

POLYPHEMUS. So I don't seem to you to live according to the Gospel?

CANNIUS. You can best decide that question yourself.

POLYPHEMUS. If it could be decided with a battleax ...

CANNIUS. If someone called you a liar or a rake to your face, what would you do?

POLYPHEMUS. What would I do? He'd feel my fists.

CANNIUS. What if someone hit you hard?

POLYPHEMUS. I'd break his neck for that.

CANNIUS. But your book teaches you to repay insults with a soft answer; and "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

POLYPHEMUS. I've read that, but it slipped my mind.

...

CANNIUS. Then why do you insist you love the Gospel?

POLYPHEMUS. I'll tell you. A certain Franciscan in our neighborhood kept babbling from the pulpit against Erasmus' [translation of the] New Testament. I met the man privately, grabbed him by the hair with my left hand, and punched him with my right. I gave him a hell of a beating; made his whole face swell. What do you say to that? Isn't that promoting the Gospel? Next I gave him absolution by banging him on the head three times with this very same book, raising three lumps, in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CANNIUS. The evangelical spirit, all right! This is certainly defending the Gospel with the Gospel.

Source: Desiderius Erasmus, *Ten Colloquies*, 1518