

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? ^{1.1} We would like to announce something new.

Athenian: ^{1.2} 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 ^{1.3} peace.

Athenian: So, what is this on you, that you hold in your ^{1.4} 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, ^{1.5} by the Two Gods. Therefore, it is necessary for us, ^{1.6} after convincing the women, to make truce, which ^{1.7} will order those, and to bring an end to the war.

Athenian: Indeed, why don't we call Lysistrata, ^{1.8} 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? ^{1.8} at 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.

Index of comments

- 1.1 'I would like to announce'
- 1.2 'But'
- 1.3 just 'about peace' - there's no definite article
- 1.4 'hands'
- 1.5 'obeying' - peithw in the middle means 'to obey' (+ dat.)
- 1.6 'they themselves urge'
- 1.7 'who alone could make a truce for us'
- 1.8 'Why do you now destroy Greek men and cities?'