

A2 Greek Unseen Prose (Xenophon) Past Paper: 2001 (A soothsayer sacrifices himself for the sake of his side)

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

In a battle during the civil war at Athens between the forces supporting the Thirty tyrants and those supporting the democrats based at the Piraeus, a soothsayer sacrifices himself to gain victory for his side.

The general said "...if we win, this will be the greatest day of our lives, and anyone who loses his life will leave for himself the most glorious memorial. So, when the time is ripe, I shall begin the battle hymn; when I do so, let us all advance with one accord and avenge ourselves on these men who have so insulted us."

ταῦτα δ' εἰπὼν καὶ μεταστραφεὶς πρὸς τοὺς ἐναντίους ἡσυχίαν εἶχε· καὶ γὰρ ὁ μάντις ἐκέλευσεν αὐτοὺς μὴ πρότερον ἐπιτίθεσθαι πρὶν ἂν τις τῶν σφετέρων ἢ πέσοι ἢ τραωθείη· "ἐπειδὴν μέντοι τοῦτο γένηται, ἡγησόμεθα μὲν ἡμεῖς," εἶφη, "νίκη δ' ὑμῖν ἔσται ἐπομένοις, ἐμοὶ μέντοι θάνατος, ὡς γέ μοι δοκεῖ." καὶ οὐκ ἐφεύσατο, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ ἀνέλαβον τὰ ὄπλα, αὐτὸς μὲν ὥσπερ ὑπὸ μοίρας τινὸς ἀγόμενος ἐκπηδήσας πρῶτος, ἐμπεσὼν τοῖς πολεμίοις ἀποθνήσκει. οἱ δ' ἄλλοι ἐνίκων καὶ κατεδίωξαν μέχρι τοῦ ὀμαλοῦ. ἀπέθανον δ' ἐνταῦθα τῶν μὲν τριάκοντα Κριτίας τε καὶ Ἰππόμαχος, τῶν δὲ ἐν Πειραιεὶ Χαρμίδης ὁ Γλαύκωνος, τῶν δ' ἄλλων περὶ ἑβδομήκοντα. καὶ τὰ μὲν ὄπλα ἔλαβον, τοὺς δὲ χιτῶνας οὐδένας τῶν πολιτῶν ἐσκύλευσαν. ἐπεὶ δὲ τοῦτο ἐγένετο καὶ τοὺς νεκροὺς ὑποσπόνδους ἀπεδίδοσαν, προσιόντες ἀλλήλοις διελέγοντο.

XENOPHON, Hellenica, 2.4.18f.

μεταστρέφομαι aorist μετεστράφην = I turn round
ἐπιτίθεμαι = I attack
οἱ σφέτεροι = their own men
τιτρώσκω aorist passive ἐτρώθην = I wound
τὸ ὀμαλόν = level ground
σκυλεύω = steal
ὑπόσπονδος -ον adjective = under a truce

