

CAG1001/CAC8097: Finding your way around a passage II

Andocides, *On The mysteries* 48–50

ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἐδεδέμεθα πάντες ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ καὶ νύξ τε ἔστι καὶ τὸ δεσμωτήριον συνεκέκλητο, ἤκουσι δὲ τῷ μὲν μήτηρ τῷ δὲ ἀδελφὴ τῷ δὲ γυνὴ καὶ παῖδες, ἣν δὲ βοή καὶ οἶκτος κλαόντων καὶ ὀδυρομένων τὰ παρόντα κακά, λέγει πρὸς με Χαρμίδης, ὦν μὲν ἀνεψιός, ἡλικιώτης δὲ καὶ συνεκτραφεὶς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τῇ ἡμετέρᾳ ἐκ παιδός, ὅτι
“ Ἀνδοκίδη, τῶν μὲν παρόντων κακῶν ὁρᾷς τὸ μέγεθος, [...] εἰ ἤκουσάς τι τούτου τοῦ πράγματος τοῦ γενομένου, εἰπέ, καὶ πρῶτον μὲν σεαυτὸν σῶσον, εἴτα δὲ τὸν πατέρα, ὃν εἰκός ἐστὶ σε μάλιστα φιλεῖν, εἴτα δὲ τὸν κηδεστήν, ὃς ἔχει σου τὴν ἀδελφὴν ἥπερ σοι μόνη ἐστίν, [...] ἔτι δὲ ἐμέ, [...] προθυμότατος δὲ εἰς σὲ καὶ τὰ σὰ πράγματά εἰμι, ὅ τι ἂν δέῃ ποιεῖν.”

We were imprisoned all together. Night fell, the prison was locked up, and relatives had arrived, a mother or sister or a wife and children, and there was a miserable noise of weeping and wailing at the situation. Charmides, who was my cousin and my own age, and had been brought up together with me in the same house from childhood, said to me, “Andocides, you see what a terrible situation this is. [...] So if you have heard anything about this business, say so, and you’ll first of all save yourself, then your father, who may be supposed to be your first consideration, and you brother-in-law, husband of your only sister, and all the rest of your relations and friends, myself included. [I’ve never really done you any harm in my life], and I’ve been your enthusiastic supporter at all times of need.”

Trans. A.N.W.Saunders (Penguin)

We were all thrown into one prison. Darkness fell, and the gates were shut. Mothers, sisters, wives, and children had gathered. Nothing was to be heard save the cries and moans of grief-stricken wretches bewailing the calamity which had overtaken them. In the midst of it all, Charmides, a cousin of my own age who had been brought up with me in my own home since boyhood, said to me: “You see the utter hopelessness of our position, Andocides. [...] I beg of you: if you have heard anything concerning this affair, disclose it. Save yourself: save your father, who must be dearer to you than anyone in the world: save your brother-in-law, the husband of your only sister: save all those others who are bound to you by ties of blood and family: and lastly, save me, [who have never vexed you in my life] and who am ever ready to do anything for you and your good.”

Trans. K.J. Maidment (Loeb)

Andocides (the defendant) recounts what happened to him, his friends and family when they were arrested as being involved in the ‘Mutilation of the Herms’ — as a result of a vivid but (he alleges) false story of night-time conspiracy in the Theatre of Dionysus told by a self-proclaimed ‘eye-witness’.

1. Find the Greek equivalents of “Night fell”. What does the Greek literally mean? How effective is this?

2. “relatives had arrived, a mother or sister or a wife and children”.

- Find the equivalent section in the Greek.
- What form are the definite articles in here? Do they agree with the nouns next to them?
- What would be the nominative masculine singular form of τῶ μὲν [...] τῶ δὲ [...] τῶ δὲ?

Look this up in your vocabulary booklet. What will τῶ μὲν [...] τῶ δὲ therefore mean here?

- Which nouns are the subject? (in the nominative case) Where is the main verb?
- Translate this part of the Greek. Compare it first with translation A (above), and then with B: “relatives had arrived, a mother or sister or a wife and children”.

What different effect is created by the way the Greek puts this, in each case?

3. Find “Charmides” in the Greek, then match up the Greek words for:

- (a) cousin
- (b) of my own age
- (c) in my own home/ in the same house
- (d) since boyhood/ from childhood
- (e) (by elimination) who had been brought up with me

Why do you think Andocides is including all these details? Given that, comment on the effectiveness of the phrasing of the Greek.

4. With the help of cases & the definite articles (where appropriate), match up the equivalents of:

- (a) yourself
- (b) your father
- (c) your brother-in-law
- (d) me/myself

Then find the equivalent in the Greek of “the husband of your only sister”, and give your own translation of this phrase.

Again, what is Andocides’ rhetorical purpose/aim in this passage, and how are details of the Greek, including that last phrase, calculated to contribute to this?