουν.
ἀπέραντον. οὐδέποθ' ἡμέρα γενήσεται;
καὶ μὴν πάλαι γ' ἀλεκτρύνος ἥκουσ' ἔγω·
οὐ δ' οὐκέται τέργηκουσιν. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἂν πρὸ τοῦ. 5
ἀπόλιοι δῆτ', φέρετε, πολλῶν οὕνεκα,
δτ' οὐδὲ κολάσ' ἔξεστι μοι τοὺς οὐκέτας.
ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὁ χρηστὸς οὗτοσὶ νεανίας
ἔγειρεται τῆς νυκτός, ἀλλὰ πέρδεται
ἐν πέντε σισύφαις ἐγκεκορδυλημένος. 10
ἀλλ', εἴ δοκεῖ, τέργηκαμεν. ἐγκεκαλυμμένοι.—
ἀλλ' οὐ δύναμαι δεύταιος εῖδειν δακνόμενος
ὑπὸ τῆς δαπάνης καὶ τῆς φάτνης καὶ τῶν χρεῶν
διὰ τουτού τὸν υἱόν. ὁ δὲ κόμην ἔχων
ἐπιπλέεταί τε καὶ ξυνωρικείεται, 15
δνειροπολεῖ θ' ἐπους· ἔγω δ' ἀπόλλυματ
δρῶν ἄγουσαν τὴν σελήνην εὐκάρδας·
οὐ γὰρ τόκοι χωροῦσιν. ἄπτε, παῖ, λύχνον,
κακφερε τὸ γραμματεῖον, ἵν' ἀναγνῶ λαβὼν
δόξοις δφεύλω καὶ λογέσωματ τοὺς τόκους. 20
φέρ' ἴδω, τέ δφεύλω; δώδεκα μνᾶς Πασύφ.
τοῦ δωδεκα μνᾶς Πασύφ; τέ ἐχρησάμην;
δτ' ἐκριάμην τὸν κοκκατύναν. οἷμοι τάλας,
εἶθ' ἐξεκόπην πρότερον τὸν δφθαλμὸν λύθψ.

ΦΕΙΔΙΠΠΙΔΗΣ

Φύλων, ἀδικεῖς. ἔλαυνε τὸν σαυτοῦ δρόμον. 25

Στ. τοῦτ' ἔστι τούτῃ τὸ κακὸν δ μ' ἀπολάλεκεν.

[*Strepsiades and Pheidippides are lying asleep. Strepsiades is restless, and presently he wakes and sits up.*]

STREPSIADES: Ough! Lord Zeus, what a length of night-time! It's unending! Is it never going to be day? Though I heard a cock crow quite a time ago – but the slaves are snoring. They wouldn't have been in the old days. Damn you, War, damn you on a hundred counts, when it's not even possible for me to punish my slaves! And this fine young man here, he doesn't wake up before daylight either; he's farting away swathed in five fleeced cloaks. All right, if you want to, let's cover our heads and snore. [*He lies down and tries to sleep, but soon abandons the attempt.*] No, I just can't sleep, heaven help me, with being bitten and nagged by expenses and mangers and debts, on account of this son of mine. He wears his hair long, and he rides and he chariot-and-pairs, and he lives and dreams horses. As for me, I'm fit to perish when I see the moon in its twenties, for the interest is mounting up. [*Calling within*] Boy! light a lamp and bring out my accounts, so I can see how many creditors I have and calculate the interest. [*A slave brings the waxed tablets on which the accounts are written, and stays holding the lamp for Strepsiades to read by.*] Now let me see, what do I owe? "Twelve minas to Pasias." Twelve minas to Pasias? What for? Why did I borrow it? Oh yes, when I bought the horse with the *koppa* brand. My god! I wish I'd had my eye knocked out first with a stone.

PHEIDIPPIDES [*in his sleep*]: Philon, you're cheating; drive in your own lane.

STREPSIADES: That's it, that's the trouble, that's what's

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δνειροπολες γὰρ καὶ καθεμδων ἐπεικήν.

Φε. πόσους δρόμους ἔλῃ τὰ πολεμιστήρια;

Στ. ἐμὲ μὲν σὺ πολλοὺς τὸν πατέρ' ἔλαυνεις δρόμους.
ἀτάρ τύ χρέος ἔβα με μετὰ τὸν Πασίαν;
τρεῖς μναῖ διφρόσκου καὶ τροχοῖν Ἀμυνάφ. 30

Φε. ἀπαγε τὸν ὄπον ἔξαλύσας οἰκαδε.

Στ. ἀλλ', ᾧ μέλι', ἐξῆλυκας ἐμέ γ' ἐκ τῶν ἐμῶν,
δτε καὶ δίκας ὥφληκα χάτερος τόκου
ἐνεχυράσεσθαί φασιν.

Φε. ἑτερν, ᾧ πάτερ,
τύ δυσκολαύνεις καὶ στρέψει τὴν νύχθ' ὅλην;

Στ. δάκνει μέ τις δῆμαρχος ἐκ τῶν στρωμάτων..

Φε. ἔασον, ᾧ δαιμόνιε, καταδαρθεῖν τύ με.

Στ. σὺ δ' οὖν καθευδε· τὰ δὲ χρέα ταῦτ' ὕσθ' δτι
εἰς τὴν κεφαλὴν ἀπαντα τὴν σὴν τρέψεται. 40

φεῦ·
εἴθ' ὥφελ' ή προμνήστροι' ἀπολέσθαι κακῶς,
ἥτις με γῆμ' ἐπῆρε τὴν σὴν μητέρα.
ἔμοὶ γὰρ οὖν ἄγροικος ἥδιστος βύος,
εὐρωτιῶν, ἀκόρητος, εὐκῆ κείμενος,
βρύων μελύττας καὶ προβάτους καὶ στεμφύλιοις.
ἔπειτ' ἔγημα Μεγακλέους τοῦ Μεγακλέους
ἀδελφιδῆν ἄγροικος ὢν ἐξ ἀστεως, 45

31 Ἀμυνάφ Rn: Ἀμεινάφ V.

35 ἐνεχυράσεσθαί ⁱ_Σ^{VAM} ⁱ_{Σ(i)}^{EθNp1}: ἐνεχυράσασθαί (-ρύσ- N)
codd. Σ(ii) ^{EθNp1}.

47 ἀστεως Dindorf: ἀστεος codd. ^λSuda, Lex. Vind.

ruined me; even in his sleep, it's racing he dreams of.

PHEIDIPPIDES [*as before*]: How many laps are the war-chariots going to drive?

STREPSIADES: You're driving me, your father, round enough bends! — But after Pasias what sad debt befell? "Three minas to Amynias for a small chariot-board and a pair of wheels."

30

PHEIDIPPIDES [*as before*]: Let the horse have a roll, and then take him off home.

STREPSIADES: You've been rolling all right, my lad — rolling in *my* money. Now I've got judgements against me, and other creditors are saying they will distrain for their interest.

35

PHEIDIPPIDES [*waking and raising his head*]: Tell me, father, why have you been fretting and twisting and turning all night long?

STREPSIADES: I'm getting bitten by a...deme official in the bedding.

PHEIDIPPIDES: If you please, father dear, let me get a bit of sleep. [*He lies down again and covers his head.*]

STREPSIADES: All right, you sleep; but I tell you, one day all these debts will be *your* headache! Ah, would that she most miserably had perished, the matchmaker who incited me to marry your mother! I had a rustic life, a delightful life, nice and mouldy and unswept, spreading one's limbs as one pleased, a life teeming with honey-bees and sheep and pressed olive; and then I married the niece of Megacles son of Megacles, I a rustic, she from town, a

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σεμνήν, τρυφώσαν, ἐγκεκοισυρωμένην.
 ταύτην δτ' ἔγάμουν, συγκατεκλινόμην ἔγῳ
 δζων τρυγός, τρασιδές, ἔριων, περιουσίας,
 ή δ' αὖ μύρου, κρόκου, καταγλωττισμάτων,
 δαπάνης, λαφυγμοῦ, Κωλισδός, Γενετυλλίδος.
 οὐ μὴν ἐρῶ γ' ὡς ἀργὸς ήν, ἀλλ' ἐσπαθα·
 ἔγῳ δ' ἀν αὐτῇ θούματοι δεικνὺς τοδὶ
 πρόφασιν ἔφασκον· "ὦ γύναι, λύσαν σπαθῆς."

50

55

ΟΙΚΕΤΗΣ

ἔλαιον κήμην ούκ ἔνεστ' ἐν τῷ λυχνῷ.

Στ. οὔμοι· τύ γάρ μοι τὸν πότην θίπτεις λυχνον;
 δεῦρο ἔλασ', ζνα κλάμης.

Οι.

διὰ τύ δῆτα κλαύσομαι;

Στ. δτε τῶν παχειῶν ἐνετέθεις θρυαλλίδων.
 μετὰ ταῦθ', δπως νῦν ἐγένεθ' υἱὸς οὐτοσί,
 ἐμού τε δὴ καὶ τῇ γυναικὶ τάγαθῃ,
 περὶ τούνδιατος δὴ 'νταῦθ' ἐλοιδορούμεθα.
 ή μὲν γὰρ οὐπον προσετέθει πρὸς τοῦνομα,
 Ξάνθιππον ή Χαύριππον ή Καλλιππέδην,
 ἔγῳ δὲ τοῦ πάππου 'τιθέμην φειδωνύδην.

60

τέως μὲν οὖν ἔκρινόμεθ'· εἴτα τῷ χρόνῳ
 κοινῇ ξυνέβημεν κάθεμεθα φειδιππέδην.
 τοῦτον τὸν υἱὸν λαμβάνουσ' ἔκορύζετο,
 "δταν σὺ μέγας Ḥν δρμ' ἐλαμνῆς πρὸς πόλιν,
 ὥσπερ Μεγακλέης, ξυστέδ' ἔχων—· ἔγῳ δ' ἔφην·
 "δταν μὲν οὖν τὰς αἰγας ἐκ τοῦ φελλέως,

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70

62 δὴ 'νταῦθ' Reisig: δὴ 'ντεῦθεν vel sim. RK: δὴν ἐντεῦθεν V:
 δὴ ταῦτ' n.

64 Χαύριππον V: Χάριππον n: Καλλιππον R.

spoilt, stuck-up snob, all Coesyrate^d. When I married her
I went to bed smelling of new wine, drying figs, fleeces, and afflu- 50
ence; and she of perfume, saffron, deep kisses, extravagance, over-
eating, Colias and Genetyllos. Still, I won't say she was idle; she did
use to weave, packing the threads close; and I used to say to her,
showing her this cloak by way of evidence, "Missus, you weave too 55
close."

[*The lamp held by the slave goes out.*]

SLAVE: We've no oil in the lamp.

STREPSIADES: Dammit, why did you light me the lamp with
the big thirst? You'll have a hiding for that; come here!

SLAVE: Why should I have a hiding?

STREPSIADES: Because you put in one of the fat wicks. [*The
slave evades him and goes inside.*] — After that, when this son was 60
born to us, to me, that is, and my good wife, then we were quarrel-
ling over his name. She wanted to add *-hippus* to the name, thus
"Xanthippus" or "Chaerippus" or "Callippides", while I wanted to 65
name him Pheidonides after his grandfather. For a time we argued;
then eventually we came to a mutual agreement and named him
Pheidippides. She used to take this boy and say to him lovingly,
"When you're big and drive a chariot to the Acropolis, like Megacles, 70
wearing a rich smooth robe—"; but I'd say, "No, when you drive
the goats home from the Rocklands, like your father, dressed in a

ῶσπερ δὲ πατήρ σου, διφθέραν ἐνημένος."
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔπειθετο τοῖς ἐμοῖς οὐδὲν λόγοις,
ἀλλ' ἵππερόν μου κατέχεεν τῶν χρημάτων.

νῦν οὖν δλην τὴν υμκτα φροντίζων δόδοι
μύσαν ηὔρον ἀτραπὸν δαιμονίως ὑπερψυᾶ,
ἥν γὰρ ἀναπείσω τουτονύ, σωθῆσομας.
ἀλλ' ἔξεγεῖρας πρῶτον αὐτὸν βούλομας.
πῶς δῆτ' ἂν γῆδιστ' αὐτὸν ἔπειγεῖραιμι; πῶς;
Φειδέσπερδη, Φειδέσπερδιον.

75

ΦΕ. τέ, ὃ πάτερ; 80

ΣΤ. χύσον με καὶ τὴν χεῖρα δὸς τὴν δεξιάν.

ΦΕ. Λέδομ. τέ ἔστιν;

ΣΤ. εὔπε μοι, φιλεῖς ἐμέ;

ΦΕ. νὴ τὸν Ποσειδῶντον τὸν Ἰππεόν.

ΣΤ. μὴ 'μοιγε τοῦτον μηδαμῶς τὸν Ἰππεόν.
οὗτος γὰρ δὲ θεὸς αἰτιός μοι τῶν κακῶν.
ἀλλ' εὔπερ ἐκ τῆς καρδίας μ' δυτῶς φιλεῖς,
ὃ παῖ, πιθοῦ.

85

ΦΕ. τέ οὖν πέθωμας δῆτα σοι;

ΣΤ. ἔκστρεψον ὡς τάχιστα τοὺς σαυτοῦ τρόπους,
καὶ μάνθαν' ἐλθὼν ἄν ἐγὼ παραινέσω.

ΦΕ. λέγε δή, τέ κελεύεις;

ΣΤ. καὶ τι πείσεις;

ΦΕ. πείσομας, 90

87 πέθωμας Vv2: πείσομας RV: πεθοῦμας vel sim. E^{pc}n!: [E^{ac}].

leather smock.” But he took no notice at all of what I said; instead he’s now made the family exchequer sick with *galloping consumption*. So now all night I’ve been trying to think of a way out, and I’ve found one path, a heaven-sent miracle of a path, which if I can persuade this boy to follow, I’ll be saved. But first I want to wake him up. Now what would be the nicest way for me to wake him up? what now? — Pheidippides! my sweet little Pheidippides!

75

80

PHEIDIPPIDES: What is it, father?

STREPSIADES: Kiss me and give me your right hand.

PHEIDIPPIDES [*getting up and doing so*]: There. What’s the matter?

STREPSIADES: Tell me, do you love me?

PHEIDIPPIDES: Yes, by Poseidon here [*gesturing towards a statue on stage*], the Lord of horses.

STREPSIADES: None of that Lord of horses for me on any account! That’s the god that’s been the cause of my troubles. But, my son, if you truly love me from your heart, obey me now.

85

PHEIDIPPIDES: Obey you in what way?

STREPSIADES: Turn your way of life inside out at once, and go and learn what I’m going to ask you to.

PHEIDIPPIDES: Tell me, then, what do you ask me to learn?

90

STREPSIADES: And you will obey?

PHEIDIPPIDES: I will, I swear it by Dionysus.

νὴ τὸν Διεργυσον.

- Στ. δεῦρος νυν ἀπόβλεπε.
δρῆς τὸ θύμριον τοῦτο καὶ τοὺκέδιον;
- Φε. δρῶ. τέ οὖν τοῦτ' ἔστιν ἐτερν, ὃ πάτερ;
- Στ. ψυχῶν σοφῶν τοῦτ' ἔστιν φροντιστήριον.
ἐνταῦθῃ ἐνοικοῦσι ἄνδρες, οἵ τὸν οὐρανὸν
λέγοντες ἀναπείθουσιν ὡς ἔστιν πνιγεῖς,
καὶ στιν περὶ ἥμᾶς οὗτος, ἥμεῖς δὲ ἀνθρακες.
οὗτοι διδάσκουσι, ἀργύριον ἦν τις διδῷ,
λέγοντα υικᾶν καὶ δίκαια καὶ δίδικα.
- Φε. εἰσὶν δὲ τύνες;
- Στ. οὐκ οἶδι ἀκριβῶς τοῦνομα.
μεριμνοφροντιστὰν καλού τε κάγαθοι.
- Φε. αὔβοι, πονηρού γε. οἴδα τοὺς ἀλαζόνας,
τοὺς ὁχριῶντας, τοὺς ἀνυποδήτους λέγεις,
ὅν δὲ κακοδαίμων Σωκράτης καὶ Χαιρεψῶν.
- Στ. ήτοι, σιώπα μηδὲν εἶπης νήπιον.
ἀλλ' εἰ τι κῆδει τῶν πατρῶν ἀλφίτων,
τούτων γενοῦ μοι, σχασάμενος τὴν ἱππεκήν.
- Φε. οὐκ ἄν μὰ τὸν Διεργυσον εἴ δούης γέ μοι
τοὺς φασιανοὺς οὓς τρέφει Λεωγόρας.
- Στ. Καὶ, ἀντιθολῶ σι, ὃ φύλτατ' ἀνθρώπων ἐμού,
ἔλθῶν διδάσκου.
- Φε. καὶ τέ σοι μαθήσομαι;
- Στ. εἶναι παρ' αὐτοῖς φασιν ἄμφω τῷ λόγῳ,
τὸν κρεύττον', διστις ἔστι, καὶ τὸν ἥττονα.
τοῦτοιν τὸν ἔτερον τοῖν λόγοιν, τὸν ἥττονα,

STREPSIADES: Very well, now look over here. You see that nice little door and that nice little house?

PHEIDIPIIDES: I do. What is it actually, father?

STREPSIADES: That is a Refectory for clever spirits. Men live there who try to argue us into believing that the sky is a baking-cover, and we're the charcoal, and it's all around us. These people teach you, if you pay them, how to carry the day in argument, whether your cause is just or unjust.

95

PHEIDIPIIDES: And who are they?

100

STREPSIADES: I don't know the name exactly. Reflective thinkers, fine upstanding people.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Ugh, the rotten lot! I know them; you're talking about the charlatans, the palefaces, the men with no shoes, such as that god-forsaken Socrates and Chaerephon.

STREPSIADES: Hey! Be quiet, don't say anything so childish! Now, if you care at all for your father's groats, drop your racing, I beg you, and become one of that company.

105

PHEIDIPIIDES: By Dionysus, no, not if you gave me the pheasants that Leogoras rears.

STREPSIADES: Come on, I beseech you, my best beloved in the world, go there and learn.

110

PHEIDIPIIDES: And what do you want me to learn?

STREPSIADES: It's said that they have in their house both the Arguments, the Better, whatever that may be, and the Worse; and that one of this pair of Arguments, the Worse, can plead an un-

115

νικᾶν λέγοντά φασι τάδεκάτερα.

115

·ην οδης μάθης μοι τὸν ἀδικον τοῦτον λόγον,
ἢ νῦν διεύλω διὰ σέ, τούτων τῶν χρεῶν
οὐκ ἂν ἀποδοίην οὔδι· ἂν διολὸν οὔδεντο.

ΦΕ. οὐκ ἂν πιθούμην· οὐ γὰρ ἂν τλαῖην ὑδεῖν
τοὺς ἡπεῖας τὸ χρῶμα διακεκνατομένος.

120

ΣΤ. οὐκά μὰ τὴν Δῆμητρα τῶν γ' ἐμῶν ἔδει,
οὕτι αὐτὸς οὕτι διόγυιος οὕτι δισμόρας·
ἀλλι' ἔξελῶ σ' ἐς κόρακας ἐκ τῆς οὐκέτιας.

ΦΕ. ἀλλι' οὐ περιόφεται μ' διθεῖος Μεγακλέης
ἀντιπον. ἀλλι' εἴσειμι, σοῦ δ' οὐ φροντιῶ.

125

ΣΤ. ἀλλι' οὐδι' ἔγώ μέντοι πεσῶν γε κεύσομαι,
ἀλλι' εὐξάμενος τοῖσιν θεοῖς διδάξομαι
αὐτὸς βαδίζων εἰς τὸ φροντιστήριον.
πῶς οὖν γέρων ὅν κάπιλήσμων καὶ βραδυς
λόγων ἀκριβῶν σχινδαλόμους μαθήσομαι;
ἐτπτέον. τύ ταῦτι' ἔχων στραγγεύομαι,
ἀλλι' οὐχὶ κόπτω τὴν θύραν; παῖ, παυδέον.

130

ΜΑΡΗΤΗΣ

βάλλι' ἐς κόρακας τύς ἐσθι· δικός τὴν θύραν;

ΣΤ. Φεύδωνος υἱὸς Στρεψιάδης Κυκυννόθεν.

ΜΑ. ἀμοθής γε νὴ Δέι', διτεις ούτωσὶ σφόδρα
ἀπεριμερύμνως τὴν θύραν λελάκτικας,
καὶ φοντεύθι ἔξημβλωκας ἔξηπρημένην.

135

ΣΤ. σύγγνωθε μοι· τηλοῦ γὰρ οὐκῶ τῶν ἄγρῶν.
ἀλλι' εὔπει μοι τὸ πρᾶγμα τούξημβλωμένον.

ΜΑ. ἀλλι' οὐ θέμις πλὴν τοῖς μαθηταῖσιν λέγειν.

140

ΣΤ. λέγε νυν ἐμὸὶ θαρρῶν· ἔγώ γὰρ οὐτοσὶ

just cause and prevail. Well, if you learn this Wrongful Argument for me, then of these debts that I owe now because of you, I wouldn't have to pay an obol to anyone.

PHEIDIPIIDES: I can't obey you: I couldn't bear to set eyes on the Knights with all the colour withered from my face. 120

STREPSIADES: Then, by Demeter, you shan't eat anything of mine, not you nor your yoke-horse nor your *san*-branded thoroughbred; I'll throw you out of the house, and you can go to blazes.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Ah, but uncle Megacles won't let me remain horseless. I'm going inside, and not giving a thought to you. [He goes into his father's house.] 125

STREPSIADES: And I'm not going to take this blow lying down; with a prayer to the gods, I shall go to the Refectory and get myself taught. But then how am I to learn splinter-like exactitudes of argument, when old, forgetful and slow? — No, I have got to go. Why do I keep dallying like this, instead of knocking on the door? [Knocking] Boy! Little boy!

STUDENT [within]: Oh, get stuffed! [Opening the door] Who's been knocking at this door?

STREPSIADES: Strepsiades, son of Pheidon, of Cicynna.

STUDENT: An ignoramus, for sure, the way you've kicked so hard at the door without circumspect cogitation, and rendered abortive an idea that had been discovered. [He comes out and closes the door behind him.] 135

STREPSIADES: Forgive me; I live a long way off in the country. But do tell me about the thing that miscarried:

STUDENT: It may not lawfully be divulged except to the students. 140

STREPSIADES: Then tell me, you've nothing to worry about;

Γίνω μαθητής εύς τὸ φροντιστήριον.

- Μα. λέξω· νομίσαλ δὲ ταῦτα χρὴ μυστήρια.
ἀνήρετ! ἄρτι Χαιρεφῶντα Σωκράτης
ψύλλαν διόσσους ἀλλοιοτο τοὺς αὐτῆς πόδας.
δακοῦσα γάρ τοῦ Χαιρεφῶντος τὴν δφρύν
ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν τὴν Σωκράτους ἀφῆλατο.
- Στ. πᾶς δῆτα διεμέτρησε;
- Μα. δεξιώματα.
κηρὸν διατήξας, εἶτα τὴν ψύλλαν λαβὼν
ἐνέβαφεν εύς τὸν κηρὸν αὐτῆς τῷ πόδε,
κάτα ψυχεύσῃ περιέφυσαν Περσικαῖ.
ταύτας ὑπολύσας ἀνεμέτρει τὸ χωρίον.
- Στ. Φ Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ, τῆς λεπτότητος τῶν φρενῶν.
- Μα. τού δῆτ! ἄν, ἔτερον εὖ πύθοιο Σωκράτους
φρόντισμα;
- Στ. τοῖον; ἀντιβολῶ, κάτειπε μοι.
- Μα. ἀνήρετ! αὐτὸν Χαιρεφῶν δ Σφῆττος
δικτερα τὴν γυώμην ἔχοι, τὰς ἐμπέδας
κατὰ τὸ στόμ' φέδειν ή κατὰ τούρροκύγιον.
- Στ. τού δῆτ! ἔχεινος εἶπε κερὶ τῆς ἐμπέδος;
- 145 ἀλλοιοτο vel sim. ^{K^{ac}} θ²AVb3 al. Suda^F λ_Σ^{Npl} Σ Soph. A1. 103,
El. 1101: ἀλοιοτο vel sim. RVn_{rell.} Suda^{RE} i_Σ^{RVEMNpl},
Σ^{RV} 831.
- 148 διεμέτρησε ^η, Lucian, Theophylactus Bulgarus: τοῦτο διεμέτρησε
R: τοῦτ! ἐμέτρησε V.
- 151 Φυχεύσῃ Ct3: φυγεύσῃ codd. Suda.
- 156 Χαιρεφῶν codd^{RE}: perh. e.g. Χαιρεκράτης or Κλειτοφῶν.

it's as a student that I have come here to the Refectory.

STUDENT: I'll tell you, but you must regard these things as
holy secrets. A little while ago Socrates asked Chaerephon how
many of its own feet a flea could jump; because one had bitten
Chaerephon's eyebrow and jumped off onto Socrates' head.

145

STREPSIADES: And how did he measure it out?

STUDENT: Very cleverly. He melted wax, then took the flea
and dipped both its feet in the wax, and then when it cooled it had
Persian boots clinging to it. He had taken these off, and was measuring
the distance.

150

STREPSIADES: Lord Zeus, what mental subtlety!

STUDENT: What would you say if you heard another idea
Socrates had?

155

STREPSIADES: What idea? Tell me, I implore you.

STUDENT: Chaerephon of Sphettus asked him whether he
was of the opinion that gnats hum through their mouth or through
their rump.

STREPSIADES: Well, what did he say about the gnat?

- Μα. ἔφασκεν εἶναι τοῦντερον τῆς ἐμπέδου
στενόν, διὰ λεπτοῦ δ' ὅντος αὐτοῦ τὴν πυοὴν
βέρη βαδύζειν εὔθὺ τούρροπυγίου·
ἔπειτα κοῖλον πρὸς στενῷ προσκεύμενον
τὸν πρωκτὸν ἡχεῖν ὑπὸ βύας τοῦ πνεύματος.
- Στ. σάλπιγξ ὁ πρωκτός ἐστιν ἄρα τῶν ἐμπέδων.
ἄ τρισμακάριος τοῦ διεντερεύματος.
ἡ ῥάβδως φείμγων ἢν ἀποφύγοις δέκην,
διστις δέοιδε τοῦντερον τῆς ἐμπέδου.
- Μα. πρώην δέ γε γνώμην μεγάλην ἀφηρέθη
ὑπὲρ ἀσκαλαβάτου.
- Στ. τίνα τρόπον; κατεύπερ μοι.
- Μα. ζητοῦντος αὐτοῦ τῆς σελήνης τὰς ὁδοὺς
καὶ τὰς περιφοράς, εἴτ' ἂνω κεχρυστος
ἀπὸ τῆς ὁροφῆς υἱκτωρ γαλεώτης κατέχεσεν.
- Στ. ήσθην γαλεώτη καταχέσαντι Σωκράτους.
- Μα. ἔχθες δέ γ' ἡμῖν δεῖπνον οὐκ ἦν ἐσπέρας.
- Στ. εἶέν· τέ οὖν πρὸς τᾶλφιτ' ἐπαλαμήσατο;
- Μα. κατὰ τῆς τραπέζης καταπάσσας λεπτὴν τέφραν,
κάμψας ὀβελύσκον, εἴτα διαβίτην λαβὼν
ἐκ τῆς παλαύστρας θούματίουν ὑφεύλετο.
- Στ. τέ δῆτ' ἔκεινον τὸν θαλῆν θαυμάζομεν;
ἄνοιγ! ἄνοιγ! ἀνμσας τὸ φροντιστήριον,
καὶ δεῖξον ὡς τάχιστά μοι τὸν Σωκράτη·
μαθητιῶ γάρ. ἀλλ' ἄνοιγε τὴν θύραν.

182 Σωκράτη Ald.: Σωκράτην codd.: so also 1465, 1477.

STUDENT: He said that the gnat's intestine is narrow, and
that the air is forced through this small tube right the way to
the rump; and then the arsehole, being a cavity adjacent to a nar-
row passage, emits sound as a result of the force of the wind.

160

STREPSIADES: So the arsehole of gnats is a trumpet. Happy,
happy man, what a feat of evisceration! He'd surely find it easy to
defend a lawsuit successfully, when he has such a deep knowledge
of the intestine of the gnat.

165

STUDENT: Then the other day he was robbed of a great idea
by a spotted lizard.

170

STREPSIADES: In what way? Tell me.

STUDENT: He was investigating the paths and revolutions of
the moon, and then when he was gazing open-mouthed at the sky a
gecko shat on him from the eaves in the dark.

STREPSIADES [*laughing*]: I like that gecko shitting on
Socrates!

175

STUDENT: Then last night there was no dinner for us to eat.

STREPSIADES: I see, so what did he contrive to get you your
groats?

STUDENT: He covered the table with a thin sprinkling of ash,
bent a spit, then picked up a faggot . . . from the wrestling-school and
stole his cloak.

180

STREPSIADES: After that, why do we still admire old Thales?
Open up, quick, open up the Refectory, and show me Socrates as
quickly as you can — I'm bursting to learn! Open the door! [*A plat-*
form is rolled out of the door, on which are a number of thin, pale

ἢ Ἡράκλεις, ταυτὸν ποδαπὰ τὰ θηρύα;

Μα. τέλ' ἐθαυμασας; τῷ σοι δοκοῦσιν εὔχεναι;

185

Στ. τοῖς ἐκ Πύλου ληφθεῖσι, τοῖς λακωνικοῖς.
ἀτὰρ τέ ποτ' εἰς τὴν γῆν βλέπουσιν οὐτούς;

Μα. ζητοῦσιν οὗτοι τὰ κατὰ γῆς.

Στ. βολβοὺς ἄρα
ζητοῦσι. μή νυν τοῦτο γ' ἔτι φροντίζετε.
ἔγώ γάρ οὖδ' ἵν' εἰσὶ μεγάλοι καὶ καλοί.
τέ γάρ οὖδε δρῶσιν οὐ σφόδρ' ἐγκεκυφότες;

190

Μα. οὗτοι δ' ἐρεβοδιψῶσιν ὑπὸ τὸν Τάρταρον.

Στ. τέ δῆθ' ὁ πρωκτὸς εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν βλέπει;

Μα. αὐτὸς καθ' αὐτὸν ἀστρονομεῖν διδάσκεται.
ἄλλ' εἶσιθ', ἵνα μὴ 'κεῖνος ὑμῖν ἐπιτύχῃ.

195

Στ. μήπω γε, μήπω γ', ἀλλ' ἐπιμεινάντων, ἵνα
αὐτοῖσι κοινώσω τι πραγμάτιον ἔμσν.

Μα. ἀλλ' οὐχ οὖδν τ' αὐτοῖσι πρὸς τὸν ἀέρα
ἔξω διατρέβειν πολὺν ἀγανάκτην χρόνου.

Στ. πρὸς τῶν θεῶν, τέ γάρ ταῦθ' ἐστίν; εὐτέρε μου.

200

Μα. ἀστρονομία μὲν αὐτηί.

Στ. τοῦτὸν δὲ τέ;

Μα. γεωμετρία.

Στ. τοῦτ' οὖν τέ εστιν χρήσιμον;

189 γ' ἔτι Reisig: γε RKθ: ἔτι $\text{VE}^{\text{PC}} \text{N}$: [E^{ac}].

195 ὑμῖν $i\Sigma^R$: ἡμῖν codd. Suda $i\Sigma^{Vb3}$.

students in attitudes presently to be described.] Heraclès! where do these creatures come from?

STUDENT: Why are you surprised? What do you think they look like? 185

STREPSIADES: Like the men captured at Pylos, the Laconians. But tell me [*pointing to one group of students*] why on earth are these ones looking at the ground?

STUDENT: They are trying to discover what is under the earth.

STREPSIADES: Oh, I see, they're looking for bulbs to eat! Well, you don't need to give that another thought, because I know where there are lovely big ones. And what are these people doing, the ones who are bent right over? 190

STUDENT: They are searching into the nether darkness below Tartarus.

STREPSIADES: Then why is their arse looking at the sky?

STUDENT: It's learning astronomy on its own account. [*To the students forming the tableau*] Go inside, we don't want *him* to find you here. 195

STREPSIADES: Not yet, not yet! Let them stay, so that I can inform them about a little problem that I have.

STUDENT: No, they aren't allowed to spend too much time outside in the air. [*The other students go inside.*]

STREPSIADES [*pointing to instruments hanging up at the back of the vacated platform*]: Tell me, what in heaven's name are these? 200

STUDENT: This here is astronomy.

STREPSIADES: And what's this?

STUDENT: Geometry.

STREPSIADES: So what's that useful for?

Μα. γῆν ἀναμετρεῖσθαι.

Στ. πότερα τὴν κληρουχικήν;

Μα. οὕκ, ἀλλα τὴν σύμπασαν.

Στ. ἀστεῖον λέγεις.

τὸ γὰρ σύνθισμα δημοτικὸν καὶ χρήσιμον.

205

Μα. αὕτη δέ σοι γῆς περίοδος πάσης. δρός;
αὗδε μὲν Ἀθήναι.

Στ. τέ σὺ λέγεις; οὐ πεύθουμαι,
ἔπει δικαστὰς εὑχ ὄρῳ καθημένους.

Μα. ὡς τοῦτ' ἀληθῶς Ἀττικὴ τὸ χωρίον.

Στ. καὶ ποῦ Κικυννῆς εἴσιν, ούμοὶ δημόται;

210

Μα. ἐνταῦθι ἔνεισιν. ἢ δέ γ' Εὔβοι', ὡς δρός,
ἥδι παρατέταται μακρὰ πόρρω πάνυ.

Στ. οἶδ'. ὑπὸ γὰρ ἡμῶν παρετάθη καὶ Περικλέους.
ἀλλ' ἢ λακεδαιμων ποῦ 'σθ';

Μα. δικου 'στέν; αὕτην.

Στ. ὡς ἐγγὺς ἡμῶν. τοῦτο μεταφροντύζετε,
ταύτην ἀφ' ἡμῶν ἀπαγαγεῖν πόρρω πάνυ.

215

Μα. ἀλλ' οὐχ οἶδν τε.

Στ. νὴ Δέ! οὐμάξεσθ' ἄρα.

φέρε, τές γὰρ οἶτος οὐπὶ τῆς κρεμάθρας ἀνήρ;

209 'Αττικὴ Dobree: 'Αττικὸν *codd.*, *Et. Mag.*:]γ π6.

215 μεταφροντύζετε Bentley, cf. Σ^R : μέγα φροντύζετε *Suda* $i\Sigma^M$:
πάνυ φροντύζετε *codd.*

STUDENT: For measuring land.

STREPSIADES: You mean land for cleruchs?

STUDENT: No, land generally.

STREPSIADES: A charming notion! It's a useful and democratic device.

205

STUDENT: And this is a map of the whole world. Do you see? here's Athens.

STREPSIADES: What do you mean? I don't believe you; I don't see any jurors on their benches.

STUDENT: I assure you this area is Attica.

STREPSIADES: Then where are the men of Cicynna, my fellow-demesmen?

210

STUDENT [*indicating the area south-east of Athens*]: They're in this part. And here, as you see, is Euboea, lying stretched out beside the mainland for a very long distance.

STREPSIADES: I know; we laid it out, we and Pericles. But where's Sparta?

STUDENT: Where is it? Here.

STREPSIADES: How close to us! Rethink that one, please, so as to take it a good long way away from us.

215

STUDENT: It can't be done.

STREPSIADES [*raising his stick*]: In that case, by Zeus, you're going to howl! [*Looking up, where the crane has swung Socrates into view*] Here. tell me, who's that man dangling from the hook?

Μα. αύτός.

Στ. τές αύτος;

Μα. Σωκράτης.

Στ. ὅ Σωκράτες.

ζθ' οὗτος, ἀναβόσον αύτὸν μοι μέγα.

220

Μα. αύτὸς μὲν οὖν σὺ κἀλεσον· οὐ γάρ μοι σχολή.

Στ. ὁ Σωκράτης,

ὁ Σωκρατέδιον.

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ

τέ με καλεῖς, ἄφημερε;

Στ. πρῶτον μὲν ὃ τι δρῆς, ἀντιβολῶ, κάτειπέ μοι.

Σω. ἀεροβατῶ καὶ περιφρονῶ τὸν ἥλιον.

225

Στ. ἔπειτ' ἀπὸ ταρροῦ τοὺς θεοὺς ὑπερφρονεῖς,
ἄλλ' οὐκ ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς, εἶπερ;

Σω. οὐ γάρ δν ποτε

ἔξηντον ὄρθῶς τὰ μετέωρα πράγματα,
εἰ μὴ κρεμάσας τὸ νόημα καὶ τὴν φροντίδα
λεπτὴν καταμεύξας εἰς τὸν δμοιον ἀέρα.

230

εἰ δ' ἂν χαμαὶ τένω κατωθεν ἐσκόκουν,
οὐκ ἀν ποθ' ηὔρου· οὐ γάρ ἄλλ' ἢ γῇ βέρῃ
ἔλκει πρὸς αὐτὴν τὴν ἐκμάδα τῆς φροντίδος.
πᾶσχει δὲ ταύτη τοῦτο καὶ τὰ κάρδαμα.

Στ. πῶς φήσι;

235

ἢ φροντὶς ἔλκει τὴν ἐκμάδα· εἰς τὰ κάρδαμα;
ζει νυν κατέβηθ', ὁ Σωκρατέδιον, ὡς ἐμέ,

235 πῶς πῆ: τέ codd.

STUDENT: It's the master.

STREPSIADES: Who's the master?

STUDENT: Socrates.

STREPSIADES: Socrates! — Here, you, call out to him for me, good and loud. 220

STUDENT: No, you call him yourself; I'm busy. [*He goes inside.*] 221

STREPSIADES: Socrates! my sweet little Socrates!

SOCRATES [*aloft*]: Why dost thou call me, thou creature of a day? 222

STREPSIADES: First of all, I beg you, tell me what you're doing. 223

SOCRATES: I walk the air and descry the sun. 225

STREPSIADES: You mean you decry the gods from a wicker cage? Why not do it on the ground, if at all? 226

SOCRATES: I could never have made correct discoveries about celestial phenomena, except by hanging up my mind and mixing the minute particles of my thought into the air which it resembles. 229
If I had been on the ground and investigated the upper regions from below, I would never have made my discoveries; for it is certain that the earth forcibly draws the moisture of thought to itself. Just the same thing happens to cress. 230

STREPSIADES [*baffled*]: How do you mean? Thought draws moisture to cress? — Here, my sweet Socrates, come down now to me, so that you can teach me the things I've come to be taught. 235

Ενα μ' ἐκδιδεῖται περ ἔνεκ' ἐλήλυθα.

Σω. Καθεις δὲ κατὰ τύ;

Στ. βουλθμενος μαθεῖν λέγειν.

ὑπὸ γάρ τόκων χρήστων τε δυσκολωτάτων
ἄγομαι, φέρομαι, τὰ χρήματ' ἐνεχυράζομαι.

240

Σω. πόθεν δ' ὑπόχρεως σαυτὸν ἔλαθες γενόμενος;

Στ. νόσος μ' ἐπέτριψεν ὑπίκη, δεινὴ φαγεῖν.

ἀλλά με δέδαξον τὸν ἔτερον τοῦν σοῦν λόγοιν,
τὸν μηδὲν ἀποδιδόντα. μισθὸν δ' ὅντιν' ἀν
πράττῃ μ', ὁμοῦμαί σου καταθήσειν τοὺς θεούς.

245

Σω. ποίους θεοὺς ὄμεῖ συ; πρῶτον γάρ θεοὶ
ἡμῖν νόμισμα! οὐκ ἔστι.

Στ. τῷ γάρ ὅμνυτ'; Καὶ
σιδαρέοισιν, πᾶσπερ ἐν Βυζαντίῳ;

Σω. βούλει τὰ θεῖα πράγματ' εἰδέναι σαφῶς
ἄττ' ἔστιν ὄρθως;

250

Στ. νὴ Δί', εἶπερ ἔστι γε.

Σω. καὶ συγγενέσθαι ταῖς Νεφέλαισιν εὗς λόγους,
ταῖς ἡμετέραισι δαύκοσιν;

Στ. μάλιστά γε.

Σω. καθίζε τούνυν ἐπὶ τὸν ὕερδν σκύμποδα.

Στ. ὕδος, καθηματ.

Σω. τουτονὶ τούνυν λαβέ

255

238 ἔνεκ' Vv4: οὖνεκ' codd.

SOCRATES [*descending to the ground*]: And why have you come?

STREPSIADES: Because I want to learn oratory. I'm being ravaged and plundered, and having my goods distrained on, at the hands of usury and of creditors whom nothing can satisfy.

240-1

SOCRATES: And how did you come to get into debt without realizing it?

STREPSIADES: I've been ruined by an equine affliction, which has been eating me up fearfully. Anyway, please teach me one of your two Arguments, the one that never pays its debts. What- ever fee you require from me, I'll swear to you by the gods to pay cash down.

245

SOCRATES: What do you mean, swear by the gods? Apart from anything else, we don't credit gods here.

STREPSIADES: Then what currency *do* you use for oaths? Is it iron coins, like at Byzantium?

SOCRATES: Do you desire certain knowledge of the true nature of things divine?

250

STREPSIADES: I do indeed, if it's really possible.

SOCRATES: And to commune and converse with the Clouds, who are our deities?

STREPSIADES: Very much so.

SOCRATES: Then please sit on the sacred bed.

STREPSIADES: There, I'm sitting.

255

SOCRATES: Now take this wreath.

τὸν στέφανον.

Στ. έπλ τύ στέφανον; οῖμοι, Σώκρατες,
ῶσκερ με τὸν Ἀθάμανθ' δπως μὴ θύσετε.

Σω. οῦκ, ἀλλὰ κάντας ταῦτα τοὺς τελουμένους
ήμετς κοιοῦμεν.

Στ. εἶτα δὴ τύ κερδανῶ;

Σω. λέγειν γενήσει τρῆμα, κρόταλον, καὶ πάλη.
ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἀτρεμεῖ.

260

Στ. μὰ τὸν Δύ! οὐ φεύσει γέ με·
κατακαττόμενος γάρ καὶ πάλη γενήσομαι.

Σω. εὔφημεν χρὴ τὸν πρεσβύτην καὶ τῆς εὐχῆς ἐπακούειν.
ὦ δέσποτ! ἀναξ ἀμέτρητ! Ἀήρ, ὃς ἔχεις τὴν γῆν μετέωρον,
λαμπρὸς τ' Αἰθήρ, σεμναῖ τε θεαὶ Νεφέλαι βροντησικέραυνοι, 265
ἀρθητε, φάνητ', ὦ δέσποινα, τῷ φροντιστῇ μετέωροι.

Στ. μήκω, μήκω γε, πρὶν ἂν τουτὸν πτίξωμαι, μὴ καταβρεχθῶ.
τὸ δὲ μηδὲ κυνῆν οἶκοθεν ἐλθεῖν ἐμὲ τὸν κακοδαύμον' ἔχοντα.

Σω. ἐλθετε δῆτ', ὦ κολυτίμητοι Νεφέλαι, τῷδ' εἰς ἐπίδειξιν·
εῖτ' ἐπ' Ὁλύμπου κορυφαῖς ἱεραῖς χιονοβλήτοισι καθησθε, 270
εῖτ' Ὡκεανοῦ κατρὸς ἐν κήποις ἱερὸν χορὸν ἴστατε Νύμφαις,
εῖτ' δρα Νεύλου προχοαῖς ὑδάτων χρυσέας ἀρύτεσθε πρόχοισιν,
ἢ Μαιῶτιν λίμνην ἔχετ', ἢ σκόρπελον νυφδεντα Μύμαντος·
ὑπακούσατε δεξιμενατι θυσίαν καὶ τοῖς ἱεροῖσι χαρεῖσαν. 274

ΧΟΡΟΣ
δέναοι Νεφέλαι, (στρ.

258. κάντας ταῦτα Reiske: κάντα ταῦτα EK: ταῦτα κάντα RVNθ.

268 μηδὲ E: μὴ RVn', Eustathius, ε^{RVΓ} Wasps 445.

272 ἀρύτ- Suda: ἀρύ- codi.

STREPSIADES: Why a wreath? Heavens, Socrates, don't on any account make a sacrifice of me, like Athamas.

SOCRATES: No, no; we do this to everyone when they're being initiated.

STREPSIADES: And so what shall I gain by it?

SOCRATES: You'll become a smooth talker, a tinkling cymbal, the sieved meal of subtlety. Now keep still. [He sprinkles fine meal over Strepsiades.]

260

STREPSIADES: By Zeus, you can't fool me. I *shall* become sieved meal — by being sprinkled with it!

SOCRATES: Let the old man speak fair and listen to the prayer. O Sovereign Lord, immeasurable Air, who upholdest the floating earth, and thou, bright Sky, and ye august thunder-fulminating Cloud-goddesses, arise, appear, blessed Ladies, appear on high to him who thinks on you.

265

STREPSIADES [*trying to cover himself with his cloak*]: Not yet, not yet, not till I've wrapped myself in this so as not to get drenched. What can have possessed me to leave home without even a cap?

SOCRATES: Yea, most glorious Clouds, come to display yourselves to this man: whether ye now sit on the holy snow-clad peaks of Olympus, or call the Nymphs to a holy dance in the gardens of father Ocean; or whether again at the mouths of the Nile ye draw of its waters with golden ewers, or haunt Lake Maeotis or the snowy crag of Mimas: hearken to me, accepting my sacrifice and rejoicing in these holy rites.

270

CHORUS [*in the distance*]:

Everlasting Clouds,

275

ἀρθῶμεν φανερὰν δροσερὰν φύσιν εὐάγητον
πατρὸς ἀπ' ὑκεανοῦ βαρυαχέος

ὑψηλῶν ὄρεών κορυφᾶς ἔπι

δενδροκόρμους, ἵνα

280

τηλεφανεῖς σκοπιάς ἀφορώμεθα

καρπούς τ' ἀρδομέναν ὑερὸν χθόνα

καὶ ποταμῶν ζαθέων κελαδήματα

καὶ πόντον κελάδοντα βαρύβρομον.

ὅμμα γὰρ αὐθέρος ἀκάματον σελαγεῖται

285

μαρμαρέασιν αὐγαῖς.

ἀλλ' ἀπεσεισάμεναι νέφος ὅμβριον

ἀθανάτας ὑδέας ἐπιδώμεθα

τηλεσκόρπιψ μηματι γαῖαν.

290

Σω. Ὡς μέγα σεμνὰς Νεφέλας, φανερῶς ἡκούμσατέ μου καλέσαντος.

ἥσθιον φωνῆς ἄμα καὶ βροντῆς μυκησαμένης θεοσέπτου;

Στ. καὶ σέβομαι γ', ὡς πολυτύμοτοι, καὶ βούλομαι ἀνταποπαρδεῖν πρὸς τὰς βροντάς· οὕτως αὐτὰς τετραμαίνω καὶ πεφόβημαι· καὶ θέμις ἐστύν, νιψύ γ' ἕδη—καὶ μὴ θέμις ἐστύ—χεσεύω. 295

Σω. οὐ μὴ σκώψει, μηδὲ ποιήσεις ἀπερ οὐ τρυγοδαίμονες οὗτοι; ἀλλ' εύφημει· μέγα γάρ τι θεῶν κινεῖται σμήνος ἀοιδαῖς.

Χο. παρθένοις ὅμβροφόροις, (ἀντ.)

ἔλθωμεν λιπαρὰν χθόνα Παλλάδος, εὖανδρον γᾶν

300

Κέκροπος ὄφόμεναι πολυπήρατον·

οὖσεβας ἀρρήτων ὑερῶν, ἵνα

μυστοδόκος δόμος

282 ὑερῶν VK^{pc}: θ' ὑερῶν [^]Rn'.

296 σκώψει Elmsley: σκώψης codd.

299 χθόνα K: ἐς χθόνα RVn'.

let us rise and make visible our radiant dewy form,
leaving deep-roaring father Ocean
for the peaks of lofty mountains
crowned with trees, that we

280

may gaze on the hill-tops conspicuous from afar
and the holy earth whose crops we water
and sacred rivers' rushing flow
and the deep thunder of the sounding sea;
for the unwearying eye of heaven is blazing
with sparkling rays.

285

Then let us shake off the rainy mist
from our immortal form, and look
upon the earth with far-seeing eye.

290

SOCRATES: O most revered Clouds, manifest it is that you heard my call. [To *Strepsiades*] Did you hear their voice, and together with it the bellow of awe-inspiring divine thunder?

STREPSIADES: Yes, and I revere you, most glorious ones, and in response to that thunder I want to fart back, so much do they put me in fear and trembling; and right now, if it is lawful – and even if it isn't – I need to crap.

295

SOCRATES: Will you stop playing the fool and acting like those goddamned comedians? Now speak fair; for a great swarm of deities is on the move, singing.

CHORUS [*nearer*]:

Rain-bearing maidens,
let us go to the gleaming land of Pallas, to see
the lovely land of Cecrops, home of fine men;
where are the august rites none may speak of, where
to receive the initiates the temple

300

έν τελεταῖς ἀγίαις ἀναδείκνυται·
οὐρανίοις τε θεοῖς δωρήματα,
ναοῖς θ' ύψερεφεῖς καὶ ἀγάλματα,
καὶ πρόσοδοι μακάρων ὑερώταται
εὔστέφανοί τε θεῶν θυσίαις θαλύαις τε

305

παντοδαπαῖσιν ὕραις,
ἥρ' τ' ἐπερχομένης Βρομία χάρις
εὔκελάδων τε χορῶν ἔρεθίσματα
καὶ μεῖσα βαρύβρομος αὐλῶν.

310

Στ. πρὸς τοῦ Διός, ἀντιβολῶ σε, φράσσον, τύνεις εἶσ', ^ἢ Σάκρατες,
αὗταις φθεγξάμεναι τοῦτο τὸ σεμνόν; μῶν ἡρῷναί τινεις εἰσιν; 315

Σω. ἥκιστ', ἀλλ' οὐράνιαι Νεφέλαι, μεγάλαι θεαὶ ἀνδράσιν ἀργοῖς,
αὕτερ γνώμην καὶ διάλεξιν καὶ νοῦν ἡμῖν παρέχουσιν
καὶ τερατεῖαν καὶ περύλεξιν καὶ κροῦσιν καὶ κατάληψιν.

Στ. ταῦτ' ἄρ' ἀκούσασ' αὐτῶν τὸ φθέγμ' ἡ φυχὴ μου πεπότηται,
καὶ λεπτολογεῖν ἥδη ζητεῖ καὶ περὶ καπνοῦ στενολεσχεῖν 320
καὶ γνωμιδίψ γνώμην νῦνεασ' ἐτέρῳ λόγῳ διντιλογῆσαι·
ῶστ', εὖ πώς ἐστιν, ὅδειν αὐτὰς ἥδη φανερῶς ἐπιθυμῶ.

Σω. βλέπε νυν δευρὶ πρὸς τὴν Πάρνηθή!· ἥδη γάρ ὁρῶ κατεούσας
ἥσυχῇ αὐτάς.

Στ. φέρε, ποῦ; δεῖξον.

Σω. ^{χωροῦσ'} αὗται πάνυ πολλαὶ
διὰ τῶν κούλων καὶ τῶν δασέων, αὗται πλάγιαι.

Στ. τύ τὸ χρῆμα; 325

310 παντοδαπαῖσιν Blaydes: παντοδαπαῖσιν ἐν E^{PC}: παντοδαπαῖς ἐν RVn'.

324 ἥσυχῇ (-ῇ) Elmsley: ἥσυχως codd.

is opened at the holy Mystic festival;
giving of gifts to the gods of heaven,
high-roofed temples, sacred statues,
holy processions in honour of the Blest Ones,
garlanded sacrifices to the gods and festivities
at each and every season,
and at the onset of spring Dionysian delight,
the excitement of melodious choruses
and the deep-sounding music of the pipes.

305

310

STREPSIADES: In the name of Zeus, Socrates, tell me, I beg
you, who are these ladies who voiced that majestic song? They're
not some kind of female heroes, are they?

315

SOCRATES: Not at all; they are the heavenly Clouds, great
goddesses for men of idleness, who bestow on us intelligence and
discourse and understanding, fantasy and circumlocution and inci-
sive and repressive power.

STREPSIADES: So that is why my soul, on hearing their
voice, has taken wing, and now longs to chop logic and to chatter
minutely about smoke, to puncture a maxim with a little maxim of
my own and meet argument with counter-argument; and therefore,
if it's at all possible, I'm eager now to see them face to face.

320

SOCRATES: Then look this way, towards Mount Parnes; for
now I see them coming gently down.

STREPSIADES: Let's see — where? Show me.

SOCRATES: [*pointing off to the side*]: There they come, a
great many of them, through the woods and the hollows — there,
to your side.

325

STREPSIADES [*peering at the sky in that direction*]: What's
all this about? I can't see them.

ώς ού καθορῶ.

- Σω. παρὰ τὴν εἶσοδον.
- Στ. ἥδη νῦν μόλις οὕτως.
- Σω. νῦν γέ τοι ἥδη καθορῆς αὐτᾶς, εἰ μὴ λημῆς κολοκύντας.
- Στ. νὴ Δέ! ἔγωγ'. ὃ πολυτύμοτος· πάντα γάρ ἥδη κατέχουσιν.
- Σω. ταῦτας μέντοι σὺ θεὰς οὕσας οὐκ ἥδησθ' οὐδὲ ἐνόμιζες; 329
- Στ. μὰ Δέ!, ἀλλ' ὁμέχλην καὶ δρόσον αὐτὰς ἤγούμην καὶ καπνὸν εἶναι.
- Σω. οὐ γάρ μὰ Δέ! οἶσθ' ὅτι ἡ πλεύστους αὗται βόσκουσι σοφιστάς,
θουριομάντεις, ὑατροτέχναις, σφραγιδονυχαργοκομῆτας'
κυκλίων τε χορῶν φίσματοκάμπτας, ἄνδρας μετεωροφένακας,
οὐδὲν δρῶντας βόσκουσ' ἀργούς, ὅτι ταῦτας μουσοποιοῦσιν. 334
- Στ. ταῦτ' ἄρ' ἐπούουν "ύγραν νεφελᾶν στρεπταιγλᾶν δάσον δρμάν",
"πλοκάμους θ' ἐκατογκεσάλα Τυφῶ", "πρημαινούμσας τε θυέλλας",
εἴτ' "ἀερίας διεράς, γαμψούς οἰωνοὺς ἀερονηχεῖς"
"δημβρους θ' ὕδαταν δροσερᾶν νεφελᾶν"· εἴτ' ἀντ' αὐτῶν κατέπινον
κεστρᾶν τεινάχη μεγαλῶν ἀγαθῶν κρέα τ' ὀρυζθεια κυκλῶν.
- Σω. διὰ μέντοι τάσδ'. οὐχὶ δικαίως;
- Στ. λέξον δή μοι, τέ παθοῦσαι, 340
εἶπερ νεφέλαι γ' εὖσιν ἀληθῶς, θνηταῖς εἶξαν γυναιξίν;
οὐ γάρ ἔκειναι γ' εὖσι τοιαῦται.
- Σω. φέρε, ποῖαν γάρ τινές εὖσιν;

326 παρὰ PE^{ac}KΘ: πρὸς VE^{pc}N.

329 ἥδησθ' Hirschig: ἥδεις codd.

340 δή K (K^s adds νῦν): δὴ νῦν RVEΘ: δὲ νῦν N.

SOCRATES: Just at the wing-entrance!

STREPSIADES: Ah, now, looking this way, I just about can.

[*The Clouds, in the guise of women, enter the orchestra.*]

SOCRATES: Now surely you see them, unless you've got
stybes the size of pumpkins.

STREPSIADES: Yes, I do. Glory be! they're filling the whole
place.

SOCRATES: And you didn't know they were goddesses, and
didn't believe in them?

STREPSIADES: No, indeed; I thought they were mist and
dew and vapour.

SOCRATES: Because you aren't aware that these goddesses
sustain and nourish a whole host of "experts", diviners from Thuri,
professors of the medical art, long-haired do-nothings with onyx
signet-rings; and composers of convoluted songs for dithyrambic
choruses, men of airy quackery, they maintain in idleness doing
nothing, because they poeticize about the Clouds.

STREPSIADES: Ah, that's why they write about the "fear-
ful onset of rain-filled clouds edged with twists of radiance" and
the "locks of hundred-headed Typhos" and "flatulent squalls", and
then "aerial aquifers, crook-taloned birds floating in air" and "waters
raining from the dewy clouds", and as a reward for that, Guzzle
slices of lovely big barracuda fish and the avian flesh of thrushes!

SOCRATES: All thanks to these Clouds; and rightly too, don't
you think?

STREPSIADES: Well, tell me, if they really are clouds, what's
happened to them, that they look like mortal women? I mean, the
clouds up there aren't like that.

SOCRATES: Well, what are they like?

330

335

340

Στ. οὐκ οἶδα σαφῶς· εἰξασιν δ' οὖν ἐρύοισιν πεπταμένοισιν,
κούχὶ γυναιξύν, μὰ Δέ', οὐδὲ δτεοῦν· αὗται δὲ βένας ἔχουσιν.

Σω. ἀπόσκριναί νυν διττ' ἀν ἔρωματι.

Στ. λέγε νυν ταχέως δ τι βούλειν. 345

Σω. ηδη ποτ' ἀναβλέψας εἴδες νεφέλην κενταύρῳ όμοίαν
ἢ παρδάλει ἢ λύκῳ ἢ ταύρῳ;

Στ. νὴ Δέ' ἔγωγ'. εἰτα τι τοῦτο;

Σω. γέγνονται πάνθ' δ τι βούλονται· καὶ τι' ήν μὲν ὕδωσι κομῆτην
ἄγριον τινα τῶν λασίων τούτων, οἶδόν περ τὸν Ξενοφάντου,
σκώπτουσαν τὴν μανίαν αύτοῦ κενταύροις ηκασαν αὐτάς. 350

Στ. τι γὰρ ήν ἄρπαγα τῶν δημοσίων κατέδωσι Σύμαντα, τι δρῶσιν;

Σω. ἀποφαίνουσαν τὴν φύσιν αύτοῦ λύκοις ἐξαίφνης ἐγένοντο.

Στ. ταῦτ' ἄρα, ταῦτα Κλεώνυμον αὗται τὸν βέφασπιν χθὲς ὑδοῦσαν,
δτι δειλέστατον τοῦτον ἐώρων, ἔλαφοι διὰ τοῦτ' ἐγένοντο.

Σω. καὶ νῦν γ', δτι Κλεισθένη εἴδον, δράσι; διὰ τοῦτ' ἐγένοντο
γυναῖκες.

Στ. χαίρετε τούνυν, ὃ δέσποινται· καὶ νῦν, εἴπερ τινὶ κᾶλλῳ,
οὐρανομήκῃ βῆξατε κάμοὶ φωνήν, ὃ παμβασίλειται. 356

Χο. χαῖρ', ὃ πρεσβύτα παλαιογενές, θηρατὰ λόγων φιλομούσων·
σὺ τε, λεπτοτάτων λίρων ἱερεῦ, φράζε πρὸς ἡμᾶς δ τι χρήζεις.
οὐ γὰρ ἂν κᾶλλῳ γ' ὑπακούσαιμεν τῶν νῦν μετεωροσοφιστῶν
πλὴν ἢ Προδόκῳ, τῷ μὲν σοφίας καὶ γνώμης οὕνεκα, σοὶ δὲ

343 δ' οὖν Rn Suda, Lex. Vind.: γοῦν V Choeroboscus, Et. Mag.:
οὖν Zonaras.

344 δὲ E λ^M : δέ γε RVE^g n! λ^E .

345 ἀν E^{pc}: ἀν σ' RVE^{ac} n!.

355 Κλεισθένη Σ^E : Κλεισθένην codd. Σ^{RVM} λ^M .

STREPSIADES: I don't know exactly; but what they *look* like is flocks of wool spread out, not like women in the least, for certain; while these ones have noses.

SOCRATES: Now answer the questions I ask you.

345

STREPSIADES: Ask whatever you like, straight away.

SOCRATES: Have you ever looked up and seen a cloud resembling a centaur, or a leopard, or a wolf, or a bull?

STREPSIADES: I have indeed; so what of that?

SOCRATES: They take any form they like; so if they see a long-haired savage, one of those shaggy characters, like the son of Xenophantus, they make fun of his passions by making themselves look like centaurs.

350

STREPSIADES: And what if they see a plunderer of the public purse like Simon, what do they do?

SOCRATES: They expose him for what he is by at once turning into wolves.

STREPSIADES: So that's why they turned into deer yesterday — that's why, because they saw Cleonymus the shield-dropper and recognized him for a great coward.

SOCRATES: And this time, because they've seen Cleisthenes, do you see, that's made them turn into women.

355

STREPSIADES [*to the chorus*]: Then hail, sovereign Ladies; and now, if you have ever done so for another, then for me too, almighty Queens, utter forth a sound to scale the heavens.

CHORUS: All hail, old man of ripe years, hunter after artistic arguments; [*to Socrates*] and you, priest of the subtlest balderdash, tell us what you desire; for we would not give ear to any other present-day celestial expert except for Prodicus, in his case because of his skill and intelligence, in yours because you swagger in the

360

δτι βρενθέτε τ' ἐν ταῖσιν ὁδοῖς καὶ τῷ φθαλμῷ παραβάλλεται
κάνυπόδητος κακὰ πόλλῃ ἀνέχεται κάφ' ἡμῖν σεμνοπροσωπεῖται.

Στ. Φ Γῆ, τοῦ φθέγματος· ὡς ἔνερδν καὶ σεμνὸν καὶ τερατῶδες. 364

Σω. αἴταν γάρ τοι μόναν εἰσὶν θεαί· τάλλα δὲ πάντ' ἔστιν φλύαρος.

Στ. ὁ Ζεὺς δ' ὑμῖν, φέρε, πρὸς τῆς Γῆς, οὐλύμπιος οὐ θεός ἔστιν;

Σω. ποῖος Ζεύς; οὐ μὴ ληρήσεις; οὐδέ! ἔστι Ζεύς.

Στ. τούτη λέγεται σύ;

ἀλλὰ τίς ὕει; τούτη γάρ ἔμοιγε! ἀπόφθεια πρῶτον ἀπάντων.

Σω. αἴταν δήπου· μεγάλοις δέ σι ἐγώ σημεύοις αὐτὸν διδάξω.

φέρε, ποῦ γάρ πώποτε ἄνευ νεφελῶν ὕοντε! ἦδη τεθέασαν;
καύτοις χρῆν αἰθρίας ὕειν αὐτόν, ταύτας δ' ἀποδημεῖν.

Στ. νὴ τὸν Ἀπόλλωνα, τοῦτο γέ τοι τῷ νυνὶ λόγῳ εὖ προσέφυσας.
καύτοις πρότερον τὸν Δέ! ἀληθῶς φύμην διὰ κοσκίνου οὔρειν.
ἀλλ' ὅστις ὁ βροντῶν ἔστι φράσον, τοῦθο! ὁ με ποιεῖ τετραμαύνειν.

Σω. αἴταν βροντῶσι κυλινδόμεναν.

Στ. τῷ τρόπῳ, οὐ πάντα σὺ τολμῶν; 375

Σω. ὅταν ἐμπλησθῶσι! ὕδατος πολλοῦ κάναγκασθῶσι φέρεσθαι
κατακριναμένας ἀλήρεις ὅμβρου δι' ἀνάγκην, εἶτα βαρεῖα
εἰς ἀλλήλας ἐμπύπτουσαν ἐγγυνυνται καὶ παταγοῦσιν.

Στ. ὁ δ' ἀναγκάζων ἔστι τίς αὐτάς—οὐχ ὁ Ζεύς;—ῶστε φέρεσθαι;

Σω. ηκιστέ!, ἀλλ' αἰθέριος δῆνος.

Στ. Δῆνος; τούτου μὲν ἐλελήθει, 380

ὁ Ζεὺς οὐκ ὅν, ἀλλ' ἀντί αὐτοῦ Δῆνος νυνὶ βασιλεύων.

366 ὑμῖν E^{ac}: ἡμῖν RVE^{pc}n.

374 τοῦθο! ὁ VKθ: τοῦτο vel sim. REN.

streets and cast your eyes sideways, go barefoot and endure much suffering, and give yourself airs on our account.

STREPSIADES: Holy Earth, what a sound they make! how divine and majestic and wondrous!

SOCRATES: Yes, you know, these are the only gods; all the rest is codswallop.

365

STREPSIADES: But look, in the name of Earth, don't you consider Olympian Zeus a god?

SOCRATES: What do you mean, Zeus? Will you stop talking nonsense? Zeus doesn't even exist.

STREPSIADES: What's that you say? Then who makes the rain? Give me your answer to that, to begin with.

SOCRATES: These Clouds do, of course; and I'll prove it to you by strong evidence. Tell me, where have you ever yet seen it raining without clouds? And yet one might have expected Zeus to make rain by himself from a clear sky while the Clouds were away from home.

370

STREPSIADES: By Apollo, you've made that point marry well with what you were just saying. And I really used to think that it was Zeus pissing through a sieve! But tell me who causes the thunder that makes me tremble.

SOCRATES: These Clouds thunder when they roll about.

375

STREPSIADES: You'll stop at nothing. How?

SOCRATES: When they are filled with a great deal of water and are compelled by necessity to move, hanging full of rain, then when they collide with each other, being heavy they burst with a crash.

STREPSIADES: But who is it that compels them to move?
Isn't that Zeus?

SOCRATES: Not in the least; it's a celestial vortex.

380

STREPSIADES: Vortex? That I hadn't realised, that Zeus is no more, and Vortex is now king in his place. But you haven't yet

άταρ ούδεν πω περὶ τοῦ πατέρου καὶ τῆς βροντῆς μ' ἐδύναξα.

Σω. οὐκ ἕκουσας μου, τὰς νεφέλας ὑδατος μεστὰς δτι φυμὲ
ἐμπεπτούσας εὗς ἀλλήλας παταγεῖν διὰ τὴν πυκνότητα;

Στ. φέρε, τούτη τῷ χρή πιστεύειν;

Σω. ἀπὸ σαυτοῦ 'γώ σε διδάξω. 385

ἵδη ζωμοῦ Παναθηναίοις ἐμπλοσθεὶς εἰτ' ἐταράχθης
τὴν γαστέρα, καὶ κλόνος ἔξαύφνης αὐτὴν διεκορούμησεν;

Στ. υὴ τὸν Ἀπόλλω, καὶ δεινὰ πολεῖ γ' εὔθυμος μοι καὶ τετάρακται,
χῶστερ βροντὴ τὸ ζωμένιον παταγεῖ καὶ δεινὰ κέκραγεν,
ἀτρέμας πρῶτον "παππᾶς παππᾶς", κάπειτ' ἐπάγει, "παπαπαππᾶς",
χῶται χέζω, κομιδῇ βροντῇ "παπαπαππᾶς", ωστερ ἐκεῖνας. 391

Σω. σκέψαι τούνυν ἀπὸ γαστριδίου τυννουτουνὶ οὖα πέπορδας·
τὸν δ' ἀερά τόνδ' ὅντ' ἀπέραντον τῶς οὐκ εἶκὸς μέγα βροντᾶν;

Στ. ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ τώνδματ' ἀλλήλουν, "βροντὴ" καὶ "πορδῖ", δύοιν.
ἄλλ' ὁ κεραυνὸς πόθεν αὖ φέρεται λάμπων πυρί, τοῦτο δύναξον,
καὶ καταφρύγει βαλλων ἥμας, τοὺς δὲ ζῶντας περιφλεμει; 396
τοῦτον γὰρ δὴ φανερῶς δὲ Ζεὺς ἔποι τοὺς ἐπιβροχους.

Σω. καὶ τῶς, ὃ μᾶρε σὺ καὶ Κρονίων δέκων καὶ βεκκεσελῆνε,
εἶπερ βαλλει τοὺς ἐπιβροχους, δῆτ' οὐχὶ Σύμων' ἐνέπρησεν 399
οὐδὲ Κλεψύδρους οὐδὲ Θέωρον; καύτοι σφόδρα γ' εἴσι' ἐπύροχοι.
ἄλλὰ τὸν αὐτοῦ γε νεῶν βαλλει καὶ Σούμνιον, ἄκρον Ἀθηνέων,
καὶ τὰς δρῦς τὰς μεγάλας· τούς μαθῶν; οὐ γὰρ δὴ δρῦς γ' ἐπιορκεῖ.

396 -φλεύει Blaydes: -φλεύει REKNΘ^B: -φλέγει VE^B Σ^{RE}.

399 δῆτ' VE^{PC}: τῶς δῆτ' RE^{ac} KΘ² Suda σ477, Σ^{ΕΓ2} Ach. 134: τῶς
ΝΘ¹ Suda κ1379.

401 'Αθηνέων Porson: 'Αθηναίων RVE^B, Σ Dionysius Periegeta 506:
'Αθηνῶν KNΘ Demetr. Eloc. 150.

given me any explanation about the crash of the thunder.

SOCRATES: Didn't you hear me? I say that the clouds, when they are full of water and collide with one another, make a noise owing to their density.

STREPSIADES: Come on, who do you expect to believe that? 385

SOCRATES: I'll demonstrate it to you from your own body. Have you ever filled yourself full of soup at the Panathenaea and then had an upset stomach, which a sudden agitation has set all rumbling?

STREPSIADES: By Apollo, yes; and I find it makes a great fuss and turmoil right away, and that little bit of soup crashes about and makes a fearful noise just like thunder: gently first of all, "pappax pappax", then it steps things up, "*papapappax*", and when I crap, it absolutely does thunder, "*papapappax*", just as those clouds do. 390

SOCRATES: Well now, consider what a fart you can produce from a little stomach like that; is it not to be expected that the air around us, which is boundless, should produce mighty thunder?

STREPSIADES: Ah, that's why the two words sound alike, *brontē* "thunder" and *pordē* "fart"! But tell me this: where does the lightning-bolt come from, blazing with fire as it flies, to strike us and burn us to a cinder, or sometimes singe us and spare our lives? Plainly that is the weapon of Zeus let loose against perjurers. 395

SOCRATES: You babbling prelunar idiot, smelling of the age of Cronus! If he really strikes perjurers, how come, pray, that he hasn't set fire to Simon or Cleonymus or Theorus? After all, they're as perjured as can be! On the contrary, he strikes his own temple and Sunium, "headland of Athens", and the mighty oak trees. What's his idea? An oak tree certainly doesn't commit perjury! 400

- Στ. οὐκ οἶδ'· ἀτάρ εῖ σὺ λέγειν φαίνει. τού γάρ ἐστιν δῆθ' ὁ κεραυνός;
- Σω. δταν εἰς ταῦτας ἄνεμος ἐπρὸς μετεωρισθεὶς κατακλησθῇ,
ἔνδοθεν αὐτὰς ὥσπερ κύστιν φυσᾷ, κάκειθ' ὑπ' ἀνάγκης 405
ὁρίξας αὐτὰς ἔξω φέρεται σοβαρὸς διὰ τὴν πυκνότητα,
ὑπὸ τοῦ ῥούβδου καὶ τῆς ὥμης αὐτὸς ἐαυτὸν κατακάων.
- Στ. νὴ Δέ! ἐγὼ γοῦν ἀτεχνῶς ἐπαθον τουτό ποτε Διασύνοισιν.
ὅτεών γαστέρα τοῖς συγγένεσιν κρήτ' οὐκ ἔσχων ἀμελήσας.
ἡ δ' ἄρ' ἐψυσᾶτ', εἴτ' ἐξαίφνης διαλακήσασα πρὸς αὐτῷ 410
τώφθαλμῷ μου προσετέλησεν καὶ κατέκαυσεν τὸ πρόσωπον.
- Χο. δι τῆς μεγάλης ἐπιθυμήσας σοφίας ἄνθρωπε παρ' ἡμῶν,
ώς εύδαιμων ἐν Ἀθηναῖσι καὶ τοῖς Ἑλλησι γενήσει,
εὐ μνήμων εἰ καὶ φροντιστής, καὶ τὸ ταλαντώρον ἔνεστιν
ἐν τῇ ψυχῇ, καὶ μὴ κάμνεις μήθ' ἐστὼς μήτε βαδίζων, 415
μήτε ὁργῶν ἄχθει λίσαν μήτ' ἀριστᾶν ἐπιθυμεῖς,
οἶνον τ' ὀπέχει καὶ γυμνασίων καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἀνορτῶν,
καὶ βέλτιστον τοῦτο νομίζεις, ὅπερ εὔκδες δεξιόν ἄνδρα,
νικᾶν πράττων καὶ βουλεύων καὶ τῇ γλώττῃ πολεμίζων.
- Στ. ἀλλ' ἔνεκεν γε ψυχῆς στερρᾶς δυσκολοκούτου τε μερύμνης 420
καὶ φειδωλοῦ καὶ τρυσιβέου γαστρὸς καὶ θυμβρεπιδεύπνου,
ἀμέλει, θαρρῶν οὕνεκα τούτων ἐπιχαλκεύειν παρέχοιμ' ἄν.
- Σω. ἄλλο τι δῆτ' οὐ νομίεῖς πόδη θεὸν οὐδένα πλὴν ἄπειρον ἡμεῖς,
τὸ Χάος τούτη καὶ τὰς Νεφέλας καὶ τὴν Γλῶτταν, τρία ταυτά; 424
- Στ. οὐδ' ἄν διαλεχθεῖην γ' ἀτεχνῶς τοῖς ἄλλοις οὐδ' ἄν ἀπαντῶν,

409 ἔσχων θ ⁱ_Σ^{RVM}: ἔσχον RVn' Suda, ^λ_Σ^{RVM}, Eustathius.

412-7 are cited, with many corruptions (some inadvertent, some deliberate), by Diogenes Laertius 2.27.

417 οἶνον codd. Suda, ⁱ_Σ^V, Diogenes: ὕπνου Et. Mag.

STREPSIADES: I don't know; but you seem to have a good point. Well, what *is* the thunderbolt?

SOCRATES: When a dry wind rises aloft and gets shut up inside these Clouds, it blows them up from within like a bladder, and then by necessity it bursts them and flies out with a violent rush due to its compressed density, and with the friction and the impetus it burns itself up.

405

STREPSIADES: I certainly had just the same thing happen to me once at the Diasia. I was roasting a haggis for my relations, and forgot to slit it; and it began to puff out, and then all of a sudden it exploded, spitting blood right in my eyes and burning my face.

410

CHORUS-LEADER: You who desire the higher wisdom from us, how happy you will become in the eyes of the Athenians and of all Greeks – if you have a good memory and the capacity for thought, if there is endurance in your soul, if neither standing nor walking tires you, if you are not too put out by being cold or yearn for your breakfast, if you abstain from wine and physical exercise and all other follies, and if your notion of the ultimate good is what one might expect a clever man to hold, that it is success in action and deliberation, and in the warfare of the tongue.

415

STREPSIADES: Well, as far as a tough soul is concerned, and the capacity to cogitate on a restless bed, and a niggardly, threadbare-living stomach that can dine off savory – never fear, so far as these are concerned I'd hand myself over with confidence to be forged on your anvil.

420

SOCRATES: Is it correct, then, that you will now recognize no god but those we recognize, the Void around us, the Clouds, and the Tongue, these three?

STREPSIADES: I'd absolutely refuse even to speak to the other gods if I met them; and I won't sacrifice to them, or pour

425

ούδ' ἂν θυσαὶ μ', οὐδ' ἂν σκεύσαι μ', οὐδ' ἐπιθεῖην λιθανωτόν.

Χο. λέγε νῦν τίνης δὲ τι σοι δρῶμεν θαρρῶν· ὡς οὐκ ἀτυχήσεις,
τίμας τιμῶν καὶ θαυμάζων καὶ ζητῶν δεξιός εἶναι.

Στ. Φίδεσκοιναί, δέομαι τούνυν ὑμῶν τούτην πάνυ μικρόν,
τῶν 'Ελλήνων εἶναί με λέγειν ἔκατὸν σταδίοισιν ἀριστον. 430

Χο. ἀλλ' ἔσται σοι τοῦτο παρ' ἡμῶν, ὅστε τὸ λοιπόν γ' ἀκό τουδὶ^λ
ἐν τῷ δῆμῳ γνώμας οὐδεὶς νικήσει πλείονας ή σύ.

Στ. μὴ 'μοιγε λέγειν γνώμας μεγάλας· οὐ γὰρ τοῦτων ἐπιθυμῶ,
ἀλλ' δι' ἐμαυτῷ στρεφοδικήσαι καὶ τοὺς χρήστας διολισθεῖν.

Χο. τείνει τούνυν διν ἴμεύρεις· οὐ γὰρ μεγάλων ἐπιθυμεῖς. 435
ἀλλὰ σεαυτὸν θαρρῶν παράδος τοῖς ἡμετέροις προπόδοισιν.

Στ. δρόσω ταῦθ' ὑμῖν πιστεύσας· ή γὰρ ἀνδργάη με πιέζει
διὰ τοὺς ἵππους τοὺς κοκκατίας καὶ τὸν γάμον δις μ' ἐπέτριψεν.
νῦν οὖν ἀτεχνῶς δὲ τι βούλονται

τούτην τὸ γ' ἐμδὺ σῶμαί αὐτοῖσιν 440
παρέχω τίμπτειν, πεινήν, διψήν,
αὐχμεῖν, διγῶν, ἀσκὸν δεύρειν,
εἶπερ τὰ χρέα διαφευξοῦματ
τοῖς τ' ἀνθρώποις εἶναι δέξω
θρασύς, εὔγλωττος, τολμόρος, ἔτης,
βδελυρός, φευδῶν συγκολλητής,
εύρησιεπής, περύτριμμα δικῶν,
κύρβις, κρόταλον, κύναδος, τρύμη,
μάσθητις, εἴρων, γλοιός, ἀλαζῶν,

439 ἀτεχνῶς Cobet: χρήσθων ἀτεχνῶς codd.

442 διγῶν Dobree: διγοῦν codd.

442 δεύρειν Scaliger: δέρειν RVn¹: δαύρειν K⁸.

libations to them, or put incense on their altars.

CHORUS-LEADER: Then tell us what we are to do for you, and do so with confidence; for you will not come to grief, if you honour and respect us and seek to be an educated man.

STREPSIADES: Well then, sovereign Ladies, I beg of you this very small boon, that I may be by miles and miles the best speaker in the Greek world. 430

CHORUS-LEADER: That you shall have from us: so much so that in future, from now on, no one will carry more motions in the Assembly than you.

STREPSIADES: No proposing important motions for me, please! That's not what I desire: only to be able to twist justice for my own benefit and give my creditors the slip.

CHORUS-LEADER: Then you will gain the object of your longing, for it is no great thing that you desire. Now hand yourself over with confidence to our ministers. 435

STREPSIADES: I shall do so, trusting in you; for necessity presses hard on me, owing to those *koppa*-branded horses and the marriage that has been my ruin. So now I unconditionally deliver to them this body of mine to be beaten, to hunger, to thirst, to be dirty, to freeze, to be flayed into a wineskin, if only I can escape my debts and make men think me audacious, glib, daring, forward, loathsome, a sticker-together of lies, ready with words, a lawcourt veteran, a walking statute-book, a tinkling cymbal, a fox, a needle's eye, a supple rogue, a dissembler, a sticky customer, a fraud, a whipping- 439.
441
445
450

- κέντρων, μιαρός, στροφίς, ἀργαλέος,
ματειολοιχός.450
- ταῦτ' εἶ με καλοῦσι¹ ἀπαντῶντες,
δρῶνταν ἀτεχνῶς δ τοι χρῆζουσιν·
κεύ βούλονται,
νὴ τὴν Δῆμητρ¹ ἔχ μου χορδὴν
τοῖς φροντισταῖς παραθέντων.455
- Χο. λῆμα μὲν πάρεστι τῷδε γ'
οὐκ ἄτολμον, ἀλλ' ἔτοιμον.
ἴσθι δ' ὥσ
ταῦτα μαθὼν παρ' ἐμοῦ κλέος οὐρανόμηκες
ἐν βροτοῖσιν ἔξεις.460
- Στ. τί πεύσματι;
- Χο. τὸν πάντα χρόνον μετ' ἐμοῦ
ζηλωτότατον βέον ἀνθρώπων διδέξεις.465
- Στ. ἀρδ' γε τοῦτ' ἄρ¹ ἐγώ ποτ' ὅφοματι;
- Χο. ὕστε γέ σου
πολλοὺς ἐπὶ ταῖσι θύραις ἀεὶ καθῆσθαι,
βουλομένους ἀνακοινοῦσθαι τε καὶ εἰς λόγον ἐλθεῖν
πρόγματα κάντιγραφὰς πολλῶν ταλάντων,
ἄξια σῇ φρενύ, συμβουλευσομένους μετὰ σοῦ.470
- ἀλλ' ἐγχεύρει τὸν πρεσβύτην δ τοι περ μέλλεις προδιδάσκειν,
καὶ διακίνει τὸν νοῦν αύτοῦ, καὶ τῆς γνώμης ἀποπειρῶ.475
- Σω. ἄγε δή, κάτειπέ μοι σὺ τὸν σαυτοῦ τρόπον,
ἴν' αὐτὸν εὔδως δστις ἐστὶ μηχανᾶς
ἥδη 'πλ τούτοις πρός σε καινὰς προσφέρω.480

471 λόγον Tricl., Heliodorus (in Σ^{VVs1} 467): λόγους codd.

post, a villain, a twister, a pest, a greedy feeder on quibbles. If they can make people who meet me give me these names, they may do absolutely anything they like with me; and if they wish, by Demeter, they can make sausages of me and serve them up to the thinking-students. 455

CHORUS: This man has a spirit
that is resolute and does not flinch.
I tell you,
when you have learned these things from 460
me you will have among men
a renown that reaches to heaven.

STREPSIADES: What will happen to me?

CHORUS: With me, for all time to come,
you will lead the most envied life in the world. 465

STREPSIADES: You mean that is really what I'll one day see?

CHORUS: Yes, so that crowds
will always be sitting at your door,
wanting to consult you and speak with you,
to take your advice on actions and pleadings 470
involving many talents, worthwhile business
for your mind. 472-5

CHORUS-LEADER [*to Socrates*]: Now try to give the old man whatever preliminary teaching you mean to give him, stir up his mind and make trial of his intelligence.

SOCRATES [*to Strepsiades*]: Now then, tell me about your disposition, so that, knowing what it is, I can forthwith bring the latest artillery to bear on you. 480

Στ. τύ δέ; τειχομαχεῖν μοι διανοεῖ, πρὸς τῶν θεῶν;

Σω. οὕκ, ἀλλὰ βραχέα σου πυθέσθαις βούλομαι,
εὐ μνημονικός εἰ.

Στ. δύο τρόπω, υὴ τὸν Δία·

ἢν μέν γ' ὁφεύληταί τύ μοι, μνήμων πάνυ·
ἔὰν δ' ὁφεύλω σχέτλιος, ἐπιλήσμων πάνυ.

485

Σω. ἔνεστι δῆταί σοι λέγειν ἐν τῇ φύσει;

Στ. λέγειν μὲν οὐκ ἔνεστ', ἀποστερεῖν δ' ἔντι.

Σω. πᾶς οὕν δυνήσει μανθάνειν;

Στ. ἀμέλει, καλῶς.

Σω. ἄγε νῦν ὅπως, ὅταν τι προβάλωμαι σοφὸν
περὶ τῶν μετεώρων, εὐθέως ὑφαρπάσει.

490

Στ. τύ δαί; κυνηδὸν τὴν σοφίαν σιτήσομαι;

Σω. ἄνθρωπος ἀμαθῆς οὐτοσὶ καὶ βάρβαρος.
δέδοικά σ', ὃ πρεσβύτα, μὴ πληγῶν δέει.
φέρ! ἕδω, τύ δρῆς, ἢν τύς σε τύπτῃ;

Στ. τύπτομαι,

κάπειτ' ἐπισχὼν ὀλύγον ἐπιμαρτύρομαι.
εἴτ' αἴθις ἀκαρῆ διαλιπὼν δικάζομαι.

495

Σω. Καὶ νῦν, κατέθου θούματιον.

Στ. ἡδύκηκό τι;

Σω. οὕκ, ἀλλὰ γυμνοὺς εἰσιέναι νομίζεται.

Στ. ἀλλ' ουχὶ φωράσων ἔγωγ' εἰσέρχομαι.

489 προβάλωμαι π: προβάλλωμαί σοι RV: προβάλω σοι Hirschig.

STREPSIADES: Eh? Are you intending, in heaven's name, to lay siege to me?

SOCRATES: No; I want to find out a few things from you — such as whether you have a good memory.

STREPSIADES: It works two ways, I tell you: if something is owed to me, it's very retentive; but if it's poor old me that's in debt, I'm very forgetful.

485

SOCRATES: Then you have a natural gift for speaking?

STREPSIADES: For speaking, no; for evading my debts, yes.

SOCRATES: Then how will you be able to learn?

STREPSIADES: I will all right, don't worry.

SOCRATES: Well then, make sure that whenever I throw out a piece of learning on celestial matters, you snap it up at once.

490

STREPSIADES: Eh? Am I going to have to eat my learning like a dog?

SOCRATES: This man's an ignorant barbarian. Old man, I fear you may need the rod. Let me see: what do you do if someone strikes you?

STREPSIADES: I get hit, and then I wait a little, and call people to witness; then, after waiting another second, I go to law.

495

SOCRATES: Come on then, lay down your cloak.

STREPSIADES: Have I done something wrong?

SOCRATES: No, it is the custom to undress before entering.

STREPSIADES: But I'm not going in to search your house for stolen goods.

Σω.	κατέθου· τί ληρεῖς;	
Στ.	εἰπὲ δῆ νῦν μοι τοδύ·	500
	ἥν ἐπιμελής ἡ καὶ προθύμως μανθάνω, τῷ τῶν μαθητῶν ἐμφερής γενήσομαι;	
Σω.	οὐδὲν διοίσεις Χαιρεψῶντος τὴν φύσιν.	
Στ.	οἶμοι κακοδαίμων, ἀμεθυθής γενήσομαι.	
Σω.	οὐ μὴ λαλήσεις, ἀλλ' ἀκολουθήσεις ἐμοὶ ἀνύσσας τι δευρὶ θάττον;	505
Στ.	εἰς τῷ χεῖρέ νυν δές μοι μελιτοῦτταν πρότερον, ὡς δέδοικ' ἔγῳ εἶσω καταβαίνων ὥσπερ εἰς Τροφωνίου.	
Σω.	χώρει· τί κυρτάζεις ἔχων περὶ τὴν θύραν;	
Χο.	ἀλλ' ἔθι χαίρων τῆς ἀνδρείας οὖνεκα ταύτης.	510
	εύτυχά γένοιτο τάν- θρώπῳ, ὅτι προήκων εἰς βαθὺ τῆς ἡλικίας νεωτέροις τὴν φύσιν αὐ- τοῦ πράγμασιν χρωτύζεται καὶ σοφίαν ἐπασκεῖ.	
	ἢ θεώμενοι, κατερῷ πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐλευθέρως τὰλόθῃ, νὴ τὸν Διόνυσον τὸν ἐκθρέψαντά με. οὔτω νικήσαιμέ τ' ἔγῳ καὶ νομιζούμην σοφός, ὡς ὑμᾶς ἡγούμενος εἶναι θεατὰς δεξιοὺς καὶ ταύτην σοφώτατ' ἔχειν τῶν ἐμῶν κωμῳδῶν πρωτους ἀξένωστον ἀναγεῦστον ὑμᾶς, οὐ παρέσχε μοι	515
	520 νικήσαιμέ τ' ἔγῳ Bentley: νικήσαιμ' ἔγωγε coadd.	520

SOCRATES:	Put it down; what are you blethering about?	500
STREPSIADES [<i>taking off his cloak and shoes</i>]:	Well, tell me this: if I am attentive and a keen student, which of your disciples will I come to resemble?	
SOCRATES:	In your essential features you will be no different from Chaerephon.	
STREPSIADES:	God help me, I'll look half a corpse!	
SOCRATES [<i>at the door</i>]:	Will you stop chattering, and hurry up and follow me quickly in here?	505
STREPSIADES:	Well, first of all give me a honey-cake in my hands, because I'm frightened of going down inside there, like into the cave of Trophonius.	
SOCRATES:	Move! Why do you keep hanging round the door? [They go inside, Socrates taking in Strepsiades' cloak and shoes.]	
CHORUS-LEADER:	Go, and good luck to you in return for the courage you have shown.	510
CHORUS:	May good fortune attend the man, because, though advanced deep into old age, he is dipping himself in the dye of revolutionary new ideas and pursuing knowledge.	515
CHORUS-LEADER:	Spectators, I shall be frank and tell you the truth, I swear it by Dionysus who nurtured me to manhood. So may I be victorious, so may I be thought a true artist, I took you for an intelligent audience and this for the most intellectual of my comedies, and therefore saw fit to give you the first taste of it, a play that cost me a great deal of labour; and then I retired defeated	520
		524-5

ἔργον κλεῖστον· εἴτ' ἀνεχώρουν ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν φορτικῶν
 ἡττηθείς, οὐκ ἄξιος ὅν. ταῦτ' οὖν ὑμῖν μέμφομαι 525
 τοῖς σοφοῖς, ὃν οὖνεκ' ἔγώ ταῦτ' ἐκραγματεύσμην.
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὥστε ὑμῶν ποθ' ἐκῶν προδῶσω τοὺς δεξιούς.
 ἐξ διου γάρ ἐνθαδ' ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν, οὓς ἤδη καὶ λέγειν,
 δι σώφρων τε χώ κατακύγων ἀριστ' ἡκουσάτην,
 κάγω—παρθένος γάρ ἔτι¹ ἦ, κούκη ἔξην πώ μοι τεκεῖν— 530
 ἔξεθηκα, παῖς· δ' ἐτέρα τις λαβοῦσι² ἀνείλετο,
 ύμεις δ' ἐξεθρέψατε γενναῖως κάπαιδεύσατε,
 ἐκ τούτου μοι πιστὰ παρ'³ ὑμῶν γυνῆμης ἔσθι⁴ δρκια. 535
 νῦν οὖν Ἡλέκτραν κατ'⁵ ἐκείνην ἤδι⁶ ἢ κωμῳδία
 ζητοῦσι⁷ ἥλθι⁸, τὴν του⁹ πιτύχη¹⁰ θεαταῖς οὕτω σοφοῖς·
 γυνάσεται γάρ, τίνκερ¹¹ ἔδη, τάδελφοῦ τὸν βρόστρυχον.
 ὡς δὲ σώφρων ἐστὶ¹² φύσει σκέψασθι¹³. Τίτις πρῶτα μὲν 540
 οὐδὲν ἥλθε βαφαμένη σκυτίουν καθειμένουν,
 ἐρυθρὸν ἐξ ἄκρου, παχὺ, τοῖς καυδίοις ὥν¹⁴ οὐ γέλως·
 οὐδ' ἐσκαψεν τοὺς φαλακρούς, οὐδὲ κερδαχ¹⁵ εἰλκυσεν.
 οὐδὲ πρεσβύτης ὁ λέγων τάκη τῇ βακτηρίᾳ 545
 τίπτει τὸν καρδντ¹⁶, ἀφανίζων πονηρὰ σκώμματα·
 οὐδ' εἰσῆξε δῆδας ἔχουσι¹⁷, οὐδι¹⁸ "ἶοὺς οὖν" βοῇ·
 ἀλλ' αὐτῇ καὶ τοῖς ἔπεσιν πιστεύουσι¹⁹ ἐλήλυθεν.
 κάγω μὲν τοιοῦτος ἀνήρ ὃν ποιητὴς οὐ κομῶ,
 οὐδι²⁰ υμᾶς ζητῶ²¹ ἕαπατᾶν δὶς καὶ τρὶς ταῦτ' εἰσάγων, 550

527 ὑμῶν RVn: υμᾶς A.

528 οὖς Blaydes: οἶς codd.

530 ἦ Dindorf: ἦν codd.: so also 1402.

533 υμῶν V3⁸: υμῖν codd.

534 Ἡλέκτραν Νθ² λΣ^{Νp1Vs1}: Ἡλέκτρα RVEKO¹ λΣ^{EM}.

538 σκυτίου X In5: σκύτεινον RVn Suda.

undeservedly by vulgar men. For that I hold you intelligent people to blame, for whose sake I was taking all that trouble. But even so, I will never willingly desert the bright ones among you. For since the time when in this place my virtuous boy and my buggered boy were extremely well spoken of by certain men whom it is a pleasure even to mention, and I (being still unmarried and not yet supposed to give birth) exposed the child, another girl picked it up, and you generously reared it and educated it — since that time I have held sworn pledges of your good opinion. So now, like Electra of old, this comedy has come seeking and hoping somewhere to find spectators as intelligent; for she will recognize, if she sees it, the lock of her brother's hair. Look at the modesty of her nature. First of all, she hasn't come with a dangling bit of stitched leather, red at the end and thick, to give the children a laugh; nor has she made fun of men who are bald, nor danced a cordax; nor does an old man, the one with the leading part, conceal bad jokes by hitting whoever is around with his stick; nor does this comedy rush on stage with torches, nor cry "help, help"; no, she has come trusting in herself and in her script. And I myself, being a poet of the same stamp, do not give myself hairs, nor try to cheat you by presenting the same things a second and a third time; rather I always apply my

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535

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545

ἀλλ' ἀεὶ καὶ νὰς ὑδέας εἰςφέρων σοφύζομαι,
οὐδὲν ἀλλήλαισιν δμούας καὶ πάσας δεξιάς·
ὅς μέγιστον δυτα Κλέων' ἔπαισ' εἰς τὴν γαστέρα,
κούκη ἐτόλμησ' αὕθις ἐπειποδῆσ' αὐτῷ κειμένῳ.
οὗτοι δ', ὡς ἄπαις παρέδωκεν λαβὴν 'Υπέρβολος,
τοῦτον δεύτερον κολετρῶσ' ἀεὶ καὶ τὴν μπτέρα.
Εὔπολης μὲν τὸν Μαρικᾶν πρώτιστον παρεύλκυσεν
ἐκστρέψας τοὺς ἠμετέρας 'Ιππέας κακὸς κακῶς,
προσθεὶς αὐτῷ γραῦν μεθύσην τοῦ κόρδακος οὖνεχ', ἦν
Φρίμυνχος πάλαι πεπούχη', ἦν τὸ κῆτος ἥσθιεν.
εἶθ' 'Ἐρμιππος αὕθις ἐπούησεν εἰς 'Υπέρβολον,
ἄλλοι τ' ἕδη πάντες ἐρεύδουσιν εἰς 'Υπέρβολον,
τὰς εἴκούς τῶν ἐγχέλεων τὰς ἐμὰς μιμούμενοι.
δστις οὖν τούτοισι γελᾷ, τοῖς ἐμοῖς μὴ χαιρέτω.
ἦν δ' ἐμοὶ καὶ τοῖσιν ἐμοῖς εὔφρατνεσθ' εύρημασιν,
εἰς τὰς ὕρας τὰς ἐτέρας εὖ φρονεῖν δοκήσετε.

ὑψιμέδοντα μὲν θεῶν (στρ.

Ζῆνα τύραννον εἰς χορὸν
πρῶτα μέγαν κικλήσκω·
τὸν τε μεγασθενῆ τριαντῆς ταμίαν,
γῆς τε καὶ ἀλυρᾶς θαλάσ-
σης δίγριον μοχλευτήν·
καὶ μεγαλώνυμον ἠμέτερον πατέρ',
Αἰθέρα σεμνότατον, βιοθρέμμονα πάντων·
τὸν δ' ὑπκονῶμαν, ὃς ὑπερ-
λάμπροις ἀκτῖσιν κατέχει
γῆς πέδον, μέγας ἐν θεοῖς
ἐν θυητοῖσι τε δαίμων.

ἢ σοφώτατοι θέαταί, δεῦρο τὸν νοῦν προσέχετε·
ἥδικημέναι γὰρ ὑμῖν μεμφόμεσθ' ἐναντίον.

skills to introducing new forms of comedy, quite different one from another and every one full of ingenuity. When Cleon was almighty, I hit him in the stomach; I did not have the hardihood to jump on him again when he was down. But these fellows, from the moment Hyperbolus let them get a hold of him, have been incessantly trampling on the poor chap and his mother as well. First of all Eupolis hauled his *Maricas* on to the stage, serving a vile rehash of my *Knights* like the vile fellow he is, and adding on a drunken old woman for the sake of the cordax, the woman presented years ago by Phrynicus, the one the sea-monster tried to devour. Then Hermippus again wrote about Hyperbolus, and now all the others are piling into Hyperbolus, copying my similes about eels. Well, whoever laughs at them, let him not enjoy my work; but if you take pleasure in me and my poetic inventions, you will be thought by future ages to have been wise.

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560

CHORUS: The most high ruler of the gods,
Zeus the great sovereign,
I call first to my dance;
and the Warden of the Trident, great and mighty,
him who savagely upheaves
the earth and the briny sea;
and our own greatly renowned father,
the Sky, most revered, who nourishes all living
things;
and the Charioteer who fills
with his brilliant rays
the expanse of the earth, a great Power
among gods and mortals.

565

570

CHORUS-LEADER: Spectators, let your wisdom pay attention to us; for you have wronged us, and we reproach you to your faces.

575

πλεῖστα γὰρ θεῶν ἀπόμντων ὥφελούσαις τὴν πόλιν
δαιμόνων ἡμῖν μόναις οὐθὲν θύεται· οὐδὲ σπένδετε,
αἰτίνες τηροῦμεν ὑμᾶς. Καὶ γὰρ οὗ τις ἔξοδος
μποδενὶ ξὺν νῷ, τότε! οὐ βροντῶμεν οὐ φακόζομεν.

580

εἶτα τὸν θεοῖςιν ἔχθρὸν βυρσοδέψην Παφλαγόνα
ἡνύχιον ηρεῖσθε στρατηγόν, τὰς δφρύς ξυνήγομεν
κάποιούσμεν δεινά, βροντὴ δ' ἐρράγη δι' ἀστραπῆς,
οὐ σελήνη δ' ἐξέλειπεν τὰς δόους, δ δ' ήλιος
τὴν θρυαλλίδ' εἶς ἐαυτὸν εύθεως ξυνελκύσας

585

οὐ φανεῖν ἔφασκεν ὑμῖν, εὖ στρατηγήσοι Κλέων.
ἀλλ' θμως εἶλεσθε τοῦτον. φασὶν γὰρ δυσβουλίαν
τῇδε τῇ πόλει προσενεντα· ταῦτα μέντοι τοὺς θεούς,
διττοί ἀν θμεῖς ἔξαμάρτηται, ἐπεὶ τὸ βέλτιον τρέκειν.
ώς δὲ καὶ τοῦτο ξυνοίσει, δρόδινως διδάξομεν.

590

Κλέωνα τὸν λάρον δώρων ἐλόντες καὶ κλοπῆς
εἶτα φιμώσητε τοῦτου τῷ ξύλῳ τὸν αὐχένα,
ανθίτες εὖς τάρχατον ὑμῖν, εὖ τοις κάτημάρτετε,
ἐπεὶ τὸ βέλτιον τὸ πρότυπο τῇ πόλει ξυνοίσεται.

ἀμφότεροι αῦτε, φοῖβοι! Δάναες

(ἀντ.

Δῆλιτε, Κυνθίαν ἔχων

596

ὑψικέρατα πέτραν·

ἢ τοι 'Εφέσου μάκαιρα πάγχρυσον ἔχεις
οἶκον, ἐνῷ κύριας σε λι-

δῶν μεγάλως σέβουσιν·

600

ἢ τοι ἐπιχώριος ἡμετέρα θεός,
αἴγιδος ἡνίοχος, πολιούχος Ἀθάνα·
Παρνασσίαν δι' οὓς κατέχων

584 ἐξέλειπεν Οὐαλ.: ἐξέλειπε RVθ⁸ η!: ἐκλέιποιτε Θ.

Though we benefit your city more than any other god, nevertheless
to us alone of the gods you make no sacrifice or libation, us who
constantly watch over you. If there is a military expedition which
is senseless, then we either thunder or rain. Then again, when you 580
were about to elect as general the god-hated tanner Paphlagon, we
contracted our brows and made loud complaint: amid the lightning
came the burst of thunder, the moon took to forsaking her path,
and the sun at once retracted his wick into his orb and said that he
wouldn't give you light if Cleon was to be general. But you elected
him just the same: they say that ill-advised decisions are endemic
to this city – but also that whatever mistakes you make, the gods
make them turn out for the best. And we can easily explain to you
how this mistake too can redound to your advantage. If you con-
vict that seagull Cleon of bribery and theft, and then clap his neck
in the stocks, then even though you *have* made a mistake, you will
find things back as they were before, with all turning out for the
best for the city.

CHORUS: Grant me thy presence too, Phoebus, lord 595
of Delos, who dwellest on Cynthus'
high rocky peak;
and thou, blest Lady, who dwellest in Ephesus'
house of gold, wherein the daughters of the Lydians
greatly revere thee; 600
and our own native Goddess,
mistress of the aegis, Athena guardian of the city;
and he who haunts Parnassus' rock

πέτραν σὸν πεύκας σελαγεῖ
Βάκχας Δελφίσιν ἐμπρέπων,
καμαστής Διόνυσος.

605

ἥνυχ' ἡμεῖς δεῦρ' ἀφορμᾶσθαι παρεσκευάσμεθα,
ἡ Σελήνη ξυντυχοῦσ' ἡμῖν ἐπέστειλεν φράσαι
πρῶτα μὲν χαύρειν Ἀθηναῖοισι καὶ τοῖς ξυμμάχοις·
εἶτα θυμαίνειν ἔφασκε· δεινὰ γὰρ πεπονθέναι, 610
ἀφελοῦσ' ὑμᾶς ἄπαντας οὐ λόγοις ἀλλ' ἐμφανῶς·
πρῶτα μὲν τοῦ μηνὸς εἰς δῆδι οὐκ ἔλαττον ἢ δραχμήν,
ώστε καὶ λέγειν ἄπαντας ἔξιστας ἐσπέρας
"μὴ πρῆη, παῖ, δῆδι, ἐπειδὴ φῶς Σεληναῖης καλόν."
ἄλλα τ' εὖ δρᾶν φησιν· ὑμᾶς δ' οὐκ ἄγειν τὰς ἡμέρας 615
οὐδὲν ὄρθῶς, ἀλλ' ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω κυδοιδοκᾶν·
ῶστ' ἀπειλεῖν φησιν αὐτῇ τοὺς θεοὺς ἐκάστοτε,
ἥνυχ' ἀν φευσθῶσι δείπνου καπέωσιν οὕκαδε
τῆς ἑορτῆς μὴ τυχόντες κατὰ λόγον τῶν ἡμερῶν.
κῆδι', ὅταν θύειν δέη, στρεβλοῦτε καὶ δικάζετε· 620
πολλάκις δ' ἡμῶν ἀγόντων τῶν θεῶν ἀπαστύνα,
ἥνυχ' ἀν πενθῶμεν ἢ τὸν Μέμνονα! ἢ Σαρπηδόνα,
σπένδεσθι ὑμεῖς καὶ γελάτι· ἀνθι' ὅν λαχῶν 'Υπέρβολος
τῆτες ὑερομνημονεῖν καπέειθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν τῶν θεῶν
τὸν στέφανον ἀφηρέθη· μᾶλλον γὰρ οὔτως εἴσεται 625
κατὰ σελήνην ὡς ἄγειν χρὴ τοῦ βέου τὰς ἡμέρας.

610

615

620

625

Σω. μὰ τὴν Ἀναπνοήν, μὰ τὸ Χάος, μὰ τὸν Ἀέρα,
οὐκ εἶδον οὔτως ἄνδρ' ἄγροικον οὐδαμοῦ

604 πεύκας Rn: πεύκης V: πευκη Π7.

615 ὑμᾶς δ' οὐκ L^{pc}: ὑμᾶς κούκ codd.: κουκ[υμας Π7.619 for the non-aspiration of ἑορτῆς cf. Threatte i 500:
ἑορτης Π7: ἑορτῆς codd.

628 οὐδαμοῦ Π7 V Suda: οὐδένα Rn.

and blazes with pine-torches,
conspicuous among the Delphian bacchants, 605
the reveller Dionysus.

CHORUS-LEADER: When we were ready to set out on our
journey here, the Moon happened to meet us and instructed us first
of all to convey her greetings to the Athenians and their allies; and
then she said she was annoyed, because she had been shamefully
treated despite being of benefit to you all not with mere words but
with plain deeds. First of all, she saves you at least a drachma a
month in torches, so that you all say when you go out in the even-
ing, “Don’t buy a torch, boy; the light of Selene does fine.” And
there are other ways in which she says she benefits you; but you
don’t keep the calendar right, you make topsy-tu. ,y havoc of it.
The result is, she says, that the gods are always making threats
against her, when they are cheated of a dinner and go off home not
having had their due festival according to the reckoning of the days.
Then again, when you ought to be sacrificing, you are applying tor-
ture and giving judgement; and many a time, when we gods are hol-
ding a solemn fast while we mourn Memnon or Sarpedon, you are
pouring libations and laughing. That is why Hyperbolus, after being
chosen by lot this year to be sacred remembrancer, then had his
garland taken away by us gods. That way he will know better that
you should reckon the days of your life in accordance with the moon. 625

SOCRATES [*coming out of the school*]: By Respiration, by
Void, by Air, I’ve never seen anywhere a man so rustic and clueless,

ούδ' ἄκορον ούδε σκαλὸν ούδ' ἐπιλήσμονα·
δστις σκαλαθυρμάτις' ἀττα μικρὰ μανθάνων
ταῦτις ἐπιλέληπται πρὸν μαθεῖν. διμως γε μὴν
αὐτὸν καλῶ θύραζε δευρὶ πρὸς τὸ φῶς.
τοῦ Στρεψιδόντος; ἔξει τὸν ἀσκάντην λαβᾶν;

630

Στ. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐῶσε μ' ἔξενεγκεῖν οὐκέτεις.

Σω. ἀνύσσας τὸν κατέθου, καὶ πρόσεχε τὸν νοῦν.

Στ. Κύριος. 635

Σω. ὅγε δῆ, τὸν βούλει πρῶτα νῦν μανθάνειν
ἄν οὐκ ἐδιδάχθης πώτοτ' οὔδεν; εἰπέ μοι.
πότερον περὶ μέτρων ἢ περὶ ἐπῶν ἢ βυθῶν;

Στ. περὶ τῶν μέτρων ἔγωγ!· ἔναγχος γάρ ποτε
ὑπ' ἀλφιταμούβοι παρεκάστην διχοινίκου. 640

Σω. οὐ τοῦτο ἐρωτῶ σ', ἀλλ' ὁ τὸν κάλλιστον μέτρον
ἡγεῖται, πότερον τὸ τρίμετρον ἢ τὸ τετράμετρον.

Στ. Ἐγὼ μὲν οὐδὲν πρότερον ἡμιέκτεω.

Σω. οὐδὲν λέγεται, ἀνθρώπε.

Στ. περέβοντο νῦν ἐμοί,
εἴ μὴ τετράμετρον ἔστιν ἡμιέκτεων. 645

Σω. ἐσ κρακας· ὥστηροικος εἰ καὶ δυσμαθῆς.
τάχα δ' ἂν δύνατο μανθάνειν περὶ βυθῶν.

Στ. τὸ δέ μ' ὠφελήσουσις' οὐ δύθμοι πρὸς τᾶλφιτα;

Σω. πρῶτον μὲν εἶναι κομφὸν ἐν ξυνουσίᾳ

640 διχοινίκου Blaydes: διχοινίκων codd., Tzetzes.

647 τάχα δ' Thom.: ταχὺ δ' λ^{ΕΜ}: ταχύ γ' codd.

so stupid and forgetful. He's been trying to acquire some little hen-scratches of knowledge, and he's forgotten them before he's learned them. All the same I'll call him out here into the light.
[Calling within] Where's Strepsiades? Will you come out, bringing your bed with you?

STREPSIADES [*coming out, carrying bed*]: The bugs aren't letting me bring it out.

SOCRATES: Hurry up and put it down, and pay attention to me. 635

STREPSIADES: There you are.

SOCRATES: Come on now, tell me, what do you want to begin now by learning, of all the things that you were never taught before at all? About measures, or words, or rhythms?

STREPSIADES: Measures for me, please. The other day a corn-dealer cheated me out of two quarts. 640

SOCRATES: I'm not asking you about that; I'm asking you what you consider the best measure aesthetically – the three-measure or the four-measure?

STREPSIADES: I think the gallon measure is second to none.

SOCRATES: You're talking nonsense, man.

STREPSIADES: Will you bet me, then, that a gallon doesn't consist of four measures? 645

SOCRATES: Oh, to hell with you, you dimwitted rustic! Perhaps though you might be able to learn about rhythms.

STREPSIADES: But how will rhythms help me get my daily groats?

SOCRATES: Well, for a start, it'll make you seem refined in

έπαῖειν θ' ὁποῖος ἐστι τῶν βυθιῶν		650
κατ' ἐνδηλιον χώροιος αὐτὸν δάκτυλον.		
Στ. κατὰ δάκτυλον; νὴ τὸν Δύ', ἀλλ' οἶδεν.		
Σω. εἰπὲ δῆ.	εἰπὲ δῆ.	652
Στ. πρὸ τοῦ μέν, ἐπ' ἐμοῦ παιδὸς ὅντος, οὐτοσί.		654
Σω. ἀγρεῖος εἴ καὶ σκαλός.		
Στ. οὐ γάρ, φίλος, τούτων ἐπιθυμῶ μανθάνειν οὐδέν.		655
Σω. τέ δαί;		
Στ. ἔχειν' ἔχεινο, τὸν ἀδικήτατον λόγον.		
Σω. ἀλλ' ἔτερα δεῖ σε πρότερα τούτου μανθάνειν, τῶν τετραπόδων ἄττ' ἐστὶν ὅρθῶς ἀρρενα.		
Στ. ἀλλ' οἶδεν ἔγωγε τάρρεν', εὖ μὴ μαίνομαι· κριός, τράγος, ταῦρος, κύων, ἀλεκτρυών.		660
<Σω.		
Στ. ἀλεκτρυών. >		
Σω. δρῆς ἂν πάσχεις; τίνι τε θῆλειαν καλεῖς ἀλεκτρυόνα καὶ ταύτην καὶ τὸν ἀρρενα.		
650 ἐπαῖειν θ' Blaydes, cf. Σ ^{RVEMNp1} : ἐπαῖειντ R ^{pc} : ἐπαῖοντ' R ^{ac} : ἐπαῖειν Choeroboscus: εἴτ' ἐπαῖειν Vn.		
[653] τύς δὲλλος ἀντὶ τουτού (τουτού ^{θ¹}) τοῦ δακτύλου; codd.: del. Dover.		
661 lacuna posited by Bentley: perh. e.g. <(Σω.) τὰ δὲ θῆλε'; (Στ.) οἷς, αἷξ, βοῦς, κύων, ἀλεκτρυών.>		
663 καὶ ταύτη Hermann: κατ' αὐτὸν VE ^{ac} : κατὰ ταύτη RV ^B Nθ ^{ac} : κατὰ ταύτην E ^{pc} Kθ ^{pc} : καταταύτην λΣ ^E .		

company, and be aware what kind of rhythm is enoplian and what kind is digital. 650

STREPSIADES: Digital? But, by Zeus, I know that.

SOCRATES: Then tell me.

STREPSIADES: Well, in the old days, in my boyhood, it was this [*sticking out his middle finger at Socrates*].

SOCRATES: You're a stupid peasant. 655

STREPSIADES: The thing is, you silly man, that I don't wish to learn *any* of these things.

SOCRATES: What then?

STREPSIADES: That other thing, that – that supremely Wrongful Argument.

SOCRATES: But there are other things you must learn before that, such as which of the quadrupeds are properly called masculine.

STREPSIADES: Well, I know which are masculine, if I've not lost my wits: ram, he-goat, bull, dog, fowl. 660

<SOCRATES: And feminine are –?

STREPSIADES: Ewe, she-goat, cow, bitch, fowl.>

SOCRATES: Do you see what you're doing? You call the female "fowl", and the male as well you call the same thing.

- Στ. πᾶς δῆ, φέρε;
- Σω. πᾶς; ἀλεκτρυῶν κάλεκτρυῶν.
- Στ. νὴ τὸν Ποσειδῶνα. νῦν δὲ πᾶς με χρὴ καλεῖν; 665
- Σω. ἀλεκτρύαιναν, τὸν δὲ ἔτερον ἀλέκτορα.
- Στ. ἀλεκτρύαιναν; εὖ γε, νὴ τὸν Ἀέρα·
ῶστ' ἀντὶ τούτου τοῦ διδάγματος μόνου
διαλφιτώσω σοι κύκλῳ τὴν κάρδοπον.
- Σω. ὑδοὺ μάλισθι τοῦθι ἔτερον. τὴν κάρδοπον
ἀρρενα καλεῖς θήλειαν σέσαν. 670
- Στ. τῷ τρόπῳ;
ἀρρενα καλῷ γὰρ κάρδοπον;
- Σω. μάλιστα γε,
ῶσπερ γε καὶ Κλεωνύμουν.
- Στ. πᾶς δῆ; φράσον.
- Σω. ταύτην δίδυαταί σοι κάρδοπος Κλεωνύμψ.
- Στ. ἀλλ', ὥγαθ', οὐδὲ οὐ κάρδοπος Κλεωνύμψ,
ἀλλ' ἐν θυεῖφ στρογγυλῇ γε ἀνεμάττετο.
ἀτὰρ τὸ λοιπὸν πᾶς με χρὴ καλεῖν; 675
- Σω. δικαστή;
τὴν καρδσπην, ὕσπερ καλεῖς τὴν Σωστράτην.
- Στ. τὴν καρδσπην, θήλειαν;
- Σω. δρθῶς γὰρ λέγεις.
- Στ. ἐκεῖνο δέ οὐδὲν "καρδσπη Κλεωνύμη"; 680

680 Κλεωνύμη Οτρού: Κλεωνύμη codad.

STREPSIADES: How do you mean, please?

SOCRATES: How do I mean? “Fowl” and “fowl”.

STREPSIADES: By Poseidon, so I do. What should I really call it? 665

SOCRATES: “Fowlless”, and the other one “fowler”.

STREPSIADES: “Fowlless”? By Air, that’s a good one. In fact, for that piece of instruction alone I’ll fill the whole surface of your *cardopus* with groats.

SOCRATES: There you go again; that’s another one. You speak of a *cardopus*, calling it masculine when it’s feminine. 670

STREPSIADES: What do you mean? I call a *cardopus* masculine?

SOCRATES: You certainly do, just like *Cleonymus*.

STREPSIADES: In what way? Tell me.

SOCRATES: You give the same treatment to *cardopus* that is given to *Cleonymus*.

STREPSIADES: But, my good man, Cleonymus never had a *cardopus* at all — the kneading he did was done in a round mortar. What should I call it in future, though? 675

SOCRATES: What should you call it? *Cardopé*, just as you say *Sostraté*.

STREPSIADES: *Cardopé*, feminine?

SOCRATES: That’s correct.

STREPSIADES: And what I said would then have been “Cleonymé never had a *cardopé*”? 680

Σω. ἔτι δέ γε περὶ τῶν ὀνομάτων μαθεῖν σε δεῖ,
ἀττὶ ἄρρεν' ἐστίν, ἄττα δ' αὐτῶν θήλεα.

Στ. ἀλλ' οἶδ' ἔγωγ' οὐ θῆλε' ἐστίν.

Σω. εἰπὲ δῆ.

Στ. Λαμσιλλα, Φύλιννα, Κλειταγόρα, Δημητρία.

Σω. ἄρρενα δὲ ποῖα τῶν ὀνομάτων;

Στ. μυρία. 685

Φιλάδενος, Μελησίας, Ἀμυνίας.

Σω. ἀλλ', ᾧ πόνηρε, ταῦτα γ' ἐστ' οὐκ ἄρρενα.

Στ. οὐκ ἄρρεν' ὑμῖν ἐστιν;

Σω. cύδαμῶς γ', ἐπεὶ
πῶς ἂν καλέσειας ἐντυχῶν Ἀμυνίᾳ;

Στ. δπως ἀν; ὡδέ· "δεῦρο δεῦρο", Ἀμυνία." 690

Σω. ὁρᾶς; γυναῖκα τὴν Ἀμυνίαν καλεῖς.

Στ. cύκουν δικαίως, κῆτις οὐ στρατεύεται;
ἀτὰρ τύ ταῦθι ἐπάντες ἵσμεν μανθάνω;

Σω. ούδεν, μὰ Δί'. ἀλλὰ κατακλινεὶς δευρὶ—

Στ. τύ δρῶ;

Σω. ἐκφρόντισόν τι τῶν σεαυτοῦ πραγμάτων. 695

681 ἔτι δέ γε θ^1 : ἔτι γε RVE^{ac}: ἔτι K: ἔτι' ἔτι γε E^{pc}N: ἔτι
δῆ γε Tricl. (whence θ^2).

686 'Αμυνίας RV^s_n, Libanius: so all codd. 689, 690, 691:
'Αμεινίας V.

688 ὑμῖν θ^{pc} : ἡμῖν RV θ^{ac} _n'.

SOCRATES [*ignoring this*]: But you still have to learn about names, which of them are masculine and which feminine.

STREPSIADES: Well, I know which are feminine.

SOCRATES: Tell me then.

STREPSIADES: Lysilla, Philinna, Cleitagora, Demetria.

SOCRATES: And which names are masculine? 685

STREPSIADES: Loads of them — Philoxenus, Melesias, Amynias.

SOCRATES: But those aren't masculine, you fool.

STREPSIADES: You don't regard them as masculine?

SOCRATES: Certainly not; consider, if you happened to see Amynias, how would you call him?

STREPSIADES: How? Like this: "Come here, come here, Amynia". 690

SOCRATES: Do you see? you're calling *her* a woman, "Amynia".

STREPSIADES: And doesn't she deserve it, for not doing her military service? But why should I be learning these things, which we all know?

SOCRATES: Never mind that now. Just lie down here [*indicating the bed*] and —

STREPSIADES: Do what?

SOCRATES: Think out one of your own problems. 695

Στ. μὴ δῆθ', ὑκετεύω, 'νταῦθά γ'· ἀλλ', εἶπερ γε χρή,
χαμαί μ' ἔσσον αὐτὰ ταῦτ' ἐκφροντίσαι.

Σω. οὐκ ἔστι παρὰ ταῦτ' ἀλλα.

Στ. κακοδαιμών ἐγώ·

οὖν δέκην τοῖς κόρεσι δώσω τήμερον.

699

Χο. φρόντιζε δὴ καὶ διάθρει, (στρ.

πάντα τρόσκον τε σαυτὸν

στρέψει πυκνώσας· ταχὺς δ', ὅταν εἰς ἄπορον

πέσης, ἐπ' ἀλλο πῆδα

νόημα φρενός· ὕπνος δ' ἀπέ-

705

στω γλυκύθυμος δύμάτων—

Στ. ἀτταταῖ ἀτταταῖ.

Χο. τύ πάσχεις; τύ κάμνεις;

Στ. ἀπόλλυματι δεύλαιος· ἐκ τοῦ σκέμποδος

710

δάκνουσσιν μ' ἐξέρκοντες οἱ Κορύνθιοι,

καὶ τὰς πλευρὰς δαρδάπτουσιν

καὶ τὴν φυχὴν ἐκπίνουσιν

καὶ τοὺς ὅρχεις ἐξέλκουσιν

καὶ τὸν πρωκτὸν διερμήτουσιν,

καὶ μ' ἀπολοῦσιν.

715

Χο. μή νυν βαρέως ἀλγει λέαν.

Στ. καὶ πῶς; δτε μου

φροῦρα τὰ χρήματα, φροῦρη χροιά,

φροῦρη φυχή, φροῦρη δ' ἐμβάσ·

696 'νταῦθά γ' Dobree: σ' ἐνταῦθ' RVEθ: σ' ἐνθάδδ' KN $\lambda \Sigma^U$.

696 εἶπερ γε N: εῖ γε RVn'.

712, 713 in this order n: in reverse order RV.

STREPSIADES: Please, I beg of you, not there! If I really must, let me do the same thinking-out on the ground.

SOCRATES: There is no alternative.

STREPSIADES [*getting into the bed*]: God help me, how the bugs are going to take it out on me today!

[*Socrates goes inside.*]

CHORUS: Now think and perpend,

700

twist and twirl yourself every way,

and concentrate your mind; and rapidly, when you come to a dead end, jump to another

mental idea; and let sleep

705

that delights the soul be far from your eyes —

STREPSIADES [*in torment*]: Aah, aah!

CHORUS: What ails thee, what pains thee?

STREPSIADES: I'm in agony, I'm perishing — being bitten by these Tom Tugs creeping out of the bed;

709.
710

they're devouring my ribs,

they're draining my life-blood,

they're pulling out my balls,

they're tunnelling through my arse,

and they'll be the death of me.

715

CHORUS: Yet grieve thou not too sore.

STREPSIADES:

Some advice! when I

have lost my money, lost my suntan,

lost my life-blood, and lost my shoes;

καὶ πρὸς τούτοις ἔτι τοῖσι κακοῖς
φρουρᾶς φένων
δλέγου φροῦρος γεγένηματ.

720

Σω. οὗτος, τούς κοιτεῖς; οὐχὶ φροντίζεις;

Στ. Εἶγε;
νὴ τὸν Ποσειδῶνα.

Σω. καὶ τὸν δῆτα ἐφρόντισας;

Στ. ὑπὸ τῶν αἵρεων εἴ μου τὸ περιλειφθήσεται.

725

Σω. ἀπολεῖ κάκιστον·

Στ. ἀλλ', μῆτρα, ἀπόλωλ' ἀρτίως.

Χο. οὐ μαλθακιστεῖ, ἀλλὰ περικαλυπτέα.
ἐξευρετέος γάρ νοῦς ἀποστερητικὸς
κάπτασθλημ'.

Στ. οἶμοι, τούς δὲν δῆτα ἐπιβάλλου
ἐξ ἀρνακέδων γυώμην ἀποστερητρέδα;

730

Σω. φέρε υսυ ἀθρίσω πρῶτον, δὲ τὸ δράκοντον.
οὗτος, καθεύδεις;

Στ. μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλωνα γὰρ μὲν οὖν.

Σω. ἔχεις τοῦ;

Στ. μὰ Διοῦ οὐ δῆτα ἔγωγε.

Σω. οὐδὲν γε, πλὴν ἢ τὸ πέος ἐν τῇ δεξιᾷ.

720 ἔτι Vn: ἐπὶ R.

728 ἐξευρετέος N Suda^{rell.}: ἐξευρητέος RVE Suda^{GMPC}: εύρητέος Kθ.

and then on top of all these miseries
here I am whistling in the dark
within an ace of being lost once and for all!

720

SOCRATES [*coming out*]: Here, you, what are you doing?
Aren't you thinking?

STREPSIADES: What, me? Yes, I am, I swear.

SOCRATES: And what have you thought of?

STREPSIADES: Whether there'll be anything left of me when 725
the bugs have finished.

SOCRATES: Oh, to hell with you! [*He goes inside.*]

STREPSIADES [*calling after him*]: I'm in hell right now, mate!

CHORUS-LEADER: You must not be soft, you must cover
right up; for you have to think up a defraudative idea, a piece of
chicanery.

STREPSIADES: Ah, if only instead of lambskins someone 730
would throw over me a lovely bit of . . . fraudulent ingenuity!

SOCRATES; [*coming out*]: All right, let me see first of all
what this fellow's doing. [*To Strepsiades*] Hey, you, are you
asleep?

STREPSIADES [*uncovering his head*]: By Apollo, not me.
SOCRATES: Have you managed to get hold of anything?

STREPSIADES: No, I really haven't.

SOCRATES: Nothing at all?

STREPSIADES: Nothing — except I've got hold of my cock
in my right hand.

Σω. ούκ ἐγκαλυψάμενος ταχέως τι φροντιεῖς;

735

Στ. περὶ τοῦ; σὺ γάρ μοι τοῦτο φράσον, ὃ Σώκρατες.

Σω. αὐτὸς ὁ τι βούλει πρῶτον ἔξευρεῖν λέγε.

Στ. ἀκήκοας μυριάκις ἀγὼ βούλομαι·

περὶ τῶν τόκων, ὅπως ἂν ἀποδῶ μηδενί.

Σω. Εἶθι νυν καλύπτου, καὶ σχάσας τὴν φροντίδα
λεπτὴν κατὰ μικρὸν περιφρόνει τὰ πράγματα,
δρᾶς δισαιρῶν καὶ σκοπῶν.

740

Στ. οἶμοι τάλας.

Σω. ἔχ' ἀτρεῖα· καν ἀπορῆς τι· τῶν νοημάτων,
ἀφεὶς ἄπειρε, κάτα τῇ γνώμῃ πάλιν
κύνησον αὕτης αὐτὸς καὶ ζυγώθρισον.

745

Στ. ὃ Σώκρατέδιον φίλτατον.

Σω. τέ, ὃ γέρον;

Στ. ἔχω τόκου γνώμην ἀποστερητικήν.

Σω. ἐπίδειξον αὐτήν.

Στ. εἰπὲ δῆ νύν μοι—

Σω. τὸ τέ;

Στ. γυναῖκα φαρμακός¹ εἰς πριάμενος θετταλην
καθέλοιμι νῦκτωρ τὴν σελήνην, εἴτα δὴ
αὐτὴν καθεύρξαιμ² εἰς λοφεῖσον στρογγύλουν,

750

737 πρῶτον ἔξευρεῖν P14, Tzetzes in Σ^U: πρῶτος ἔξευρεῖν η:
πρῶτος ἔξευρῶν RV.

744 τῇ γνώμῃ Reiske: τὴν γνώμην codd.

SOCRATES: Cover up, will you, and think of something, fast.

735

STREPSIADES: What about? You tell me that, Socrates.

SOCRATES: You say yourself what is the first thing you want to discover.

STREPSIADES: You've heard a million times what I want. About interest, so I won't have to pay it to anyone.

SOCRATES: Very well then, cover your head [*Strepsiades does so*] ; now slice your thought into minute parts and contemplate the subject piece by piece, investigating and analysing correctly.

740

STREPSIADES [*again in torment from the bugs*]: Aah! Help!

SOCRATES: Keep still; and if you reach an impasse with one of your ideas, let it go and move away from it, and later on set it back in motion again in your mind and weigh it in the balance.

745

STREPSIADES [*after an interval, getting out of bed*]: My dearest sweet Socrates!

SOCRATES: What is it, old man?

STREPSIADES: I have a defraudative device for avoiding interest.

SOCRATES: Let us hear it.

STREPSIADES: Well, tell me —

SOCRATES: What?

STREPSIADES: If I bought a Thessalian sorceress and had her draw down the moon at night, and then shut it up in a round case, like putting away a mirror, and then kept a close watch on it —

750

ώσπερ κάτροπτον, κῆτα τηρούνην ἔχων—

Σω. τέ δῆτα τοῦτ' ἀν ώφελήσειεν σ';

Στ. δ τι;
εὲ μηκέτ' ἀνατέλλοι σελήνη μηδαμοῦ,
οὐκ ἀν ἀποδούην τοὺς τόκους.

Σω. δτιὴ τέ δῆ; 755

Στ. δτιὴ κατὰ μῆνα τάργυμριον δανείζεται.

Σω. εὕ γ'. ἀλλ' ἔτερον αὖ σοι προβαλῶ τι δεξιόν.
εὗ σοι γράφοιτο κεντετάλαντός τις δύκη,
δπως ἀν αύτὴν ἀφανύσειας εὔκε μοι.

Στ. δπως; δπως; οὐκ οἶδ'. ἀτὰρ ζητητέον. 760

Σω. μή νυν περὶ σαυτὸν ἔλλε τὴν γνώμην ἀεύ,
ἀλλ' ἀποχάλα τὴν φροντίδ' εὔς τὸν ἀέρα,
λινδετον ὠσκερ μηλολόνθην τοῦ ποδός.

Στ. ηὔρηκ' ἀφάνισιν τῆς δύκης σοφωτάτην,
ῶστ' αὐτὸν δμολογεῖν σέ μοι.

Σω. ποίαν τινδ'; 765

Στ. ήδη παρὰ τοῖσι φαρμακοπώλαις τὴν λέθου
ταῦτην ἐδρακας, τὴν καλήν, τὴν διαφανή,
ἀφ' ήσ τὸ πῦρ ἄπτουσι;

Σω. τὴν ὕαλον λέγεις;

Στ. ἔγωγε. φέρε, τέ δῆτ' ἄν, εἰ ταῦτην λαβών,
δπότ' ἔγγράφοιτο τὴν δύκην δ γραμματεύς, 770

752 κάτροπτον Dover: κάτοπτρον (-προν ^{ac}) codd.

770 δπότ' ἔγγράφοιτο Cabet: διπότε γράφοιτο codd.: δπόταν γράφοιτο Suda.

SOCRATES: Well, what good would that do you?

STREPSIADES: What good? If no moon were ever to rise again anywhere, I'd never pay my interest.

755

SOCRATES: Why not?

STREPSIADES: Because money is lent out by the month.

SOCRATES: Very good. I'll set you another tricky problem. Suppose a lawsuit was entered against you for five talents, tell me how you'd dispose of it.

STREPSIADES: How? how? I don't know. I must think it out.

760

SOCRATES: Now don't keep your thoughts wound closely round you all the time, but pay your thought out a bit into the air, like a cockchafer tethered by the leg with a thread.

STREPSIADES [*after an interval*]: I've found a really ingenious disposal method for that lawsuit, good enough to make even you agree with me.

765

SOCRATES: What sort of method?

STREPSIADES: Have you ever seen that stone at the drugists', the beautiful transparent one they use to light fires?

SOCRATES: Do you mean glass?

STREPSIADES: I do. Well, look, what if I took that, and when the clerk was getting the case entered on his list, if I was to

770

- ἀπωτέρω στὰς ὅδε πρὸς τὸν ἥλιον
τὰ γράμματ' ἔκτηξαμεν τῆς ἐμῆς δύκης;
- Σω. σοφῶς γε, νὴ τὰς Χάριτας.
- Στ. οὖμ', ὡς θίδομαν
δτε πεντετάλαντος διαγέγραπταν μοι δύκη.
- Σω. ἄγε δὴ ταχέως τουτὲ ξυνδρπασον.
- Στ. τὸ τέ; 775
- Σω. δπως ἀποστρέψαις ἀν ἀντιδικῶν δύκην,
μελλων ὁφλήσειν, μὴ παρόντων μαρτύρων.
- Στ. φαυλότατα καὶ ρῆστ'.
- Σω. εἰπὲ δῆ.
- Στ. καὶ δὴ λέγω.
εὶ πρόσθεν ἔτι μιᾶς ἐνεστώσης δύκης
πρὸν τὴν ἐμὴν καλεῖσθ' ἀπαγγεαύμην τρέχων. 780
- Σω. οὐδὲν λέγεις.
- Στ. νὴ τοὺς θεοὺς ἔγωγ', ἐπεὶ
οὐδὲνς κατ' ἐμοῦ τεθνεῶτος εἰσάξει δύκην.
- Σω. ύθλεῖς. ἀπερρ'. οὐκ ἀν διδαξαύμην σ' ἔτι.
- Στ. δτεὶ τέ; ναὶ πρὸς τῶν θεῶν, ὃ Σώματες.
- Σω. ἀλλ' εὔθὺς ἐπιλήθει σύ γ' ἀττ' ἀν καὶ μαθης.
ἐπεὶ τέ νυνὶ πρῶτον ἐδιδάχθης; λέγε. 785
- Στ. φέρ' ἔδω, τέ μέντοι πρῶτον ἦν; τέ πρῶτον ἦν;
τές ἦν ἐν ἥ ματτόμεθα μέντοι τάλφιτα;
οἶμοι, τές ἦν;
- Σω. οὐκ ἐς κόρακας ἀποφθερεῖ,

stand some distance from him, like this, between him and the sun, and make the writing melt away where my case was?

SOCRATES: That's clever, by the Graces!

STREPSIADES: My goodness, I *am* pleased! I've struck out a five-talent lawsuit!

SOCRATES: Come on now, hurry up and get your teeth into this one.

775

STREPSIADES: What?

SOCRATES: How would you contest and rebut a case brought against you which you were on the point of losing, if you had no witnesses?

STREPSIADES: Child's play — easy as anything.

SOCRATES: Tell me.

STREPSIADES: All right, I am. Suppose that when there were still one case pending before mine was called on, I were to run off and hang myself?

780

SOCRATES: You're talking nonsense.

STREPSIADES: Heavens above, it's perfect sense; nobody's going to bring a case to court against me when I'm dead.

SOCRATES: You're drivelling. Get the hell out of here. I'm not going to teach you any more.

STREPSIADES: Why not? Do, Socrates, in the gods' name.

SOCRATES: But anything you do learn you forget right away. For instance, tell me, what was the first thing you were taught just now?

785

STREPSIADES: Let me see now, what *was* the first thing? what was first? what *was* that feminine thing that we knead groats in? God help me, what was it?

SOCRATES: Oh, away and to blazes with you, you stupid

790

έπιελησμέντατον καὶ σκαύθατον γερδυτίου;

790

Στ. οὖμοι· τέ οὖν δῆθ' ὁ κακοδαιέμων πεύσομαι;
ἀπὸ γὰρ δλοῦματι μὴ μαθῶν γλωττοστροφεῖν.
ἀλλ', φ Νεφέλαι, χρηστὸν τι συμβουλεύσατε.

Χο. ήμεῖς μέν, φ πρεσβύτα, συμβουλεύομεν,
εἰς σοί τις υἱός ἐστιν ἔκτεθραμμένος,
πέμπειν ἔκεινον ἀντὶ σαυτοῦ μανθάνειν.

795

Στ. ἀλλ' ἔστιν ἔμοιγεν οὐδὲς καλός τε κάγαθός·
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔθελει γὰρ μανθάνειν, τέ έγώ πάθω;
Χο. σὺ δέ ἔπιτρέπεις;

Στ. εὔσωματεῖ γὰρ καὶ σφριγῷ,
κᾶστιν ἔχ γυναικῶν εὔπτέρων τῶν Κοισύρας.
ἀτὰρ μέτειμεν γ' αὐτόν· ἦν δὲ μὴ 'θελή,
οὐκ ἔσθι δπως οὐκέτι εἴξελῶ 'κ τῆς οὐκύας.
ἀλλ' ἔπανάμεινδόν μ' δλέγον εἰσελθὼν χρόνον.

800

Χο. ἀρ' αἰσθάνει πλεῖστα δι' ἡ-
μᾶς ἀγάθ' αὐτέρχ' ἔξων
μόνας θεῶν; ὥστιοιμος δοῦλος ἐστὶν ἀπαν-
τα δρᾶν δοῦλον ἀν κελεύης.
σὺ δέ ἀνδρὸς ἔκπεπληγμένου
καὶ φανερῶς ἔπηρμένου
γνοὺς ἀπολάψεις δ τι πλεῖστον δύνασαι
ταχέως· φιλεῖ γάρ πως τὰ τοι-
αῦθι ἔτερᾳ τρέπεσθαι.

(ἀντ.

805

810

Στ. οὗτοι μὰ τὴν 'Ομέχλην ἔτι ἐνταυθοῦ μενεῖς·
ἀλλ' ἔσθι διθῶν τοὺς Μεγακλέους κύονας.

815

800 τῶν n' Suda λ^E Σⁱ Σ^{VE}: τῶν ἀπὸ K: om. R: καὶ V.

forgetful old nitwit! [He turns his back on Strepsiades.]

STREPSIADES: God help me, I'm lost — what's going to happen to me now? If I don't learn to be a verbal twister, that'll be the end of me. Please, Clouds, give me some good advice.

CHORUS-LEADER: Well, old man, our advice is, if you have a grown-up son, send him to be taught instead of you:

795

STREPSIADES: Well, I have a son, a fine upstanding fellow; but he doesn't want to go to school, so what am I supposed to do?

CHORUS-LEADER: And you let him get away with it?

STREPSIADES: Yes, because he's strong and lusty, and comes of a high-flying race of women, the house of Coesyra. But I'm going for him; and if he refuses, then without fail I'll throw him out of the house. [To Socrates] Go in and wait for me a moment.

800

CHORUS [as Strepsiades enters his own house]:

Do you perceive that soon
you will have many blessings, thanks to us
alone of the gods? For this man is ready
to do whatever you bid him.

805

[Turning to Socrates as he goes into the Refectory]

And you, aware that the man is moonstruck
and is plainly in great excitement,
will no doubt lap up as much as you can
quickly; for such things have a sort of habit
of turning out otherwise than expected.

810

[Strepsiades comes out of his house, driving Pheidippides before him.]

STREPSIADES: You shan't, by Mist, you shan't stay here any longer! Go and eat the columns of Megacles' mansion.

815

Φε. Ή δαιμονισε, τέ χρῆμα πάσχεις, οὐ πάτερ;
οὐκ εὖ φρονεῖς, μὰ τὸν Δέα τὸν Ὀλύμπιον.

Στ. Λέδου γ' λέδοὺς Δέις Ὀλύμπιον. τῆς μωρίας
τὸν Δέα νομίζειν, δύτα τηλυκούτονός.

Φε. τέ δὲ τοῦτ' ἐγέλασας ἐτεόν;

Στ. ένθυμούμενος
δτε παιδάριον εἶ καὶ φρονεῖς ἀρχαῖκά.
δμως γε μὴν πρόσελθ', οὐδὲ δῆμος πλεύονα,
καύ σει φράσω τι πρᾶγμα', δι μαθὼν ἀνήρ ἔσει.
δπως δὲ τοῦτο μὴ διδάξεις μηδένα.

Φε. Λέδοις· τέ ἐστιν;

Στ. αἴμοσας νυνὶ Δέα. 825

Φε. ἔγωγχ'.

Στ. δρέξις οὕν πώς ἀγαθὸν τὸ μανθάνειν;
οὐκ ἔστιν, οὐ φειδεπικένη, Ζεύς.

Φε. δλλὰ τούς;

Στ. Δῖνος βασιλεύει, τὸν Δέα ἐξεληλακώς.

Φε. αἰβοῖ· τέ ληρεῖς;

Στ. ξεθε τοῦθ' οὔτως ἔχον.

Φε. τούς φησι ταῦτα;

Στ. Σωκράτης δὲ Μήλιος
καὶ Χαιρεψῶν, δις οἶδε τὰ φυλλῶν λέχνη. 830

Φε. σὺ δὲ εἶς τοσοῦτον τῶν μανιῶν ἐλήλυθας

823 δ Hermann: δὲ σὺ codd.

PHEIDIPIIDES: My dear father, what *is* wrong with you?
You're not in your right mind, by Olympian Zeus you're not.

STREPSIADES: Just listen to that! Olympian Zeus! How stupid can you get – believing in Zeus at your age!

PHEIDIPIIDES: Why ever do you laugh like that? 820

STREPSIADES: To think that you're such a baby and your ideas so antiquated. All the same, come to me, if you want to know more, and I'll tell you something which when you've learnt, you'll be a man. But be sure not to divulge this to anyone.

PHEIDIPIIDES [*coming close to his father*]: Here I am. What is it? 825

STREPSIADES [*in conspiratorial tones*]: You swore just now by Zeus.

PHEIDIPIIDES [*likewise*]: I did.

STREPSIADES: Now do you see what a fine thing learning is? Pheidippides, there is no Zeus.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Then who is there?

STREPSIADES: Vortex is king, having expelled Zeus.

PHEIDIPIIDES [*aloud*]: Ugh, what rubbish is this?

STREPSIADES: I assure you that's the way it is.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Who says so? 830

STREPSIADES: Socrates the Melian and Chaerephon, who knows all about the footsteps of fleas.

PHEIDIPIIDES: And you're so far gone in your madness that

ῶστ' ἀνδράςιν πεύθει χολῶσιν;

- Στ. εὔστόμει,
καὶ μηδὲν εἶπης φλαῦρον ἄνδρας δεξιοὺς
καὶ νοῦν ἔχοντας· ὃν ὑπὸ τῆς φειδωλίας
ἀπεκεῖρατ' οὐδεὶς πώποτ' οὐδ' ἡλεύθατο
οὐδ' εἰς βαλανεῖον ἥλθε λουσόμενος· σὺ δὲ
ῶσπερ τεθνεῶτος καταλόει μου τὸν βύον.
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἐλθὼν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ μάνθανε.
- Φε. τέ δ' ἂν παρ' ἔκεινων καὶ μάθοι χρηστὸν τις ἄν; 840
- Στ. ἄληθες; δσαπέρ ἐστιν ἀνθρώποις σοφός.
γνῶσει δὲ σαυτὸν ὃς ἀμαθὴς εἶ καὶ παχύς.
ἀλλ' ἐπανάμεινόν μ' ὀλύγον ἐνταυθοῦ χρόνον.
- Φε. οὖμοι, τέ δράσω, παραφρονοῦντος τοῦ πατρός;
πρότερον παρανείας αὐτὸν εἰσαγαγὼν ἔλω,
ἢ τοῖς σοροτηγοῖς τὴν μανίαν αὐτοῦ φράσω; 845
- Στ. φέρ' ἕδω, σὺ τοῦτον τύνα νομίζεις; εἴπει μοι.
- Φε. ἀλεκτρυόνα.
- Στ. καλῶς γε· ταυτηνὶ δὲ τέ;
- Φε. ἀλεκτρυόνι.
- Στ. ἀμφω ταύτος; ταταγέλαστος εἰ.
- 838 καταλόει μου Bekker: καταλούμει μου vel sim. RVθ²η' Sude,
Choeroboscus: μου καταλούμει θ¹.
- 841 δσαπέρ ἐστιν E^{pc}: δσαπέρ ἐστ' ἐν E^{ac}θ: δσαπερ N: δσα πάρεστιν R: δσα πάρεστ' VK.
- 847 τοῦτον θ: τοὗτον RVη': whence τέ for τύνα Reisig.
- 849 ταύτος Vs1: ταύτον RVη': ταύτα K.

you take the word of men who've got the bile-sickness?

STREPSIADES: Mind what you say, and don't slander men of ingenuity and intelligence, men who are so thrifty that none of them has ever cut his hair or anointed himself, or gone to a bath-house to wash — whereas *you* squander my livelihood by washing yourself as if I were dead. Now go as quickly as you can and study instead of me.

835

PHEIDIPIIDES: But what that's any use could anyone *learn* from these people?

840

STREPSIADES: You ask that? All human wisdom; and you'll realise how stupid and thick *you* are. Look, wait for me here a moment. [*He goes inside.*]

845

PHEIDIPIIDES [*to himself*]: Heavens, what am I to do? because my father's out of his mind. Shall I take him to court and get him adjudged insane, or shall I tell the coffin-makers of his affliction?

STREPSIADES [*returning with a slave who carries a cock and a hen*]: Let me see; tell me, what are you accustomed to call this?

PHEIDIPIIDES: A fowl.

STREPSIADES: Good; and this one?

PHEIDIPIIDES: A fowl.

STREPSIADES: Both the same? You *are* making yourself

μή νυν τὸ λοιπόν, ἀλλὰ τίνδε μὲν καλεῖν
ἀλεκτρύαιναν, τουτον̄ δ' ἀλέκτορα.

850

- Φε. ἀλεκτρύαιναν; ταῦτ' ἔμαθες τὰ δεξιὰ
εἶσω παρελθὼν σῆρτι παρὰ τοὺς γηγενεῖς;
Στ. χάτερά γε πόλλον ἀλλ' ὅτι μάθοιμ' ἐκάστοτε
ἐπελανθανόμην ἢν εὐθὺς ὑπὸ πλήθους ἐτῶν.

855

- Φε. διὰ ταῦτα δὴ καὶ θούματιον ἀπώλεσας;
Στ. ἀλλ' οὐχ ἀπολώλεκ', ἀλλὰ καταπεφρόντικα.

Φε. τὰς δ' ἔμβαδας ποτὲ τέτροφας, ἄνδητε σύ;

- Στ. ὥσπερ Περικλέντος εὗς τὸ δέον διπλεσσα.
ἀλλ' ἕθις, βάσις, ἔωμεν. εἴτα τῷ πατρὶ¹
πιθόμενος ἐξάμαρτε. κάγω τού ποτε
οἵδ' ἐξέτει σοι τραυλύσαντι πιθόμενος.
ὅν πρῶτον ὄβολὸν ἔλαβον ἡλιαστικόν,
τούτου πριάμην σοι Διασύνοις ἀμαξένδα.

860

Φε. ή μὴν σὺ τοῦτοις τῷ χρόνῳ ποτ' ἀχθέσει.

865

- Στ. εὖ γ', διτι ἐπείσθης. δεῦρο δεῦρ', ἣ Σώκρατες,
ἔξελθ'. ἄγω γάρ σοι τὸν υἱὸν τουτονύ,
ἄκοντ' ἀναπείσας.

Σω. νηπύτιος γάρ εἶστιν ἐτι
καὶ τῶν κρεμαστῶν οὐ τρέψων τῶν ἐνθάδε.

855 ἐτῶν K: τῶν ἐτῶν RV_{n!}.

861 πιθόμενος Bentley: πειθόμενος codd., Eustathius.

862 πιθόμενος θ^{2pc}: πειθόμενος RV¹_{n!} Suda, Zonaras.

869 κρεμαστῶν Σ^{RV} 869, Σ^{VM} 870: κρεμαστρῶν Σ^{RE} 870: κρεμαθρῶν vel
sim. codd. Suda i¹_{EM} 869 λ¹_{Npl} 869 Σ^{Np5} 870, Σ Wasps 1429,
Eustathius.

ridiculous. Now don't do that in future, but call this one a "fowl-
ess" and that one a "fowler".

850

PHEIDIPPIDES: "Fowlless"? Are those the pearls of wisdom
you picked up on your recent entry into the house of those Children
of Earth?

STREPSIADES: Yes, and much else too; but every time I
learnt anything, I'd forget it right away because I was too old.

855

PHEIDIPPIDES: Oh, *that's why* you've lost your cloak, is it?

STREPSIADES: I haven't lost it, I've invested it in knowledge.

PHEIDIPPIDES: And what have you done with your shoes,
you fathead?

STREPSIADES: I lost them "for essential purposes", as
Pericles would have put it. But come on, move, let's go. So *do*
wrong, at your father's request. I know, I tell you, that once I
complied with your request when you were a lisping six-year-old:
the first obol of jury pay I received, I used it to buy you a toy cart
for the Diasia.

860

PHEIDIPPIDES [*reluctantly following him towards the Reflec-*
tory]: I swear the time will come when you'll be sorry for this.

865

STREPSIADES: Good for you, you've obeyed me. Come
here, come here, Socrates, come outside! [*Socrates does so.*] I
bring you my son here; I talked him into coming, though he didn't
want to.

SOCRATES: No, he's still an infant, and doesn't know the
ropes and lashings here.

- Φε. αὐτὸς τρύβων εἶης ἄν, εὐ̄ κρέμασθ γε. 870
- Στ. οὐκ ἔς κόρακας; καταρῆ σὺ τῷ διδασκάλῳ;
- Σω. ἵδοὺ κρέμαι'· ὡς ἡλίθιον ἐφθέγξατο
καὶ τοῖσι χεῖλεσιν διερρυησθήσιν.
πῶς ἄν μάθοι ποθ' οὗτος ἀπόφευξιν δύκης
ἢ κλῆσιν ἢ χαμνωσιν ἀναπειστηράν;
καύτοι ταλάντου γ' αὔτ' ἔμαθεν 'Υπέρβολος. 875
- Στ. ἀμέλει, διδασκε. θυμόσοφδς ἐστιν φύσει.
εὔθιμος γέ τοι παιδάριον θν τυννουτούν
ἐπλαττεν ἔνδον οἰκίας ναῦς τ' ἔγλυφεν
ἀμαξύδας τε συκύνας ἥργαζετο 880
κάκ τῶν σιδύων βατράχους ἐπούει πῶς δοκεῖς.
ὅπως δ' ἐκεύνω τὰ λόγω μαθήσεται,
τὸν κρεύττον', δστις ἐστί, καὶ τὸν ἥττονα,
ὅς ταῦτα λέγων ἀνατρέπει τὸν κρεύττονα.
έὰν δὲ μή, τὸν γοῦν ἄδικον πάσῃ τέχνῃ. 885
- Σω. αὐτὸς μαθήσεται παρ' αὐτοῖν τοῖν λόγοιν.
ἔγὼ δ' ἀπέσομαι.
- Στ. τοῦτό νυν μέμνησ', ὅπως
πρὸς πάντα τὰ δύκαι' ἀντιλέγειν δυνήσεται.
- KΡΕΙΤΤΩΝ ΛΟΓΟΣ
χώρει δευρύ, δεῦξον σαυτὸν
τοῖσι θεαταῖς, καίπερ θρασὺς ὦν. 890
- 872 κρέμαι' (-αιο) Mdl¹: κρέμασθ γ' RV_η Mdl²: γε κρέμαι' Reisig.
876 ταλάντου γ' αὔτ' Reisig: γε ταλάντου τοῦτ' RV: ταλάντου
τοῦτ' η Suda.
880 συκύνας Naber: σκυτύνας eodd. Suda.

PHEIDIPPIDES: Hang *you* on the end of a wope and you'd
weceive a good lashing yourself! 870

STREPSIADES: Damn you to blazes, how dare you curse
your teacher?

SOCRATES: Listen to his “weceive”! What a babyish pro-
nunciation he gave it, with his lips sagging apart! How is he ever
going to learn effective forensic defence, or the summons, or per-
suasion by bombast? And yet Hyperbolus did learn them, for a
talent. 875

STREPSIADES: Oh, don't worry, teach him. He's naturally
gifted. At any rate, right from the start, when he was a little boy
that high, he made clay houses at home and carved out boats, and
made carts of figwood and frogs of pomegranate peel, you can't
think how cleverly. And make sure he learns those two Arguments,
the Better, whatever that may be, and the Worse, which can plead
an unjust cause and overthrow the Better; or if not both, then at
least and at all costs the Wrongful one. 880

SOCRATES: He will learn himself from the Arguments in
person; I shall not be there.

STREPSIADES [as Socrates goes inside]: Remember this
now, that he must be able to argue against every kind of justified
claim.

[*The Better Argument comes out of the Refectory.*]

BETTER ARGUMENT [to Worse Argument, who is still
inside]: Come here, show yourself to the audience — though you're
brazen enough for that anyway. 890

ΗΤΤΩΝ ΛΟΓΟΣ

ἔθι δποι χρήζεις· πολὺ γάρ μαλλόν σ'
ἐν τοῖς πολλοῖσι λέγων ἀπολῶ.

Κρ. ἀπολεῖς σμ; τές ὥν;

λόγος.

Κρ. ήττων γ' ὥν.

Ητ. ἀλλά σε νικῶ τὸν ἐμοῦ κρείττω
φάσκοντ' εἶναι.

Κρ. τέ σοφὸν ποιῶν; 895

Ητ. γνώμας καὶ νὰς ἔξευρόσκων.

Κρ. ταῦτα γάρ ἀνθεῖ διὸ τουτούσι
τοὺς ἀνατίους.

Ητ. οὐχ, ἀλλὰ σοφοῦς.

Κρ. ἀπολῶ σε κακῶς.

Ητ. εὖπε, τέ ποιῶν;

Κρ. τὰ δύκατα λέγων.

900

Ητ. ἀλλ' ἀνατρέψω γ' αὗτ' ἀντιλέγων.
οὐδὲ γάρ εἶναι πάνυ φημὶ Δύκην.

Κρ. οὐχ εἶναι φῆσ;

Ητ. φέρε γάρ, ποῦ 'στιν;

Κρ. παρὰ τοῖσι θεοῖς.

Ητ. πᾶς δῆτα Δύκης οὗσης ὁ Ζεὺς
οὐκ ἀπόδωλεν τὸν πατέρ' αὐτοῦ
δῆσας;

905

Κρ. αἴβος, τοιτὲ καὶ δὴ

WORSE ARGUMENT [*strolling out after him*]: Go wherever you like. Speaking in public I'll be all the more certain to destroy you.

BETTER ARGUMENT: You destroy me? Who do you think you are?

WORSE ARGUMENT: An Argument.

BETTER ARGUMENT: Yes, but an Inferior one.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Yes, but I'll defeat you who vaunt yourself Better than me.

894-5

BETTER ARGUMENT: Oh, what'll you do that's so clever?

WORSE ARGUMENT: Devise a new set of principles.

BETTER ARGUMENT: Yes, that's all the rage now, thanks to these fools [*indicating the audience*].

WORSE ARGUMENT: Not fools, but intelligent people.

BETTER ARGUMENT: I'll massacre you.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Tell me, how will you do it?

BETTER ARGUMENT: By putting my just case.

900

WORSE ARGUMENT: But I'll overthrow it by counter-argument. I say that Justice simply doesn't exist.

BETTER ARGUMENT: You say she doesn't exist?

WORSE ARGUMENT: Well then, where is she?

BETTER ARGUMENT: She dwells with the gods.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Then if Justice exists, how come Zeus hasn't been destroyed for imprisoning his father?

905

BETTER ARGUMENT: Ugh, this really gets worse and worse. Give me a basin!

	χωρεῖ τὸ κακόν. δότε μοι λεκάνην.	
Ητ.	τυφογέρων εἶ κάναρμοστος.	
Κρ.	καταπύγων εἶ κάνασσχυντος.	
Ητ.	βόδα μ' εἵρηκας.	
Κρ.	καὶ βωμολόχος.	910
Ητ.	κρίνεστι στεφανοῖς.	
Κρ.	καὶ πατραλούας.	
Ητ.	χρύσῳ πάττων μ' οὐ γιγνώσκεις.	
Κρ.	οὐ δῆτα πρὸ τοῦ γ', ἀλλὰ μολύβδῳ.	
Ητ.	νῦν δέ γε κόσμος τοῦτ' ἔστιν ἐμού.	
Κρ.	θρασὺς εἶ πολλοῦ.	
Ητ.	σὺ δέ γ' ἀρχαῖος.	915
Κρ.	διὰ σὲ δὲ φοιτᾶν οὐδεὶς ἔθελει τῶν μειρακίων· καὶ γνωσθήσει ποτ' Ἀθηναῖοις οἶα διδάσκεις τοὺς ἀνοήτους.	
Ητ.	αὐχμεῖς αἰσχρῶς.	
Κρ.	σὺ δέ γ' εὖ πρόττεις· καίτοι πρότερόν γ' ἔπτωχευες, Τήλεφος εἶναι Μυσὸς φάσκων, ἔχ πηριδόου γνῶμας τρῶγων Πανδελεύους.	920

918 καὶ N: om. RV_n!.

924 -έ^{GMC}ous Suda, Tricl.: -έ^{GMC}ous Rn Suda^{rell.}: -έ^{GMC}as v.

- WORSE ARGUMENT: You're senile and out of touch.
- BETTER ARGUMENT: You're a shameless faggot.
- WORSE ARGUMENT: Your words are like roses! 910
- BETTER ARGUMENT: And an impudent trickster.
- WORSE ARGUMENT: You're crowning me with lilies!
- BETTER ARGUMENT: And a father-beater.
- WORSE ARGUMENT: You don't realize it, but you're spangling me with gold.
- BETTER ARGUMENT: Those names weren't gold in the old days, they were lead.
- WORSE ARGUMENT: But now I regard them as an honour.
- BETTER ARGUMENT: You're thoroughly brazen. 915
- WORSE ARGUMENT: And you're thoroughly archaic.
- BETTER ARGUMENT: It's because of you that none of the young lads is prepared to go to school; and one day the Athenians will realise what sort of teaching the silly fools get from you.
- WORSE ARGUMENT: You're repulsively dirty. 920
- BETTER ARGUMENT: While *you're* thriving – though you used to be a beggar, claiming to be the Mysian Telephus and nibbling Pandeletean maxims from a little bag.

Ητ.	ἄλιοι σοφίας—	
Κρ.	ἄλιοι μανίας—	925
Ητ.	ἥς ἐμνήσθης.	
Κρ.	—τῆς σῇς, πόλεως θ' τῆτις σε τρέφει λυμαῖνόμενον τοῖς μειρακίοις.	
Ητ.	ούχὶ διδάξεις τοῦτον Κρόνος ὢν.	
Κρ.	εἶπερ γ' αὐτὸν σωθῆναι χρὴ καὶ μὴ λαλίαν μόνον ἀσκῆσαι.	930
Ητ.	δεῦρ' ἔθι, τοῦτον δ' εἴα μαίνεσθαι.	
Κρ.	κλαύσει, τὴν χεῖρ' ἦν ἐπιβάλλης.	
Χο.	παύσασθε μάχης καὶ λοιδορίας. ἀλλ' ἐπίδειξαί σμ τε τοὺς προτέρους ἄττ' ἐδίδασκες, σμ τε τὴν καυνὴν παύδευσιν, δπως ἂν ἀκούσας σφῆν ἀντιλεγόντοις κρύνας φοιτᾷ.	935
Κρ.	δρᾶν ταῦτ' ἐθέλω.	
Ητ.	κάργαγ' ἐθέλω.	
Χο.	φέρε δῆ, πότερος λέξει πρότερος;	940
Ητ.	τούτῳ δώσω. καὶ τ' ἔχ τούτων δν λέξῃ ρηματίοισιν καυνοῦς αὐτὸν καὶ διανούσαις κατατοξεύσω.	

925-6 are thus arranged in RV (perhaps implying that the two speak simultaneously): in ἥς ἐμνήσθης precedes ἄλιοι μανίας.

933 ἐπιβάλλ- Ν: ἐπιβάλλ- RVn'.

WORSE ARGUMENT:	Oh, the cleverness —	925
BETTER ARGUMENT:	Oh, the lunacy —	
WORSE ARGUMENT:	— of what you've mentioned!	
BETTER ARGUMENT:	— of you, and of a city that feeds you while you corrupt its youth!	
WORSE ARGUMENT:	You're not going to educate this boy, you Cronus!	
BETTER ARGUMENT:	Yes, I am, if he's to be saved, and not to study mere idle blabber.	930
WORSE ARGUMENT [<i>to Pheidippides</i>]:	Come here and leave him to his raving.	
BETTER ARGUMENT:	I'll make you howl if you lay a hand on him!	
CHORUS-LEADER:	Stop your wrangling and abuse. Rather give an exposition, you [<i>to Better Argument</i>] of the teaching you gave to the men of old, and you of the new education, so that he may hear both your opposing arguments, make his decision, and join the appropriate school.	935
BETTER ARGUMENT:	I am willing to do that.	
WORSE ARGUMENT:	And I am willing too.	
CHORUS-LEADER:	All right then, which of you will speak first?	940
WORSE ARGUMENT:	I'll concede my opponent that right; and then, on the basis of what he says, I'll shoot him down with deft new phrases and ideas; and the end will be that if he utters so	
		945

τὸ τελευταῖον δ', ἦν ἀναγριμέη,
τὸ πρόσωπον ἄπαν καὶ τῷφθαλμῷ
κεντούμενος, ὥσπερ ὑπ' ἀνθροῦν,
ὑπὸ τῶν γνωμῶν ἀπολεῖται.

945

Xo. νῦν δεῖξετον τὰ πιστῶν

(στρ.

τοῖς περιδεξίοισιν

950

λόγοισιν καὶ φροντίσιν καὶ
γνωμοτύπεις μερύμναις
όπτερος αὐτοῖν τλέγων ἀμείνωντ
φανῆσεται. νῦν γὰρ ἄπας
ἐνθάδε κύνδυνος ἀνεῖται σοφίας,
ἥς πέρι τοῖς ἐμοῖς φύλοις
ἔστιν ἀγῶν μέγιστος.

955

ἀλλ', ὃ πολλοῖς τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους ἤθεσι χρηστοῖς στεφανώσας,
ῥῆξιν φωνὴν θήτιν χαίρεις, καὶ τὴν σαυτοῦ φύσιν εὔπε. 960

Kp. λέξω τούνυν τὴν ἀρχαῖαν παιδείαν ὡς διέκειτο,
ὅτι ἔγὼ τὰ δύκαια λέγων ἤνθουν καὶ σωφροσύνη ὑνενδύστο.
ἰρῶτον μὲν ἔδει παιεῖδες φωνὴν γρυμξαντος μηδέν' ἀκοῦσαι.
εἴτα βαδύζειν ἐν ταῖσιν ὁδοῖς εύτάχτως εἰς κιθαριστοῦ
τοὺς κωμῆτας γυμνοὺς ἀθρόους, κεί τοι μηδινώδη κατανεύφοι. 965
εἴτι' αὖ προμαθεῖν φίσμ' ἔδειδασκεν, τὰ μηρὼ μὴ ξυνέχοντας,
ἢ "Παλλάδα περσέπολιν δεινὰν" ἢ "τηλέπορόν τι βόαμα",
ἐντειναμένους τὴν ἀρμονίαν ἥν οὐ πατέρες παρέδωκαν.
εἰ δέ τις αὐτᾶν βωμολοχεύσαιτι ἢ κάμψειέν τινα καμπήν, 969

953 τλέγων ἀμείνωντ codd.: ἀμείνων Wilamowitz: perh. e.g. <περιῶν>.

954 φανῆσεται R¹_{n'}: γενῆσεται V: γε φανῆσεται θ².

967 περσέπολιν A Σ^K, Aristides: περσέπτολιν RV_n Σ^{RVEM}, Stobaeus:
Σ^U exhibits both forms.

much as a grunt, then stung by hornets, all over his face and eyes,
he will perish.

CHORUS: Now these two will show, who trust
in their ultra-clever
arguments and thoughts and
phrase-coining cogitations,
which of them will prove himself
<superior>. For now everything
is at stake here for Learning,
in regard to which, for my friends,
this is the crunch.

950

CHORUS-LEADER [*to Better Argument*]: Now, you who
adorned the men of old with abundance of virtuous disposition,
utter forth a sound, that in which you rejoice, and describe your
own nature.

960

BETTER ARGUMENT: Very well, I will describe how the
old education was managed, in the days when I and my just cause
flourished and it was the done thing to be decent. First of all, it
was the rule that not a sound should be heard from a boy, not a
grunt; then, the boys of the neighbourhood had to walk through
the streets to the music-master's together and in good order, and
without cloaks, even if it was snowing as thick as barley groats.
Then again he would teach them to learn a song by heart, and not
to keep their thighs together while doing so — a song such as "Pallas
the terrible, sacker of cities" or "A strain that sounds afar", sing-
ing it in the mode their fathers handed down. And if any of them
played the clown or introduced some convolution such as the mod-

964:

969

971

οῖς οἱ νῦν, τὰς κατὰ φρύνιν ταῦτας τὰς δυσκολοκάμπτους, 971
ἐπετρύβετο τυπτόμενος πολλὰς ὡς τὰς Μούσας ἀφανίζων.

ἐν παιδοτρύβου δὲ καθίζοντας τὸν μηρὸν ἔδει προβαλέσθαι
τοὺς παῖδας, ὅπως τοῖς ἔξωθεν μηδὲν δείξειαν ἀπηνέσ-

εῖτ' αὖ πάλιν αὐθὶς ἀνισταμένους συμψήσαι, καὶ προνοεῖσθαι 975
εἶδωλον τοῖσιν ἐρασταῖσιν τῆς ἥβης μὴ καταλείπειν.

ἥλεύφατο δ' ἂν τούμφαλοῦ οὐδεὶς πᾶς ὑπένερθεν τότ' ἄν, ώστε
τοῖς αὐδούσισι δρόσος καὶ χνοῦς ὥσπερ μῆλοισιν ἐπήνθει.

οὐδ' ἂν μαλακὴν φυρασάμενος τὴν φωνὴν πρὸς τὸν ἐραστὴν
αὔτὸς ἔσυτὸν προσαγγεύων τοῖς ὁρθαλμοῖς ἐβάδιζεν. 980

οὐδ' ἀνελέσθαι δειπνοῦντ' ἔξην κεφάλαιον τῆς ἀφανίδος,
οὐδ' ἀνηποθιον τῶν πρεσβυτέρων ἀρπάζειν οὐδὲ σέλινον,
οὐδὲ ὁφοφαγεῖν, οὐδὲ κιχλίζειν, οὐδὲ ἵσχειν τῷ πόει ἐναλλάξ.

Ητ. ἀρχαῖα γε καὶ Διπολιώδη καὶ τεττύγων ἀνάμεστα
καὶ Κτητεύδου καὶ Βουφονίων.

Κρ. ἀλλ' οὖν ταῦτ' ἔστιν ἐκεῖνα, 985
ἔξ ὃν ἀνδρας Μαραθωνομάχας ἢμὴ παίδευσις ἔθρεψεν.
σὺ δὲ τοὺς νῦν εὐθὺς ἐν ἱματίοισι διδάσκεις ἐντετυλίχθαι.
ώστε μ' ἀπάγχεσθ', δταν, ὀρχεῖσθαι Παναθηναῖοις δέον αὐτούς,
τὴν ἀσπίδα τῆς κωλῆς προέχων ἀμελῇ τῆς Τριτογενεύης.

[970] was a line quoted by the Suda (x296) which Valckenaer inserted here: it is absent from mss., papyri, ancient quotations, and Suda 81650, x2647.

975 ἀνισταμένους n Suda, Stobaeus:]νους π8:]νοις π8 : ἀνιστά-
μενον RV.

982 ἀνηποθιον Dindorf: ἀνηποθον RV Suda, Stobaeus:]θον π8: ὃν
ἀνηποθον n.

985 Κηδ- π8² Suda^V, cf. IG i² 770.3, Et. Mag. 166.4, Photius:
Κηθ- ⁱHesychius: Κειδ- Stobaeus: Κηκ- (Κεκ- Ε λΣΕ, Κυκ-
Ν) π8¹ codd. Suda rell. ΣRVVs1 λΣΕ λSuda.

989 τῆς codd. Stobaeus: τις Ct1^{ac}.

erns use, those annoying twists in the style of Phrynis, he was thrashed hard and often for disfiguring the music. At the gymna-
stic trainer's the boys, when they sat down, had to cover themselves with their thighs, so as not to expose to the onlookers anything that was — cruel; and then, when they stood up again, they had to smooth the sand down, and take care not to leave behind for their lovers the impress of their manhood. In those days, too, no boy would anoint himself below the navel, and so on their private parts there was a coat of dewy down like on quinces; nor would he water down his voice to speak tenderly to his lover, and walk along making eyes and being his own pimp. Nor was he allowed when dining to pick up a head of the radish, nor to snatch his elders' dill or celery, nor to eat dainties, nor to giggle, nor to have his legs crossed.

975

WORSE ARGUMENT: What antiquated rot, smelling of the Dipolieia, and crawling with cicadas, Cedeides and ritual bovicide!

980

BETTER ARGUMENT: But what matters is that these are the ways in which my education bred the men who fought at Marathon. While *you* teach the young of today to swaddle themselves in cloaks right from the start; which makes me choke with rage, when they have to dance at the Panathenaea, and one of them holds his shield in front of his ham, caring nothing for Tritogeneia. So, my lad,

990

πρὸς ταῦτ', ὃ μειράκιον, θαρρῶν ἐμὲ τὸν κρείττω λόγον αἰροῦ.
καὶ πιστήσει μισεῖν ἀγορὰν καὶ βαλανεῖν ἀπέχεσθαι, 991
καὶ τοῖς αἰσχροῖς αἰσχύνεσθαι, καὶ σκώπη τές σε φλέγεσθαι,
καὶ τῶν θάκων τοῖς πρεσβυτέροις ὑπανέστασθαι προσιοῦσιν,
καὶ μὴ περὶ τοὺς σαυτοῦ γονέας σκαλουργεῖν, ἄλλο τε μηδὲν
αἰσχρὸν ποιεῖν, διὰ τῆς Αὔδούς μέλλει τάγαλμ' τάνατολήσειν·
μηδ' εὖς ὄρχηστρόδος ἐισφέττειν, ἵνα μὴ πρὸς ταῦτα κεχηνῶς 996
μῆλψ βληθεῖς ὑπὸ πορνοῦδον τῆς εὐκλείας ἀποθραυσθῆς.
μηδ' ἀντειπεῖν τῷ πατρὶ μηδέν, μηδ' Ἰαπετὸν καλέσαντα
μνησικακῆσαι τὴν ἡλικίαν, ἐξ οὗ ἔνεοττοτροφήθης.

Ητ. εἰ ταῦτ', ὃ μειράκιον, πεῖσει τούτῳ, νὴ τὸν Διόνυσον 1000
τοῖς Ἰπποκράτους υἱεσιν εἶξεις, καὶ σε καλοῦσι βλιτομάμμαν.

Κρ. ἀλλ' οὖν λιπαρός γε καὶ εὐανθῆς ἐν γυμνασίοις διατρύψεις,
οὐ σταμάλλων κατὰ τὴν ἀγορὰν τριβολεκτράπελ', οἶάπερ οὐ νῦν,
οὐδ' ἐλκόμενος περὶ πραγματίου γλισχραντιλογεξεπιτρίπτου· 1005
ἀλλ' εὖς Ἀκαδημείαν κατιών ὑπὸ ταῖς μορίαις ἀποθρέξει
στεφανωσάμενος καλάμψ γλαυκῷ μετὰ σωφρονος ἡλικιώτου,
μέλακος δέων καὶ ἀπραγμοσύνης καὶ λεύκης φυλλοβολούσης,
ἥρος ἐν ὕδρᾳ χαύρων, δόπταν τλάτανος πτελέᾳ φιθυρέῃ.
ἢν ταῦτα ποιῆις ἀγὼν φράζω
καὶ πρὸς τούτοισιν ἔχης τὸν νοῦν, 1010

995 μέλλει Σ^V Suda $\Sigma(i)^E$: μέλλεις codd. Suda, $i\Sigma(ii)^E$, Stobaeus.

995 τάνατολήσειντ $RVEK\theta^1$ Suda, Stobaeus: ἀναπλάσειν $N\theta^2$: ἀναπλάσσειν
Thom.: perh. παλάξειν (παλάσσειν Kock), cf. Σ^E μολύνειν.

1005 ἀποθρ- Rn^1 Suda, Stobaeus, Σ Soph. O.C. 701: ὑποθρ- E:
καταθρ- V.

1006 γλαυκῷ Cantarella: om. RV: λευκῷ η Suda, Stobaeus.

1010 τούτοισιν ἔχης Bergk: τουτοῦ πλ: τούτοις (ταῦτης θ^{ac})
προσέχης codd.

choose me, the Better Argument, with confidence; and you will know to hate the Agora and shun the bath-houses, and to be ashamed of what is shameful, and to flare up when someone makes fun of you, and to give up seats to your elders when they approach, and not to act rudely towards your own parents, nor to do anything else disgraceful that would <defile> the statue of Honour; nor to rush into a dancing-girl's house, lest while you're panting after that sort of thing you may have an apple thrown at you by a little whore and so have your good name shattered; nor to contradict your father in anything, nor to call him Iapetus and so cast his years in his teeth, those years which were spent in rearing you from a nestling.

995

WORSE ARGUMENT: If you follow this advice of his, my lad, then, by Dionysus, you'll become like the sons of Hippocrates, and they'll call you a pap-sucker.

1000

BETTER ARGUMENT: But you'll be spending your time in gymnasia, with a gleaming, blooming body, not in outlandish chatter on thorny subjects in the Agora like the present generation, nor in being dragged into court over some sticky, contentious, damnable little dispute; no, you will go down to the Academy, and under the sacred olive-trees, wearing a chaplet of green reed, you will start a race together with a good decent companion of your own age, fragrant with green-brier and catkin-shedding poplar and freedom from cares, delighting in the season of spring, when the plane tree whispers to the elm.

1005

If you do these things I tell you, and bend your efforts to them,

1010

ἔξεις ἀεὶ

στῆθος λιπαρόν, χροιὰν λαμπράν,
ῶμους μεγάλους, γλῶτταν βαλάν,
πυγὴν μεγάλην, πόσθην μικράν.

ἢν δ' ἄπερ οὐ νῦν ἐπιτηδεύῃς,

1015

πρῶτα μὲν ἔξεις

χροιὰν ὡχράν, ὕμους μικρούς,

στῆθος λεπτόν, γλῶτταν μεγάλην,

πυγὴν μικράν, κωλῆν μεγάλην,

ψῆφισμα μακρόν· καὶ σ' ἀναπείσει

τὸ μὲν αἰσχρὸν δύπαν καλὸν ἡγεῖσθαι,

1020

τὸ καλὸν δ' αἰσχρόν,

καὶ πρὸς τούτοις τῆς Ἀντιμάχου

καταπυγοσύνης ἀναπλήσει.

Xo. ᾖ καλλέπυργον σοφίαν

(ἀντ.

κλεινοτάτην ἐπασκᾶν,

1025

ὧς ἡδὺ σου τοῖσι λόγοις

σῶφρον ἐπεστιν ἄνθος.

εύδαιμονές γ' ἡσαν ἄρ' οὐ

ζῶντες τότ' ἐκὶ τῶν προτέρων.

πρὸς τάδε σ', ᾖ κομφοκρεκῇ μοῦσαν ἔχων,

1030

δεῖ σε λέγειν τι καινόν, ᾖς

ηύδοκεύμηκεν ἀνήρ.

δεινῶν δέ σοι βουλευμάτων ἔοικε δεῖν πρὸς αὔτον,
εἴπερ τὸν ἄνδρ' ὑπερβαλεῖ καὶ μὴ γέλωτ' ὁφλήσεις.

1035

1028 γ' Blaydes: δ' codd.

1030 τάδε σ' Hall & Geldart: οὖν τάδε' codd.

you will always have a shining breast, a bright skin, big shoulders,
a minute tongue, a big rump and a small prick. But if you follow
the practices of the youth of today, for a start you'll have a pale
skin, small shoulders, a skinny chest, a big tongue, a small rump, a
big ham and a long . . . winded decree; and he [*indicating the Worse
Argument*] will talk you into believing whatever is foul to be fair,
and whatever is fair foul; and on top of that he will infect you with
the faggotry of Antimachus.

1015

CHORUS: You who perfect yourself in wisdom,
wisdom the glorious, the fair and lofty,
how sweet on your words
is the bloom of virtue!
Happy indeed, I see, were they
who lived then, in the time of the men of old.

1020

[*To the Worse Argument*]

In answer to this, you with your refined and
plausible art
will have to say something novel; for
the man has won great credit.

1025

CHORUS-LEADER: It seems you will need some clever
schemes against him, if you are going to overcome the man and not
be a laughing-stock.

1035

- Ητ. καὶ μὴν τάλαι γ' ἐκνυγμην τὰ σπλάγχνα κάπεθίμουν
διπαντα ταῦτ' ἐναντίας γνώμαισι συνταράδαι.
έγὼ γὰρ ήττων μὲν λόγος δι' αὐτὸν τοῦτ' ἐκλήθην
ἐν τοῖσι φροντισταῖσιν, διτε πρώτος ἐπενόσσα
τοῖσιν νόμοις καὶ ταῖς δύκαιαις τάναντύ' ἀντιλεῖσαι. 1040
καὶ τοῦτο πλεῖν ἦ μυρίων ἔστ' ἀξιον στατήρων,
αὐρούμενον τοὺς ήττονας λόγους ἐπελτα νικᾶν.
σκέψαι δὲ τὴν παίδευσιν, οὐ πέτοιθεν, ὡς ἐλέγξω.
διτις σε θερμῷ φησι λούσθαι πρῶτον οὐκ ἐδσειν.
καύτοι τύνα γνώμην ἔχων φέγεις τὰ θερμὰ λουτρά; 1045
- Κρ. διτὴ κάκιστην ἔστι καὶ δειλὸν ποιεῖ τὸν ἄνδρα.
- Ητ. ἐπύσχεις· εὔθὺς γάρ σε μέσον ἔχω λαβῆν ἀφυκτον.
καὶ μοι φράσον· τῶν τοῦ Διὸς καίδων τύν'. ἄνδρ' ἄριστον
ψυχὴν νομίζεις, εἰπε, καὶ πλεύστους πόνους πονῆσαι;
- Κρ. ἔγὼ μὲν οὐδένι' 'Ηρακλέους βελτίουν' ἀνέρα κρίνω. 1050
- Ητ. ποῦ ψυχρὰ δῆτα πάποτ' εἶδες 'Ηράκλεια λουτρά;
καύτοι τύς ἀνδρειστερος ήν;
- Κρ. ταῦτ' ἔστὶ ταῦτ' ἔχεινα,
ἢ τῶν νεανίσκων ἀεὶ δι' ἡμέρας λαλούντων
πληρεις τὸ βαλανεῖον ποιεῖ, κενὰς δὲ τὰς παλαίστρας.
- Ητ. εἶτ' ἐν ἀγορᾷ τὴν διατριβὴν φέγεις· ἔγὼ δ' ἐπαυλῶ. 1055
εἰ γὰρ πουηρὸν ήν, "Ομηρος οὐδέποτ' ἀν ἐποίει
τὸν Νέστορ' ἀγορητὴν ἀν, οὐδὲ τοὺς σοφοὺς δικαντας.
- 1036 τάλαι γ' Thom.: ἔγωγ' RV: τάλαι γ' ἔγωγ' E^{pc}_{ac} Κθ: τάλ' ἔγωγ'
vel sim. E^{ac} Κθ: τάλαι 'γὼ Bentley.
- 1046 δειλὸν Thom.: δειλότατον codd.
- 1047 λαβῆν W.H. Thompson: λαβῶν codd. Suda.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Well, actually I've been choking in my insides for some time with eagerness to make mincemeat of all this by counter-arguments. For it was for just this reason that I got the name of Worse Argument among the men of thought, because I was the first who conceived the notion of arguing in contradiction to established values and justified pleas. [*To Pheidippides*] And that is worth more than ten thousand staters, to be able to choose the inferior case and yet win. Look at the way I shall examine the education in which he puts his trust. He says that first of all he won't let you bathe in hot water. Now [*to Better Argument*] on what principle do you base your objection to hot baths?

1040

BETTER ARGUMENT: That they are a most unmanly thing, and make the man who takes them a coward.

1045

WORSE ARGUMENT: Hold it! Right away I've got you held round the waist in a grip you can't escape. Now tell me: of the sons of Zeus, whom do you consider to have been the greatest-hearted man, tell me, and to have performed the most labours?

BETTER ARGUMENT: For my part, I reckon no man superior to Heracles.

1050

WORSE ARGUMENT: Well then, where have you ever seen Heraclean baths that were cold? And yet who was more manly than he?

BETTER ARGUMENT: That – that's the stuff that the young men are always blabbering about all day, which makes the bath-house full and the wrestling-schools empty.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Then you object to their frequenting the Agora; I, on the contrary, commend it. If it were something wicked, Homer would never have described Nestor and indeed all his men of wisdom as "agoretes". Well, from there I shall proceed

1055

δίνειμι δῆτ' ἐντεῦθεν εἰς τὴν γλῶτταν, ἦν δὲν μὲν
οὐ φησι χρῆναι τὸν νέους ἀσκεῖν· ἐγὼ δέ φημι.
καὶ σωφρονεῖν αὖ φησι χρῆναι· δύο κακῶ μεγύστω. 1060
ἔπει τὸν διὰ τὸ σωφρονεῖν τῷ πώποτ' εἶδες ήδη
ἀγαθὸν τὸ γενόμενον; φράσον, καί μ' ἔξελεγξον εὐπῶν.

Κρ. πολλοῖς. ὁ γοῦν Πηλεὺς ἔλαβεν διὰ τοῦτο τὴν μάχαιραν.

Ητ. μάχαιραν; ἀστεῖόν γε κέρδος ἔλαβεν ὁ κακοδαίμων.
'Υπερβολος δ' οὐκ τῶν λύχνων πλεῖν ἢ τάλαντα κολλᾷ 1065
εῖληφε διὰ πονηρίαν, ἀλλ' οὐ μὰ Δέν' οὐδὲ μάχαιραν.

Κρ. καὶ τὴν θέτιν γ' ἔγημε διὰ τὸ σωφρονεῖν ὁ Πηλεὺς.

Ητ. κῆτ' ἀπολιποῦσά γ' αὐτὸν φέχετ'; οὐ γὰρ ἦν ὑβριστής,
οὐδὲ ήδυς ἐν τοῖς στρώμασιν τὴν υγκτὰ παννυχίζειν.
γυνὴ δὲ σιναμωρουμένη χαίρει. σὺ δ' εἰ Κρόνιππος. 1070
σκέψαι γάρ, ὃ μειράκιον, ἐν τῷ σωφρονεῖν ἀπαντά¹
ἀνεστιν, ήδονᾶν θ' ὅσων μέλλεις ἀποστερεῖσθαι.
καύδων, γυναικῶν, κοττάβων, ὄφων, πότων, καχασμῶν.
καύτοι τούς σοι ζῆν δίξιον, τούτων ἐάν στερηθῆσ;

εἰέν. πάρειμ! ἐντεῦθεν εἰς τὰς τῆς φύσεως ἀνάγκας. 1075
ἥμαρτες, ἡρδοσθης, ἐμούχευσμάς τι, κῆτ' ἐλήφθης.
ἀκόλωλας· ἀδύνατος γὰρ εἰ λέγειν. ἐμοὶ δ' ὅμιλῶν
χρῶ τῇ φύσει, σκέρτα, γέλα, νόμιζε μηδὲν αἰσχρόν.
μοιχδός γὰρ ἦν τύχης ἀλούμις, τάδ' ἀντερεῖς πρὸς αὐτόν,
ώς οὐδὲν ήδεκηκας· εἰτ' εἰς τὸν Δέν' ἐπανενεγκεῖν, 1080
κάκεινος ὡς ηττῶν ἔρωτός ἐστι καὶ γυναικῶν.

1064 γε VEK: γε τὸ Ν: τὸ ΡΘ.

1066 εἶληφε was aspirated in Attic: see Threatte
i 463.

1073 καχασμῶν R: κιχλισμῶν Vn ^{RV}.

1076 τι κῆτ' Bentley: τι κατ- (τι δέν· κατ- ^{θ²} Tricl.) codd.

to the tongue, which my opponent says it is not right for the young to train: I say it is right. And again, he says one should be modest: that makes two pernicious evils. For [*to Better Argument*] who is there that you have ever yet seen to derive any benefit from being modest? Say who, and by naming him refute me.

1060

BETTER ARGUMENT: Plenty of people. For example, Peleus got his knife because of that.

WORSE ARGUMENT: A knife? A charming profit the poor devil made! Now Hyperbolus from the lamp market has made a whole load of talents by being wicked, but never a knife, by Zeus, no!

1065

BETTER ARGUMENT: And also Peleus got to marry Thetis because of his virtue.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Yes, and then she left him and went away, because he wasn't wanton and wasn't an enjoyable partner for an all-night session under the covers. A woman enjoys being mauled. Your're just a hulking old Cronus. [*To Pheidippides*] Look, my lad, at all that virtue entails, and all the pleasures you'll be deprived of: boys, women, cottabus, good food, drink, laughter. How can life be worth living for you if you're deprived of these? Very well; I will go on from there to the demands of nature. You've erred, you've fallen in love, you've had a bit of an affair, and then you've been caught. You're done for, because you're not able to argue.

1070

But if you become my pupil you can indulge your nature, leap and laugh, think nothing shameful. If by chance you are taken in adultery, this is what you will reply to the husband: that you have done nothing wrong. Then transfer the responsibility to Zeus, saying that even he is a slave to love and women, and how can you, a

1075

1080

- καύτοι σὺ θυητὸς ὃν θεοῦ πᾶς μεῖζον ἀν δύνατο;
- Κρ. τέ δ', οὐδαμανιδωθῆ πιθόμενός σοι τέφρα τε τελθῆ;
ἔξει τινὰ γυνώμην λέγειν τὸ μὴ εὔρυπρωκτος εἶναι;
- Ητ. Φίν δ' εὔρυπρωκτος οὐ, τέ πεύσεται κακόν; 1085
- Κρ. τέ μὲν οὖν ἀν ἔτι μεῖζον κάθοι τουτού ποτέ;
- Ητ. τέ δῆτ' ἐρεῖς, οὐ τοῦτο νικηθῆς ἐμοῦ;
- Κρ. σιγήσομαί τέ δ' ἀλλο;
- Ητ. φέρε δῆ μοι φράσσον·
συνηγοροῦσιν ἐκ τίνων;
- Κρ. ἐξ εὔρυπρωκτῶν.
- Ητ. πεύσομαί τέ δαί; τραγῳδοῦσ' ἐκ τίνων; 1090
- Κρ. ἐξ εὔρυπρωκτῶν.
- Ητ. εῦ λέγεις.
δημηγοροῦσι δ' ἐκ τίνων;
- Κρ. ἐξ εὔρυπρωκτῶν.
- Ητ. ἀρα δῆτ'
ἔγνωκας ὡς οὐδὲν λέγεις;
καὶ τῶν θεατῶν δύπτεροι
πλεύσουσ σκόπει. 1095
- Κρ. καὶ δὴ σκοπῶ.
- Ητ. τέ δῆτ' ὄρφες;
- Κρ. πολὺ πλεύσοντας, νὴ τοὺς θεούς,

1083 πιθόμενός θ: πιθόμενός ΡΙΕΚ: πιθόμενός Ν.

mortal, be stronger than a god?

BETTER ARGUMENT: But what if, as a result of following your advice, he gets the radish treatment and is plucked and singed with ashes? Will he have any argument he can use to save himself from being wide-arsed?

WORSE ARGUMENT: And if he does become wide-arsed, how will that harm him? 1085

BETTER ARGUMENT: You mean, what further misfortune could he ever suffer that would be greater than that?

WORSE ARGUMENT: Well, what will you say if I confute you on this point?

BETTER ARGUMENT: I'll remain silent; what else?

WORSE ARGUMENT: Come on then, tell me: from what type of person do advocates come?

BETTER ARGUMENT: From the wide-arsed. 1090

WORSE ARGUMENT: I agree. Again, from what type do tragedians come?

BETTER ARGUMENT: From the wide-arsed.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Quite right. And from what type do politicians come?

BETTER ARGUMENT: From the wide-arsed.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Then do you realize that you were talking nonsense? Again, look and see which are in the majority among the audience. 1095

BETTER ARGUMENT: There, I'm looking.

WORSE ARGUMENT: Well, what do you see?

BETTER ARGUMENT: That, heavens above! the wide-arsed

τοὺς εύρυπρώκτους. τουτονὶ¹
γοῦν οἶδι² ἐγὼ κάκεινονὶ³
καὶ τὸν κομῆτην τουτονί⁴.

1100

Ητ. τι' δῆτι⁵ ἔρεῖς;

Κρ. ἡττήμεθι⁶. ἢ κινοῦμενοι,
πρὸς τῶν θεῶν δέξασθε⁷ μου
θοέματον, ὡς
ἔξαυτομολῶ πρὸς ὑμᾶς.

Ητ. τι' δῆτα; πότερα τοῦτον ἀπάγεσθαι λαβῶν
βουλεύει τὸν υἱόν, ἢ διδάσκω σοι λέγειν;

Στ. δύνασκε καὶ κολαζε, καὶ μέμνησ⁸ δπως
εὗ μοι στομάσεις αὐτὸν, ἐπὶ μὲν θάτερα
οἷον δικιδόνοις, τὴν δι' ἐτέραν αὐτοῦ γνάθον
στόμασον οὖν εἰς τὰ μείζω πράγματα.

1105

1110

Ητ. ἀμέλει, κομιεῖ τοῦτον σοφιστὴν δεξιόν.

Φε. ὥχρὸν μὲν οὖν, οἴματ⁹ γε, καὶ κακοδαύμονα.

Χο. χωρεῖτε νῦν. οἴματ¹⁰ δέ σοι
ταῦτα μεταμελήσειν.

τοὺς κριτὰς ἢ κερδανοῦσιν, ἦν τι τόνδε τὸν χορὸν
ἀφελῶσ¹¹ ἔχ τῶν δικαίων, βουλόμεσθι¹² ἡμεῖς φράσαι.

1115

πρῶτα μὲν γάρ, ἦν νεᾶν βουλησθ¹³ ἐν ὕρᾳ τοὺς ἄγρούς,
ὕσομεν πρωτοισιν ὑμῖν, τοῖσι δι' ἄλλοις ὑστερον.
εἶτα τὸν καρπόν τε καὶ τὰς ἀμπέλους φυλάξομεν,
ῶστε μήτ¹⁴ αὐχμὸν πλεῖστον μήτ¹⁵ δῆγαν ἐπομβούσαν.

1120

1109 οἶον ⁱ_{Σ(i)}^V: οὖν codd. Suda ⁱ_Σ^{REMNp1Np5} ^λ_Σ^{EMNp5} ⁱ_{Σ(ii)}^V.

1116 ἡμεῖς RV: ὑμεῖς K: ὑμῖν ΕΘ: ἡμῖν N.

1119 τε καὶ τὰς Coraes: τεκούσας τὰς N: τεκούσας RVn'.

are the *vast* majority. At any rate, I know *that* one is, and that one over there, and that one with the long hair.

1100

WORSE ARGUMENT: Well, what are you going to say?

BETTER ARGUMENT: We are defeated. Here, you buggers, please for heaven's sake take my cloak; I'm deserting to your camp!
[He throws his cloak to the Worse Argument and rushes into the Refectory.]

WORSE ARGUMENT [*to Strepsiades*]: Well, how about it? Do you want to take this son of yours away, or shall I teach him oratory for you?

1105

STREPSIADES: Teach him and chastise him, and remember to give him a sharp edge, with one side adapted to small lawsuits, while the other side of his jaws you should whet to serve for weightier affairs.

1110

WORSE ARGUMENT: Don't worry, you'll receive him back a skilled sophist.

PHEIDIPIIDES [*aside*]: More like a god-forsaken paleface, I should think.

CHORUS: Now go your way.

[*The Worse Argument leads Pheidippides into the Refectory; the Chorus turn towards Strepsiades, who is entering his own house.*]

But I think that you
will come to regret this.

CHORUS-LEADER: We wish to tell you how the judges will benefit, if they do this chorus a service as by rights they should. First of all, if you wish to plough and sow your fields in season, we shall rain on you first and on everyone else later. Then we shall protect your crops and your vines, so that they are not damaged either by drought or by excessive rain. But if anyone who is a mortal

1115

1120

ἥν δ' ἀτιμάσῃ τις ἡμᾶς θητὸς ἀν οὗσας θεᾶς,
προσεχέτω τὸν νοῦν, πρὸς ἡμῶν οἶα πεύσεται κακό,
λαμβάνων οὕτ' οἶνον οὕτ' ἄλλ' οὐδὲν ἐκ τοῦ χωρίου·
ἥντι' ἀν γάρ αἰ τ' ἔλαται βλαστάνωσ' αἰ τ' ἀμπελοι,
ἀποκεκριφούται· τοιαῦταις σφενδόναις παιῆσομεν.

1125

ἥν δὲ πλινθεῖοντ' ἔδωμεν, ὕσομεν καὶ τοῦ τέγους
τὸν κέραμον αὐτοῦ χαλάζαις στρογγύλαις συντρίψομεν.
κἄν γαμῇ ποτ! αὐτὸς ἦ τῶν ξυγγενῶν ή τῶν φύλων,
ὕσομεν τὴν υἱήτα κᾶσαν· πῶστ! ζῶσας βουλήσεται
κἄν ἐν Αἴγυπτῳ τυχεῖν ἀν μᾶλλον ἢ χρῆναι κακῶς.

1130

Στ. πέμπτη, τετράς, τρίτη, μετὰ ταῦτην δευτέρᾳ·
εἶθ', ἥν ἐγὼ μάλιστα πασῶν ἡμερῶν
δεῖδοικα καὶ πέφρικα καὶ βδελύτομαί,
εὐθὺς μετὰ ταῦτην ἔσθ' ἔνη τε καὶ νέα.
πᾶς γάρ τις ὁμοίς, οἷς ὀφείλων τυχάνω,
θεῖς μοι πρυτανεῖ' ἀπολεῖν μέ φησι κάξιολεῖν,
ἐμοῦ τε μέτρια καὶ δίκαια' αἴτουμένου,
"ὦ δαιμόνιε, τὸ μέν τι νυνὶ μὴ λαβθῆς,
τὸ δ' ἀναβαλοῦ μοι, τὸ δ' ἄφες," οὕ φασίν ποτε
οὔτεις ἀπολήψεσθ', ἀλλὰ λοιδοροῦσύ με
ώς ἄδικός είμι, καὶ δικάσεσθαί φασύ μοι.
νῦν οὖν δικαζέσθων· ὀλύγον γάρ μοι μέλει,
εἴπερ μεμάθηκεν εὖ λέγειν φειδεππύδης.
τάχα δ' εἶσομαί κρίψας τὸ φροντιστήριον.
παῖ, ἡμέρα, παῖ παῖ.

1135

1140

Σω. Στρεψιάδην ἀσπάζομαί.

1145

1124 ἥντι' ἀν U al.: ἥντικα RVn.

1137 τε μέτρια Green: μέτρια τε codd.

1141 δικάσεσθαί θ: δικάσασθαί RVn'.

dishonours us who are goddesses, let him pay attention and hear what evil he will suffer at our hands: he will get neither wine nor anything else from his land; for when the olives and vines are sprouting, the shoots will be cut off, such will be the sling-shots with which we'll smite them. And if we see him making bricks, we will rain, and shatter the tiling of his roof with round hailstones. And if at any time he himself, or one of his relations or friends, is getting married, we shall rain the whole night long; so that perhaps he will wish even to find himself in Egypt rather than having given a wrong verdict.

1125

1130

[*Strepsiades comes out of his house.*]

STREPSIADES [*counting on his fingers*]: Twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, then twenty-ninth; then comes the day that I dread above all days, that makes me shudder, that turns my stomach — for right after that comes Old-and-New Day. For every one to whom I find myself in debt swears that he will lodge a deposit against me and crush and destroy me; and when I make modest and fair requests of them — “My dear sir, this sum don’t insist on receiving now, this one put off, please, this one wipe out” — they say they’ll never accept that kind of payment, and instead abuse me as dishonest and say they’ll sue me. Well, now let them sue; Little do I care, if Pheidippides has really learned to be a good speaker. I’ll soon know, if I knock at the Refectory. [*Doing so*] Boy, I say! boy, boy!

1135

1140

1145

SOCRATES [*coming to the door*]: Greeting, Strepsiades.

Στ. οᾶγαγέ σ'. ἀλλὰ τουτονὶ πρῶτον λαβε·
χρὴ γὰρ ἐπιθαυμάζειν τι τὸν διδάσκαλον.
καύ μοι τὸν υἱόν, εἰ μεμάθηκε τὸν λόγον
ἔκεινον, εἶφ', ὃν ἀρτώως εὐσῆγαγες.

Σω. μεμάθηκεν.

Στ. εὖ γ', ὃ παμβασίλει! Ἀπαυδλη. 1150

Σω. ὥστ' ἀποφύγοις ἂν ἤντιν' ἂν βούλῃ δέκην.

Στ. κεύ μάρτυρες παρῆσαν δτ' ἐδανειζόμην;

Σω. πολλῷ γε μᾶλλον, καν παρᾶσι λέλιοι.

Στ. βοδσουματ τάρα τὰν ὑπέρτονδν

βοάν. λώ, κλαετ', ὕβολοστάται,
αύτοί τε καὶ τάρχαῖα καὶ τόκοι τόκων.
ούδὲν γὰρ ἄν με φλαῦρον ἐργάσαισθ' ἔτι.

οὗσος ἐμοὶ τρέφεται
τοῖσδ' ἐνὶ δῆμασι παῖς,
ἀμφίκει γλώττῃ λάμπων,
πρόσβολος ἐμσ, σωτήρ δῆμοις, ἐχθροῖς βλάβη,
λυσανίας πατρῷων μεγάλων κακῶν.

δν κάλεσον τρέχων ἔνδοθεν ὡς ἐμε.
ὦ τέχνον, ὃ παῖ, ἔξελθ' οἶκων.
ἄλε σοῦ πατρός.

Σω. δδ' ἔκεινος ἀνήρ.

Στ. ὃ φύλος, ὃ φύλος.

Σω. ἀπιθέ σφε λαβῶν.

1157 ἐργάσαισθ' M: ἐργάσεσθ' RVE^{ac}Kθ Suda^{rell.}: ἐργάσησθ' E^{pc}N:
ἐργάσασθ' Suda^{GVM}.

1169 σφε λαβῶν Sommerstein: σὺ λαβῶν η: λαβῶν τὸν υἱόν σου RV.

STREPSIADES: The same to you. But please accept this first of all [*giving him a present*]; one must in some way pay one's respects to the teacher. And tell me if my son has learnt that Argument, the one you brought on stage a little while ago.

SOCRATES: He has.

1150

STREPSIADES: Almighty Fraud, how splendid!

SOCRATES: So you'll be able to defend sucessfully any lawsuit you like.

STREPSIADES: Even if there were witnesses present when I borrowed the money?

SOCRATES: Much more than that: even if there are a thousand of them.

STREPSIADES:

Then I will shout an exceeding great shout. Oho! lament, ye moneylenders, yourselves, your principal, and the interest on your interest!

1155

For no more can you do me any harm, such is the son that is being reared for me within these halls, gleaming with two-edged tongue, a bulwark to me, a saviour to my house, a bane to my foes, who will dispel the grief of his father's great troubles. Run and call him to me from within.

1160

[*Socrates goes inside.*]

My child, my son, come forth from the house; hearken to thy father.

1165

SOCRATES [*bringing Pheidippides out*]:
Here is the man you seek.

STREPSIADES:

Beloved, beloved!

SOCRATES:

Take him and depart.

- Στ. ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, τέκνου. 1170
 οὐσίας.
 ὡς ἕδομαι σου πρῶτα τὴν χροιὰν ὑδάν.
 νῦν μέν γ' ὑδεῖν εἰς πρῶτον ἔξαρνηταις
 κάντιλογικός, καὶ τοῦτο τούπιχωριον
 ἀτεχνῶς ἐπάνθει, τὸ "τού λέγεις σύ;" καὶ δοκεῖν
 ἀδικοῦντ' ἀδικεῖσθαι, καὶ κακουργοῦντ', οἶδ' δτο. 1175
 νῦν οὖν διπλασίας σώσεις μ', ἐπεὶ κάπωλεσσας. 1177
- Φε. φοβεῖται δὲ δὴ τοῦ;
- Στ. τὴν ἔνην τε καὶ νέαν.
- Φε. ἔνη γάρ ἐστι καὶ νέα τις ἡμέρα;
- Στ. εἰς τὸν γε θήσειν τὰ πρυτανεῖα φασί μοι. 1180
- Φε. ἀπολοῦσιν ἄρα αὕτη οὐ τούτες· οὐ γάρ ἔσθι διπλασίας μού τὴν γένοιτο τὸν γένοιτο δύο.
- Στ. οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο;
- Φε. πῶς γάρ; εἰ μή πέρ γ' ἀμαρτία αὐτὴ γένοιτο τὸν γραῦς τε καὶ νέα γυνή.
- Στ. καὶ μὴν νενόμισται γ'.
 Φε. οὐ γάρ, οἶμαι, τὸν νόμον 1185
 ζεσασιν δρθῶς δὲ τοι νοεῖ.
- Στ. νοεῖ δὲ τοῦ;
- Φε. ἡ Σολωνὸς διπλασίας ἦν φιλόδοκος τὴν φύσιν.

1170 V adds ὑπὸ before οὐσίας (sic).

1176] ἐπὶ τοῦ προσώπου τὸν ἔστιν Ἀττικὸν βλέπος vel sim. codd.

Suda, ^{RVE} Wealth 342, Gregory of Corinth: del. Dover:
 possibly an author's variant for 1173-5 (cf. on 653).

STREPSIADES: Hurrah, hurrah, my child!

1170

[*Socrates goes in, leaving Strepsiades with his son.*]

STREPSIADES: Wowee! How delighted I am right away to see the colour of your skin! Now the first glance shows you to be traversive and contradictive, and that national look absolutely blooms on your face, the “what-do-you-mean?” look, the wronged look when you’re in the wrong, even when you’re committing felony, I’m certain. Now then see that you save me, since it was you that ruined me.

1175

PHEIDIPIIDES: And what may you be afraid of?

STREPSIADES: Old-and-New Day.

PHEIDIPIIDES: You mean there’s a day that’s both old and new?

1180

STREPSIADES: Yes, that’s the day when they say they’ll lodge their deposits against me.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Then those who do so will lose their deposits; for there’s no way that one day can come to be two days.

STREPSIADES: It can’t?

PHEIDIPIIDES: How could it? Unless it’s possible for the same person to be an old crone and a young woman at the same time.

STREPSIADES: And yet that’s the practice.

1185

PHEIDIPIIDES: The thing is, I think, that they don’t know what the law properly means.

STRPSIADES: Well, what does it mean?

PHEIDIPIIDES: Old Solon was by disposition a friend of the people.

Στ. τουτὶ μὲν οὐδέν πω πρὸς ἔνην τε καὶ νέαν.

Φε. ἐκεῖνος οὖν τὴν κλῆσιν εἰς δύ' ἡμέρας
ἔθηκεν, εὗς γε τὴν ἔνην τε καὶ νέαν,
ἕν' αὐτὸς εἶπεν τῇ νουμηνίᾳ.

1190

Στ. ἕνα δὴ τέ τὴν ἔνην προσεθηκεῖ;

Φε. ἕν', ὅ μελε,
παράντες οὖν φεύγοντες ἡμέρᾳ μιᾷ
πρότερον ἀπαλλάξτοινθ' ἐκβάντες, εἰς δὲ μή,
ἔωθεν ὑπαυτῆντο τῇ νουμηνίᾳ.

1195

Στ. πῶς οὐδέχονται δῆτα τῇ νουμηνίᾳ
ἀρχὰν τὰ πρυτανεῖαν ἀλλ' ἔνη τε καὶ νέα;

Φε. δπερ οὖν προτένθαι, γὰρ δοκοῦσί μοι παθεῖν·
δπως τάχιστα τὰ πρυτανεῖαν ὑφελοῖσατο,
διὰ τοῦτο προτείνθευσαν ἡμέρᾳ μιᾷ.

1200

Στ. εὖ γ'. ὁ κακοδαίμονες, τούτοις δέδησθεντος,
ἡμέτερα κέεδη τῶν σοφῶν, δύντες λέθοις,
ἀριθμός, πρόσθιαν ἀλλως, ἀμφορῆς νενημένοι;
ῶστε εἰς ἐμαυτὸν καὶ τὸν υἱὸν τουτονί^ν
ἐπ' εὔτυχίασιν φέστεον μούγκωμιον.

1205

"μάκαρ ὁ Στρεψίαδες,
αύτος τούτος ἔφυς ὡς σοφός
χοῖον τὸν υἱὸν τρέφεις,"
φέρουσι δῆ μὲν οὖν φύλοι
χοῖον δημόσιαν
εηλοῦντες, ἥντες ἄν σὺ νε-

1210

1198 παθεῖν η, Athenaeus: ποεῖν RV.

1203 νενημένοι Bentley: νενησμένοι codd.: Suda.

STREPSIADES: So far that's nothing to do with Old-and-New Day.

PHEIDIPPIDES: So he fixed the summons for two days, namely Old Day and New Day, so that the lodging of the deposits should take place on the New Moon.

1189.
1190

STREPSIADES: And why did he name Old Day as well?

PHEIDIPPIDES: In order, my good fellow, that the defendants might appear one day in advance and settle the case voluntarily, and if they did not, might be made to feel a bit uneasy on the morning of the New Moon.

1195

STREPSIADES: Then why do the magistrates not accept deposits on the New Moon, but only on Old-and-New Day?

PHEIDIPPIDES: I think they're in the same position as the Tasters: in order to embezzle the deposits as soon as possible, they've been tasting them one day early.

1200

STREPSIADES: Splendid! [To the audience] You poor fools, why are you sitting there like dunces, ripe for fleecing by us intellectuals? You're stones, ciphers, mere sheep, a heap of earthenware! – Now I ought to sing a song of praise to myself and my son here over this good fortune.

1205

“O blest Strepsiades,
how clever you are yourself
and what a son you're bringing up!”
– so my friends and my fellow-demesmen
will say of me
in envy, when you win

1210

καὶ λέγων τὰς δύνας.

ἀλλ' εἰσάγων σε βουλομαι
πρῶτον ἔστιδσας.

ΧΡΗΣΤΗΣ Α

ειτ' ἀνδρα τῶν αὐτοῦ τι χρὴ προεῖναι;
οὐδέποτε γ', ἀλλὰ κρείττον εὔθὺς ήν τότε
ἀπερυθριᾶσαι μᾶλλον ἢ σχεῖν πράγματα,
ὅτε τῶν ἐμαυτοῦ γ' ἔνεκα νυνὶ χρημάτων
ἔλκω σε κλητεύσοντα, καὶ γενήσομαι
ἔχθρὸς ἔτι πρὸς τούτοισιν ἀνδρὶ δημόσῃ.
ἄταρ οὐδέποτε γε τὴν πατρέαν καταισχυνῶ
εὖν, ἀλλὰ καλοῦμαι Στρεψιάδην—

1215

1220

Στ. τές οὐτοσί;

Xρ^α. —εἰς τὴν ἔνην τε καὶ νέαν.

Στ. μαρτύρομαι
δτι εύς δυ' εἶπεν ἡμέρας. τοῦ χρήματος;

Χρ^α: τῶν δωδεκα μνᾶν, ἃς ἔλαβες ὥνομενος τὸν ψαρόν Κίπουν.

ΣΤ. Επικον; ούκ ἀκούετε;
δύ πάντες ὑμεῖς ἔστε μασοῦνθ' ἡπειρήν.

1225

Χρ^α. καὶ νὴ Δύ^ο ἀποδωσειν γ^η ἐτῶμνυς τοὺς θεούς.

Στ. μὰ τὸν Δύ' οὐ γάρ πω τότε ἐξηπέστατο

ΦΕΙΔΕΠΠΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΉΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΝΑΤΑΞΒΛΗΤΟΥΝ ΛΟΓΟΥΝ.

Xp^a. νῦν δὲ διὰ τοῦτο ἔξαρνος εἶναι διανοεῖ;

1230

1228 μὰ τὸν Tricl.: μὰ RVn: vñ τὸν θ²: RVEKθ add τὸ χρέος at the start of the line, assigning it to the creditor.

my lawsuits with your speeches.

But first of all I want to take you inside
and feast you.

[*Strepsiades and Pheidippides go into their house. Presently one of Strepsiades' creditors arrives, accompanied by a friend as witness.*]

FIRST CREDITOR: So ought a man to throw some of his own money away? Never; it would have been better to refuse unblushingly right from the start rather than give myself trouble, seeing that now I'm dragging you here to witness a summons over money that's mine, and what is more, in addition to that I'm going to make an enemy of a fellow-demesman. But never while I live shall I disgrace my country; [*raising his voice*] I summon Strepsiades —

1215

STREPSIADES [*coming out*]: Who's here?

FIRST CREDITOR: — to appear on Old-and-New Day.

1220

STREPSIADES [*to the audience*]: I call you to witness that he summoned me for two different days. [*To the Creditor*] What is it about?

FIRST CREDITOR: The twelve minas that you borrowed when you bought the dark-grey horse.

1225

STREPSIADES: "Horse"! Hark at him! Me, who you all know loathes everything to do with horses!

FIRST CREDITOR: And also, by Zeus, you swore by the gods that you would pay.

STREPSIADES: Ah, well, at that time, I tell you, my Pheidippides didn't yet know the invincible Argument.

FIRST CREDITOR: And now because of that you intend to deny the debt?

1230

Στ. τέ γάρ ἀλλ' ἀν ἀκολαμσαὶ με τοῦ μαθήματος;

Χρ^α: καὶ ταῦτ' ἐθελήσεις ἀπομόσαι μοι τοὺς θεούς,
τοὺς ἀν κελεύσω γώ σε;

Στ. τοὺς πούους θεούς;

Χρ^α: τὸν Δία, τὸν Ἐρυθίν, τὸν Ποσειδῶνα.

Στ. νὴ Δία·

καὶ προσκαταθείην γ' πόστ' δύνσαι τριάνθολον.

1235

Χρ^α: ἀπόλοιο τούνυν ἔνεχ' ἀναιδεῖας ἔτι.

Στ. ἀλλὰν διασκηνθεὶς ὄνταιτ' ἀν οὗτοσι.

Χρ^α: οὖμ', ὡς καταγελῆς.

Στ. ἔξ χοᾶς χωρήσεται.

Χρ^α: εὔτοι, μὰ τὸν Δία τὸν μέγαν καὶ τοὺς θεούς,
ἔμοι ἀπαπροίξει.

Στ. θαυμασίως ἕσθην "θεοῖς",
καὶ Ζεὺς γελοῖος δύναμενος τοῖς εὐδόσιν.

1240

Χρ^α: Ή μὴν σὺ τοῦτων τῷ χρόνῳ δώσεις δύκην.
ἀλλ' εἴτ' ἀποδώσεις <μοι> τὰ χρήματα εἴτε μή,
ἀπόπεμφον ἀποκρινάμενος.

Στ. ἔχε νῦν ἕσυχος·

ἔγὼ γάρ αὐτέκ' ἀποκρινοῦμαί σοι σαφῶς.

1245

Χρ^α: τέ σοι δοκεῖ δράσειν; ἀποδώσειν σοι δοκεῖ;

Στ. ποῦ 'σθ' οὗτος ἀπαιτῶν με τάργματον; λέγε,

1231 ἀλλ' ἀν Tric1.: ἀλλο γ' ἀν η: ἀλλο γ' K: ἀν RV.

1243 ἀποδώσεις <μοι> K: ἀποδώσεις RVE^{BC}θ: γ' ἀποδώσεις E^{PC}N:
ἀποδώσεις <δὴ> Ct1.

STREPSIADES: Why, what benefit will I otherwise get from his training?

FIRST CREDITOR: And you will be prepared to swear to this denial for me, in the name of the gods, in whatever place I may require?

STREPSIADES: Which gods?

FIRST CREDITOR: Zeus, Hermes and Poseidon.

STREPSIADES: By Zeus, yes! I'd even pay an extra three obols for the privilege of swearing.

1235

FIRST CREDITOR: Then may ruin yet fall on you for your shamelessness!

STREPSIADES [*ignoring this, and patting the creditor on his paunch*]: This could do with being rubbed down with salt.

FIRST CREDITOR: Damn you! such mockery!

STREPSIADES: It'll hold four gallons.

FIRST CREDITOR: By great Zeus and all the gods, you shan't get away with treating me like this.

1240

STREPSIADES [*laughing*]: That amuses me incredibly, "the gods", and swearing by Zeus is funny to us who know better.

FIRST CREDITOR: I swear the time will come when you'll get what you deserve for this. But at least let me leave with an answer, whether you're going to repay me my money or not.

STREPSIADES: Just wait; I'll give you a straight answer right away. [*He goes inside.*]

1245

FIRST CREDITOR [*to his witness*]: What do you think he's going to do? Do you think he's going to pay?

STREPSIADES [*coming out with a kneading-tray*]: Where's this man who's demanding his money from me? Tell me, what is this?

τούτη τή ἐστι;

Χρ^α: τοῦθ' δ τι ἐστί; κάρδοπος.

Στ. ἔπειτ' ἀκατεῖς ἀργυρίου, τοιοῦτος πᾶν;
οὐκ ἀν ἀκοδούην οὔδι' ἀν δβολὸν οὔδεν,
δστις καλέσειε κάρδοπον τὴν καρδσπην.

1250

Χρ^α: οὐκ ἄρι' ἀκοδώσειε;

Στ. εὐχ δσον γ' ἔμι' εἰδέναι.
οῦκουν ἀνυσας τι θάττον ἀπολιταργιεῖς
ἀπὸ τῆς θύρας;

Χρ^α: ἀπειμι. καὶ τ', εὖ ἅσθι δτι,
θῆσω πρυτανεῖ', ἦ μηκέτι ζψην ἐγώ.

1255

Στ. προσαποθαλεῖς ἄρι' αὐτὰ πρὸς ταῖς δώδεκα.
καύτοι σε τοῦτο γ' οὐχὶ βούλομαι παθεῖν
δτιὴ 'καλεσας εὐθητικῶς "τὴν κάρδοπον".

ΧΡΗΣΤΗΣ Β
ἐώ μοι μοι.

Στ. ἔα.

τίς εύτσού ποτ' ἔσθι' ὁ θρηνῶν; οῦ τι που
τῶν Καρκίνου τις δαιμόνων ἐφθέγξατο;

1260

Χρ^β: τί δι', δστις εὖμι, τοῦτο βούλεσθι εἰδέναι;
ἀνὴρ κακοδαέμων.

Στ. κατὰ σεαυτόν νυν τρέπου.

Χρ^β: ὃ σκληρὲ δαῖμον, ὃ τύχαι θραυσάντυγες
ἔπικων ἐμῶν· ὃ Παλλάς, ὃς μ' ἀπώλεσσα.

1265

1249 ἀργυρίου E^{ac}K: τάργυρίου RVE^{pc}Nθ.

1254 καὶ τοῦτ' Elmsley: καὶ τοῦτ' RVE^{pc}KN Suda: καύτοι γ' E^{ac}θ.

1263 σεαυτόν Tricl.: σαυτόν RVn: σαυτοῦ θ².

FIRST CREDITOR: What is that? A *cardopus*.

STREPSIADES: And you demand money, when you're such a fool as that? I wouldn't pay so much as an obol to anyone who called a *cardopé* a *cardopus*. 1250

FIRST CREDITOR: So you're not going to pay?

STREPSIADES: Not that I know of. So now will you hurry up and skip off, fastish, away from my door?

FIRST CREDITOR: I'm going; and then, I can assure you, I'll be lodging a deposit – else may I not live another moment. [Exit, 1255 accompanied by the witness.]

STREPSIADES [*calling after him*]: Then you'll be throwing that away as well as the twelve minas. And I really don't want that to happen to you just because you were silly enough to speak of a *cardopus*.

[Enter another creditor, bruised and limping.]

SECOND CREDITOR: Ah, woe is me!

STREPSIADES: Here, who on earth is this singing laments? 1260
It wasn't by any chance one of Carcinus' deities that gave tongue?

SECOND CREDITOR: Why do you wish to know who I am?
I am a man accursed.

STREPSIADES: Then go away by yourself.

SECOND CREDITOR: "O cruel deity, O mishap that smashed my chariot-rail! O Pallas, how thou hast ruined me!" 1265

Στ. τί δαί σε Τλημπόλεμος ποτ' εζργασταὶ κακῶν;

Χρ^β. μὴ σκῶπτέ μ', ὃ ταῦ, ἀλλὰ μοι τὰ χρήματα
τὸν υἱὸν ἀποδοῦναι κέλευσον ἀλαβεν,
ἄλλως τε μέντοι καὶ κακῶς πεκραγότι.

Στ. τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα χρήμαθ';

Χρ^β. ἀδανεῖσατο.

1270

Στ. κακῶς ἄρ' ὅντως εἶχες, ὃς γ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖς.

Χρ^β. Κππους γ' ἔλαυνων ἐξέπεσον, νὴ τοὺς θεούς.

Στ. τί δῆτα ληρεῖς ὥσπερ ἀπ' ὄνου καταπεσών;

Χρ^β. ληρῶ, τὰ χρήματ' ἀπολαβεῖν εὐ βούλουμαν;

Στ. οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως σὺ γ' αἴθις ὑγιανεῖς.

Χρ^β. τί δαί;

1275

Στ. τὸν ἐγκέφαλον ὥσπερ σεσεῖσθαί μοι δοκεῖς.

Χρ^β. σὺ δέ, νὴ τὸν Ἐρμῆν, προσκεκλήσεσθαί γ' ἐμού,
εὐ μὴ ἀπόδωσεις τάργυρτον.

Στ. κάτεικέννυν.

πρέπεια νομίζεις καὶ νὸν ἀεὶ τὸν Δία
ἥνειν ὕδωρ ἐκάστοτ', οὐ τὸν Ἄλεον
ἔλκειν κάτωθεν ταύτο τοῦθ' ὕδωρ πάλιν;

1280

Χρ^β. οὐκ οὖδ' ἔγωγ' ὀπότερον, οὐδέ μοι μέλει.

Στ. πῶς οὖν ἀπολαβεῖν τάργυρτον δύκαλος εἰ,
εὐ μηδὲν οἶσθα τῶν μετεώρων πραγμάτων;

1266 Τλημπόλεμος R: Τληπόλεμος Vn ^{RVENp1}.

1275 αἴθις Hermann, ὑγιανεῖς Bergk: αὔτης ὑγιαίνεις codd. Suda.

STREPSIADES: Why, what harm has Tlempolemus done you?

SECOND CREDITOR: Don't make fun of me, my man; tell your son to pay me back the money he received — he should in any case, and particularly when I'm in distress.

STREPSIADES: What money is that?

1270

SECOND CREDITOR: The money he borrowed.

STREPSIADES: You really *are* in a bad way, if you want my opinion.

SECOND CREDITOR: Yes, indeed; I was driving a chariot and fell out.

STREPSIADES: Then why are you talking such nonsense, as if you'd fallen off a donkey?

SECOND CREDITOR: Is it nonsense to want to get my money back?

STREPSIADES: There's no chance of your regaining your sanity.

1275

SECOND CREDITOR: Why not?

STREPSIADES: I think your brain has kind of had a shaking.

SECOND CREDITOR: And I think, by Hermes, that you're going to get a summons from me, if you don't repay the money.

STREPSIADES: Well, tell me: do you think that when Zeus rains, it is always new water every time, or do you think that the sun draws up again from down here the same water that fell before?

1280

SECOND CREDITOR: I don't know which it is, and I don't care.

STREPSIADES: Then how can you be entitled to receive your money back, if you know nothing of meteorology?

- χρ.^β ἀλλ! εὐ σπανύζετ' ἀργυρίου, τὸν <γοῦν> τόκον
ἀπέδοτε.
- Στ. τοῦτο δ' ἐσθ', ὁ τόκος, τὸ θηρίον;
- χρ.^β τέ δ' ἄλλο γ' ἢ κατα μῆνα καὶ καθ' ἡμέραν
πλέον πλέον τάργυριον ἀεὶ γίγνεται,
ὑπορρέοντος τοῦ χρόνου;
- Στ. καλῶς λέγεις.
τέ δῆτα; τὴν θάλατταν ἐσθ' ὃ τι πλεύονα
υսὺν νομίζεις ἢ πρὸ τοῦ;
- χρ.^β μὰ Δέι!, ἀλλ! ζην·
οὐ γὰρ δέκαιον πλεύον' εἶναι.
- Στ. κάτα πᾶς.
αὕτη μέν, ὡς κακόδαιμον, οὐδὲν γίγνεται
ἐπιερεόντων τῶν ποταμῶν πλεύων, σὺ δὲ
ζητεῖς ποικίσαι τάργυριον πλέον τὸ σὸν;
οὐκ ἀποδιώξει σαυτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς οὐκέτιας;
φέρε μοι τὸ κέντρον.
- χρ.^β ταῦτ' ἐγὼ μαρτύρομαι.
- Στ. οὐπαγε. τέ μέλλεις; οὐκ ἐλῆσ, ὡς σαμφόρα;
- 1285 σπανύζετ' ἀργυρίου Blaydes: σπανύζεις τάργυρίου (ἀργ- N) codd.
- 1285 τὸν <γοῦν> Blaydes: μοι τὸν codd.
- 1296 ἀποδιώξει Elmsley: ἀποδιώξεις codd.
- 1296 ἀπὸ E^{ac}K^{ac}: ἐξ RVE^{pc}NE^{pc}.
- 1298 σαμφόρα θ^s: σαμφόρα η': Πασύα RV.

SECOND CREDITOR: I tell you what: if you're short of
money, at least pay me the interest. 1285

STREPSIADES: This "interest" – what kind of animal is it?

SECOND CREDITOR: What else but the fact that the money
one owes gets constantly more and more, month by month and day
by day, by the effluxion of time?

STREPSIADES: Quite correct. Now then, do you think that
the sea is at all bigger now than it used to be? 1290

SECOND CREDITOR: Heavens, no, it's the same size; it
would be against the laws of nature for it to be bigger.

STREPSIADES: In that case, you miserable fool, if the sea
doesn't get any bigger with the influx of the rivers, what business
have you trying to make your sum of money bigger? Will you
kindly chase yourself away from the house? [Calling within] Fetch
me the goad. 1295

SECOND CREDITOR: Witness!

STREPSIADES: [prodding him]: Gee up! What are you
waiting for? Get moving, you branded nag!

Xp^β ταῦτ' οὐχ ὕβρις δῆτ' ἐστίν;

Στ. άξεις; ἐφιαλῶ
κεντῶν ὑπὸ τὸν πρωτόν σε τὸν σειραφόρον. 1300
φεύγεις; ἔμελλον σ' ἄρα κινήσειν ἐγὼ
αὐτοῖς τροχοῖς τοῖς σοῖσι καὶ Ευνωρίσιν.

χο. οἶνον τὸ πραγμάτων ἔρδιν φλαύρων· δὲ γὰρ
 γέρων ὅδι ἐρασθεῖς
 ἀποστερῆσας βούλεται 1305
 τὰ χρήματα ἀδανεύσατο.
 κούκι ἔσθι ὅπως οὐ τήμερον
 λήψεται τὸ πρᾶγμα', δὲ τοῦ-
 τον ποιεῖσθαι τὸν σοφι-
 στὴν, ὃν πανουργεῖν ἔρξατ', ἐξ-
 αίφνης τὸν κακὸν λαβεῖντα. 1310

οἶματι γὰρ αὐτὸν αὐτοῦ^χ εὑρίσειν δικερ
 πᾶλαι ποτὶ ἐπῆτε,
 εἶναν τὸν υἱὸν δεινόν οὐ
 γυνώμας ἐναντίας λέγειν
 τοῖσιν δικαίοις, ὥστε νυ-
 κῶν ἄπαντας, οἶσκερ δὲν
 ξυγγένηται, καν λέγῃ
 παμπρύνηρ[!]. Ζωσ δι[!] Ζωσ
 βουλήσεται
 κάθφωνον αὐτὸν εἶναν.
1320

ΣΤ. ΛΟÙ ΛΟÙ.

1299 ēφ- van Leeuwen: ēπ- codd.

1310 τινα κακόν λαβεῖν† codd.: κακόν λαβεῖν τι Hermann: καλέν γι' ὄνασθαι Dover: perh. e.g. *<άκοστραφῆναι>*, cf. Peace 683.

1312 ἐκῆτει Bergk: ἐκεῖτει RV: ἐξῆτει n.

SECOND CREDITOR: This is sheer wanton outrage!

STREPSIADES: Move! I'm going to lay it on, and poke you up your thoroughbred arse. [*The creditor runs away.*] Running away, are you? I *thought* I'd get you moving, with your wheels and chariot-and-pairs and all. [*He goes inside.*]

1300

CHORUS: What it is to be enamoured of evil things! For this old man has fallen in love with them, and now wants to evade payment of the money he has borrowed.

1305

And it is certain that today he has something coming to him that will make this sophist all of a sudden < recoil from > the villainy on which he has embarked.

1310

For I fancy he will shortly find, what he requested some time ago, that his son is skilled in arguing for opinions opposed to justice, so as to vanquish every adversary with whom he may meet, even if his cause be utterly wicked; and perhaps, perhaps, he will actually wish for his son to be struck dumb.

1315

1320

[*Strepsiades rushes out of his house, followed by Pheidippides.*]

STREPSIADES: Help, help! Neighbours, kinsmen, fellow-

Ὄ γεύτονες καὶ ξυγγενεῖς καὶ δημόται,
ἀμυνάθετέ μοι τυπτομένῳ πᾶσῃ τέχνῃ.
οἶμοι κακοδαίμων τῆς κεφαλῆς καὶ τῆς γνάθου.
ἢ μιαρέ, τύπτεις τὸν πατέρα;

ΦΕ. φήμ', ὃ πάτερ. 1325

ΣΤ. δρᾶθ' ὁμολογοῦνθ' ὅτι με τύπτει;

ΦΕ. καὶ μάλα.

ΣΤ. ὃ μιαρὲ καὶ πατραλοῖς καὶ τοιχωρύχε.

ΦΕ. αὕθις με ταύτα ταῦτα καὶ πλεῖς λέγε.

Ἄρ' οἶσθ' ὅτι χαῖρω πσλλ' ἀκούσων καὶ κακό;

ΣΤ. ὃ λακκόδρωκτε—

ΦΕ. πάττε πολλοῖς τοῖς βόδοις. 1330

ΣΤ. τὸν πατέρα τύπτεις;

ΦΕ. κάποφανῶ γε νὴ Δία
ώς ἐν δύκῃ σ' ἔτυπτον.

ΣΤ. ὃ μιαρώτατε,
καὶ πῶς γένοιτο ἀν πατέρα τύπτειν ἐν δύκῃ;

ΦΕ. Ἔγωγ' ἀποδείξω, καί σε νικήσω λέγων.

ΣΤ. τούτῃ σὺ νικήσεις;

ΦΕ. πολὺ γε καὶ βραδύως. 1335
ἔλοι δ' ὀπότερον τοῖν λόγοιν βούλει λέγειν.

ΣΤ. πούσιν λόγοιν;

ΦΕ. τὸν κρείττον' ή τὸν κττονα.

132 is placed after 1330 by Suda λ59 (but in Suda μ1025, where 1330 is not quoted, 1329 follows 1328).

demesmen, come to my aid, I implore you – I'm being assaulted!
Oh, my poor head, my poor cheeks! [To *Pheidippides*] You villain, 1325
do you strike your father?

PHEIDIPIIDES: Yes, father, I do.

STREPSIADES: Do you see? He admits he's been beating me.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Just so.

STREPSIADES: You villain, you father-beater, you felon!

PHEIDIPIIDES: Do call me the same things again, and more.

Do you know I enjoy being called many foul names?

STREPSIADES: You tank-arsed scoundrel – 1330

PHEIDIPIIDES: Shower me with more of these roses.

STREPSIADES: Do you strike your father?

PHEIDIPIIDES: Yes, and what's more, by Zeus, I'll prove
that I was right to strike you.

STREPSIADES: You utter villain! How can you say that
beating a father could be right?

PHEIDIPIIDES: I'll show that it is, and vanquish you in argu-
ment.

STREPSIADES: You'll vanquish me on *this*? 1335

PHEIDIPIIDES: Decisively and with ease. Choose which of
the two Arguments you want to uphold.

STREPSIADES: What do you mean, the two Arguments?

PHEIDIPIIDES: The Better or the Worse.

- Στ. ἐδιδαξάμην μέντοι σε νὴ Δέ¹, ὃ μέλε,
τοῖσιν δικαίοις ἀντιλέγειν, εἰ ταῦτα γε
μέλλεις ἀναπεῖσειν, ὡς δίκαιον καὶ καλὸν
τὸν πατέρα τύπτεσθ' ἔστιν ὑπὸ τῶν οὐνέων. 1340
- ΦΕ. ἀλλ' οἶοματι μέντοι σ' ἀναπεῖσειν, ὥστε γε
οὐδ' αὐτὸς ἀκροασάμενος οὐδὲν ἀντερεῖς.
- Στ. καὶ μὴν ὅ τι καὶ λέξεις ἀκοῦσας βούλοματι.
- ΧΟ. σὸν ἔργον, ὃ πρεσβῦτα, φροντίζειν ὅπῃ
τὸν ἄνδρα κρατήσεις· (στρ.
ώς οὗτος, εἰ μή τι ^{πεποίθειν}, οὐκ ἂν ἦν
οὕτως ἀκόλαστος.
- ἀλλ' ἔσθ' ὅτι ^{πεποίθειν} θρασύνεται· δῆλον <γέ τοι>
τὸ λῆμα τάνθρωποι. 1346
- ἀλλ' ἔξ ὅτου τὸ πρῶτον ἥρξαθ' ἢ μάχη γενέσθαι,
ἥδη λέγειν χρὴ πρὸς χορόν· πάντως δὲ τοῦτο δράσεις.
- ΣΤ. καὶ μὴν ὅθεν γε πρῶτον ἥρξαμεσθα
ἔγω φράσω. 'πειδὴ γὰρ εἴστιώμεθ', ^{ώσπερ} ^{ἴστε},
πρῶτον μὲν αὐτὸν τὴν λύραν λαβόντ¹ ἔγω 'κέλευσα
φσατ Σιμωνίδου μέλος, τὸν Κριόν, ὡς ἐπέχθη·
ὅ δ' εὔθεως ἀρχαῖον εἴν² ἔφασκε τὸ κιθαρύζειν
φδειν τε πύνονθ³ ὠσπερεὶ κάχρυς γυναῖκ⁴ ἀλοῦσαν. 1355
- ΦΕ. οὐ γὰρ τότ⁵ εὐθὺς χρῆν σ' ἀράττεσθαί τε καὶ πατεῖσθαι,

1340 μέλλεις RVEK: μέλλεις μ' ΝΘ.

1347 'πεποίθειν Dawes: πεποίθει R ^{γρθ²}: πέποιθεν or πέποιθ¹ ΗΠ.

1349 <γέ> Tricl., <τοι> Hermann: om. codd.

1350 τὸ λῆμα Dover: τὸ λῆμ¹ (λῆμμ¹ R) ἔστιν codd.

1359 ἀράττεσθαί Meineke: ἀράττεσθαί Rn: ἀλλὰ τύπτεσθαί V.

STREPSIADES: I *have* had you taught all right, my good man,
to argue against justice, if you're going to be able to make *this* claim
convincing, that it's right and proper for a father to be beaten by
his sons.

1340

PHEIDIPIIDES: But I think I *shall* convince you, so much so
that even you, when you've heard me, won't have a thing to say
against it.

STREPSIADES: As a matter of fact I'd like to hear what
you'll find to say.

CHORUS: It is up to you, old man, to think how
you can defeat him;
for he, if he did not have something to rely on,
would not have shown such effrontery.
No, there is something that gives him confidence;
at any rate the fellow's insolence is plain.

1345

1350

CHORUS-LEADER [*to Strepsiades*]: Now you must tell the
Chorus what the quarrel originally arose from. But you'll do that
anyway.

STREPSIADES: I certainly will tell you what first caused us
to begin using hard words. When we were feasting, which you know
about, first of all I asked him to take his lyre and sing a song by
Simonides, "How Sir Ram was shorn"; but he at once said that that
was antiquated, playing the lyre and singing at a drinking party,
like a woman grinding hulled barley.

1355

PHEIDIPIIDES: Well, surely you should have been pounded
and trampled right then — telling me to sing, as if you were enter-

1360

άδειν κελεύονθ', ώσπερεὶ τέττυγας ἐστιῶντα;

1360

Στ. τοιαῦτα μέντοι καὶ τότ' ἔλεγεν ἔνδον, οἶάπερ νῦν·
καὶ τὸν Σιμωνίδην ἔφασκ' εἶναι κακὸν ποιητὴν.

κάγῳ μόλις μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἡνεσχόμην τὸ πρῶτον.
ἔπειτα δ' ἔκέλευσ' αὐτὸν ἀλλὰ μυρρίνην λαβόντα
τῶν Αἰσχύλου λεξιαὶ τέ μοι· καθ' οὗτος εὔθὺς εἶπεν·

"έγὼ γὰρ Αἰσχύλον νομίζω πρῶτον ἐν ποιηταῖς—
φόρου πλέων, ἀξιστατον, στόμφακα, κρημνοποιόν."

κάνταῦθα πῶς οἵεσθε μου τὴν καρδίαν ὀρεχθεῖν;
έγὼ δὲ τὸν θυμὸν δακῶν ἔφην· "σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ τούτων
λέξον τέ τῶν νεωτέρων, ἄττ' ἐστὶ τὰ σοφὰ ταῦτα."

ὁ δ' εὔθὺς ἦκ' Εύριπίδου βῆσιν τιν', ώς ἔκύνει
ἀδελφός, ἀλεξίκακε, τὴν δόμουητρίαν ἀδελφήν.

κάγῳ ούκετ' ἔξηνεσχόμην, ἀλλ' εὔθεως ἀράττω
πολλοῖς κακοῖς καίσχροῖσι· καὶ τέλος ἐντεῦθεν, οἷον εἴκος,
ἔπος πρὸς ἔπος ἡρειδόμεσθ'· εἴθ' οὗτος ἐπαναπηδᾷ,

καπειτ' ἔφλα με κάσπρδει κάπνιγε κάπετριβεν.

1370

1375

Φε. οὕκουν δικαίως, δστις ούκ Εύριπίδην ἐπαινεῖς,
σοφώτατον;

Στ. σοφώτατόν γ' ἔκεινον, φτέλι σ' εἶπω;
ἀλλ' αὕθις αὖ τυπτήσομαι.

Φε. νὴ τὸν Δέ', ἐν δέκη γ' ἄν.

1371 ἦκ' Sommerstein, cf. Wasps 562, Frogs 823: ἥσ' or ἥσεν RVn':
om. N: ἥγ' Borthwick.

1373 εὔθεως ἀράττω (-άττω) Vb3: ευθεως αραράτω ?Π9 (with ταράττω in
margin): εὔθεως ΥΡΣ^U: εύθὺς ἔξαράττω RVn.

1376 καπέτριβεν Π9 η Suda: καπέθλιβεν RV.

1379 γ' ἄν RVE^{BC}KN: γε Π9: γάρ Ε^{PC}Θ.

taining cicadas!

STREPSIADES: That's just the sort of thing he was saying then inside, what he's saying now; and he also said that Simonides was a bad poet. I could only just endure it, but all the same I did endure it for the moment. Then I asked him at least to take a myrtle-branch and recite me something from the works of Aeschylus; 1365 and then he at once said, "Oh, yes, I regard Aeschylus as supreme among poets — at being full of noise, incoherent, a bombastic ranter and a creator of mountainous words." And how do you suppose my heart palpitated at that? But I bit back my rage and said, "All right, you recite something from these modern poets, that 1370 clever stuff, whatever it is." And he immediately loosed off a speech of Euripides, about how a brother, heaven forfend, was having it off with his sister by the same mother. Well, I could take it no longer, and I immediately piled into him with many hard and foul words; and after that, as you might expect, we attacked each other insult for insult. Then he jumps up; and he knocked me and banged me and choked me and pulverized me.

PHEIDIPPIDES: So wasn't I right to do so to one who won't praise Euripides, a man of genius?

STREPSIADES [*with angry sarcasm*]: Oh yes, a genius, you — what shall I call you? — [*Controlling himself*] No, I'll only be beaten all over again.

PHEIDIPPIDES: And, by Zeus, you'd deserve it.

Στ. καὶ πῶς δικαίως; ὅστις, ἀναίσχυντε, σ' ἐξέθρεψα 1380
αὐσθανόμενός σου πάντα τραυλέζοντος, δ τι νοούης.
εὐ μέν γε βρῦν εἶποις, ἐγὼ γνοὺς ἂν πιεῖν ἐπέσχον·
μαμμᾶν δ' ἂν αἰτήσαντος, ξιρδί σοι φέρων ἂν ἄρτον·
κακῆαν δ' ἂν οὐκ ἔφθης φράσας, κάγὼ λαβὼν θύμραζε
ἐξέφερον ἂν καὶ προυσχόμην σε. σὺ δ' ἐμὲ νῦν ἀπάγχων, 1385
βοῶντα καὶ κεκραγόθ' ὅτι

χειροτεψόν, οὐχ ἔτλης
ἔξω ἔχενεγκεῖν, ὃ μιαρέ,
θύμραζε μ', ἀλλὰ πνιγόμενός ^{τε}
αύτοῦ ἔποιησα κακῆαν.

1390

Χο. οἷμαί γε τῶν νεωτέρων τὰς κάρδιας (ἀντ.
πηδᾶν, δ τι λέξει.

εὐ γὰρ τοιαῦτά γ' οὗτος ἔξειργασμένος
λαλῶν ἀναπείσει,
τὸ δέρμα τῶν γερατέρων λάβοιμεν ἂν
ἀλλ' εὔδ' ἐρεβύνθου.

1395

σὸν ἔργον, ὃ καὶ νῦν ἐπῶν κινητὰ καὶ μοχλευτά,
πειθώ τινα ζητεῖν, ὅπως δόξεις λέγειν δύκατα.

Φε. ὡς ἦδον καὶ νοοῖς πράγμασιν καὶ δεξιοῖς ὁμιλεῖν,
καὶ τῶν καθεστώτων νόμων ὑπερφρονεῖν δύνασθαι. 1400
ἐγὼ γάρ, δτε μὲν ὑπεικῆ τὸν νοῦν μόνη προσεῖχον,
οὐδ' ἂν τρύ' εἴπειν βῆμαθ' οὗτος τ' ή πρὸν ἔξαμαρτεῖν·
νυνὶ δ', ἐπειδή μ' οὐτοσὶ τούτων ἐπαυσεν αὐτός,
γνώματις δὲ λεπταῖς καὶ λόγοις ξύνειμι καὶ μερύμνατις,
οἷματις διδάξειν ὡς δίκαιον τὸν πατέρα κολάζειν.

1405

1386 καὶ N: om. RVn'.

1401 τὸν νοῦν μόνη Bentley: μόνη τὸν νοῦν π: τὸν νοῦν μόνον R:
τὸν νοῦν μου V.

STREPSIADES: What do you mean, I'd deserve it? I who
brought you up, you shameless scoundrel, understanding the mean-
ing of your every lisping utterance! If you said "bru", I'd under-
stand and put a drink to your lips; if you asked for "mamma", I'd
come to you with bread; and no sooner did you say "kakka" than
I'd pick you up, carry you out of doors, and hold you out. Whereas
just now, when you were throttling me, though I was shouting and
screaming that I wanted to crap, you couldn't bring yourself to carry
me out of doors, you villain, but you choked me until I did a
kakka on the spot!

1380

1385

1390

CHORUS: I fancy that the hearts of the young
are throbbing to hear what he will say.
For if, after committing such an act,
he talks us into believing him right,
then for the skin of the elderly we'd give
not a chickpea.

1395

CHORUS-LEADER: It's up to you, the shifter and upheaver
who uses new-fangled verbal tools, to find some means of persua-
sion to make it appear that what you say is right.

PHEIDIPPIDES: How pleasant it is to be intimate with what
is new and clever, and to be able to look with scorn on established
custom! In the days when I devoted my attention only to racing,
I was not able to say three words before making a blunder; but now,
since my opponent himself has made me stop all that, and I am fam-
iliar with subtle ideas, arguments and cogitations, I think I can show
that it is right to chastise one's father.

1400

1405

Στ. Κππευε τούνυν νὴ Δέ¹· ὡς ἔμοιγε κρεῖττον ἐστὶν
ζππων τρέφειν τέθριππον ἢ τυπτόμενον ἐπιτριβῆναι.

Φε. ἐκεῖσε δ' ὅθεν ἀπέσχισάς με τοῦ λόγου μέτειμι,
καὶ πρῶτ' ἔρησομαί σε τοιτέ· παῖδα μ' ὅντ' ἔτυπτες;

Στ. ἔγωγέ σ', εύνοῶν γε καὶ κηδόμενος.

Φε. εἰπὲ δή μοι, 1410

οὐ κάμε σοὶ δικαιοῦν ἐστὶν εὔνοεῖν δμοῖως
τύπτειν τ', ἐπειδήπερ γε τοῦτ' ἔστιν εύνοεῖν, τὸ τύπτειν;
πῶς γὰρ τὸ μὲν σὸν σῶμα χρὴ πληγῶν ἀθῆνειν,
τούμδον δὲ μή; καὶ μὴν ἔφυν ἐλευθερός γε κάγω.

"Ἀλάδιοισι παῖδες, πατέρα δ' οὐ κλάειν δοκεῖς;" 1415
φῆσεις νομίζεσθαι σὺ παιδὸς τοῦτο τοῦργον εἶναι.
ἔγώ δέ γ' ἀντεύποιμι ἀνὸς δὶς παῖδες οὐ γέροντες.
εὔκος τε μᾶλλον τοὺς γέροντας ἢ νέους τι κλάειν,
δσψπερ ἐξαμαρτάνειν ἤττον δικαιοῖν αὐτούς.

Στ. ἀλλ' οὐδαμοῦ νομίζεται τὸν πατέρα τοῦτο πάσχειν. 1420

Φε. οὕκουν ἀνὴρ ὁ τὸν νόμον θεὶς τοῦτον ἢν τὸ πρῶτον,
ῶσπερ σὺ κάγω, καὶ λέγων ἔπειθε τοὺς παλαιούς;
ἥττον τι δῆτι ἔξεστι κάμοὶ καὶνδὸν αὖ τὸ λοιπὸν
θεῖναι νόμον τοῖς υἱέσιν, τοὺς πατέρας ἀντιτύπτειν;
δσας δὲ πληγὰς εἶχομεν πρὶν τὸν νόμον τεθῆναι, 1425
ἀφέμεν, καὶ δέδομεν αὐτοῖς προῖκα συγκεκόφθαι.
σκέψαι δὲ τοὺς ἀλεκτρυόνας καὶ ταῦλα τὰ βοτὰ ταυτέ,
ὡς τοὺς πατέρας ἀμύνεται· καίτοι τις διαφέρουσιν
ἡμῶν ἔκεῖνοι, πλὴν γ' ὅτι φηφύσματι οὐ γράφουσιν;

1410 γε Hermann: τε codd.

1412 γε E²: om. RVKNθ: [E¹].

1418 νέους Bentley: τοὺς νέους RE^{pc}θ: τοὺς νεωτέρους VE^{ac}KN.

STREPSIADES: Stick to your horses then, in heaven's name; it's better for me to maintain a four-horse team than to be beaten and pulverized.

PHEIDIPIIDES: I shall go on to the point in the argument from which you made me break off, and first ask you this: did you beat me when I was a boy?

STREPSIADES: I did, out of benevolence and concern for your good.

1410

PHEIDIPIIDES: Then tell me, is it not likewise right for me to be benevolent to you in the same way and beat you, seeing that that is what being benevolent to a person means – beating him? How can it be right for your body to be immune from blows and mine not? After all, I too am a free man born.

“The children howl; do you think the father shouldn't?”

1415

You will say that it is customary for this treatment to be reserved for children; but I would reply that the old are in a second childhood. And it is more reasonable that the old should be made to howl a bit rather than the young, inasmuch as it is less natural that they should go wrong.

STREPSIADES: But nowhere is it the law that a father should be so treated.

1420

PHEIDIPIIDES: Well, wasn't it a man who made that law in the first place, a man like you or me, and didn't he persuade the men of old by argument to accept it? Is it then any less open to me in my turn to make a new law for sons in the future, that they should beat their fathers in return? All the blows we received before the law was made we wipe from the record, and we make it a concession to them that our having been thrashed hitherto shall remain without compensation. Consider fowls and those other animals, how they retaliate against their fathers; and after all, what difference is there between them and us, except that they don't propose decrees?

1425

- Στ. τύ δῆτ', ἐπειδὴ τοὺς ἀλεκτρυόνας ἄπαντα μιμεῖ,
οὐκ ἐσθίεις καὶ τὴν κόπρον κάπιν ξύλου καθεύδεις; 1430
- ΦΕ. οὐ ταῦτον, ὃ τāν, ἐστιν, οὐδ' ἂν Σωκράτει δοκούη.
- ΣΤ. πρὸς ταῦτα μὴ τύπτ' εἰ δὲ μή, σαυτόν ποτ' αὐτισμέι.
- ΦΕ. καὶ πῶς;
- ΣΤ. ἐπεὶ σὲ μὲν δίκαιος εἴμι ἐγὼ κολαζεῖν,
σὺ δ', ἦν γένηται σοι, τὸν υἱόν.
- ΦΕ. μάτην ἐμοὶ κεκλαίσεται, σὺ δ' ἐγχανῶν τεθνήξεις. 1435
- ΣΤ. ἐμοὶ μέν, ὥνδρες πλικεῖς, δοκεῖ λέγειν δίκαια·
κακοὺς γε συγχωρεῖν δοκεῖ τούτοισι τάπιεικῇ.
κλάειν γὰρ ἡμᾶς εὔκος ἐστ', ἦν μὴ δίκαια δρῶμεν.
- ΦΕ. σκέψαι δὲ χάτεραν ἔτι γνώμην.
- ΣΤ. ἀπὸ γὰρ ὀλοῦμας. 1440
- ΦΕ. καὶ μὴν ζωσ γ' οὐκ ἀχθέσει παθῶν ὃ νῦν πέπονθας.
- ΣΤ. πῶς δέ; δίδαξον γὰρ τύ μ' ἐκ τούτων ἔτ' ὠφελήσεις.
- ΦΕ. τὴν μητέρ' ὕσπερ καὶ σὲ τυπτήσω.
- ΣΤ. τύ φίσ, τύ φίσ σοι;
τοῦθ' ἔτερον αὖ μεῖζον κακόν.
- ΦΕ. τύ δ', ἦν ἔχων τὸν ἤττω
λόγον σε νικήσω λέγων 1445

1436 τεθνήξεις Dawes: τεθνήξει or -η codd. Suda, Zonaras.

1437-9 should possibly be deleted as a remnant of an alternative draft for the transition to the revised ending.

1442 ἔτ' ὠφελήσεις Dover: ἐπωφελήσεις RVE^{PC}ΝΘ: ὠφελήσεις E^{ac}K.

STREPSIADES: Well then, if you're following the example
of fowls in everything, why don't you also eat the dung and sleep on
a wooden perch?

1430

PHEIDIPIIDES: It's not the same thing, my good man, nor
would Socrates think it was.

STREPSIADES: Well, in that case don't beat me; if you do,
you'll blame yourself one day.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Oh, why?

STREPSIADES: Because I, as things stand, have the right to
chastise you, and you to chastise your son, if you have one.

1435

PHEIDIPIIDES: But if I don't have one, I'll have howled all
for nothing, and there you'll be, dead, having had the last laugh on
me!

STREPSIADES [*to the old men in the audience*]: To me,
friends and contemporaries, it seems that what he says is right, and
I think we should concede to this generation what is reasonable. It's
only fair that we should get a hiding if we do wrong.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Now consider another further point.

1440

STREPSIADES: No, it'll be the death of me.

PHEIDIPIIDES: On the contrary, perhaps you won't be so
sorry to have suffered what you've suffered.

STREPSIADES: How do you mean? Explain in what way
you can still bring some good to me out of this.

PHEIDIPIIDES: I'll beat mother, just as I did you.

STREPSIADES: What's this, what's this you say? This is a
second and greater piece of wickedness.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Well, what if with the Worse Argument I
defeat you on the proposition that it's right to beat one's mother?

1445

- τὴν μητέρ' ὡς τύπτειν χρεών;
- Στ. τύ δ' ἄλλο γ' ή, ταῦτ' ήν ποιῆσι,
οὐδέν σε κωλύσει σεαυ-
τὸν ἐμβαλεῖν εἰς τὸ βάραθρον
μετὰ Σωκράτους 1450
καὶ τὸν λόγον τὸν ἥττω;
- ταυτὶ δι' ὑμᾶς, ὃ Νεφέλαι, πέπονθ' ἔγώ,
ὑμῖν ἀναθεὶς ἀπαντα τάμα πράγματα.
- Χο. αὐτὸς μὲν οὖν σαυτῷ σὺ τούτων αὗτιος,
στρέψας σεαυτὸν εἰς πονηρὰ πράγματα. 1455
- Στ. τύ δῆτα ταῦτ' οὐ μοι τότ' ἡγορεύετε,
ἀλλ' ἄνδρ' ἄγροικον καὶ γέροντ' ἐπήρατε;.
- Χο. ἀεὶ ποιοῦμεν ταῦθ' ἐκάστοθ', ὅντεν' ἂν
γνῶμεν πονηρῶν ὅντ' ἐραστὴν πραγμάτων,
ἔως ἂν αὐτὸν ἐμβάλωμεν εἰς κακόν,
ὅπως ἂν εἴδῃ τοὺς θεοὺς δεδοικέναται. 1460
- Στ. ὦλοι, πονηρά γ', ὃ Νεφέλαι, δίκαια δέ·
οὐ γάρ με χρῆν τὰ χρήματ' ἀδανεισάμην
ἀποστερεῖν. νῦν οὖν σπως, ὃ φύλτατε,
τὴν Χαιρεψῶντα τὸν μιαρὸν καὶ Σωκράτη 1465
ἀπολεῖς μετ' ἐμοῦ 'λθῶν, οὖ σὲ καῦ' ἐξηπάτων.
- Φε. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἂν ἀδικήσαιμε τοὺς διδασκάλους.
- Στ. ναὶ ναῖ· καταΐδεσθητι πατρῷον Δία.

- 1447 ή, ταῦτ' ήν Kock: ήν ταύτην V: ήν ταῦτα Nθ: ήν ταυτὶ vel sim. REK.
- 1458 ἀεὶ η: ἀμεεις RV.
- 1458 ὅντεν' ἂν Porson: ἂν τεν' οὖν E^{ac}K: ὅταν τενὰ RVE^{pc}Nθ.

- STREPSIADES: What then? Just this: if you do that there'll
 be nothing to stop you throwing yourself into the Barathron along
 with Socrates and the Worse Argument. [To the Chorus] Clouds,
 this has come upon me because of you; I placed my whole fate in
 your hands. 1450
- CHORUS-LEADER: No, you are responsible for bringing it
 on yourself, because you turned yourself towards evil actions. 1455
- STREPSIADES: Then why didn't you tell me that at the time,
 instead of positively enticing an old rustic astray?
- CHORUS-LEADER: This is what we always do on every occa-
 sion, whenever we find a man to be a lover of what is evil, until we
 cast him into misery, that he may learn to fear the gods. 1460
- STREPSIADES: Ah, Clouds! hard words, but they're fair: I
 ought not to have tried to evade payment of the money I borrowed.
 [To Pheidippides] Now, my dear, dear boy, come with me and let's
 murder that villain Chaerephon and Socrates, who have cheated both
 you and me. 1465-6
- PHEIDIPPIDES: But I couldn't wrong my teachers!
- STREPSIADES: "Aye, aye: of Zeus Paternal stand in awe."

- Φε. Λέδού γε Δύα πατρῶον. ὡς ἀρχαῖος εἶ.
Ζεὺς γάρ τούς ἔστιν;
- Στ. εἴστιν.
- Φε. οὐκ ἔστ', οῦκ, ἐπεὶ 1470
Δῆνος βασιλεύειν, τὸν Δύ' ἔξεληλακώς.
- Στ. οὐκ ἔξελήλακ', ἀλλ' ἔγω τοῦτ' φόμπην
εἰὰ τουτοὺν τὸν δῆνον. οὖμοι δεύλαιος,
ὅτε καὶ σὲ χυτρεοῦν δύτα θεὸν ἤγησάμην.
- Φε. ἐνταῦθα σαυτῷ παραφρόνει καὶ φληνάφα. 1475
- Στ. οὖμοι παρανοίας· ὡς ἐμαυνόμην ἄρα,
ὅτι ἔξεβαλον καὶ τοὺς θεοὺς διὰ Σωκράτη.
ἀλλ', ᾧ φύλ' Ἐρμῆ, μηδαμῶς θύμαινε μοι
μηδέ μ' ἐπιτρέψῃς, ἀλλὰ συγγνώμην ἔχε
ἔμοι παρανοήσαντος ἀδολεσχύρῳ. 1480
- καὶ μοι γενοῦ ξύμβουλος, εἴτε αὐτοὺς γραφήν
διωκάθω γραφάμενος, εἴθε δ τι σοι δοκεῖ.
όρθῶς παραινεῖς οὐκ ἔών δικορραφεῖν,
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἐμπιμπράναι τὴν οὐκίαν
τῶν ἀδολεσχῶν. ΕΕῦρο δεῦρ', ᾧ Ξανθύα· 1485
κλέμακα λαβὼν ἔξελθε καὶ σμιλήν φέρων,
κάπειτ' ἐπαναβὰς ἐπὶ τὸ φροντιστήριον
τὸ τέγος κατάσκαπτ', εἰς φιλεῖς τὸν δεσπότην,
ἔως διν αὐτοῖς ἐμβάλῃς τὴν οὐκίαν.
ἔμοι δὲ δῆδι ἐνεγκάτω τις ἡμεύην, 1490

1477 ἔξεβαλον R^{ac}n $\lambda_{\Sigma}^{\Theta}$: ἔξεβαλε λ_{Σ}^E : ἔξεβαλλον. R^{pc}V.

1477 καὶ RVn': om. N $\lambda_{\Sigma}^{E\Theta}$.

1480 παρανοήσαντος n: παρανοήσαντος RV.

1484 ἐμπιμπράναι Brunck: πιμπράναι K: ἐμπιτράναι vel sim. RVn'.

PHEIDIPIIDES: Listen to that! Paternal Zeus! How old-fashioned you are! Is there any Zeus?

1470

STREPSIADES: There is.

PHEIDIPIIDES: There isn't, no there isn't, because Vortex is king, having expelled Zeus.

STREPSIADES: He hasn't expelled him; I thought he had, because of this vortex-cup [*pointing to a cup standing on a pillar in front of the Refectory*]. Poor fool that I was, to take you, a piece of pottery, for a god!

PHEIDIPIIDES: You can rave and yammer here to yourself. [He goes inside].

1475

STREPSIADES: My god, what insanity! How mad I see I was, when I actually discarded the gods because of Socrates! [*To the image of Hermes in front of his house*] Beloved Hermes, please don't be angry with me or crush me, but have mercy on me if I acted insanely because of their empty prattle; and be my counsellor, whether I should prosecute them by laying an indictment, or whatever you think best. [He pauses for a reply.] You advise me rightly – that I shouldn't cobble up lawsuits, but as quickly as possible set fire to the house of these prattlers. [*Calling within*] Come here, come here, Xanthias! come outside, and bring a ladder and a mattock, and then go up on top of the Refectory and hack down the roof, if you love your master, until you bring the house down on them. [*The slave, having brought the implements out, climbs on to the roof and sets to work.*] And someone fetch me a lighted torch;

1480

1485

1490

κάγω τιν' αιντῶν τήμερον δοῦνας δέκην
ἔμοὶ ποιήσω, κεῖ σφόδρ' εῖσ' ἀλαζόνες.

Μα. Έσὺ ού.

Στ. σὸν ἔργον, ὃ δές, οὐένας πολλὴν φλόγα.

Μα. ἄνθρωπε, τού ποιεῖς;

Στ. οἶ τι ποιῶ; τού δ' ἄλλο γ' ή
διαλεπτολογεῖματα ταῖς δοκοῖς τῆς οὐκίας;

ΧΑΙΡΕΦΩΝ
οὖμοι, τίς ἡμῶν πυρπολεῖ τὴν οὐκίαν;

Στ. ἐκεῖνος οὗπερ θούματιον εὐλαβάτε.

Χα. ἀπολεῖς, ἀπολεῖς.

Στ. τοῦτ' αὐτὸν γὰρ καὶ βουλοματικόν
ἥν ή σμενόν μοι μὴ προδῷ τὰς ἐλπίδας,
ἥ 'γὰ πρότερόν πως ἐκτραχηλισθῶ πεσών.

Σω. οὗτος, τού ποιεῖς ἐτεόν, οὐπὶ τοῦ τέγους;

Στ. ἀεροβατῶ καὶ περιφρονῶ τὸν ἥλιον.

Σω. οὖμοι τάλας, δεύλαις ἀποπνιγήσοματι.

Χα. ἐγὼ δὲ κακοδαιμῶν γε κατακαυθήσοματι.

Στ. τού γὰρ μαθόντες τοὺς θεοὺς ὑβρίζετε,
καὶ τῆς Σελήνης ἐσκοπεῖσθε τὴν ἔδραν;
δέωκε, παῖς, βάλλε, πολλῶν οῦνεκα,

1506 μαθόντες RVE^{pc}ΝΘ: μαθόνθ' vel sim. E^{ac}K γρθ.

1506 τοὺς θεοὺς RE^{pc}ΝΘ: εὺ τοὺς θεοὺς V: εὺς τοὺς θεοὺς γρθ and
(at end of line) E^{ac}K.

1506 ὑβρίζετε RVE^{pc}ΝΘ: ὑβρίζετον E^{ac}K γρθ².

1507 ἐσκοπεῖσθε RVK^{pc}: ἐσκοπεῖσθον EΘ: ἐσκοπεῖτε K^{ac}N.

and I'll make someone here pay a penalty today for what they've done to me, no matter how big they talk. [*He is given a torch, and joins Xanthias on the roof.*]

A STUDENT [inside]: Help, help!

STREPSIADES: I bid you, torch, send forth abundant flame!

[*He sets fire to the rafters.*]

STUDENT [rushing outside, with others, and seeing Strepsiades]: Here, man, what are you doing?

1495

STREPSIADES: What am I doing? What else but chopping logic with the rafters of your house?

CHAEREPHON [appearing at an upper window]: Help, who's putting our house to the flames?

STREPSIADES: The same man whose cloak you stole.

CHAEREPHON: You'll destroy us, you'll destroy us!

STREPSIADES: That's exactly what I want to do, if the mattock doesn't betray my hopes and I don't first fall somehow and break my neck.

1500

SOCRATES [coming out as smoke billows through the door]: Here, you on the roof, what do you think you're doing?

STREPSIADES: I walk the air and descry the sun.

SOCRATES [coughing]: Help! wretched me! I'm going to choke!

CHAEREPHON [still inside]: But what about me, poor thing, I'll be burnt to death!

1505

STREPSIADES [descending to the ground, with Xanthias, while Chaerephon climbs dangerously down from his window]: Well, what was your idea in wantonly flouting the gods and inspecting the seat of the Moon? Chase them, hit them, pelt them, for a hundred causes, but most of all remembering how they wronged

μάλιστα δ' εύδως τοὺς θεοὺς ὡς ἡδύκουν.

Χο. ἡγεῖσθ' ἔξω· κεχόρευται γὰρ
μετρίως τό γε τίμερον ἡμῖν.

1510

the gods! [*Socrates and his pupils flee, pursued by Strepsiades and Xanthias.*]

CHORUS-LEADER [*to her companions*]: Lead the way out;

1510

for we have done enough singing and dancing for today. [*Exeunt.*]

NOTES

7. **it's not even possible ... to punish my slaves:** in wartime a discontented slave who ran away would be safe if he reached enemy territory: cf. *Peace* 451. The truce made between the Athenians and Spartans in spring 423 (a few days after the production of *Clouds*) included a provision that neither side was to receive deserters from the other “whether free men or slaves” (Thuc. 4.118.6).
10. **fleeced cloaks:** Greek *sisurā* means a cloak made of sheepskin or goatskin with the hair left on.
12. **I just can't sleep ... with being bitten:** after this we expect “by bedbugs” (cf. 37, 634, 699-726); what actually follows is a surprise.
13. **expenses and mangers:** almost a hendiadys, = “the expense of keeping horses”.
14. **he wears his hair long:** this was fashionable among rich young men; cf. *Knights* 580, 1121. Pheidippides wants to move in the highest social circles, but he cannot do so within his father’s income.
17. **when I see the moon in its twenties:** i.e. when the moon is twenty or more days old and the (lunar) month is nearing its end. The Greek plural *eikades* elsewhere, like the singular *eikas*, seem always to mean specifically the twentieth day of the month; here however the broader sense is required, since few people would feel confident in guessing the *exact* age of the moon merely from its shape.
18. **the interest is mounting up:** interest was reckoned on a monthly basis (cf. 756), and the amount ultimately payable would therefore increase if a debt was not settled by the end of the month.
21. **twelve minas:** a mina of silver was approximately 437 grams; one mina equalled 100 drachmas.
23. **the horse with the koppa brand:** the obsolete Greek letter *koppa* (Ϙ) was used as a brand-mark to indicate the breed of a horse. Compare the similar use of

- the letter *san* (122, *Knights* 603). For a detailed study of what is known about Greek brand-marks on horses, see K. Braun, *MDAI(A)* 85 (1970) 256-267.
24. **I wish I'd had my eye knocked out:** the Greek for “I'd had knocked out” is *exekopēn*, which bears a punning resemblance to *koppatiās* “horse with a *koppa* brand”.
 25. **Philon, you're cheating:** Pheidippides is dreaming he is in a chariot-race. He calls out to another driver who is cutting in on him.
 28. **war-chariots:** Greeks did not in historical times (except in Cyprus: Hdt. 5.113.1) use chariots in warfare, but there were races for “war-chariots” at festivals such as the Panathenaea (*IG ii²* 2311.58; 2316.56-57; 2317.20). Probably the difference between a “war-chariot” and an ordinary racing chariot was that the former carried two men (originally, as in Homer, one to drive and one to fight).
 29. **round enough bends:** lit. “many laps”.
 30. **what sad debt befell?:** Greek *ti khreos ebā me?*, adapted from a lyric passage of Euripides (fr. 1011) *ti khreos ebā dōma?* “what thing has befallen the house?” with a play on two senses of *khreos* (in poetry “thing”, in normal language “debt”).
 31. **Amynias:** V has the different name “Ameinias”, and this name is inscriptionally attested in classical Athens while “Amynias” is not. But (i) Aristophanic mss. elsewhere (686ff. and *Wasps* 74, 466, 1267) give uniformly “Amynias”, (ii) V's reading could derive from the mention of Ameinias, archon in 423/2, in the scholia and one of the Hypotheses, (iii) if fourth-century Athenians could be called Amynander, Amynomachus and Amynomenus (*PA* 735, 741, 743; *IG ii²* 1700.59; cf. also Amynon in *Ecclesiasis* 365) we cannot say that a fifth century Athenian could not have been called Amynias.
 31. **chariot-board:** the board on which the driver stood.
 32. **let the horse have a roll:** the mention of a single horse suggests that Pheidippides' dream has shifted from chariot-driving to horse-riding. He is here giving orders to his groom: after its exercise, the horse is to be allowed to dry itself by rolling in the dust before returning to the stable.
 33. **you've been rolling ... in my money:** lit. “you have rolled me out of my property”, i.e. ruined me; for the metaphor cf. Plautus, *Menaechmi* 903 *quem ego hominem ... vita evolvam sua* “I'll roll that man out of his life”, i.e. “I'll murder him”.
 34. **distrain for their interest:** either these creditors have lent Strepsiades money on condition that they are entitled to distrain on his property if interest is not paid, or they are threatening legal proceedings with distraint to follow. See A.R.W. Harrison, *The Law of Athens II: Procedure* (Oxford, 1971) 188-9, 244-7.

36. **twisting and turning:** the verb *strephein* “twist” and its cognates are several times used in the play with reference to Strepsiades, whose name is derived from the verb and who is attempting to twist (cheat) his way out of debt. See 88, 434, 450, 776, 792, 1455.
37. **I'm getting bitten:** as at 12, we expect “by a bug”.
37. **deme official:** strictly “demarch”, the annually-chosen chief official of each of the demes or districts of Attica. It is not clear what role he played in the procedure of distraint; but we know that when a debt *to the state* was unpaid it was the debtor's demarch who had the right to levy execution on his property, and possibly he could on request do the same for a judgement debt owed to an individual. See Harrison, *op. cit.* 189, 212.
39. **all these debts will be your headache:** when Pheidippides inherits his father's property, he will also inherit his father's debts.
40. **would that:** Greek *eith' ophel'*, a tragic expression, made famous by the opening line of Euripides' *Medea* (cf. *Frogs* 1382).
44. **nice and mouldy ... as one pleased:** i.e. with no need to keep the house scrupulously clean or to sit and recline decorously (things about which, by inference, his present wife is punctilious).
45. **honey-bees and sheep and pressed olive:** from this and 50 we get a picture of Strepsiades before his marriage as a prosperous mixed farmer, keeping sheep, goats (71) and bees, and growing grapes, olives and figs.
46. **Megacles son of Megacles:** clearly a member of the aristocratic Alcmeónid family, in which the name Megacles was frequent; possibly meant for a specific contemporary Megacles son of Megacles (*PA* 9697), who held the office of secretary to the treasurers of Athena in 428/7 (*JG* i² 237-9, 261-3; *SEG* xxiv 37). That the fictitious Strepsiades should be related by marriage to the real Megacles need be no more surprising than that the fictitious hero of *Thesm.* is related by marriage to the real Euripides.
48. **stuck-up snob:** Greek *semnēn*, which can be a commendatory epithet for a woman of stature, grace and good breeding (e.g. *Lys.* 1109, *Eccl.* 617, Xen. *Hell* 5.4.4), but which here, in view of the words that accompany it and the whole picture of Strepsiades' wife, must suggest haughtiness and arrogance as it does in *Wasps* 627, *Frogs* 178, Eur. *Hipp.* 93-94.
48. **Coesyrate:** i.e. like Coesyra, mother of the Megacles mentioned in the last note but one. She was a native of Eretria; she claimed to be descended from Zeus (so the scholia on 46), and her wealth and arrogance became proverbial. See J.K. Davies, *Athenian Propertied Families 600-300 B.C.* (Oxford, 1971) 380-2. Strepsiades' wife will have been a granddaughter of Coesyra (cf. 800).
50. **drying figs:** strictly, “a fig-drying rack”.
51. **saffron:** Strepsiades' wife literally smelt of perfume; of deep kisses, extravagance, etc., she can have “smelt” only metaphorically. Saffron, placed be-

- tween the literal and the figurative “smells”, could in principle be either; in fact it is probably figurative, the reference being to the saffron-dyed dress (*krokōtos*) which Athenian women wore on festive occasions or when they wished to make themselves particularly attractive (cf. *Lys.* 44ff, 219, 645; *Thesm.* 253; *Eccl.* 879) but which was not suitable everyday wear for a farmer’s wife.
52. **Colias and Genetyllis:** Colias was the name of a promontory near Phalerum where certain women’s festivals were held (cf. *Lys.* 2); the Genetyllides were goddesses of procreation, who had a sanctuary there. See Paus. 1.1.5; Plut. *Sol.* 8.4. That the Genetyllides had erotic associations is clear from *Thesm.* 130 (and there, as here, there is mention of “deep kisses” in the immediate context), and probably the implication of the names here is not so much that Strepsiades’ wife was fond of travelling to attend women’s festivals as that she was oversexed.
54. **this cloak:** Strepsiades, as was normal, has been using his cloak as a blanket.
55. **you weave too close:** a current expression for “you are extravagant”. The joke is that Strepsiades’ cloak is actually old and full of holes; his wife’s metaphorical “close weaving” has resulted in his having to go on wearing a garment that is now anything but close-woven.
- 56 - 59. Strepsiades’ concern to economize oil is further evidence of his financial difficulties; he is as hard up as the old man in *Wasps* 249-253, who is trying to keep a family of three on his meagre pay as a juror.
63. **-hippus:** i.e. “horse”. The mother wanted this element in her son’s name not so much because it would sound aristocratic (many *-hippus* names were common among all classes) as because she wanted the boy to become a horseman and hoped that his *nomen* would prove an *omen*.
64. **Xanthippus** was a fairly common name, but had a strong aristocratic flavour. In particular, it had been borne by both the father (*PA* 11169) and the son (*PA* 11170) of Pericles, and might well therefore commend itself to the niece of Megacles who was Pericles’ first cousin (his father Megacles and Pericles’ mother Agariste being brother and sister: *Hdt.* 6.131.2).
64. **Chaerippus:** or, with *n*, “Charippus”. Both names are found in the fifth century (for the latter cf. Andoc. 1.35 and also *IG ii²* 1927.110.1, where the Charippus whose son and namesake was a public arbitrator about 325 – and hence then in his sixtieth year – must have been born about 415); neither seems to have any particular social cachet.
64. **Callippides:** as D.M. Lewis, *CR* 20 (1970) 288-9, points out, the one well-known Callippides at this period was a tragic actor, who won first prize for acting at the Lenaea in 418 (*IG ii²* 2319.82-83) and on four other occasions (*IG ii²* 2325.253). There is probably some comic point in the choice of his name here: perhaps the actor was notoriously of low birth, or perhaps the idea is

- that such a name would be more likely to turn its bearer in the direction of the theatre than of the race-track.
65. **Pheidonides after his grandfather:** it was very common for boys to be named after their paternal grandfathers. In this case, oddly enough, we are told later that the grandfather's name was not Pheidonides but Pheidon (134); the same name, with and without the suffix *-idēs*, was often borne by different members of a family, but only rarely by grandfather and grandson (for an instance, though, see Davies, *Athenian Propertied Families* 32: Androcleides son of Androsthenes son of Androcles). Probably Ar. has been inconsistent; he is sometimes careless over names (a Sosias in the audience is addressed at *Wasps* 78, and at 136 it turns out that Sosias is the name of one of the characters who had then been on stage; the hero of *Birds* is called Stilbonides at 139, but Peisetaerus from 644). The meaning of Pheidonides is "Thrifty": Strepsiades wanted his son to take after himself, the economical and prosperous farmer, not after the family of Megacles.
67. **Pheidippides:** this name happens not to be attested at Athens, unless it was that of the herald sent to Sparta before the battle of Marathon in 490 (the mss. of Hdt. 6.105 are divided between "Pheidippides" and "Philippides"); but "Pheidippus" is common, and what is funny here is not the name itself but (i) the process by which it was arrived at and (ii) the fact, to which the description of the dispute compels attention, that the name is internally contradictory – thrift and horses do not go together.
69. **drive a chariot to the Acropolis:** either in the Panathenaic procession, or to dedicate a crown won at one of the panhellenic athletic festivals; "like Megacles" suggests the latter, since Megacles had won the chariot-race at Olympia in 436 (schol. Pind. *Pyth.* 7 inscr.)
74. **galloping consumption:** the phrase is due to Rogers. In Greek the affliction is called *hipperos*, a word coined from *hippos* "horse" and *ikteros* "jaundice" – Strepsiades' finances are looking jaundiced because of his son's mania for horses.
80. **my sweet little Pheidippides:** this renders the affectionate diminutive *Pheidippidion*. The use of such diminutives is a mannerism with Strepsiades: cf. 132, 223, 237, 746.
81. **kiss me and give me your right hand:** by so doing Pheidippides will (i) demonstrate his affection for his father (cf. *Frogs* 754-5, 788-9) and (ii) promise in advance to do whatever his father may require (cf. Soph. *Tr.* 1181-90).
88. **turn your way of life inside out:** the Greek verb *ekstrepson* continues the "twisting" theme which will come to be associated with Strepsiades' name (cf. on 36).
91. **now look over here:** by this point we must assume that the two men are *outside* their house, so presumably the beds have been removed from sight. Probably

they were represented by the *ekkyklēma* platform, which will have been rolled out of the main door of the stage-house before the play began. Once father and son are both on their feet (after 82) the platform is withdrawn through the door, which is then closed; and in 91-94 the same door is identified as the entrance to the Refectory. The door of Strepsiades' house (first used at 125) is represented by one of the flanking doors in the stage-house façade. See C.W. Dearden, *The Stage of Aristophanes* (London, 1976) 64-65.

92. **nice little door ... nice little house:** the diminutives (Greek *thurion*, *oikidion*) do not necessarily imply that either door or house is actually small; Strepsiades is trying to convince Pheidippides, as one might try to convince a child, that there is no reason for him to be afraid of the house or what is inside it. Strepsiades not seldom talks to Pheidippides as if the latter were still a child: cf. 105, 823, 860ff, 878ff, 1380ff.
94. **Refectory:** Greek *phrontistērion* “house of thinkers”, coined on the model of e.g. *dikastērion* “lawcourt”, *bouleutērion* “council-house”, *telestērion* “hall of initiation” (at the Eleusinian Mysteries).
94. **spirits:** Greek *psūkhē* was regularly used by Socrates to mean a man's mind, personality, inner self, that part of the individual whose proper cultivation was in Socrates' view far more important than that of the body. But this was not a meaning the word had in normal usage, and Socrates' use of it was an invitation to jokes based on another meaning of *psūkhē*, namely “ghost”. Thus in *Birds* 1553-64 Socrates is pictured as a necromancer, and here there is probably a suggestion that his pupils are like ghosts – which is true as the pupils are presented in this play, for they are thin, pale and weak.
- 95- 96. **the sky is a baking-cover:** one way of making bread was to bake it under a dome-shaped cover, round the outside of which hot charcoal was heaped. The interior of the cover would first be pre-heated by burning the charcoal under it; it is to this stage of the process that the philosophers' model of the universe refers. See B.A. Sparkes, *JHS* 82 (1962) 128 and Plate IV.2. The “baking-cover theory” was ascribed by Cratinus (fr. 155) to the philosopher Hippo, and by Ar. elsewhere (*Birds* 1000-1) to the astronomer Meton; there is no mention of it in non-comic sources.
101. **reflective thinkers, fine upstanding people:** something of a paradox, since the power of speculative thought on “useless” subjects was not one of the qualities that normally caused a man to be admired, envied, and called *kalos kāgathos* as Strepsiades here calls the inmates of the Refectory. On *kalos kāgathos* see K.J. Dover, *Greek Popular Morality in the Time of Plato and Aristotle* (Oxford, 1974) 41-45. Pheidippides' attitude to the philosophers is closer to that of the ordinary man, as evidenced in fourth- as well as fifth-century comedy.
103. **the palefaces:** all Socrates' students are portrayed as pale and sickly (185-6, 718,

- 1112), but Pheidippides is perhaps thinking especially of Chaerephon, whom the comic poets call “yellow-faced” (*Wasps* 1413, Eupolis fr. 239) and “withered” (Ar. fr. 377, Cratinus fr. 202).
103. **the men with no shoes:** Socrates regularly went barefoot even in the coldest weather (363; Pl. *Symp.* 174a, 220b; Xen. *Mem.* 1.6.2), and in this play he makes his pupils do likewise (719, 858-9).
104. **Chaerephon** (*PA* 15203) was a close associate of Socrates for many years; it was he who asked the Delphic oracle whether any man was wiser than Socrates (Pl. *Apol.* 21a). He was well known for his pale, deathlike countenance (cf. 503-4) and was popularly called “the bat” (*Birds* 1296, 1564); cf. also last note but one. In addition he was satirized as a thief (Ar. fr. 291), a parasite (Eupolis fr. 165), and an informer (Ar. fr. 539); the last-named charge suggests that he took some part in public life, and he does seem to have been a convinced democrat, for unlike Socrates he went into exile when the Thirty assumed power in 404, returning at the restoration of democracy (Pl. loc. cit.) He died not long after, before Socrates’ trial in 399.
106. **your father’s groats:** barley groats was the main form of cereal bought to make food, so the phrase means “your father’s daily bread”, “your father’s ability to buy food”. So in *Knights* 1359 “there’s no groats for you jurymen” means “you will not be paid and will therefore be unable to buy food”.
109. **pheasants:** the pheasant was still a notable rarity in Greece; even two centuries later, in Ptolemaic Egypt, it was regarded as striking and unusual when a king bred pheasants for the table (Athenaeus 14.654b-c). Some ancient commentators believed that Greek *Phāsiānos* here did not mean “pheasant” but was the name of a breed of horse; but there is no actual evidence that any such breed existed.
109. **Leogoras** (*PA* 9075), the father of the orator Andocides, was a man of great wealth (despite the expenditure he lavished on his mistress Myrrhina: Eupolis fr. 44) and a lover of good food (*Wasps* 1269, Plato com. fr. 106); he was descended from one of the oldest families in Athens (Andoc. 1.147). He led an Athenian embassy to Perdiccas of Macedon in 426 (*JG* i² 57.51; cf. Andoc. 2. 11). In 415 he was denounced on two charges of impiety (being party to the mutilation of the Hermae, and being present during a profanation of the Eleusinian Mysteries) but managed to avoid both trial and exile (Andoc. 1.17-22, 47-68); he died some time before 405, since on his death, Andocides being in exile for his part in the events of 415, his house was confiscated and given to the politician Cleophon (Andoc. 1.146).
- 112- The terminology of “the two Arguments” seems to be due to the sophist Protagoras, who said (fr. 6a D-K) that “there were two arguments about every matter, opposed to each other” and apparently claimed (Arist. *Rhet.* 1402a19ff) that it was always possible “to make the worse argument the better”, i.e. to
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make a convincing case for what seems *prima facie* the less plausible of two opposed theses. This claim was probably made in an epistemological rather than an ethical context, but it was popularly taken to mean that Protagoras, or the sophists generally, professed, and taught others, to be able to convince a jury or an assembly into giving a decision contrary to the merits of the case; and it is this skill –rhetoric– that Strepsiades wants his son to learn. In Pl. *Apol.* 18b, 19b, 23d Socrates complains of the way he has for many years been accused of “making the worse argument the better”, a charge which he says is “always ready to hand to fling at any philosopher”.

112. **they have in their house both the Arguments:** this expression, and the personification of the Worse Argument as an orator in 115, are the first foreshadowing of the appearance later in the play of the two Arguments in person.
113. **whatever that may be:** most likely this merely implies that Strepsiades does not fully understand the terminology or the concepts that lie behind it; he has only heard of the whole doctrine at second or third hand (“it’s said” 112). Alternatively the phrase may be dismissive: it is only in the Worse Argument that Strepsiades is really interested (cf. 882-5 where the phrase “whatever that may be” recurs).
116. **Wrongful Argument:** this expression is used only by Strepsiades (cf. 657, 885); by using it he admits that his plan for avoiding payment of his debts is immoral and fraudulent.
120. **the Knights:** the rich young men who formed the Athenian cavalry; Pheidippides’ equestrian interests will have led him to mix with them a great deal.
120. **with all the colour withered from my face:** cf. on 103.
122. **yoke-horse:** one of the two inner horses of a team of four, which were yoked to the chariot; the outer horses drew by traces.
122. **your san-branded thoroughbred:** cf. on 23. The brand-mark in this case is the Dorian letter *san* (Ϻ).
124. **uncle:** actually great-uncle (cf. 46-47).
125. **horseless:** a surprise for “homeless”. We might now have expected Pheidippides to leave for Megacles’ house, confident he would be welcomed there; in fact he insolently re-enters the house of his father.
132. **Boy! Little boy!:** see on 80. The diminutive *paidion* appears once more in Ar. in the call of one knocking at a door (*Frogs* 37) and often in similar circumstances in Menander (e.g. *Dysk.* 459, 463, 498, 911f, 921); nevertheless in view of 80 and 223 it is probably intended here to be specially characteristic of Strepsiades.
133. **STUDENT:** one expects the door to be answered by a slave, but this person clearly is not one: he knows things that may be divulged only to students (140ff) and seems to have some authority over other members of the school (195ff). It would appear, in fact, that the school, which is too poor to feed

itself except by stealing (175ff), is also too poor to have any slaves; at 1145 Socrates answers the door himself.

133. **Oh, get stuffed!:** lit. “throw yourself to the crows”.
134. **Cicynna:** a deme whose location is not certainly known, but which was probably (cf. Lys. 17.5) near Spheftus (see on 156) and belonged to the same tribe, Acamantis.
136. **kicked so hard at the door:** probably a ridiculous exaggeration; Dover well compares *Wealth* 1101 (where Carion asks “Was it you knocking so hard on the door?” when in fact by no means sure that there had been a knock at all) and suggest that Strepsiades’ knock had actually been a timid and tentative one (compare his hesitations in 129-131).
138. **I live a long way off in the country:** yet for all dramatic purposes his house and that of Socrates are treated as adjacent. We cannot take the present line as meaning merely “my normal home is in the country” and suppose for instance that the war has driven Strepsiades to move to the city; for 1322 implies that he is living in his own deme of Cicynna. Rather we must suppose that for the purposes of the play the physical distance between Athens and Cicynna is simply ignored; Ar. plays similar tricks with topography in *Ach.*, where Dicaeopolis’ house is in his own rural deme at 267 but apparently in the city for most of the rest of the play, and in *Peace* where the question how Trygaeus, in heaven, could so easily summon and receive the aid of a chorus of other mortal men is one that the audience is plainly not expected to raise.
139. **the thing that miscarried:** Strepsiades has almost certainly not understood the figurative use of “abortive”; throughout his time at the school he has great difficulty with figurative language and abstract concepts (see P. Green, *GRBS* 20 [1979] 15-25).
140. **it may not lawfully be divulged:** this is the first indication of Socrates’ school being presented as a sort of secret society. The mention of “holy secrets” (lit. “mysteries”) in 143 sharpens this notion to that of a secret *cult*-society, practising a novel mystery-religion and (as we shall see) rejecting Zeus and the other established gods in favour of novel deities of their own; it accords with this that Strepsiades must undergo a form of mystic initiation (254ff) before he may behold these deities. The picture is based partly on the actual existence in the past of such part-philosophical, part-religious secret societies (above all those of the Pythagoreans), partly perhaps on Socrates’ use of the language of mystic initiation in speaking of philosophy (see A.W.H. Adkins, *Antithon* 4 [1970] 13-24, who cites such Platonic passages as *Gorg.* 497c, *Meno* 76e, *Symp.* 209e, *Phdr.* 250b, *Tht.* 155e).
- 145- **could jump ... one had bitten:** or, with the bulk of the ms. tradition, “had
- 146 **jumped ... it had bitten”.**

150. **both its feet:** the Greek has the dual number. Possibly the flea's long back legs are meant; but since Ar. can speak of a beetle as having two legs and two arms (*Peace* 7, 35) and since insect legs have no structure at all resembling the feet of mammals or birds, it is better not to demand an observationally adequate description but to suppose that Ar. used the dual here simply because one is accustomed to think of feet as two.
151. **Persian boots:** a common form of women's footwear (suitable therefore for a flea, since *psulla* "flea" is a feminine noun). The word "boots" is not in the Greek, but can be deduced from *Eccl.* 319, 346, where the "Persians" of the first passage are called *kothornoi* "boots" in the second and must have covered at least part of the calf.
152. **was measuring:** when Strepsiades' knock "aborted" the investigation (137).
156. **Chaerephon of Sphettus:** the deme of Sphettus was situated about eight miles south-east of Athens, a little to the east of Mount Hymettus; see A.G. Kalogeropoulou, *BCH* 93 (1969) 56-71. It is abnormal that Chaerephon's deme should be named only now, when the student has already mentioned him twice without it; either (i) the deme is mentioned only because it comically explains, via a pun on *sphēx* "wasp", why Chaerephon should be so interested in insects, or (ii) Ar. is parodying a common type of anecdote about the wise sayings of famous men, illustrated e.g. in [Pl.] *Theages* 128d-130e, and the student is made to tell the story in the way he always does regardless of the fact that he has just told another story about Chaerephon, or (iii) Chaerephon's name has supplanted someone else's in the text under the influence of 144ff. If there has been corruption, it would have been facilitated by similarity between the two names; the original name may thus perhaps have been that of Chaerecrates (*PA* 15131), Chaerephon's brother and like him a close associate of Socrates (*Xen. Mem.* 1.2.48), or of Cleitophon (*PA* 8546) son of Aristonymus, a character in Plato's *Republic* (1.328b, 340a-b). There is no independent evidence for the deme affiliation of any of these men.
163. **being a cavity adjacent to a narrow passage:** this refers to contemporary theories of hearing. Cf. Alcmaeon A5 and A6 D-K, from which it appears that Alcmaeon (whose date is uncertain, but who may belong to the mid-fifth century: see W.K.C. Guthrie, *A History of Greek Philosophy* i [Cambridge 1962] 357-8) held that the flow of air through the narrow outer-ear passage sets up a resonance in the adjacent middle-ear cavity, resulting in audible sound. Similarly, if the gnat is assumed to have a narrow intestine leading into a larger rectal cavity, the flow of air through the former can be supposed to result in sound being produced in the latter.
165. **the arsehole of gnats is a trumpet:** the tube of a Greek trumpet expanded into a broader chamber at the end remote from the mouthpiece, corresponding to the supposed rectum of the gnat.

166. **feat of evisceration:** Greek *dientereuma*, a word coined for the occasion, perhaps a blend of *di'enterou* “through the intestine” and *diereunēma* “investigation”.
170. **spotted lizard ... 173 gecko:** the Greek words are respectively *askalabōtēs*, which seems to be a general name for any species of gecko (cf. Arist. *HA* 538a27, 599a31) and *galeōtēs*, which may be a synonym or may denote a particular species.
- 171- the story resembles one that was told about Thales (cf. 180): walking alone with
 173. his eyes on the sky and his mind on an astronomical problem, he fell into a well (*Pl. Thet.* 174a).
173. **shat on him from the eaves:** cf. *Wasps* 202-6 where Xanthias, at work barricading the outside of a house-door, has earth or muck dropped on him from above, and Bdelycleon suggests a mouse might be responsible.
176. **groats:** see on 106.
- 177- Socrates is going to distract the students from their hunger by a geometrical demonstration.
 178. Normally diagrams were drawn in the dust on the ground; here the table is used (with ash in lieu of dust), partly perhaps because the diagrams are to be a substitute dinner.
178. **a faggot:** the Greek word is *diabētēs*, lit. “a bestrider”. In geometry *diabētēs* means a pair of compasses, and the natural interpretation of 178, if we could ignore what follows in the next line, would be that Socrates bent a spit and took it to use as compasses. But what then is the connection between 177-8 and 179? Is it that Socrates suddenly abandons the attempt to satisfy his students with “food for thought” and instead procures the cost of a meal by stealing and selling a cloak? (For Socrates as a petty thief, cf. Eupolis fr. 361.) But the text does not say, as we would then expect, “a cloak” (*himation*) but “the cloak” or “his cloak” (*thoimation*) – the cloak of someone previously mentioned or assumed to be known. Who is this someone? I suggest that he lies hidden in a double meaning of the word *diabētēs*. When the audience first hear the word, they will take it to refer to the geometry lesson, according to the “natural interpretation” explained above; but as the sentence goes on, it becomes clear that *diabētēn labōn* “taking a *diabētēs*” goes not with what precedes but with what follows (“from the wrestling-school”) and that *diabētēs* “a bestrider, one who spreads his legs” here denotes a youth addicted to passive homosexuality. Socrates’ method of feeding himself and his students is to go to the wrestling-school, pick up a boy there, take him home, seduce and rob him (cf. *Frogs* 148), and sell his cloak to buy food. For the meaning assumed for *diabētēs* compare the use of *diabainein*, from which it is derived, in relation to a “young pathic” at *Wasps* 688, to a man with a “gaping arse” in *Knights* 77-78, and to a woman having intercourse in the “jockey” position in *Lys.* 60 (in *Thesm.* 153 it is envisaged that the passive homosexual Agathon might sometimes adopt the jockey position); for the connection between Socrates,

- handsome boys, and wrestling-schools, see e.g. Plato's *Charmides* and *Lysis*; for the wrestling-school as a convenient place for man to meet boy, *Wasps* 1025 and *Peace* 762-3. The joke here lies in the sudden transition, within a sentence and via the stepping-stone of an ambiguous word, from a high-minded ignoring of the physical appetites to an ingenious and criminal system for satisfying hunger and sexual desire by the same process.
180. **Thales**, the founder of the Milesian school of philosophy, who lived in the first half of the sixth century, had acquired an almost legendary reputation for both theoretical and practical wisdom, and was credited with many achievements in applied science and even in politics and business (the stories are conveniently collected by Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* i 50-52). Accordingly, to say that a man was comparable, let alone superior, to Thales was to say that he was an intellectual genius: cf. *Birds* 1009 and Plautus *Bacch.* 122, *Capt.* 274-5.
184. On the use of the *ekkyklēma* here see Dearden, *The Stage of Aristophanes* 65-67; but I differ from him in assuming (i) that the instruments and map of 200-217 are hung on screens at the rear of the trolley and (ii) that the trolley itself functions as a bed in 254ff. Hence the platform itself is occupied only by the students, of whom there need not be more than four.
186. **like the men captured at Pylos**: in 425 Demosthenes and Cleon had defeated the Spartan force occupying Sphacteria, an island adjoining the promontory of Pylos in the western Peloponnese, and taken 292 prisoners of whom about 120 belonged to the Spartan ruling caste (Thuc. 4.38.4). The prisoners were brought to Athens and kept in chains (Thuc. 4.41.1) until peace should be made; when *Clouds* was produced they had been in confinement for nearly two years, and could therefore be expected, like the students, to be showing the effects of inadequate diet and lack of fresh air.
188. **trying to discover**: Greek *zētousin*, which to a scientist means "inquiring into", but which Strepsiades understands in its everyday sense "searching for".
188. **what is under the earth**: speculation about the interior of the earth was something for which philosophers and scientists were often censured, according to Pl. *Apol.* 18b, 19b, 23d; it could be regarded as impious, being an attempt to discover what the gods have concealed from man. Yet Plato puts a lecture on this subject into Socrates' mouth as the last discourse of his life (*Phd.* 108c-115a), though it is made to serve a moral purpose.
188. **bulbs**: strictly, the bulbs of the purse-tassel (*Muscari comosum*), which were commonly eaten; see Thphr. *HP* 7.13.
192. **Tartarus**: the depths of the underworld, below the realm of Hades ([Aesch.] *Prom.* 152-4); but the minds of Socrates' students penetrate deeper yet.
195. **him**: i.e. Socrates.
202. **Geometry**: for geometrical instruments as a comic stage-property cf. *Birds* 999-1009.
203. **for measuring land**: this would naturally be the first practical application of geo-

metry to occur to anyone's mind, since it had given the science its name.

203. **cleruchs**: Athenian citizens who were allocated holdings on territory outside Attica which had been appropriated by the Athenian state. Such settlements had been established on various occasions since the late sixth century; the most recent had been set up on Lesbos in 427, after the suppression of the revolt there, when the greater part of the island had been parcelled out among 2700 Athenians selected by lot (Thuc. 3.50.2). Normally cleruchs took over and farmed their holdings; on Lesbos, however, they lived on rent paid by the former owners who continued to work the land.
205. **it's a ... democratic device**: "Strepsiades thinks that 'geometry' is some (magical?) device for distributing all the land in the world gratis to Athenian citizens like himself" (Dover); such a device would be "democratic" because it would enable the poorest Athenian to become economically independent. At 215-6 Strepsiades again confuses science with magic.
208. **I don't see any jurors**: the joke is not only on Strepsiades' failure to appreciate the limited purpose of a map (which is not a picture or a model) but also on the implication that Athenians have such a passion for litigation that an Athens without lawcourts would not be Athens any more. For Athenian litigiousness cf. 494-6, *Knights* 1316-7, *Birds* 40-41, 108-111.
213. **we laid it out**: The Greek verb is the same as that translated "lying stretched out" in the preceding line; there it referred to the shape and position of Euboea, here it bears the sense "render helpless, knock out" (cf. Pl. *Euthd.* 303b, Xen. *Mem.* 3.13.6). The reference is to the suppression of the Euboean revolt of 446 by an Athenian army led by Pericles (Thuc. 1.114).
217. **in that case ... you're going to howl**: it is not the Socratics' fault that the facts of geography cannot be altered; but Strepsiades is very apt to lose his temper when he cannot get his way (57-59, 121-3, 814-5, 1373-5).
219. **the master**: Greek *autos*, "he himself", commonly used to denote the master of a house (Pl. *Prot.* 314d; Men. *Sam.* 256; cf. *Knights* 127, of a slave who is *de facto* ruler of the household) and by Pythagorean philosophers to denote the founder of their school (D.L. 8.46, cf. Cicero *De Natura Deorum* 1.10).
222. **is an isolated short line cosisting of a single iambic metron**; for such a short line among the normal three-*metron* lines (trimeters) of dialogue cf. *Ach.* 407.
223. **my sweet little Socrates**: affectionate diminutive, as in 80 and 132; the tone is wheedling, cf. *Ach.* 404, *Peace* 382.
223. **thou creature of a day**: Socrates speaks like a god addressing a mortal. The adjective *ephēmeros* "whose life is but a day" belongs primarily to high poetry; cf. Semonides fr. 1.3; Pind. *Pyth.* 8.95; Pind. fr. 157; [Aesch] *Prom.* 83, 253, 546, 945; Eur. *Or.* 976.
- 225- **descry ... decry**: the Greek has respectively *periphronō*, which can mean either
226. "contemplate" (the sense intended by Socrates) or "despise", and *huperphro-*

neis whose only relevant meaning is “despise”.

- 226. **the gods:** virtually all Greeks, except natural philosophers, regarded the sun as a god.
- 229. **hanging up my mind:** as one might hang a garment on a tree to dry; for according to the contemporary philosopher Diogenes of Apollonia, of whose doctrines 229-234 are a garbled parody, the air which, in his opinion, constitutes the soul and mind of living creatures must be “pure and dry” if intelligent thought is to take place (Diogenes fr. 4 and A19 D-K). On Diogenes and his air-based theory of the universe and of life, see Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* ii 362-381. Of course, one cannot hang up the mind to dry without also hanging up the body that contains it; hence the need for Socrates to have himself hoisted into the air.
- 229-. **the minute particles of my thought:** Diogenes’ reason for believing that the soul
- 230. consisted of air was that “air is composed of minuter particles than any other substance” (Diogenes A20 D-K).
- 232. **the earth forcibly draws the moisture of thought to itself:** the notion of moisture
- 233. (*ikmas*) being “drawn” or “attracted” to some solid substance seems to have played a prominent role in Diogenes’ physics; thus he uses it to account for magnetism (A33 D-K). But had Diogenes sought to explain the intellectual inferiority of the earthbound by such an attraction, he would have had to posit a flow of moisture into, not out of, the mind, which would prevent it from being “pure and dry”; and in fact he explained the poor intellect of animals by the fact that the air they breathe comes from near the ground (Diogenes A19 D-K). Ar. is concerned only to make Socrates use the language and concepts of current scientific theory, not to make him argue accurately, consistently or intelligibly.
- 234. **Just the same thing happens to cress:** cress seeds soak up moisture greedily, and thus provide an analogy for the earth “forcibly draw[ing] ... moisture ... to itself”.
- 235. **How do you mean?:** in the Greek this question stands outside the metre, as similar questions do in *Knights* 1346 and *Birds* 416.
- 241. **having my goods distrained on:** cf. 34-35; here Strepsiades makes his plight seem more alarming by representing as a present fact what, according to the earlier passage, is as yet no more than a threat.
- 243. **an equine affliction:** cf. 74.
- 243. **which has been eating me up fearfully:** diseases, particularly those which involved disfigurement of the skin or decay of the flesh, were often said to “devour” the patient (cf. Aesch. *Cho.* 280-1; Soph. *Phil.* 7, 313; Arist. *Poet.* 1458b19-24); here the expression also hints at the great amount of food that horses need, and at the way they have metaphorically devoured Strepsiades’ resources.

244. **one of your two Arguments:** see 112-8 with notes.
247. **we don't credit gods here:** lit. "gods aren't *nomisma* for us". Socrates appears
248. to be using *nomisma* in the sense, etymologically impeccable but not otherwise attested, of "something believed in"; Strepsiades, to whom *nomisma* means "coinage, currency", is completely confused by this unfamiliar usage. This is the first appearance in the play of the allegation that Socrates does not believe in (*ou nomizei*) the recognised gods of the community (cf. Pl. *Apol.* 23d, 24b).
248. **what currency do you use for oaths?:** Strepsiades seems to have taken Socrates' last sentence to mean "we do not regard gods as coins", and, in striving to make sense of this, he has apparently gathered that in the Socratic "religion" coins, not gods, are the essential element in the taking of an oath. Accordingly he asks what kind of coins are required to make an oath acceptable; and since the currency used by a secret society for a religious purpose is likely to be of an unfamiliar sort, he thinks of the iron currency of Byzantium, one of the few states (Sparta was another) that still used this metal for monetary purposes (cf. Plato com. fr. 96, Strattis fr. 36).
252. **the Clouds:** insubstantial, impermanent things, "mist and dew and vapour" (330), fit deities for those who teach men to obscure reality under a smoke-screen of rhetoric. No normal Greek would think of worshipping them: they lacked the prime characteristic of a god, permanence (immortality). Cf. Juvenal 14.97 (converts to Judaism "worship nothing but clouds and the divinity of heaven").
254. A parody of the initiation rites of various mystery-cults (cf. on 140). Enthrone-
262. ment (*thronōsis*) is mentioned by Pl. *Euthd.* 277d in connection with Corybantic initiation-rites, but Ar. replaces the chair of initiation (*thronos*) with a low bed (*skimpous*) perhaps to suggest that the Socratics are so poor as not to possess a chair and/or so ascetic as not to want to use one. The sprinkling of Strepsiades with fine meal (260-2) is paralleled by the smearing of the initiate with clay and *tran* in the ritual described by Dem. 18.259.
256. **wreath:** commonly worn when performing rituals of many kinds.
257. **make a sacrifice of me, like Athamas:** Athamas was the father of Phrixus and Helle, whom their mother Nephele had saved from being sacrificed by sending them to Colchis on the ram with the golden fleece (though Helle perished on the way). Subsequently, perhaps to expiate his share in the plot against Phrixus and Helle by their stepmother Ino (cf. Hdt. 7.197), preparations were made to sacrifice Athamas himself; the scholia on the present passage report that in one of the two tragedies by Sophocles that bore his name, Athamas in one scene was standing by the altar of Zeus, a wreath on his head, about to be sacrificed, when he was saved by Heracles. The wreath is the sole point of resemblance (and a very slight one) between Athamas' situation then and

Strepsiades' now; but the Clouds (*Nephelai*) make him think of Nephele whom Athamas had wronged, and that recalls to him what must have been a memorable theatrical experience and makes him afraid of becoming another Athamas. Strepsiades is rather easily frightened (cf. 267-8, 293-5, 481, 497, 506-9).

260. **a smooth talker:** Greek *trīmma* “something well rubbed”; the same word, along with *paipalē(ma)* “sieved meal”, is used of a clever, subtle orator in *Birds* 431.
260. **a tinkling cymbal:** lit. “a castanet”; cf. 448.
263. Metre: anapaestic tetrameters; the same metre is resumed between (291-7) and
274. after (314ff) the lyric strophe and antistrophe of the chorus, and then continues until 438 when it is followed by an anapaestic *pnīgos* (439-456).
263. **Let the old man speak fair:** the injunction to “speak fair”, i.e. to keep silence, was the normal preliminary to any religious rite (cf. *Ach.* 237ff, *Wasps* 868, etc.); it was addressed to all participants and bystanders. The rite now being performed is very unusual in that only one person is present apart from the officiant.
264. **Air:** cf. 225, 230.
264. **who upholdest the floating earth:** Diogenes of Apollonia (A16a D-K) followed Anaxagoras (A42.3) and the much earlier Anaximenes (A20) in holding that the (flat) earth rested on and was supported by a mass of air below.
265. **bright Sky:** Greek *aithēr*, properly the substance — drier, hotter, purer than the air around us — which lies between the region of ordinary air (*āēr*) and the sky, “the bright upper atmosphere of a clear Mediterranean sky” (Guthrie). When the four-element theory was developed, some philosophers regarded *aithēr* as a form of air, some as a form of fire, some as a fifth element distinct from both; and in both philosophical and popular thought the proximity of *aithēr* to heaven, and its remoteness from the region in which mortal creatures move, resulted in its being widely thought of as divine. This notion is particularly common in Euripides, whose characters call *aithēr* “begetter of men and gods” (fr. 839), “head of the gods” (fr. 919), Zeus (fr. 877, 941), and swear oaths by it (fr. 487); Euripides is presented as a worshipper of Aither in *Frogs* 892. The epithet “bright” (*lampros*) for *aithēr* is a favourite with Euripides (e.g. *Hipp.* 178, *Ion* 1445, *Or.* 1087, fr. 443).
265. **thunder-fulminating** implies that thunder and lightning are caused by the Clouds and not by Zeus; see 374-411.
266. **him who thinks on you:** the Greek noun is *phrontistēs*, from which *phrontistērion* “Refactory” (94 etc.) is derived. It is used in the plural to refer to the Socratics at 456 and 1039. Altogether this and other derivatives of *phrontis* “thought” occur thirty times in *Clouds*, more often than in all Ar.’s other surviving plays combined.

- 267 **Not yet, not yet:** the literal-minded Strepsiades assumes that if the Clouds come in response to Socrates' prayer then it will rain – and he doesn't want to get wet.
- 270- **whether ... or ... or ...:** it was common in prayer to list the favourite abodes of the
273. god prayed to and ask him, in whichever of these places he might be, to hearken and come to his worshipper's call; cf. *Iliad* 16.514-6; Aesch. *Eum.* 292-8; *Frogs* 659, 664f. The Clouds, being novel gods, have no traditional abodes; but when clouds first appear in the sky they are in the far distance, and accordingly the first four abodes mentioned for them are in the far north, west, south and east respectively. All, too, are explicitly linked with moisture in the form of water or snow.
271. **call the Nymphs to a holy dance:** the particular Nymphs in question are presumably the Oceanides, daughters of Ocean. The Greek word *khoros* may imply both dancing and singing, which are the most typical activities of Nymphs of all kinds; for the Oceanides in particular, cf. Callimachus, *Hymn to Artemis* 13, where Artemis asks for sixty Oceanides as *khorītides*.
- 271; **the garden of father Ocean:** the garden of the Hesperides, in the far west by the Pillars of Heracles (cf. Eur. *Hipp.* 742-751). If "father" here and at 278 means that Ocean is father of the Clouds, there is an inconsistency with 569-570 where their father is Aither; but Ocean may be called "father" as begetter of innumerable rivers and nymphs (Hes.. *Thg.* 337ff; cf. *Iliad* 14.201 "Ocean, origin of the gods").
272. **at the mouths of the Nile ... with golden ewers:** this seems to be based, in a garbled and poeticized form, on a theory of Diogenes of Apollonia (A18 D-K) intended to account for the Nile's summer flooding. According to Diogenes the sun drew up moisture from land and sea, principally in the hotter southern regions, and the resulting deficit of water in these regions was corrected by an influx, through subterranean channels, of excess water from the north; hence northern lands were watered mainly from above (by rain) and southern lands mainly from below (by the Nile flood). Ar. concentrates on one part of the process, the drawing-up of moisture from the hotter parts of earth and sea, clothes it in mythical-poetic language ("golden ewers"), and replaces the agency of the Sun (a traditional god) by that of the novel deities, the Clouds.
273. **Lake Maeotis:** the Sea of Azov, north-east of the Crimea.
273. **Nimas:** the mountainous peninsula north of Erythrae in Ionia, facing Chios. For ^M a Greek poet to call a mountain "snowy" need mean no more than that snow often falls there; cf. Eur. *Ph.* 802, *Ba.* 661-2.
274. **my sacrifice:** Greek *thusiā* normally means an animal sacrifice, but can sometimes (e.g. Eur. fr. 912.4) be used of other kinds of offering to the gods; so here it is possible that Socrates has burnt incense on the stage-altar before beginning his prayer.

- 275-290 = 298-313 Metre: dactylic, with only one brief interruption (287=310). This choral entrance-song is unique in extant Greek drama in being sung entirely offstage; the Clouds do not appear until 323-6. The nearest parallel is the song of the Frogs (*Frogs* 209ff), though the argument for the Frogs' remaining invisible to the audience is largely *ex silentio*.
276. **let us rise and make visible:** responding to Socrates' prayer "arise, appear" (266).
278. **deep-roaring:** echoed in "deep thunder" (285), "deep-sounding" (313): the Greek words are *baruākheos*, *barubromon*, *barubromos*. Taking these words together with the mention of thunder in 292 and 294, one may presume that low notes predominated in the melody of the ode.
283. **rushing flow:** Greek *keladēmata*, echoed in *keladonta* "sounding" (284) and *eukeladon* "melodious" (312).
285. **the unwearying eye of heaven:** the sun. The word rendered "heaven" is *aithēr*: cf. on 265.
288. **shake off the rainy mist from our immortal form:** seems to mean "make our-
289. selves look like (anthropomorphic) goddesses rather than masses of vapour": cf. 329-330, 340-355.
292. **awe-inspiring divine thunder:** as the "thunder" is mentioned as something separate from and simultaneous with the song, it is most likely that it was produced as a "sound-effect" rather than being, as Dover supposes, merely suggested by the music. The scholia mention a simple device for the purpose, called a *bron-teion*, which used the noise of pebbles striking metal. Cf. *Birds* 1750-2 and Soph. *O.C.* 1456ff.
293. **in response ... I want to fart back:** for the resemblance between the noise of
294. thunder and that of breaking wind, cf. 382-394; for breaking wind and/or defaecating as a symptom of fright, cf. *Knights* 224, *Wasps* 626, 941, *Frogs* 479ff.
296. **goddamned comedians:** Greek *trugodaimones*, a blend of *trugōidoi* "comedians" and *kakodaimones* "accursed, wretched".
297. **speak fair:** cf. 263.
299. **gleaming:** a favourite laudatory epithet for Athens, derived from Pindar fr. 76; cf. *Ach.* 637-640, *Knights* 1329.
- 300-1. **Cecrops:** a legendary king of Athens.
300. **home of fine men:** Greek *euandron*, a term applied to Athens by Athena in
301. Aesch. *Eum.* 1031 and Socrates in Xen. *Mem.* 3.3.12.
- 302- It is startling that the Clouds, whom Socrates believes to be the greatest of gods,
310. praise the Athenians for their pious worship of the traditional gods, who according to Socrates do not exist or have no power. So again in the lyrics of the parabasis (563-574, 595-606) they sing to eight gods, all but one of whom belong to the traditional pantheon. Only at the end of the action (1452-62) is the anomaly explained: the Clouds, though they are indeed goddesses, are

not independent powers, opponents or supplacers of Zeus, but allies and agents of Zeus and the traditional gods, and have come to Athens ostensibly to receive Socrates' worship and give him and his pupil their divine aid, but really to make manifest and to punish the impiety of Socrates and the dishonesty of Strepsiades.

302. **the august rites none may speak of:** the Eleusinian mysteries. Contrast the far from august mystery-rites just performed by Socrates (254-262).
- 303- **the temple is opened:** this implies that the hall of initiation (*Telestērion*) at Eleusis, like some other sacred buildings (e.g. the temple of Dionysus in the Marshes: [Dem.] 59.76), was kept closed throughout the year and only opened for its special festival.
307. **the Blest Ones:** the gods.
308. **garlanded** refers to the worshippers.
- 311- Special mention is given to the City Dionysia, the festival at which *Clouds* was originally produced.
311. **Dionysian:** lit. "Bromian", from *Bromios* "the Noisy One", a common poetic title for Dionysus.
315. **some kind of female heroes:** it looks as though Strepsiades is frightened again (cf. on 257). "Heroes" – that is, the spirits of great men of the past – were believed sometimes to walk the earth, and it was dangerous to encounter them, especially at night, for one might be struck with paralysis (*Birds* 1487-93, with scholia on 1490; Athenaeus 11.461c). Strepsiades fears that these beings, whose sublime music indicates their supernatural status, may have similar powers.
316. **men of idleness:** "idle" is an epithet that his enemies might apply pejoratively to the Socrates of *Clouds*, because, like the types mentioned in 331-3, he makes no genuine, worthwhile contribution to society; here and in 334 the epithet is put into his own mouth as if it were complimentary.
- 317- **intelligence and discourse ... incisive and repressive power:** Socrates speaks as a teacher of rhetoric. The seven expressions he uses here are modish names for oratorical skills (cf. *Knights* 1378-80); four of them are abstract nouns ending in the suffix *-sis*, on which see E.W. Handley, *Eranos* 51 (1953) 129-142.
320. **about smoke:** i.e. about matters of no importance.
323. **Mount Parnes:** the mountain massif on the northern border of Attica. The side-entrances in the Theatre of Dionysus, by one of which the chorus entered, were actually on the east and west, not the north; so the spectator must forget the real direction of Mount Parnes (which in any case could not be seen from the theatre) and accept the direction in which Socrates points as being that of Parnes.
325. **the woods and the hollows:** the Clouds, moving downwards (323), have reached the dells and spurs of the lower slopes of the well-wooded (Euphanes fr.1) mountain.

326. **the wing-entrance**: the point at which the side entrance-passage for the chorus debouched into the orchestra. The actor momentarily drops the dramatic fiction; for similar passing references to theatrical reality cf. 1149, 1352, *Ach.* 416, 442-4, *Peace* 174-6, *Birds* 296, Ar.fr. 188, 388.
331. “**experts**”: lit. “sophists”. Greek *sophistēs* meant originally an expert practitioner of some skill, later especially a professional teacher of advanced branches of knowledge; by Ar.’s time it had already acquired pejorative connotations, and Plato makes Socrates’ unphilosophical contemporaries regard “sophist” virtually as a term of abuse (*Prot.* 312a, 314c-e; *Meno* 92a-c).
332. **diviners from Thurii**: this alludes principally to Lampon (*PA* 8996), the seer and expounder of religious law, who had been sent out by Pericles in 444/3 as official founder (*oikistēs*) of the colony of Thurii in south Italy (D.S. 12.10.3; Plut. *Mor.* 802d). He had subsequently returned to Athens, and remained prominent in public life until 414 at least (*IG i²* 76.47; Thuc. 5.19.2; 5.24.1; *Birds* 521, 988). His chief satirizable vice appears to have been love of good food (Cratinus fr. 57-58; Lysippus fr. 6; Callias fr. 14).
332. **professors of the medical art**: not medical practitioners (the high public regard for whom is sufficiently evidenced by the enormous salaries paid to doctors holding state appointments) but medical theorists. Contemporary theories of disease placed great emphasis on climate and weather as causal factors; see the Hippocratic treatise *Airs, Waters, Places*, the “constitutions” in *Epidemics*, and Pl. *Symp.* 188a-b; in Pl. *Polit.* 299b-c it is taken for granted that the study of meteorology is as essential to medicine as it is to navigation. Hence it is natural that the Cloud-goddesses should look with favour on medical theorists.
332. **long-haired do-nothings with onyx signet-rings**: one word in the Greek. Both long hair (cf. on 14) and signet-rings, especially jewelled ones (cf. *Eccl.* 632), imply wealth; either the suggestion is being made that some of the “experts” in useless knowledge just mentioned have greatly enriched themselves and are aping the fashions and luxuries of the aristocracy, or else the circle of the Clouds’ protégés is being extended to include all who are able to live in comfort without making any contribution to society’s welfare.
333. **dithyrambic**: lit. “circular”, this being the normal dance-formation for this type of chorus. The dithyramb was a choral performance of song and dance, originally in honour of Dionysus; at the City Dionysia, in addition to the competitions in tragedy and in comedy, there were competitions in dithyramb for choruses of boys and of men. Dithyrambic poets had a reputation for meaningless grandiloquence: in *Peace* 828-831 Trygaeus has seen some of their souls seeking inspiration in the upper air, and in *Birds* 1372-1409 the dithyrambist Cinesias thinks he has found his spiritual home in Cloudcuckooville.
335. **edged with twists of radiance**: lit. “with twisted *aiglē*”. The meaning of *aiglē* here is uncertain; I take it to mean the gleaming “silver lining” around the

- irregular edge of a dark cloud, as apparently in Bacchylides 12.140.
336. **Typhos**, the hundred-headed monster who once fought against Zeus (Hes. *Thg.* 821ff), was father of the storm-winds (ib. 869-880), hence his connection with clouds.
338. **as a reward for that**: probably at the banquet given by a successful *chorēgos* after the performance (cf. *Ach.* 1154-5, *Peace* 1356-7). No doubt Ar. felt that the dithyrambic poets had done very little to deserve such a reward in comparison with those who wrote and produced comedies, “the most difficult thing in the world” according to *Knights* 516.
339. **lovely big ... flesh of thrushes**: in the Greek the line contains four genitive plural forms of the first declension, all of which have the Doric ending *-ān* instead of the Attic *-ōn* in mocking imitation of the dithyrambic style (the series of dithyrambic quotations in 335-8 had begun and ended with sequences of genitive plurals in *-ān*).
339. **barracuda fish**: the Greek *kestrā* is probably the so-called “European barracuda”, *Sphyraena spet*, though it has also been suggested that the word here denotes the pike.
349. **savage**: this seems to have been a popular designation for promiscuous pederasts (cf. Aeschines 1.52).
349. **the son of Xenophantus** is identified by the scholia as the tragic and dithyrambic poet Hieronymus (*PA* 7556; *TrGF* 31), whose long hair is mentioned in *Ach.* 388-390.
350. **centaurs**: the centaurs of myth were notoriously lecherous, and “centaur” is attested as a term for over-lustful pederasts by Hesychius κ 2225 and schol. Aeschines 1.52.
351. **Simon** (*PA* 12686) is known to us only from comedy, in which he was accused not only of embezzlement as here (cf. Eupolis fr. 218) but also of perjury (*Clouds* 399-400) and, according to the scholia here, of being in debt (presumably to the state; this, if true, would have entailed automatic deprivation of citizen rights). His association in 399-400 with the politicians Cleon and Theorus indicates that he also was a politician, and probably, like them, a supporter of Cleon.
352. **wolves**: typical predators.
- 353-4. **deer**: proverbially timidous from *Iliad* 1.225 onwards.
353. **Cleonymus the shield-dropper**: Cleonimus (*PA* 8680) was a minor politician, active from 426 to 415 (*IG i²* 57.34; 65.5; *SEG* x 73; Andoc. 1.27). He is satirized by Ar. in every extant play from *Acharnians* to *Birds*, at first as an obese glutton (*Ach.* 88; *Knights* 958, 1290-9), but from *Clouds* on mainly for having once run away in battle discarding his shield (cf. *Wasps* 19-23, 822-3; *Peace* 444-6, 673-8, 1295-1304; *Birds* 290, 1473-81). The shield incident therefore probably happened between *Knights* and *Clouds*,

- i.e. in 424, and the battle of Delium, when the Athenian army was routed (Thuc. 4.96. 4-5; cf. Pl. *Symp.* 220e-221c), provides a likely occasion. Compare Aeschines' taunting of Demosthenes for having run away at Chaeroneia (Aeschines 3.152, 155, 159, 175-6, etc).
355. **Cleisthenes** (*PA* 8525) was a beardless man, frequently satirized by Ar. as effeminate (*Ach.* 117-121, *Knights* 1373-4, *Thesm.* 574-654, *Frogs* 48-57, etc); in *Thesm.* 571-2 he is at first sight mistaken for a woman.
356. **if you have ever done so for another:** a variant on the common prayer-formula "if you have ever hearkened to me before" (*Thesm.* 1157-8, Sappho fr. 1.5ff), necessitated by the fact that Strepsiades has only just recognized the Clouds as goddesses. Dicaeopolis, treating Euripides almost as a god, appeals to him in similar terms in *Ach.* 405.
358. **CHORUS:** normally in dialogue the chorus is represented by its leader; but here, where Strepsiades has just asked the Clouds to display the power and beauty of their voices, it may be that the lines were chanted by the whole chorus.
359. **priest of the subtlest balderdash:** that the Clouds should speak thus of their devotee Socrates would probably surprise the audience no more than that in *Knights* 296, 1252 and *Wasps* 928 Cleon calls himself a thief. Later, however, they will discover that the Clouds really do regard Socrates' teachings as "balderdash" and have come not to help or honour him but to punish him.
361. **Prodicus** of Ceos was a distinguished intellectual, approximately contemporary with Socrates; he is amusingly portrayed in Plato's *Protagoras*. His main field of interest was semantics; he emphasized the importance of the right use of words and especially of distinguishing the meanings of near-synonyms. He also wrote on ethics, the origin of religion, and apparently on human physiology (fr. 4 D-K). Ar. is the only authority who connects him with astronomy or cosmology, but *Birds* 690-2 is fairly solid evidence that Prodicus wrote an account of the origin of the universe. See Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* iii 274-280.
361. **his skill and intelligence:** this compliment to Prodicus has sometimes been taken as ironical, but that would spoil the effect of the contrast between him and Socrates. Prodicus, whatever one might think of his linguistic and other studies, was an accomplished literary artist who properly discharged the literary man's duty of promoting the moral improvement of the community (witness his popular allegory *The Choice of Heracles*, paraphrased by Xen. *Mem.* 2.1. 21-34). Socrates wrote nothing, and his moral influence may well have seemed to Ar. purely destructive, concerned as he was more to refute the unsoundly based beliefs of others than to impart positive doctrines of his own.
362. **swagger ... and cast your eyes sideways:** in Pl. *Symp.* 221b Alcibiades is made to quote this line as correctly hitting off Socrates' bearing, with particular reference to the retreat from Delium in 424. For Socrates' expressive glances cf. also Pl. *Phd.* 115c, 116d, 117b.

363. **go barefoot**: cf. 103.
364. **Holy Earth**: Earth (Ge) was one of the oldest and greatest of divine beings; she is sworn by in *Peace* 188, 1117 and *Birds* 194. The double invocation of Ge here and in 366 is a rare phenomenon and suggest that Strepsiades is deeply moved, first by the sound of the Clouds' voices and then by the astonishing suggestion that Zeus is not a god.
365. **all the rest**: everything commonly believed about other gods.
372. **that point**: that it never rains unless there are clouds.
372. **what you were just saying**: that the Clouds, not Zeus, make rain.
374. **that makes me tremble**: cf. 293-5, where the rare verb *tetramainein* "tremble" is used as it is here.
376. Socrates' theory of thunder is not known to have been held by any fifth-century philosopher (the statement of D.L. 2.9 that for Anaxagoras thunder was "a collision of clouds" is at variance with all the other evidence for Anaxagoras' views). Many theorists, however, connected the cause of thunder in one way or another with clouds, e.g. Anaxagoras (A84 D-K), Diogenes of Apollonia (A16), Leucippus (A25) and Democritus (A93).
377. **necessity** (*anankē*) "as a cosmological force runs right through Presocratic thought" (Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* iii 100), being especially prominent in Parmenides, Empedocles, Leucippus and Democritus. In Eur. *Tro.* 886 Hecuba prays to the ruling power of the universe "whoever thou be ... whether Zeus, or the Necessity of nature, or the Mind of man".
380. **vortex**: Greek *dīnos* "rotation, whirling", a notion that played a crucial role in the atomistic cosmogony of Democritus (fr. 167 D-K, cf. A1 = D.L. 9.45 and A83). See Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* ii 406-413. But in everyday Attic *dīnos* meant a kind of cup, and it is likely, as 1473 shows, that a "statue" of such a cup stood outside the Refectory, as a statue of Hermes stood (1478) outside Strepsiades' house – implying to Strepsiades' mind that the Socratics worship *Dīnos*, Vortex, as a god. Socrates himself never mentions such a god.
381. **Vortex is now king in his place**: as Cronus overthrew Uranus and Zeus overthrew Cronus, so now Vortex has overthrown Zeus.
386. **soup**: it would be a beef soup, probably with plenty of meat in it; see next note.
386. **the Panathenaea**: the principal festival of Athena, held on the 28th of Hecatombaeon (roughly July). It was marked by lavish public sacrifices of cows, whose meat was distributed to the population (the fourth-century decree *IG* ii² 334 makes regulations for the distribution) and must have provided many with their best meal of the year.
394. **Ah, that's why ... "fart"**: most mss. continue this line to Socrates, but L. Woodbury, *Phoenix* 34 (1980) 112-8, has argued cogently that it belongs to Strepsiades. The opening phrase (Greek *taut' ara*) has already been used three times by Strepsiades (319, 335, 353) when Socrates' words have provided him

with an “explanation” of some fact the reason for which he had not previously understood. It is true that many contemporary sophists were interested in etymology, but so were ordinary Greeks: consider, at the very beginning of Greek literature, *Odyssey* 19.407-9 and Hes. *Thg.* 195-200, *Works* 2-3. Since *brontē* and *pordē* are only moderately similar, it is possible that the actor pronounced one or both words abnormally to make them sound more alike (e.g. with a very long, strongly trilled [r], which would further suggest that both words were onomatopoeic).

397. **the weapon of Zeus let loose against perjurers:** one who swears falsely by a god stands self-condemned to punishment by that god; and a perjured oath in the name of Zeus will be punished by Zeus with his own special weapon, the thunderbolt.
398. **babbling prelunar idiot:** Greek *bekkeselēne*, an invented compound each of whose two elements implies that Strepsiades has a primitive mentality. The first, *bekke-*, suggests the story told by Hdt. 2.2 (and in variant versions by other authors) of an experiment conducted by an Egyptian king in order to discover the world’s oldest language, which seemed to prove that man’s earliest word was *bek* or *bekos*; while the second element suggests the epithet *proselēnos* “older than the moon” traditionally applied to the Arcadians (*Hippys*, *FGrH* 554 F 7; Arist. fr. 591; Ap.Rh. 4.264f) or to the Arcadian hero Pelasgus (*PMG* 985).
398. **the age of Cronus:** the time, long ago, before Zeus became king of the gods; a third imputation, then, that Strepsiades’ ideas are archaic and outdated. The name of Cronus is used in the same way at 929, 1070 and *Wasps* 1480, and that of his brother Iapetus at 998.
- 399-400. **Simon or Cleonymus:** cf. 351-4 and notes.
400. **Theorus** is presumably the associate of Cleon who is frequently attacked in Ar.’s other early plays (*PA* 7223; cf *Ach.* 134ff, *Knights* 608, *Wasps* 42-51, 418-9, 599-600, 1236-42).
401. **Sunium:** the south-eastern extremity of Attica. Since the cape had no special connection with Zeus (its temples were of Poseidon and Athena), its mention here is presumably due to one of the temples’ actually having been struck by lightning not long before the production of *Clouds*.
401. **“headland of Athens”:** a Homeric phrase (*Odyssey* 3.278) apparently quoted in its Homeric form, with *Athèneōn* “of Athens” rather than Attic *Athēnōn*.
402. **oak trees:** regarded as sacred to Zeus; cf. *Iliad* 5.693, 7.60, schol. *Birds* 480, and the oracular oak at Dodona. For Zeus to destroy an oak by lightning would thus be as stupid an act of self-injury as to damage his own temple.
404. Socrates’ theory of the thunderbolt, like his theory of thunder (376-8), is different from any attested elsewhere; its component elements derive from Anaximander (A23 D-K) and Anaximenes (A7), who ascribed lightning to the
407. Anaximenes (A7), who ascribed lightning to the

- bursting of clouds by wind, and Democritus (A93), who ascribed it to friction between clouds in contact.
405. **by necessity**: cf. 377. Here the phrase seems little more than a scientific way of saying “naturally” or “inevitably”.
408. **the Diasia**: a festival of Zeus Meilichios, held on the 23rd of Anthesterion (roughly February). Since it was an occasion for whole-burnt offerings (*Xen. Anab.* 7.8.4-5) there could be no state-provided sacrificial meal, but evidently there were family parties and (864) presents for the children.
409. **a haggis**: strictly, a large black pudding (filled with blood and fat: cf. *Odyssey* 20.25-27).
411. **spitting blood**: lit. “making a loose bowel-motion”.
414. **a good memory**: for the educational importance of this cf. 129, 483, 629-631, 785-790, 854-5.
415. **soul**: Greek *psūkhē* (again in 420); see on 94.
- 415- if neither standing ... yearn for your breakfast: these are admirable qualities, and
416. according to Plato (*Symp.* 219e-220d) Socrates had conspicuously displayed them during the siege of Potidaea in 432-430. Possibly (cf. 362-3) he was felt to be unduly parading his superiority to physical discomforts.
417. **if you abstain from wine**: Socrates was no abstainer (cf. Pl. *Symp.* 214a, 220a, 223c-d); but Ar. is thinking of the training of would-be orators, who often abjured wine (*Knights* 349; *Dem.* 6.30, 19.46).
417. **physical exercise**: there is no reason why either an orator or a philosopher should abstain from this, particularly if he was to have the physical toughness demanded by 415-6; Socrates himself is said to have still been a keen wrestler in his late thirties (Pl. *Symp.* 217b-c). “Physical exercise” is then probably a surprise substitute, perhaps for “sexual indulgence” or the like, introducing the notion, strictly inconsistent with the rest of the present passage but developed by Ar. elsewhere (987-9, 1002, 1009-19, 1053-4; *Frogs* 1069-71, 1087-98), that the popularity of rhetoric and philosophy has encouraged young Athenians to neglect their physical fitness.
419. **success in action and deliberation**: a highly traditional definition of the ideal of manly excellence, essentially unchanged from Homer (see e.g. *Iliad* 2.202, 18.105-6) to the fifth-century sophist Protagoras (Pl. *Prot.* 318e-319a). However, the addition of “the warfare of the tongue” slants the definition away from the old ideal of the good citizen, brave in battle and wise in counsel, towards the clever speaker who is successful by verbal dexterity regardless of the merits of his case.
420. **to cogitate on a restless bed**: as Strepsiades did in the opening scene of the play and will do again in 698ff.
421. **that can dine off savory**: savory (cf. *Ach.* 254) was and is a bitter herb used for flavouring; as a meal by itself it would, to say the least, be neither agreeable

- nor nourishing.
422. **to be forged on your anvil:** another possible rendering is “to serve as an anvil”, i.e. to endure any hardship (as an anvil endures great heat and violent blows).
423. **no god but those we recognize:** actually Socrates’ pantheon varies somewhat from one passage to another (cf. 264-5, 365, 627), but it never includes any of the gods commonly worshipped.
424. **Void:** Greek *Chaos*, literally “Gape” or “Chasm”, which in Hes. *Thg.* 116 is said to have come into being first of all things. In Ar. it seems to mean “empty space” (cf. *Birds* 1218).
424. **the Tongue:** to worship the tongue is to claim that the power of verbal persuasion over men is almost limitless. Euripides in *Frogs* 892 prays, among other novel gods, to “the pivot of the tongue”.
430. **by miles and miles:** lit. “by a hundred stades” (about 11 miles).
433. **that’s not what I desire:** he does not want to be a politician, only to be able to avoid paying his debts by successfully defending himself in court.
434. **to twist justice:** Greek *strepso dikēsai*; see on 36.
438. **koppa-branded horses:** see on 23.
- 445- **audacious, glib, daring ...:** all these expressions are often pejorative, and most of them invariably so; that Strepsiades should be *eager* to be called these *names* implies in him a high degree of shamelessness.
448. **a walking statute-book:** Greek *kurbis*, which properly denoted one of a set of objects on which the laws of Solon were inscribed. The nature of these objects has been much disputed; R.S. Stroud, *The Axones and Kyrbeis of Drakon and Solon* (Berkeley, 1979), argues convincingly that the *kurbais* stood in the Agora and were triangular bronze pillars, perhaps about five feet high, topped by pyramid-shaped caps. The meaning of the term as it would be applied to Strepsiades is clear enough: “one who knows more about the technicalities of the law than a normal honest citizen might be expected to know”.
448. **a tinkling cymbal:** lit. “a castanet” as in 260.
448. **a needle’s eye:** Greek *trūmē*, a word that occurs only here; the scholia offer two interpretations, “hole” and “gimlet”. The former is preferable on morphological grounds, and is supported by the derivative *trūmalia* which occurs in *Mark* 10.25. The idea is of a person as elusive as the eye of a needle can be to one attempting to thread it.
448. **a supple rogue:** lit. “the thong of a whip” as in *Knights* 269.
450. **a whipping-post:** Greek *kentrōn*, properly a slave who has been, or ought to be, tortured with a goad.
450. **a twister:** Greek *strophis*; see on 36.
- 452- **they** each time denotes the Socratics, the Clouds’ “ministers” (436).
- 456.

- 457-475. Metre: dactylo-epitrite, consisting of various sequences of the units –υυ–υυ– (hemiepes) and –υ– (cretic) with successive units normally being separated by a link syllable; variations in the pattern, both paralleled in other basically dactylo-epitrite songs, are the purely dactylic line 460-1 (cf. Eur. *Tro.* 803 = 814) and the ithyphallic (–υ–υ– –) 462 (cf. *Knights* 1273 = 1299).
- 467- **crowds will always be sitting at your door...**: Strepsiades will become, in effect,
475. a professional lawyer, taking fees to advise clients on the conduct of litigation and perhaps (though this is not explicitly mentioned here) to write speeches for delivery in the courts.
472. **pleadings**: Greek *antigraphai*, formal written statements of charges, defences, or counter-charges.
476. Metre: anapaestic tetrameters. The couplet resembles the normal form of introduction by the chorus-leader to a contestant's speech in an *agōn* (e.g. 959f, 1351f); for such tetrameter introductions to ordinary dialogue scenes in iambic trimeters, cf. *Birds* 637f, *Lys.* 1072f.
480. **artillery**: Greek *mēkhanai* “devices”; Strepsiades understands it (or rather fails to understand it) in the sense “engines of war”.
491. **Am I going ... like a dog?**: as at 139, Strepsiades utterly fails to understand simple figurative language.
494. **what do you do if someone strikes you?**: Socrates wants to know if he is in danger of retaliation.
495. **I wait a little, and call people to witness**: an Athenian who was assaulted called out *martiromai* (1297, *Ach.* 926, *Wasps* 1436, etc), appealing to all within earshot to bear witness to the offence. Unlike most people, however, Strepsiades does not utter the cry immediately on being struck; does he wait till his assailant is safely out of the way, and then prove his injury to any witnesses by showing the bruises?
496. **I go to law**: like the typical comic Athenian; see on 208.
497. **lay down your cloak**: it is the last Strepsiades will see of his cloak (856, 1498; cf. 179).
497. **Have I done something wrong?**: timorous as usual, Strepsiades thinks he is to undress in order to be beaten.
499. **to search your house for stolen goods**: a house could be searched by anyone who believed that property belonging to him was being concealed there; but the searcher had first to remove his outer garments, so that he could not bring anything into the house and afterwards claim to have discovered it there. See the model regulations in Pl. *Laws* 954a-b.
503. **essential features**: Greek *phusis* “nature”; but *phusis* can also mean “appearance”, and Strepsiades understands it in that sense.

504. I'll look half a corpse: see on 103 and 104.
- 506- give me a honey-cake ... the cave of Trophonius: the hero Trophonius had a subterranean oracular shrine at Lebadeia in Boeotia. Those who descended to consult the oracle took with them honey-cakes to placate the serpents of the cavern. See Paus. 9.39 and Philostratus, *Life of Apollonius* 8.19.
508. going down inside there: "down" would be appropriate for the cave of Trophonius, but its place in the sentence leads one to expect that it should also be appropriate for the actual stage situation. Dearden, *The Stage of Aristophanes* 66, takes it as evidence that the *ekkyklēma* trolley, rolled out of the door at 184, has not yet been withdrawn; if the trolley is still out, Strepsiades will actually have to step *down* off it in order to go inside. When he and Socrates have both gone in, the trolley will be withdrawn and the door closed.
- 510- Parabasis, consisting of: prelude, 510-7; leader's speech, 518-562; strophe, 563-626. 574; epirrhema, 575-594; antistrophe, 595-606; antepirrhema, 607-626.
- 510- Metre: after two anapaestic lines there is a shift to a song-metre based on the 517. iambic ($\text{v} - \text{v} -$) and choriambic ($- \text{v} \text{ v} -$) rhythms.
510. Go, and good luck to you: addressed to Strepsiades. For similar leave-taking formulae cf. *Ach.* 1143, *Knights* 498, *Peace* 729, and 1113 below.
- 515- dipping himself in the dye of: lit. "colouring his nature (*phusis*, see on 503)
516. with". The metaphor is chosen with an eye to the probability that membership of Socrates' school will literally alter Strepsiades' colour; and in fact, like Chaerephon (504), the other students (103, 120, 186) and later Pheidippides (1112, 1171), he duly acquires a scholastic pallor, or so he says (718).
- 518- Metre: eupolidean, a tetrameter with the following scheme:
562. $\{\overline{\text{v}}\} - \times - \text{v} \text{ v} - \{\overline{\text{v}}\} - \times - \text{v} -$
- This metre, which seems to have been a moderately common alternative to the anapaestic tetrameter in the parabases of Old Comedy, is fully discussed by J.W. Poultney, *AJPh* 100 (1979) 133-144. The present speech, which is a new one written for the revised version of the play (see Introductory Note), has replaced a speech in a different metre (so the scholia on 520).
518. I: the poet. Ar. likewise speaks in the first person through the mouth of the chorus in *Ach.* 659-664, *Wasps* 1284-91, and *Peace* 759-774 (and of the hero in *Ach.* 377-382, 499, 502-3); his normal practice, however, is to let the chorus speak in their own name and refer to him in the third person, as in *Ach.* 628-658 and *Knights* 509-550.
519. Dionysus who nurtured me to manhood: Dionysus was the patron god of drama; and Ar. had become a dramatist when barely out of boyhood, and may well have been preparing himself for this profession much earlier still.

- 521- **you** seems to mean here “you Athenians”. The only plausible alternative would
 523. be that it meant “the international audience at the City Dionysia” as opposed to the more homogeneous public who attended the Lenaean (cf. *Ach.* 502-8); but it would then be impossible to explain “in this place” (528), since Dionysian and Lenaean audiences were alike only to be found in one place, the Theatre of Dionysus. Ar. must therefore be claiming to have done the Athenians a favour by producing *Clouds* first at Athens rather than abroad (“this place” in 528 will then mean “Athens”). The claim is of course preposterous, since Old Comedy, unlike tragedy and unlike later comedy, was so far as we know never produced outside Attica; Ar. is perhaps humorously pretending to be an international celebrity who could find an enthusiastic audience almost anywhere (cf. *Ach.* 646-654, on the high regard in which he is held by the Spartans and by the king of Persia).
524. **vulgar men:** Cratinus and Ameipsias. For other attacks by Ar. on Cratinus see *Ach.* 849-853, *Knights* 400, 531-6 (and contrast *Frogs* 357 written long after Cratinus' death); on Ameipsias, *Frogs* 14-15. But to Ar. *every* practising comic poet except himself is “vulgar”.
527. **the bright ones among you:** or, with A, “you bright ones”.
528. **in this place:** in Athens (cf. on 521-3).
- 528- **my virtuous boy and my buggered boy:** two brothers who, with their father,
 529. were the chief characters of Aristophanes' first comedy, *Banqueters*, produced in 427; this play, like *Clouds*, was much concerned with the contrast between traditional and modern education. “Buggered” may mean little more than “immoral, vicious” (cf. 909, 1330), but the product of the new education may well have actually been presented as effeminate, if it is he who in Ar. fr. 218 is said to be “as smooth-skinned as an eel, with golden ringlets” (for ringleted hair as a sign of effeminacy cf. *Wasps* 1069-70).
- 528- **were extremely well spoken of by certain men:** this has usually been taken to
 529. allude to the comparative success that *Banqueters* enjoyed when it was produced (it won second prize); but this does not fit the order of exposition: certain men speak well of the play — Ar. gives it to Callistratus to produce — the public take it to their hearts. The passage has, I believe, been correctly interpreted by S. Halliwell, *CQ* 30 (1980) 42-43, who sees in it “a reference to some form of patronage”; at any rate it makes sense if we suppose that in 428, before submitting his first play to the archon in the hope of being “given a chorus”, Ar. showed the script to two or three men of social distinction and literary discernment, and that they were instrumental in persuading the archon to find a place in the festival programme for this very young dramatist.
530. **being still unmarried and not yet supposed to give birth:** Ar. is the young mother, *Banqueters* the baby. The passage does not prove that in 427 Ar. was legally debarred by reason of age from acting officially as a producer (*didaskalos*) at

a major dramatic festival; at most it implies that many people would have thought it improper or presumptuous for such a young man to do so. Ar. himself may have shared that feeling; in *Knights* 512ff he says that the reason why he delayed so long before applying for a chorus in his own name was that he thought comic production “the most difficult thing in the world”.

531. **exposed the child:** for the exposure of illegitimate children, compare the plot of Menander's *Epitrepontes*; also Eur. *Ion* 344ff, 951ff, and Terence, *Hecyra* 400. A legitimate child, especially a girl, might also be abandoned if the father exercised his right to refuse to rear it; see Men. *Perik.* 810ff; Poseidip-pus fr. 11; Terence *H.T.* 626ff.
531. **another girl:** this girl represents Callistratus, the official producer of *Banqueters* (*Proleg.* III 38 Koster). Note that Greek *pais*, like English “girl”, can sometimes refer to a young married woman (cf. *Lys.* 90, 697) and may well do so here, since (i) it is not very likely that the parents of an unmarried girl would agree to bring up a foundling child she had discovered and (ii) Callistratus must have been old enough to bear the responsibilities of an official producer.
532. **you ... reared it and educated it:** the public took the infant under their wing, as it were, by showing their approval of the play when it was performed.
534. **Electra:** the daughter of Agamemnon and sister of Orestes. In all three surviving tragedies on the theme of Orestes' revenge — Aeschylus' *Choephoroi*, Sophocles' and Euripides' *Electra* — Orestes offers a lock of his hair as a mourning-tribute at his father's tomb, and the offering is discovered by, or reported to, Electra. Only in Aeschylus' play does Electra herself go to the tomb, find the lock there, and accept it as evidence that her brother has returned from exile; and it is probably of Aeschylus that Ar. is thinking here (indeed Sophocles' and Euripides' plays may well both be later than the revised version of *Clouds*). If he has Aeschylus in mind, he has made an error, since Electra in *Choephoroi* goes to the tomb, not “seeking” signs of her brother's return, but bringing a drink-offering sent by her mother; the sight of the lock is a complete surprise to her. Ar.'s memory of *Choephoroi* may be hazy, as his memory of Aeschylus' *Persians* seems to be in *Frogs* 1028-9. The crucial point for him is that the sight of the lock kindled hope in Electra after many years of loneliness and oppression; similarly, the sight of “intelligent spectators” will kindle hope in the breast of Ar.'s personified comedy after its previous disheartening failure.
537. **Look at the modesty of her nature:** this play, Ar. asserts, avoids the cheap and vulgar laughter-raising devices which other comic dramatists habitually employ: for similar lists of comic clichés Ar. claims to eschew see *Wasps* 57ff, *Peace* 739ff, *Frogs* 1-20. But many of these devices are in fact used later in the play (see notes below).
538. **she hasn't come ... red at the end and thick:** this is not a denial that the male
539. characters in *Clouds* wore the large leather phallus traditional in comedy; it

- denies only the use of a particular variety, “red at the end”, i.e. circumcised (for which cf. *Ach.* 158-161).
539. **the children**: boys formed an important part of the theatre audience (*Peace* 50, *Eccl.* 1146, Pl. *Gorg.* 502d).
540. **nor has she made fun of men who are bald**: hardly surprising, since Ar. was bald himself (*Knights* 550, *Peace* 767-773).
540. **cordax**: a salacious comic dance associated with drunkenness (cf. 555 and Thphr. *Char.* 6.3).
541. **the one with the leading part**: lit. “the one who speaks the lines”.
- 541-2. **hitting ... with his stick**: but see 1297-1300!
543. **nor ... rush on stage with torches**: but see 1490ff!
543. **nor cry “help, help”**: but see 1321 and 1493!
545. **give myself hairs**: Greek *komō*, which means both “give myself airs” and “wear my hair long”: Ar. is punning on his own baldness (see on 540). My rendering of the pun is that of E.K. Borthwick, *Eranos* 77 (1979) 166-7.
546. **nor try ... a second and a third time**: this assertion is audacious even by the standards of the present passage, since it is certain that substantial parts of the revised *Clouds* are taken over virtually unaltered from the original version; and some years earlier, in *Peace* 751-760, Ar. had repeated almost word for word a passage he had used in *Wasps* 1029-37.
549. **Cleon**, son of Cleaenetus, of Ar.’s own deme of Cydathenaeum (*PA* 8674), had been the most influential politician at Athens in the years following the death of Pericles. After the production of Ar.’s *Babylonians* in 426 Cleon had attempted to prosecute Ar. for slandering the state in the presence of foreigners (cf. *Ach.* 377-382, 502-3, 630-2), and from then on, at least, Ar. was his sworn enemy. Cleon was viciously attacked in *Knights*, in the first version of *Clouds* (581-594), and in *Wasps* (see especially the trial scene, 891-1008, where Cleon appears as “the Dog of Cydathenaeum”). Then in the summer of 422 he was killed when commanding the Athenian forces attempting to recapture Amphipolis.
550. **I did not have the hardihood ... when he was down**: not true; Ar. attacked Cleon after his death in *Peace* (47-48, 269-272, 313-320, 647-656, 752-760).
551. **these fellows**: other comic dramatists, such as those presently mentioned.
551. **Hyperbolus**: son of Antiphanes, of the deme Perithoidae (*PA* 13910), entered politics at an early age (Cratinus fr. 262; Eupolis fr. 238) in the middle 420’s, having first brought himself before the public as a prosecutor in the courts (*Ach.* 846-7). He owed his wealth to a lamp-making business (1065; *Knights* 739, 1315; *Peace* 690). After Cleon’s death Hyperbolus succeeded to his position as the leading figure in the Assembly (*Peace* 679-692) and the favourite victim of comic satire. Probably in spring 416 (cf. Andrewes on Thuc. 8.73.3) he was banished by ostracism, as the result of a temporary coalition between

- Nicias and Alcibiades each of whom would otherwise have been in danger of banishment himself (Plut. *Nic.* 11; *Alc.* 13); in 411 he was murdered by an oligarchic group at Samos.
552. **his mother:** Hyperbolus' mother was a character in Eupolis' *Maricas* (see on 555) and probably also in Hermippus' *Bread-sellers*. Ar. himself attacked her later in *Thesm.* 839-845, not only on her son's account but also for being a money-lender.
553. **Eupolis**, son of Sosipolis (*PA* 5936), was perhaps the leading comic dramatist of Ar.'s generation after Ar. himself. He made his débüt in 429 (*Proleg.* III 33 Koster), won his first victory in 426 or earlier (*IG* ii² 2325.126) and won seven victories in all (Suda ε3657). In 421 his *Flatterers* defeated Ar.'s *Peace*. His last datable play is *Demes*, produced probably in 412, of which papyri have preserved substantial fragments (*CGF* 92-94); he is said by the Suda to have perished at sea "at the Hellespont, in the war against the Spartans", very likely at the battle of Cynossema in 411.
553. **Maricas:** the chief character in the play of the same name by Eupolis, produced in 421. Maricas was a barbarian slave and a caricature of Hyperbolus, just as the barbarian slave Paphlagon in *Knights* had been a caricature of Cleon.
554. **a vile rehash of my Knights:** apart from the basic idea of presenting a disliked politician as a barbarian slave, the fragments of *Maricas* (including those embedded in the papyrus commentary *CGF* 95) do not suggest any very close resemblance between that play and *Knights*. An exception is Eupolis fr. 193, which is virtually identical with *Knights* 188-9; but it cannot be excluded that Quintilian may have confused the two plays. Eupolis countered Ar.'s accusation of plagiarism by claiming (fr. 78) that he had himself had a hand in the composition of *Knights*; on the question what factual basis, if any, this allegation had, see *CQ* 30 (1980) 51-53.
555. **a drunken old woman:** according to the scholia this character represented Hyperbolus' mother.
555. **cordax:** see on 540.
556. **Phrynicus** son of Eunomides (*PA* 15006) was a comic dramatist contemporary with Aristophanes and Eupolis. His first production, like that of Eupolis, was in 429 (*Proleg.* III 33-34 Koster), his first victory in 429 or 428 (*IG* ii² 2325.124); we meet him last in 405, when his play *Muses* took second prize to Ar.'s *Frogs*.
556. **the one the sea-monster tried to devour:** Phrynicus must have written a parody on the story of Andromeda, who was left in bonds on the seashore to be devoured by a monster but was rescued by Perseus (cf. *Thesm.* 1009-1135 which parodies Euripides' play on the subject produced in 412). Phrynicus substituted an ugly, bibulous old woman for the beautiful princess Andromeda, and Eupolis is accused of having plagiarized the character. Ar. when he treated the

theme went one better than Phrynicus: his “Andromeda” is an old man!

557. **Hermippus**, son of Lysis (*PA* 5112), was active as a comic dramatist at least from the middle 430s: a fragment of the festival records (*Hesperia* 12 [1943] 1) shows that he won first prize at the City Dionysia in 435. He is not certainly heard of later than the date of the revision of *Clouds*, and may well have died about 417. The play in which he attacked Hyperbolus was *Bread-sellers* (*Arto-pōlides*), presumably produced in 420 or 419.
558. **all the others**: the comic dramatist Plato wrote a play *Hyperbolus*; no doubt there were also other comedies directed in whole or in part at Hyperbolus between 421 and his ostracism, but no specific evidence survives.
559. **my similes about eels**: the reference is to *Knights* 864-7, where Paphlagon (Cleon) is compared to an eel-fisher who fishes best in troubled waters. The plural “similes” is what might be called a plural of aggrievement; the child who says to another “stop pinching my biscuits” has not necessarily had more than one biscuit taken.
562. **you will be thought ... to have been wise**: for this appeal to the audience to think of the judgement of posterity cf. *Frogs* 705, 736-7.
- 563-574 = 595-606 Metre: each stanza divides naturally into four sections, each section addressed to a different god. The first two sections of each stanza are iambo-choriambic (cf. 511-7); the third is dactylic; the fourth begins in iambo-choriambic again and ends with a glyconic (-x-uu-u-) and a pherecratean (-x u u -). Both in metre and in content the song resembles *Knights* 551-564 = 581-594; it is a cletic hymn, in which the chorus invite various deities to come and join their dance. All but one of the deities summoned are traditional ones, and right at the start Zeus is emphatically called king of the gods, contrary to the belief of Socrates (365-381); see on 302-310.
565. **great** (Greek *megas*) appears in every section of this stanza: Zeus is “the great sovereign”, Poseidon “great and mighty”, the Sky “greatly renowned”, and the Sun “a great Power”.
566. **the Warden of the Trident**: Poseidon.
567. **him who savagely ... the briny sea**: Poseidon is the god of earthquakes and tidal
568. waves.
569. **our own greatly renowned father**: see on 271.
570. **the Sky**: Greek *Aithēr*; see on 265.
570. **who nourishes all living things**: in Empedocles fr. 100 D-K *aithēr* is what animals breathe, and in *trag. adesp.* 112 it “gives breath and nourishment” to all mortal creatures. In *Frogs* 892 Euripides is made to pray to “the *aithēr* on which I feed”.
571. **the Charioteer**: the Sun. The Sun’s chariot, in which he drives across the sky every day, makes no appearance in Homer (though cf. *Odyssey* 23.243-6) but is a regular attribute of the Sun in later poetry (first in *h.Hom.Dem.* 63, 88 and

Mimnermus fr. 12 West = 5 G-P) and in art from the sixth century.

575-594 = 607-626 Metre: trochaic tetrameters.

576: **us:** the Cloud-goddesses.

580. **we either thunder or rain:** thunder or rain would result in the suspension of the assembly debating the proposed expedition (cf. *Ach.* 169-173) and would thus give time for second thoughts about it; thunder in particular would encourage people to believe that the gods were opposed to the expedition and that it should be abandoned. Note however Eupolis *CGF* 92. 30-32, on the Mantinea expedition of 418: some members of the board of generals made use of an opportune thunderclap to urge that the expedition be cancelled, but an unnamed demagogue persuaded the people to go ahead with it.
581. **tanner:** the wealth of Cleon's family appears to have come from a tanning and shoemaking business; cf. *Knights* 44, 136, 197, 314-321, 369, 449, etc., etc.
581. **Paphlagon:** the name of the character who represents Cleon in *Knights*; it can signify (i) "Bubbler" (cf. *Knights* 919-922) and (ii) "man from Paphlagonia" in northern Asia Minor, implying that Cleon is of barbarian descent.
583. **amid the lightning came the burst of thunder:** a quotation from Sophocles' *Teucre* (fr. 578).
584. **the moon took to forsaking her path:** there was a total eclipse of the moon on 9 October 425. This was some months before the annual election of generals, but after Cleon's success at Pylos most Athenians must have expected that he would be chosen when the time came.
- 584- **the sun ... said that he wouldn't give you light:** this threat came true: there was
585. an annular eclipse of the sun on 21 March 424 (cf. *Thuc.* 4.52.1), probably a few weeks after the election (the election was normally held in the seventh prytany period [*Arist. Ath. Pol.* 44.4] which at this time corresponded more or less to February). Any Athenians who thought that the eclipse meant the gods were angry with them for making Cleon a general will have been reinforced in their belief by the earthquake which followed a few days later (*Thuc.* loc. cit.).
587. **they say:** this popular belief appears again at *Eccl.* 473-5. The scholia narrate the myth associated with it: "When Poseidon and Athena were disputing possession of Attica, and Athena won, Poseidon was so vexed that he cursed the city, saying 'The Athenians will always make the wrong decision'; but Athena, hearing him, added the words '... and yet be successful'."
591. **seagull:** this bird was type of voracity and thievishness: cf. *Knights* 956 and *Matron, Attic Dinner* 10-11.
591. **theft** probably here denotes embezzlement of public money; cf. *Knights* 79, 205, 258, 296, 444, 716-8, 826-7, 1031-2, 1218-24.
592. **the stocks:** lit. "the wood", described more fully in *Knights* 1049 as "a wooden frame with five holes" (for feet, hands and head).

- 595-606. Whereas the strophe invoked gods whose sphere is all the earth, sea and sky, this antistrophe is concerned with four gods who have special associations with particular localities. Compare the way in which the chorus's first song, whose strophe (275-290) surveyed the whole earth, focused in its antistrophe (298-313) on Attica; the present antistrophe, like the earlier one, ends with Dionysus, at whose festival the play is being produced.
595. **Grant me they presence too:** this seems to be the meaning of Greek *amphi moi aute* in this context; but the phrase is adapted from a stock opening formula for dithyrambs and other hymns in which the words had a totally different meaning and construction, something like "let me also sing of ...". Cf. Terpander fr. 1 Page; *h.Hom.Pan.* 1; Eur. *Tro.* 511; Ar. *CGF* 63.55.
596. **Cynthus:** the highest point (about 385 feet) on Apollo's sacred island of Delos.
598. **blest Lady:** Artemis.
601. **our own native Goddess:** to speak thus of Athena the chorus must drop their role as cloud-goddesses and sing simply as a chorus of Athenian citizens. Cf. *Birds* 789 where a chorus which in general maintains its dramatic role very consistently uses "us" to mean "the performers of comedy".
602. **mistress:** lit. "charioteer"; for the metaphor cf. Simonides epigr. 30 Page, where a boy Olympic wrestling champion is called a "skilful charioteer of wrestling".
602. **aegis:** this attribute of Zeus and Athena, originally imaged as a storm-cloud, had by the fifth century been transformed by popular etymology into a goatskin cloak or cape, and appears as such in archaic and classical representations of Athena. It was Athena's weapon for striking panic into her enemies (*Odyssey* 22.297ff; cf. *Iliad* 5.738-742, 15.308-327).
603. **he who haunts Parnassus' rock:** Dionysus was thought to reside at Delphi during
604. the three winter months when Apollo was held to be absent and the oracle was closed; and in alternate years a women's festival with maenadic rites was held in his honour on the heights of Parnassus above Delphi.
604. **pine-torches:** carried by the maenads or their leader, who is partly identified with the god: cf. Eur. *Ba.* 146, 307; Eur. fr. 752.
614. **Selene:** the Greek has not *Selēnē* as in 607 but *Selēnaīē*, a form at home in elevated poetry (e.g. Empedocles fr. 43 D-K) and intentionally incongruous in the present context.
615. **you don't keep the calendar right:** i.e. the Athenian official months are often out
616. of step with the moon. A similar complaint is made in *Peace* 414-5; and Thuc. 4.118.8; 4.119.1; 5.19.1 show that between spring 423 and spring 421 the Spartan calendar gained four days on the Athenian. In Athens at any rate, however, the discrepancies cannot at this period have been large, since the waning moon is a sign to Strepsiades that the official month will soon end and more interest be added to his debts (16-18). The discrepancies were caused by the archon, who had charge of the official calendar, ordering the insertion of

intercalary days, most often perhaps in order to postpone a festival which for one reason or another could not be held on its appointed day. The Assembly could give directions to the archon on calendar matters (cf. *IG i²* 76.53-54); and the mention of Hyperbolus' supposed punishment (623-6) suggest that a decree for an irregular intercalation had recently been passed at his instigation. For a full discussion of the intercalation and suppression of days in the Athenian calendar see W.K. Pritchett, *Ancient Athenian Calendars on Stone* (Berkeley, 1963) 326-348.

- 617- **the gods are always ... reckoning of the days:** the gods, it is assumed, regulate
619. their calendar strictly by the cycle of the moon; accordingly they may well expect a festival-sacrifice from the Athenians on a day which the Athenians, owing to intercalations, are not in fact keeping as a festival. The gods apparently do not realize that it is the Athenians who are in error; they lay the blame on the Moon.
620. **you are applying torture:** to slaves giving evidence in legal proceedings.
621. **holding a solemn fast:** fasting in memory of the dead was not to our knowledge a normal Greek custom, but this passage indicates that some people at least practised it. So, perhaps, by inversion, does Soph. *El.* 278ff (Clytaemnestra holds a *feast* each month on the day she killed her husband).
622. **Memnon or Sarpedon:** children of the gods who were killed in the Trojan War. Sarpedon was a son of Zeus and king of the Lycians; he was killed by Patroclus. Memnon was a son of Eos (Dawn), and king of the Ethiopians; he was killed by Achilles.
623. **pouring libations:** at a festal banquet.
623. **Hyperbolus:** see on 551.
624. **this year:** probably 424/3; nothing in the present speech indicates that it was written for the revised version of the play, and its close parallelism with 575-594 (Athenians' ingratitude to the Clouds: their ingratitude to the Moon; punishment of Cleon recommended: punishment of Hyperbolus described) strongly suggests that it belongs to the original version as 575-594 certainly does.
624. **sacred remembrancer:** Greek *hieromnēmon*, the title of the chief Athenian delegate to meetings of the Amphictyonic council, the governing body of a religious league controlling the temples at Thermopylae and (in part) Delphi. The council met twice yearly, in spring and autumn; the incident here mentioned therefore probably took place in autumn 424.
- 624- **had his garland taken away by us gods:** we do not know what this refers to. Since
625. magistrates wore garlands as symbols of their office, "to lose one's garland" can mean "to be deprived of office" (cf. *Knights* 1227; [Dem.] 26.5; 58.27; Lycurgus, *Against Leocrates* 122); but deposition from office was the act of men, not gods. Starkie therefore makes the attractive guess that a wind-god

had blown the garland from Hyperbolus' head.

627. **By Respiration, by Void, by Air:** Heraclitus (A16 D-K) and Diogenes of Apollo-nia (A19) associated intelligence with breath, and it is thus natural enough for Socrates to worship breath; in *Frogs* 893 Euripides is made to pray to his own nostrils. For Void as a Socratic "god" cf. 424, for Air cf. 264.
638. **measures, or words, or rhythms:** the first lesson is to be on the theory of poetry. "Rhythms" refers to the various types of metrical unit on which a verse-form may be based (iambic, dactylic, etc.: cf. 650-1) and "measures" to the numbers of such units that a line can contain (cf. 642). But Strepsiades thinks of a kind of measure with which he is more familiar — measures of capacity.
640. **quarts:** the *khoinix* was a little less than a quart or a little more than a litre.
642. **the three-measure or the four-measure:** Socrates means the iambic trimeter, the normal dialogue metre of both comedy and tragedy, and the trochaic tetrameter, frequent in comedy and used in tragedy by Aeschylus, by Euripides in his later work, and occasionally by Sophocles. Arist. *Poet.* 1449a21-27 compares the merits of the two as dialogue metres. Our evidence suggests that when *Clouds* was first produced the use of the trochaic tetrameter in tragedy had recently been revived after a generation of neglect; no instance is known between Aesch. *Ag.* 1450-73 and Soph. *O.T.* 1515ff (Soph. fr. 269c. 21-24 Radt is from *Inachus*, probably a satyr-play).
643. **the gallon measure:** Greek *hēmiekteōn*, a measure of capacity equal to four *khoinikes* (cf. 645). As between the "three-measure" and the "four-measure" Strepsiades will naturally prefer the larger.
647. **perhaps though you might be able:** or, with the ms. tradition, "you'd certainly be very quick", which would be spoken sarcastically.
648. **my daily groats:** cf. on 106.
651. **enoplian ... digital:** the phrase rendered "digital" is *kata daktulon* "by dactyl"; *daktulos* also means "finger", whence Strepsiades' misunderstanding. The precise technical meaning of *enoplios* and *daktulos* in late fifth-century metrics is not known, and Pl. *Rep.* 3.400b, where both are mentioned, is of little help. Since the dactyl is presumably so named from the analogy of the bones of the human finger (long-short-short) dactylic rhythm is likely to have meant for Ar. much the same as what it means for us; but ancient scholarship could not decide (as the scholia show) what Ar. meant by enoplian rhythm, and it is unlikely that modern scholarship will be able to. For a recent discussion and bibliography see R. Pretagostini, *QUCC* n.s. 2 (1979) 119-129.
- [653]. This line ("What else, if not this finger here?") and 654 are both responses to the same request by Socrates, and can hardly stand together in the text; and 654 is far the more vigorous of the two. For the plausible theory that the two lines are alternative drafts by Ar. see K.J. Dover, *ICS* 2 (1977) 151-2.
654. **in my boyhood, it was this:** the phrase *kata daktulon* suggests to Strepsiades'

- mind *kataduktulismos*, the obscene and contemptuous gesture of extending the middle finger at a person (cf. *Ach.* 444, *Knights* 1381, *Peace* 549).
659. **quadrupeds:** in view of the etymological transparency of Greek *tetrapoda* it is surprising that Socrates makes no objection when Strepsiades includes the fowl in his list. Perhaps to an Attic farmer *tetrapoda* just meant “livestock”, and Socrates passes over the error because it is irrelevant to the topic under discussion, gender.
659. **are properly called masculine:** “properly” (*orthōs*) in a linguistic context will bring to mind the name of Prodicus (cf. on 361) and his interest in the proper use of words (*orthoepia*, *orthotēs onomatōn*: cf. Pl. *Euthd.* 277e) An animal “improperly called masculine” would be a female animal the noun for which had a typically masculine ending, e.g. a mare (Greek *hippos*, never *hippē*). Another leading sophist, Protagoras, is also known to have concerned himself much with linguistic usage (Pl. *Crat.* 391c) and in particular with grammatical gender; he established the classification of nouns as masculine, feminine and neuter, and is said to have argued that certain feminine nouns “ought” to be masculine (Protagoras A27, A28 D-K).
661. **fowl:** Greek *alektruōn*, the normal word in Attic both for the cock (e.g. 4, *Wasps* 100, *Eccl.* 391) and the hen (e.g. Ar. fr. 18, 185, 186; Theopompus com. fr.9).
666. “**fowlless**”: Greek *alektruaīna*, an invented word formed on the model of *leaina* the feminine of *leōn* “lion”, *Lakaina* from *Lakōn* “Laconian”, etc.
666. “**fowler**”: Greek *alektōr*, a genuine poetic word for “cock” (e.g. Aesch. *Ag.* 1671, *Eum.* 861) not used in ordinary Attic (*Wasps* 1490 is tragic parody; in Cratinus fr. 259 *alektōr* keeps company with the highly poetic verb *kankhein*).
669. **cardopus:** kneading-tray. The Greek word is feminine despite its typically masculine ending; Socrates argues that, being feminine, it should be made to sound feminine by a change in its ending.
673. **just like Cleonymus:** i.e. the ending of *kardopos* is the same as that of men’s names such as *Kleōnumos*, which would seem to imply, incorrectly, that *kardopos* is masculine.
675. **Cleonymus never had a cardopus at all:** Strepsiades, unable to understand what Socrates has just been saying, fastens on the one phrase that seems to him to have some meaning, *kardopos Kleōnumōi* “a kneading-tray to Cleonymus”, which could be taken to mean “a kneading-tray *belonging* to Cleonymus”. He thinks Socrates must have made a mistake: Cleonymus (evidently the politician so often satirized by Ar.: see on 353-4) “never had” a kneading-tray. Why not, and why the past tense? Perhaps the point is that once (before he went into politics?) Cleonymus was so poor that he could not afford a tray to knead barley-cakes, i.e. could not prepare his own food; cf. *Knights* 1290-9 where he is said to have partaken glutonously of other people’s. In the next line the

joke moves in another direction.

676. **the kneading he did was done in a round mortar:** the best explanation of this expression is that of Dover (see now *Greek Homosexuality* [London, 1978] 139), that Cleonymus was “rejected by women and reduced to masturbation”. The crucial clue is the middle voice of the verb *anematteto*, which ought to mean “kneaded himself up”: compare the verb *dephein*, “knead” in the active voice, “masturbate” in the middle. At the time being spoken of, Cleonymus could neither make himself a meal nor procure himself a sex-partner. Dover explains the “round mortar” as a reference to masturbation using two hands rather than one; Strepsiades would probably illustrate the meaning of the metaphor with the help of his own comic phallus.
678. **Sostraté:** probably not a reference to any specific individual, but just a typical woman’s name. Ar. uses it three times for fictitious characters (*Wasps* 1397, *Thesm.* 375, *Eccl.* 41).
680. **Cleonymé never had a cardopé:** Strepsiades now realizes, as he thinks, what Socrates was getting at. He has been incorrectly making *kardopos* masculine, “just like Cleonymus”: the word for “kneading-tray” is really feminine – and so is Cleonymus. Hence this inquiry, as “enlightenment” dawns, providing the climax of this joke-sequence as Cleonymus is in effect called a woman, in reference no doubt to his cowardice (cf. 353-4). As usual, of course, Strepsiades has misunderstood: Socrates had used the name Cleonymus merely as an example, and had not been thinking of its best-known bearer at all. But Strepsiades is (in Ar.’s view) right about Cleonymus for all that, just as he is right about Amynias in 692.
684. **Lysilla, Philinna, Cleitagora, Demetria:** these are probably just the first four women’s names that happen to come into Strepsiades’ head. Lysilla (*Thesm.* 375) and Demetria (*PA* 3326a-f, 3327-8) were names borne by Athenian citizen women; Philinna appears later as the name of a courtesan (title of a play by Hegemon) and of a freedwoman (in Menander’s *Georgos*); Cleitagora was the subject of a well-known drinking song (*skolion*) quoted in *Wasps* 1245-7.
686. **Philoxenus, son of Eryxis, of the deme Diomeia** (*PA* 14707), is mentioned several times in comedy as a passive homosexual (*Wasps* 84; Eupolis fr. 235; Phrynichus com. fr. 47). In later writers (starting with Arist. *Eth. Eud.* 1231a17) his name became a byword for gluttony.
686. **Melesias** is unidentifiable; we know that Melesias, son of the politician Thucydides (*PA* 9813), was a person of little ability or merit (Pl. *Laches* 179c, *Meno* 94c-d), but nothing is said about him elsewhere that might call his masculinity into question, and Plato can present him as on friendly terms with the courageous soldier Laches; and the name is not rare at this period.
686. **Amynias** son of Pronapes (*PA* 737) is elsewhere satirized in comedy as a long-haired, boastful man, addicted to gambling, who lived by sponging on rich

- friends and bringing malicious prosecutions (*Wasps* 74-76, 466, 1267-70; Cratinus fr. 212 Kock = 213 Edmonds). In 423/2 he was a member of an embassy to Thessaly (*Wasps* 1271-4; Eupolis fr. 209).
687. **those aren't masculine:** Socrates is speaking only of the last two names, “Mele-sias” and “Amynias”: in three of their five case-forms these names' endings indistinguishable from those of women's names like “Demetria”, and Socrates, as the example of *kardopos* showed, thinks the gender of a noun ought to be predictable from its ending; so these two names cannot “really” be masculine. But Strepsiades and the audience are bound to take him as meaning something else: that the three men named (including Philoxenus) are better described as women.
690. **come here, Amynia:** Greek *Amūniā*, the vocative case of the man's name *Amū-niās*, could theoretically also be the vocative of a woman's name **Amūniā*.
699. **how the bugs are going to take it out on me:** lit. “what a penalty I'm going to pay to the bugs”.
700. Metre: iambo-choriambic, except for the third line which consists of an iambic
706. metron plus the unit - U - UU - UU - . Comparison with the antistrophe (804-813) shows that the strophe is metrically (and, we may presume, musically) incomplete: it ends at a point where in the antistrophe there is not even a pause. It seems that the song is halted by Strepsiades' cries of pain.
701. **twist ... twirl ... jump:** no doubt, thanks to the bugs, Strepsiades is doing all
704. these things, not mentally but physically, as the chorus sing!
708. Metre: 708 is bacchiac (U -- twice), a very rare metre in comedy used only for
722. special effects, here probably parody of a tragic chorus addressing a suffering hero. Strepsiades' reply begins with two iambic trimeters and then shifts into anapaests, which continue to 722.
710. **Tom Tugs** (rhyming slang for “bugs”) renders *Korinthioi* “Corinthians” which may have been a current slang expression for *koreis* “bedbugs”; note that the joke in *Frogs* 433 is based partly on the same punning link between Corinth and bedding.
- 718- **lost my money ... lost my shoes:** possibly parodying Eur. *Hec.* 159-161 “What
719. family, what city have I? Lost is the old man, lost are the children”. Strepsiades can hardly really have gone pale in the short time he has been in the school, nor does his son make any comment on his colour when they meet again; perhaps Strepsiades believes that the unnatural pallor of the other students is due not merely to lack of fresh air and exercise but to some magic or miasma in the school's atmosphere (cf. his frightened reluctance to go in, 506-9) and, lacking a mirror, supposes this must have affected him too.
721. **whistling in the dark:** lit. “singing a watchman's song”: watchmen may sing or hum to help stay awake, alert and in good spirits (cf. Aesch. *Ag.* 16-17), and singing like a watchman” had apparently come to mean “trying to keep up

one's spirits in a depressing situation".

730. **lambskins**: the coverlets of the bed, with which Strepsiades covers his head at 727 and 740.
730. **a lovely bit of ... fraudulent ingenuity**: Greek *gnōmēn apostētrida*, in sense approximately equivalent to *nous apostētikos* "a defraudative idea" in 728; but the adjectival suffix used here (cf. *aulētris* "flute-girl", *orkhestris* "dancing-girl") indicates that Strepsiades' mind is beginning to wander from intellectual to sexual thoughts.
733. **Have you managed to get hold of anything?**: i.e. "have you reached any useful conclusions in your thinking?"
734. **I've got hold of my cock**: the thoughts that were invading Stepsiades' mind at 730 (see last note but one) have now taken complete possession, and he is busy masturbating.
740. I have retained the manuscripts' assignment to Socrates of these pieces of tutorial
745. advice, but there is a good case for assigning them (and the similar advice in 761-3) to the chorus-leader; Socrates would then be offstage (as in 699-722 and 726-730), or absorbed in cogitations of his own, while Strepsiades was thinking out his problems. See M.W. Haslam, *HSCP* 80 (1976) 45-47.
745. **weight it in the balance**: one of several guesses in the scholia at the meaning of the verb *zugōthrizein*, which occurs nowhere else; another possibility is "lock it up" (from *zugōthron* "bar or handle of a door", a word known to schol. E and to Pollux 10.16).
749. **a Thessalian sorceress**: for the famous witches of Thessaly, and their supposed ability to bring the moon down from the sky, cf. Pl. *Gorg.* 513a; Horace *Epod.* 5.45-46; Pliny *N.H.* 30.7 on Menander's comedy *Thettale*. Strepsiades apparently envisages his sorceress as a purchased slave; Thessaly provided numbers of slaves to other parts of Greece through the activities of kidnappers who sold their victims to slave-dealers (*Wealth* 520-1).
751. **case**: Greek *lopheion*, properly a case for storing helmet-crests.
756. **Because money is lent out by the month**: cf. 16-18.
- 761-3 may be spoken by the chorus-leader rather than by Socrates; see on 740-5.
762. **pay your thoughts out a bit into the air**: cf. 229-230.
763. **like a cockchafer tethered ... with a thread**: this was a children's game, to let a cockchafer-beetle fly on the end of a string attached at its other end to a piece of wood too heavy for the insect to lift; cf. Herodas 12.1 Cunningham.
766. **druggists**: Greek *pharmakon* has a wider meaning than English "drug"; it could denote anything that affected, or was thought to affect, the physical or mental condition of a person who consumed it or to whom it was applied — a medical preparation, a poison, or a magical charm (note that the word translated "sorceress" in 749 is *pharmakis*). Glass may well have been thought to have magical powers because of its rarity, its delicacy, and its power to kindle fire.

768. **glass** was at this date rare and precious in Greece; it is coupled with gold in *Ach.*
74 and Hdt. 2.69.2.
772. **make the writing melt away**: the clerk is assumed to be writing on a waxed tablet; Strepsiades' idea is to destroy the record by concentrating the sun's rays on the wax with the aid of his burning-glass.
775. **get your teeth into**: lit. "snap up", cf. 490.
783. **you're drivelling**: why is Socrates so contemptuous of this "solution", after his approval of Strepsiades' earlier ludicrous suggestions (757, 773)? Those earlier suggestions were logically flawless; their only drawback was that they were impossible in practice. The present one, on the other hand, is perfectly practicable but unsound in theory: it cannot benefit Strepsiades because it would result in there being no Strepsiades to benefit. Socrates' students earn black marks for theoretical incoherence – not for lack of common sense.
788. **that feminine thing that we knead groats in**: he cannot remember the word *kardopos* (669-680) – which in any case is *not* the first thing he was taught about. He remembers this, and other earlier lessons, later on (828, 847-851, 1247-58).
792. **to be a verbal twister**: Greek *glōttostrophein*; see on 36.
797. **a fine upstanding fellow**: Greek *kalos te kāgathos*; see on 101. Strepsiades is not exactly being ironical, since Pheidippides does have many of the qualities that entitled a man to be called *kalos kāgathos*, such as noble descent, good looks and sporting prowess; but he is certainly thinking bitterly of a quality that any *kalos kāgathos* would be expected to possess and Pheidippides does not, namely that of being a dutiful son.
800. **high-flying**: lit. "well-feathered".
800. **the house of Coesyra**: see on 48.
802. **I'll throw him out of the house**: he made the same threat at 123, and it proved empty; will things be any different this time?
804. This is the antistrophe to 700-6 but is three lines longer (see on 700-6). The
813. extra lines, like most of what precedes, are iambo-choriambic.
804. **Do you perceive ... whatever you bid him**: with M. Landfester, *Mnemosyne* 28
807. (1975) 386-7, I take these lines as addressed to Strepsiades and not, as most editors have supposed, to Socrates.
806. **this man**: Socrates (who has no doubt indicated by gesture that he is at least interested in the possibility of taking Pheidippides as a pupil).
810. **lap up as much as you can**: i.e. demand and receive a high fee for Pheidippides' education. Socrates in fact never explicitly names his fee; but 876 (Hyperbolus did learn ... for a talent") is sufficient intimation that he expects a very substantial payment – a prospect that does not perturb Strepsiades in the least ("Don't worry, teach him").
812. **for such things ... otherwise than expected**: Socrates will take this as meaning
813. that Strepsiades' present state of infatuation, in which he is set on having his

son taught rhetoric at any price, may well not last long. But in retrospect, later on, we may see that this utterance was the first of a series, obscure to begin with but later increasingly clear (1113-4, 1303-20), in which the chorus foreshadow the disaster to which Socrates' impiety and Strepsiades' dishonesty are leading.

- 814. by Mist: a variant on the Socratic oath “by Air” (627, 667).
- 815. columns: evidently to have a colonnade in one’s house was a mark of great wealth. The house of the very rich Callias had at least two colonnades (Pl. *Prot.* 314e-315c). As yet no fifth-century house with a colonnade has been excavated in the city of Athens, though some have been found in the Attic countryside: see R.E. Wycherley, *The Stones of Athens* (Princeton, 1978) 237-246, who gives references to detailed accounts of particular houses or house-groups.
- 820- To think ... so antiquated: in an amusing reversal of the normal pattern of generation-conflict, it is the father who accuses his son of out-of-date thinking.
- 821. be sure not to divulge this to anyone: Strepsiades treats the “knowledge” he has acquired as a holy secret (cf. 140, 143).
- 827. there is no Zeus: cf. 367.
- 828. Vortex is king, having expelled Zeus: cf. 380-1.
- 830. the Melian: thinking of Socrates as one who disbelieves in and scoffs at the traditional gods, Strepsiades confuses him with the notorious atheist Diagoras of Melos, who openly mocked at all religious beliefs and observances and was eventually tried for impiety and condemned to death in his absence (*Birds* 1072-4; [Lys.] 6.17-18). On Diagoras see Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* iii 236-7, and most recently M. Winiarczyk, *Eos* 67 (1979) 191-213, 68 (1980) 51-75.
- 831. the footsteps of fleas: cf. 144-152.
- 833. the bile-sickness: one form of insanity was believed by contemporary doctors to be due to overheating of the brain through an excess of bile (Hippocr. *On the Sacred Disease* 18).
- 834- don’t slander men of ingenuity and intelligence: the similarity to 105 (“Be quiet, don’t say anything so childish”) directs our attention to the fact that Pheidippides’ attitude to the Socratics is unchanged since his previous refusal to have anything to do with them, while Strepsiades is even more under their spell now than he was then. In 1464ff these attitudes will be completely reversed – and Pheidippides will call his father mad (1475) for a reason exactly the opposite to that for which he thinks him mad now.
- 836. anointed himself: to keep the skin from drying out in the sun.
- 837. gone to a bath-house: a fee was charged for the use of public bath-houses, but it must have been very small: note that Demos in *Knights* 1061 apparently regards a daily bath as normal. A person who avoided bath-houses to save money

would be either very stingy or extremely ascetic: Strepsiades thinks the Socratics are stingy, but the audience is meant to realize that they are actually ascetic (cf. 415-7, 441-2). Socrates is again “unwashed” in *Birds* 1554-5; and Plato makes one of Socrates’ most fervent admirers admit (*Symp.* 174a) that it was rare for Socrates to take a bath.

838. **squander my livelihood by washing yourself:** lit. “wash-away-for-yourself my livelihood”. Strepsiades, at home with the smells of the farm (44, 50), considers frequent bathing a pointless extravagance; in the wealthy circles in which Pheidippides moves it is a social necessity.
838. **as if I were dead:** after a funeral the relatives washed themselves to remove the ritual pollution of having been under the same roof as a corpse. Strepsiades seems to be making two points at once: (i) Pheidippides is treating his father’s property as his own, as though he had already inherited it; (ii) is Strepsiades’ view the only occasion when a thorough wash is really necessary is when it is a religious requirement, as after a funeral.
845. **shall I ... get him adjudged insane:** Pheidippides is thinking of bringing the type of legal action called a *graphē paranoiās*. The object of such an action was to prevent an insane head of a family from dissipating his property (Pl. *Laws* 929d; Arist. *Ath.Pol.* 56.6), and if successful it resulted in the defendant being deprived of all control over the property, though he apparently remained nominal owner of it (Pl. *Laws* 929e; Aeschines 3.251). Plato makes it clear that a dutiful son would be most reluctant to take action of this kind; and according to Xenophon (*Mem.* 1.2.49) one of the allegations made by the accusers of Socrates was that he encouraged sons to do so.
851. “**fowlless**” ... “**fowler**”: cf. 666.
853. **Children of Earth:** he means “stupid clods” (cf. Alexis fr. 108.5); but the expression also suggests the Titans, children of Ge (Earth), who warred against the Olympian gods, and so conveys a hint (unintended by Pheidippides) that the Socratics too are enemies of the gods. For the association between the notions “earth-born” and “enemy of the gods” cf. Eur. *Ba.* 538-544, 995-6.
857. **I’ve invested it in knowledge:** he is pretending that the loss of the cloak was the necessary price he had to pay for the benefits of a Socratic education.
859. “**for essential purposes**”, as Pericles would have put it: when the Spartans invaded Attica in 445, Pericles was said to have given the Spartan king Pleistoanax a bribe of ten talents to withdraw; he entered the amount in the accounts of his generalship as having been spent “for essential purposes” (*eis to deon*) (Plut. *Per.* 22-23). Strepsiades’ “essential purpose” is again education.
863. **the first obol of jury pay I received:** in 423 jurors received three obols a day (*Knights* 51, *Wasps* 609), raised a few years before from two obols (schol. *Wasps* 88, schol. *Birds* 1541). There is no need to take the present passage as implying that earlier still the rate had been one obol; the phrase means simply

"the very first money that came to hand".

864. **the Diasia:** see on 408.
869. **doesn't know the ropes and lashings:** lit. "isn't familiar (*tribōn*, see next note) with the hanging gear (*kremasta*)". *Kremasta* was one of the two headings (the other was *xulina*, wooden gear) under which the Athenian naval authorities catalogued the equipment of a warship; it included such items as sails, ropes and anchors. See J.S. Morrison and R.T. Williams, *Greek Oared Ships 900-322 B.C.* (Cambridge, 1968) 289, 294-302. The word "hanging" no doubt reminds us of our first sight of Socrates, suspended in a wicker cage in mid-air (218ff).
870. **Hang you ... weceive a good lashing yourself:** lit. "you yourself would be an old worn cloak (*tribōn*, cf. previous note) if you were hung up". A slave or a prisoner might be hung up or trussed in order to be flogged (cf. Soph. *Ajax* 108-110, *Ant.* 308-9; Herodas 4.78; Terence, *Phormio* 220), and a fuller cleaning clothes would hang them up and beat them; hence the meaning is "You could do with being hung up and beaten as soundly as a fuller beats a dirty cloak". Socrates ignores the insult, but comments (872-3) on Pheidippides' sloppy pronunciation in this sentence, the first he has heard him speak; he particularly mentions the word *kremaio* "you were hung up", in which Pheidippides may perhaps have slurred the sequence -*aio* so that it came out as [æw] or even [æə].
871. **how dare you curse your teacher?:** this admonition will boomerang on Strepsiades at 1467, when Pheidippides, asked to help his father destroy "that villain Chaerephon and Socrates", replies "But I couldn't wrong my teachers".
874. **effective forensic defence . . . persuasion by bombast:** in Greek the three nouns all end in -*sis* (cf. on 317-8).
876. **Hyperbolus did learn them, for a talent:** this conveys to Strepsiades that it will be possible, but very difficult and very expensive, to make an orator of Pheidippides; to the audience, that Hyperbolus was totally devoid of natural oratorical ability; to both alike, that the training Socrates can offer must be a valuable asset, since Hyperbolus was prepared to pay so heavily for it and it has made him such a successful prosecutor and politician. This is the only place in comedy where Socrates is accused of being the "teacher" of a detested political figure, as he was accused at his trial of having "taught" Critias and others (Aeschines 1.173; Xen. *Mem.* 1.2.12-39; cf. Pl. *Apol.* 33a-b). The fee of a talent is twelve times the highest sophist's fee reliably attested (Pl. *Apol.* 20b: Euenus of Paros charges five minas for a course in how to be a good man and citizen; [Pl.] *Alcib.* I 119a, referring to a fee of 100 minas charged by the philosopher Zeno, presumably in the mid-fifth century, is suspect evidence).
- 878- At any rate ... you can't think how cleverly: it is typical of Strepsiades that the evidence he cites of his son's brilliance is such as might have been relevant if
- 881.

Pheidippides were applying for admission to a kindergarten.

880. **figwood**: the mss. have “leather”, of which a cart could hardly be made; figwood, being of no value as timber, might well be given to children to play with and make things out of.
883. **whatever that may be**: cf. 113.
887. **I shall not be there**: Socrates offers no explanation of his absence, and the only plausible explanation is theatrical: the actor who played Socrates would also play one of the two Arguments. For other flimsily-motivated exits by characters whose actors are required for other parts, see *Knights* 154, *Wasps* 141, *Peace* 49, *Birds* 847, *Thesm.* 458.
- 888- As the scholia observe, a choral ode would be expected here; indeed, had the
889. revised play ever been produced, an ode would have been essential to give the Socrates actor time to change his costume (see previous note). In view of the other evidence for the incompleteness of the revision, it is more likely that Ar. had not written this ode at the point when he decided to cut short his work on the play than that it was written and later lost in transmission.
889. How were the two Arguments costumed? One scholium says they were brought on “in wicker cages, fighting like cocks”, but this is incompatible with much in the text (including the Better Argument’s very first words); possibly it is an inference from something said by the chorus in the first version of the play (see Dover’s introduction, pp. xc-xci; the baroque metaphors of *Frogs* 814-829 may give an indication of the sort of expression that might be misinterpreted by a commentator). From the text we learn that the Better Argument is represented as an old man (908), and it would be natural to dress him in the costume (or what was believed to be the costume) of the Persian War period (cf. 986), perhaps with a golden cicada as a brooch in his hair (984, cf. *Knights* 1331). The Worse Argument, though somewhat older than Pheidippides (whom he calls “my lad”, 1071), is nevertheless young enough to be called a “father-beater” (911); as a hedonist and as an advocate of warm baths (1044-54, cf. 837-8) he evidently shares many of Pheidippides’ tastes, and may be assumed to have long, well-groomed hair and be luxuriously dressed.
- 889-948. Metre: anapaestic.
891. **Go wherever you like**: a quotation from Euripides’ *Telephus* (fr. 722), where in the course of a bitter quarrel over whether to sail against Troy Agamemnon said to Menelaus “Go wherever you like; I’m not going to die on account of your Helen.”
- 898 **these fools**: the Better Argument believes that the Athenians have been duped by the sophists and their disciples into accepting their new education and their new morality: cf. 918-9, 925-8.
902. **that Justice simply doesn’t exist**: that the words “just” and “unjust” are meaningless. Compare the arguments of the Platonic characters Callicles (*Gorg.*

483a-d) and Thrasymachus (*Rep.* 1.343a-344c), who hold in their different ways that the common belief that justice is good and injustice bad is nothing but a fraud perpetrated by the weak among mankind to deter the strong from profiting by their strength. The word rendered “Justice” is not the normal prose word *dikaiosunē* but the mainly poetic *dike* which is also the name of the goddess of justice (Hes. *Thg.* 902; *Works* 213ff, 256ff).

903. **She dwells with the gods:** Dike (Justice) traditionally “sits by the side of Zeus” (Hes. *Works* 259; Aesch. fr. 530.10 Mette; Soph. *O.C.* 1382). To say that Justice dwells with the gods is in effect to say that the gods are just — a proposition that even Thrasymachus (Pl. *Rep.* 1.352a) cannot quite bring himself to deny, but which the Worse Argument demolishes without a qualm.
904. **how come Zeus ... for imprisoning his father?**: when Zeus had defeated his father Cronus and the Titans in the struggle for mastery of the universe, he confined them all deep below the earth (Hes. *Thg.* 717ff; *Iliad* 8.477-481); since respect for parents was one of the greatest principles of traditional Greek morality, a supporter of this morality who was also a supporter of Zeus was bound to be acutely embarrassed by this story (cf. Aesch. *Eum.* 640ff), unless he took the course of declaring it untrue (Eur. *HF* 1341-6; Pl. *Rep.* 2.378b-c).
907. **Give me a basin:** he affects to want to vomit.
909. **faggot:** not necessarily a literal accusation of passive homosexuality; Greek *kata-pūgōn* may here, as in 529, be no more than a strong word for “immoral, vicious”.
910. **Your words are like roses ... as an honour:** Pheidippides reacts similarly when 914. similarly reviled by his father (1327-30).
911. **father-beater:** the audience will take this as just another piece of wild abuse; but the Worse Argument’s teaching will in fact make Pheidippides into a literal father-beater.
912. **you’re spangling me with gold:** a garment spangled with gold (*Knights* 968; [Dem.] 50.34; Democritus of Ephesus, *FGrH* 267 F 1) was more beautiful and more valuable than it would otherwise have been; so the Worse Argument is saying “you are painting me in more admirable colours; you are enhancing, not besmirching, my reputation”. Cf. *Eccl.* 826 “everyone was gilding [i.e. praising] Euripides”.
915. **archaic:** to the modern-minded characters of this play, this is the worst of insults; the Worse Argument repeats it, or variants on it, at 929, 984-5 and 1070, and elsewhere Socrates uses similar terms to Strepsiades (398), Strepsiades to Pheidippides (821) and Pheidippides, after his stay in the Refectory, to Strepsiades (1357, 1469).
916. **to school:** i.e. to the traditional schools in which music and poetry were taught by the *kitharistēs* (cf. 964-972), physical culture and especially wrestling by the *paidotribēs* (cf. 973-980).

919. **the silly fools** probably denotes the same persons as “the young lads” above.
920. **dirty:** strictly “dry-skinned” because unanointed (cf. 836). Unlike the ascetic Socrates, the Worse Argument is an enthusiastic advocate of the life of luxury and pleasure. Socrates, we might say, is devoted to the study of science, language and rhetoric for its own sake; the Worse Argument, and later Pheidippides, will show the consequences of taking his lessons seriously and putting them into practice.
921. **a beggar:** i.e. neglected and despised, “in the days when [the Better Argument and his] just cause flourished and it was the done thing to be decent” (961-2).
922. **Mysian:** Mysia was a district of north-west Asia Minor, to the south of the Troad.
922. **Telephus:** a king of Mysia, and hero of a play by Euripides (produced in 438) in which he appeared disguised as a beggar. The relevance of mentioning Telephus here is not clear: possibly the point is that the Worse Argument, when he was a “beggar”, with typical impudence pretended to be a king in disguise.
923. **Pandeletean maxims:** a surprise for “rotten vegetables” (cf. *Ach.* 469) or the like;
924. sophistries are the Worse Argument’s natural diet. Pandeleucus is said by the scholia to have been a politician, given to bringing malicious prosecutions; his period of celebrity may have been a decade or so before the production of *Clouds*, since the only other reference to him is in Cratinus’ *Cheirons* (fr. 242), a work of the 430s.
923. **a little bag:** mentioned in order further to characterize the Worse Argument as a
924. beggar: beggars typically carried a bag (*pērā*) in which to keep the scraps they were given (cf. *Odyssey* 13.437-8).
925. **the cleverness:** either the cleverness which enabled him, in his days as a “beggar”, to live without working, or the cleverness that has since taken him from rags to riches.
929. **Cronus:** cf. on 398.
941. **I'll concede my opponent that right:** contrast *Knights* 335-341, where Paphlagon and the Sausage-seller nearly come to blows over the question which of them shall speak first. The Worse Argument here speaks as if it were an advantage to be the first speaker; occasionally we find a defendant in court asserting that it is (cf. *Dem.* 18.7), but the Worse Argument himself well knows that it is better to have the last word. In all formal debates in Ar., except *Wealth* 487-618, the first speaker is the ultimate loser.
- 949-958 = 1024-33 Metre: iambo-choriambic (cf. 512-7, 563ff, 700-6).
953. **superior:** I translate my tentative conjecture. The reading of the mss., “better when he speaks”, conforms metrically neither to the antistrophe (1028) nor to the general rhythm of the song, and I suspect if of being an intrusive gloss.
957. **my friends:** they leave it vague who they mean, and characters and audience alike will suppose that they mean Socrates, his pupils, and the Worse Argument; but in the end we will find that it was not so, for the Clouds prove to be

- enemies and punishers of the Socratics. Note, even now, their warm praise of the Better Argument before and after his speech (959, 1024-9), which has no equivalent in what they say to his opponent. Compare the ambiguity of 812-3.
- 959-1023. Metre: anapaestic tetrameters, ending (from 1009) with an anapaestic *pñigos*. The Worse Argument's reply (1034-1104) is in iambic tetrameters, shifting into iambic trimeters at 1085 and ending (from 1089) with an iambic *pñigos*. The formal debates in *Knights* (761-835, 841-940) and *Frogs* (905-991, 1004-98) are likewise in two metrically contrasting halves (in *Frogs* the iambeis precede the anapaests), and in each case the anapaestic metre is assigned to the more dignified (or, in *Knights*, the slightly less undignified) of the two contestants.
966. **not to keep their thighs together:** the scholia indicate that the speaker has in mind the possibility of boys practising self-stimulation by rubbing the genitals with the thighs. The Better Argument has what Dover has called an "obsession with boys' genitals": cf. 973-8, 989, 1014.
967. "Pallas the terrible, sacker of cities": ancient scholars were uncertain whether this song had been composed by Stesichorus of Himera (sixth century) or by Lamprocles of Athens (early fifth century); the evidence of their confusion is assembled by Page in *PMG* under Lamprocles fr. 1. The most plausible solution is that there were two separate songs, by Stesichorus and by Lamprocles, both of which began *Pallada persepolin* "Pallas sacker of cities", and that the one quoted by Ar. is that of Stesichorus: see D. Holwerda, *Mnemosyne* 5 (1952) 231 n.l.
967. "A strain that sounds afar": the poem which began thus (*PMG* 948) was also of disputed authorship; the scholia state that "its author cannot be discovered, for Aristophanes <of Byzantium> found it as a detached fragment in the <Alexandrian> Library, but some say it is by Cydides of Hermione". The name "Cydides" presumably conceals the lyric poet Cydias mentioned by Pl. *Charm.* 155d and Plut. *Mor.* 931e.
968. **mode:** or "melodic pattern", Greek *harmonia*. The exact nature of the various *harmoniai* on which Greek music was based (the Dorian, the Mixolydian, etc.) remains disputed; some see them as specific melodic scales, others merely, in Henderson's phrase, as "musical idioms" each of which, however, required a different tuning (the literal meaning of *harmonia*) of the instrument. For the former view see R.P. Winnington-Ingram in *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians*⁵ (1954) s.v. "Greek Music (Ancient)"; for the latter, M.I. Henderson in *The New Oxford History of Music* i (London, 1957) 336-403.
- 969- some convolution ... in the style of Phrynis: Phrynis was a Mytilenaean cithara-player, who won first prize in a contest at the Panathenaea of 456; according to [Plut.] *Mor.* 1133b he was the first musician to use modulations and changes of rhythm, and presumably these are the "convolutions" and "twists" complained
971. of

- of here. Similar language is used of these innovations by Pherecrates fr. 145. 14-18.
972. **disfiguring the music:** literally “making the Muses disappear”.
- 973- It was normal and accepted at Athens for mature men to be sexually interested in young males; but it was traditionally considered improper for the latter to do anything positive to attract potential lovers. For this “double standard” cf. Pl. *Symp.* 182d-183d; see Dover, *Greek Homosexuality*, for a full discussion of the relevant social conventions.
973. **to cover themselves with their thighs:** i.e. to endeavour to maintain modesty as far as one can when naked.
974. **the onlookers:** wrestling-schools were places of public resort: cf. on 178.
974. **anything that was — cruel:** i.e. anything that would arouse in the onlookers the torments of unsatisfied desire (cf. Hdt. 5.18.4).
977. **no boy would anoint himself below the navel:** it sounds as though modern youth are being denounced for degenerate luxury (cf. 836 and 920); but then the speaker’s tone changes abruptly, and it turns out that he is complaining that an erotoco-aesthetic delight he once enjoyed is no longer available.
978. **dewy down:** this expression (lit. “dew and down”) has been very variously interpreted; the least unsatisfactory explanation is that of J.J. Henderson, *The Maculate Muse* (New Haven and London, 1975) 145 n.194, who takes it to mean early pubic hair bedewed with sweat. Anointing would remove the sweat.
979. **water down his voice:** i.e. talk in a mincing tone.
- 981- **radish ... dill ... celery:** not that these are especial delicacies, but the point is that
982. a boy was not allowed to take even herbs without permission, much less meat or fish or cheese.
983. **dainties:** Greek *opsa*, which could refer to almost any food other than cereals and wine; everybody of course ate *opsa* to some extent, but the compound *opso-phagos* and its derivatives, one of which is used here, tended to connote excessive fondness for tasty and expensive foods; cf. *Peace* 810 and Aeschines 1.42.
983. **to have his legs crossed:** probably refers to standing with one foot crossed over the other — an indolent-looking posture which might well be thought unseemly, especially in the young.
984. **the Dipolieia:** a festival of Zeus, held on the 14th of Scirophorion (roughly June) and notable chiefly for the archaic and bizarre ritual of the Buphonia (see on 985).
984. **cicadas:** it had once been fashionable to wear a golden cicada as a brooch in the hair; this ornament seems to have become obsolete shortly after the Persian Wars. Cf. *Knights* 1331, and see A.B. Cook, *Zeus: A Study in Ancient Religion* (Cambridge, 1914-40) iii 250-6 and Gomme on Thuc. 1.6.3.
985. **Cedeides:** a contemporary dithyrambic poet, “very old-fashioned” according to the scholia; *IG* i² 770 (late fifth century) commemorates one of his victories,

- and incidentally allows us to be certain of his name, which mss., papyri and other witnesses between them present in nine different forms.
985. **ritual bovicide:** Greek *Bouphonia* “murder of the ox”, the name given to the principal ceremony of the Dipolieia, which was performed as follows: an ox was slaughtered, the slayer ran away, the instrument of death was solemnly tried, condemned, and thrown in the sea; then after the sacrificial feast the ox was stuffed, stood on its feet and yoked to a plough. See H.W. Parke, *Festivals of the Athenians* (London, 1977) 162-7.
987. **right from the start:** from their earliest boyhood: compare Pheidippides’ “five fleeced cloaks” (10), and contrast 964-5.
988. **to dance at the Panathenaea:** for the Panathenaea cf. 386. The reference here is to a dance called the *purrikhē*, regularly performed at the festival, in which the dancers, naked except for a hoplite shield, performed evolutions similar to the movements of a fighting man in defence and attack (cf. Pl. *Laws* 815a; Eur. *Andr.* 1129-36). See E.K. Borthwick, *JHS* 87 (1967) 18-23 and *Hermes* 96 (1968) 63-65; Parke, *Festivals of the Athenians* 36 and Plate 7.
989. **holds his shield in front of his ham:** probably Greek *kōlē*, lit. “ham”, means “penis” both here and in 1018, though this meaning is not attested elsewhere. Clearly we are to understand that the boy is holding his shield too low — perhaps from lack of strength or stamina, perhaps because he is unused to public nakedness through not having attended gymnasiums and wrestling-schools.
989. **caring nothing for Tritogeneia:** Tritogeneia was a title of Athena (*Knights* 1189; *Iliad* 4.515), most often taken in antiquity as meaning “born at Lake Tritonis” in Libya (cf. Aesch. *Eum.* 292-3); here, for added solemnity, the genitive case of the name appears in its epic form, ending in -ēs instead of -ās (cf. 401, 614). Since the *purrikhē* was a religious ritual performed in Athena’s honour, to dance it improperly was a gross insult to her.
991. **to hate the Agora:** old-fashioned people considered it improper for the young to frequent the Agora, the market-place and main public square of Athens: so in *Knights* Demos, “reverting to the old ways”, bans from the Agora (1373) all whose beards are not yet grown.
991. **shun the bath-houses:** cf. 837-8 and 920.
992. **flare up:** Greek *phlegesthai* implies an intense access of emotion (Soph. *O.C.* 1695), but the emotion need not be outwardly expressed (Pl. *Charm.* 155d). Here the emotion may be shame, anger, or a mixture of the two; whether it stimulates the victim to active retaliation will no doubt depend on whether he has been insulted by an equal or by one of his elders and betters.
995. <**defile**> **the statue of Honour:** to soil the statue of a deity was to display wanton contempt for that deity (cf. *Frogs* 366); Honour (*Aidōs*) was the power that made one feel “ashamed of what is shameful”; hence “defile the statue of Honour” = “make a wanton display of shamelessness”. That the corrupt last

- word of the line (in the Greek) must conceal a verb meaning something like “defile” is fairly certain; it is less clear precisely what verb is required.
997. have an apple thrown at you: as a love-token: cf. Theocr. 5.88; 6.6-10.
997. shattered: lit. “broken off”.
998. Iapetus was an elder brother of Cronus (Hes. *Thg.* 134-7); cf. on 398.
1001. the sons of Hippocrates: Hippocrates, son of Ariphron, of the deme Cholargus (*PA* 7640), was a nephew of the great Pericles. Elected a general for 426/5 (*IG i²* 324.3) and 424/3, he perished at the battle of Delium late in 424 (Thuc. 4.101.2), leaving three sons, Pericles (*PA* 11810), Teleippus (*PA* 13541) and Demophon (*PA* 3701). These youths were several times ridiculed in comedy as swinish and uneducated (so the scholia here); Eupolis fr. 103 (from *Demes*, produced as late as 412) calls them “abortive children, bleating infants”. They appear also to have had misshapen heads, like their great-uncle Pericles (Ar. fr. 112, 557).
1001. a pap-sucker: lit. “one who feeds like a baby on blite (*Amaranthus blitum*)”, which is a tasteless vegetable; hence “an insipid milksop”.
1003. outlandish chatter on thorny subjects: lit. “thistle-outlandish chatter”. Cf. *Knights* 1375-80, where youths are said to sit in the Agora discussing the technical merits or orators.
1004. sticky, contentious, damnable: one word in the Greek.
1005. the Academy: the precinct of the god Academus, later the site of Plato’s school, which had been laid out as a park by Cimon, probably in the 460s, with a stream, shaded walks, and running-tracks (Plut. *Cim.* 13.8).
1006. green: the mss. have “white”, but this might suggest that the reeds were dry, whereas they would certainly be fresh, no doubt from the stream close by (see previous note).
1007. green-brier and ... poplar and freedom from cares: in the Greek “freedom from cares” (*aprāgmosunē*) comes second, not third, in the list. For the mixture of literal and metaphorical “smells” cf. 50-52.
- 1012- 1014. a shining breast ... a small prick: a summary of what were “down to the middle of the fifth century the most striking and consistent ingredients of the ‘approved’ male figure” (Dover, *Greek Homosexuality* 70; on the aesthetics of penis size see *ib.* 125-135), as evidenced by vase paintings and also e.g. by Achaeus *TrGF* 20 F 4, a description of young athletes “gleaming with the bloom of youth on their powerful shoulders”. If he keeps to the old ways, Pheidippides is told he will be strong, athletic, handsome and admired.
1017. a pale skin: cf. 103, 186, 503-4, 718.
1018. a big ham: cf. on 989.
1019. a long ... winded decree: the list is given a surprising turn to end with: under the aegis of the Worse Argument, Pheidippides will become an orator and propose verbose decrees in the Assembly.

1022. **Antimachus** was “satirized in comedy as a good-looking pathic and effeminate” according to the scholia, which say, rightly or wrongly, that he was not the same man as the Antimachus of *Ach.* 1150ff; we know nothing else about him.
- 1024-
1025. **you who perfect yourself in wisdom:** the strongest indication yet that the chorus are really opposed to Socrates and all he stands for. The mention of “wisdom” (Greek *sophiā*) recalls 954-5, just before the Better Argument’s speech, when the chorus said “everything is at stake here for Learning (*sophiā*)”; it was not then clear whether they meant the old or the new learning, but now it is apparent that they meant the old, against which the Worse Argument’s alternative has no more than a specious plausibility (1030-1). Thus when, long before (412), they addressed Strepsiades as “you who desire the higher wisdom (*sophiā*) from us” they were deceiving him; the Worse Argument will deceive him just as easily.
- 1024-5. **fair and lofty:** lit. “fair-towered”.
1027. **the bloom of virtue:** Greek *anthos* “flower” and its derivatives were used metaphorically, as here, three times in the Better Argument’s speech (962, 978, 1002), leading up to his idyllic picture of springtime in the Grove of Academe (1005-8). He has invested his portrayal of the old education with floral beauty and floral fragrance.
- 1034-1104. For metre see on 959-1023.
- 1038-
1040. **For it was for just this reason ... justified pleas:** “Worse Argument” is not just a label pinned on the speaker by his opponents; he frankly admits, as is further shown by the phrase “the inferior case” (1042), that his opponents’ cause is morally right and his wrong. Like Thrasymachus in *Pl. Rep.* 1. 343a-344c, but in defiance of all accepted ethical standards, he does not mind if people think him wicked so long as they think him happy and successful.
1040. **established values:** Greek *nomoi*, here not “laws” (for an Athenian orator could not openly ask a jury to disregard the law of the land) but “norms of behaviour established by custom” such as the *nomos* that it is disgraceful to strike one’s father (cf. 1420-6).
1041. **staters:** the name “stater” was applied to a variety of non-Athenian standard coins, mostly of high value: ‘thus the Persian gold daric (called a stater by e.g. Hdt. 7.28.2) was worth 20 drachmas (Xen. *Anab.* 1.7.18) and the electrum stater of Cyzicus even more ([Dem.] 34.23-24). “More than ten thousand staters” thus suggests something of the same order of magnitude as does a “whole load of talents” (lit. “more than many talents”) in 1065.
1044. **he won’t let you bathe in hot water:** this was implied by 991 (“shun the bath-houses”), since it was in public bath-houses that heated water for washing was most readily available (hence poor men haunted them in winter simply

- to keep warm: *Wealth* 952-3).
1046. **they ... make the man who takes them a coward:** so *com. adesp.* 56 speaks of certain persons as “tender from having hot baths and delicate from lying on soft beds”.
1047. **held round the waist:** a common wrestling metaphor (*Ach.* 571, *Frogs* 469, *Eccl.* 260) meaning “powerless to fight back”, “as good as beaten”.
1048. **of the sons of Zeus ...:** again, as in 904-6, the Worse Argument exploits the fact that his opponent believes both in traditional Greek morals and in traditional Greek myths, and that the two were often not obviously compatible.
1051. **Heraclean baths:** a name applied to warm springs such as those at Thermopylae, which were said to have been created by Athena (Peisander fr. 7 Kinkel) or Hephaestus (Ibycus fr. 19 Page) for Heracles to wash in.
1055. **you object to their frequenting the Agora:** cf. 991.
1057. **“agoretes”:** in fact the Homeric noun *agorētēs* has nothing to do with market-places; it means “orator”. It is used twice of Nestor (*Iliad* 1.248, 4.293) and also of other wise elders (*Iliad* 3.150, 7.126); but it can be used in a hostile sense of persons who are allegedly clever talkers and nothing more (*Iliad* 2.246, *Odyssey* 20.274).
- 1058-9. **the tongue ... not right for the young to train:** cf. 931, 1003, 1013, 1018.
1060. **be modest:** Greek *sōphronein*, to know one’s place (in relation to the gods or to one’s human superiors) and behave accordingly; cognate words appeared at the start of the Better Argument’s speech (962), at its climax (1006), and in the choral comment after it (1027).
1060. **two pernicious evils:** modesty, and neglect of “the tongue”. The Worse Argument cares nothing for the well-being of society but solely for maximizing the individual’s profit and pleasure; to him, a bad action means an action that is bad for the doer of it, and like Thrasymachus (see on 1038-40) he holds that in this sense it is bad to be virtuous.
1063. **Peleus got his knife because of that:** the hero Peleus, when staying with Acastus at Iolcus, resisted the amorous advances of his host’s wife Hippolyte (or Astydamia), and she then accused him to her husband of attempting to dishonour her. To punish Peleus Acastus abandoned him unarmed on Mount Pelion to be devoured by wild beasts, but the gods, “pitying him for his chastity” (schol. Pind. *Nem.* 4.57), arranged through Hephaestus that he should be given a knife to defend himself. For Peleus’ reputation, based on this story, for self-control (*sōphrosunē*) cf. Pl. *Rep.* 3.391c.
1065. **Hyperbolus from the lamp market:** see on 551 and 876.
1067. **Peleus got to marry Thetis:** according to the best known of several versions of the myth (Pind. *Isthm.* 8.27-53), the sea-goddess Thetis was courted by Zeus and Poseidon until they learned that she was fated to bear a son mightier than his father, whereupon they had her married to Peleus “virtuous and

- wise of heart ... the most pious man that the plain of Iolcus nurtures". This is one of the very rare cases in Greek myth of a formal marriage between a mortal and a deity.
1067. **virtue**: Greek *sōphrōnein*.
1068. **she left him and went away**: in the *Iliad* Thetis is sometimes thought of as still living with Peleus (1.396, 18.55-60) but more usually as having returned to her father Nereus' home in the depths of the sea (1.358, 24.80-83). The latter is almost certainly the older version of the tale (for in the common folktale pattern of the man who woos and wins a mermaid, the mermaid always in the end returns to her native element), and it is the version normally assumed in post-Homeric poetry. The motive here assigned for Thetis' departure is the speaker's *ad hoc* invention: the usual story was that Thetis left Peleus in anger because he had spoken abusively to her (Soph. fr. 151) when he surprised her holding the infant Achilles over a fire, not realizing that she was trying to make him immortal (Ap. Rh. 4.866-879).
1068. **wanton**: Greek *hubristēs*, the antithesis of *sōphrōn*, connoting self-indulgence without regard for the rights or dignity of others. Thetis left Peleus not, as tradition asserted, because he treated her with too little respect (see previous note), but because (in bed) he treated her with too *much* respect!
1070. **mauled**: lit. "treated wantonly or violently", implying "the degradation ... of the woman in some way, either by the man's treating her roughly or by making her perform specialized sexual acts" (Henderson, *The Maculate Muse* 159).
1070. **a hulking old Cronus**: lit. "a Cronus-horse". For "Cronus" see on 398; the addition of *-hippos* "horse" may be intended to suggest "a great big Cronus" (cf. *hippokrēmna* "horse-cliffish" i.e. "towering great" *Frogs* 929) or be little more than a means of extending the name to add emphasis and ridicule, as Dicaeopolis does when at *Ach.* 1206 he greets his enemy Lamchus as *Lāmakh-ipp-ion*.
1073. **boys**: i.e. homosexual relationships.
1073. **cottabus**: a game which "consisted of throwing wine-lees at a target set in the midst of the diners' couches" (B.A. Sparkes, *Archaeology* 13 [1960] 203) had strong associations with drunken, dissolute and/or erotic behaviour (cf. e.g. *Ach.* 525, Soph. fr. 537).
1073. **good food**: Greek *opsa* (see on 983).
1073. **laughter**: or, with the mss. except R, "giggling".
1075. **the demands of nature**: for the sophistic opposition between custom or convention (*nomos*) and nature (*phusis*) which often permits or even enjoins conduct that *nomos* would condemn, see Pl. *Gorg.* 482c-484c with Dodds' notes. The authority of *phusis* is not seldom invoked, as by Callicles in *Gorgias* and by "the Athenians" in Thuc. 5.105.2, to justify unbridled

- indulgence of the desire to dominate others; here it is made to justify unbridled indulgence of sexual desires, helped perhaps by the fact that one meaning of *phusis* was “genitals” of either sex (the word is so used on a fourth-century curse-tablet, *IG* iii [3] 89.a.6).
1076. **you've had a bit of an affair:** with a married woman; Greek *emoikheusas* from *moikhos* “adulterer”.
1077. **you're done for:** an adulterer caught in the act could lawfully be killed by the husband (cf. Lysias 1).
1078. **indulge your nature:** see on 1075.
- 1080- **Zeus ... is a slave to love and women:** the amours of Zeus, as told in myth,
1081. were innumerable. Helen uses the same plea to excuse her adultery in Eur. *Tro.* 948-950; morally responsible philosophers, on the other hand, sometimes denied the truth of the myths in question (Xenophanes fr. 11 D-K; Eur. *HF* 1341-2; Pl. *Rep.* 390c, 391c-e).
1083. **he gets the radish treatment ...:** the law allowed a husband who caught an adulterer in the act “to treat him in whatever manner he pleased” (Lys. 1.49), and certain physical degradations had become traditional: a large-rooted radish was thrust up the adulterer’s anus (cf. Lucian *Peregr.* 9), his perineal region was sprinkled with hot ash, and his pubic hair was pulled out (*Wealth* 168).
1084. **wide-arsed:** this normally denoted a pathic, one who habitually submitted to buggery (and is so used in 1089ff); the logic of “the radish treatment”, which may be thought of as a symbolic anal rape, was that he who had misused his manhood by adultery should be degraded to the level of those who deny their manhood by being penetrated instead of penetrating. But the Worse Argument will maintain that this is no degradation at all; in many fields the most successful men are pathics or former pathics.
1086. **You mean ... greater than that?** in effect an answer to the question just put: “it’ll do him the greatest possible harm.”
1089. **advocates:** Greek *sunēgoroi*, persons specially appointed to conduct the prosecution when a trial was ordered by the Council or the Assembly in a case of public importance (cf. *Ach.* 685; *Knights* 1358; *Wasps* 482; Hyp. *Dem.* 38; Dein. 2.6; [Plut.] *Mor.* 833f). Naturally the best available speakers would be chosen, so the question is equivalent to “What type of person provides the leading forensic orators?”
1090. **From the wide-arsed:** cf. the effeminate *sunēgoros* of *Wasps* 687ff.
1091. **tragedians:** probably performers rather than poets. The scholia think there may be particular reference to a tragic actor named Phrynicus, who “was accused of effeminacy because of the intricacy of his dance-movements”.
1093. **politicians:** the idea that virtually all leading politicians are former male prostitutes recurs several times in Ar. (*Knights* 423-8, 878-880, 1242; *Eccl.*

- 112-3) and is put in his mouth by Plato (*Symp.* 192a).
1094. **do you realize that you were talking nonsense?**: since “wide-arsedness” is evidently the key to success in oratory, acting or politics, how can it be considered harmful?
1102. **Here, you buggers ... I’m deserting to your camp**: it is uncertain who is being addressed, and what is the point of the speaker’s discarding his cloak; see most recently L.M. Stone, *CP* 75 (1980) 321-2. The most satisfactory interpretation, in my view, is that by “you buggers” the speaker is referring to the “wide-arsed” products of the new education the Refectory offers, of whom his opponent has been the spokesman, and that he now desires to receive this education himself in the hope of winning success and wealth as an orator. He surrenders his cloak in token of his desire to become a student (cf. 497-500).
1105. **WORSE ARGUMENT**: the mss. give 1105-6 and 1111 to Socrates, but this would require either a fifth actor or a lightning change of mask and costume; note that throughout the debate the question at issue has been taken to be whether Pheidippides shall be taught by the Better or the Worse Argument (see especially 929-938), and Socrates has never been mentioned.
1108. **give him a sharp edge**: Strepsiades speaks as if he were a soldier placing an order for a sword; cf. 1160 where he sings of his son’s “two-edged tongue”. The metaphor is helped by the fact that *stoma* “mouth” could be used to mean “edge of a weapon”.
- 1113- A rudimentary second parabasis, consisting of a brief prelude and a single epirrhema.
1130. According to one scholium (in Vb3 and Vs1) five lines of lyric are “missing” before 1115; as the writer refers to his commentary on the first version of *Clouds*, it is likely that the five lines were deleted by Ar. in the process of revising the play.
- 1113-4 Metre: an iambic dimeter followed by an ithyphallic (for which see on 457-475).
- 1115-30 Metre: trochaic tetrameters.
1115. **the judges**: the judges of the dramatic competition. Similar advice is given to the judges by the chorus of *Birds* (1102-17) and of *Eccl.* (1154-62).
- 1115-6. **do this chorus a service**: i.e. award first prize to the play.
1125. **sling-shots**: hailstones.
1126. **making bricks**: the bricks would be sun-dried, and therefore would be ruined if it rained before they were ready.
1129. **we shall rain the whole night long**: this would spoil the procession escorting the bride to her new home, and in particular extinguish the torches that accompanied it, obviously an evil omen for the marriage.
1130. **even to find himself in Egypt**: Egypt was thought of as very remote (in Pind. *Isthm.* 2.41-42 and Eur. *Andr.* 650-1 it is coupled with Phasis at the far end

- of the Black Sea) and the Egyptians as born liars and cheats (Aesch. fr. 373 Nauck = 726 Mette; Ar. *Thesm.* 920-2; Pl. *Laws* 747c); hence no Greek would normally wish to be in Egypt. But at least Egypt had no rain!
1131. We may now be supposed to assume that several days have passed since Pheidippides entered the school. At 17 the moon had apparently just entered “its twenties”; now it is the twenty-sixth of the month. Similar time-lapses are required in *Birds* (at some point between 1261 and 1494, to give time for the gods to be starved into seeking peace), in *Lysistrata* (between 613 and 706, and between 1013 and 1072), and in *Wealth* (after 626, when Wealth is taken to spend a night in the sanctuary of Asclepius).
1131. **twenty-sixth ... twenty-ninth:** lit. “fifth, fourth, third, then second”. The last days of an Athenian month, after the 20th (later 21st), were counted backwards and called ninth, eighth, seventh, etc., “of the waning month” (*phthinontos*); the “second *phthinontos*” was thus the penultimate day of the month. The last day of the month had a special name, *henē kai neā* “Old-and-New” (1134). A month had either 29 or 30 days; in a short month one of the *phthinontos* dates was omitted, but it is disputed which the omitted date was; see most recently J.A. Walsh, *ZPE* 41 (1981) 107-124 and W.K. Pritchett, *ib.* 145-8.
1134. **Old-and-New Day:** the last day of the month, so called perhaps because in theory (i.e. if the month were exactly in step with the moon) it was the day when there was no moon, and so in a sense stood between the old and the new month. It was (1180, 1196-7) the day fixed for the lodging of deposits by intending litigants (see next note); hence Strepsiades’ dread of it.
1136. **lodge a deposit:** in most private and some public lawsuits the plaintiff, and probably also the defendant, had to lodge a deposit (*prutaneia*) with the magistrate who would preside over the case. The money went to the state (*Wasps* 659), but when the case had been decided the successful party could recover the amount of his deposit from his opponent. Once a deposit has been lodged against Strepsiades he will have little hope of avoiding trial, since if the creditor withdraws his claim he will lose his deposit. See Harrison, *The Law of Athens II: Procedure* 92-94, 220.
1139. **they say they'll never accept that kind of payment:** or “they say that
1140. at that rate they're never going to be paid”.
1145. **Boy ... boy, boy:** cf. 132; this time Socrates answers the door himself, thus avoiding a repetition of the earlier scene.
1145. **Greeting, Strepsiades:** lit. “I greet (*aspazomai*) Strepsiades”, the addressee being named in the third person; the use of this form of greeting, instead of the normal *khaire*, may have had a tinge of snobbery and pretiosity (cf. *Birds* 1377, *Wealth* 1042, and especially *Wealth* 322-4).
1146. **please accept this:** we cannot tell what the present was, except that the Greek

- word for it was masculine; the scholia, referring to 669, suggest a sack (*thūlakos*) of barley groats.
1150. **Almighty Fraud:** lit. “Fraud, queen of all (*pambasileia*)”. Having been induced to exchange his allegiance to Zeus the King (*basileus*, 2) for allegiance to the Clouds (*pambasileiai*, 357), Strepsiades has made it plain that he will worship any Power that will enable him to evade his debts: hence it is only natural that he should invoke Fraud as a deity.
- 1154- A monody (solo song) and lyric dialogue, their metre and most of their diction modelled on current tragedy (cf. e.g. Eur. *Hec.* 154-215). At two points specific tragic sources are known: the first line and a half are taken verbatim from a tragedy named *Peleus*, either that of Sophocles (fr. 491) or that of Euripides (fr. 623), while 1165-6 are a slightly modified version of Eur. *Hec.* 171-4. As in many tragic monodies, there are frequent changes of metre: 1154-7 are iambic, 1158-9 dactylic, 1160 spondai., 1161 again iambic, while from 1162 to 1170 anapaestic and dochmiac rhythms alternate.
1156. **the interest on your interest:** the Greek phrase could also mean “your children’s children”, and thus plays on common formulae of blessing and curse such as that used in *Birds* 730.
1169. **him:** Greek *sphe* is common in tragedy as an accusative pronoun of the third person singular and plural, though in comedy its only other appearance is in an oracle (in hexameters) at *Knights* 1020. It is at home here in the para-tragic context, and makes Socrates’ two utterances in this exchange metrically identical; I assume that it was corrupted in *n* and supplanted by an explanatory gloss in RV.
1171. **the colour of your skin:** Pheidippides now has the pallor of an indoor-living student. It is likely that the actor changed his mask.
- 1172- **traversive and contradictive:** the two Greek adjectives both end in *-ikos*, like the string of laudatory adjectives applied to the oratory of Phaeax in *Knights* 1378-80; one of them, *exarnētikos* “traversive, good at making denials”, occurs only here. The use of *-ikos* adjectives was becoming popular in the 420s among sophists, philosophers and rhetoricians and those whom they influenced: see C.W. Peppler, *AJPh* 31 (1910) 428-444.
1173. **that national look:** for it is typically Athenian to be litigious and argumentative (cf. 496, 1220-1, *Birds* 39-41).
1174. **blooms** echoes the flower imagery of the Better Argument’s speech (see on 1027); but what blooms on Pheidippides’ face is not youthful health (1002) but flowers of rhetoric.
1174. “**what-do-you-mean?**”: this is the question of a cross-examiner pouncing aggressively on an opponent’s feeble answer to a previous question (cf. *Wasps* 1378, Pl. *Apol.* 24e); thus Strepsiades means “you have the look of a powerful cross-examiner”.

175. **committing felony:** Greek *kakourgounta*; strictly, committing one of those offences (such as theft, robbery and kidnapping) which made the offender liable in certain circumstances to summary arrest (*apagōgē*). See Harrison, *The Law of Athens II: Procedure* 223-5.
- 179-
195. Pheidippides' argument is based on the pretence that *henē kai neā* "Old-and-New" – in reality a current expression familiar to everybody – is an archaism to be found only in the laws and requiring interpretation. His exegesis runs thus: The law says that defendants in certain classes of case shall be summoned to appear before the appropriate magistrate on *henē kai neā*. Now *henē kai neā* cannot be the name of a single day, since to call a day, or anything else, "old and new" is to contradict oneself. The expression must then denote two days, *henē* and *neā*, of which the latter is evidently the New Moon, the first day of the month, and *henē* the day preceding it; and it was the intention of the legislator that plaintiff and defendant should meet at the magistrate's office on both these days. The first meeting was provided for to give the parties an opportunity to settle out of court; if this failed, the case would be submitted to the magistrate on the following day and the deposits paid. Under this system a man with a bad case who refused to settle might very well "feel a bit uneasy on the morning of the New Moon" (1195), for he had passed the point of no return: if he appeared before the magistrate, he would almost certainly be brought to trial, and if he lost would forfeit his deposit, and have to refund his opponent's, in addition to paying the sum sued for; if he did not appear he would lose the case by default. But this whole alleged system is based on nothing but Pheidippides' misinterpretation of *henē kai neā*. Presumably, if Strepsiades' creditors were to take him to court, Pheidippides would argue that as the presiding magistrate had accepted the plaintiffs' deposits on the wrong day (the last of the month instead of the first) the suits were null and void.
185. **that's the practice:** viz. for the deposits to be lodged on the last of the month.
186. **they:** most people. The magistrates know better, but have their own reasons for letting the practice continue (1196-1200).
187. Solon, archon in 594/3, had promulgated (either then or later) the code which thereafter, except in regard to homicide, was the basis of Athenian law. In the fifth and fourth centuries Athenians tended to ascribe all their corpus of permanent law to Solon, even though some of it was certainly of much later origin: Andoc. 1.95 actually describes as "the law of Solon" an enactment which he proceeds to quote and whose prescript dates it to summer 410.
187. **a friend of the people:** Athens was a democracy, Athenian law was the law of Solon, therefore Solon must have been a democrat; and so, in defiance of the evidence of Solon's own poetry, most Athenians of the fifth and fourth

- centuries held him to have been (cf. Isocr. 7.16, Dem. 18.6).
1192. **my good fellow:** Greek *ō mele*, a form of address which appears elsewhere in this play at 33 and 1338, and twenty-three times altogether in Ar.; it can be used by any free person (male or female) to any other person regardless of status or relationship, and its usual function seems to be to say to the person addressed “I am enlightening you on an important point which you would be aware of already if you had been reasonably intelligent”.
1197. **Old-and-New Day:** Strepsiades, following his son’s example, called this day “Old Day” at 1192, but now he backslides and uses the term with which he is familiar.
1198. **the Tasters:** Greek *protenthai*. Our scanty evidence about the persons so designated (see Athenaeus 4.171c-e) indicates that they performed a religious function of an unknown nature on the day before the festival of the Apaturia, and were jestingly accused of taking advantage of their position to steal the best parts of the festal meal; hence the verb *protentheuein*, used in 1200, comes to mean “take food, money, etc., before the proper time”.
1201. **ripe for fleecing by:** lit. “gain for”, i.e. “source of profit for”.
1203. **earthenware:** lit. “jars”.
1205. **I ought to sing a song of praise:** C.W. Macleod, *Phoenix* 35 (1981) 142-4, notes that it is common for the chorus towards the end of an Aristophanic play to congratulate the hero on the happiness he has attained (e.g. *Ach.* 836-859, *Peace* 856-864, *Birds* 1720ff); here there is no one to utter the congratulations but Strepsiades himself, for the chorus know, as the audience soon will, that his happiness is illusory.
- 1206-13. **Metre:** the first line is ionic (vv--vv-); the rest of the song is in lyric iambics.
1206. **Strepsiades:** by what he imagines is a legitimate poetic licence, Strepsiades transfers his name from the first to the third declension, making its vocative case *Strepsiades* instead of the correct *Strepsiadē*.
1212. **I want to ... feast you:** this announces the offstage feast which normally occurs towards the end of an Aristophanic comedy, and which may be accompanied, as here, by the arrival of unwelcome visitors who are quickly sent packing: cf. *Ach.* 959-end, *Peace* 1039-1315. The play thus appears, deceptively, to be approaching a happy ending.
1213. **1213. I want to ... feast you:** this announces the offstage feast which normally occurs towards the end of an Aristophanic comedy, and which may be accompanied, as here, by the arrival of unwelcome visitors who are quickly sent packing: cf. *Ach.* 959-end, *Peace* 1039-1315. The play thus appears, deceptively, to be approaching a happy ending.
1216. **to refuse unblushingly** implies that in fact the speaker felt, when Strepsiades asked him for a loan, that he could not decently refuse. He is, then, not a professional moneylender but an acquaintance and fellow-demesman (1219) of Strepsiades who had enough spare cash to be able to make an advance; and the passage is evidence that if one was asked for a loan by a personal acquaintance, and one had the money to meet the request, it was not done to refuse. Compare in Lysias 19.25-26 the evident embarrassment of Aristophanes (not the dramatist, but an admiral and diplomat) at having to refuse

- a loan because he had nothing to lend: he felt it necessary to swear on oath that he was himself in debt.
1217. **dragging you here .. over money that's mine:** a man ought to be able to manage his own affairs without troubling others to help him; but if he has to take a dispute to law this is impossible, since even before the case comes to court he needs a witness to prove that the defendant has been duly summoned.
1218. **I'm going to make an enemy of a fellow-demesman:** not that it was unheard-of for fellow-demesmen to be personal enemies (consider Ar. and Cleon, or Euxitheus, speaker of Dem. 57, and his opponent Eubulides); but it might well be unpleasant, particularly when, as apparently here (cf. 1322), the two were also near neighbours. Cf. Dover, *Greek Popular Morality* 277.
1219. **never ... shall I disgrace my country:** the familiar joke on Athenian litigiousness (see on 1173).
1220. **twelve minas:** this is the same sum named by Strepsiades at 21, and accordingly the scholia and many editors give this creditor the name Pasias mentioned there. This is possible, but nothing depends on it, and we cannot tell if the same transaction is being referred to in both places or not: the horse, to buy which the twelve minas were borrowed, is described in 23 by its brand, but here by its colour.
1221. **dark-grey:** lit. "starling-coloured".
1222. **who ... loathes everything to do with horses:** true but irrelevant, since Strepsiades bought the horse unwillingly on his wife's and son's insistence. In his encounters with the creditors Strepsiades is able to use sophisms of his own devising as well as what he has learnt from Socrates: cf. 1279-95.
1223. **'invincible:** Greek *akatabletos*, lit. "un-knock-down-able"; there may be an allusion to a book by the sophist Protagoras which bore the alternative titles *Knock-down Arguments (Kataballontes Logoi)* and *Truth*.
1224. **because of that:** because Pheidippides has now been taught Wrongful Argument.
1225. **in whatever place I may require:** the awe attaching to an oath was greater if it was taken in a sacred place, where a god was present to hear it; hence a person exacting an oath might specify the place where it was to be taken (cf. Lys. 32. 13).
1226. **Then may ruin ... for your shamelessness:** in a society that takes oaths as seriously as the Athenians did, the man who is prepared to perjure himself without fear or shame is at a tremendous advantage. The creditor had challenged Strepsiades to swear to his denial, in the confident expectation that the challenge would not be taken up; at an eventual trial, the jury would be told of Strepsiades' evasion and invited to infer that his denial was false. But to Strepsiades an oath by the traditional gods is a meaningless form of words, and his cheerful acceptance of the challenge leaves the creditor

- almost helpless and reduces him to impotent cursing.
1237. **This could do with being rubbed down with salt:** salt was used for curing hides; the creditor's paunch is to be used as a wine-skin (cf. *Ach.* 1002).
1238. **four gallons:** lit. "six *khoes*", a *khous* being a unit of liquid measure, rather more than three litres or rather less than six pints.
1248. **cardopus:** cf. 669-680.
1255. **I'll be lodging a deposit:** see on 1136.
- 1260-
1261. **It wasn't by any chance ... that gave tongue?:** when an utterance was so startling in tone or content as to make it hard to believe that it could have been spoken by any human being, it might be said that "some god must have spoken it" (cf. Pl. *Euthd.* 291a). In this case Strepsiades supposes that the god in question may be one of those who figured in the tragedies of Carcinus (see next note); presumably a play of his had included a scene in which a god uttered laments.
1261. **Carcinus**, son of Xenotimus, of the deme Thoricus (*PA* 8254; *TrGF* 21), was a tragic dramatist of some distinction; he is known to have won first prize at the City Dionysia of 446 (*IG* ii² 2318.81). In 431 he was one of the ten generals, and with two colleagues commanded a naval expedition around the Peloponnese (Thuc. 2.23.2; 25; 30; cf. *IG* i² 296.30-40); this seems to have earned him the nickname "Lord of the Seas" (*Thalattios: Wasps* 1519, *Plato* com. fr. 134). His three sons were celebrated dancers (*Wasps* 1500-37, *Peace* 781-796); one of them, Xenocles, was himself a tragic dramatist.
1262. **you** is plural in the Greek. In the dramatic situation, the speaker may be addressing himself to (imaginary) curious bystanders as well as to Strepsiades; in performance, however, this "you", like the "you all" of 1226, would probably be directed mainly at the audience — who are equally eager to know who this man may be.
1263. **go away by yourself:** i.e. keep well away from me and everyone else — as if ill-luck, like religious pollution, were contagious. Cf. *Ach.* 1019.
- 1264-
1265. **"O cruel deity ... how thou hast ruined me!"**: quoted, with slight modification, from the tragedy *Licymnus* by Carcinus' son Xenocles (fr.2). The speaker in the tragedy was Alcmene, the mother of Heracles, after her half-brother Licymnus had been killed by Heracles' son Tle(m)polemus. Some versions of the myth (e.g. schol. *Iliad* 2.662) say that this killing was accidental; others (e.g. schol. Pind. *Olymp.* 7.49a and 54) that it was deliberate, the result of a quarrel over "certain honours and rulerships"; all agree that the weapon was of wood, a stick or a club. It is not clear what version Xenocles followed or invented, nor what Athena had to do with the matter. There is no positive reason to suppose that a chariot accident figured in Xenocles' play; the words "that smashed my chariot-rail" are Ar.'s words (so the scholia), not Xenocles'.

1266. **Tlempolemus**: c.f. previous note. For the Attic form of the name, preserved by R here, see Threatte i 490.
- 1267-
1270. **tell your son ... the money he borrowed**: this shows that whether or not the first creditor is to be identified with the Pasias of 21-23, the second creditor is not the Amynias of 31, who did not, one would gather from the text there, lend Pheidippides money but *sold* him or his father some racing equipment.
1271. **you really are in a bad way**: he means that the creditor's remarks show that the accident has deprived him of his reason; the creditor, misunderstanding, takes him to be expressing sympathy.
1273. **as if you'd fallen off a donkey**: it was a popular witticism to say, of a person who appeared to be talking or acting irrationally, "he must have fallen off a donkey"; the expression may well owe its origin to a pun on *ap' onou* "off a donkey" and *apo nou* "out of his mind" (cf. *aponoia* "madness"). See Pl. *Laws* 701c, and for a comic variant of the phrase *Wasps* 1370.
1276. **I think your brain has kind of had a shaking**: cf. Hippocr. *Coan Prognoses* 489 (vol. 5 p. 696 Littré): "Those whose brain is shaken and damaged by blows or otherwise fall down forthwith, lose the power of speech, can neither see nor hear, and generally die."
- 1279-
1280. **it is always new water every time**: this would be the naive popular view (cf. 373).
- 1280-
1281. **the sun draws up ... the same water**: this, in one form or another, was the normal scientific view, held for example by Anaximander (A11 D-K), Xeno-phanes (fr. 30), and the author of the Hippocratic treatise *Airs, Waters, Places* (8).
1289. **by the effluxion ... 1294 with the influx**: Greek *hyporreontos ... epirreontōn*, highlighting the alleged analogy between the flow of rivers, which does not enlarge the sea, and the flow of time, which ought not to enlarge a debt.
1292. **against the laws of nature**: Greek *ou dikaiōn*, literally "unjust". It was common for philosophers to use the word *dikē* "justice" to denote the framework of natural law or the balance of opposing forces in the natural world: thus Anaximander (fr. 1 D-K) had said that the constituents of the universe "make amends and payment to one another for their injustice according to the ordering of Time", Heraclitus (fr. 94) that "the sun will not transgress the limits of his course; if he does, the Erinyes, assistants of Dike, will find him out", and Parmenides (fr. 1.14) that Dike holds the keys of the gates of Night and Day. A similar usage is occasionally found in other writings, e.g. Thuc. 4.62.3 "vengeance does not prosper *dikaiōs*" = "there is no law of nature that vengeance must prosper". Here the creditor's use of *dikaiōn* in this sense enables Strepsiades to argue, by way of the analogy indicated in the last note, that it is "unjust" in the *other, moral* sense to demand

- interest on a loan.
1294. what business have you ... sum of money bigger?: this is the earliest known
1295. attempt to prove that usury is contrary to nature. Aristotle (*Politics*
1258b2-8) reaches the same conclusion on the ground that money was
invented as a medium of exchange, not a source of income in itself.
1297. Witness!: an appeal to anyone present or within earshot to bear witness that
the utterer is being assaulted: cf. 495, *Ach.* 926, *Wasps* 1436, *Birds* 1031.
1298. branded nag: Greek *samphorās* (see on 23 and 122): Strepsiades pretends
that the horse-loving creditor is a horse. The same cry is uttered at *Knights*
603 by an equine boatswain addressing equine rowers.
1299. wanton outrage: Greek *hubris*, contemptuous disregard of the rights or dignity
of others, which was a legal offence for which the penalty was unlimited.
On the concept of *hubris* see N.R.E. Fisher, *Greece and Rome* 23 (1976)
177-193, and his forthcoming book *Hybris*.
1300. thoroughbred: lit. “trace-horse”. A trace-horse (*seirāphoros*) was one of the
two outer horses of a chariot-team of four (the inner ones were “yoke-
horses”, cf. 122). In a race the right-hand trace-horse had to provide excep-
tional bursts of energy when rounding the turning-post (cf. Soph. *El.* 721-
2), and these horses were accordingly better fed than others (Aesch. *Ag.*
1640-1); hence the use of *seirāphoros* here probably suggests the notion
“pampered”.
- 1303-10 = 1311-20 Metre: mainly iambic, though in one section beginning at 1308 =
1316 the rhythm becomes trochaic. Towards the end of the stanza the
strophic correspondence is not exact, the antistrophe having an extra cre-
tic (-u-), at the start of 1318, compared with the strophe; such omission
of a metrical element in strophe or antistrophe is not uncommon in Ar.
(see A.M. Dale, *The Lyric Metres of Greek Drama*² [Cambridge, 1968] 207).
1308. this sophist: Strepsiades is meant; the chorus ironically pretend to agree with
1309. his deluded belief that he is one of “the intellectuals”, “those who know
better” (1202, 1207, 1241, 1249-58, 1283-4).
1309. < recoil from > the villainy: I translate my tentative conjecture (see appara-
1310. tus; the transmitted text, which is unmetrical and tautological, would
mean “suffer some evil as punishment for the villainy”).
1322. fellow-demesmen indicates that Strepsiades’ house is to be thought of as sit-
uated in his own deme of Cicynna, since if he were in the city there would
be unlikely to be many other Cicynnians living close by. See further on 138.
1325. Note Strepsiades’ insistent repetition of the words “villain” (*miaros*) and
1333. “strike your father” (verbal phrase *ton patera tuptein*, noun *patraloiūs*).
So certain is he that Pheidippides’ conduct is monstrous that, faced with
the latter’s calm assumption that he has done nothing wrong, he can but
reiterate his certainty. It has never occurred to him to examine the grounds
for the traditional rule, and not till 1430 is he able to argue at all effec-

- tively in its defence.
1327. **felon**: Greek *toikhōrukhos*, literally “burglar”, but used as a generalized term of abuse as in *Wealth* 909 and 1411.
1330. **tank-arsed**: a more colourful synonym of *katapūgōn* “pathic” (cf. on 909), here used, as *katapūgōn* often is, to mean merely “vicious, immoral”. The noun *lakkos*, here translated “tank”, strictly denotes any natural or dug-out hollow, with a broad opening, adapted for holding liquids; it is the broad opening (cf. “wide-arsed” 1084) that is the point of comparison.
1330. **shower me with more of these roses**: cf. 910-2.
1336. **choose which of the two Arguments ...**: not that there is any doubt which of them Strepsiades will choose, since he is certain to defend the “Better”, i.e. traditional, viewpoint; the point is that Pheidippides himself is prepared, like Protagoras (see on 112-5), to argue with equal persuasiveness for or against any proposition. If, *per impossibile*, Strepsiades wished to maintain that his son did right to assault him, Pheidippides would be ready to argue that he did wrong. He is not interested in what is true or false, only in what an audience can be persuaded to believe.
- 1345-50 = 1391-6 Metre: each stanza consists of three units, each unit comprising an iambic trimeter and a reizianum (x-uu--), except that in 1350, by a licence of strophic responsion occasionally found elsewhere in comedy, what should be a reizianum takes instead the form x-u--. See Dale, *Lyric Metres*² 56-57, 65-66, 89-91, 189.
1347. **something**: as the chorus know perfectly well, what Pheidippides is relying on is his ability, acquired in the Refectory, to “make the worse argument the better”.
- 1351-90 Metre: iambic tetrameters, ending (from 1386) in an iambic *pñigos*. After the choral antistrophe, 1397-1451 (except 1415, an iambic trimeter parodied from Euripides) is in the same metre, the *pñigos* beginning at 1445.
1352. **tell the chorus**: the dramatic fiction is momentarily forgotten, and the chorus-leader speaks like “a producer telling an actor what to do next” (Dover); see on 326.
1352. **you'll do that anyway**: Ar. may here be making fun of a convention of Old Comedy, whereby each division of an *agōn* is formally introduced by a couplet from the chorus-leader inviting one party to the debate to put his case: “why do we have to ask you to speak? you're impatient to speak anyway.” So in *Peace* 1017-22 he makes fun of the convention whereby the preliminary rituals of sacrifice could be performed before the audience but the actual slaughter could not.
1356. Simonides of Ceos, who lived c.556-468, was the leading lyric poet of his day until the rise of Pindar.
1356. **“How Sir Ram was shorn”**: the opening lines of the song (Simonides fr. 2

Page) are preserved in the scholia:

Sir Ram was shorn, and no wonder either,
when he came to the splendid precinct of Zeus
with its fine trees.

The song was a victory-ode for a wrestler who had defeated Crius ("Ram") of Aegina at the Nemean games. D.L. Page, *JHS* 71 (1951) 140-2, plausibly identifies this Crius with Crius son of Polycritus, who in the late 490s was one of the two most powerful men on Aegina (Hdt. 6.50; 6.73.2); the song may date from twenty years or so earlier, when Crius was a young man.

1358. **like a woman grinding hulled barley:** compare the women's work-song *PMG* 869 "Grind, mill, grind; for Pittacus also used to grind, when he was king of great Mytilene."
1365. **to take a myrtle-branch:** it was customary to hold a bay- or myrtle- branch when singing at a symposium, if one was not accompanying oneself on an instrument: so the scholia (quoting Dicaearchus fr. 44 Müller = 89 Wehrli), and cf. Ar. fr. 430 "He began singing 'The Tale of Admetus' with a myrtle- branch". Pheidippides refuses to sing, but he is asked at least to hold the myrtle-branch during his recitation, as a concession to tradition.
1367. **full of noise ... a creator of mountainous words:** the same things are said about Aeschylus in *Frogs* by the chorus (818-825) and by Euripides (837-9, 908-940, 945, 1056-8).
1371. **loosed off:** the mss. have "sang", which even if (as is very doubtful) it could be used of reciting a speech would be inappropriate here where singing and speaking have just been contrasted. Borthwick's conjecture, for which see *CR* 21 (1971) 318-320, would mean "began"; but though *agein* and its compounds may mean "begin" in relation to singing, wailing, instrumental performance, or dancing, there is no clear case of their being so used in relation to spoken utterance. I prefer HKE "loosed off, let fly with", of which HICE "sang" would be an easy visual corruption made still easier by the mention of singing in 1355-60.
1371. **a speech:** probably the prologue of Euripides' *Aeolus*, in which the audience were told of the incest of Macareus and Canace, son and daughter of Aeolus, and the birth and concealment of their child. See T.B.L. Webster, *The Tragedies of Euripides* (London, 1967) 157-160. The incest is mentioned in *Frogs* 1081 as an example of the immorality of Euripidean tragedy.
1372. **heaven forbend:** lit. "O Averter of Evil", an appeal to a god (Heracles, according to the scholia) to avert any dangerous consequences that might result from speaking of so dreadful an act. So in *Knights* 1307 a ship is made to appeal to Apollo the Averter (*Apotropaios*) that the words just uttered

- may be prevented from coming true and Hyperbolus not be allowed to command a fleet against Carthage.
1372. **his sister by the same mother:** note that a brother and sister not born of the same mother were actually permitted to marry by Athenian law (cf. e.g. Dem. 57.20).
1378. **a genius:** Strepsiades may have been intending to continue “... at vulgarity, immorality and atheism” or the like, just as his son had begun “I regard Aeschylus as supreme among poets” and then continued with a string of derogatory expressions (1366-7). But he is first pulled up by the difficulty of finding a form of address that adequately expresses his loathing for Pheidippides, and then on second thoughts decides it would be prudent to say no more.
1380. **I who brought you up ...:** no doubt most poorer Athenian fathers helped with the children, but the idea of Strepsiades’ doing these jobs himself is hardly consistent with what we have been told of the social standing of his wife. In real life she would certainly have insisted on her son’s being looked after by a full-time slave nurse.
1382. **bru:** evidently a nursery word meaning “a drink”; presumably the source of the verb *brullein* “have a feed” used in *Knights* 1126.
1383. **mamma** meant “food”; there was a derived verb *mammān* or *mammiān* “eat (like an infant)”, occasionally used in comedy (Callias com. fr. 29), whose compound *blitomammās* is the word rendered “pap-sucker” at 1001 above.
1384. **kakka:** cf. *kakkē* “faeces” (*Peace* 162) and *kakkōnion* “potty”.
1385. **carry you out of doors:** the insanitary implications of this are confirmed by Eccl. 321-2: Blepyrus, who has come out of his house to defaecate, remarks “Anywhere’s a good place at night; after all, no one will see me”.
- 1387-
1388. **you couldn’t ... carry me out of doors:** not that Strepsiades would be likely to take kindly to such a role-reversal if Pheidippides had attempted it; cf. *Wasps* 1442-50, where Philocleon, who has been getting drunk and making a nuisance of himself, is carried kicking and screaming into his house by his exasperated son.
1396. **not a chickpea:** English more usually says “not a fig” (cf. *Peace* 1223) or “not a bean”. The skin of the elderly will be worthless because they can look forward to getting “a regular hiding” and having the skin flogged off their backs.
1400. **custom:** Greek *nomoi*; see on 1075, and compare the Worse Argument’s claim that he is “the first who conceived the notion of arguing in contradiction to established values (*nomoi*) and justified pleas” (1039-40).
1404. **ideas, arguments and cogitations:** the same three nouns (Greek *gnōmē*, *logos*, *merimna*) appear together in the prelude sung by the chorus before the debate of the two Arguments (951-2).

1407. **a four-horse team:** as opposed to the “chariot-and-pair” which Pheidippides had kept before he entered the school (15). Only the very rich could keep a team of four: the wealth of the elder Miltiades is sufficiently indicated by saying (Hdt. 6.35.1) that he was “of a four-horse-rearing house”.
1408. **I shall go on ... you made me break off:** he speaks to his father as if brushing aside an interrupter at a public meeting.
1412. **that is what being benevolent ... means:** from the agreed premise that Strep-siades’ benevolence towards his son was sometimes expressed in beating him, Pheidippides illegitimately infers that all benevolence is always so expressed, and, by a further illegitimate conversion, that all beatings are expressions of benevolence.
- 1413-
1414. **How can it be right ... a free man born:** Pheidippides ignores, as he does throughout his argument, the difference between children and adults. The corporal chastisement of children by their parents, as also by their teachers (cf. 972), was lawful and common. An adult son, however, was permitted to take legal proceedings against his father, e.g. for insanity (cf. 845) or for homicide (Pl. *Euthyphro* 3e-4e), and it is not likely that his father could strike him with guaranteed impunity.
1415. **“The children howl; do you think the father shouldn’t?”:** a parody of Eur. *Alc.* 691. Alcestis has saved the life of her husband Admetus by voluntarily dying in his stead; Admetus, bitterly distressed at her loss, criticizes his own father Pheres savagely for not offering to sacrifice the brief remainder of his life, and Pheres retorts “You enjoy seeing the light of day; do you think your father doesn’t?” The same line is quoted verbatim in *Thesm.* 194.
1417. **the old are in a second childhood:** a proverbial saying, also quoted or alluded to by Aesch. *Ag.* 74-82, *Eum.* 38, Soph. fr. 487.3, Cratinus fr. 24, Theo-pompus com. fr. 69, and Pl. *Laws* 646a.
1419. **it is less natural that they should do wrong:** “natural” renders Greek *dikaion* (cf. on 1292); Pheidippides is equivocating with the moral sense of *dikaion* and thus insinuating that a wrongful act is more heinous if committed by an older person. His argument is in any case hardly consistent with 1417: if old age is a second childhood, and if offences by children ought to be treated leniently, then surely offences by old people ought to be treated leniently too.
1420. **nowhere is it the law:** the wide variations in the *nomoi* of different peoples, Greek and non-Greek, were a topic of interest to many fifth-century Greeks, as Herodotus amply testifies; but there is no sign that they knew of, or thought they knew of, any society in which violence against parents was not reprehensible.
- 1421-2. **wasn’t it a man ... to accept it?:** Pheidippides holds the social-contract theory

in its historicist form, according to which the *nomoi* that make an ordered society possible were consciously created at a definite time in the past, before which human life had been anarchic. This theory may have been held by Protagoras (who presents it in a mythologized form in Pl. *Prot.* 322a-d), was certainly held by Critias (fr. 25 D-K = 19 Snell), and is presented by Glaucon in Pl. *Rep.* 2.358e-359b as the view of a vaguely specified “they”. See Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* iii 135-147.

1423. **Is it then any less open to me ...?:** a reasonable answer might be “you are free to seek to persuade a majority to change the law, but not to take the law into your own hands as you have done”.
- 1425- we ... them: Pheidippides speaks as if on behalf of the whole younger generation (“we”), making as it were a treaty with their elders (“them”).
1426. **we wipe from the record:** the new law is not to operate retrospectively; beatings administered before its enactment may not be avenged. Such clauses against retrospective application appear from time to time in fifth-century laws and decrees, notably in the law and oaths introduced on the restoration of Athenian democracy in 403 (Andoc. 1.86-91) and in the law-code of Gortyn (e.g. v 7-9, vi 24-25, ix 16-17). Similarly when the Athenians made an alliance with the Bottiaeans after a long period of hostility, both sides swore “I will bear no grudges on account of past events” (*IG* i² 90.15-16, 20-21). Contrariwise, the law of Dracon allowing a person guilty of unintentional homicide to be pardoned by the victim’s relatives specifically stated that it was to apply even to homicides committed before the date of the law ([Dem.] 43.57).
1427. **consider fowls and those other animals:** for the belief that a cockerel will fight against its father, cf. *Birds* 757-9, 1343-52. Pheidippides might have found it difficult to give examples of other animals that did likewise: with his sweeping and misleading generalization compare that made by the Worse Argument in 1056-7.
1432. **my good man:** Greek *οὖτας*, a form of address which normally involves an assumption of superiority on the part of the speaker (at least in Ar.’s time; Menander uses it somewhat differently) and is hardly consistent with proper respect for one’s father, though Bdelycleon uses it when educating his father in the social graces at *Wasps* 1161. See *CQ* 27 (1977) 273.
1432. **nor would Socrates think it was:** Pheidippides evidently cannot think how to justify his claim that his animal analogy is valid and his father’s is not, and instead takes refuge in an appeal to authority. Strepsiades (and Ar. too) has put his finger on a weakness in the arguments of those who appeal to *phusis* to overthrow *nomos* (see on 1075): they invoke *phusis* only when it suits them to do so, and have no objective criterion to determine when appeal to *phusis* is valid and when not.

1433. in that case: if you think it right for a person who has been beaten to be compensated for his sufferings (1423-9). The argument which begins here is left incomplete, being interrupted at 1435 and not resumed. Completed, it would run thus: Pheidippides already, under the existing law, has the right to such compensation, at the expense of his own future offspring, whom he can beat with impunity; under his new law he will not dare to beat his son for fear of being beaten himself in his old age; so in the long run he will lose by the change.
- 1437- For a character turning to and addressing the audience explicitly in the middle
 1439. of a scene, cf. 1201; *Peace* 887, 1115; *Lys.* 1220. The present passage, however, is weak both dramatically and theatrically, and would not be missed if it were absent. Possibly it was written not to stand before, but to be an alternative to, 1440-51, and to lead up directly to 1452: Strepsiades begins to realize that his beating at his son's hands is the natural consequence and penalty of his wrong action in getting his son taught the Worse Argument, admits his error, and at once rounds on the Clouds on whose advice (794-6) he committed it. For other doublets which may similarly originate from alternative drafts cf. 653-4, 1173-6, *Frogs* 1252-60, 1437-53; see K.J. Dover, *ICS* 2 (1977) 150-6.
1443. I'll beat mother: not that he has the slightest grudge against her; he makes this proposal solely to gratify the henpecked Strepsiades – but it has the reverse effect.
1444. a ... greater piece of wickedness: although in general the father-beater and the mother-beater are coupled together as if equally heinous, still Athenian law and custom regarded the bond between child and mother as closer in some respects than that between child and father. Thus brother and sister born of the same mother, even though of different fathers, could not marry (cf. on 1372); and whereas a son could be released under certain circumstances from the duty of maintaining his natural father in old age (e.g. if his father had failed to teach him a trade, or if he had been adopted into another family: see Plut. *Sol.* 22.1 and A.R.W. Harrison, *The Law of Athens I: Family and Property* [Oxford, 1968] 93-4), we know of no circumstances that could release him from the duty of maintaining his natural mother (even adoption made no difference: *Isaeus* 7.25).
1449. the Barathron: a rocky gully a short way outside the city, close to the northern Long Wall, into which condemned criminals were sometimes thrown (cf. *Knights* 1362; *Frogs* 574; *Wealth* 431, 1109; Hdt. 7.133; Xen. *Hell.* 1.7.20; Pl. *Gorg.* 516d-e; for the location, Pl. *Rep.* 4.439e and W. Judeich, *Topographie von Athen* [Munich, 1931] 140).
- 1452- Throughout the dialogue between Strepsiades and the chorus-leader the rhythm
 1464. is close to that of tragedy, except that Porson's Law is not observed.

There is no evidence that any specific scene of tragedy is being imitated or parodied; rather the rhythm of these lines is made to harmonize with their content, the revelation that Strepsiades' suffering is a just and divinely-ordained punishment for his own wickedness.

1455. **because you turned:** Greek *strepsās*, playing on Strepsiades' name: see on 36.
- 1458-
1461. **This is what we always do ... to fear the gods:** when a mortal has sinful intentions, the gods may by temptation induce him to translate those intentions into action and suffer the disastrous consequences. This doctrine is perhaps most fully set out by the chorus of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* (369-402), with particular reference to the destruction of Paris by the agency of "Temptation, unbearable child of premeditating Ruin"; compare also Aesch. *Pers.* 742 (of the ruin of Persia caused by Xerxes) "when a man is determined the god lends a hand".
1464. **my dear, dear boy:** he has not addressed Pheidippides thus since 110, and then it was from a selfish motive; but at this moment he feels genuine affection for his son as a fellow-victim (1466).
- 1465-
1466. **murder:** the Greek word need mean no more than "ruin", but it will appear that Strepsiades' hatred of Socrates and his associates now knows no limits: when he fires their house he seems quite unconcerned whether they live or die. Cf. 1499.
- 1465-
1466. **that villain Chaerephon and Socrates:** it sounds almost as though Chaerephon were the senior partner. Either, as Dover suggests, we have here an unrevised phrase reflecting an earlier state of the play in which Chaerephon had a more prominent role than he does in the play we have, or else Chaerephon is being called a villain for reasons independent of his association with Socrates, e.g. because he was allegedly a thief and informer (see on 104).
1466. **who have cheated both you and me:** they have cheated Pheidippides by robbing him of his good name. To say that a man had struck his father was an insult that ranked with calling him a murderer or a coward (*Lys.* 10.6-9) – an insult that Pheidippides now will not be able to avenge or have punished, because it is true.
1467. **I couldn't wrong my teachers:** Strepsiades' rebuke of 871 recoils on him, as Pheidippides shows that he has replaced the old unwritten law "honour thy father" with a new law "honour thy teacher".
1468. **of Zeus Paternal stand in awe:** probably a quotation from an unknown tragedy. Zeus Patroos was not officially worshipped by the Athenians (Pl. *Euthd.* 302b-d), though an Attic pot of about 400 B.C., found at Myrmecium on the Strait of Kerch, bears the inscription "of Zeus Patroos" (SEG xxvii 437); but Zeus was worshipped under this title in many Greek states, and it occurs in Attic tragedy (Aesch. fr. 162 Nauck = 278a Mette; Soph. *Tr.* 288, 753). In our passage the title is understood to mean "protector of

- the sanctity of fatherhood” as in Eur. *El.* 671; Xen. *Hell.* 2.4.21; Pl. *Laws* 881d.
- 1469- Listen to that ... Is there any Zeus?: again Pheidippides throws Strepsiades' own words back at him (cf. 818-821).
1470. 1471. Vortex is king, having expelled Zeus: Strepsiades' words at 828.
1473. vortex-cup: Greek *dinos*, a cup or bowl with a rounded bottom (supported on wheels, according to schol. *Wasps* 618). Evidently an image of a *dinos* stands outside the Refectory, and it was its presence that led Strepsiades to believe that the Socratics worshipped Dinos (Vortex) as a god (see on 380).
1475. I take it that Pheidippides here goes into his father's house; but M. Nussbaum, *YCS* 26 (1980) 78, raises the possibility that he goes into the school and perhaps perishes in the ensuing conflagration. This cannot be disproved, but it is most unlikely that Strepsiades would set fire to the school knowing his son was inside.
1478. Hermes: the images of Hermes, which stood at many points in the streets of Athens, consisted of a square pillar with a phallus and with the top of the pillar carved to represent the god's head. One of these evidently stands before Strepsiades' house, as its non-theistic counterpart the *dinos* stands before the Refectory.
- 1484- set fire to the house of these prattlers: the idea of the conflagration with which *Clouds* ends can be traced to three different sources – one in comedy, one in tragedy, and one in real life.
- (i) It is common for a torch or torches to appear, for one reason or another, towards the end of an Aristophanic comedy – usually the torches of a bridal or other procession, as at the end of *Peace*, *Birds* and *Frogs*, or of nocturnal revellers as in *Wasps* (1331), *Ecclesiazusae* (978, 1150), and probably also *Acharnians* though there the text does not mention them; *Wealth* has both a reveller's torch (1041, 1052ff) and processional torches (1194). Here this symbol of Dionysiac joy has been turned into a weapon of destruction. Cf. C.P. Segal, *Arethusa* 2 (1969) 156.
- (ii) In Euripides' *Hecuba*, the smoking ruins of Troy are kept constantly before the spectators' minds, and there may have been visible smoke rising from backstage (Hecuba points to it at 823). In his later *Trojan Women* the city is set on fire at the end of the play (1256ff). Compare also the funeral pyre of Capaneus in Eur. *Supp.* 980-1030.
- (iii) At Croton in Italy, probably in the mid fifth century, enemies of the Pythagorean school of philosophy set a house on fire while the Pythagoreans were holding a meeting in it, and all but two of those in the house were killed (Iamblichus, *Life of Pythagoras* 249).
1485. Xanthias: also the name of a slave in *Acharnians*, *Wasps*, *Birds* and *Frogs*; it means “golden-haired”.

1489. until you bring the house down on them: in the Greek this line closely echoes 1460 in sound, as is noted by A. Köhnken, *Hermes* 108 (1980) 165 n.39. This may be an indication that just as it was the gods, through Pheidippides, who punished Strepsiades, so it is they, through Strepsiades, who will punish Socrates and his pupils; and Strepsiades' last words in the play (1506-9) suggest that this is the view he takes.
1497. CHAEREPHON: no ms. makes Chaerephon the speaker here or at 1499, but several give him 1505, and if he speaks 1505 it is more likely that he has also spoken before than that (as we should otherwise have to assume) Ar. intended to use a fifth actor. It cannot be proved that Chaerephon speaks at all; but since he was the best known of Socrates' associates and had been frequently mentioned earlier in the play, and since his appearance made him a natural target for caricature (see on 104), it is unlikely that Ar. missed the opportunity to satirize him here. The satire may be directed mainly at his alleged distaste for fresh air (cf. 198-9) which was thought responsible for his pallor: unlike the other members of the school who speak (1495, 1502) he does not address Strepsiades directly — which suggests that he is still inside and cannot see the man on the roof -- and this is confirmed by 1505 which shows that he has then still to escape. He would almost prefer to burn, it is implied, rather than go outdoors.
1498. whose cloak you stole: cf. 497-500, 856-7. The "you" is plural.
1503. I walk the air and descry the sun: he mockingly repeats what Socrates said to him at 225.
1506. your: plural, referring to the Socratics collectively, or perhaps (adopting the readings of E^{ac} in this and the next line) dual, referring to Socrates and Chaerephon.
1506. wantonly flouting: lit. "committing *hubris* against"; see on 1299.
1507. seat: Greek *hedrā* means both "position" (e.g. of a heavenly body) and "rump" (of human or animal); and the Moon could be thought of either as a celestial luminary or as an anthropomorphic goddess (cf. 607-626). Hence there is here not only an accusation of impiety, but also an insinuation of indecency.
1508. hit them, pelt them: for similar cries cf. *Ach.* 280-3, [Eur.] *Rhesus* 675-6, *Xen. Anab.* 5.7.21.
1509. remembering how they wronged the gods: in the Greek this line contains a distinct echo of 1461 (see Köhnken, cited on 1489).
- 1510-1. Metre: anapaestic.
- 1510- Lead the way out ... dancing for today: for this perfunctory tailpiece cf.
1511. *Thesm.* 1227-31; in that play, as in this, the hero's scheme for escaping from his troubles has been a failure.