The Brothers Menaechmus OR The Twin Menaechmi by Plautus “the twins discover the truth scene”

**3 MEN**

Peniculus – PEN-ICK-YOU-LUSS

Menaechmus – MEN-ECK-MUSS

Messenio – MESS-EN-E-O

Sosicles – SAUCE-IH-CLEEZ

Teuximarcha – TWO-E-MARK-UH

MESSENIO. *[to MENAECHMUS I].* Sir, I do believe you've just asserted that you're named Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS 1. That is so.

MESSENIO. Well, his name is Menaechmus, too. You also said you were born is Sicily at Syracuse. Well, so was

he. Moschus was your father, so you said. That was his father, too. Both of you can do yourselves a favour-and

help me as well.

MENAECHMUS I. Anything you ask me I'll comply with, I'm so grateful to you. Treat me just as if I were your

purchased slave-although I'm free.

MESSENIO. It's my hope to prove you are each other's brothers, twins in fact, born of the self-same mother,

self-same father, on the self-same day.

MENAECHMUS I. Wonder-laden words. Oh, would you could make all your words come true.

MESSENIO. Well, I can. But, both of you, just give replies to what I ask you.

MENAECHMUS I. Ask away. I'll answer. I won't hide a single thing I know.

MESSENIO. Is your name Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS I. Absolutely.

MESSENIO. *[to MENAECHMUS II*] Is it yours as well?

MENAECHMUS II. Yes.

MESSENIO. You said your father's name was Moschus.

MENAECHMUS I. Yes.

MENAECHMUS II. The same for me.

MESSENIO. And you're Syracusan?

MENAECHMUS I. Surely.

MESSENIO. *[to MENAECHMUS II]* You?

MENAECHMUS II. You know I am, of course.

MESSENlO. Well, so far the signs are good. Now turn your minds to further questions. *[To MENAECHMUS I]*

What's the final memory you carry from your native land?

MENAECHMUS I. *[reminiscing*] With my father ... visiting Tarentum for the fair. Then after that...wandering among the people, far from Father ... being snatched-

MENAECHMUS II. *[bursting with joy]* Jupiter above, now help me-!

MESSENlO. *[officiously.* What's the shouting? You shut up.  *[Turning back to MENAECHMUS I]* Snatched from father and from fatherland, about how old were you?

MENAECHMUS 1. Seven or so. My baby teeth had barely started to fall out. After that, I never saw my father.

MESSENIO. No? Well, tell me this: At the time how many children did he have?

MENAECHMUS I. I think just two.

MES5ENIO. Which were you, the older or the younger?

MENAECHMUS I. Neither, we were equal.

MESSENIO. Do explain.

MENAECHMUS I. We were both twins.

MENAECHMUS II. *[ecstatic]* Oh-all the gods are with me now!

MESSENIO. *[sternly, to MENAECHMUS II*] Interrupt and I'll be quiet.

MENAECHMUS II. *[obedient]* I’ll be quiet.

MESSENIO. *[to MENAECHMUS I]* Did you both have just one name?

MENAECHMUS I. Oh, not at all. My name is mine, as it is today-Menaechmus. Brother's name was Sosicles.

MENAECHMUS II. *[mad with joy]* Yes, I recognize the signs. I can't keep from embracing you! Brother, dear

twin brother, greetings! I am he-I'm Sosicles!

MENAECHMUS 1. How is it you afterward received the name Menaechmus, then?

MENAECHMUS II. When we got the news that you had wandered off away from Father and that you were

kidnapped by an unknown man, and Father died, Grandpa changed my name. The name you used to have he

gave to me.

MENAECHMUS I. Yes, I do believe it's as you say. *[Goes to embrace him, suddenly stops]* But tell me this.

MENAECHMUS II. Just ask.

MENAECHMUS I. What was Mother's name?

MENAECHMUS II. Why, Teuximarcha.

.MENAECHMUS I. That's correct, it fits. Unexpectedly I greet you, see you after so much time!

MENAECHMUS II. Brother, now I find you after so much suffering and toil, searching for you, now you're

found, and I'm so very, very glad. *[They embrace)*

MESSENIO. *[to MENAECHMUUS II]* That's the reason why the slut could call you by your rightful name,

thinking you were he, I think, when she invited you to dinner.

MENAECHMUS I. Yes, by Pollux, I had ordered dinner for myself today, hidden from my wife-from whom I

filched a dress a while ago-and gave it to her. [Indicates EROTIUM'S house]

MENAECHMUS II. Could you mean this dress I'm holding,brother dear?

MENAECHMUS I. That's the one. How did you get it?

MENAECHMUS II. Well, the slut led me to dinner. There she claimed I gave it to her. Wonderfully have I just

dined, wined as well as concubined, of dress and gold I robbed her blind.

MENAECHMUS 1. O by Pollux, I rejoice if you had fun because of me!

When she asked you in to dinner, she believed that you were me.

MESSENIO. *[impatient for himself]* Is there any reason to delay the freedom that you promised?

MENAECHMUS I. Brother, what he asks is very fair and fine. Please do it for me.

MENAECHMUS II. *[to MESSENIO, the formula]*  'Be thou free.'

MENAECHMUS I. The fact you're free now makes me glad, Messenio.

MESSENIO. *[broadly hinting for some cash reward.* Actually, I need more facts, supporting facts to keep me

free.

MENAECHMPS II. *[ignoring MESSENIO, to his brother]*  Since our dreams have come about exactly as we

wished, dear Brother, let us both return to our homeland.

MENAECHMUS I. Brother, as you wish. I can hold an auction and sell off whatever I have here. Meanwhile,

let's go in.

MENAECHMUS II. That's fine.

MESSENIO. *[to MENAECHMUS I]* May I request a favour of you?

MENAECHMUS I. What?

MESSENIO. Please make me do the auctioneering.

MENAECHMUS I. Done.

MESSENIO. All right. Then please inform me: When should I announce the auction for?

MENAECHMU$ 1. Let's say-a week from now.  *[The brothers go into MENAECHMUS' house, leaving MESSENIO*

*alone on stage)*

MESSENIO [announcing), In the morning in a week from now we'll have Menaechmus' auction. Slaves and

goods, his farm and city house, everything will go. Name your prices, if you've got the cash in hand, it all will

go. Yes, and if there's any bidder for the thing-his wife will go too! Maybe the entire auction will enrich us-

who can tell? For the moment, dear spectators, clap with vigour. Fare ye well!