

# APPENDIX C

## PLAUTUS, *MENAECMI*, TRANSLATED BY WILLIAM WARNER (1595)

THE following modernized text of Warner's *Menaechmi* is based on the quarto of 1595, collated with the old-spelling text in Geoffrey Bullough's *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare*, vol. i (1957), 12-39, and the modern-spelling texts in Harry Levin's *Signet* (1965) and David Bevington's Bantam Shakespeare (1980) editions of *The Comedy of Errors*; the present text is particularly indebted to that in Bevington's edition. The Loeb Classics text of Plautus' *Menaechmi* has also been consulted. Punctuation and stage directions are emended in accordance with the principles of the Oxford Shakespeare series, as for the text of *The Comedy of Errors*. No textual apparatus is provided. Corrections of obvious errors in the quarto have been made silently; these are in some cases adopted from Bevington. Stage directions not in the quarto are mostly from Bevington's edition, frequently with modifications. In a few instances, uncertainty is indicated by broken brackets. Glosses and annotations have been kept to a minimum. See Introduction, pp. 23-5, for a discussion of the possible connections between Shakespeare's play and Warner's translation. Readers familiar with *The Comedy of Errors* will immediately recognize comparable scenes and incidents, as well as the many differences, in the two works.

The names of some characters in *Menaechmi* are those of stock 'types' in Roman comedy, rather than individual names: 'Senex' means 'old man', 'Mulier' means 'wife', 'Ancilla' means 'maid', 'Medicus' means 'doctor', etc. One or two names are more specific, e.g. 'Cylindrus', meaning in Latin a round or cylindrically shaped stone used for levelling or rolling, hence, among other things, a rolling pin, appropriate for a cook. See the note on the name 'Peniculus'.

## *Menaechmi*

Translated by William Warner (1595)

### THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN, a gentleman residing in Epidamnum  
MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER, his twin, also called *Sosicles*, from Syracuse  
MESSENIO, slave of *Menaechmus the Traveller*  
PENICULUS, parasite attached to *Menaechmus the Citizen*  
MULIER, wife of *Menaechmus the Citizen*  
EROTIUM, a courtesan  
CYLINDRUS, her cook  
ANCILLA, her maid  
SENEX, *Mulier's* father  
MEDICUS, a doctor  
SAILORS  
Boy (Vecio)

### The Argument

Two twinborn sons a Sicil merchant had,  
Menaechmus one and Sosicles the other.

The first his father lost a little lad;

The grandsire named the latter like his brother.

This, grown a man, long travel took to seek

His brother, and to Epidamnum came

Where th'other dwelt enriched, and him so like

That citizens there take him for the same.

Father, wife, neighbours each mistaking either,

Much pleasant error ere they meet together.

I.I Enter *Peniculus*, a parasite

PENICULUS Peniculus was given me for my name when I was young,  
because like a broom I swept all clean away wheresoe'er I be come,  
namely, all the victuals which are set before me. Now, in my judge-  
ment men that clap iron bolts on such captives as they would keep  
safe and tie those servants in chains who they think will run away,

I.I.O.I *Peniculus* L., literally 'little penis'; also, tail, sponge or brush.

they commit an exceeding great folly. My reason is, these poor wretches enduring one misery upon another never cease devising how, by wrenching asunder their gyves or by some subtlety or other, they may escape such cursed bonds. If then ye would keep a man without all suspicion of running away from ye, the surest way is to tie him with meat, drink, and ease; let him ever be idle, eat his bellyful, and carouse while his skin will hold, and he shall never, I warrant ye, stir a foot. These strings to tie one by the teeth pass all the bonds of iron, steel, or what metal soever, for the more slack and easy ye make them, the faster still they tie the party which is in them. I speak this upon experience of myself, who am now going for Menaechmus, there willingly to be tied to his good cheer. He is commonly so exceeding bountiful and liberal in his fare, as no marvel though such guests as myself be drawn to his table and tied there in his dishes. Now, because I have lately been a stranger there, I mean to visit him at dinner, for my stomach methinks even thrusts me into the fetters of his dainty fare. But yonder I see his door open and himself ready to come forth.

1.2 Enter Menaechmus [the Citizen] from his house, talking back to his wife within

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN If ye were not such a brabbling fool and madbrain scold as ye are, ye would never thus cross your husband in all his actions! (*To himself*) 'Tis no matter. Let her serve me thus once more, I'll send her home to her dad with a vengeance. I can never go forth a-doors but she asketh me whither I go, what I do, what business, what I fetch, what I carry, as though she were a constable or a toll-gatherer. I have pampered her too much. She hath servants about her, wool, flax, and all things necessary to busy her withal, yet she watcheth and wondereth whither I go. Well, sith it is so, she shall now have some cause. I mean to dine this day abroad with a sweet friend of mine.

PENICULUS (*aside*) Yea, marry, now comes he to the point that pricks me. This last speech galls me as much as it would do his wife. If he dine not at home, I am dressed.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN (*to himself*) We that have loves abroad and wives at home are miserably hampered. Yet, would every man could tame his shrew as well as I do mine! I have now

8 gyves fetters, chains  
1.2.1 brabbling quarrelsome

10 sith since  
15 dressed done for

filched away a fine riding cloak of my wife's which I mean to bestow upon one that I love better. Nay, if she be so wary and watchful over me, I count it an alms deed to deceive her. 20

PENICULUS Come, what share have I in that same?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Out, alas, I am taken.

PENICULUS True, but by your friend.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What, mine own Peniculus? 25

PENICULUS Yours, i' faith, body and goods—if I had any.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Why, thou hast a body.

PENICULUS Yea, but neither goods nor good body.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Thou couldst never come fitter in all thy life.

PENICULUS Tush, I ever do so to my friends. I know how to come always in the nick. Where dine ye today? 30

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I'll tell thee of a notable prank.

PENICULUS What, did the cook mar your meat in the dressing? Would I might see the reversion. 35

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Tell me, didst thou see a picture how Jupiter's eagle snatched away Ganymede, or how Venus stole away Adonis?

PENICULUS Often, but what care I for shadows? I want substance.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN (*showing the cloak he has concealed*) Look thee here. Look not I like such a picture? 40

PENICULUS Oho, what cloak have ye got here?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Prithee, say I am now a brave fellow.

PENICULUS But hark ye, where shall we dine?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Tush, say as I bid thee, man. 45

PENICULUS Out of doubt ye are a fine man.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What? Canst add nothing of thine own?

PENICULUS Ye are a most pleasant gentleman.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN On, yet.

PENICULUS Nay, not a word more, unless ye tell me how you and your wife be fallen out. 50

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Nay, I have a greater secret than that to impart to thee.

PENICULUS Say your mind.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Come farther this way from my house. 55

PENICULUS So, let me hear.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Nay, farther yet.

PENICULUS I warrant ye, man.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Nay, yet farther.

21 alms deed act of charity

35 reversion leftovers

- PENICULUS 'Tis pity ye were not made a waterman, to row in a wherry. 60
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Why?
- PENICULUS Because ye go one way and look another still, lest your wife should follow ye. But what's the matter, is't not almost dinner-time? 65
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Seest thou this cloak?
- PENICULUS Not yet. Well, what of it?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN This same I mean to give to Erotium.
- PENICULUS That's well, but what of all this?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN There I mean to have a delicious dinner prepared for her and me. 70
- PENICULUS And me?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN And thee.
- PENICULUS O sweet word! What, shall I knock presently at her door? 75
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Ay, knock. But stay too, Peniculus, let's not be too rash. O, see, she is in good time coming forth.
- PENICULUS Ah, he now looks against the sun. How her beams dazzle his eyes!
- Enter Erotium [from her house]*
- EROTIUM What, mine own Menaechmus? Welcome, sweetheart. 80
- PENICULUS And what, am I welcome too?
- EROTIUM You, sir? Ye are out of the number of my welcome guests.
- PENICULUS I am like a voluntary soldier—out of pay.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Erotium, I have determined that here shall be pitched a field this day. We mean to drink, for the heavens, and which of us performs the bravest service at his weapon—the wine bowl—yourself as captain shall pay him his wages according to his deserts. 85
- EROTIUM Agreed. 90
- PENICULUS I would we had the weapons, for my valour pricks me to the battle.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Shall I tell thee, sweet mouse? I never look upon thee but I am quite out of love with my wife.
- EROTIUM Yet ye cannot choose but ye must still wear something of hers. What's this same? 95
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN This? Such a spoil, sweetheart, as I took from her to put on thee.

61 wherry taxi-boat  
78 against toward  
86 field i.e. of battle

93 mouse (a term of affection)  
97 spoil prize

- EROTIUM Mine own Menaechmus, well worthy to be my dear, of all dearest! 100
- PENICULUS (*aside*) Now she shows herself in her likeness: when she finds him in the giving vein, she draws close to him.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I think Hercules got not the garter from Hippolyta so hardly as I got this from my wife. Take this, and with the same take my heart. 105
- [He gives her the cloak]*
- PENICULUS Thus they must do that are right lovers—(*aside*) especially if they mean to be beggars with any speed.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I bought this same of late for my wife. It stood me, I think, in some ten pound.
- PENICULUS (*aside*) There's ten pound bestowed very thriftily. 110
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN But know ye what I would have ye do?
- EROTIUM It shall be done. Your dinner shall be ready.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Let a good dinner be made for us three. Hark ye: some oysters, a marrowbone pie or two, some artichokes, and potato roots; let our other dishes be as you please. 115
- EROTIUM You shall, sir.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I have a little business in this city; by that time dinner will be prepared. Farewell till then, sweet Erotium. Come, Peniculus.
- PENICULUS Nay, I mean to follow ye. I will sooner lose my life than sight of you till this dinner be done. 120
- Exeunt [Menaechmus and Peniculus]*
- EROTIUM (*calling into her house*) Who's there? Call me Cylindrus the cook hither.
- Enter Cylindrus*
- Cylindrus, take the handbasket, and here, there's ten shillings, is there not? 125
- CYLINDRUS 'Tis so, mistress.
- EROTIUM Buy me of all the daintiest meats ye can get—ye know what I mean—so as three may dine passing well and yet no more than enough.
- CYLINDRUS What guests have ye today, mistress? 130
- EROTIUM Here will be Menaechmus and his parasite, and myself.
- CYLINDRUS That's ten persons in all.
- EROTIUM How many?
- CYLINDRUS Ten, for I warrant you that parasite may stand for eight at his victuals. 135
- 103-4 Hercules . . . this it was as difficult for me to get this cloak as it was for Hercules to get the girdle of Hippolyta (one of his twelve labours)
- 107 speed success  
109 stood . . . in cost me

EROTIUM Go, dispatch as I bid you, and look ye return with all speed.

CYLINDRUS I will have all ready with a trice. *Exeunt*

2.1 *Enter Menaechmus [the Traveller], Messenio his slave, and some sailors*

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Surely, Messenio, I think seafarers never take so comfortable a joy in anything as, when they have been long tossed and turmoiled in the wide seas, they hap at last to ken land.

MESSENIO I'll be sworn, I should not be gladder to see a whole country of mine own than I have been at such a sight. But, I pray, wherefore are we now come to Epidamnum? Must we needs go to see every town that we hear of?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Till I find my brother, all towns are alike to me. I must try in all places.

MESSENIO Why, then, let's even as long as we live seek your brother. Six years now have we roamed about thus—Istria, Hispania, Massilia, Illyria, all the Upper Sea, all high Greece, all haven towns in Italy. I think if we had sought a needle all this time we must needs have found it, had it been above ground. It cannot be that he is alive; and to seek a dead man thus among the living, what folly is it?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Yea, could I but once find any man that could certainly inform me of his death, I were satisfied. Otherwise I can never desist seeking. Little knowest thou, Messenio, how near my heart it goes.

MESSENIO This is washing of a blackamoor. Faith, let's go home, unless ye mean we should write a story of our travel.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Sirrah, no more of these saucy speeches. I perceive I must teach ye how to serve me, not to rule me.

MESSENIO Ay, so, now it appears what it is to be a servant. Well, yet I must speak my conscience. Do ye hear, sir? Faith, I must tell ye one thing: when I look into the lean estate of your purse and consider advisedly of your decaying stock, I hold it very needful to be drawing homeward, lest in looking your brother we quite lose ourselves. For, this assure yourself: this town Epidamnum is a place of outrageous expenses, exceeding in all

138 with a trice in a twinkling  
2.1.4 ken catch sight of  
14 haven port

22 washing . . . blackamoor trying to make a black man white, i.e. performing an impossible task

riot and lasciviousness and, I hear, as full of ribalds, drunkards, catchpoles, coneycatchers, and sycophants hold. Then, for courtesans, why, here's the currentes them in the world. Ye must not think here to scape wi cost as in other places. The very name shows the n man comes here *sine damno*.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Ye say very well indeed. G purse into mine own keeping, because I will so be the *damno*.

MESSENIO Why, sir?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Because I fear you wil among the courtesans and so be cozened of it. Thei take great pains in belabouring your shoulders. So both these harms, I'll keep it myself.

MESSENIO I pray do so, sir. All the better.

*Enter Cyllindrus [with a handbasket]*

CYLINDRUS (to himself) I have tickling gear here, i'faith dinners. It grieves me to the heart to think how that c knave Peniculus must have his share in these daint But what? Is Menaechmus come already, before I c from the market?—Menaechmus, how do ye, sir? H ye come so soon?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER God-a-mercy, my good fr thou know me?

CYLINDRUS Know ye? No, not I. Where's Mouldychaps dine with ye? A murrain on his manners!

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Whom meanest thou, good

CYLINDRUS Why, Peniculus, worship, that whore trencher, your parasitical attendant.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What Peniculus? What a My attendant?—(aside) Surely this fellow is mad.

MESSENIO Did I not tell ye what coneycatching villains find here?

CYLINDRUS Menaechmus, hark ye, sir: ye come too again to dinner. I am but returned from the market.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Fellow, here, thou shalt h of me. Go, get the priest to sacrifice for thee. I know mad, else thou wouldst never use a stranger thus.

34 ribalds vulgar persons  
35 catchpoles (term of contempt for minor law officers)  
coneycatchers petty criminals, swindlers  
39 *sine damno* L., 'without being damned' (a play on 'Epidamnum').

49 tickling gear excel  
58 murrain plague  
60-1 whoreson lick-ton (trencher = di

Appendix C

spatch as I bid you, and look ye return with all  
have all ready with a trice.

Exeunt

MENAECHMUS [the Traveller], Messenio his slave, and  
others

THE TRAVELLER Surely, Messenio, I think seafarers  
comfortable a joy in anything as, when they have  
ed and turmoiled in the wide seas, they hap at last

sworn, I should not be gladder to see a whole  
ne own than I have been at such a sight. But, I  
e are we now come to Epidamnum? Must we  
every town that we hear of?

THE TRAVELLER Till I find my brother, all towns are  
ust try in all places.

then, let's even as long as we live seek your  
ars now have we roamed about thus—Istria,  
ilia, Illyria, all the Upper Sea, all high Greece,  
t in Italy. I think if we had sought a needle all  
ust needs have found it, had it been above  
ot be that he is alive; and to seek a dead man  
living, what folly is it?

THE TRAVELLER Yea, could I but once find any man  
inly inform me of his death, I were satisfied.  
I never desist seeking. Little knowest thou,  
ear my heart it goes.

washing of a blackamoor. Faith, let's go home,  
e should write a story of our travel.

THE TRAVELLER Sirrah, no more of these saucy  
ve I must teach ye how to serve me, not to rule

ow it appears what it is to be a servant. Well,  
ny conscience. Do ye hear, sir? Faith, I must  
when I look into the lean estate of your purse  
sedly of your decaying stock, I hold it very  
ving homeward, lest in looking your brother  
selves. For, this assure yourself: this town  
ace of outrageous expenses, exceeding in all

22 washing . . . blackamoor trying to make  
a black man white, i.e. performing an  
impossible task

Appendix C

riot and lasciviousness and, I hear, as full of ribalds, parasites,  
drunkards, catchpoles, coneycatchers, and sycophants as it can  
hold. Then, for courtesans, why, here's the currentest stamp of  
them in the world. Ye must not think here to scape with as light  
cost as in other places. The very name shows the nature: no  
man comes here *sine damno*.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Ye say very well indeed. Give me my  
purse into mine own keeping, because I will so be the safer, *sine*  
*damno*.

MESSENIO Why, sir?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Because I fear you will be busy  
among the courtesans and so be cozened of it. Then should I  
take great pains in belabouring your shoulders. So, to avoid  
both these harms, I'll keep it myself.

MESSENIO I pray do so, sir. All the better.

Enter Cyllindrus [with a handbasket]

CYLINDRUS (to himself) I have tickling gear here, i'faith, for their  
dinners. It grieves me to the heart to think how that cormorant  
knave Peniculus must have his share in these dainty morsels.  
But what? Is Menaechmus come already, before I could come  
from the market?—Menaechmus, how do ye, sir? How haps it  
ye come so soon?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER God-a-mercy, my good friend, dost  
thou know me?

CYLINDRUS Know ye? No, not I. Where's Mouldychaps that must  
dine with ye? A murrain on his manners!

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Whom meanest thou, good fellow?

CYLINDRUS Why, Peniculus, worship, that whoreson lick-  
trencher, your parasitical attendant.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What Peniculus? What attendant?  
My attendant?—(aside) Surely this fellow is mad.

MESSENIO Did I not tell ye what coneycatching villains ye should  
find here?

CYLINDRUS Menaechmus, hark ye, sir: ye come too soon back  
again to dinner. I am but returned from the market.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Fellow, here, thou shalt have money  
of me. Go, get the priest to sacrifice for thee. I know thou art  
mad, else thou wouldst never use a stranger thus.

34 ribalds vulgar persons

35 catchpoles (term of contempt for minor  
law officers)

coneycatchers petty criminals, swindlers

39 *sine damno* i.e., 'without being damned' (a  
play on 'Epidamnum').

49 tickling gear excellent food

58 murrain plague

60-1 whoreson lick-trencher damned glut-  
ton (trencher = dish)



- CYLINDRUS Alas, sir, Cyllindrus was wont to be no stranger to you.  
Know ye not Cyllindrus?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Cyllindrus or Coliendrus or what the  
devil thou art I know not; neither do I care to know.
- CYLINDRUS I know you to be Menaechmus. 75
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Thou shouldst be in thy wits, in that  
thou namest me so right. But tell me, where hast thou known  
me?
- CYLINDRUS Where? Even here, where ye first fell in love with my  
mistress, Erotium. 80
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I neither have lover, neither know I  
who thou art.
- CYLINDRUS Know ye not who I am? Who fills your cup and dresses  
your meat at our house?
- MESSENIO What a slave is this? That I had somewhat to break the  
rascal's pate withal! 85
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER At your house, whenas I never came  
in Epidamnus till this day?
- CYLINDRUS O, that's true. (*Pointing to the house of Menaechmus the  
Citizen*) Do ye not dwell in yonder house? 90
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Foul shame light upon them that  
dwell there, for my part!
- CYLINDRUS (*aside*) Questionless he is mad indeed, to curse himself  
thus.—Hark ye, Menaechmus.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What sayst thou? 95
- CYLINDRUS If I may advise ye, ye shall bestow this money which ye  
offered me upon a sacrifice for yourself, for out of doubt you are  
mad that curse yourself.
- MESSENIO What a varlet art thou to trouble us thus?
- CYLINDRUS (*aside*) Tush, he will many times jest with me thus. Yet, 100  
when his wife is not by, 'tis a ridiculous jest.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What's that?
- CYLINDRUS This I say: think ye I have brought meat enough for  
three of you? If not, I'll fetch more for you and your wench, and  
Snatchcrust your parasite. 105
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What wenches? What parasites?
- MESSENIO Villain, I'll make thee tell me what thou meanest by all  
this talk!
- CYLINDRUS Away, jackanapes! I say nothing to thee, for I know  
thee not. I speak to him that I know. 110

73 Coliendrus Possibly a (weak) pun by Menaechmus: *coleus* means 'testicle'. 99 varlet knave  
109 jackanapes monkey, fool



### Appendix C

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Out, drunken fool! Without doubt thou art out of thy wits.

CYLINDRUS That you shall see by the dressing of your meat. Go, go, ye were better to go in and find somewhat to do there whiles your dinner is making ready. I'll tell my mistress ye be here. 115

[Exit to the courtesan's]

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Is he gone? Messenio, I think upon thy words already.

MESSENIO Tush, mark, I pray. I'll lay forty pound here dwells some courtesan to whom this fellow belongs.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER But I wonder how he knows my name. 120

MESSENIO O, I'll tell ye. These courtesans, as soon as any strange ship arriveth at the haven, they send a boy or a wench to enquire what they be, what their names be, whence they come, wherefore they come, etc. If they can by any means strike acquaintance with him, or allure him to their houses, he is their own. We are here in a tickle place, master; 'tis best to be circumspect. 125

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I mislike not thy counsels, Messenio.

MESSENIO Ay, but follow it, then. Soft, here comes somebody forth. (To the sailors, giving them money) Here, sirs, mariners, keep this same amongst you. 130

Enter Erotium [from her house]

EROTIUM (calling within) Let the door stand so. Away, it shall not be shut. Make haste within there, ho! Maids, look that all things be ready. Cover the board, put fire under the perfuming pans, let all things be very handsome. Where is he that Cylindrus said stood without here?—O, what mean you, sweetheart, that ye come not in? I trust you think yourself more welcome to this house than to your own, and great reason why you should do so. Your dinner and all things are ready as you will. Will ye go sit down? 135 140

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Whom doth this woman speak to?

EROTIUM Even to you, sir. To whom else should I speak?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Gentlewoman, ye are a stranger to me, and I marvel at your speeches. 145

EROTIUM Yea, sir, but such a stranger as I acknowledge ye for my best and dearest friend, and well you have deserved it.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Surely, Messenio, this woman is also mad or drunk, that useth all this kindness to me upon so small acquaintance. 150

118 lay wager

135 Cover . . . board set the table

- MESSENIO Tush, did not I tell ye right? These be but leaves which fall upon you now in comparison of the trees that will tumble on your neck shortly. I told ye here were silver-tongued hacksters. But let me talk with her a little.—Gentlewoman, what acquaintance have you with this man? Where have you seen him? 155
- EROTIUM Where he saw me, here in Epidamnum.
- MESSENIO In Epidamnum? Who never till this day set his foot within the town?
- EROTIUM Go, go, flouting jack.—Menaechmus, what need all this? I pray, go in. 160
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER She also calls me by my name.
- MESSENIO She smells your purse.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Messenio, come hither. Here, take my purse. (*Giving him his purse*) I'll know whether she aim at me or my purse ere I go. 165
- EROTIUM Will ye go in to dinner, sir?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER A good motion. Yea, and thanks with all my heart.
- EROTIUM Never thank me for that which you commanded to be provided for yourself. 170
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER That I commanded?
- EROTIUM Yea, for you and your parasite.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER My parasite?
- EROTIUM Peniculus, who came with you this morning when you brought me the cloak which you got from your wife. 175
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER A cloak that I brought you which I got from my wife?
- EROTIUM Tush, what needeth all this jesting? Pray, leave off.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Jest or earnest, this I tell ye for a truth: I never had wife, neither have I nor never was in this place till this instant. For only thus far am I come since I broke my fast in the ship. 180
- EROTIUM What ship do ye tell me of?
- MESSENIO Marry, I'll tell ye: an old rotten weather-beaten ship that we have sailed up and down in this six years. Is't not time to be going homewards, think ye? 185
- EROTIUM Come, come, Menaechmus, I pray, leave this sporting and go in.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Well, gentlewoman, the truth is you mistake my person. It is some other that you look for. 190
- EROTIUM Why, think ye I know ye not to be Menaechmus, the son of Moschus, and have heard ye say ye were born at Syracuse,

153 hacksters prostitutes

159 flouting jack insolent fellow



### Appendix C

where Agathocles did reign, then Pythia, then Liparo, and now Hiero?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER All this is true. 195

MESSENIO Either she is a witch, or else she hath dwelt there and knew ye there.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I'll go in with her, Messenio; I'll see further of this matter.

MESSENIO Ye are cast away, then. 200

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Why so? I warrant thee I can lose nothing. Somewhat I shall gain—perhaps a good lodging during my abode here. I'll dissemble with her another while.—Now, when you please, let us go in. I made strange with you because of this fellow here, lest he should tell my wife of the cloak which I gave you. 205

EROTIUM Will ye stay any longer for your Peniculus, your parasite?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Not I. I'll neither stay for him nor have him let in if he do come. 210

EROTIUM All the better. But sir, will ye do one thing for me?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What is that?

EROTIUM To bear that cloak which you gave me to the dyer's to have it new trimmed and altered.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Yea, that will be well, so my wife shall not know it. Let me have it with me after dinner. I will but speak a word or two with this fellow and then I'll follow ye in. 215

[Exit Erotium]

Ho, Messenio, come aside. Go and provide for thyself and these shipboys in some inn, then look that after dinner you come hither for me. 220

MESSENIO Ah, master, will ye be coneysatched thus wilfully?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Peace, foolish knave. Seest thou not what a sot she is? I shall cozen her, I warrant thee.

MESSENIO Ay, master.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Wilt thou be gone? 225

[Exit to the courtesan's]

MESSENIO See, see, she hath him safe enough now. Thus he hath escaped a hundred pirates' hands at sea, and now one land-rover hath boarded him at first encounter.—Come away, fellows. [Exeunt]

#### 3.1 Enter Peniculus

PENICULUS Twenty years, I think, and more have I played the knave, yet never played I the foolish knave as I have done this

morning. I follow Menaechmus, and he goes to the hall where  
 now the sessions are holden. There thrusting ourselves into the  
 press of people, when I was in the midst of all the throng he gave  
 me the slip, that I could nevermore set eye on him, and, I dare  
 swear, came directly to dinner. That I would he that first devised  
 these sessions were hanged, and all that ever came of him! 'Tis  
 such a hindrance to men that have belly business in hand. If a  
 man be not there at his call, they amerce him with a vengeance.  
 Men that have nothing else to do, that do neither bid any man  
 nor are themselves bidden to dinner, such should come to  
 sessions, not we that have these matters to look to. If it were so,  
 I had not thus lost my dinner this day, which I think in my  
 conscience he did even purposely cozen me of. Yet I mean to go  
 see. If I can but light upon the reversion, I may perhaps get my  
 pennyworth's. But how now? Is this Menaechmus coming  
 away from thence? Dinner done, and all dispatched? What  
 execrable luck have I!

*Enter Menaechmus the Traveller [from the courtesan's,  
 carrying a cloak]*

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*calling back into the courtesan's house*)

Tush, I warrant ye, it shall be done as ye would wish. I'll have it  
 so altered and trimmed new that it shall by no means be known  
 again.

PENICULUS (*aside*) He carries the cloak to the dyer's, dinner done,  
 the wine drunk up, the parasite shut out-of-doors. Well, let me  
 live no longer but I'll revenge this injurious mockery. But first  
 I'll hearken awhile what he saith.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Good gods, whoever had such luck as  
 I? Such cheer, such a dinner, such kind entertainment! And, for  
 a farewell, this cloak, which I mean shall go with me.

PENICULUS (*aside*) He speaks so softly I cannot hear what he saith. I  
 am sure he is now flouting at me for the loss of my dinner.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER She tells me how I gave it her and  
 stole it from my wife. When I perceived she was in an error,  
 though I know not how, I began to soothe her and to say every-  
 thing as she said. Meanwhile I fared well, and that a' free cost.

PENICULUS (*aside*) Well, I'll go talk with him.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Who is this same that comes to me?

PENICULUS O, well met, ficklebrain, false and treacherous dealer,  
 crafty and unjust promise-breaker! How have I deserved you

3.1.4 sessions i.e. of the law courts  
 10 amerce fine

34 soothe agree with

Appendix C

- should so give me the slip, come before and dispatch the dinner,  
deal so badly with him that hath revered ye like a son? 40
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Good fellow, what meanest thou by  
these speeches? Rail not on me, unless thou intend'st to receive  
a railer's hire.
- PENICULUS I have received the injury, sure I am, already. 45
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Prithee, tell me, what is thy name?
- PENICULUS Well, well, mock on, sir, mock on. Do ye not know my  
name?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER In troth, I never saw thee in all my  
life, much less do I know thee. 50
- PENICULUS Fie, awake, Menaechmus, awake! Ye oversleep your-  
self.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I am awake. I know what I say.
- PENICULUS Know you not Peniculus?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Peniculus or Pediculus, I know thee  
not. 55
- PENICULUS Did ye filch a cloak from your wife this morning and  
bring it hither to Erotium?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Neither have I wife, neither gave I  
any cloak to Erotium, neither filched I any from anybody. 60
- PENICULUS Will ye deny that which you did in my company?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Wilt thou say I have done this in thy  
company?
- PENICULUS Will I say it? Yea, I will stand to it.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Away, filthy mad drivel, away! I will  
talk no longer with thee. 65
- PENICULUS (*aside*) Not a world of men shall stay me but I'll go tell  
his wife of all the whole matter, sith he is at this point with me.  
I will make this same as unblessed a dinner as ever he ate.  
[Exit]
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER It makes me wonder to see how  
everyone that meets me cavils thus with me. Wherefore comes  
forth the maid, now? 70
- Enter Ancilla, Erotium's maid*
- ANCILLA (*offering a gold chain*) Menaechmus, my mistress  
commends her heartily to you, and, seeing you go that way to  
the dyer's, she also desireth you to take this chain with you and  
put it to mending at the goldsmith's. She would have two or  
three ounces of gold more in it and the fashion amended. 75

44 hire payment

55 Pediculus L., 'little foot', also 'flea'.

71 cavils argues, disputes



- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*taking the chain*) Either this or anything else within my power, tell her, I am ready to accomplish. 80
- ANCILLA Do ye know this chain, sir?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Yea, I know it to be gold.
- ANCILLA This is the same you once took out of your wife's casket.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Who? Did I?
- ANCILLA Have you forgotten?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I never did it.
- ANCILLA Give it me again, then. 85
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Tarry. Yes, I remember it. 'Tis it I gave your mistress.
- ANCILLA O, are ye advised?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Where are the bracelets that I gave her likewise? 90
- ANCILLA I never knew of any.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Faith, when I gave this, I gave them too.
- ANCILLA Well, sir, I'll tell her this shall be done. 95
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Ay, ay, tell her so. She shall have the cloak and this both together.
- ANCILLA I pray, Menaechmus, put a little jewel for my ear to making for me. Ye know I am always ready to pleasure you.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I will. Give me the gold; I'll pay for the workmanship. 100
- ANCILLA Lay out for me. I'll pay it ye again.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Alas, I have none now.
- ANCILLA When you have, will ye?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I will. Go, bid your mistress make no doubt of these. I warrant her I'll make the best hand I can of them. 105
- Exit Ancilla*
- Is she gone? Do not all the gods conspire to load me with good luck? Well, I see 'tis high time to get me out of these coasts, lest all these matters should be lewd devices to draw me into some snare. There shall my garland lie, because, if they seek me, they may think I am gone that way. (*Laying down his garland*) I will now go see if I can find my man Messenio, that I may tell him how I have sped. 110
- Exit*

89 are ye advised do you agree  
 98-9 put . . . making order an earring to be made  
 102 Lay . . . me advance me the money, pay

the bill for me  
 106 hand deal  
 110 lewd wicked

# Appendix C

4.I *Enter Mulier, the wife of Menaechmus the Citizen, and Peniculus*

MULIER Thinks he I will be made such a sot, and to be still his drudge, while he prowls and purloins all that I have to give his trulls?

PENICULUS Nay, hold your peace. We'll catch him in the nick. This way he came, in his garland, forsooth, bearing the cloak to the dyer's. And see, I pray, where the garland lies. This way he is gone. See, see, where he comes again now without the cloak.

MULIER What shall I now do?

PENICULUS What? That which ye ever do—bait him for life.

MULIER Surely I think it best so.

PENICULUS Stay. We will stand aside a little; ye shall catch him unawares.

*Enter Menaechmus the Citizen*

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN It would make a man at his wit's end to see how brabbling causes are handled yonder at the court. If a poor man, never so honest, have a matter come to be scanned, there is he outfaced and overlaid with countenance. If a rich man, never so vile a wretch, come to speak, there they are all ready to favour his cause. What with facing out bad causes for the oppressors and patronizing some just actions for the wronged, the lawyers, they pocket up all the gains. For mine own part, I come not away empty, though I have been kept long against my will; for, taking in hand to dispatch a matter this morning for one of my acquaintance, I was no sooner entered into it but his adversaries laid so hard unto his charge and brought such matter against him that, do what I could, I could not wind myself out till now. I am sore afraid Erotium thinks much unkindness in me that I stayed so long; yet she will not be angry, considering the gift I gave her today.

PENICULUS (to Mulier) How think ye by that?

MULIER (to Peniculus) I think him a most vile wretch thus to abuse me.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I will hie me thither.

MULIER (to Menaechmus) Yea, go, pilferer, go with shame enough! Nobody sees your lewd dealings and vile thievery.

4.I.4 nick act

9 bait . . . life taunt or torment him unmercifully

14 brabbling litigious

15 scanned judged

16 outfaced contradicted to his face

overlaid . . . countenance crushed by mere show or pretence on the part of his adversaries

26 wind . . . out extricate myself

- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN How now, wife, what ails thee? What is the matter? 35
- MULIER Ask ye me what's the matter? Fie upon thee!
- PENICULUS (to Mulier) Are ye not in a fit of an ague, your pulses beat so sore? To him, I say.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Pray, wife, why are ye so angry with me? 40
- MULIER O, you know not?
- PENICULUS He knows, but he would dissemble it.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What is it?
- MULIER My cloak. 45
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Your cloak?
- MULIER My cloak, man. Why do ye blush?
- PENICULUS He cannot cloak his blushing.—Nay, I might not go to dinner with you, do ye remember?—To him, I say.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Hold thy peace, Peniculus. 50
- PENICULUS Ha! Hold my peace?—Look ye, he beckons on me to hold my peace.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I neither beckon nor wink on him.
- MULIER Out, out, what a wretched life is this that I live!
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Why, what ails ye, woman? 55
- MULIER Are ye not ashamed to deny so confidently that which is apparent?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I protest unto you before all the gods—is not this enough?—that I beckoned not on him.
- PENICULUS O, sir, this is another matter.—Touch him in the former cause. 60
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What former cause?
- PENICULUS The cloak, man, the cloak! Fetch the cloak again from the dyer's.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What cloak? 65
- MULIER Nay, I'll say no more, sith ye know nothing of your own doings.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Tell me, wife, hath any of your servants abused you? Let me know.
- MULIER Tush, tush. 70
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I would not have you to be thus disquieted.
- MULIER Tush, tush.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN You are fallen out with some of your friends. 75
- MULIER Tush, tush.

51 beckons on gestures at



### Appendix C

- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Sure I am I have not offended you.
- MULIER No, you have dealt very honestly.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Indeed, wife, I have deserved none of these words. Tell me, are ye not well? 80
- PENICULUS (*to Mulier*) What, shall he flatter ye now?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I speak not to thee, knave.—Good wife, come hither.
- MULIER Away, away! Keep your hands off.
- PENICULUS So, bid me to dinner with you again, then slip away from me. When you have done, come forth bravely in your garland to flout me! Alas, you knew not me even now. 85
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Why, ass, I neither have yet dined, nor came I there, since we were there together.
- PENICULUS Whoever heard one so impudent? Did ye not meet me here even now and would make me believe I was mad, and said ye were a stranger and ye knew me not? 90
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Of a truth, since we went together to the sessions hall I never returned till this very instant, as you two met me. 95
- PENICULUS Go to, go to, I know ye well enough. Did ye think I would not cry quittance with you? Yes, faith, I have told your wife all.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What hast thou told her?
- PENICULUS I cannot tell. Ask her. 100
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Tell me, wife, what hath he told ye of me? Tell me, I say. What was it?
- MULIER As though you knew not. My cloak is stolen from me.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Is your cloak stolen from ye?
- MULIER Do ye ask me? 105
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN If I knew, I would not ask.
- PENICULUS O, crafty companion! How he would shift the matter.—Come, come, deny it not. I tell ye, I have bewrayed all.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What hast thou bewrayed?
- MULIER Seeing ye will yield to nothing, be it never so manifest, hear me, and ye shall know in few words both the cause of my grief and what he hath told me. I say my cloak is stolen from me. 110
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN My cloak is stolen from me?
- PENICULUS Look how he cavils.—She saith it is stolen from her.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I have nothing to say to thee.—I say, wife, tell me. 115
- MULIER I tell ye my cloak is stolen out of my house.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Who stole it?

MULIER He knows best that carried it away.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Who was that?

MULIER Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN 'Twas very ill done of him. What Menaechmus was that?

MULIER You.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I? Who will say so?

MULIER I will.

PENICULUS And I. And that you gave it to Erotium.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I gave it?

MULIER You.

PENICULUS You, you, you. Shall we fetch a kennel of beagles that may cry nothing but 'You, you, you, you'? For we are weary of it.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Hear me one word, wife. I protest unto you, by all the gods, I gave it her not. Indeed, I lent it her to use a while.

MULIER Faith, sir, I never give nor lend your apparel out-of-doors. Methinks ye might let me dispose of mine own garments as you do of yours. I pray, then, fetch it me home again.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN You shall have it again without fail.

MULIER 'Tis best for you that I have. Otherwise think not to roost within these doors again.

PENICULUS (to Mulier) Hark ye, what say ye to me now, for bringing these matters to your knowledge?

MULIER I say, when thou hast anything stolen from thee, come to me and I will help thee to seek it. And so farewell.

PENICULUS God-a-mercy for nothing! That can never be, for I have nothing in the world worth the stealing. So, now with husband and wife and all I am clean out of favour. A mischief on ye all!

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN My wife thinks she is notably revenged on me, now she shuts me out-of-doors, as though I had not a better place to be welcome to. If she shut me out, I know who will shut me in. Now will I entreat Erotium to let me have the cloak again to stop my wife's mouth withal, and then will I provide a better for her.—Ho, who is within there? Somebody tell Erotium I must speak with her.

Enter Erotium [from her house]

EROTIUM Who calls?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Your friend more than his own.

EROTIUM O Menaechmus, why stand ye here? Pray, come in.

### Appendix C

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Tarry. I must speak with ye here. 160  
 EROTIUM Say your mind.  
 MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Wot ye what? My wife knows all the  
 matter now, and my coming is to request you that I may have  
 again the cloak which I brought you that so I may appease her.  
 And, I promise you, I'll give ye another worth two of it. 165  
 EROTIUM Why, I gave it you to carry to your dyer's, and my chain  
 likewise, to have it altered.  
 MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Gave me the cloak and your chain? In  
 truth, I never saw ye since I left it here with you and so went to  
 the sessions, from whence I am but now returned. 170  
 EROTIUM Ah, then, sir, I see you wrought a device to defraud me of  
 them both. Did I therefore put ye in trust? Well, well.  
 MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN To defraud ye? No, but I say my wife  
 hath intelligence of the matter.  
 EROTIUM Why, sir, I asked them not; ye brought them me of your  
 own free motion. Now ye require them again, take them, make  
 sops of them! You and your wife together, think ye I esteem  
 them or you either? Go, come to me again when I send for you. 175  
 MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What so angry with me, sweet  
 Erotium? Stay, I pray, stay. 180  
 EROTIUM Stay? Faith, sir, no. Think ye I will stay at your request?  
 [Exit into her house]  
 MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What, gone in chafing, and clapped to  
 the doors? Now I am every way shut out for a very bench-  
 whistler; neither shall I have entertainment here nor at home. I  
 were best to go try some other friends and ask counsel what to  
 do. 185  
 Exit

5.1 Enter Menaechmus the Traveller [carrying the cloak, and]  
 Mulier [from her house]  
 MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Most foolishly was I overseen in giv-  
 ing my purse and money to Messenio, whom I can nowhere  
 find. I fear he is fallen into some lewd company.  
 MULIER I marvel that my husband comes not yet. But see where he  
 is now, and brings my cloak with him. 5  
 MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I muse where the knave should be.  
 MULIER I will go ring a peal through both his ears for this his dis-  
 honest behaviour.—O sir, ye are welcome home, with your  
 thievery on your shoulders. Are ye not ashamed to let all the

164 so thus

179 What Why

182 clapped to slammed shut

183-4 benchwhistler idler, vagrant

5.1.1 overseen rash, imprudent



- world see and speak of your lewdness? 10
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER How now? What lacks this woman?
- MULIER Impudent beast, stand ye to question about it? For shame, hold thy peace.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What offence have I done, woman, that I should not speak to you? 15
- MULIER Askest thou what offence? O shameless boldness!
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Good woman, did ye never hear why the Grecians termed Hecuba to be a bitch?
- MULIER Never.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Because she did as you do now: on whomsoever she met withal she railed, and therefore well deserved that dogged name. 20
- MULIER These foul abuses and contumelies I can never endure, nay, rather will I live a widow's life to my dying day.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What care I whether thou livest as a widow or as a wife? This passeth, that I meet with none but thus they vex me with strange speeches. 25
- MULIER What strange speeches? I say I will surely live a widow's life rather than suffer thy vile dealings.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Prithee, for my part, live a widow till the world's end if thou wilt. 30
- MULIER Even now thou deniedst that thou stolest it from me, and now thou bringest it home openly in my sight. Art not ashamed?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Woman, you are greatly to blame to charge me with stealing of this cloak, which this day another gave me to carry to be trimmed. 35
- MULIER Well, I will first complain to my father. (*Calling into her house*) Ho, boy! Who is within there?
- [Enter Boy]
- Vecio, go run quickly to my father. Desire him of all love to come over quickly to my house. 40
- [Exit Boy]
- I'll tell him first of your pranks. I hope he will not see me thus handled.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What i' God's name meaneth this madwoman thus to vex me? 45
- MULIER I am mad because I tell ye of your vile actions and lewd pilfering away my apparel and my jewels to carry to your filthy drabs.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER For whom this woman taketh me I

11 What lacks what is the matter with  
23 contumelies insults

48 drabs sluts

### Appendix C

- know not. I know her as much as I know Hercules' wife's father. 50  
MULIER Do ye not know me? That's well. I hope ye know my  
father. Here he comes. Look, do ye know him?  
MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER As much as I knew Calchas of Troy.  
Even him and thee I know both alike.  
MULIER Dost know neither of us both, me nor my father? 55  
MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Faith, nor thy grandfather neither.  
MULIER This is like the rest of your behaviour.  
*Enter Senex*  
SENEX (*to himself*) Though bearing so great a burden as old age, I  
can make no great haste; yet, as I can, I will go to my daughter,  
who I know hath some earnest business with me that she sends 60  
in such haste, not telling the cause why I should come. But I  
durst lay a wager I can guess near the matter. I suppose it is  
some brabble between her husband and her. These young  
women that bring great dowries to their husbands are so mas-  
terful and obstinate that they will have their own wills in every- 65  
thing and make men servants to their weak affections. And  
young men, too, I must needs say, be naught nowadays. Well,  
I'll go see. But yonder methinks stands my daughter, and her  
husband too. O, 'tis even as I guessed.  
MULIER Father, ye are welcome. 70  
[*They converse apart*]  
SENEX How now, daughter? What, is all well? Why is your hus-  
band so sad? Have ye been chiding? Tell me, which of you is in  
the fault?  
MULIER First, father, know that I have not any way misbehaved 75  
myself, but the truth is I can by no means endure this bad man,  
to die for it, and therefore desire you to take me home to you  
again.  
SENEX What is the matter?  
MULIER He makes me a stale and laughing stock to all the world.  
SENEX Who doth? 80  
MULIER This good husband here, to whom you married me.  
SENEX See, see, how oft have I warned you of falling out with your  
husband?  
MULIER I cannot avoid it, if he doth so foully abuse me.  
SENEX I always told ye you must bear with him, ye must let him 85  
alone, ye must not watch him nor dog him nor meddle with his  
courses in any sort.  
MULIER He haunts naughty harlots under my nose.  
SENEX He is the wiser, because he cannot be quiet at home.

76 to die if I have to die

79 stale butt of ridicule

- MULIER There he feasts and banquets and spends and spoils. 90
- SENEX Would ye have your husband serve ye as your drudge? Ye will not let him make merry nor entertain his friends at home.
- MULIER Father, will ye take his part in these abuses and forsake me? 95
- SENEX Not so, daughter. But if I see cause, I will as well tell him of his duty.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*aside*) I would I were gone from this prating father and daughter.
- SENEX Hitherto I see not but he keeps ye well. Ye want nothing—apparel, money, servants, meat, drink, all things necessary. I fear there is fault in you. 100
- MULIER But he filcheth away my apparel and my jewels to give to his trulls.
- SENEX If he doth so, 'tis very ill done; if not, you do ill to say so.
- MULIER You may believe me, father, for there you may see my cloak, which now he hath fetched home again, and my chain, which he stole from me. 105
- SENEX Now will I go talk with him to know the truth. (*Approaching*) Tell me, Menaechmus, how is it that I hear such disorder in your life? Why are ye so sad, man? Wherein hath your wife offended you? 110
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Old man—what to call ye I know not—by high Jove and by all the gods I swear unto you, whatsoever this woman here accuseth me to have stolen from her, it is utterly false and untrue, and if I ever set foot within her doors I wish the greatest misery in the world to light upon me. 115
- SENEX Why, fond man, art thou mad to deny that thou ever sett'st foot within thine own house where thou dwellest?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Do I dwell in that house?
- SENEX Dost thou deny it? 120
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I do.
- SENEX Hark ye, daughter, are ye removed out of your house?
- MULIER Father, he useth you as he doth me. This life I have with him!
- SENEX Menaechmus, I pray, leave this fondness. Ye jest too perversely with your friends. 125
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Good old father, what, I pray, have you to do with me? Or why should this woman thus trouble me, with whom I have no dealings in the world?
- MULIER Father, mark, I pray, how his eyes sparkle. They roll in his head; his colour goes and comes; he looks wildly. See, see. 130

102 filcheth steals

103 trulls whores

### Appendix C

- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*aside*) What? They say now I am mad. The best way for me is to feign myself mad indeed; so I shall be rid of them.
- MULIER Look how he stares about, how he gapes! 135
- SENEX Come away, daughter. Come from him.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*feigning madness*) Bacchus, Apollo, Phoebus, do ye call me to come hunt in the woods with you? I see, I hear, I come, I fly, but I cannot get out of these fields. Here is an old mastiff bitch stands barking at me, and by her stands an old goat that bears false witness against many a poor man. 140
- SENEX Out upon him, Bedlam fool!
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Hark! Apollo commands me that I should rend out her eyes with a burning lamp.
- MULIER O father, he threatens to pull out mine eyes! 145
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*aside*) Good gods, these folk say I am mad, and doubtless they are mad themselves.
- SENEX Daughter!
- MULIER Here, father. What shall we do?
- SENEX What if I fetch my folks hither and have him carried in before he do any harm? 150
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*aside*) How now? They will carry me in if I look not to myself. I were best to scare them better yet.—Dost thou bid me, Phoebus, to tear this dog in pieces with my nails? If I lay hold on her I will do thy commandment. 155
- SENEX Get thee into thy house, daughter. Away, quickly!
- [*Mulier exits into her house*]
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER She is gone.—Yea, Apollo, I will sacrifice this old beast unto thee; and, if thou commandest me, I will cut his throat with that dagger that hangs at his girdle.
- [*He advances toward Senex*]
- SENEX Come not near me, sirrah. 160
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Yea, I will quarter him and pull all the bones out of his flesh. Then will I barrel up his bowels.
- SENEX Sure I am sore afraid he will do some hurt.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Many things thou commandest me, Apollo. Wouldst thou have me harness up these wild horses and then climb up into the chariot and so override this old stinking toothless lion? So, now I am in the chariot, and I have hold on the reins. Here is my whip. Hait! Come, ye wild jades, make a hideous noise with your stamping. Hait, I say! Will ye not go? 165
- SENEX What, doth he threaten me with his horses? 170



MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Hark, now Apollo bids me ride over him that stands there and kill him. How now? Who pulls me down from my chariot by the hairs of my head? O, shall I not fulfil Apollo's commandment?

SENEX See, see, what a sharp disease this is, and how well he was even now! I will fetch a physician straight, before he grow too far into this rage. 175

Exit

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Are they both gone now? I'll then hie me away to my ship. 'Tis time to be gone from hence. 180

Exit

Enter Senex and Medicus following

SENEX My loins ache with sitting and mine eyes with looking while I stay for yonder lazy physician. See now where the creeping drawlatch comes. 180

MEDICUS What disease hath he, said you? Is it a lethargy or a lunacy, or melancholy, or dropsy?

SENEX Wherefore, I pray, do I bring you, but that you should tell me what it is and cure him of it? 185

MEDICUS Fie, make no question of that. I'll cure him, I warrant ye. O, here he comes. Stay, let us mark what he doth.

[They stand aside]

Enter Menaechmus the Citizen

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Never in my life had I more overthwart fortune in one day! And all by the villainy of this false knave the parasite, my Ulysses, that works such mischiefs against me, his king. But let me live no longer but I'll be revenged upon the life of him. His life? Nay, 'tis my life, for he lives by my meat and drink. I'll utterly withdraw the slave's life from him. And Erotium! She showeth plainly what she is, who, because I require the cloak again to carry to my wife, saith I gave it her, and flatly falls out with me. How unfortunate am I! 190

SENEX Do ye hear him?

MEDICUS He complains of his fortune.

SENEX Go to him.

MEDICUS (*approaching Menaechmus*) Menaechmus, how do ye, man? Why keep you not your cloak over your arm? It is very hurtful to your disease. Keep ye warm, I pray. 200

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Why, hang thyself. What carest thou?

MEDICUS Sir, can you smell anything?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I smell a prating dolt of thee. 205

MEDICUS O, I will have your head thoroughly purged. Pray tell me, Menaechmus, what use you to drink? White wine or claret?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What the devil carest thou?

182 drawlatch laggard

189 overthwart contrary

### Appendix C

SENEX Look. His fit now begins. 210  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN Why dost not as well ask me whether I  
 eat bread, or cheese, or beef, or porridge, or birds that bear  
 feathers, or fishes that have fins?  
 SENEX See what idle talk he falleth into.  
 MEDICUS Tarry, I will ask him further.—Menaechmus, tell me, be 215  
 not your eyes heavy and dull sometimes?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN What dost think I am, an owl?  
 MEDICUS Do not your guts gripe ye and croak in your belly?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN When I am hungry they do, else not.  
 MEDICUS He speaks not like a madman in that.—Sleep ye soundly 220  
 all night?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN When I have paid my debts, I do. The  
 mischief light on thee with all thy frivolous questions!  
 MEDICUS O, now he rageth upon those words. Take heed.  
 SENEX O, this is nothing to the rage he was in even now. He called 225  
 his wife bitch, and all to naught.  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN Did I?  
 SENEX Thou didst, mad fellow, and threatenedst to ride over me  
 here with a chariot and horses, and to kill me and tear me in  
 pieces. This thou didst. I know what I say. 230  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN I say thou stolest Jupiter's crown from  
 his head, and thou wert whipped through the town for it, and  
 that thou hast killed thy father and beaten thy mother. Do ye  
 think I am so mad that I cannot devise as notable lies of you as  
 you do of me? 235  
 SENEX Master Doctor, pray heartily, make speed to cure him. See  
 ye not how mad he waxeth?  
 MEDICUS I'll tell ye, he shall be brought over to my house and there  
 will I cure him.  
 SENEX Is that best? 240  
 MEDICUS What else? There I can order him as I list.  
 SENEX Well, it shall be so.  
 MEDICUS O, sir, I will make ye take neezing powder this twenty  
 days.  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN I'll beat ye first with a bastinado this 245  
 thirty days.  
 MEDICUS Fetch men to carry him to my house.  
 SENEX How many will serve the turn?

218 Do . . . croak do you not have pains and  
 rumbling  
 225-6 called . . . all to naught abused her  
 vehemently

241 list wish  
 243 neezing sneezing  
 245 bastinado cudgel

MEDICUS Being no madder than he is now, four will serve.

SENEX I'll fetch them. Stay you with him, Master Doctor.

MEDICUS No, by my faith, I'll go home to make ready all things needful. Let your men bring him hither.

SENEX I go.

*Exeunt Medicus and Senex*

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Are they both gone? Good gods, what meaneth this? These men say I am mad, who without doubt are mad themselves. I stir not, I fight not, I am not sick. I speak to them, I know them. Well, what were I now best to do? I would go home, but my wife shuts me forth o' doors. Erotium is as far out with me too. Even here I will rest me till the evening. I hope by that time they will take pity on me.

*Enter Messenio, the Traveller's servant*

MESSENIO The proof of a good servant is to regard his master's business as well in his absence as in his presence, and I think him a very fool that is not careful as well for his ribs and shoulders as for his belly and throat. When I think upon the rewards of a sluggard, I am ever pricked with a careful regard of my back and shoulders, for in truth I have no fancy to these blows, as many a one hath. Methinks it is no pleasure to a man to be bastarded with a rope's end two or three hours together. I have provided yonder in the town for all our mariners, and safely bestowed all my master's trunks and fardels and am now coming to see if he be yet got forth of this dangerous gulf where, I fear me, he is overplunged. Pray God he be not overwhelmed and past help ere I come!

*Enter Senex, with four Iovarii (porters)*

SENEX (to the porters) Before gods and men, I charge and command you, sirs, to execute with great care that which I appoint you. If ye love the safety of your own ribs and shoulders, then go take me up my son-in-law. Lay all hands upon him. Why stand ye still? What do ye doubt? I say, care not for his threatenings nor for any of his words. Take him up and bring him to the physician's house. I will go thither before.

*[The porters seize Menaechmus]*

*Exit*

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN What news? How now, masters? What will ye do with me? Why do ye thus beset me? Whither carry ye me? Help, help! Neighbours, friends, citizens!

MESSENIO O Jupiter, what do I see? My master abused by a company of varlets.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Is there no good man will help me?

285 varlets rogues

# Appendix C

- MESSENIO Help ye, master? Yes, the villains shall have my life  
before they shall thus wrong ye. 'Tis more fit I should be killed  
than you thus handled. Pull out that rascal's eye that holds ye  
about the neck there. I'll clout these peasants. Out, ye rogue! Let  
go, ye varlet! 290
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I have hold of this villain's eye.  
MESSENIO Pull it out, and let the place appear in his head. Away,  
ye cut-throat thieves! Ye murderers!
- ALL THE PORTERS (*crying pitifully*) O, O, ai, ai! 295
- MESSENIO Away! Get ye hence, ye mongrels, ye dogs. Will ye be  
gone? Thou rascal behind there, I'll give thee somewhat more.  
Take that. [*Exeunt porters*]  
It was time to come, master; you had been in good case if I had  
not been here now. I told you what would come of it. 300
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Now, as the gods love me, my good  
friend, I thank thee. Thou hast done that for me which I shall  
never be able to requite.
- MESSENIO I'll tell ye how, sir: give me my freedom.  
MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Should I give it thee? 305
- MESSENIO Seeing you cannot requite my good turn.  
MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Thou art deceived, man.  
MESSENIO Wherein?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN On mine honesty, I am none of thy  
master. I had never yet any servant would do so much for me. 310
- MESSENIO Why, then, bid me be free. Will you?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Yea, surely. Be free, for my part.  
MESSENIO O, sweetly spoken! Thanks, my good master. (*To himself*)  
Messenio, we are all glad of your good fortune.—O master—I'll  
call ye master still—I pray, use me in any service as ye did  
before; I'll dwell with you still, and when ye go home I'll wait  
upon you. 315
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Nay, nay, it shall not need.  
MESSENIO I'll go straight to the inn and deliver up my accounts and  
all your stuff. Your purse is locked up safely sealed in the casket,  
as you gave it me, I will go fetch it to you. 320
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Do, fetch it.  
MESSENIO I will. *Exit*
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I was never thus perplexed. Some deny  
me to be him that I am and shut me out of their doors. This fel-  
low saith he is my bondman, and of me he begs his freedom. He 325

293 place empty socket

319-20 deliver . . . stuff pay my bill and collect your baggage



will fetch my purse and money. Well, if he bring it, I will receive it and set him free. I would he would, so he go his way. My old father-in-law and the Doctor say I am mad. Whoever saw such strange demeanours? Well, though Erotium be never so angry, yet once again I'll go see if by entreaty I can get the cloak of her to carry to my wife.

330

*Exit [to the courtesan's]*

*Enter Menaechmus the Traveller, and Messenio*

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Impudent knave, wilt thou say that I ever saw thee since I sent thee away today and bade thee come for me after dinner?

335

MESSENIO Ye make me stark mad! I took ye away and rescued ye from four great big-boned villains that were carrying ye away even here in this place. Here they had ye up. You cried, 'Help, help!' I came running to you. You and I together beat them away by main force. Then, for my good turn and faithful service, ye gave me my freedom. I told ye I would go fetch your casket. Now in the meantime you ran some other way to get before me, and so you deny it all again.

340

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I gave thee thy freedom?

MESSENIO You did.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER When I give thee thy freedom, I'll be a bondman myself. Go thy ways.

345

MESSENIO Whew! Marry, I thank ye for nothing.

*Enter Menaechmus the Citizen*

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN (*calling into the courtesan's house*) Forsworn queans, swear till your hearts ache and your eyes fall out! Ye shall never make me believe that I carried hence either cloak or chain.

350

MESSENIO (*to Menaechmus the Traveller*) O heavens, master, what do I see?

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What?

MESSENIO Your ghost.

355

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What ghost?

MESSENIO Your image, as like you as can be possible.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Surely not much unlike me, as I think.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN (*to Messenio*) O my good friend and helper, well met! Thanks for thy late good help.

360

MESSENIO Sir, may I crave to know your name?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I were to blame if I should not tell thee anything. My name is Menaechmus.

365

330 demeanours behaviour

349-50 Forsworn queans lying whores

364 I... blame it would be very wrong of me

Appendix C

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Nay, my friend, that is my name.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I am of Syracuse in Sicily.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER So am I.

MESSENIO (*to Menaechmus the Citizen*) Are you a Syracusan?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I am.

MESSENIO Oho, I know ye! (*Pointing to the Citizen*) This is my master; I thought he there had been my master, and was proffering my service to him. Pray pardon me, sir, if I said anything I should not.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Why, doting patch, didst thou not come with me this morning from the ship?

MESSENIO My faith, he says true. (*Pointing to the Traveller*) This is my master; you may go look ye a man.—God save ye, master!—You, sir, farewell. This is Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I say that I am Menaechmus.

MESSENIO What a jest is this! Are you Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Even Menaechmus, the son of Moschus.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER My father's son?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Friend, I go about neither to take your father nor your country from you.

MESSENIO O immortal gods, let it fall out as I hope! And, for my life, these are the two twins, all things agree so jump together. I will speak to my master.—Menaechmus?

BOTH What wilt thou?

MESSENIO I call ye not both. But which of you came with me from the ship?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Not I.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I did.

MESSENIO Then I call you. Come hither.

[*He takes Menaechmus the Traveller aside*]

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER What's the matter?

MESSENIO This same is either some notable cozening juggler or else it is your brother whom we seek. I never saw one man so like another. Water to water nor milk to milk is not liker than he is to you.

MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Indeed, I think thou sayst true. Find it that he is my brother, and I here promise thee thy freedom.

MESSENIO Well, let me about it.

[*He takes Menaechmus the Citizen aside*]

Hear ye, sir, you say your name is Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN I do.

375 patch fool  
378 look ye look for

387 jump precisely

- MESSENIO So is this man's. You are of Syracuse? 405  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN True.  
 MESSENIO So is he. Moschus was your father?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN He was.  
 MESSENIO So was he his. What will you say if I find that ye are  
 brethren and twins? 410  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN I would think it happy news.  
 MESSENIO Nay, stay, masters both. I mean to have the honour of  
 this exploit. Answer me: your name is Menaechmus?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN Yea.  
 MESSENIO And yours? 415  
 MENAECHEMUS THE TRAVELLER And mine.  
 MESSENIO You are of Syracuse?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN I am.  
 MENAECHEMUS THE TRAVELLER And I.  
 MESSENIO Well, this goeth right thus far. What is the farthest thing  
 that you remember there? 420  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN How I went with my father to Tarentum,  
 to a great mart, and there in the press I was stolen from him.  
 MENAECHEMUS THE TRAVELLER O Jupiter!  
 MESSENIO Peace, what exclaiming is this?—How old were ye 425  
 then?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN About seven year old, for even then  
 I shed teeth; and since that time I never heard of any of my  
 kindred.  
 MESSENIO Had ye never a brother?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN Yes, as I remember I heard them say we 430  
 were two twins.  
 MENAECHEMUS THE TRAVELLER O Fortune!  
 MESSENIO Tush, can ye not be quiet?—Were ye both of one name?  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN Nay, as I think, they called my brother 435  
 Sosicles.  
 MENAECHEMUS THE TRAVELLER It is he. What need farther proof? O  
 brother, brother, let me embrace thee!  
 MENAECHEMUS THE CITIZEN Sir, if this be true I am wonderfully glad.  
 But how is it that ye are called Menaechmus? 440  
 MENAECHEMUS THE TRAVELLER When it was told us that you and our  
 father were both dead, our grandsire, in memory of my father's  
 name, changed mine to Menaechmus.

423 mart market  
 press crowd

428 shed teeth lost baby teeth

441-3 Warner was misled by a lacuna in the

text of Plautus. The father was Moschus;  
 Menaechmus was named for his lost  
 brother (see 'The Argument').

# Appendix C

- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN 'Tis very like he would do so, indeed. But  
let me ask ye one question more: what was our mother's name? 445
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Theusimarche.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Brother, the most welcome man to me  
that the world holdeth!
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Ay, joy, and ten thousand joys the  
more, having taken so long travail and huge pains to seek you. 450
- MESSENIO See now how all this matter comes about. (*To*  
*Menaechmus the Traveller*) Thus it was that the gentlewoman had  
ye in to dinner, thinking it had been he.
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN True it is, I willed a dinner to be pro-  
vided for me here this morning, and I also brought hither 455  
closely a cloak of my wife's and gave it to this woman.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER (*showing the cloak*) Is not this the  
same, brother?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN How came you by this?
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER This woman met me, had me in to  
dinner, entertained me most kindly, and gave me this cloak and 460  
this chain.
- [*He shows the chain*]
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Indeed, she took ye for me, and I believe  
I have been as strangely handled by occasion of your coming.
- MESSENIO You shall have time enough to laugh at all these matters  
hereafter. Do ye remember, master, what ye promised me? 465
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Brother, I will entreat you to perform  
your promise to Messenio. He is worthy of it.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER I am content.
- MESSENIO Io, triumph! 470
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Brother, will ye now go with me to  
Syracuse?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN So soon as I can sell away such goods as  
I possess here in Epidamnum, I will go with you.
- MENAECHMUS THE TRAVELLER Thanks, my good brother. 475
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Messenio, play thou the crier for me and  
make a proclamation.
- MESSENIO A fit office. Come on. Oyez! What day shall your sale  
be?
- MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN This day sennight. 480
- MESSENIO (*making proclamation*) All men, women, and children in  
Epidamnum or elsewhere that will repair to Menaechmus'  
house this day sennight shall there find all manner of things to

464 handled treated  
470 Io (exclamation of joy).

480 This day sennight (seven-night) one  
week from today



sell: servants, household stuff, house, ground, and all, so they  
bring ready money.—Will ye sell your wife too, sir?

MENAECHMUS THE CITIZEN Yea, but I think nobody will bid money  
for her.

MESSENIUS (as *Epilogue*) Thus, gentlemen, we take our leaves, and if  
we have pleased, we require a *Plaudite*.

*Exeunt*

485

489 require a *Plaudite* ask applause