

Miles Gloriosus (Pages 68 – 74)

(LYCUS exits into house. A SECOND FANFARE is heard, followed by MILES' voice,

O.S.L.)

MILES

Stand aside, everyone! I take large steps!

(HE enters with SOLDIERS.)

(MUSIC Under Action.)

SOLDIERS

One, two, one, two...

MILES

We not only fought but we won too!

SOLDIERS

Left, right, left, right...

MILES

There's none of the enemy left, right?

SOLDIERS

Right! Left! ... uh ... Ri—uh—Left! ... uh ...

(Utter confusion.)

MILES

Halt!

(MUSIC OUT.)

PSEUDOLUS

(Saluting.)

Hail, Miles Gloriosus!

(FANFARE.)

MILES

You are...?

PSEUDOLUS

Marcus Lycus, Sir. I am dazzled by your presence.

(MUSIC VAMPS.)

MILES

Everyone is.

PSEUDOLUS

(Indicating center house)

Welcome to my house, great captain. Your bride awaits you.

MILES

My bride!

SONG

PSEUDOLUS

Present the bride!

(FANFARE.)

Pay homage all! Here, in one being is Juno, Diana and Venus.

(ALL kneel.)

Present the bride!

(FANFARE. PSEUDOLUS bows. HYSTERIUM enters. To MILES.)

A short delay, sir!

(Pulls HYSTERIUM D.L., then.)

What happened?

HYSTERIUM

I'll tell you what happened! Nothing! She won't drink!

PSEUDOLUS

What?

HYSTERIUM

She says on Crete her religion forbids it.

PSEUDOLUS

He had to fall in love with a religious Cretan! I'll get her to drink!

(To MILES, as LYCUS again.)

Captain, forgive the girl. She primps and preens. She wants to be worthy of so great a warrior.

(Exits into center house with HYSTERIUM.)

MILES

Understandable. I am a legend in my own time.

(Laughs. SOLDIERS join in.)

Men! Close ranks!

(THEY do.)

Stand tall!

(PSEUDOLUS enters from center house.)

Lycus!

(LYCUS peeks out of upper window of house S.R., listens.)

Where is my bride?

PSEUDOLUS

Did not she come through this door?

MILES

No. What are you saying, man?

PSEUDOLUS

The virgin has escaped!

MILES

Oh, no! The beautiful bride I bargained for!

PSEUDOLUS

Vanished!

MILES

This is monstrous!

PSEUDOLUS

It certainly is. But look at it this way. Since I cannot deliver her to you, you do not have to pay me the 500 minae.

MILES

I paid you the 500 minae!

(PSEUDOLUS reacts.)

Through my agents. Has the money escaped as well?

PSEUDOLUS

There has been a little mistake.

(Laughs.)

I was only joking. Lycus will pay you.

(LYCUS groans, disappears from window.)

MILES

What?

PSEUDOLUS

I was helping out a friend. Allow me, great captain.

(HE crosses to house R., pulls LYCUS out.)

Come out here!

(To MILES.)

Here is your man!

(To LYCUS.)

Tell him! Tell him who I am!

(HYSTERIUM enters from center house.)

LYCUS

Everyone knows who you are, Lycus.

HYSTERIUM

Of course. He is Marcus Lycus.

PSEUDOLUS

No! No! He is Lycus. This is his house!

LYCUS

(To MILES)

Look within, Sir. You will find none here but hooded men. We are a holy order.

An ancient brotherhood of lepers.

(MILES backs away.)

Unclean! Unclean! And bless you, Lycus!

(HE backs out D.R.)

MILES

What now, Lycus?

PSEUDOLUS

What?

MILES

I shall tell you what! With axe and pike, my soldiers shall raze this house to the ground!

HYSTERIUM

(Fainting)

Our beautiful house!

MILES

And you, you shall receive the maximum punishment—death!

(COURTESANS scream.)

PSEUDOLUS

Please, Sir, please! May I be allowed a word?

MILES

A word?

PSEUDOLUS

One word.

MILES

It had better be a good one.

PSEUDOLUS

Oh, it is, Sir!

MILES

What is it?

PSEUDOLUS

(To AUDIENCE)

Intermission!