

LYSIMACHUS Now, pretty one, how long have you been at this trade?

MARINA What trade, sir?

LYSIMACHUS Why, I cannot name 't but I shall offend.

MARINA I cannot be offended with my trade. Please you to name it.

LYSIMACHUS How long have you been of this profession?

MARINA E'er since I can remember.

LYSIMACHUS Did you go to 't so young? Were you a gamester at five or at seven?

MARINA Earlier too, sir, if now I be one.

LYSIMACHUS Why, the house you dwell in proclaims you to be a creature of sale.

MARINA Do you know this house to be a place of such resort, and will come into 't? I hear say you're of honorable parts and are the governor of this place.

LYSIMACHUS Why, hath your principal made known unto you who I am?

MARINA Who is my principal?

LYSIMACHUS Why, your herbwoman, she that sets seeds and roots of shame and iniquity. O, you have heard something of my power, and so stand aloof for more serious wooing. But I protest to thee, pretty one, my authority shall not see thee, or else look friendly upon thee. Come, bring me to some private place. Come, come.

MARINA

If you were born to honor, show it now;  
If put upon you, make the judgment good  
That thought you worthy of it.

LYSIMACHUS

How's this? How's this? Some more. Be sage.

MARINA For me

That am a maid, though most ungentle Fortune  
Have placed me in this sty, where, since I came,  
Diseases have been sold dearer than physic—  
That the gods  
Would set me free from this unhallowed place,  
Though they did change me to the meanest bird  
That flies i' the purer air!

LYSIMACHUS I did not think

Thou couldst have spoke so well, ne'er dreamt thou couldst.  
Had I brought hither a corrupted mind,  
Thy speech had altered it. Hold, here's gold for thee.  
Persevere in that clear way thou goest  
And the gods strengthen thee! *He gives her money.*

MARINA The good gods preserve you.

LYSIMACHUS For me, be you thoughten

That I came with no ill intent, for to me  
The very doors and windows savor vilely.  
Fare thee well. Thou art a piece of virtue,  
And I doubt not but thy training hath been noble.  
Hold, here's more gold for thee. *He gives her money.*  
A curse upon him, die he like a thief,  
That robs thee of thy goodness! If thou dost  
Hear from me, it shall be for thy good.