

THYRSUS IN BLOOM

Translated by C.M.

‘Miser est qui amat. Certo is quidem nihili est,
qui nil amat.’

–Plautus, *Persa*

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Adidaktos

First Whore

Second Whore

Aphrodite

Socrates

Plato

Chorus of Athenian Youths

Athena

Polymathis

Pikra

Pipa (No speaking, a little fluting)

ADIDAKTOS

Yow! Ouch! Ow, wow!
My dick, it hurts from all this fucking about!
Fucking all the time, yes,
Day in and then day out!
Crammin' all these hussies
Turnin' pussies inside out!
How I love to make them scream,
And how I love to make them shout!

But there must be something deeper than the pussies of these whores;
Yes, there must be something more than all this fucking they adore.

For this house of Dionysus has the finest girls around.
And if one would just right love me,
Well then I'd be very down.

I'd be as happy as a clam,
I'd be a'buzzin' like a bee!
Hey there you, you sexy thing!
Do you not have love for me?

FIRST WHORE

Yes of course I love your beauty, unsurpassed in all of Athens!
Now won't you stick me in the ass again so I'll quit askin'?

ADIDAKTOS

Bah! You stupid whore!
For your love is but a maskin'
For a hankerin' for more,
And but a spark, that's but a'passin'.
Nay,

I need but one
Who loves me for
Greater things, yes
One who I'll adore.
Yes, one who cares
For soul and more...

There you are, intrepid whore!
Of your love do I implore!

SECOND WHORE

Yes of course I love your charm, your words are sweeter than some bees!
They make me fall in adoration,
To the ground and on my knees.
Just for you I'd make oblation
To the god of Dionysus.
Make me come, it would be priceless
Lots of fun, I'll name my prices:
Fifty in the pussy, and for sixty, in the ass,
Now, that's a damn fine deal,
And that's a'one you shouldn't pass!

For who wouldn't love a man, with a charm that's thick as yours?
So now won't you do me nice? This time on the dirty floor?

ADIDAKTOS

Away from me, you rotten meat!
Yes, away from me, or with stick I'd beat!
For I have not time, nor patient seat,
To hear your moans, your groans, your bleats.
Now make like wind, go on, get feet!

And take exit, that way's the street!

[The two whores exit]

Why does love hide its face from me?

It's not now where it ought to be.

Nowhere in place

Of Athens meet,

The one

Who'll make my heart

Skip beat.

And not in lack of looks does my problem lie,

For a lad handsomer, one shan't come by.

And not from lack of try

Do my woes compound,

For I've messed around with plenty

And thusly have I found:

That,

Alas, alone, my spirit it abides.

'Aphrodite!' it now wails, 'Aphrodite!' it now cries,

To be wanting of her love, is many man a'wont to die,

Goddess, won't you hear my pleas? Aphrodite— hear my cry?

And send for me that eros,

That arrow's love divine,

And make sure she is most handsome,

And that she is mighty fine.

For I do not want no troll,

No, no witch beside my breast.
For I want with me a sparrow,
One to fill my empty nest.

APHRODITE

Unaware of my blessings,
Mortal?
I have given you
Blessings upon blessings!

Unknowing of my boons,
Ingrate?
I have given you
Boons upon boons!

Man most untaught,
To you
I have given
Beauty upon beauty!
And
Poons upon poons!

Yet you still cry to me like I have not bestowed, but stolen from you!

Unaware!
Unknowing!
Untaught!

Depart from me,
Before I take from the store of gifts I have so graciously
Disposed upon you,

And thus go and leave you
All the more distraught!

[Aphrodite exits]

ADIDAKTOS

Ai! What plight! For the gods all spurn
My yearning.
Oi! What crap! For my patron's blind
To suffering.

Lacking knowledge, I was chastised.
Lacking learning,
My heart, despised.
Lacking teaching
My eyne
find not
a pair
of eyes.

Now, who will *pluck* me out of these depths?
Of unlearned stupor, and of empty heads?

Were there but a man,
Who could come and teach me
All the learnings of life
And who'd set yearnings free?
So that I could find one
Who with which I'm to be?
But a one, only one,
And to love equally?

[Enter Socrates and Plato]

SOCRATES

(Aside to Plato) Well, now Plato, if you hadn't
Gone and made that bloody pageant,
Then, those boys that we've been teachin',
May've not left the school and had went

To Protagoras' school
Where he's got 'em all but half bent
Now down over on his stool
And now *he's* gonna let 'em have it!

PLATO

(Aside to Socrates) I'm sorry Socrates, you are my beloved teacher,
And now, it's as I'm looking back, I see it was a reacher.
To have them all dress up for us,
Then to strip them down to sneakers.
But I couldn't well stop or resist to
Play the part of slimy preacher.

[Enter Chorus of Youths]

SOCRATES

(Aside to Plato) Hush now Plato, lookie here,
We've got potential pupils.
Their youthful buns, they all look perfect,
I haven't many scruples.

Hello there, finest youths!
Sitting,
Reclining in your booths,

Do you happen to have a moment
To come
And speak
About some truths?

For we've got all of the knowledge,
And we'll show it all
To you.

CHORUS

No we haven't got the time,
Nope we haven't got the patience,
To sit about and listen to your tales
Of otherplaces.

To hear about fine justice,
And the fruits of our good works,
Would just put us in confusion,
Set our fun right out of sorts.

If you really gotta teach someone,
if anyone'll do,
Go on and give *that one* a try,
Maybe he will heed you two.

ADIDAKTOS

Hail, honored διδάσκαλοι,
You teachers of renown!
Would that you would talk to me
And teach me up from down.

I've got no learning, that you'll see,
Αδίδακτος my name,
And to my self, and god I plea,
Have I brought plenty shame.

For I've failed that lovely goddess,
Aphrodite, god of Cyprus.
Twas as if she'd placed a hold on me,
And barred me all her spices.

And she said from lack of learning; that it was all on my part,
So now I'll be a'spurning all the folly in mine heart.

So teach me now, if you're a'willing, take me gently by the hand,
And learn me all the learning that's been done in this here land!

PLATO

Sure, why not, I'll teach you boy,
Come on over here and see,
Inside my pants I've got a toy
It's called Plato's weenie!

SOCRATES

(Aside to Plato) Easy does it Πλάτωνα, you've got to ease him in,
For with these things a gentler hand is surely keen to win.
His love for us, his teachers, those who've taught him all therein,
To lose him now would make me faint; my head would all but spin.

Listen boy, it's lesson time, let's start with lesson one...

PLATO

Take off all your pants and panties! Let's all see that bum!

SOCRATES

(Aside to Plato) Πλάτωνα, είσαι καλά;
Γιατί τα λες όλα αυτά;
Θα έπρεπε να μείνουν κρυφά
Αν ήθελες
Να γαμήσεις
Στην αγορά.

Συγγνώμη αν σε ενόχλησε,
Παιδί μου, now let's introduce it.
The forms, they're up there, in the sky,
Them you can't see, for they're quite high,
But with dialogue, my son, you'll spy–

PLATO

Your penis too, pull down your fly!

SOCRATES

(Aside to Plato) Τι σου είπα ρε γαμώτο;
Είναι σαν να θες να σε πλακώσω.
Τον έχω τώρα, τότε μην μιλάς,

Okay then, let's get back to class.
The form of beauty's in the Mind,
And by sharp wit, love is designed.
So learn from us, and you will find,

A lover's call, within good time!

ADIDAKTOS

Maybe untaught, but I'm not blind
To see with what intent
Is Plato now, the malcontent
Straight eyeing my behind!
I thought that you were righteous, now I see a different kind,
And it's a wily scheme that y'all have got within your minds!

Friends, people, you youths; for you've seen what has just happened,
I ask of you to help me shoo these geezers out of Athens!

CHORUS

This we'll do, and just for you, without a second askin'!

[Socrates and Plato exit]

ADIDAKTOS

Thank you, youths,
for you have proved
most useful in a pinch!

I do not know
What I would do
Without you in that synch!

But now,
Must find
Another way
To learn what must be learnt,

For if my love's too far away
My soul, it will be burnt.

CHORUS

You say that you need teaching, and a learning most inspired,
Well, if that road ever comes to close, know with us you may retire.

[Exit Chorus]

ADIDAKTOS

I know just who
Can help me to
Place wisdom in my hand,

Her name's the same
As city's here,
This country, this here land!

O great Athena, lauded lady of all learning!
Help me to
Just get through
This life without such yearning!

O, thou all seeing owl,
Thou wisdom in the flesh!
Teach me where
To find someone
Whose love is oh so fresh!

O, thou most high Athena,

Your wreath strung loft with laurels,
Show me path straight
To my love 'n
I'll adorn your temple floral.

[Enter Athena]

ATHENA

If it be
Wisdom you seek
Come to my place of worship.

And if you care
For ladies fair
Then you may be most fortunèd,

Fairer than
Your human friends
Am I, goddess of wisdom,

Not sleezy like
Those whorish ones
Those boorish classless victims.

Easy, I am not.
A virgin,
Born of skull of Δία,

Please me?
It will take a lot
You thought
Our love will be tedious.

But if you're sure
Upon this road
Of finding love
Divine,

Then be preparing
For some daring
Dangers
I've divined

ADIDAKTOS

To have your company
So fine!
To lay a god
Would be sublime!

Tell me what dangers
I'm to find,
Tell me of terrors
Which leave me blind!

ATHENA
Your first of trials
Will not be so hard
For it will be
Just thus:

Find me then
An elephant
And bring me

Now
His tusk!

ADIDAKTOS

Well, that seems
Much too hard,
Too much to ask from
Me.

Unless you mean
In metaphor,
And not take it
Lit'rally?

ATHENA

What metaphor?
What jest?
Now do you really think I'm joking?
I want you to kill
An elephant
And in its blood
To leave it choking!

ADIDAKTOS

Well, that's not very nice,
And I think I must be going,
The youths! They call my name again,
But thanks for all your knowing!

ATHENA

If I don't have

My trunkish tusk,
In three days you will be sorry.

For I will smite
You drunken fuck
And send you home to mommy!

[Athena Exits]

ADIDAKTOS

Hot and cold was this one now,
From pole to pole, was she unwound!
I kinda liked her crazy side,
But life with her? I'd not abide!

Forget this learning, screw this wisdom,
For what's it got me? Fuck all, and then some!
I must go on, speak to some youths,
To find therein a beaut' and muse.
To speak to my soul, fair and dear,
To hold one close, to tug her near.
Look, here comes a youth I know,
With friends and mates from long ago.

[Enter Polymathis, Pikra, and Pipa]

Polymathis, my good dear friend!
How I thought you had reached your end!
Been gobbled up by all thine studies,
And took too much up your rear end!

Pikra, why, you sleezy bitch!
I thought I'd find you dead in ditch!
The bottom of some hole somewhere,
For being such a nosy snitch!

And Pipa, why, my lady fairest,
Thine eyes now spark; with purpose glarest.
You look right through, into my soul,
Pipa, why—

POLYMATHIS

You'd fill her hole!
You'd like to stuff her full of grapes,
I see it written on your face!
You'd like to tell her 'Girl, it is too late,
Let's get outta here, back to my place!'

Adidaktos my friend! My boy, you haven't changed a bit!
You're still that cunning *πονηρός*, and sorry soul to wit!
You're still unlearned as forever, chasing after clit!
I've come to show you better ways, leave this sorry act and bit!

ADIDAKTOS

Polymathis, I've left that cult, no more was it my fit.
For something's stirred within my breast, yes something has been lit.
I did not know quite what it was, til now, I've just been hit,
With cupid's crossbow arrowhead; hit twice, the arrow's split!

POLYMATHIS

What, some double dicking have you taken
From that naked cherub?

ADIDAKTOS

No, you fool, I've found my love,
The one whom I'll take care of.

The one I see, I will fawn o'er
Adore for years to come,
You've made your way back home, Pipa,
Back to me you have now come!

It's no coincidence, I say, you've found me at such time,
For everything's a reason, and everyone has got their rhyme.
You may think it be a treason to confess my love like this,
But Pipa, I think life with you would be but heaven's bliss!

PIKRA

Ehem, excuse me 'Didaktoulis, I think someone you've missed
For when speaking of your newfound love
Two bolts, had they not hit?

ADIDAKTOS

Yes of course my dear Pikra, I cherish our fond mem'ry,
But newer bolt, being Pipa's, had cracked and broke th' one of thee.

But,
Pipa, you have yet to speak,
Do tell me how you're feeling.
For your eyes have got me weak,
And now my legs give way to reeling!

PIPA

[Plays flute tune]

ADIDAKTOS

With what skill do you serve such sweet melody!
With what love do you play my lulling lullaby!
Where did you learn such fantastic route
Of making score, thereby, with flute?

PIPA

[Continues on the flute]

ADIDAKTOS

Ah, down by Piraeus you learned
To blow such air
With so much grace,
With so much care.

There, you say, my lady fair,
Was where, took place,
Your love's new face,
Out of despair.

Tossed around,
By boys from there,
Then you'd unwound,
And loved to plough.

Naughty times
They'd come in bounds,
Working then on shipman's bow.

Till at once you'd had your fill,
And said 'to me, put on the bill',
Showing fortitude of will,

Yet your life, it was, most awful still.

Having nowhere, being no one,
Seemed to you to be not much fun.
So to Athens you returned
Having learned what you had learned.

PIPA

[Fluting intensifies]

ADIDAKTOS

Do my ears deceive
What my mind receives?
That you love me now,
And will never leave?

PIPA

[Flute tune resolves resonantly]

PIKRA

Give us now a break with this
Your stupid flutish flouting!

POLYMATHIS

I think you're now a tad jealous
I see you all but pouting!

PIKRA

Envious I am not
Im shocked
You would dare say that of me!

I could not be
Jealous of
A flutist quite this fugly!

ADIDAKTOS

Of course I'll love you, sweetest Pipa
Don't you heed the bitter words of Pikra,

Together, life will be a dream,
Our love will mend
Where suff'ring bends
Life's fragile, feeble seam.

We'll grow old
And be more bold,
Of loving as days go by.
We'll bind our souls
To one another,
To the heavens we will fly.

[Enter Athena]

ATHENA

Darest thou
To showeth how
Our love, it meant
Quite nothing?

For carest thou
And cherish now
This flutish
Brutish plaything?

I'll take her then,
And then she'll spend
Eternity in Hades,

And then you'll marry me
And we
Will have us lots of babies!

[Thunder strikes, and a branch of an olive tree cracks Pipa on the head; Pipa is
dead on the ground]

ADIDAKTOS

Sweet Pipa,
What now has been done to you?!
Sweet Pipa,
It seems now that my life is through!

Sweet Pipa,
It seems jealousy has won the day.
Sweet Pipa,
Together we'd have been so gay!

Sweet Pipa,
All you want, to blow your flute.
Sweet Pipa,
Damn it all, for you were so cute!

PIKRA

Adidaktos, you must now see,
How better off you'll be with me.
That little Pipa may've brought some glee,
But now I'll show how to love properly.

Not with fluting, nay, I shan't condone,
That horrid blowing, and tooting of one's horn.
I shan't be wild, to family I'll bring not scorn,
Not like that child, that flutist, sucking on some corn!

For she had but one trick, that one whom you adored,
And she played it on your dick, that fluting that you scored!
I shall not e'er do the same, no matter how much you implore,
For I am not, I say, that first or second whore!

ADIDAKTOS

Fine, I say, I shall settle for what's left,
For from my finest fluting wench I'm bound to be bereft.

And so our days will thus be spent:
Waiting for death's owl be sent,
Loving not, and hating then
Each other, and ourselves, and when
The dove of death arrives one day,
The strings our hearts are bound to play,
Will be of the most joyous lot, singing songs most gay,
For true death had came, once and for all, when Pipa died today.

CHORUS

(To the Audience)

For today, Athena, she had halted

That old Marsayan tune,

Today –yes, the very day–

When the thyrsus had begun to bloom.