

## Plautus, *Truculentus* 78

Modern editions print Pl. *Truc.* 77-8a thus (Diniarchus soliloquizing):—

nam mihi haec meretrix quae hic habet, Phronesium,  
suom nomen omne ex pectore exmovit meo,  
φρόνησιν, nam φρόνησις est sapientia.

78 omne *Camerarius et universi deinceps editores* : omnes P (om̄s BD, omnes C)

‘Now here’s my case—this courtesan that lives in there, (*pointing*) Phronesium, has expunged that name of hers entirely from my mind, expunged all phronesis, phronesis being wisdom. (tr. Nixon, Loeb)

We are concerned here neither with the perhaps surprising translation of φρόνησις as *sapientia*, on which see Leo 1912, 106-7, nor with the precise point of v. 78a, on which see Enk 1953, II 26, but rather only with Camerarius’ conjecture *omne* in v. 78 for the MSS’ impossible lection *omnes*.

The phrase *suom nomen omne* ‘that name of hers entirely’ would certainly be acceptable in later Latin (cf. *Gallia est omnis divisa...*), but this use of the singular *omne* in the predicative and amplifying sense ‘x, all of x!’ is difficult to parallel in Plautus. The few such cases of the predicative use are given by Lodge ([1933] 1971, II s.v. *omnis* II.C (p. 252 col. 2)), where we find (§1), in all of Plautus, but three instances of the singular *omne*. All three are found in *Rudens* (396, 546, 1308), but in the first two cases, *omne* modifies the double subject *aurum et argentum*, and in the last case *omne* is virtually a substantive meaning ‘everything’, equivalent to *omnia* (*confRACTA est navis; perdididi, quidquid erat, miser ibi omne*; for practical purposes referring to *aurum et argentum*).<sup>1)</sup> On the other hand, every *other* instance of this predicative use of the adjective (*ibid.* §2), of which there are nearly three score, is plural. Lodge himself takes Camerarius’ *omne* in *Truc.* 78, not as predicative, but as attributive (*ibid.* II.2.b, p. 252 col. 1 lines 1-2), for which he supplies parallels; but that is manifestly not how Nixon translates it above, and indeed, it is difficult to see what sense the attributive use would give here: ‘she expunged her *full* name from my heart’, ‘she expunged the *entirety* of her name from my heart’? But as opposed to what—*half* of her name? a syllable or two?

<sup>1)</sup> Contrast the predicative use of *totus* in the singular, of which Plautus has (Lodge, s.v. *totus* II.2) more than thirty instances.

I do not wish to maintain that *omne* is impossible here, but only that a preferable alternative is within easy reach. The preponderance of evidence offered by amatory elegy shows that *omni ex pectore* 'out of one's whole heart' is a standard Latin idiom, and precisely what we need here. Decisive is Catul. 76.20-2 *eripite hanc pestem perniciemque mihi, / quae mihi subrepens imos ut torpor in artus / expulit ex omni pectore laetitia*s, where, like Diniarchus in his monologue, so too is Catullus discoursing on the pain and misfortunes brought on by romantic love. Cf. also Lygdamus 1.19-20 (= Tib. 3.1.19-20) *illa mihi referet, si nostri mutua cura est, an minor, an toto pectore deciderim*, Ov. *Ars* 3.56 *e toto pectore cessit onus*; Catul. 68.25-6 *cuius ego interitu totā de mente fugavi / haec studia atque omnes delicias animi*.

We should accordingly read *omni* in *Truc.* 77, 'she has expunged that name of hers from every last corner of my heart...'. How exactly the corruption is to be explained, I do not know; but it seems to me likely that the sciolistic scribe who knew just enough Latin to write the unmetrical and nonsensical *omnes* in this passage was sufficiently unfamiliar with the finer points of classical and preclassical Latin idiom that nothing should be put past him.

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