Test Exercise Ten

A Spartan envoy arrives. After he has explained how things stand in Sparta, he and his Athenian counterpart agree to come to terms with Lysistrata. Lysistrata states the conditions on which a return to peace might be agreed.

(From Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*)

Spartan: Where is the Athenian Council of Five Hundred? We would like to announce something new.

Athenian: For who are you, coming here towards the wall, walking hastily?

Spartan: I am a herald, by the Two Gods, and I just now came from Sparta about the peace.

Athenian: So, what is this on you, that you hold in your hand?

Spartan: A Spartan code-staff.

Athenian: I understand well what you are saying. But what is happening in Sparta? Tell us if you wish.

Spartan: I will happily tell you. For some great evil fell upon us; the reason is Lampito, who after coming up from Athens convinced the women to refrain from sex.

Athenian: And how are you coping? You suffer badly, from what you are saying.

Spartan: I happen to suffer badly, by the Two Gods. Therefore, it is necessary for us, after convincing the women, to make truce, which will order those, and to bring an end to the war.

Athenian: Indeed, why don't we call Lysistrata, who could make truce with us alone? For we also suffered from this evil.

Spartan: By the Two Gods. Could anyone say where is Lysistrata?

Athenian: But it is not necessary for us to call for her; for she, having heard what we were saying, already happens to have come here.

Lysistrata: Come men. Listen to the words which I am saying. Although I am a woman, I have a brain. Thus, what are you fighting for now and you don't stop the nastiness, for you have the same altars and the same sacrifices? What Greek men and cities you destroy now, for is it possible instead of those to see peace, to become friends and allies?

Spartans and Athenians: And yet we do not pray for any other gift rather than to be able to make love.

Lysistrata: Thus all of you brought an end to this war by making truce. And then each may take their own woman and return home.