

Section 12D (August 6, 2012) (Reading Greek: Text and Vocabulary page 148-149)

ἐγὼ μὲν γὰρ βουλευτὴς ποτε καταστὰς ἔγραψα ψήφισμά τι ὃ ἐξήνεγκα εἰς τὸν δῆμον.

For while I was a member of the council, I proposed a certain decree, which I brought forward before the people.

ὁ δὲ Στέφανος οὕτως, γραψάμενος παρανόμων τὸ ἐμὸν ψήφισμα, τῆς ἔχθρας ὑπήρξεν.
But Stephanos here, having denounced my decree as illegal, began our enmity.

ἐλὼν γὰρ τὸ ψήφισμα, ψευδεῖς μάρτυρας παρασχόμενος, ἤτησε τίμημα μέγα, ὃ οὐχ οἷός τ' ἦ ἐκτεῖσθαι.
For having obtained a verdict against the decree, he brought forth lying witnesses and demanded a large fine, which I was not able to pay.

ἐζητεῖ γὰρ, εἰς τὴν ἐσχάτην ἀπορίαν καταστήσας ἐμέ, ἄτιμον ποιεῖσθαι, ὀφείλοντα τὰ χρήματα τῇ πόλει καὶ οὐ δυνάμενον ἐκτεῖσαι.
For he was trying to deprive me of my rights, having placed me in the worst difficulty, owing money to the city and being unable to pay.

ἐμέλλομεν οὖν ἡμεῖς ἅπαντες εἰς ἔνδειαν καταστήσεσθαι.
So we were all about to come into a state of poverty.

μεγάλῃ δ' ἔμελλεν ἔσεσθαι ἡ συμφορὰ, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ αἰσχὺνῃ μοι, ὑπὲρ τε τῆς γυναικὸς καὶ τῶν θυγατέρων, εἰς πενίαν καταστάντι καὶ προῖκα οὐ δυναμένῳ παρασχεῖν καὶ τὸ τίμημα τῇ πόλει ὀφείλοντι.
And the disaster was about to be great, and also my sense of shame on behalf of my wife and daughters, as I had been placed in poverty and wasn't able to pay either a dowry or the fine to the city.

πολλὴν οὖν χάριν οἶδα τοῖς δικασταῖς, οἳ οὐκ ἐπείσθησαν ὑπὸ Στεφάνου, ἀλλ' ἐλάττονά μοι ἐτίμησαν δίκην.
So I am very grateful to the jurors, who were not persuaded by Stephanos, but gave me a smaller penalty.

οὐκοῦν τοσούτων κακῶν αἴτιος ἡμῖν πᾶσιν ἐγένετο Στέφανος, οὐδέποτε ὑφ' ἡμῶν ἀδικηθεῖς.
Therefore Stephanos was responsible for such great misfortune for us, and was never wronged by us.

νῦν δέ, πάντων τῶν φίλων παρακαλούντων με καὶ κελεύόντων τιμωρεῖσθαι Στέφανον, ὑφ' οὗ τοιαῦτα ἡδικήθην, εἰσάγω εἰς ὑμᾶς ταύτην τὴν δίκην.
And now, with all my friends calling on me and urging me to seek vengeance on Stephanos, by whom I was wronged, I introduce to you this lawsuit.

ὄνειδίζουσι γὰρ μοι οἱ φίλοι, ἀνανδρότατον ἀνθρώπων καλοῦντες, εἰ μὴ λήψομαι δίκην ὑπὲρ τε τῶν θυγατέρων καὶ τῆς γυναικὸς τῆς ἐμῆς.
For my friends are reproaching me and calling me the most cowardly of men, if I don't inflict punishment on behalf of both my daughters and my wife.

Index of comments

- 1.1 or 'when I became a member of the council'
- 1.2 'people'
- 1.3 'and owing a fine to the city'
- 1.4 'all of us'
- 1.5 'with such things'