

1. Slaves: Plautus v.s. Terence

Plautus: followed old Italian farce tradition (slapstick emphasised over plot)

From early on the *servus callidus* took centre stage in the humour and the plot of Roman comedies

2. *Servus callidus*: characteristics

A clever deceiver

Formulaic plots driven by this stock character

3. *Servus callidus*: social commentary

Role reversal emphasising social prejudices

4. *Servus callidus*: the problem of plausibility

Would real-life slaves have willingly involved themselves in such high-risk schemes?

The Plautine slave as master over others, and over of time and space

5. Terence's modifications of stock characters

Terence's slaves do not exhibit the traditional behavioural tendencies, and neither do other characters

Examples: *Eunuchus*' slave Parmeno and *adulescens* Chaerea

Andria's slave Davos

6. Terence's artistic goal achieved by changing the *servus callidus*' role

Terence gives his slaves a diminished role in the drama

Examples: *Eunuchus*' slave Parmeno and *adulescentes* Phaedria and Chaerea

Eunuchus 74-76

*Quid agas? Nisi ut te redimas captum quam queas
minimo; si nequeas paullulo, at quanti queas.
Et ne te afflictes.*

What should you do except that you redeem yourself, captured, at the smallest price you can? If you can't for a tiny sum, at least at whatever price you can: and don't torment yourself.

Terence makes his slaves less clever than is typical in Roman comedy

At least, he makes his other characters (seemingly) clever enough to detect the *servus callidus*' schemes

Examples: *Andria*'s slave Davos

Phormio's slave Geta and parasite Phormio

Heauton Timoroumenos' slave Syrus; *adulescentes* Clitipho and Clinias; *senex* Chremes

Heauton Timoroumenos 543-548

Ch. *Et nunc quid exspectat, Syre? an dum hinc denuo
abeat, cum tolerare huius sumtus non queat?
Nonne ad senem aliquam fabricam fingit? Sy.* *Stolidus est.
Ch.* *At te adiutare oportet adolescentuli
causa. Sy.* *Facile equidem facere possum, si iubes:
etenim quo pacto id fieri solet calleo.*

Ch. And what's he waiting for now, Syrus? Until he goes from here again, because he cannot support his expenses? Does he not come up with some trick regarding the old man? **Sy.** He's slow.

Ch. But it is fitting that you help him, for the sake of the young man. **Sy.** I can easily do it, if you order me: for I'm well versed in the way this is usually done.

Terence makes his slave the one who's being fooled, as opposed to the one fooling others

Example: *Hecyra*'s slave Parmeno and *adulescens* Pamphilus

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