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STREPSIADES Sitting The Great Gods! these nights never end? the light of day will never come? I heard the rooster crow a long time ago, and my slaves are snoring still! Yes! Yes! It used to be wrong. Curse in war! it hasn't made me trouble enough? Now I can't even punish my slaves. Again there's this brave guy who never wakes up all long night, and wrapped in his five-putt, seems to be his heart. He's going to bed! let me nest in well and snore too, if possible.... About! misfortune, it is in vain to think of sleep with all these expenses, this stable, these debts that devour me, thanks to this beautiful beau who only knows how to take care of his long locks, to show himself in his chariot and dream of horses! And I, I'm almost dead when I see the moon bringing the third decade on her train, and my responsibility falls because of Slave! light the lamp and bring me my pills. The slave obeys. You are all my creditors? Let me look and race to take an interest. What do I have to do?... Twelve mines in Pasiás.... A what! twelve mines in Pasiás?... Why did I borrow them? Yes! I know! It was to buy that thoroughbred that cost me so much. How I should have valued the stone that dazzled him! PHIDIPPIDES in a dream it's not fair, Philo! Ride the chariot straight, I say. STREPSIADES This is what is destroying me. He raves about horses, even in his sleep. PHIDIPPIDES still asleep How many times around the track race for chariot war? STREPSIADES This is your own father you are going to death.... to ruin. Come! what debt will be next, after the Pasiás?... Three mines in Aminya for the chariot and her two wheels. PHIDIPPIDES still asleep Give the horse a good roll in the dust and bring it home. STREPSIADES AH! unfortunate boy! it's my money that you make a roll. My creditors are distraised on my gods, and here are the others again that require security for their interests. PHIDIPPIDES Awakening What Happened to You, Father, what do you moan about all night to end? STREPSIADES I have a homeless bailiff in bed linen biting me. PHIDIPPIDES For pity, let me get some sleep. It rolls over. STREPSIADES Very good, sleep on! but remember that all these debts will fall on your shoulders. About! curses on who made me marry your mother! I lived so happily in the country, commonplace, everyday life, but a good and easy one-no trouble, no care, was rich in bees, in sheep and in olives. Then really I had to marry Megacle's niece, the son of Megacles; I belonged to the country, it was from the city; she was a arrogant, extravagant woman, a real Kesira. On the mating day, when I lay beside her, I was reeking of the dregs of wine cup, cheese and wool; she was red with essences, raffron, voluptuous kisses, love of spending, good mood and an lustful pleasures. I will not say that she did nothing; No, she worked hard... to destroy me, and pretending all the time just to show her the cloak she had woven for me, I said: Wife you go too fast about your work, your threads are too closely woven and you use too much wool. A slave enters into the wit of a lamp. SLAVE There is no more oil in the lamp. STREPSIADES Why then do you light such a timely lamp? Come here, I'll beat you. SLAVE For what? STREPSIADES Because you put in too thick Later, when we had a boy, what was his name? This was the cause of a big quarrel with my loving wife. She insisted to have some reference to the horse in his name that he should be called Xanthippus, Charippus or Callippides. I wanted to name him Fidonida after his grandfather. We argued for a long time, and finally agreed the style of his Phidippides She fondled and persuaded him, saying, Oh! what a joy it will be for me when you grew up to see you as my father, Megacles, dressed in purple and standing right in the chariot driving your horses to the city. And I said to him, When, like your father, you go, dressed in leather, to pick up your goats from Pelley, Alas! he never listened to me, and his madnes for horses ruined my fortune. He gets out of bed. But, thinking of a long night, I opened the way to salvation, both miraculous and divine. If he will, but follow him, I will be out of my trouble! First, however, it should be woken up, but it should be done as softly as possible. How am I going to do that? Phidippides! my little Phidippides! PHIDIPPIDES Awakening Again What is it, Father? STREPSIADES Kiss me and give me your hand. PHIDIPPIDES Getting up and doing as his father asks There! What's it? STREPSIADES Tell me! You love me? PHIDIPPIDES Poseidon, Equestrian Poseidon! Yes, I swear, I do. STREPSIADES Oh, no, I pray to you, refer to this god of horses; he is the one who is the cause of all my worries. But if you really love me, and with all your heart, my boy, believe me, PHIDIPPIDES Believe you? About what? STREPSIADES Change your habits immediately and go and find out what I'm telling you. PHIDIPPIDES Say what are your orders? STREPSIADES Will you obey me ever so little? PHIDIPPIDES By Bacchus, will obey you. STREPSIADES Very good then! Look here. See that little door and that house? FIDIPPIDES Yes, father. But what are you doing with it? STREPSIADES This is the thought of a wise soul. There they prove that we are coals, enclosed from all sides under a huge sniffer that is the sky. If well paid, these people also teach how to get law suits, whether simple or not. PHIDIPPIDES What do they call themselves? STREPSIADES I don't know for sure, but they are deep thinkers and the most wonderful people. FIDIPPIDES Bach! Unfortunate! I know them; You mean these charlatans with pale faces, these barefoot guys such as the hapless Socrates and Chaerephon? STREPSIADES Silence! Nothing stupid! If you want your father not to starve to death, join their company and let the horses go. PHIDIPPIDES No, by Bacchus! even though you gave me pheasants, what Leogor raises. STREPSIADES O! my beloved son, I beseech you, go and follow their teachings. PHIDIPPIDES And what is it I should find out? STREPSIADES It seems that they have two courses of reasoning, true and false, and that, thanks to false, the worst legal suits can be obtained. If then you learn this science, which is false, I do not have to pay obolus all the debts I contracted to your account. PHIDIPPIDES No, I won't do that. I no longer dare to look at our gallant riders when I so ruined my tan. STREPSIADES Well then, by Demeter! I'm not going to support you, your team, your saddle horse anymore. Go hang out, I'll get you out of the house and home. PHIDIPPIDES My Uncle Megacles will not leave me without horses; I'll go to him and laugh at your anger. He's leaving. STREPSIADES moves to the SOCRATES house. STREPSIADES One rebuff does not discourage me. With the help of the gods, I will enter into Thoughts and study myself. He hesitates. But at my age, the memory is gone, and the mind is slow to understand things. How can you know all these subtle differences, these subtleties? Make up your mind Bach! why should I dally this way and not rap at the door? Slave, slave! He knocks and calls, DISCIPLE from within the plague on you! Who are you? STREPSIADES Strepsidas, son Phido, deme Cicyna. DISCIPLE comes out the door you are nothing but an ignorant and illiterate guy to fly in the door with such feet. You led to a miscarriage of ideas! STREPSIADES Excuse me, please; because I live far from here in the country. But tell me that was the idea of that miscarriage? DISCIPLE I can't say this to anyone but the student. STREPSIADES Then tell me without fear because I have come to study among you. DISCIPLE Very good then, but think it's a mystery. Recently fleas a little Chaerephon on the brow and then from there jumped on the head of Socrates. Socrates asked Chaerephon: How many times Foot makes fleas jump? STREPSIADES And how did he ever go about measuring it? APPRENTICE OH! it was the most brilliant! He melted the wax, grabbed the flea and dipped her two feet into the wax, which, when cooled, left them shoddy with true Persian slippers. These he took off and with them measured the distance. STREPSIADES AH! Great zevs! What a brain! what a subtlety! DISCIPLE I wonder what you would say if you knew another of Socrates' tricks? STREPSIADES What is it? Pray, tell me. DISCIPLE Chaerephon of deme Sphettia asked him if he thought the mosquito was buzzing through his proboscis or through his anus. STREPSIADES And what did he say about the mosquito? DISCIPLE He said that the mosquito's gut was narrow, and that as it passed through this tiny passage, the air was controlled with force to the shutter; Then, after this slender canal, he encountered a dummy, which was stretched like a trumpet, and there it sounded sonorous. STREPSIADES So ass mosquito pipe. About! what a magnificent arsevation! Three times happy Socrates! It wouldn't be hard to succeed in a law-suit, knowing so much about the guts of a mosquito! DISCIPLE Not long ago, a lizard caused him the loss of a sublime thought. STREPSIADES How, please? DISCIPLE One night, as he studied the course of the moon and its revolutions and stared open-mouthed at heaven, the lizard shit on him from the top of the roof. STREPSIADES lizard shit on Socrates! It's rich! DISCIPLE Last night we had nothing to eat. STREPSIADES Well, what did he come up with to provide you with dinner? DISCIPLE He spread over the table a light layer of ash, bending the iron rod while; He then took a pair of compasses and at the same moment unhooked off a piece of the victim that was hanging in the palestere. STREPSIADES And we still dare to admire Thales! Open up, open this knowledge house for me quickly! Hurry, haste to show me Socrates; I want to be his student. But please open the door. The door opens, opening the interior of Thought, in which DISCIPLES SOCRATES are visible in various postures of meditation and study; they are pale and emaciated creatures. Yes! By Hercules! Which country are these animals from? DISCIPLE Why are you surprised? What do you think they look like? STREPSIADES Prisoners of Pilos. But why do they look so different on the ground? DISCIPLE They are looking for what is underground. STREPSIADES AH! they're looking for onions. Don't give yourself so much trouble; I know where there are good big ones. But what do these guys, bent all double? DISCIPLE They sound in the abyss of Tartare. STREPSIADES And what are their asses looking at the heavens? DISCIPLE They study astronomy at their own expense. But come so that the master did not find us here. STREPSIADES Not yet; Not yet; they don't change their position. I want to tell them my little matter. BUT they can't stay too long outdoors and away from school. STREPSIADES pointing to the heavenly globe in the name of all the gods, what is it? Tell me. DISCIPLE is astronomy. STREPSIADES pointing to the map And this? GEIMETRY DISCIPLE. STREPSIADES Why is it used? DISCIPLE To measure the earth. STREPSIADES But it depends on the party. NO, no, I mean the whole land. STREPSIADES AH! what a funny thing! How generally useful is really this invention! DISCIPLE There is the entire surface of the earth. Take a look! Here's Athens. STREPSIADES Athens! You are wrong. I don't see the courts in the session. DISCIPLE However, it is really and truly attic territory. STREPSIADES And where are my Chicianna neighbors? DISCIPLE They live here. This is Ewboa; You see this island that is so long and narrow. The STREPSIADES I know. Because we and Pericles stretched it, squeezing it. Where's Leisdemon? DISCIPLE Lacedaemon? Here it is, look. STREPSIADES How close it is to us! I think it's good over, it needs to be removed for a longer distance. BUT, according to zeus, it's impossible. STREPSIADES Then, woe to you! and who was this man hanging in the basket? DISCIPLE it's him. STREPSIADES Who's on your own? DISCIPLE Socrates. STREPSIADES Socrates! About! I pray to you, call him straight loud for me. DISCIPLE Call him yourself; I don't have time to waste. He's leaving. The machine swings into the SOCRATES in the basket. STREPSIADES Socrates! My little Socrates! SOCRATES sublimely Mortal, what do you want with me? STREPSIADES First, what are you doing there? Tell me, I'm going to make you feel good. SOCRATES POMPOUSLY I cross the air and contemplate the sun. STREPSIADES So it's not on solid ground, but with the height of this basket that you minor gods, if indeed SOCRATES I have to suspend my brain and mix the subtle essence of my mind with this air that has like nature in order to clearly penetrate the things of the sky. I should have found nothing if I had stayed on the ground to examine from below what is above; for the Earth attracts the juice of the mind with its power. It's the same with watercess. STREPSIADES What? Does the mind attract the juice of watercess? Yes! my dear little Socrates, come down to me! I'm coming to ask you for lessons. SOCRATES Going Down And for What Lessons? STREPSIADES I want to learn to speak. I borrowed money, and my creditors mercy did not leave me a moment of peace; all my goods are at stake. SOCRATES And how is it you haven't seen that you get so much in debt? STREPSIADES My ruin was madness for horses, the most predatory evil; but teach me one of your two methods of reasoning, one whose purpose is not to repay anything, and maybe I testify that I am willing to pay any fee that you can call. SOCRATES With which the gods will swear? Let's start with the fact that the gods don't coin current with us. STREPSIADES But what do you swear by then? Isantia's iron money? SOCRATES Do you really want to know the truth about heavenly affairs? STREPSIADES Why, yes, if possible. Socrates.... and talk to the clouds, who are our geni? STREPSIADES No doubt. SOCRATES Then sit on this sacred sofa. STREPSIADES sitting I'm sitting. SOCRATES Now take this guy. STREPSIADES Why the guy? Alas! Socrates, could you sacrifice me like Atymas? SOCRATES No, these are initiation rites. STREPSIADES And what should I get? SOCRATES You will become a thorough rattle pace, tempered old stager, fine flour gogon But go, keep quiet. STREPSIADES by zeus! It's not a lie! Soon I'll be anything but wheat flour if you powder me that way. SOCRATES Silence, old man, give a how much to prayers. In the hierophitic tone of O! the most mighty king, the boundless air that keep the earth suspended in space, you are a bright ether and you are venerable goddesses, clouds that bear in loins thunder and lightning, arise, you sovereign forces and manifests in the celestial spheres in the eyes of your sage. STREPSIADES Not yet! Wait a bit until I fold the mantle double so as not to get wet. And to think I didn't even bring my trip a hat! What a disaster! SOCRATES ignoring this come, oh! The clouds I adore come and show themselves to this man, whether it be rest on the sacred peaks of Olympus, topped by a hoarse frost, or belated in the gardens of the ocean, your father, forming sacred choirs with nymphs; Whether you collect the waves of the Nile in golden vases or live in the Mayo Marsh or on the snow-capped cliffs of Mimas, hear my prayer and accept my offering. Let these sacrifices be pleasant for you. Amid the roar of thunder, CHORUS CLOUDS appears. CHORUS singing Eternal Clouds, let's show up; let us emerge from the roaring depths of the ocean, our father; Let's fly to the high mountains, spread our wet wings over their forest peaks, from where we will dominate the distant valleys, the harvest fed by the sacred earth, the noise of divine streams and the loud waves of the sea that the unbearable ball lights up with its sparkling rays. But let's shake off the rainy fogs that hide our immortal beauty and sweep the earth from afar with our eyes. SOCRATES Oh, revered goddess, yes, you answer my call! STREPSIADES. Have you heard their voices merge with the horrible roar of thunder? STREPSIADES O! adorable clouds, I read you, and I too am going to release my thunder, so pretty much has its own affrighted me. He's an apron. Faith! whether or not allowed, I must, I That's bullish! SOCRATES No bullying; don't copy these damn comic book poets. Go, silence! Plenty of goddesses approaches with songs. CHORUS singing Vlyou, which pour out rains, let's move towards Attica, the rich country of Pallas, the home of the brave; Let's visit the expensive land of the Chekropov, where secret rites are celebrated, where a mysterious sanctuary flies open to the initiates... What sacrifices are offered there to the deities of heaven! What glorious temples! What statues! What holy prayers to the rulers of Olympus! In each season nothing but sacred holidays, garlands of victims, is not visible. Then Spring again brings joyful celebrations of Dionysus, harmonious competitions of choirs and serious flute melodies. STREPSIADES by zeus! Tell me, Socrates, I pray to you who are these women whose language is so solemn; can they be demi goddesses? SOCRATES is not at all. They are clouds of heaven, great goddesses for the lazy; to them we owe everything, thoughts, speeches, deceit, outstage, bragging, lies, foresight. STREPSIADES AH! That is why, as I listened to them, my mind was shattered by wings; it burns to talk about small things, to maintain useless arguments, to voice its small reasons, to contradict, to tease some opponent. But won't they prove themselves? I'd like to see them if that were possible. SOCRATES Well, look this way in the direction of Parnes; I can already see those who are slowly coming down. STREPSIADES But where, where? Show them to me. SOCRATES They advance in the crowd, following the slant path through the dales and thickets. STREPSIADES Strange! I don't see anything. SOCRATES There, not far from the entrance. STREPSIADES Hardly, if at all, I can tell them apart. SOCRATES You should see them clearly now if your eyes are filled with gum thick like pumpkins. STREPSIADES Yes, no doubt! About! venerable goddesses! Why, they fill the whole scene. SOCRATES And you didn't know you ever suspected they were goddesses? STREPSIADES No, really; I thought the Clouds were just fog, dew and steam. SOCRATES But what you certainly don't know is that they are the support of the crowd of charlatans, the divine who were sent to Turium, the notorious doctors, the well-combed fops who load their fingers with rings down to their nails, and the braggadocios who write dithyrambic poems, all the loafers who provide life to the clouds, because they sing them in their verses. STREPSIADES It is then they praise the rapid flight of wet clouds that veil the brightness of the day and swinging the locks of the hundred-headed Tifo and the fast-paced storms that float across the sky like birds of prey with air wings loaded with mist and rain, dew that clouds outpour. As a reward for these lovely phrases they bolt well grown, delicious mullet and Blackbirds. SOCRATES Yes, thanks to these. And it's not right to meet? STREPSIADES Tell me then why, if it really is clouds, they are so very similar to mortals. It's not their usual uniform. SOCRATES What are they like then? STREPSIADES I don't know for sure; Well, they're like big waves of wool, but not like women-no, not least.... And they have noses. SOCRATES Answer my questions. STREPSIADES Willingly! Come on, I'm listening. SOCRATES Have you sometimes not seen clouds in the sky like centaur, leopard, wolf or bull? STREPSIADES Why, of course, I have, but what of it? SOCRATES They take what metamorphoses they like. If they see debauchery with long flowing locks and hairy as a beast like the son of Xenophantes, they take the form of a centaur in the jeers of his shameful passion. STREPSIADES And when they see Simon that thief of public money, what do they do then? SOCRATES To imagine it in life, they turn immediately into wolves. STREPSIADES So that's why yesterday when they saw Cleonymus, who would drop his buckle because he is the veriest potroon among men, they turned into deer. SOCRATES And so far they have seen the Clisthenes; You see.... these are women of STREPSIADES Hail, sovereign goddesses, and if ever you allow your heavenly voice to be heard with mortal ears, talk to me, oh! talk to me, you're all-look queens. HORE-LEADER GRAD! Veteran of ancient times, you are who are burning to instruct yourself in a fine language. And you, the great high priest of fine nonsense, tell us; your wish. Just for you and Prodicus of all the hollow oration today we lent the ear of Prodicus, because of his knowledge and his great wisdom, and for you, because you walk with your head straight, confident look, barefoot, resigned to everything and proud of our protection. STREPSIADES O! Earth! What an August statement! How sacred! How wonderful! SOCRATES This is because they are the only goddesses; everything else is pure myth. STREPSIADES But on Earth! our father, zevs, is an Olympian, not a god? SOCRATES ZEVS! that zevs! Are you mad? There's no zevs. STREPSIADES What are you saying now? Who causes the rain to fall? Answer me! SOCRATES Why, these, and I will prove it. Have you ever seen rain without clouds? Let zevs then cause rain with clear skies and without their presence! STREPSIADES Apollo! that is powerful claimed! For my part, I always thought it was zevs in a sieve. But tell me who is making thunder that I have so much fear? SOCRATES These are when they flip one over the other. STREPSIADES But how can it be? You are the bravest among men! SOCRATES Being full of water, and forced to move forward, they are, by necessity, deposited in the rain, being completely diluted by moisture from the regions where they swam; hence, they bump into each other strongly and burst with a lot of noise. But doesn't it make them move? SOCRATES Not at all; It's an air vortex. STREPSIADES Whirlwind! Oh! I didn't know that. So zevs doesn't seem to exist, and is it the whirlwind that reigns instead? But you haven't told me what makes a roll of thunder? SOCRATES You didn't understand me then? I'm telling you that clouds full of rain bump into each other, and that being overly swollen, they burst from a lot of noise. STREPSIADES How can you get me a loan for that? SOCRATES Take Ourselves as an example. When you heartily eat the stew in Panatheneaea, you get the agony of abdominal pain and then suddenly your stomach sounds with a long rumble. STREPSIADES Yes, yes, Apollo I suffer, I get colic, then the stew sets rumble like thunder and finally breaks out with a terrific noise. First of all, it's just a little gurgling pappax, pappax! then it's getting enlarged, papapappax! and when I take my shit why, it's thunder really, papapappax! Pappax!! Papappax!!! just like clouds. SOCRATES Well then, reflect what noise is produced by your stomach, which is but small. Wouldn't the air, which is tailless, produce these mighty claps of thunder? STREPSIADES And that's why the names are so similar: shuir and cotton. But tell me that. Where lightning comes from, a dazzling flame that from time to time absorbs the person it strikes, on others hardly sings it. Isn't it clear that he's throwing him at pervers? SOCRATES On The Fool! Driveler! He is still enjoying the golden age! If he's hitting the pre-1, why didn't he blow up Simon, Cleonimus, and Theor? Of the milky, more perjurers cannot exist. No, it strikes its own temple, and Sunium, the cape of Athens, and the tall oaks. Why would he do that? Oak is not perjurer. STREPSIADES I can't say, but it seems to me well argued. What is lightning? SOCRATES When the dry wind rises on the clouds and closes in them, it blows them like a bladder; finally, being too limited, he breaks them, escapes with brutal violence and roars to erupt into flames because of his own impulsiveness. STREPSIADES, that's exactly what happened to me one day. It was at the feast of zeus! I was cooking the belly of a sow for my family, and I forgot to cut it. He swollen and, suddenly bursting, discharged himself directly into my eyes and burned my face. LEADER HORE Oh, mortal, you who wish to instruct yourself in our great wisdom, the Athenians, the Greeks will envy your luck. Only you should have the memory and fervor to study, you must know how to withstand the test, hold your own, go forward without feeling tired, caring, but little for food, abstaining from wine, gymnastic exercises and other similar nonsense, in fact, you have to believe, as every person's intellect should, that all blessings is to live and think more clearly than the vulgar herd to shine in contests of words. STREPSIADES If it's a matter of hardness for Labour, spending whole nights at work, living sparingly, struggling with my stomach and just eating chickpeas, rest assured! I'm as hard as an anvil. SOCRATES From now on, following our example, you will recognize no other gods than Chaos, Clouds and Language, only these three. STREPSIADES I wouldn't talk to others even if I met them on the street; not a single victim, no libation, no grain of incense for them! LEADER HORIP Tell us boldly what you want from us; you can't fail to succeed. If you honor and honor us, and if you decide to become a smart person. STREPSIADES Oh, sovereign goddesses, this is only a very small favor, which I ask you to; grant that I can outdistance all Greeks on a hundred stadiums in the art of speaking. LEADER HORE We give you this, and from now on no eloquence should succeed more often with the people than with your own. STREPSIADES Let the gods shield me from possessing great eloquence! That's not what I want. I want to be able to turn bad legal suits in my favor and slip through the fingers of my creditors. LEADER HORIP This should be how you want, for your ambitions are modest. Fearlessly devote yourself to our ministers, sophists. STREPSIADES I will do this because I believe in you. Besides, there's no turning back on that with these damned horses and this marriage that ate my vitality. More and more volubly from here to the end of the speech so let them do to me as they would; I give them my body. Come blows, come hunger, thirst, warmth or cold, little matters to me; they can flay me if I only avoid my debts, if only I to gain a reputation as a brave scoundrel, a fine speaker, impudent, shameless, braggart, and adept at strung lies, an old stager at quibbles, a full table of laws, a careful rattle, a fox slipping through any hole; flexible as a leather strap, slippery as an eel, cunning guy, blusterer, villain; nail with a hundred faces, a cunning, unbearable, voracious dog. With such epithets, I'm a hysprash to be met; on these terms they can treat me as they choose and, if they want, by Demeter! they can turn me into sausages and serve me up to philosophers. CHORUS singing Here we have a bold and well-disposed pupil indeed. When we assy you, your glory among mortals will reach even heaven. STREPSIADES singing In which, what profit me? READ MORE You will pass all your life among us and will be the most envious of men. STREPSIADES singing Should I really ever see such happiness? CHORUS singing Customers will forever besiege your door in the crowd, burning to get to you, explain your business to you and consult with about their own which, in exchange for your abilities, will bring you large sums. LEADER HORE BUT, Socrates, start the lessons you want to teach this old man; wake up his mind, try the power of his intellect. SOCRATES Come, tell me what kind of mind you have; it is important that I know this, that I can order my batteries against you in the right way. STREPSIADES Eh that! in the name of the gods, are you purposing to attack me then? SOCRATES No. I just want to ask you a few questions. Do you have a memory? STREPSIADES It depends; if something is owed to me, my memory is excellent, but if I have to, alas! I don't have any. SOCRATES Do you have a natural gift for conversation? STREPSIADES For the talk, no; for cheating, yes. SOCRATES How can you learn then? STREPSIADES Very easily, have no fear. SOCRATES So when I throw some philosophical thoughts anent things celestial, will you capture it in the very flight? STREPSIADES Then I have to pick up wisdom just as the dog snaps up a piece? SOCRATES aside O! Ignorant! Barbarian! STREPSIADES I'm very afraid, old man, it will be necessary for me to resort to blows. Now, let me hear what you do when you're beaten. STREPSIADES I get hit and then wait a minute, take my witnesses and finally call my assailant-in-law. SOCRATES Come, take your cloak. STREPSIADES I robbed you of anything? SOCRATES No. but usually enter the school without a cloak. STREPSIADES But I came here not to look for stolen goods. SOCRATES off with him, fool! STREPSIADES He obeys. Tell me if I prove carefully attentive and learn with zeal, which O; your students I'll remind you, what do you think? SOCRATES You will be the image of Chaerephon. STREPSIADES AH! miserable me! Will I be only half alive then? SOCRATES Truce in this chatter! follow me, and nothing more. STREPSIADES First give me a honey cake because going down there sets me all trembling; Looks like the Cave of Trophonia. SOCRATES But get with you! Why are you thus dallying at the door? They go to Thoughts. LEADER HORE Good luck! You have the courage; Let you succeed, you, who, though so advanced in years, want to instruct your mind with new research and practice it in wisdom! CHORUS turns around and looks at the audience. Viewers! According to Bacchus, whose servant I am, I will tell you the truth frankly. Can I secure victory and fame as of course as I hold you up for skilled critics and how I regard this comedy as my best. I would like to give you a first look at a job that cost me a lot of trouble, but which I withdrew, unfairly beat reluctant rivals. It's you, oh, enlightened audience for whom I've prepared my play, that I reproach it. However, I never cease to be willing to seek the approval of discerning. I have not forgotten the day when people whom one to have for the audience, got my Virtuoso Young Man and my Paederast with so much favor in this very place. Then still a virgin, my muse did not reach the age for motherhood; she had to expose her firstborn for another take, and has since grown under your generous patronage. Ever since you swore at me, your loyal union. So, like Electra Poets, my comedy began to look for you today, hoping to meet such enlightened viewers again. As far as she can discern her Orestes, she will be able to recognize him by his curly head. And pay attention to her humble demeanor! It is not sewn on a piece of hanging skin, thick and red at the end, to cause laughter among children; she is not railing on bald, and she does not dance cordax; not a single old man has seen who, uttering his lines, bashes his interrogated with a stick to make his poor jokes pass. She is in no hurry to the stage with a torch and shouts: Yi! low! No, she relies on herself and her poems.... My value is so well known that I'm no longer proud of it. I don't want to fool you by reproducing the same items two or three times; I always invent fresh themes to present to you, topics that have nothing to do with each other and that are all smart. I attacked Cleon in his face, and when he was all-with; but he fell, and now I have no desire to kick him when he's down. My rivals, on the contrary, now that this unfortunate Hyperbole has given them a signal, never ceased to impose on him and his mother. First, Eupolis presented his Marikas; it was just my Knights, whom this plagiarist clumsily furnished again, adding a piece of an old drunk woman so that she could dance cordex. It was an old idea taken from Frinich, because of which his old witch was eaten by a monster of depth. Then Hermippus dropped a foul hyperbole and now everyone else is falling for it and repeating my comparison to the Eels. Let those who find entertainment in their works be satisfied with mine, but as for you, who love and applaud my inventions, why descendants will praise your good taste. FIRST SEMI-CHORUS singing O, the ruler of Olympus, the all-dead king of the gods, the great zevs, is you, whom I first call; Protect this choir; and so are you, Poseidon, whose terrible trident whips at the will of your wrath and the depths of the earth, and the salty waves of the ocean. I call on my illustrious father, the divine Ether, the universal maintenance of life, and Phoebus, who from the top of his chariot sets the world on fire with his dazzling rays, Phoebus, a mighty deity among the gods and adored among mortals. LEADER FIRST SEVEN-HORE Most wise viewers, lend us all your attention. Give in the forever to our mere reproaches. There are no gods to whom this city owes more than to us, to whom alone Forget. No sacrifice, no libation is there for those who protect you! Have you issued a decree on some crazy expedition? Ok! we thunder or we fall in the rain. When you chose this enemy of heaven, the Paplagon tanner, for the general, we tied our forehead, we aroused our anger to break free; lightning shot forward, thunder pealed, the moon left its course and the sun immediately veiled its beam threatening, no longer give you light if Cleon became common. However, you elected him; They say that Athena never decides on some fateful step, but the gods turn these errors into its greatest benefit. Do you want his election to be a success for you now? This is a very simple thing to do; Condemn this predatory seagull named Cleon for bribery and extortion, fit a wooden collar tightly around your neck, and your mistake will be corrected and commonweal will immediately restore your old prosperity. SECOND SEMI-CHORUS Singing Help Me also, Phoebe, the god of Delos, who reigns on the rocky peaks of Cynthia; and you, the lucky virgin, whom the Lydian maidens make a pompous sacrifice in the temple; Gold; and you, the goddess of our country, Athena, armed with the auspices, the protector of Athens; and you, who, surrounded by Delphi's bacchanals; wandering the rocks of Parnassus shaking the flame of your tar torch, you, Bacchus, the god of fun and joy. LEADER TWO SEVEN-HORE, when we were preparing to come here, we were greeted by the Moon and accused to wish joy and happiness to both the Athenians and their allies; She also said that she was furious and that you treated her with very disgracefully, her who does not pay you lip service alone, but who is giving you all the real benefits. First, thanks to it, you save at least the drachma every month into the light, for everyone, as he leaves home at night, says: Glory, do not buy torches, because the moonlight is beautiful - do not name a thousand other advantages. However, you don't think the days are right and your calendar is anything but confusing. Consequently, the gods load it with threats every time they get home and are frustrated with their food because the festival has not been saved in the usual way of time. When you have to sacrifice, you bet on torture or administration justice. And often we, the other gods, fast as a sign of mourning for the death of Emmon or Sarpedon, while you devote yourself to joyful libations. It is for this that last year, when a lot of Hyperbolus would have invested with the duty of Amphictyon, we took his crown from him to teach him that time should be divided according to the phases of the moon. SOCRATES goes breath, breath of life! Chaos! In the air! I've never seen a man so rude, so inept, so stupid, so forgetful. All the little quibbles I teach him, he forgets before he even learned them. However, I Don't give up, I get him to come out here outdoors. Where are you, Strepsidas? Go bring your couch here. STREPSIADES from inside But mistakes won't let me bring it. SOCRATES done with such nonsense! Put it there and pay attention. STREPSIADES comes out, with the bed Well, here I am. SOCRATES Good! What science of all those you have never taught, do you want to learn in the first place? Measures, rhythms or poems? STREPSIADES Why, measures; the flour merchant tricked me out of two choenixes the other day. SOCRATES It's not that I ask you, but which, in your way, is the best measure, trimeter or tetrameter? STREPSIADES The one I prefer is semisextarius. SOCRATES You're talking nonsense, my good guy. STREPSIADES I will bet you tetrameter is semisextarius. SOCRATES plague grab duce and fool! Come, perch you will learn rhythms faster. STREPSIADES Will the rhythms supply me with food? SOCRATES First they will help you be pleasant in the company, and then learn what is meant by the Enhoply rhythm and what is under the dactylic. STREPSIADES from tactile? I know it very well. SOCRATES What is it other than this finger here? STREPSIADES Earlier, when a child, I used this. SOCRATES You are as discreet as you are stupid. STREPSIADES But, wretched man, I don't want to find out all this. SOCRATES Then what do you want to know? STREPSIADES Not what, not that, but the art of false reasoning. SOCRATES But you have to learn their things first. Come, what are four-legged men? STREPSIADES O! I know them thoroughly. Do you think I'm a fool? Sheep, dollar, bull, dog, pigeon. SOCRATES Do you see what you're doing; isn't a female pigeon called the same as a male? STREPSIADES How else? Go now! SOCRATES How else? You have a pigeon and a pigeon! STREPSIADES It's right, by Posidon! But what names do you want me to give them? SOCRATES The term female pigeon and male pigeon. STREPSIADES Golubnett! Hal! Through the air! This is great! for this lesson bring out your knead trough though and I'll fill it with flour to the brim. SOCRATES There you are wrong again; You make a male trough and it has to be feminine. STREPSIADES What? If I say he did, will I make a male trough? SOCRATES Confident! Would you say it for Cleonimus? STREPSIADES WELL? SOCRATES Then a trough of the same sex as Cleonimus? STREPSIADES My good man! Cleonymus has never been a kneading trough; he used a round mortar for that purpose. But come tell me what I have to say! SOCRATES For the trough you have to tell her how you would for Socrate. STREPSIADES HER? SOCRATES So you make it truly female. STREPSIADES That's it! Her for the trough and her for Cleonimus. SOCRATE: Now I have to teach you to distinguish men's names from those STREPSIADES AH! I know women's names well. SOCRATES Name some then. STREPSIADES Lysilla, Filinna, Klitagora, Demetrius. SOCRATES And what are men's names? STREPSIADES They are countless-Philoxenus, Melesias, Amynias. SOCRAT BUT, unfortunate man, the last two are not men. STREPSIADES Don't you think they're masculine? SOCRATES is not at all. If you met Aminy, how would you welcome him? STREPSIADES How? I have to shout: Hi, Amenia! SOCRATES Do you see? it's the woman's name you give him. STREPSIADES And it's not right, since he refuses military service? But what good is learning what we all know? SOCRATES You don't know anything about it. Go, lie there. STREPSIADES For what? SOCRATES think for a while about the issues that interest you. STREPSIADES O! I pray to you not there, but if I have to lie down and ponder, let me lie down on the ground. SOCRATES It's out of the question. Come! On the couch! STREPSIADES as he lies down What a cruel fate! What torture mistakes that day put me! Socrates turns away. CHORUS singing Ponder and carefully examine, gather your thoughts together, let your mind turn to each side of things; If you meet with difficulty, spring quickly to some other idea; first of all, keep your eyes away from all the gentle sleep. STREPSIADES singing Oh, Wow, Wow, Wow, Wow Is Me! CHORUS singing What's going on? Why are you crying like that? STREPSIADES O! I'm a dead man! These damned Corinthians are advancing on me from all corners of the couch; they bite me, they bite on the sides, they drink all my blood, they yank my balls, they dig in my ass, they kill me! LEADER HORE NOT so much crying and noise, if you like. STREPSIADES How can I obey? I lost my money and my complexion, my blood and my slippers, and in the lid of my suffering, I must stay awake on this couch when the meager breath of life remains in me. There comes a short interval of silence. SOCRATES Well now! What are you? Do you reflect? STREPSIADES Yes, by Posidon! SOCRAT And what about? STREPSIADES Lee bugs will completely devour me. SOCRATES can death take you, damn man! He's turning away again. STREPSIADES it already. SOCRATES Come, don't give way! Cover your head; what you need to do is find a brilliant alternative. STREPSIADES Alternative! Oh! I just want someone to come to me from these scoundrels! There comes another interval of silence. SORAT WATCH! Let's see what our guy does! Ho! Are you sleeping? STREPSIADES No, Apollo! SOCRATES Do you have anything? STREPSIADES No, nothing. SOCRATES Nothing at all? STREPSIADES No, nothing but my instrument that I have in my hand. SOCRATES Aren't you going to cover your head immediately and think about it? STREPSIADES On what? Come on, Socrates, tell me. SOCRATES Think first what you want and then say But I've told you what I want a thousand times. Don't pay any of my creditors. SOCRATES Come, wrap yourself up; concentrate your mind, which wanders slightly; examine every detail, diagram and carefully examine. STREPSIADES Alas! Alas! SOCRATES Keep in place, and if any concept bothers you, put it quickly aside, then resume it and think over it again. STREPSIADES My dear little Socrates! SORAT What is this, an old gray beard? STREPSIADES I have a scheme not to pay down debts. SOCRATES Let's hear it. STREPSIADES Tell me if I bought the witch Thessalian, I could make the moon go down during the night and close it like a mirror, in a round box and there to keep it thoroughly SOCRATES How would you get away from this? STREPSIADES How? why, if the moon doesn't rise, I wouldn't be interested to pay. SOCRATES Why so? STREPSIADES Because the money is lent a month. SOCRATES Good! but I'm going to offer you another trick. If you were doomed to pay five talents, how would you overturn that verdict? Tell me. STREPSIADES How? As? I don't know, I have to think. SOCRATES Do you always close your thoughts within yourself? Let your ideas fly in the air as can a bug involving your foot with a thread. STREPSIADES I have found a very clever way to nullify this belief; You admit that much is yourself. SOCRATES What is it? STREPSIADES Have you ever seen a beautiful, transparent stone in a drug addict with whom you can light a fire? SOCRATES You mean the lens. STEPHANOPOEST: That's right. Well, now, if I put myself with this stone in the sun and away from the clerk, while he was writing a conviction, I could make all the wax on which the words were written, melt. SOCRATES Well thought out, grace! STREPSIADES AH! I'm glad I rescinded the decree, which was supposed to cost me five talents. SOCRATES Come, take this next question quickly. STREPSIADES Which? SOCRATES If, when called to court, you were in danger of losing your case because of the need for witnesses, how would you make a guilty verdict fall on your opponent? STREPSIADES It's very simple and easy. SOCRATES Let me hear. STREPSIADES HERE. If another case was to be recognized before my call, I should run and hang myself. SOCRATES You say garbage! STREPSIADES Not so, gods! if I was dead, no action could lie to me. SOCRATES You are just beating the air. Exit! I'm not going to give you more lessons. STREPSIADES pleading why not? About!

Socrates! In the name of the gods! SOCRATES But you forget as fast as you learn. Come, what did I teach you in the first place? Tell me. STREPSIADES let me see. What was the first one? What was it then? Yes! that thing in which we knead bread, oh! My god! What do you call it? SOCRATES plagues take the most forgetful and stupid of old adleppates! STREPSIADES Alas! What What's going to happen to me? I Am I if I don't know how to ply my tongue. About! Cloud! give me good advice. CHORUS-LEADER Old Man, we advise you if you raised a son to send him to study instead of you. STREPSIADES Undoubtedly I have a son and am also endowed as the best, but he does not want to learn. What's going to happen to me? CHORUS-LEADER And you don't make him obey you? STREPSIADES You see, it's big and strong; moreover, through his mother he is a descendant of these beautiful birds, the Coesyra race. Still, I'll go and find him, and if he refuses, I'll turn him out of the house. Go, Socrates, and wait for me for a while. SOCRATES goes to Thoughts, STREPSIADES in his own home. HORP sings Do you understand, Socrates, that thanks to us you will be loaded with benefits? Here's a man willing to obey you in everything. You can see how he was fascinated by admiration and enthusiasm. Profit from it to clip it as short as possible; the fine chances were all too quick gone. STREPSIADES comes out of his house and pushes his son in front of him No, clouds! You stay here no longer; Go and devour the ruins of your uncle's State of Megacles. FIDIPPIDES O! my poor father! What happened to you? Olympic zevs! You're not feeling it anymore! STREPSIADES Look! Olympic zevs. About! You're stupid! believe in zeus at your age! PHIDIPPIDES What's there to make you laugh? STREPSIADES You are then a tiny little baby if you credit such outdated garbage! But come here so I can teach you; I will tell you something very necessary to know to be a man; but don't repeat it to anyone. PHIDIPPIDES Tell me what it is? STREPSIADES Just you swore at zeus. PHIDIPPIDES Of course I did. STREPSIADES Do you see how well to learn? Phidippides, no. PHIDIPPIDES What's there then? STREPSIADES Whirlwind has banished zeus and the king now. PHIDIPPIDES What a drive! STREPSIADES You have to understand that this is true. PHIDIPPIDES And who says that? STREPSIADES Socrates, Melian, and Chaerephon, who knows how to measure a flea jump. PHIDIPPIDES Have you reached such a pitch of madness that you believe these bile guys? STREPSIADES Use the best language, and don't insult people who are smart and full of wisdom, who, to save, never shave, avoid high school and never go to the bath, while you, you are just waiting for my death to eat my wealth. But come, come as fast as you can to study in my place. PHIDIPPIDES And what god can you learn about who? STREPSIADES What's really good? Why, all human knowledge. First, you will know yourself extremely ignorant. But wait for me here for a while. He's coming back to his house. PHIDIPPIDES Alas! what needs to be done? My father lost his wit. Should I have his certificate for madness, or should I order his coffin? STREPSIADES is back with a bird in each hand Come! What kind of Tell me. FIDIPPIDES A A STREPSIADES Good! And this woman? PHIDIPPIDES Dove. STREPSIADES Same for both? You're making fun of me! In the future you should call it one pigeon and another pigeon. Fidippides Dove! These are the beautiful things you just learned at the school of these sons of the Earth! STREPSIADES and many others; but what I learned, I forgot right away because I'm to the old. PHIDIPPIDES So that's why you lost your cloak? STREPSIADES I haven't lost it, I've dedicated it to philosophy. PHIDIPPIDES And what have you done with your sandals, poor fool? STREPSIADES If I lost them, it's for what was needed, just like Pericles did. But come, move yourself, let's enter; if necessary, do wrong to obey your father. When you were six years old and I was still in it, I was the one who obeyed you. I remember at the feasts of zeus you had a lot of desire for a little chariot, and I bought it for you with the first oculus I got as a jury in the courts. PHIDIPPIDES You will soon repent of what you ask me to do. STREPSIADES Oh! Now I'm happy! He obeys. Come loud, Socrates, come! Come out fast! Here I am, my son; he refused, but I convinced him. SOCRATES Why, he' but the baby is still. He's not used to these baskets in which we suspend our minds. PHIDIPPIDES To us, you know you better used to them, I would have you hangd. STREPSIADES Curse on you! You're insulting your master! SOCRATES I would have you been hangd! What a stupid speech! and so emphatically spoke! How can one ever get out of the prosecution with such a tone, call witnesses or touch or convince? And yet, when we think Hyperbolus has learned it all for one talent! STREPSIADES Rest quietly and teach it. He's got the smartest character. Even when very little he entertained at home with the creation of houses, carving boats, building small chariots of leather, and perfectly understood how to make frogs from pomegranate peel. Teach it both methods of reasoning, strong as well as weak, which false arguments triumph over the strong; if not too, at least false, and that in every possible way. SOCRATES Simple and unfair discourse themselves should instruct it. I'll leave you. STREPSIADES But forget about it no, it should always be, always be able to confuse the truth. Socrates enters Thoughts; A moment later JUST and DISCOURSE quit; they quarrel violently. JUST DISCOURSE Come here! Shameless as you may be, will you dare to show your face to the audience? UNJUST DISCOURSE Take me where you will be. I'm looking for a crowd, so I can better destroy you. JUST DISCOURSE destroy me! Have you forgotten who you are? THE GOOD DISCOURSE I REASONING. JUST DISCOURSE Yes, weak reasoning. BUT I triumph over you who claim to be stronger. JUST DISCOURSE What cunning shifts, pray? DISCOURSE DISCOURSE the invention of new maxims. JUST DISCOURSE.... who received with favor by these fools. He points to the audience. UNJUST DISCOURSE Say, rather, these sages. JUST DISCOURSE I'm going to destroy you mercilessly. HOW to pray? Let's see how you do it. JUST DISCOURSE Saying it's true. UNJUST DISCOURSE I object and very soon better than you. First, they argue that justice does not exist. JUST DISCOURSE Doesn't Exist? THERE is no existence! Why, where is he? JUST DISCOURSE With the gods. THE RIGHT SEDS How then, if justice exists, was he not the death penalty for putting his father in a chain? JUST DISCURS BACH! It's enough to turn your stomach! Pool, quick! UNJUST DISCOURSE You are an old driver and stupid withal. JUST DISCOURSE And you are a degenerate and shameless guy. UNFAIR DISCOURSE HA! What a sweet expression! JUST DISCOURSE Unightly jester. UNJUST DISCOURSE You crown me with roses and lilies. JUST DISCOURSE Parricide. UNJUST DISCOURSE Why, your shower gold on me. JUST DISCOURSE Earlier it was a hail of blows. UNJUST DISCOURSE I deck myself with your abuse. JUST DISCOURSE What audacity! UNJUST DISCOURSE What tomfoolery! JUST DISCOURSE It is because of you that young people no longer attend schools. The Athenians will soon learn what lessons you teach to those who are fools enough to believe you. UNJUST DISCOURSE You are struck by the wretchedness. JUST DISCOURSE And you, you are thriving. However, you were poor when you said: I am Mysian Telephus, and used to stuff your wallet with pandeletes maxims nibbling on. UNFAIR DISCOURSE OH! the wonderful wisdom you now boast! JUST DISCOURSE Madman! But still a crazy city that holds you, you, the corrupter of your youth! UNJUST DISCOURSE It is not you who will teach this young man; You are old and outdated in Cronus. JUST DISCOURSE Nay, it will certainly be me if he does not want to be lost and practice only verbiage. UNJUST DISCOURSE (for PHIDIPPIDES) Come here and leave it to beat the air. JUST DISCOURSE You will regret it if you touch it. CHORUS-LEADER (stepping between them as they are about to come to blows) truce with your quarrels and abuses! But you set out what you taught us before, and you, your new teaching. Thus, after hearing how each of you argues, he will be able to choose betwixt of two schools. JUST DISCOURSE I'm quite nice. GOOD DISCOURSE AND SO am I. LEADER HORE, who should speak first? UNJUST DISCOURSE Let it be my opponent, he has my full consent; then I will follow on the very land he has chosen and break it with a hail of new ideas and subtle fantasies; if after that he dares to breathe another word, I will sting him in the face and in the eyes with our maxims, which are as sharp as the wasp sting, and he will die. Choir Here are two rivals confident in their oratorical skills and in the thoughts they have been pondering for so long. Let's see what comes out of the competition triumphantly. This wisdom, for which my friends support such a stubborn struggle, is in great danger. LEADER HORE Come then, you who crown the men of other days with so many virtues, beg the cause dear to you, make yourself known to us. JUST DISCOURSE Very well, I will tell you that there was an old education when I taught justice with such success and when modesty was held in veneration. First, the child was required not to say a word. On the street, when they went to music school, all the young people of the same district walked lightly dressed and varied in good condition, even when the snow fell in large flakes. In the owner's house they had to stand with their legs separate and they were taught to sing either: Pallas, Terrible, which turns the city or The noise sounded from afar in the solemn tones of ancient harmony. If someone indulged in a jester or lent his voice to any of the soft inflexibles like those of today's disciples of Phrynis to take so much effort to form, he is seen as an enemy muse and belaboured with blows. At the school of struggle they sat with outstretched legs and without showing any obscenity to the curious. As they rose, they smoothed the sand so as not to leave a trace to excite obscene thoughts. Never has a child rubbed with oil below the belt; the rest of the body thus kept its fresh bloom and down like a velvety peach. They could not be seen approaching the lover and inflaming his passion with the soft modulation of his voice and lustful look. At the table, they would not dare before those older themselves to take radishes, anise or a leaf of parsley, and even more so to eat fish or thrushes or cross legs. UNJUST DISCOURSE What an outdated garbage! Have we returned during the festivals of the polius, to Bufonia, to the time of the poet Setsid and the golden cicadas? JUST DISCOURSE However, thus training I created the men marathon- But you, you teach children a day to tie themselves quickly in their clothes, and I am furious when I see them in Panathenaea forgetting Athens while they dance, and covering their tools with their buckles. Thus, the young man dare to range himself beside me, who follow justice and truth; You will be able to avoid public space, abstain from baths, blush at anything that is embarrassing to ignite if your virtue is mocked to give way to your elders to honor your parents, in short, to avoid all that is evil. Be humble yourself, and do not run to applaud the dancing girls; If you delight in such scenes, some courtesan will throw you her apple and your reputation will Made for. No gang words to your father, nor treat him like a dotard, nor reproach the old man who cherished you, with his age. UNJUST DISCOURSE If you listen to it. By Bacchus! You will be the image of the sons of Hippocrates and will be called the big ninny mother. JUST DISCOURSE No, but you will pass your days in the gymnasium, glowing with strength and health; you won't go to a public place to giggle and argue as it is done now; You won't live in fear that you may be dragged to court for some little things exaggerated ntipicking. But you will go to the Academy to run under sacred olives with some virtuous friend of your own age, your head surrounded by white reeds, enjoying your ease and breathing spirits of yew and fresh poplar sprouts, rejoicing in the return of the springtide and with pleasure listening to the gentle rustle of flat wood and ace. (With great warmth from this very year) I you dedicate yourself to practice my commandments, your breasts will be thick, your color glowing, your shoulders wide, your tongue short, your hips muscular, but your tool is small. But if you follow the fashion of the day, you will be pale in hue, narrow shoulders, narrow chest, long tongue, small hips and much: You'll know how to spin forward long windward arguments on the right. You will also be persuaded to consider magnificent all the shameful and shameful all that is honorable; In short, you are mired in degeneration like Antimach. CHORUS (singing) How beautiful, high-hearted, brilliant is the wisdom that you practice! What a sweet smell of honesty radiates by your discourse! Those people of other days who lived when you were honored were happy! And you, the seductive goner, come, find fresh arguments, for your opponent worked wonders. LEADER CHORUS You will have to bring against it the whole battery of your wit, it is you want to beat him and not laugh in the off-court. REALLY DISCURSE Finally! I was suffocating with impatience, I was burning to break his arguments! If I'm called weak reasoning in schools, it's only because I was the first to discover the means to confute laws and decrees of justice. To refer exclusively to the weaker arguments and at the same time triumph is an art worth more than a hundred thousand drachmas. But look how I'll batter down the kind of education he's so proud of. First, it prohibits swimming in hot water. What grounds do you have to condemn hot tubs? JUST DISCOURSE Because they are banal and energy men. THE GOOD DISCOURSE said enough! About! You're a poor wrestler! From the beginning I grabbed you and kept you around the middle; You can't avoid me. Tell me, of all the sons of zeus who had the coolest heart, who did the most clouded things? JUST DISCOURSE Nobody, in my opinion, has surpassed Hercules. Unfair Where have you ever seen a cold bath called Bath Hercules? And yet who was bolder than him? JUST DISCOURSE It is precisely because of such riots that baths are seen crowded with young people who chat there a lively day while the gymnasium remains empty. UNJUST DISCOURSE Next you condemn the habit of visiting a market-place while I approve of it. If it wasn't right, Homer would never have forced Nestor to speak publicly, like all his wise heroes. As for the art of speaking, he tells you young people should not practice it; I'm holding the opposite. He also preaches chastity to them. Both commandments are equally harmful. Have you ever seen chastity of any benefit to anyone? Answer and try to confuse me. JUST DISCOURSE For many; for example, Peleus won the sword in this way. AN INseding sword discourse! Yes! What a lovely gift to make it! Poor wretched! Hyperbole, the lamp-seller, thanks to its villainy, got more than I don't know how many talents, but certainly not a sword. JUST DISCOURSE Peleus owes his chastity that he became the husband of Thetis. UNFAIR DISCOURSE.... who left him in trouble because he was not the hottest, but he was in those night sports between the sheets that so pleased the women he possessed, but had little merit. I'm going to leave, you're just an old fool. But you, young man, just think a little bit, which means this moderation and charms that it deprives you-young guys, women, play, gourmet dishes, wine, noisy laughter. And what is life worth without them? Then, if you happen to commit one of these inherent flaws to human weakness, some seduction or adultery, and you are caught in the act, you are lost if you can't speak. But follow my teachings, and you will be able to satisfy your passions, dance, laugh, blush at nothing. Suppose you are caught up in an act of adultery. Then to say that you are not to blame, and to remember him the example of zeus, who allowed himself to be conquered by love and women. As mortal, can you be stronger than God? JUST DISCOURSE Suppose your student, following your advice, gets a radish rammed by his ass and then depilated with hot coal; How are you going to prove to him that he's not wide? UNJUST DISCOURSE What Happened to Being Broad? JUST DISCOURSE Is there anything worse than that? UNJUST DISCOURSE Now what do you say if I beat you even on this issue? JUST DISCOURSE I definitely have to keep quiet then. READ MORE, then, answer! Our lawyers, what is it? JUST DISCOURSE Sons Wide. READ MORE Nothing is more true. And our tragic poets? JUST DISCOURSE Sons Wide. THE GOOD OF THE WORLD Said Well again. And our demagogues? JUST DISCOURSE Sons Wide. YOU admit that you said nonsense. And that they are for the most part? Look at them. Just Just I look at them. JUST DISCOURSE WELL! What do you see? JUST DISCOURSE Gods, they are almost all wide. (pointing) You see, this is one I know to be like and that one and that other with long hair. UNJUST DISCOURSE What do you say? JUST DISCOURSE I'm beaten. Debauch!! in the name of the gods, get my cloak; I'm passing on your janks. (He returns to Thoughts.) REALLY DISCOURSE Well then! Are you going to take your son or do you want me to teach him how to talk? STREPSIADES teaches him, punishes and does not fail to sharpen the language well, on the one hand, for small lawsuits, and on the other - for important cases. UNJUST DISCOURSE Don't worry, I'll give it back to you an experienced sophist. PHIDIPPIDES Very pale then and carefully hang the dog looking. LEADER HORVE Take it with you. (RIGHT DISCRIC AND PHIDIPPIDES go TO THOUGHTERY. for STREPSIADES, who is only going to your own home.) I think you'll regret it. (CHORUS turns around and collides with the audience.) Judges, we will all tell you what you will get by awarding us the crown as justice requires of you. In the spring, when you want to give your fields the first sauce, we'll rain on you first; others have to wait. Then we will keep an eye on your corn and over the vine; they will have no excess fear, no heat, no wet. But if the mortal dares to insult the goddesses of the Clouds, let him think of the illas we will pour upon him. For him, no wine, no harvest at all! Our scary slings will mow his young olive plants and his vines. If he makes bricks, it will rain, and our round hails will break the tiles of his roof. If he marries himself or any of his relationships or friends, we'll cause the rain to fall all night long. In fact, he would rather live in Egypt than give this illogical verdict. STREPSIADES (coming out again) Another four, three, two days, then the day, then the day, the fateful pay day! I tremble, I shudder, I shudder because it is the day of the old moon and the new moon. Then all my creditors take the oath, pay their deposits, I swear by my fall and my ruin. As for me, I beseech them to be reasonable to be simple: My friend, do not demand this amount, wait a little for this other and give me time for this third. Then they will pretend that at this rate they will never envelop, accuse me of bad faith and threaten me with the law. Well then let them see me! I don't care if I just learned to speak freely. I'm going to find out; I'll knock on the school door. (He's knocking.) Ho! Slave, slave! SOCRATES (coming out) Welcome! Strepsiaides! STREPSIADES Welcome! Socrates! But first, take this bag; (offers him a bag of flour) is right to reward the master with some present. And my son, whom you have taken off recently, has learned this famous reasoning? Tell me. SOCRATES He learned this. STREPSIADES Wonderful! About! Divine Knavery! SOCRATES You will win as many reasons as you choose. STREPSIADES Even if I borrowed in front of witnesses? SOCRATES Is Better, even if there are a thousand of them! STREPSIADES (explosion in song) Then I will scream from all my power. Grief for usurers, the grief of their capital and their interests and their complex interests! You're not going to play any more bad turns with me. My son is taught there, his tongue is sharpened into a double-edged sword; he is my protector, the savior of my house, the ruin of my enemies! His poor father was crushed by misfortune, and he delivers it. Go and call him as soon as possible. About! My baby! My dear baby! Run forward to your father's voice! SOCRATES (sings) Lo, man himself! STREPSIADES (singing) Oh, my friend, my dear friend! SOCRATES (singing) Take your son and you're gone. STREPSIADES (as PHIDIPPIDES appears) Oh, my son! About! About! what a pleasure to see your pallor! You are ready to deny first and then contradict; it's as clear as noon. What a child you are in your country! As your lips tremble with the famous: What do you say now? How well do you know I am sure to put on the look of sacrifice when it is you who makes both victims and dupes! And what a really attic look! Come, it's for you to save me, seeing that it was you who destroyed me. PHIDIPPIDES What are you afraid of then? STREPSIADES Day is old and new. PHIDIPPIDES Is there then a day old and new? STREPSIADES The day they threaten to pay a deposit against me. PHIDIPPIDES Then the worse for those who deposited! because it is not possible for one day to be two. STREPSIADES What? PHIDIPPIDES Why no doubt if a woman can't be both old and young at the same time. STREPSIADES But that's how the law works. PHIDIPPIDES I think the meaning of the law is completely wrong. STREPSIADES What does that mean? PHIDIPPIDES Old Solon loved people. STREPSIADES What does this do with the old day and the new one? PHIDIPPIDES He set two days to call, the last day of the old moon and the first day of the new one; but deposits should only be paid on the first day of the new moon. STREPSIADES And why did he also call the last day old? PHIDIPPIDES So, my dear sir, that debtors, being there the day before, may be released by mutual consent, or that else, if not, the lender can begin its actions in the morning on the new moon. STREPSIADES Why then do magistrates have deposits paid in the last month rather than the next day? PHIDIPPIDES I think they do as gluttony do, which are the first to pounce on dishes. In an effort to carry away these deposits, they pay them a day too early. STREPSIADES Gorgeous! (audience) yes! You're poor that serve to eat for us smart people! You're only here to swell the number, true, sheep for haircuts, a bunch of empty pots! So I will sing the song of victory for my son and me. About! happy, Strepsiaides! how thin the mind is! and what son you have here! So my friends and my neighbors will say, jealous of seeing me get all my costumes. But come on, I want to treat you first. (They both enter. PASIAS (to WITNESS) A person should never lend a single oculus. It would be better to put a brazen face from the beginning than to get confused in such matters. I want to see my money again, and I'll bring you here today to testify credit. I'm going to make a neighbor's enemy; but as long as I live, I don't want my country to blush for me. Come, I'm going to call Strepsiaides STREPSIADES (coming out of his house) Who is it? PASIAS on the old day and the new one. STREPSIADES (in WITNESS) I call you to witness what he called two days. What do you want from me? PASIAS I claim of you twelve mins that you borrowed from me to buy a dapple-gray horse. STREPSIADES Horse! Can you hear him? I who hate horses as well known. PASIAS I call on zeus to testify that you have sworn the gods to return them to me. STREPSIADES Because at the time, by zeus! Phipippedes did not yet know the irrefutable arguments. PASIAS would you deny the debt to this? STREPSIADES If not, what is the use of his science for me? PASIAS Dare you swear to the gods that you don't owe me anything? STREPSIADES With which gods? PASIAS zevs, Hermes and Poseidon! STREPSIADES Why, I would give three obols for the pleasure of swearing at them. PASIAS Grief on you, brazen nail! STREPSIADES O! what a fine wine-skin you'd do if you flayed! PASIAS Heaven! He's making fun of me! STREPSIADES It will keep six gallons easy. PASIAS The Great zevs! all the gods! You don't have to mock me with impunity, STREPSIADES AH! How you entertain me with your gods! how ridiculous it seems to the sage to hear how zevs refers. PASIAS Your blasphemy will one day meet your reward. But come on, will you pay me my money, yes or no? Tell me I can go. STREPSIADES Wait, I'm going to give you a clear answer. (He goes indoors and returns immediately with a kneading trough.) PASIAS (to WITNESS) What do you think it will do? Do you think he'll pay? STREPSIADES Where is the person who demands the money? Tell me, what's this? HIS PASIAS? He's your kneading. STREPSIADES And you dare to demand money from me when you are so ignorant? I'm not going to give the olloosa back to anyone who tells him, not her for kneading. PASIAS You will not repay? STREPSIADES No if I know this. Come, end it, pack as fast as you can. PASIAS I go, but, can I die if won't pay your deposit for (Exit) STREPSIADES Very good! It will be much more losses to add to the twelve minae. But actually it makes me sad because I feel sorry for the poor simpleton who tells him to knead the trough (Another lender arrives.) AINNIAS Grief woe it's me! STREPSIADES COME! Who's this whining guy? Could this be one of the gods of Carcinoma? AMYNIAS Do you want to know who I am? I'm a man of unhappiness! STREPSIADES Get on your way then. AMYNIAS (tragic style) Oh! Cruel God! O Destiny, who broke the wheels of my chariot! Oh, Pallas, you've cancelled me! STREPSIADES What bad Telepolemus did you do? AMYNIAS Instead of mocking me, friend, get your son to give me back the money he had about me; I'm already unhappy enough. STREPSIADES What's the money? AMYNIAS The money he lent me. STREPSIADES You really had the misfortune, it seems to me. AMYNIAS Yes, gods! I was thrown off the chariot. STREPSIADES Why then drivél as if you fell off? AMYNIAS I'm drivelling because I demand my money? STREPSIADES No, no, you can't be in your right feelings. AMYNIAS Why? STREPSIADES No doubt your poor mind was shaken. AMYNIAS But Hermes! I'll sue you if you don't pay me. STREPSIADES Just tell me; Do you think it's always fresh water that zevs lets you fall every time it rains, or is it bad always the same water that the sun pumps above the ground? AMYNIAS I don't know nor care. STREPSIADES And in fact you would claim the right to claim your money when you know not one iota of these celestial phenomena? AMYNIAS If you're missing, pay me interest anyway. STREPSIADES Which animal is of interest? AMYNIAS What? Isn't the amount borrowed continue to grow, growing every month, every day as time slips? STREPSIADES Well put. But do you believe there's more water in the sea now than there used to be? AMYNIAS No, it's exactly the same amount. It can't increase. STREPSIADES So, poor fool, the sea that gets the river, never grows, and yet would you your money grow? Get away with you, get away with you, quick! Slave! Bring me a bull-goat! I have witnesses to this. STREPSIADES Come, what are you waiting for? You won't budge, old nag! AMYNIAS What an insult! STREPSIADES If you don't start trotting, I'll catch you and stick this in the ass, you'll excuse Packhorse! (AMYNIAS is running away.) Yes! You start, don't you? I was going to drive you pretty fast, I'm telling you, you, your wheels and your chariot! (He enters his house.) CHORUS (singing) Wheat makes the passion of evil lead! here is a vicious old man who wants to deceive his creditors; but some failures that will quickly punish this rogue for his shameful intrigues, can not but overtake him from the day. For a long time he was burning so that his son knew how to fight against justice and law and get even the most illogical reasons against their opponents each. I Am I that wish will be fulfilled. But mayhap, mayhap, will he soon wish his son was dumb as well! STREPSIADES (running out with PHIDIPPIDES after it) Oh! About! neighbors, relatives, fellow citizens, help! Help! to help, I'm being beaten! About! My head! About! My jaw! Scoundre! Did you beat your own father? PHIDIPPIDES (calmly) Yes, father, I. STREPSIADES See! he admits he's beating me up. PHIDIPPIDES of course I do. STREPSIADES You are a villain, you are a parricide, you are a gallows-bird! PHIDIPPIDES Go ahead, repeat your epithets, give me a thousand other names if you're happy. The more you curse, the more my entertainment! STREPSIADES Oh! You ditch-arsed cynic PHIDIPPIDES How fragrant perfumes breathed forward in your words. STREPSIADES HAVE you beaten your own father? FIDIPPIDES Yes, zevs! and I'm going to show you that I'm doing the right thing in beating you up. STREPSIADES Oh, wretched! Can it be right to defeat the father? PHIDIPPIDES I will prove it to you and you will own yourself defeated. STREPSIADES Own himself won on a point like this? PHIDIPPIDES Is the easiest thing in the world. Choose one of two reasonings that you like. STREPSIADES Of which reasoning? PHIDIPPIDES Stronger and weaker. STREPSIADES Unhappy Guy! Why, I'm the one you've been taught how to disprove what's right, and now you would convince me that it is right the son should beat his father. PHIDIPPIDES I think I will convince you so carefully that when you hear me, you will not have a word to say. STREPSIADES Well, I'm curious to hear what you have to say. CHORUS (singing) Consider well, old man, how you can best defeat him. His audacity shows me that he thinks he is confident in his case; he has some arguments that give him a nerve. Pay attention to the confidence in his look! LEADER HORE BUT how did the fight begin? say the chorus; You can't help doing it much. STREPSIADES I'll tell you what was the beginning of the quarrel. At the end of the meal, as you know, I put him to take his lyre and sing me the air of Simonides, who tells about the wool ram. He bluntly replied that it was silly, while drinking, to play lyre and sing like a woman when she was grinding barley. PHIDIPPIDES Why, on rights I had to beat and kick you at the very moment you told me to sing. STREPSIADES It's just like he was talking to me in the house, besides, he added that Simonides was a disgusting poet. However, I mastered myself and for a while said nothing. Then I said to him, 'At least take the myrtle branch and read an excerpt from Aeschylus to me.' - 'For my own part,' he immediately replied, 'I look at Aeschylus as the first of the poets, for his poems roll superbly; they are nothing but incoherence, bombast and turgidity. But still I smothered my anger and said, Then read one of the famous plays of modern poets. He started a piece in which Euripides shows Horror! brother who breaks his own sister's uterus. Then I could no longer restrain myself, and attacked him with the most harmful abuse; naturally he answered, but he had tough words thrown on both sides, and finally he jumped on me, broke my bones, bore me on the ground, strangled and started killing me! PHIDIPPIDES I was right. A what! not to praise Euripides, the greatest of our poets? STREPSIADES Is he the greatest of our poets? Yes! if I had but dared to speak! but the blows will rain on me harder than ever. PHIDIPPIDES Is undeniable and fair too. STREPSIADES IS correct! About! What a cheek! for me, who raised you! when you could barely whisper, I guessed what you wanted. If you'd said bro, bro, well, I'd bring you milk; If you asked your mother, I gave you bread; and you didn't have time to tell me how I would dislocate you outside and pull you out. It was only now that you were strangling me that I screamed, I screamed that I was about to shit; and you, the scoundrel, didn't have to dislocate me outside, so even though I almost suffocated, I had to do my shit right here. CHORUS (singing) Young people, your hearts should suffocate with impatience. What will Phipippedes say? If after such behavior, he proves that he did well, I would not give obolus for the skins of old men. LEADER OF THE CHORUS Come, you who know how to swing and throw sharp rampsarts of new science, find a way to convince us, give your language a kind of truth. PHIDIPPIDES How nice to know these smart new inventions and be able to ignore established laws! When I thought only of horses, I was not able to string three words together without error, but now that the master has changed and improved me, and that I live in this world of subtle thought, reasoning and meditation, I look forward to proving satisfactorily that I have done well to thrash my father. STREPSIADES Mount your horse! By zeus! I'd rather cover the hold of four in the team's hand than battered with punches. PHIDIPPIDES I go back to what I said when you interrupted me. And first, answer me, did you hit me as a child? STREPSIADES Why is sure for your benefit and in your own interest. PHIDIPPIDES Tell me it's not right that, in return, should I beat you for your good, since it's for a person's own interests to be beaten? A what! your body should be free from blows, not mine? I'm not free-born, too? children should cry and fathers go free? You will tell me that according to the law, it is a lot of children who will be beaten. But I reply that the elderly have twice been children and that it is far more appropriate to punish them than the young, for their shortcomings are less justified. STREPSIADES But the law nowhere allows that fathers should be treated this way. PHIDIPPIDES was not the legislator who carried this law man like you and me? In those days believe him; then why shouldn't I also have the right to set a new law for the future that allows children to beat their fathers in turn? We present to you all the blows that were received before his law, and recognize that you beat us with impunity. But look at how roosters and other animals are fighting their fathers; and yet what difference does there betwixt them and ourselves if it won't be that they don't offer edicts? STREPSIADES But if you imitate taps in all things, why don't you scratch dunghill, why don't you sleep on the perch? PHIDIPPIDES It has nothing to do with the case, good sir; Socrates won't find any connection, I assure you. STREPSIADES Then don't beat at all, otherwise you only have yourself to blame afterwards. PHIDIPPIDES For what? STREPSIADES I have the right to punish you and you will punish your son if you have. PHIDIPPIDES And if I don't, I'll cry in vain and you'll die laughing in my face. STREPSIADES What do you say everything is here? I think he's right, and I think they should be given their right. If we think wrong, it's just we have to be beaten. PHIDIPPIDES Again, consider this other point. STREPSIADES It will be the death of me. PHIDIPPIDES But you certainly won't feel any more anger because of the blows I gave you. STREPSIADES Come, show me what profit I will benefit from this. PHIDIPPIDES I will beat my mother just like I beat you. STREPSIADES What do you say? What are you saying? Ha! it's much worse yet. PHIDIPPIDES What if I prove to you with our school reasoning that I should beat my mother? STREPSIADES AH! if you do this, you will only have to throw yourself, along with Socrates and his reasoning, in Baratm. About! Cloud! all our troubles come from you, from you, to whom I have entrusted myself, body and soul. LEADER HOR NO, you are in themselves the cause because you have pursued the path of evil. STREPSIADES Why didn't you say that then instead of throwing eggs at the poor ignorant old man? LEADER HORE We always act in this way when we see how a person perceives a passion for evil; we will give him some terrible shame, so that he will learn to be afraid of the gods. STREPSIADES Alas! O Clouds! It's really hard, but it's simple! I shouldn't have been fooling my creditors.... But go, my dear son, come with me to avenge this unfortunate Chaerfon and Socrates, who deceived us both. PHIDIPPIDES I will do nothing against our masters. STREPSIADES About show some reverence for the ancestors of zeus! PHIDIPPIDES Mark him and his ancestral zeus! What a fool you are! Is there such a creature as zevs? STREPSIADES Why, of course. PHIDIPPIDES No, a thousand times no! The ruler of the world is the Whirlwind, which has displaced zevs. STREPSIADES He didn't write it off. I believed it, because of this whirlwind here. wretched that I am! I took a piece of clay to be a god. PHIDIPPIDES Very good! Keep your stupid nonsense for your own consumption. (He returns to the house STREPSIADES.) STREPSIADES O! What a madness! I lost my mind when I threw at the gods through the seductive phrases of Socrates. (Turning to the statue of Hermes) Oh! good Hermes, don't destroy me in your anger. Forgive me, they; your babbling will drive me crazy. Be my counselor. Should I pursue them in law or should I....? Order, and I obey-- You're right, there's no law suit; But up! let's burn down the house of these prathers. Here, Xantias, over here! Take the ladder, go out and arm yourself with an axe; Now mount on Thoughts, demolish the roof if you love your master, and let the house fall on them. Ho! Bring me a flaming torch! There are a few of them, arch-impostors as they are, on which I am determined to take revenge. DISCIPLINE (inside) Oh! About! STREPSIADES Come, torch, do your duty! Explosion in full flames! DISCIPLINE What do you think about? STREPSIADES What am I up to? Why, I'm putting on a subtle dispute with the beams of the house. SECOND DISCIPLINE (inside) Hullo! Hullo, which burns our house? STREPSIADES The man whose cloak you appropriated. SECOND DISCIPLINE You are killing us! STREPSIADES This is exactly what I hope if my axe plays me false, or I fall and break my neck. SOCRATES (appears in the window) Hello! You're the guy on the roof, what are you doing there? STREPSIADES (mocking SOCRATES' way) I'm crossing the air and contemplating the sun. SOCRAT AH! Oh! woe to me! I'm suffocating! SECOND DISCIPLINE And I, alas, must be burned! STREPSIADES AH! You insulted the gods! You've been studying the face of the moon! Chase them, kick and beat them! Forward! they have earned their destiny richly, primarily because of their blasphemy. LEADER HORE So let the chorus file off the stage. His role plays. END ----- Copyright: Internet Classics Archive by Daniel K. Stevenson, Web Atomics. World Wide Web Copyright Presentation (C) 1994-2000, Daniel K. Stevenson, Web Atomics. All rights are reserved in accordance with international and pan-American copyright conventions, including the right to reproduce in whole or in part in any form. Direct requests for permission classics.mit.edu. Translation of the Divine Augustus Case is copyrighted (C) by Thomas Bushnell, BSG. BSG. clouds aristophanes pdf download

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