

## **The Importance of the Title of the play ‘The Pot of Gold’ by Plautus**

The title of the play of Plautus is ‘The Pot of Gold’ and it is important as far as the moral of the play is concerned. Really, this pot of gold given by the family God, Lar familiaris to Euclio, makes him happy but the impact is just the opposite. This pot of gold is the actual reason of his anxiety, doubt and ill temper. He tries his best to conceal it from the eyes of other people and changes its hiding place continuously so that nobody should come to know about it. He pretends to be poor and so his miserly temper is, thus, revealed to us. In this way we see that the pot of gold governs the entire action of the play. We notice that there is comic irony in the incident in which Euclio gives an opportunity to the slave of Lyconides (Strobilus) in order to get access to the pot for taking it away and it leads to his lamentation despite his daughter’s painful condition because of the labour pain of the birth of her illegitimate baby.

The delightful end of the drama too follows from the same pot of gold. Lyconides restores the stolen pot from his slave, Strobilus, by making him free from his slavery. He returns the pot of gold to Euclio and he is ready for the marriage of his daughter, Phaedria with Lyconides due to his service to him in the matter of the pot of gold.

Thus, the drama comes to an end happily in the restoration of the pot of gold and the marriage of two lovers but thereafter the action of Euclio is strange. He no longer wishes to keep the pot of gold with him but offers it to the newly married couple as a gift. His concluding speech in the Last Act throws light on his feeling of the moral that the pot of the gold happens to be a curse:

Day or night I’ve not had a moment’s peace  
With that treasure on my mind. Every hour  
I have thought of some thief nosing round  
My house, some accident exposing the  
Whereabouts of the hidden hoard.  
--- A dozen times a night I have worked to  
hear a spade scratch or a lock turned. Now  
at last I am going to sleep.

So we can say that the title of the play appears quite suitable and just, and completely throws light on the subject-matter and tone of the drama.

***NOTE: Notes prepared through open sources***

