

A2 Greek Unseen Prose (Xenophon) Past Paper: 2003 (A former slave negotiates a safe passage for the Greek army)

A former slave serving in Xenophon's army acts as interpreter in negotiations for a safe passage through the territory of the Makrones.

Then they reached the river which divides the territory of the Makrones from that of the Skuthenoi. The Makrones were drawn up there, armed with spears and shields, and began throwing stones, but these did no harm because they kept falling short and landing in the river.

ἔνθα δὴ προσέρχεται τῷ Ξενοφῶντι πελταστής τις, φάσκων¹ δεδουλευκέναι² ἐν ταῖς Ἀθήναις, καὶ εἶπεν ὅτι γινώσκει τὴν φωνὴν τῶν ἀνθρώπων. “καὶ νομίζω,” ἔφη, “ταύτην ἔμῃ πατρίδα εἶναι. καὶ εἰ μὴ τι κωλύει, ἐθέλω αὐτοῖς διαλέγεσθαι.” ὁ δὲ Ξενοφῶν “ἀλλ’ οὐδὲν κωλύει,” ἔφη, “ἀλλὰ διαλέγου καὶ μάθε πρῶτον τίνες εἰσίν.” οἱ δ’ εἶπον, αὐτοῦ ἐρωτήσαντος, ὅτι Μάκρωνες εἰσίν. “ἔρώτα νῦν”, ἔφη ὁ Ξενοφῶν, “αὐτοὺς διὰ τί βούλονται ἡμῖν πολέμιοι εἶναι.”

οἱ δ’ ἀπεκρίναντο, “ὅτι ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ τὴν ἡμετέραν χώραν ἔρχεσθε.” λέγειν ἐκέλευον οἱ στρατηγοὶ ὅτι οὐ κακῶς γε ποιήσαντες, ἀλλὰ βασιλεῖ πολεμήσαντες, ἀπέρχονται εἰς τὴν Ἑλλάδα, καὶ ἐπὶ θάλασσαν βούλονται ἀφικέσθαι.

ἡρώτων ἐκείνοι εἰ οἱ Ἕλληνες δοῖεν ἂν τούτων πιστά³. οἱ δὲ ἔφασαν καὶ δοῦναι καὶ λαβεῖν ἐθέλειν.

ἐντεῦθεν ἔδοσαν οἱ Μάκρωνες βαρβαρικὴν⁴ λόγχην⁵ τοῖς Ἕλλησιν, οἱ δὲ Ἕλληνες ἐκείνοις Ἑλληνικὴν. ταῦτα γὰρ ἔφασαν πιστά³ εἶναι θεοὺς δ’ ἐπεμαρτύραντο⁶ ἀμφότεροι.

XENOPHON, Anabasis, 4.8.4ff.

¹φάσκων is the present participle of φημί = “saying”

²δουλεύω = I am a slave

³τὰ πιστά = guarantees

⁴βαρβαρικός -ή -όν = foreign

⁵ἡ λόγχη = spear

⁶ἐπιμαρτύρομαι = I swear by

