

# DOWNLOAD PDF COMEDIES OF TERENCE, TRANSLATED INTO FAMILIAR BLANK VERSE

## Chapter 1 : The Comedies of Terence

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The Bard, when first he gave his mind to write, Thought it his only business, that his Plays Should please the people: Menander wrote the Andrian and Perinthian: Henceforth, Let them, I give them warning, be at peace, And cease to rail, lest they be made to know Their own misdeeds. Harper That Fables should not be contaminated. Colman That Fables should not be confounded thus. Carry those things in: Sosia, come here; A word with you! What can my art do more for you? This business Needs not that art; but those good qualities, Which I have ever known abide in you, Fidelity and secrecy. I wait Your pleasure. The greatest recompense I could bestow. Nor do I repent. Oh tell me then at once, what would you? I will; and this I must advise you first; The nuptial you suppose preparing now, Is all unreal. Why pretend it then? You shall hear all from first to last: For my son, Sosia, now to manhood grown, Had freer scope of living: Though most, as is the bent of youth, apply Their mind to some one object, horses, hounds, Or to the study of philosophy; Yet none of these, beyond the rest, did he Pursue; and yet, in moderation, all. And not without good cause. I begin to fear Some mischief from this Andrian. They, who were then her chief gallants, by chance Drew thither, as oft happen with young men My son to join their company. Prithee now, who had Chrysis yesterday? Another day I made the like inquiry, But still found nothing touching Pamphilus. For he who struggles with such spirits, yet Holds in that commerce an unshaken mind, May well be trusted with the governance Of his own conduct. In a few days, the treaty still on foot, This neighbor Chrysis dies. I was afraid of Chrysis. What would he feel For me, his father? You shall hear all. The Corpse Borne forth, we follow: Not bad, perhapsâ€” SIMO. And look; so modest, and so beauteous, Sosia! That nothing could exceed it. Sister, they said, to Chrysis: I fear how this affair will end! Meanwhile the funeral proceeds: Runs up, and takes her round the waist, and cries, "Oh my Glycerium! Why, why endeavor to destroy yourself? I Return in anger thence, and hurt at heart, Yet had no cause sufficient for reproof. I Deny the fact most steadily, and he As steadily insists. In short we part On such bad terms, as let me understand He would refuse his daughter. Did not you Then take your son to task? The time is near at hand, when I must live According to the humor of another. Meanwhile, permit me now to please my own! What cause remains to chide him then? If he Refuses, on account of this amour, To take a wife, such obstinate denial Must be considered as his first offense. Wherefore I now, from this mock-nuptial, Endeavor to draw real cause to chide: Who, I believe, with all his might and main Will strive to cross my purposes; and that More to plague me, than to oblige my son. Bad mind, bad heart: But if I catch him at his tricks! But here he comes. In this Scene, all quotation marks were supplied from the edition. Was married to this stranger woman. I Deny the fact Line-final "I" missing in Harper text. But now he will; to your cost too, I warrant you! What says the rogue? My master and I did not see him! Pretending not to see him. What can he want? The world reports that my son keeps a mistress. Oh, to be sure, the world cares much for that. But for me now to dive into these matters May seem perhaps like too severe a father: For all his youthful pranks concern not me. But to-day Brings on another stage of life, and asks For other manners: What means all this? All, who are fond of mistresses, dislike The thoughts of matrimony. And then, if such a person entertains An evil counselor in those affairs, He tampers with the mind, and makes bad worse. Then for the rest I have to say to you, You choose I should speak plainly. You have spoke out at last: Quite plain and home; and nothing round about. I could excuse your tricks in any thing, Rather than this. I beg of you. You laugh at me: I know not what to do; nor can resolve To help the son, or to obey the father. If I desert poor Pamphilus, alas! For first of all, He knows of this amour; and watches me With jealous eyes, lest I devise some trick To break the match. If he discovers it, Woe to poor Davus! And do but mark their confidence! And yet the story pleases them. But I must to the Forum To look for Pamphilus, for fear his father Should find him first, and take him unawares. And do but mark the height Of their assurance! Speaking to a servant within. I hear, Archyllis; I hear what you say: You beg me to bring Lesbia. By my troth That Lesbia is a drunken wretch, hot-headed, Nor

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worthy to be trusted with a woman In her first labor. How I fear The cause! Is this well done? Can he then be so obstinately bent To tear me from Glycerium? To lose her Is losing life. And then My father! A thing of so much consequence to treat So negligently! Think you I could speak one word? No, I was dumb: I know not what to do. Alas, I fear Where this uncertainty will end. For while the mind Hangs in suspense, a trifle turns the scale. To-day supremely wretched, as to-day Was formerly appointed for your wedding. And then she fears lest you desert her. Or so ungrateful, so inhuman, savage, Neither long intercourse, nor love, nor shame, Can make me keep my faith? I only know That she deserves you should remember her.

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