AS Greek Unseen Prose (Xenophon) Past Paper: 2013 (Cyrus' warning to his men)

Cyrus warns his men about the long journey ahead, on which they will not be able to live off the land. In particular, they will not find any wine on the journey and so must now get used to doing without it.

Since the majority agreed with him that it was necessary to march against the enemy as soon as possible, and no one opposed him, Cyrus began to speak as follows:

"ώ σύμμαχοι, τὰ ὅπλα οἱς δεῖ χρῆσθαι παρεσκεύασται. ἐγὼ γὰρ εὑρίσκω τὴν όδόν πλέον ἢ πεντεκαίδεκα ἡμερῶν ἐσομένην, ἐν ἡ οὐδὲν εὑρήσομεν τῶν ἐπιτηδείων. παρασκευάζεσθαι οὖν χρὴ σῖτον μὲν ἱκανόν. ἀνευ γὰρ τούτου οὕτε μάχεσθαι οὕτε ζῆν δυναίμεθ' ἀν. οἴνου δὲ μικρόν τι μόνον δεῖ ἔχειν, ἵνα μηδὲν κακὸν πάθωμεν ὕστερον ὑδροποτοῦντες¹. πολλὴ γὰρ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἔσται ἄοινος. ἵνα οὖν μὴ ἐξαίφνης νόσοις πίπτωμεν, ἄοινοι γενόμενοι, ὡδε χρὴ ποιεῖν. σὺν τῷ σίτῳ νῦν εὐθὺς ἀρχώμεθα πίνειν ὕδωρ. τοῦτο γὰρ ἦδη ποιοῦντες οὖ πολὺ πεισόμεθα."

Adapted from Xenophon, Cyropaedia 6.2.25-27

Words

1ύδροποτέω

I drink water



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