**The Positioned Parasite: Philip in Xenophon’s *Symposium***

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1. **Crashing the Party**

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| Ὅτι μὲν **γελωτοποιός** εἰμι ἴστε πάντες· ἥκω δὲ προθύμως νομίσας γελοιότερον εἶναι τὸ ἄκλητον ἢ τὸ κεκλημένον ἐλθεῖν ἐπὶ τὸ δεῖπνον. Κατακλίνου τοίνυν, ἔφη ὁ Καλλίας· καὶ γὰρ οἱ παρόντες σπουδῆς μέν, ὡς ὁρᾷς, μεστοί, **γέλωτος δὲ ἴσως ἐνδεέστεροι.** |

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| “You all know that I am a **comedian**; and so I’ve come here in the firm belief that it’s funnier to come to your dinner uninvited than invited.” “Well, then,” said Callias, “take a seat; for the guests, though well fed, as you can see, on seriousness, are perhaps **rather ill supplied with laughter**.”  Xen. *Symp.* 1.13 |

2. **The Joke Falls Flat**

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| **Δειπνούντων δὲ αὐτῶν** ὁ Φίλιππος γελοῖόν τι εὐθὺς ἐπεχείρει λέγειν, ἵνα δὴ ἐπιτελοίη ὧνπερ ἕνεκα ἐκαλεῖτο **ἑκάστοτε** ἐπὶ τὰ δεῖπνα. ὡς δ᾿ οὐκ ἐκίνησε γέλωτα, τότε μὲν ἀχθεσθεὶς φανερὸς ἐγένετο. αὖθις δ᾿ ὀλίγον ὕστερον ἄλλο τι γελοῖον ἐβούλετο λέγειν. ὡς δὲ οὐδὲ τότε ἐγέλασαν ἐπ᾿ αὐτῷ, **ἐν τῷ μεταξὺ** παυσάμενος τοῦ δείπνου συγκαλυψάμενος **κατέκειτο**. |

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| **As they engaged in their dinner**, Philip tried making a joke, so as to render the service that secured him a dinner engagement **every time**; but when he failed to get a laugh he was visibly annoyed. A little later he tried another joke; but when they would not laugh at it this time either, he stopped **in the middle** of his dinner, covered his head with his cloak, and **laid down** on his couch.  Xen. *Symp.* 1.14 |

3**. Not Good Enough for Autolycus**

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| Εὐθὺς μὲν οὖν ἐννοήσας τις τὰ γιγνόμενα ἡγήσατ᾿ ἂν φύσει βασιλικόν τι τὸ κάλλος εἶναι, ἄλλως τε καὶ ἢν μετ᾿ **αἰδοῦς καὶ σωφροσύνης** καθάπερ Αὐτόλυκος τότε κεκτῆταί τις αὐτό. πρῶτον μὲν γὰρ ὥσπερ ὅταν φέγγος τι ἐν νυκτὶ φανῇ, πάντων προσάγεται τὰ ὄμματα, οὕτω καὶ τότε τοῦ Αὐτολύκου τὸ κάλλος πάντων εἷλκε τὰς ὄψεις πρὸς αὐτόν. |

A person who took note of what happened would have come at once to the conclusion that beauty (*kallos*) is something naturally regal, especially when, as in the present case of Autolycus, its possessor joins with it **modesty and self-control**. For in the first place, just as the sudden glow of a light at night draws all eyes to itself, so now the beauty of Autolycus compelled everyone to look at him.

Xen. *Symp*. 1.8-9

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| 4. **Scene and Silence Broken** |
| ἐκεῖνοι μὲν οὖν σιωπῇ ἐδείπνουν, ὥσπερ τοῦτο ἐπιτεταγμένον αὐτοῖς ὑπὸ κρείττονός τινος. Φιλιππος δ’ ὁ γελωτοποιὸς κρούσας τὴν θύραν… |
| The company, then were feasting in silence, as though at the command of some greater authority, when Philip the comedian knocked at the door…  Xen. *Symp*. 1.11 |
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