Translation 12D (lines 1-15)

For I, on the one hand, once I was made a member of the Council of Five Hundred I proposed a decree, which I brought up to the people. This Stephanos on the other hand, after proposing my decree as illegal, began the hostility. For after convicting the decree, by providing false witnesses, he asked for a large fine, which I was not able to pay in full. So he sought, after placing me in the most severe perplexity, to be deprived of citizen rights, because I owed money to the city and I was unable to pay.

So all of us are about to find ourselves in poverty. For the disaster is going to be big, and my humiliation will also be big, for my wife and my daughters, finding myself in poverty and being unable to provide dowry and owing a fine to the city. Thus, I am very grateful to the judges, who were not persuaded by Stephanos, but they charged me a smaller amount.

Therefore, had Stephanos become the cause of so great misfortunes for all of you, no one of us would have been wronged. So now, because all of my friends urge me and order me to punish Stephanos, under whom I myself was harmed, I introduce this case to you. For the friends reproach me, calling me the most cowardly of men, if I do not punish him on behalf of my own daughters and wife.