

Senex and Philia (Pages 40 – 42)

SENEX

Pseudolus! Pseudolus! He could have taken this to the stone cutter for me.

(To audience.)

I dropped it, and now the nose has to be resharpened. Hysterium will take it for me.

(HE crosses to door of center house, kicks it three times, crosses S.R. A pause, then PHILIA enters from center house, arms outstretched.)

PHILIA

Take me!

(SENEX looks around.)

Take me.

SENEX

What did you say?

PHILIA

Take me!

SENEX

One moment.

(Puts statue on stoop, starts for PHILIA, turns to statue, and turns its face away from PHILIA.)

PHILIA

Here on the street if you like! My body is yours. Say it. Say it!

SENEX

(Looks around, then quickly)

Your body is mine.

PHILIA

Then take me!

(Throws herself at him.)

Is this not what you want?

SENEX

It does cross my mind now and then.

PHILIA

You must know one thing.

SENEX

What is that?

PHILIA

Though you have my body, you shall never have my heart.

SENEX

Well, you can't have everything.

(Looks heavenward.)

A thousand thanks, whichever one of you did this.

(SHE seizes him. THEY are in their embrace, hold it, as PSEUDOLUS enters D.R. carrying a vial. Not seeing SENEX and PHILIA, HE addresses the audience.)

PSEUDOLUS

Would you believe it? There was a mare sweating not two streets from here.

(Holds up the cup, then turns U.S., sees SENEX and PHILIA embracing. SENEX's face is hidden from him. PSEUDOLUS turns to audience.)

Gets to look more like his father every day!

(PHILIA looks up from the embrace.)

PHILIA

Pseudolus, he is here.

PSEUDOLUS

NO!

(SENEX looks from her to him, then to her.)

SENEX

Remember where we stopped.

(Slips out from under her. Crosses D.R. to PSEUDOLUS.)

PSEUDOLUS

Sir, You 're back.

SENEX

(Holding his spine)

She almost broke it.

PSEUDOLUS

You've returned!

SENEX

Yes!

PSEUDOLUS

Unexpectedly!

SENEX

Apparently! Who is she?

PHILIA

I shall await your bidding.

SENEX

Yes, dear.

PHILIA

(Bows)

Ever your servant.

(SHE exits into center house.)

SENEX

(Sighs)

Ever my servant.

PSEUDOLUS

(Quickly)

Yes, sir. Your servant. Your new maid. We needed someone to help.

SENEX

A new maid. She seems very loyal.

PSEUDOLUS

And very efficient and very courteous and very thoughtful.

SENEX

Maids like me. I'm neat.