

A2 Greek Unseen Prose (Xenophon) Past Paper: 2004 (Menon's display of solidarity with Cyrus)

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

The generals of the Greek mercenaries serving with Cyrus are debating whether to go ahead with the expedition against the King of Persia. One of them, Menon, gets his men to take action designed to win Cyrus' approval before a vote is taken.

While they were encamped by the Euphrates, Cyrus disclosed to the generals that they were really marching against the King. When the ordinary soldiers found out, they were angry and said that they would go no further unless they were paid immediately.

ὁ δ' ὑπέσχετο ἀνδρὶ ἐκάστῳ δώσειν πέντε ἀργυρίου μνᾶς¹, ἐπειδὴν εἰς Βαβυλῶνα ἦκωσι. τὸ μὲν δὴ πολὺ τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ οὕτως ἐπέισθη. Μένων δέ, πρὶν δῆλον εἶναι τί ποιήσουσιν οἱ ἄλλοι στρατιῶται, πότερον ἔψονται Κύρῳ ἢ οὐ, συνέλεξε τὸ αὐτοῦ στρατεύμα καὶ εἶπε τάδε. “ἄνδρες, ἐάν μοι πεισθῆτε, οὔτε κινδυνεύσαντες οὔτε πονήσαντες, τῶν ἄλλων πλέον προτιμηθήσεσθε στρατιωτῶν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κύρου. τί οὖν κελεύω ποιῆσαι; νῦν δεῖται Κύρος τοὺς Ἕλληνας ἔπεισθαι ἐπὶ βασιλείᾳ. ἐγὼ οὖν φημι ὑμᾶς χρῆναι διαβῆναι τὸν Εὐφράτην ποταμὸν πρὶν τοὺς ἄλλους Ἕλληνας ἀποκρίνασθαι Κύρῳ. ἐάν μὲν γὰρ ψηφίσωνται ἔπεισθαι, ὑμεῖς δόξετε αἴτιοι εἶναι ἄρξαντες τοῦ διαβαίνειν, καὶ ὑμῖν, ὡς προθυμοτάτοις οὔσι, χάριν εἴσεται² Κύρος. ἐὰν δὲ ἀποψηφίσωνται οἱ ἄλλοι, ἄπιμεν μὲν πάντες τοῦμπαλι³, ὑμῖν δέ, ὡς μόνοις πειθομένοις, πιστοτάτοις χρήσεται⁴.”

ἀκούσαντες ταῦτα ἐπέειπον καὶ διέβησαν πρὶν τοὺς ἄλλους ἀποκρίνασθαι.

XENOPHON, Anabasis, 1.4.13ff. (adapted)

WORDS

¹ ἡ μνᾶ	a mna (a coin)
² χάριν οἶδα	I am grateful
³ τοῦμπαλι	back again
⁴ χράομαι + dat.	[here] I regard as

NAMES

ἡ Βαβυλῶν, Βαβυλῶνος	Babylon
ὁ Εὐφράτης	the Euphrates

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