

The Problematic Nature of *Philia* in the *Samia*: A Comparative Study of Aristotle and Menander

List of characters mentioned in my presentation

Demeas, a wealthy Athenian citizen.

Moschion, the adopted son of Demeas.

Niceratus, a friend of Demeas and father of Plangon.

Chrysis, Demeas' *hetaira* from Samos.

1. Ar. *NE* 1155b31-4¹

τῷ δὲ φίλῳ φασὶ δεῖν βούλεσθαι τὰγαθὰ ἐκείνου ἔνεκα. τοὺς δὲ βουλομένους οὕτω τὰγαθὰ εὖνους λέγουσιν, ἂν μὴ ταῦτό καὶ παρ' ἐκείνου γίνηται· εὐνοίαν γὰρ ἐν ἀντιπεπονθόσι φιλίαν εἶναι.

Whereas we are told that we ought to wish our friend well for his own sake. But persons who wish another good for his own sake, if the feeling is not reciprocated, are merely said to feel goodwill for him: only when mutual is such goodwill termed friendship.

2. Men. *Samia*, 5-9

Mo: [......]ο τοῦτο ἐσόμενον λογίζομαι,/ μᾶλλον] δὲ τοῦτ' ἂν εὐλόγως ὑμῖν ποεῖν [......] τὸν ἐκείνου διεξελθὼν τρόπον./ οἷς μὲ]ν ἐτρύφησα τῷ τότ' εὐθέως χρόνῳ ὦν παι]δίον, μεμνημένος σαφῶς ἐῶ-/ εὐεργέ]τει γὰρ ταῦτά μ' οὐ φρονοῦντά πω.

Mo: I reckon that this will be..., but to do this more reasonably, having gone through his character in detail. I will let it be, although I clearly remember it, how I lived luxuriously the time immediately following that, when I was a child. He showed me these kindnesses, not yet having full knowledge.

¹ Both Greek text and translation of the *Nicomachean Ethics* are taken from Rackham.

3. Men. *Samia*, 14-18

Mo: τῶν φίλων/ τοῖς δεομένοις τὰ μέτρι' ἐπαρκεῖν ἐδυνάμην./ δι' ἐκεῖνον ἦν ἄνθρωπος.

Mo: I was able to help my friends to a reasonable extent with their needs. Through him I was a human being.

4. Men. *Samia*, 18-19

Mo: ἀστεῖαν δ' ὅμως/ τούτων χάριν τιν' ἀπεδίδουν· ἦν κόσμιος.

Mo: But I gave him some fine return: I was well-behaved.

5. Men. *Samia*, 343-47

Δη: οὐδενὶ τρόπῳ γὰρ πιθανὸν εἶναι μοι δοκεῖ/ τὸν εἰς ἅπαντας κόσμιον καὶ σώφρονα τοὺς ἀλλοτρίους εἰς ἐμὲ τοιοῦτον γεγονέναι./ οὐδ' εἰ δεκάκις ποητός ἐστι, μὴ γόνῳ/ ἐμὸς ὑός· οὐ γὰρ τοῦτο, τὸν τρόπον δ' ὀρῶ.

De: In no way do I think it is plausible that he who was well-behaved and self-controlled towards all outsiders would do such to me, not even if he is ten times adopted, not my son by birth. For I do not look at that, but I look at his character.

6. Men. *Samia*, 350-52

Δη: ἐπιλαθοῦ τοῦ πόθου, πέπαυσ' ἐρῶν,/ καὶ τὰτύχημα μὲν τὸ γεγονὸς κρύφθ' ὅσον ἔνεστι διὰ τὸν ὑόν...

De: Forget your yearning, desist from your passion [for her], and conceal, as much as possible, the mistake, it is necessary that you do this for the sake of your son.

7. Men. *Samia*, 517-518

Δη: __Νικήρατε,/ ἔκβαλ', ἱκετεύω· συναδικοῦ γνησίως ὡς ἂν φίλος.

De: Niceratus, throw her out, I beseech you; sincerely take offence as would a friend.

8. Men. *Samia*, 623-629

Mo: εἰ μὲν καλῶς οὖν εἶχε τὰ περὶ τὴν κόρην/ καὶ μὴ τοσαῦτ' ἦν ἐμποδῶν, ὄρκος, πόθος, χρόνος, συνήθει', οἷς ἐδουλούμην ἐγώ,/ οὐκ ἂν παρόντα γ' αὐτίς ἠτιάσατο αὐτόν με τοιοῦτ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἀποφθαρεῖς/ ἐκ τῆς πόλεως ἂν ἐκποδῶν εἰς Βάκτρα ποι ἢ Καρίαν διέτριβον αἰχμάζων ἐκεῖ·

Mo: If the matters concerning the girl were to go well, and there were not so many hindrances, my oath, my longing, the long familiarity, to which I am enslaved, indeed he would never again lay such a charge against me to my face. Having ran out from the city,

out of his way, to somewhere in Baktria or Karia, I would be living the life of a spearman there.

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