

Philokleon: Go, all friends, go. For I hear you singing, but I am not able to sing. What shall I do? For these men are guarding me, despite my wanting to go with you to the law court and do something bad. But, O Zeus, cease causing trouble for me, and become a friend, and pity the suffering. Save me, O Zeus. Either make me suddenly smoke, or make me a stone then, upon which they count the votes. Dare, lord, to save me.

Dikastai: Who is the one locking you in? Speak, we are asking you.

Philokleon: O my sons, know well. But do not shout. For this very one happens to be sleeping in front.

Dikastai: The one on account of whom it is not possible for you, having gone with us, to hear the prosecutors or the ones speaking in defense.

Philokleon: The son does not allow me, O men, to make a judgment nor to do anything bad. But are you seeking some device, I ask you. For I want about to hear both those pursuing and those fleeing.

Dikastai: We would not be able to save you, O friend. For the family members guard you and it is not possible for you to flee.

Philokleon: Therefore it is necessary for me to pray to the gods, hoping to flee. So let the gods hear and help. O master Lykos, neighbor hero, because you love the law court, have pity and save me, since I am at a loss.

Diakstai: And you, O enslaved people, run and shout and announce these things to Kleon and call him to be present. For Bdelykleon says that it is necessary to not judge cases. Therefore let Kleon come and let him become a savior for the old man.

Index of comments

- 1.1 person
- 1.2 'It is my son, know this well'
- 1.3 This is a question: 'on account of whom is it not possible ... ?'
- 1.4 defendants
- 1.5 Generally best to supply family relations, which are often implied in Greek: 'my son'
- 1.6 'seek some plan' - this is an imperative
- 1.7 'intend'
- 1.8 The sense of the middle is 'to hear for myself'
- 1.9 'all your family members'
- 1.10 just 'to come' is probably better
- 1.11 dikazein often takes a cognate accusative, with the meaning 'to pass judgment'