AN UNIDENTIFIED COMEDY
MENANDER

ηρα μεν άει της κόρης και πολλά μοι
πράγματα παρείχεν· ως δ' επέραινεν ουδὲ εν
αυτῷ παραδοῦναι τὸν γάμον πείθων, ίδού,

15 ἐξειργάσατο. (Δα.) τι οὖν ἀναίνει τὴν ἐμὴν
έχειν θυγατέρα; (Χαῖ.) τοῖς δὲ δοῦσι τίνα λόγον
ἐρῶ, Δάρκης; γενοῦ γάρ, ικετεύω ὁ' ἐγώ—

(Κλε.) οὐ μοι τί ποήσω; (Χαῖ.) τίς ὁ βοῶν ἐστὶν ποτε
πρὸς ταῖς θύραις; (Δα.) εὔκαιρος ἦκε, νη Δία,

20 Ἰ.Κλεαίνετος πρὸς ἐμέ. (Χαῖ.) τί ποιήσω, Δάρκης;
(Δα.) πείθωμεν αὐτόν. ὡς βλας ἐρρωμένης.

(Χαῖ.) πείθω παραδοῦναι τὴν ἐμὴν ἀδικούμενος

'αὐτός; (Δα.) υπόμεινον, δι' ἐμέ. (Χαῖ.) νη τὸν

'Ἡλιον

'αἰσχύνομαι, Δάρκης, σε. (Δα.) τί βοᾶς; τί δὲ

παθῶν;

17 Restored by J² for ικετεύσεως. em.: J² reports the (;) at end as "'certain."

19 K² suppl. / εὐκαιροτῆς σ'ε, J², S².

20 K² suppl. / . . . . . . os . . . . . . eμε, pap. / Kλαίνε' ήτι

πρὸς εμέ, J²; / ἀυτὴ πρὸς ἰγαγ' ὡς με, S².

21 ο', J². // J². // J² reports: "'no (;) in line." / S² gives

second part to Chaereas.

24 τί βοᾶς; J². // τ (or π) . . . γ. . . . ? C. . . ? J². / τι δὲ πάθων;

Allinson. / παθομαι (to Cleaenetus), S².

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AN UNIDENTIFIED COMEDY

Forever he played lover to the girl and much
He troubled me, but when he made no headway, none,
By urging me to yield to him the marriage, look,
He consummated it.

LACHES
Why then refuse to wed
My daughter?

CHAEREAES
Yes, but, Laches, what am I to urge
To those who made betrothal? Nay, be thou, I pray—
CLEAENETUS (enters, shouting outside)
Ah me, what shall I do?

CHAEREAES (pretending not to recognize Cleaenetus)
Who's that a-bawling, pray,
There near the door?

LACHES
Cleaenetus, by Zeus, has come
To me, and just in time.

CHAEREAES (hurriedly, aside)
What, Laches, shall I do?

LACHES (aside to Chaereas)
Let's win him over.
(As Cleaenetus continues to storm)
Ha! what lusty violence!

CHAEREAES (still aside to Laches)
Am I to urge, when wronged myself, to give away
My bride?

(LACHES to Chaereas)
For my sake, patience.

CHAEREAES
By the Sun, you're right.
You put me, Laches, to the blush.

LACHES (to Cleaenetus, who is still crying out)
Why bawl? What's wrong?
MENANDER

(Xai.) ἀ'κουε δή μου· Μουχίων τὴν παρθένου
26 ἐλ'ὼν ἔχει, Κλεάινετ'. (Κλε.) ἥδεκκήμεθα.
(Xai.) μεθὲν βοήσης· γυνησίων ἐπὶ σπορᾶ
π'αίδων ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ παρ' ὑμᾶς, Λάχης ὁδί,
'τ'οὔτ' ἐπιβεβαιοῦ· φῆς σ'ὑ; (Δα.) φημ' Ἡ, Χαιρέα.
(Kle.) 30 οὐ γάρ τι βούλ' ομ' ἀντιλήψειν, μὰ τοὺς θεούς."

(Lacuna of circa 5 lines)

LPS 36 .................................. ∖ ρς
........................................
........................................
πος ἦν
........................................
........................................
ἐμοῖ:
40 ........................................ καλ' ὡς ἔχει
........................................ καlining τρόπον
........................................ τ'γάρ μοι διαφέρει;
........................................ τὰ γεγονότα:

(Δα.) οὐ χαλεπός ἡμῖν ἄλλ' ἂ πρᾶς γ' εἰ σφόδρα.
45 ὀρ' σ' ἀγανακτοῦντ' οὐδ' ἐν: (Xai.) οὐδ' γάρ σ'

ὁρ' ἐγώγε. (Δα.) πῶς δὲ χρή μὲ ἀγανακτ' ἐν; οὐδὲ ἐν.
ἐγὼ δ' ἂν ἄπειμ' ἐκ τῇ λι' ουτών νῦν φόβον

28 παρὼν, J 2.
29 τοῦτ', ω-, ταπ., J 2.// φῆς σ'ὑ; (Δα.) φημ', J 2.//Χαιρέα: J 3.
30 οὐτ' γάρ τι βούλ' ομ' ἀντιλήψειν, S 2. // To Cleaenetus,
Allinson.// To Laches, S 2.// μὰ τοὺς θεοὺς suppl. and continued
to Cleaen., Allinson.//καλ' ὡς πον' to Chaereas, S 2.
36 .................................. ρς, J 2.// ρς, K 2.
38 πος ἦν, S 2.//πος: (ορ τη') J 2.
39 ἐμοῖ: J 2.//ἐσω, K 2.// In right margin, Χαιρ.
44 Suppl. and to Laches, J 2.
45 J 2, S 2.
46 ἐγώγε. (Δα.) πῶς δὲ χρή μὲ ἀγανακτ' ἐν; οὐδὲ ἐν,
S 2 suppl. from ἀγανακτ'εἰν οὐδὲ ἐν,
S 2 suppl. from ἀγανακτ'εἰν οὐδὲ ἐν, S 2, tap.
47 Suppl. from ............... λε............. κοινών, J 3, S 2.

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AN UNIDENTIFIED COMEDY

CHAEREAS (according to plan)
Now hear me. Moschion has carried off the maid, Cleaenetus. He has her.

CLEAENETUS
We are wronged! We're wronged!

CHAEREAS
Stop bawling. Now his father, Laches, present here, For lawful child-begetting,¹ ratifies this bond.

(Turning to Laches)
Do you assent to that?

LACHES,
Yes, Chaereas, I do.

CLEAENETUS
No word I'd urge against it, by the gods, not I.


A lacuna of five lines. In these and the eleven broken lines that follow Chaereas overcomes his pretended reluctance to give up the daughter of Cleaenetus and is praised by Laches for his magnanimity. Laches apparently gladly accepts the solution and is himself praised for being so mild-mannered. It is agreed that there need be no further vexation felt. Only later does Laches perceive that he has been made the victim of a benevolent plot.

LACHES (to Chaereas)
You are not harsh with us, in fact you're very mild.
I see you're vexed no whit.

CHAEREAS
And I see you the same.

LACHES
And why should I be vexed? There is no cause, not one.
I'm off now to my son to set his mind at rest
From what he feared so much but now.

¹ The regular marriage formula. See note on fragm. 720 K below.
MENANDER

toù níon ekλυσόμενος. (A.) ἀλλὰ μὴν πάλαι
ημὲν ἐδοξε ταῦτ᾽ ἔχει τὴν παρθένον
50 ὁ Μοσχίων ἐλαβ' ἐθελοντής, οὐ βία.
φόμεθα καὶ λέμπανείν σε τούτο πυθόμενον.
ἀστείος ἀποβέβηκας εὑτυχήκαμεν.
περὶ τοῦ βοῶμεν; (Δα.) πῶς λέγεις; (Κλε.) ὡσπερ
λέγω.

(Δα.) οὐ Χαιρέα τὸ πρῶτον ἔξεδόκατε
55 τὴν παῖδα; (Κλε.) μὰ Δία. (Δα.) τί σὺ λέγεις;
οὐ Χαιρέα;
ἀλλὰ τίνι; (Κλε.) πάνυ γέλοιον οὐκ ἄκηκος
τῷ σῷ νεανίσκῳ. (Δα.) τί λέγεις; (Κλε.) νὴ
toὺς θεοὺς.
καὶ παιδίον γὰρ γέγονεν ἐκ τούτου. (Δα.) τί
φήγης;
ἐκ Μοσχίωνος; ὁ πολυτιμητοῦ ἑυδοί,
60 ἐρρωμένου πράγματος. (Κλε.) Ἀπολλοῦ, νοῦν
ἔχεις;

48 νιὼν, ὁ/ ὅνι, K², S², //πάλαι, J².
50 ἐλαβ', J², ἐγήμ', K², ἐληφ', S², /...ηῦ... e, pap., S².
57 τί λέγεις; J² correct., metri causa, for τί σὺ λέγεις:
of pap.
60 J², S², from Ἀπολλο. /...
AN UNIDENTIFIED COMEDY

CLEAENETUS
Ah, well, long since
We planned it. Moschion has now the maid to wife.
He took her voluntarily, was not compelled.
We thought that you'd be vexed on hearing this, but you
Have proved yourself a gentleman. We're fortunate.
Why need we bawl?

LACHES
What's that you say?

CLEAENETUS
Just as I say.

LACHES
Did you not first to Chaereas betroth your child?

CLEAENETUS
Not so, by Zeus.

LACHES
What's that? If not to Chaereas,
To whom?

CLEAENETUS
It's very laughable—did you not hear?—To your own boy.

LACHES
What's that you say?

CLEAENETUS
Yes, by the gods,
And, what is more, she's had a child by him.

LACHES
What's that?

By Moschion? O greatly honoured deities!
High-handed business this!

CLEAENETUS
Apollo! Are you sane?
I praised you all too soon, it seems.
MENANDER

πρωτ' γέ σ', ώς ἔοικ', ἐπήνεσ'. (Δα.) οὔδ' ἐν
οἳ Χαιρέας ἄρ' ἡδίκηται φιλτατος;

(Κλε.) τί γὰρ ἡδίκηται Χαιρέας; (Δα.) οὐθέν; τι οὔν
ἐβόα, πορευθεὶς ἔδυρ'; (Κλε.) ἵσως ἐβούλετο—
(Δα.) 65 ἐβούλετ' ἐπ' ἐμ' ταῦτα συνετάξασθ' ἄρα.

ὡ Γῆ. (Κλε.) τί ποιεῖς; (Δα.) οὐθέν· ἀλλ' ὁμως ἐα

δίσ ἡ τρίς ἀνακραγεῖν με, πρὸς τῆς Ἐστίτας;

68 . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

(Also possibly from this Comedy)

921 Κ ὡ Λάχης, Λάχης 1 . . . . . . . . . . .

61 οὔδ' ἐν, Κ2, J2 confirms.
66 ποιεῖς, Κ2./π . . . . . . . , L2.
68 Perhaps suppl. (cf. τρίς in l. 67) 'πρὸς τῆς Ἀφροδίτης, πρὸς
θεῶν Γενετυλλίδων. 1
1 From a scene in trochaic verse.
AN UNIDENTIFIED COMEDY

LACHES

In not one thing
Has this our dearest Chaereas then suffered wrong?

CLEAENETUS

Why, no, for how has Chaereas been wronged?

LACHES

In naught?

Why, then, did he come here and shout?

CLEAENETUS

Perhaps he wished—

LACHES

Wished it? Then you against me have combined in this.
O Earth!

CLEAENETUS

What are you up to?

LACHES

Nothing. None the less
Permit me two or three good bawls. 'Fore Hestia!
('Fore Aphrodite! 'Fore the Goddesses of Birth!)

(Possibly belonging to this play the following fragment)

Laches, Laches . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .