

A2 Greek Unseen Prose (Diodorus Siculus) Past Paper: 2009 (The Isaurians sacrifice themselves instead of surrendering)

Translate the following passage into English. Please write your translation on alternate lines.

The Isaurians choose death for themselves and their families rather than surrendering to Perdikkas and the Makedonians.

Seeing that there was no escape and that they did not have forces sufficient to keep the enemy out of the city for long, the Isaurians decided not to surrender the city and not to place their fate in the hands of the enemy. So one night they shut up their children, parents, and wives in their houses and set them on fire.

τῆς δὲ φλογὸς¹ αὐξανομένης, οἱ μὲν Ἰσαυρεῖς εἰς τὸ πῦρ εἰσέβαλλον τὰ κτήματα καὶ πάντα τὰ τοῖς πολεμίοις χρησιμὰ ἐσόμενα. οἱ δὲ περὶ τὸν Περδίκκαν, ἰδόντες τὰ γενόμενα, κατὰ² πάντα τόπον προσβαλόντες, ἐπειρῶντο εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν πόλιν.

τῶν δὲ πολιτῶν ἀπὸ τῶν τειχῶν ἀμυνομένων³ καὶ πολλοὺς τῶν Μακεδόνων ἀποκτεινάντων, ἔτι μᾶλλον ὁ Περδίκκας ἐθαύμαζε διότι οἱ Ἰσαυρεῖς, τὰς οἰκίας καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ πάντα τῷ πυρὶ παραδεδωκότες, οὕτως ἀνδρείως τὰ τεῖχη φυλάσσοισιν.

τέλος δὲ τοῦ Περδίκκου καὶ τῶν Μακεδόνων ἀπὸ τῆς πόλεως ἀποχωρησάντων, οἱ Ἰσαυρεῖς εἰς τὸ πῦρ ἑαυτοὺς ρίψαντες ἐν ταῖς οἰκίαις ἐτάφησαν. Περδίκκας δέ, ἡμέρας γενομένης, ἔδωκε τοῖς στρατιώταις τὴν πόλιν εἰς ἀρπαγὴν.⁴ οὗτοι δὲ τὸ πῦρ κατασβέσαντες⁵ πολὺ ἀργύριον τε καὶ χρυσὸν ἠδὲρον, τῆς πόλεως πολλὰ ἔτη εὐδαιμονεστάτης οὕσης.

Based on Diodorus Siculus 18.22.5ff

Words

¹ ἢ φλόξ φλογός	fire
² κατὰ + acc	in
³ ἀμύνομαι	I resist, defend myself
⁴ ἢ ἀρπαγή	plunder
⁵ κατασβέννυμι κατέσβεσα	I extinguish

[Total: 70 marks]

