

THEODORE METOCHITES'
SENTENTIOUS NOTES
61–70 & 72–81

TEXT, TRANSLATION AND NOTES

SIGLA ET ABBREVIATIONES

P Parisinus graecus 2003
P¹ prima manus (Michael Klostomalles)
P² secunda manus (Nicephorus Gregoras?)

M Marcianus graecus 532 (coll. 887)
M² secunda manus
E Escorialensis graecus 248 (Y.I.9)

Bydén editio Sem. 61, Bydén 2002
M-K editio, Müller-Kiessling 1821

a.c. ante correctionem
add. addit(-idit), addendum
cf. confer
comp. compendium
corr. correxit(-erunt)
exhib. exhibe(n)t
fort. fortasse
i.e. id est
introd. introductio(nem)
leg. legitur, leguntur
litt. littera(rum)
mg. (in) margine
om. omittit(-unt), omisit(-erunt)
p. pagina
p.c. post correctionem
scrib. scribendum
sec. secundum
s.l. supra lineam
sq(q). (et quod/ quae) sequitur, sequuntur
vid. videtur, vide

⟨ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΤΟΧΙΤΟΥ
ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΕΙΣ ΓΝΩΜΙΚΑΙ⟩

‘Οτι οὐκ ἔξω λόγου παντάπασι δόξειεν ἂν εἶναι τὰ τῶν
ἐφεκτικῶν ἐναντιουμένων πρὸς πᾶσαν κατάληψιν, καὶ ὅτι
Πλάτων καὶ Σωκράτης ἀρχὰς εἰς τοῦτ’ ἔδωκαν· ΞΑ’

5

1 ‘Λόγῳ παντὶ λόγος παλαίει’, λόγος ἐστὶν εὖ εἰρημένος πρότερον· οὐκοῦν δὴ
καὶ γνώμη γνώμη τε πάση, καὶ δόξα δόξη, καὶ κρίσις κρίσει. ‘Οτε δὲ τοῦθ’
οὕτως ἔχει, μήποτε προσμαρτυρία τις ἐντεῦθεν ἐπὶ τοῖς ἐφεκτικοῖς κληθεῖσι
τῶν κατὰ φιλοσοφίαν, ὡς οὐ μόνον ἐριστικῶς, ἀλλ’ οὐδὲ παντάπασιν
ἀκαίρως ἢ σπουδῇ σφίσις ἔχει. 2 Καὶ τοίνυν οὐδ’ ἐξοστρακιστέον ἐξ Ἑλλήνων 10
371 τελείως τὸ δόγμα, οὐδ’ ἀπορριπτέον ἀνεπιστρό|φως πάντη, οὐδ’ ἠγητέον
εὐπεριφρόνητον καθάπαξ ὡς ἂν ἀμέλει φιλονεικίας ἔργον ὄν καὶ ἀνήνυτος
εἶτον ἀνόνητός τις αὐθάδεια κατὰ τῶν ὄντων καὶ λέσχη καὶ τις ἀφρονεσάτη
πρόθεσις ‘τύπτειν ἀέρα’ καὶ ‘λίθους ἔψειν’ καὶ τᾶλλ’ ὅσα ταῖς παροιμίαις

4 καὶ ὅτι: καὶ ὅτι καὶ M

7 γνώμη τε γνώμη M

10 ὄστρακιστέον M

6 Λόγῳ ... παλαίει] cf. Greg.Naz. *Carm.mor.* 10.977 λόγῳ παλαίει πᾶς λόγος, βίῳ δὲ τίς; et Ibid. 33.12 | S.E. *P.* 1.202.1 παντὶ λόγῳ λόγος ἴσος ἀντίκειται | D.L. 9.74.9 παντὶ λόγῳ λόγος ἀντίκειται
10 ἐξοστρακιστέον] Th.Met. *Logos* 10.30.6 ἠδονὴν δὲ ὡς εἰκοιεν οὐ πᾶσαν οὐδὲ παντάπασιν ὄστρα-
κιστέον οὐδ’ ἀποκηρυκτέον ἀνθρώπων 12 ἀνήνυτος ... ἀνόνητός] cf. Jo.D. *Laudatio sanctae
martyris Barbarae* 17.4 πᾶσα γὰρ αὐτοῦ ἢ ἐπίνοια ἀνήνυτος καὶ ἀνόνητος ἀπεδεικνυτο | Th.Met.
Sem. 75.1.4 14 τύπτειν ἀέρα] cf. 1 *Ep.Cor.* 9.26 ἐγὼ τοίνυν οὕτως τρέχω ὡς οὐκ ἀδήλως, οὕτως
πυκτεύω ὡς οὐκ ἀέρα δέρων | Didym. *Trin.* (PG 39.616.38) καὶ ἀπλῶς τῶν ἀέρα τυπτόντων οὐδὲν
διαφέρειν ἔδοξας | Thdt. *ep. Paul.* 14 (PG 82.301.6) ματαιοπονῶ τῶν ἀέρα τύπτων λίθους
ἔψειν] cf. Ar. *Vesp.* 278sq. ἀλλ’ ὅπότε’ ἀντιβολοίη τις, κάτω κύπτων ἂν οὕτω ‘λίθον ἔψεις’ ἔλεγεν |
[Pl.] *Eryx.* 405b7sq. ὅπερ ἂν τὸ λεγόμενον λίθον ἐψησαι | *CPG* I App. III 67 Λίθον ἔψειν: ἐπὶ τῶν
ἀδυνάτοις ἐπιχειρούντων | Phryn. *PS* (epit.) 121.5F παροιμία ἐπὶ τῶν μάτην τι ποιοούντων, ὡσπερ εἰς
πῦρ ξαίνειν, καὶ λίθον ἔψειν | Jul. *Paramytheticus Sallust.* 6.17sq. ἢ τοῦτο μὲν ἐστὶ τέρας ἤδη καὶ
προσόμοιον ... τῷ λίθον ἔψειν | Syrian. *Comm. in Hermog.* 37.15 εἰ γὰρ ἀπέρατα τὰ τῆς ὑποθέσεως
ὑπάρχοι, λίθον ἔψειν δόξομεν | Th.Met. *Sem.* 46.2.1 καὶ λίθους ἔψων τῆς παροιμίας

THEODORE METOCHITES' SENTENTIOUS NOTES

61. That¹ the Sceptics' opposition to the claim that anything can be understood is not totally without reason, and that Plato and Socrates laid the foundations² for the Sceptics' opinion³

1 *There is a word to contradict every word*,⁴ is a well-founded saying from former times. Therefore there is also a thought to contradict every thought, and an opinion to contradict every opinion, and a judgement to contradict every judgement. Since this is so, it might perhaps be said in defence⁵ of the so-called Sceptical philosophers that their endeavours do not only have a polemical purpose and are not altogether inappropriate. ² And their creed should not be totally ostracized⁶ from among the Greeks, nor inexorably rejected in every respect, nor considered as altogether despicable and a product of contentiousness and an endless or unprofitable⁷ wilfulness against reality. Nor should it be considered mere malicious gossip and a most senseless attempt at *beating the air* and *boiling stones*⁸ and what else

¹ This essay has been edited and discussed, especially from a philosophical point of view, in Bydén 2002. There are thematic similarities between essay 29 and the present essay.

² 'laid the foundations' (ἀρχὰς ... ἔδωκαν): or 'gave the impulse.'

³ The titles of all the essays have been translated in Hult 2002 (for the essays edited here see pp. 11, 13 and 15), to whom I am indebted, even if I present my own translations.

⁴ Bydén 2002: 'To every argument there is a counter-argument.' This expression seems to have been coined by Gregory of Nazianzus, although there are similar expressions in earlier literature (see app. font. et parall.).

⁵ 'defence': or 'additional evidence'; the substantive προσημαρτυρία (see for this Lampe: 'additional witness') is missing from LSJ (see, however, LSJ s.v. προσημαρτυρέω).

⁶ Metochites employs the word 'ostracize' in a similar way in his *Ethicus*—in the same form (δοτρακιστέον) as in MS M (see app. crit. and app. font. et parall.).

⁷ 'endless or unprofitable': this looks like a wordplay in Greek (ἀνήνυτος – ἀνόνητος). However, it is not a widely used expression (see app. font. et parall. with references to John of Damascus and Metochites himself).

⁸ 'beating the air' and 'boiling stones' are often used expressions for a pointless activity.

μελαγχολώντων ὡς εἰπεῖν ἔργα. ³ Καὶ γὰρ δὴ ταῖς ἀληθείαις πολλὰ τῶν παρ' αὐτοῖς λεγομένων ὄραν ἔστιν, ὡς οὐκ ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ, καὶ πολλὰ γε τῶν ὄντων ἐπαμφοτερίζειν πέφυκε καὶ χώραν διδόναι ταῖς ἐναντίαις δόξαις καὶ λόγοις, ὥστε καὶ πάνυ τοι κατεπιχειρεῖν ἀκμαστικῶς καὶ οὐ σφόδρα πείθεσθαι μήτε μὴν ἀμφοτέρωθεν ἀπιστεῖν ῥάδιον. ⁴ Ἄλλ' ὅ τι ἂν τις προσεῖτο, μάλ' ἔστιν ⁵ αὐθις ἐκ τῶν ἐπὶ θάτερα δυσχεραίνειν καὶ σείεσθαι καὶ ἀπόρως ἔχειν, καὶ μεγάλη τις ἐνταῦθα πίστεως καὶ βεβαιότητος ἡρεμία καὶ ἀμαθίας ἀνάγκη καὶ ἀκαταληψίας κρατοῦσα διάθεσις.

² Δοκεῖ μὲν γε καὶ ὄντως ὁ πάντα σοφὸς αὐτὸς Πλάτων καὶ πλείστον ἐνευδοκιμήσας, καὶ τοῖς πρὸ αὐτοῦ τῶν σοφῶν καὶ ὅσοι μετ' αὐτὸν ἐπιγνώσει ¹⁰ καὶ περινοῖα τῶν ὄντων, καὶ ἀδόλως κομιδῇ φιλοσοφήσας καὶ μετὰ σεμνοῦ ³⁷² τοῦ ἡθους καὶ σχήματος, ² καὶ πλείστον πεφροντικῶς ἀληθείας καὶ τοῦ κατὰ φιλοσοφίαν προσήκοντος ἀξιωματικοῦ, καὶ ἀλλοτρίου παντάπασι σοφιστείας ἀπάσης καὶ ἀπλοϊκοῦ, ³ αὐτὸς δὴ μάλιστα δοῦναι τὰς ἀρχὰς τοῖς ἐφεκτικῶς φιλοσοφήσασι καὶ τῇ συνηγορίᾳ τῆς ἀκαταληψίας τοῖς μακροῖς ἐκείνοις ¹⁵ λόγοις καὶ συχνοῖς τοῖς περὶ ὅτουοῦν ἐκάστοτε μηδὲν περαίνουσιν, ἀλλ' ὅσ' ἂν καὶ προτείνοντο ταῖς διαλέξεσι, πάντ' ἀπελέγχουσιν ἄπορα καὶ τῆς ἀληθείας ἔξω· ⁴ οὐδὲν γὰρ ἄλλ' ἢ τὸ τῶν ἐφεκτικῶν ἐν τούτοις, ὡς οὐδὲν ἄρ' ἀσφαλὲς ἐν ἀνθρώποις τῶν δοκούντων τὲ καὶ λεγομένων ἐκάστοις περὶ ἐκάστων ὡς ²⁰ μάλα τοι σαφῶς ληπτῶν, οὐδ' ἄσειστον λόγοις ἐναντίοις καὶ κραταιὸν μετ' ἀληθείας ἀνόσου παντάπασι καὶ ἀτρέπτου. ⁵ Ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ φαινόμενα κομιδῇ τρανῶς εἰρήσθαι καὶ οἷς ἔστιν ἀπολυπραγμονήτως καὶ ἀβασανίστως τῶν λεγόντων ἔπεσθαι πονοῦσιν ἐπ' αὐτοὺς καὶ πολυπραγμονοῦσι καὶ βασα-

⁷ ἡρεμία: ἐρημία scripsit Bydén

¹⁸ ἀσφαλὲς P²M, ut vid. -ῆς P¹

²² ἔστι M

⁹ 'lack' or 'loss': Bydén changes ἡρεμία of the mss. into ἐρημία (see for a similar case LSJ, s.v. ἡρεμία 2, where the same emendation is suggested). It is, of course, possible that we have to do with a kind of spoonerism here—by a scribe or by Metochites himself. However, it should be noted that Trapp has an example of ἡρεμής meaning 'einsam', and Lampe of ἡρεμῶν with the meaning 'live in solitude, be a hermit.' One may also adduce the somewhat similar case of Latin *otium* which can mean 'absence from.' Thus: while Bydén's observation that 'lack' is the required meaning is correct, we cannot be quite sure that the text has to be changed.

¹⁰ 'inability' etc.: this is a tentative rendering of the obscure expression ἀκαταληψίας κρατοῦσα διάθεσις.

is, according to the proverbs, typical of madmen. ³ For it is indeed obvious that much of that which is said by the Sceptics is not inappropriate; and many matters are by their very nature ambiguous and give reason to opposite opinions and arguments; and therefore it is very easy to attack them vigorously and express serious disbelief, not to say distrust, of one interpretation of a matter as well as of its opposite. ⁴ And even if one interpretation is accepted as truth, it is possible to feel unsatisfied and unsure and at a loss because of the arguments of the opposite side; and then a great lack⁹ of faith and certainty, and a disposition of ignorance and inability¹⁰ to comprehend, will necessarily follow.

2 But that all-wise Plato who, in comparison with the wise men before him as well as with those after him, is to the highest degree famous for knowledge and understanding of things being, and who has indeed speculated honestly and with noble character and style, ² and who has thought very much about truth and about what is dignified and befitting philosophy and totally alien to every kind of sophistry or simplicity— ³ this Plato seems in truth more than anyone else to have laid the foundations for the Sceptic philosophers and to have given arguments for the opinion that it is impossible to understand things. This he did in those many long books on any theme which do not achieve anything but only serve to refute as uncertain and outside the realm of truth whatever anyone says in the dialogues. ⁴ And this is precisely in accordance with the doctrine of the Sceptics, namely that nothing is certain among men of those things which in every case are believed and talked about by everyone as if they could be understood very clearly; further, that nothing is unshakeable¹¹ and unsusceptible to opposite arguments and irrefutable in accordance with a totally solid and unchangeable truth.¹² ⁵ But even to describe the phenomena in a perfectly clear way and with words which anyone can follow without having to inquire closely about the speakers nor having to work hard on them

¹¹ 'unshakeable': for this meaning of ἀσειστός see Lampe. LSJ translates this only as 'unshaken'; there are, however, examples in LSJ which may be translated as here, and also the adverb 'unshakably.'

¹² I.e. that nothing (on earth/in philosophy) is irrefutably true and in accordance with a higher truth.

νίζουσι τά τε λεγόμενα καὶ τοὺς λέγοντας μετὰ μεγίστου τοῦ θάρρους καὶ
 τῆς πεποιθήσεως ὡς ἠκριβωκότας εὖ μάλα καὶ μηδὲν ἔτι περαιτέρω καὶ πλέον
 ὄν 6 φανήσεται πειρωμένοις καὶ προσέχουσι τοῖς λόγοις τὸν νοῦν κόμπος τὸ
 373 πᾶν καὶ μακρὸς λῆρος καὶ ἀμαθία σὺν θράσει, καὶ πάντ' ἐν | ἀκαταληψία, καὶ
 πάντ' ἐλέγχεται. 7 Τὰ δ' αὐτὰ καὶ ὁ καθηγητὴς αὐτῶ πάσης τῆς σοφίας καὶ 5
 τῆς ἀκριβείας τοῦ ἥθους καὶ τῶν ἀγαθῶν, ὡς αὐτὸς φησι, πάντων Σωκράτης
 διὰ παντὸς περιωὴν ἐφιλοσόφει τοῦ βίου καὶ διέτριβεν Ἀθήνησι κατελέγχων
 ἅπαντας 8 ὡς μηδὲν ὀτιοῦν εἰδότας ἄξιον λόγου καὶ τοῖς νοῦν ἔχουσι εὖ μάλα
 πιστόν, τοὺς ἐφ' ἑκάστοις μέγα φρονοῦντας οἷς προσεῖχον καὶ σπουδάζειν
 ἠξίου, καὶ πίστιν ἀναμφήριστον πραττομένους τῶν προστυγαχάνοντων περὶ 10
 ὧν φασὶ καὶ σεμνύονται, 9 καὶ τοῦτ' αὐτὸ μάλιστ' ἀγνοοῦντας καὶ πρώτως
 ὡς οὐδ' ἴσασιν ὅτι καὶ ἀγνοοῦσι, καὶ λίαν ἐπισφαλέστατα καὶ ἀμαθέστατ'
 ἔχοντας δοκοῦντας πλουτεῖν καθ' ἑαυτῶν ἐν ἄκρα πενία καὶ ἀνενδεῶς ὄτου-
 οῦν ἔχειν μάλιστ' ὄντας ἐν χρεῖα καὶ μάλ' ἐρρωῶσθαι, δυστυχῶς ἔχοντας μάλα
 15 τοὶ καὶ νοσοῦντας καὶ ἀνίατα, καθότι μηδὲ νοσεῖν οἴονται μηδὲ ζητοῦσι τοὺς 15
 ἰωμένους. 10 Καὶ σχεδὸν ὁ πᾶς αὐτῶ βίος κινδυνεύει καὶ πόνος εἶναι, βάσανος
 374 ἀπάντων καὶ τῆς ἀμαθίας ἔλεγχος, ὡς μηδὲν ἄρά ποτ' ἐν ἀνθρώ|ποις ὄν
 καταλήψεως ὑγιές, ἀλλ' ἅπαντα κενῶς σπουδαζόμενα καὶ δοκοῦντα τιμῆς
 ἄξια, μικρά τε καὶ μείζω, καὶ ὅσα τῶν ἀξιολογωτέρων ἀνῦσαι, καὶ ὅσα δευτέρας
 τύχης τινὸς καὶ τάξεως. 20

3 Καὶ ταῦτ' εἰσὶν ὄντως, ἤπερ εἴρηται, τῶν ἐφεκτικῶν λόγων τοῖς ὕστερον
 ἀρχαί· ταῦθ' ὥσπερ δὴ τινες προάγωνες πρὸς τὸν σκοπὸν σφίσι καὶ μελέται
 τινες εἰς τὴν πρόθεσιν γυμναστικαὶ καλλίστας ἐλπίδας πρὸς τὴν μάχην ὑπ-

4 ἀκαταληψία: ἀκαληψία P, -τα- s.l. add. ut vid. P¹ 19 ἀνῦσαι M-K et Bydén 22
 προάγωνες PM et in app. M-K, in προαγῶνες corr. M-K et Bydén, de accentu vide autem Hdn.
 Gr. 1.24, 2.729

and going into details about and scrutinizing what is said and those who speak; and to make this description of the phenomena with the greatest self-confidence and in the conviction of having done a sufficient study of the subject matter and that there is nothing further and more to be known about it— 6 even to claim that this can be done will, to those with experience and those who pay attention to logical argumentation in general, seem like vain boasting and great nonsense and like ignorance paired with insolence; for everything is uncertain and everything can be refuted. 7 In the same way Socrates, who was Plato's guide to all wisdom (Plato says so himself) and to the exact knowledge of ethics and all that is good, went around all his life and speculated and kept convicting all people in Athens of their being wrong. 8 He claimed that they did not know anything at all of importance, nor anything which really could convince sensible men—even though the kind of men he criticised are very proud of their achievement in each matter which they deal with and claim to make a serious study of, and even though they exact undisputed respect with regard to what they say and boast about from people they encounter. 9 This they do out of ignorance chiefly, and most of all because they are not even aware of their ignorance. And even though they seem to be rich, they are, to their own detriment, in a most precarious situation and in a state of great ignorance and the utmost poverty; and even though they do not seem to lack anything, they are very much in need; and even though they seem to be in good health, they are in an extremely unfortunate situation and very ill, in fact without any prospect of being cured; for they do not think that they are ill nor do they look for someone to heal them. 10 And the whole life of such a person is well-nigh in danger of being a useless toil and a trial in all respects; and it proves man's ignorance, showing that nothing can be well understood by men and that everything is studied in vain and only seems to be worthy of attention: small as well as greater matters, those in which it is of greater importance to achieve a result as well as those of secondary importance and order.

3 This, as has been said, is the actual beginning of later Sceptical argumentation, being, as it were, preliminaries for the purpose thereof and, as it seemed to these men, a kind of gymnastic exercises, giving the best

ανοίγουσαι τοῖς ἀνδράσιν ἔδοξαν. 2 Ἐντεῦθεν ἄρ' ὡς ἀπό τινων εὐδιοικήτων
καὶ γεννικῶν προοιμιῶν καὶ παρασκευῆς ἀξιολόγου πρὸς τὴν μάχην ὠρμηνται
ἐντεῦθεν ἄρ' ἀπό τινων τόπων ἐπικαιροτάτων μετ' ἀσφαλείας κατέδραμον
ἄπασαν ἀνθρωπίνην γνωστικὴν εὐρεσιν 3 καὶ τὸν παγκόσμιον κατὰ πάσης τῆς
σοφίας καὶ λόγων ἀπάντων καὶ δογμάτων ἀπάντων ἀπηρυθρίασαν ἄρασθαι 5
πόλεμον· καὶ πολλοῖς οὐ μάτην δοκοῦσι πονεῖν. 4 Καὶ πολλοὶ γὰρ ἐξ ἐκείνου καὶ
μέχρι νῦν προσήκαντο τὴν σπουδὴν ταύτην καὶ προσέχειν ἀξιοῦσι τὸν νοῦν ὡς
ἀληθῶς πάντ' ἄνω καὶ κάτω φερόμενα καθορώντες καὶ μηδὲν ὅ τί ποθ' ἔστῶς
ἐν μονῇ τινος οὐσίας καὶ γνώσεως ἄτρεπτον, 5 καὶ πᾶσαν ζήτησιν περὶ τῶν
375 ὄντων καὶ τῶν ἐν βίῳ πάντων | πολλῶ περιπίπτουσιν τῷ πλάνῳ καὶ δυσοδίᾳ 10
καὶ δυσχερεῖα χρῆσθαι, καὶ ἀνύτειν ἐπιτυχῶς καθάπαξ πρὸς ἀσφαλὴ τὴν
εὐρεσιν, ἄνω δὴ τῆς περὶ θεοῦ καὶ τῶν θείων μόνης σοφίας ἄνωθεν πάντως ἐξ
ἐπιπνοίας τινὸς θεοφορήτου (ἢ πόθεν ἄλλοθεν, καὶ ποίας τῶν συλλογιστικῶν
τρόπων καὶ τῶν δείξεων ἀνάγκης;).

4 Ἐπεὶ καὶ περὶ τούτου τοῦ μέρους πάνθ' ὅσα σοφία τινὶ χειραγωγούσῃ 15
δι' ἀποδείξεων οἱ πρότερον ἐκείνοι τῇ ματαιᾷ γνώσει θαρροῦντες φθέγονται,
οὐκ ἄσειστα οὐτ' ἀθῶα πάσης ἐπηρείας οὐδ' ἀζήμια παντάπασιν εἶναι δοκεῖ καὶ
πολλὰ πολλοῖς ἐλέγχους εὐθύνεται. 2 Καὶ πολλοὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους νέοι πρὸς τοὺς
φθάσαντας καὶ ἠλικιώται πρὸς ἀλλήλους ἀντιταττόμενοι καταπολιορκοῦσι
καὶ καταστρέφουσι τὰλλήλων, καὶ πάντα δόγματα καταστρέφουσι, καὶ οὐδὲν 20
ἐῷσιν ἀνεπιτίμητον ἀληθῆσιν ἀποδείξεισι τῶν εὐρημένων καὶ δεδομένων ἀν-
θρωπίνῃ, καθὼς ἔφην, σοφία. 3 Μόνα δὲ τὰ πάσης ἐπέκεινα σοφίας, ἐκ θεοῦ
πάντως εἰλημμένα παρ' ἡμῖν περὶ αὐτοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τῶν θείων, περιγίνεται τῷ
κράτει τῆς ἀληθείας τίμια καὶ πάσης αἰδοῦς καὶ ἀσφαλείας πάσης δόγματα. 4
376 Τὰ δ' ἄλλα πάνθ' ὅσ' | ἀνθρωποὶ σοφίζονται περὶ τῶν ἐν φύσει, περὶ τῶν κατὰ 25

6 καὶ μέχρι: μέχρι καὶ M 8 ἔστῶς PM pro ἔστῶς, in ἔστῶς corr. Bydén 21 ἠύρημένων M
23 post περιγίνεται exhib. lacunam (rasuram) ca. 2 litt. P (fort. exhib. a.c. τῷ bis, in fine lineae et
in initio lineae sequentis)

¹³ I.e. from the beginnings in the age of Plato.

¹⁴ 'where ... concerned': this is difficult and vaguely put in Greek; it would seem to indicate a respect for theologians or, perhaps, rather a wish not to seem controversial in theological matters.

¹⁵ 'unshakeable': cf. above, n. 11.

hope for the battle and for the achievement of their ultimate goal. ² And from this they have rushed forth into battle as from some well-ordered and noble beginnings and considerable preparation; and safely, as from some most advantageous positions, they have swept down from there on every invention of the human mind. ³ And they have not blushed to start a total war on every kind of wisdom and all kinds of arguments and doctrines; and to many they do not seem to toil in vain. ⁴ Indeed, from that time¹³ until now many have engaged in this kind of study and think it fit to pay sincere attention to it. For they see that everything is in a state of flux and that nothing at all stands immovably still so as to preserve any essence and meaning unchanged. ⁵ And they see that any inquiry into the things being and into everything which concerns life is bound to be subject to a great amount of deception and lead to situations which are difficult and troublesome to handle and difficult to bring to a fully successful end and an irrefutable conclusion. The only exception are cases where the wisdom regarding God and divine matters is concerned:¹⁴ knowledge about this is assuredly given us by means of some divine inspiration from above—or from where else, and from what binding necessity of syllogistic methods and modes of proof?

⁴ For even on this account, everything proffered by those earlier men, who trust to their vain insight and the guidance of some kind of wisdom based on logical deduction, does not seem to be unshakeable¹⁵ or immune against all abuse nor liable to go unpunished, and a great deal of it is found out to be wrong when subjected to much scrutiny. ² Thus many people array themselves against others—young people against the older, and people of the same age against each other—and they besiege and tear down the work of their opponents, and they tear down all doctrines and leave nothing uncensured by their true logical deductions and demonstration of facts which, as I said, are in accordance with human wisdom. ³ But only that which is beyond all wisdom and clearly has come to us from God, and deals with God and the divine, prevails by the power of truth; it even prevails over convictions which are worthy of respect and reverence and seem totally irrefutable. ⁴ In all other cases where people have formulated opinions: on nature, and on matters requiring any technical training, in

τεχνικήν τιν' ἄσκησιν ἐκ φυσικῶν αὐθις λόγων ἐξ ἔμπειρίας, περὶ τῶν κατὰ τὸν βίον πρακτέων καὶ ἅττα προσήκειν ἀξιώσειέ τις καὶ λυσιτελεῖν ἀνθρώποις, πάνθ' ὁμοῦ ταῦτα καὶ τοὺς ἐναντίους ἐπιδέχονται λόγους, ὅπως ἂν ἀμέλει καὶ νοοῖντο καὶ λέγοιντο. 5 Καὶ πλείστοι δὴ περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν τάναντία πείθοντες οὐκ ἔξω κατ' ἀμφοτέρα τοῦ καιροῦ σπουδάζοντες ὀρῶνται· καὶ τοῦθ' ὀρᾶν 5 ἔστιν εὖ μάλ' ἐπὶ τῶν φιλοσοφησάντων καὶ διατριψάντων φιλοπονώτατα περὶ τὴν τῶν ὄντων ἔρευναν καὶ θεωρίαν, 6 μὴ μόνον ἀλλήλοις περὶ τὰ πλείστα διατεινομένων τάναντιώτατα καὶ λόγων ἐκατέρωθεν εὐπορούντων, ἀλλ' ἔστιν οὐ καὶ ἑαυτοῖς καὶ περιπιπτόντων οἷς ἐν ἄλλοις φθάσαντες εἰρήκεσαν.

5 Καὶ δῆλον γε ὡς τοῦτ' ἔστιν ὁ καὶ τὰς διαφορὰς τῶν αἰρέσεων κατὰ 10 φιλοσοφίαν καὶ τὰς ἀκηρύκτους καὶ ἀσπόνδους μάχας ἐδημιούργησε καὶ κατεστήσατο παλαιίσματα περὶ τὸν βίον καὶ θέατρα φιλοσοφίας, ὥσπερ δὴ καὶ μονομάχων καὶ παγκρατιαστῶν τῶν περὶ τὴν ἀλήθειαν τῶν ὄντων ἐνοειδῆ γε οὐσαν, ὡς αὐτοὶ φασιν, ἀδόλως πονούντων 2 καὶ μέντοι καὶ πάντων ἐπιτυχῶς ἔχειν τὴν περὶ πάντων ἀλήθειαν οἰομένων, καὶ οἰομένων γε τὰ πλείστον 15 ἀλλήλων διεστῶτα καὶ πολλάκις μάλιστ' ἀλλήλων μαχιμώτατα. 3 Καὶ τοῦθ' ὀρᾶν ἔστιν ἐπὶ τῶν ἰατρικῶν περὶ | τῶν αὐτῶν ἀλλήλοις ἀντιστατούντων καὶ πάντων ἀξιούντων σφίσιν ἐκάστοις πείθεσθαι ὡς μόνοις ἰκανῶς τοῦ καιρίου καὶ λυσιτελοῦς ἔχουσιν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἑαυτοῖς στασιαζόντων εἴ τις προσέχοι τὸν νοῦν, 4 καὶ περὶ ὧν ἄρα χθὲς καὶ προτρίτης, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ πρὸ δυοῖν 20 ἴσως ἢ τριῶν ὥρων, ἄλλως ἐφιλοσόφουν, τάναντί' ἐκάστοτε νῦν γε εἶναι τιθεμένων καὶ σπουδαζόντων. Καὶ τοῦθ' ὀρᾶν ἔστιν ἔτι κατὰ πάσης τεχνικῆς ἀσκήσεως ὡσαύτως, εἰ καὶ ἦττον ὡς ἀληθῶς ἐπὶ τῶν βαναύσων μάλιστ' ἢ τῶν ἐλλογιμωτέρων. 5 Καὶ τοῦθ' ὀρᾶν ἔστιν ἐπὶ βουλευτικῶν λόγων ἐπιεικῶς, καὶ τεχνολογεῖται διάφορα πολλοῖς καὶ στωμύλλεται καὶ τάναντί' αὐθις τοῖς 25 πράγμασιν ἀπαντᾷ, καὶ τοῦτ' ἐπὶ πάσης δικαστικῆς κρίσεως καὶ ψέγειν ἅττα

4 λεγοίντο sine accentu P
erasit P²

10 γε s.l. add. P

12 καί': καὶ τὰ M et fort. a.c. P¹, τὰ fort.

¹⁶ I.e. the possibility to maintain different opinions.

¹⁷ 'truceless' (ἀκηρύκτους): or 'unannounced.'

¹⁸ 'put into a form of art' (τεχνολογεῖται): or 'treated systematically.'

which knowledge is derived from nature and by experience, and on what should be done in life, and what one should consider suitable and expedient for men—in all these cases the opposite interpretation is possible, and matters may be understood and described in opposite ways. 5 And very many people who express differing opinions about the same matters, do not, whatever stand they take, seem to be striving inopportunately. This is quite obvious with regard to those who engage in philosophy and spend a lot of energy on doing research on and contemplating the nature of reality: 6 about most things they do not only maintain views totally opposite to those of their opponents (and abundant argument is used on both sides), but also in some cases views in opposition to their own, and they stumble on what they have said before and on another occasion.

5 It is obvious that it is this¹⁶ that has created the different schools of philosophy, with their truceless¹⁷ and implacable strifes; and it is this that has led to struggles on issues of life and to philosophical spectacles. It is as if those men were gladiators and boxers, who according to themselves were making a serious study of the true nature of reality, which is supposed to be one; 2 these are men who all think that they have successfully grasped the truth about everything, even though they [simultaneously] believe things which are very far from each other and often and to the highest degree in conflict with each other. 3 This can also be seen among those who deal with medicine. They express different opinions to each other on the same point, and they all claim that one should put trust in them since they are the only ones who know what is timely and to advantage, even though, if one studies them closely, they turn out to be in conflict even with themselves; 4 and concerning the matter about which they expressed certain opinions yesterday and the day before, or, perhaps, rather two or three hours ago, they now opt and strive for the opposite in everything. This is also to be seen in the same way with regard to every technical pursuit, though in fact less so with regard to the purely mechanical ones than to those held in comparatively high esteem. 5 This is also to be seen to a certain extent in the case of speeches in council, in which different subjects are put into a form of art¹⁸ and talked about at length by many but turn out to be contrary to facts; this happens in every trial in court, where people set about

δὴ καὶ οὐστίνας ἂν ἀμέλει προτιθεμένων 6 καὶ τοῦναντίον ἐπαινεῖν ἀξιούσιν καὶ θαυμάζειν, καὶ ‘πάντ’ ἐν εὐρίποις’, καὶ πάντα λόγων ἐφ’ ἐκάτερα καὶ λεγόντων τυγχάνειν οἷα τ’ ἐστὶ, καὶ πάντ’ αὐθις εὐέλεγκτα δεικνυσθαι. 7 Καὶ οὐδὲν ἐστὶ τῶν ὄντων σχεδὸν καὶ περὶ ἅ πάντως οἱ λόγοι, ὃ μὴ οὕτω καὶ πολλῆς ἀσφαλείας αἴτιον καὶ ἀπιστίας περὶ πᾶσαν γνώμην καὶ τοῖς ἐφεκτικοῖς ἀφορμὴν τῇ γνώμῃ 5 δίδωσιν, εἴτουν ταῖς ἀντιθετικαῖς καὶ μαχίμοις ἐνστάσεσι καὶ συνηγορίαις τῇ κατὰ πάντων ἀπλῶς ἀμαθία.

378

| Περί τῶν ἐμπιπτόντων πράγμασι, τῶν μὲν διὰ
φιλόπραγμον ἦθος φαῦλον, τῶν δὲ δι’ ἀμαθίαν καὶ
ἀπρονόητον τὴν τύχην· ΞΒ’

10

1 Φαῦλον ὡς ἀληθῶς πρᾶγμα, καὶ φαύλων καὶ δυστυχῶν ἀνθρώπων, καὶ πολὺ μάλιστα’ ἀμαθέστατον τοῦ βελτίστου, τὸ ποθεῖν πράγματα καὶ προστρέχειν ἐτοίμως καὶ πάσῃ ῥοπῇ καὶ ὠθεῖν καὶ ὠθεισθαι 2 καὶ μὴ μάλισθ’ ὡς οἶον τ’ ἀποδιδράσκειν καὶ περὶ τὰ οἰκεία καὶ οἷς ξυνέλαχέ τις συνεῖναι καὶ χρῆσθαι καὶ ἀσκεῖν ὅπως ἄρα πονεῖν τε καὶ ἰδιοπραγεῖν καὶ προκόπτειν πάντως, ἢ 15 ἐρραστωνευμένως ἄγεσθαι, ἢ περὶ σοφίας ἐπιμέλειαν ἦντινα δὴ καὶ πρὸς ἦν ἄρα πέφυκεν, ἢ περὶ πάσας ἄλλας ὅσαι τοῦ βίου χρήσεις ἀνθρώποις. 3 Καὶ μερίζονται ταύτας ἄλλας ἄλλοι, πάντες δὲ πάσας εἰς τὴν κοινὴν τοῦ βίου συντέλειαν καὶ συνδιαγωγὴν καὶ ἀρμονίαν κατ’ ἔθιμον ἀγωγὴν, καὶ

2 εὐρίποις M

10 τὴν: τινὰ in tabula, i.e. indice, ante textum exhib. M

2 πάντ’ ἐν εὐρίποις] cf. Pl. *Phd.* 90c3sq. ὅτι οὔτε τῶν πραγμάτων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν ὑγιὲς οὐδὲ βέβαιον οὔτε τῶν λόγων, ἀλλὰ πάντα τὰ ὄντα ἀτεχνῶς ὡσπερ ἐν Εὐρίπω ἄνω κάτω στρέφεται καὶ χρόνον οὐδένα ἐν οὐδενὶ μένει | Th.Met. *Sem.* 29.1.1; 57.2.1; 60.32 et Id. *Carm.* 15.199 ἄτ’ ἐνὶ γ’ εὐρίποισι στρουφαλίσματος’ ἄπαυστα et Id. *Logos* 10.51.54 ἀλλ’ ἄνω καὶ κάτω μεταχωρεῖ τε καὶ τρέπεται ἀτεκμάρτοις τισὶ παντάπασι καὶ ἀορίστοις εὐμεταβόλου φύσεως καὶ λογιμῶν εὐρίποις

criticising anyone on any account ⁶ or, conversely, think fit to praise and admire anyone; and *all this is on unstable grounds*,¹⁹ since it is possible in every matter to find arguments in either direction and speakers willing to maintain any position. For everything can be shown to be easily refuted. ⁷ In fact, practically nothing exists about which there is any talk at all, which does not in this way cause much obscurity and discredit any opinion about itself and thus gives the Sceptics reason for their frame of mind. This happens because of the contradictory and opposing opinions which indicate a complete ignorance of everything.

62. On those who become engaged in public matters by accident,¹ some because of their meddlesome and base character, some because of ignorance and since they have not foreseen Fate

1 It is in truth a base thing, and characteristic of base and ill-fated people, to strive for political office and be ready to use every effort in order to accede to it, and to use pressure in this and allow oneself to be pushed around; more than anything else this behaviour shows a complete ignorance of what is best. ² Instead a man should shun office as much as possible and keep to and deal with those private matters which have fallen to his share; and he should somehow train himself in this and toil for it and go about his own business and always make progress therein, and so either live a carefree life, or bestow some attention on wisdom of whatever kind comes natural to him, or on any other activity in private life. ³ Different people take a different share in² all these activities; however, all people engage in all of them, and they do so in order to achieve the common goal

¹⁹ 'on unstable grounds' (ἐν εὐρίποις): or, more exactly, '(as in waters) in a narrow strait' (transl. Hult). For a discussion of this expression see Hult 2016, 25 (Th.Met. Sem. 29.1.1).

¹ 'become ... by accident' (ἐμπιπτόντων): other possible translations are 'stumble into,' or (so Hult 2002, 11) 'throw themselves into.'

² 'take a ... share in': for this meaning of μερίζομαι see Lampe s.v. μερίζω 2a.

συνέχειαν ἐκ προγόνων καὶ κλήρων ὡς εἰπεῖν, ἢ καθ' αἴρεσιν ἦντιν' ἄρα. 4
 Ἀλλὰ φεύγειν ἑαυτὸν καὶ τὰ οἴκοι πᾶσα ἀνάγκη συμπεφυκτότα οἱ καὶ σύστοιχα
 πρὸς τὸ ζῆν ὀρητοῦν καὶ ῥᾶον χρῆσθαι καὶ συμπλέκεσθαι καὶ διαεθλεύειν
 379 τοῖς | μὴ προσήκουσι καὶ ὧν ἔστι παρακερδαίνειν, εἰ ἄρ' ἔστιν, οὐκ ἄλλως ἢ
 ἀηδία καὶ φροντίσι καὶ κινδύνοις οὐκ εὐπεριφρονήτοις, καὶ ἀδίκως ἔστιν ὅτε 5
 νικᾶν, εἰ ἄρα νικῶν, καὶ κρεῖττον φέρεσθαι, 5 εἰ δὲ μὴ, διαπαλαμώμενον καὶ
 ἀντιστατοῦντα τῇ τύχῃ καὶ ξυμπίπτοντα μὴδ' ἀνεμεσήτως ὀλιγωρεῖσθαι
 καὶ πράττειν κακῶς περιεργαζόμενον ὡς μὴ ὠφελεν, οὐδὲν δέον μὴδὲ πρὸς
 ἀνάγκην τινὰ παραβαλλόμενον, ἀλλ' ἐκόντα γε ὄντα, 6 καὶ τελευτῶντα
 γ' ὡς ἀληθῶς ἄκοντα κακῶς ἑαυτῶ καὶ κακῶν αἴτιον γιγνόμενον καὶ ταῖς 10
 παροιμίαις ἢ ἀφορμῆν διδόντα ἢ λοιπὸν ἐνεχόμενον· 'πῦρ σκάλλειν', καὶ ὡς
 αἰξ τὴν μάχαιραν', καὶ 'κινεῖν τὸν ἀνάγυρον' καὶ ὄσ' ἄλλα τοῖς παλαιοῖς ἐπὶ
 τοὺς πολυπράγμονας καὶ κακοπράγμονας καθ' ἑαυτῶν χαριέντως εἴρηται,
 7 ὡς ἄρ' ἔνιοι τῶν ἀνθρώπων οὐκ ἀγαπῶσιν, ἦν μὴ πᾶσιν, εἰ οἶον τ' ἔστιν,
 ἀνθρώποις καὶ ἑαυτοῖς παρέχωνται πράγματα καὶ ὁμοσε πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις 15
 καὶ πᾶσι πράγμασι χωρεῖν ἐπέιγονται καὶ φιλοτιμοῦνται τὰλλότρια καὶ μὴ

1 κλήρων: κληρον P¹M, -ων s.l. P² (vide introd. 2.5, p. xxxix) 3 διαθλεύειν a.c. P, -ε- (i.e. διαεθλεύειν) add. P¹ vel P² 10 γινόμενον M 12 μαχαιραν sine accentu P

6 διαπαλαμώμενον] cf. Hsch. Δ 1612 διεπαλαμήσατο· διεπράξατο 11 πῦρ σκάλλειν] cf. Phot. *Homil.* 11.109.6 οὐδὲ τῇ μαχαίρᾳ τὸ πῦρ ἀνασκάλλων | Areth. *Script. Min.* 71.107.8sq. μαχαίρα πῦρ σκάλλοντες, τὸ τοῦ λόγου, καὶ καπνὸν φεύγοντες εἰς τὸ πῦρ ἐναλλόμενοι | Th.Met. *Sem.* 12.5.4 πῦρ χερσὶ κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν σκαλλόντων et Id. *Logos* 10.7.26 σκάλλειν πῦρ ταῖς χερσὶ ὡς ... μάχαιραν] cf. PCG VIII (K.-A.) 483 = *com.adesp. Fr.* 47 Dem. (Mette) αἰγὸς τρόπον μάχαιραν ἐσκάλευσά <μοι> | Clearch. *Fr.* 63 (Wehrli) αἰξ ποττᾶν μάχαιραν | CPG I Zen. I 27 αἰξ τὴν μάχαιραν· παροιμία ἐπὶ τῶν κακῶς τι καθ' ἑαυτῶν ποιούντων, ἀπὸ ἱστορίας τοιαύτης· Κορίνθιοι θυσίαν τελοῦντες Ἦρα ἐνιαύσιον, τῇ ὑπὸ Μηδείας ἰδρυνθείσῃ καὶ Ἀκραία καλουμένην, αἶγα τῇ θεῷ ἔθουον. τινὲς δὲ τῶν κοιμισάντων μισθωτῶν ἔκρυσαν τὴν μάχαιραν, καὶ σκηπτομένων [ἐπιλελῆσθαι] ἔνθα ἀπέθεντο, ἢ αἰξ τοῖς ποσὶν ἀνασκαλεύσασα ἀνέφηνε, καὶ τὴν μὲν σκῆψιν αὐτῶν διήλεγξεν, αὐτῇ δὲ τῆς σφαγῆς αἰτία ἐγένετο et Id. II 55 | Phot. *Homil.* 11.109.6 οὐδὲ τῇ μαχαίρᾳ τὸ πῦρ ἀνασκάλλων | *Suda* AI 235 Αἰξ, αἰγὸς. καὶ παροιμία· Ἡ αἰξ δοῦσα τὴν μάχαιραν | Th.Met. *Logos* 10.7.26 ὡς αἶγα φέρειν τὴν μάχαιραν 12 κινεῖν ... ἀνάγυρον] cf. Ar. *Lys.* 68 ὁ γοῦν Ἀνάγυρός μοι κεκινήσθαι δοκεῖ et *Schol. in Ar.* (Hangard) 68 παρὰ τὴν παροιμίαν 'κινεῖν τὸν ἀνάγυρον'. ἔστι δὲ πῶς δυσώδης | Lib. *Ep.* 80.6.2 ὄραξ, ὅτι κρεῖττον ἦν σοὶ μὴ κινεῖν τὸν ἀνάγυρον; | Phot. *Lex.* a 1432.9sq. ὅταν οὖν ἐπὶ οἰκεῖοις κακοῖς πράσῃ τις, λέγεται 'κινήσεις τὸν Ἀνάγυρον'. Ἀνάγυρον κινεῖν· τὸ φυτὸν τὸν ἀνάγυρον κινεῖν. ἔστι δὲ ἀλεξίκακον καὶ δυσῶδες | Th.Met. *Sem.* 10.1.6 ἐκίνησαν ἐφ' ἑαυτοῦς ἀνάγυρον τῆς παροιμίας et Id. *Logos* 10.7.24sq. τὸν δ' ἀνάγυρον ὄντως εἶποιμ' ἂν αὐτὸν κινεῖν παροιμακῶς

of fulfilment and to be able to lead a harmonious life according to their personal habits and the tradition inherited from their forefathers and according to their inheritance,³ so to speak, or according to some kind of personal choice. 4 But if someone flees from himself and from his home, with which he is grown together and which is somehow essential to his life and to an easier living, and if he gets entangled and struggles through life involved in alien affairs from which only an unjust profit, if any at all, is to be had—this is of necessity only possible at the cost of unpleasantness and worries and dangers not to be disdained; and victory, if this man is to be victorious, and success are then only to be achieved by unjust means. 5 And if he is not victorious, he will continually have to struggle with and resist Fate adroitly;⁴ and if he stumbles, it is only just that he should be ignored and fare badly, since he has been exposing himself without any obligation or necessity whatsoever but of his own free will. 6 This man will then end up in a way truly against his will and bad to himself, and he will be the cause of evil, and either give cause for, or be liable to, the predicament described in proverbs such as *stirring of the fire*,⁵ and *as the goat the knife*,⁶ and *touching the bean-trefoil*,⁷ and what other witticisms have been coined by the ancients about busybodies and those doing evil to themselves. 7 For some people are not satisfied if they cannot, if possible, create problems for everyone else as well as for themselves, and they strive to come in close contact with all people and meddle with all matters, and they have ambi-

³ 'according to their inheritance': P² changes κληρον into κλήρων, for which see discussion in the introduction, 2.5, p. xxxix.

⁴ 'resist (Fate) adroitly': διαπαλαμάομαι is missing in LSJ and Lampe; see Trapp, with reference to this occurrence ('ankämpfen') and to Hesychius (cf. app. font. et parall.).

⁵ This and the following two expressions are similar to that of *letting sleeping dogs lie*. They occur in conjunction with each other also in Metochites' *Ethicus* (*Logos* 10.7: cf. app. font. et parall.).

⁶ The story told is that of a goat finding a hidden knife and thereby assisting in its own slaughter.

⁷ 'bean-trefoil': a smelly plant.

διαφέροντα σφίσιν εἶναι, δραστικώτατοι καὶ διαρκεῖς καὶ πανδέξιοι, 8 ἢ γέλωθ' ὡς ἀληθῶς ὄφλοντες κακοὶ κακῶς τε καὶ ἀμαθῶς καὶ ἀηδῶς ἅμα, ἢ κινδύνους ἑαυτοῖς ἢ ἄλλοις καὶ φροντίσματα πάσης ἀνίας καὶ χαλεπότητος ἐμποιοῦντες, καὶ τελευτῶντες οἱ πλείους ἐν μεταμέλῳ γιγνόμενοι.

380 2 Πρὸς μὲν οὖν τὸν σάτυρον ὁ μῦθος φησὶν ὡς εἶδε τὴν ἀρχὴν τὸ πῦρ 5 ὑπὸ τοῦ Προμηθεῶς γενόμενον μάλ' ἠσθέντα τῇ θεᾷ καὶ ὑπὸ τῆς ἠδονῆς αὐτῷ προστρέχοντα βουλόμενον κατασπάσασθαι, τὸν Προμηθεᾶ φάναι· οὐκ-οῦν τράγος οὐ χαιρήσεις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ καταπιμπρῶμενος τὸν πῶγωνά 2 Τὸν δ' αὐτὸν οἶμαι τρόπον πρὸς γε τοὺς τοιοῦτους ἔξεστι φάναι προστρέχοντας ὅλη φορᾶ τῇ πραγματειῶδει ταύτῃ χρήσει, καὶ μάλισθ' ἠδέως ὑπὸ τῆς 10 ἀμαθίας ἔοικε τῶν ἐν τῷ πράγματι κινδύνων· ὧ μάταιοι, ποῖ φέρεσθε; τί καθ' ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἐπείγεσθε μὴ προειδότες, ὡς οὐ λυσιτελήσει γ' ὑμῖν; 3 Οὐ δ' ἑάσει γε προσιόντας τὰ φαινόμενα λαμπρὰ καὶ ἠδισθ' ὑμῖν μετ' οὐ πολὺ φεύγειν αὐτῶν ἀζημίως, ἀλλὰ κακοὶ κακῶς ἐμπεπτωκότες οἷς οὐκ ᾤθητε, τελευτῶντες εἶτ' ἀπαλλάξετε. 4 Καὶ γὰρ δὴ καὶ πολλοὶ τῶν ἀψαμένων ἠδέως 15 καὶ προσδραμόντων ὑπ' ἀβελτηρίας δὴ τινος καὶ φαύλης ἔξεως καὶ πόθου τυφλοῦντος περὶ τὸ ποθοῦμενον, μετὰ τὴν πείραν ἀηδῶς κοιμιδῆ χρώμενοι καὶ δυσχεραίνοντες, εἴπερ οἶον τ' ἦν παλιννοστήσαι καὶ λαβέσθαι τῶν ὀπισθεν ἕκ τινος αὔθις τρόπου καὶ γενέσθαι τῆς ἀρχῆς, ἠδιστ' ἠλλάξαντ' ἄν, 381 5 καὶ λειποταξίου γραφὴν οὐκ ἂν ἀπώκησαν, οὐδὲ μικροψυχίας δὴ | τινος 20 ἔλεγχον καὶ γνώμης ὀλίγης καὶ ἀνικάνου φύσεως, καὶ μάλιστ' ἀπολίτευτοι καὶ ἀνάγωγοι δόξαί τινες εἴλοντ' ἄν ἢ τοσαύταις ἀεὶ κατατρύχεσθαι καὶ ἀεθλεύειν

9 αὐτὸν δ' M 10 πραγματειῶδει: -ει- in linea add. P¹, -ῶδη M 15 ἀπαλλάξετε: fort. -α- (i.e. ἀπαλλάξατε) p.c. M

5 Πρὸς ... πῶγωνα] cf. A. Fr. 208 (Radt) = Fr. 40D 455a (Mette) apud Plu. *De cap. ex inim. util.* 86F.2 τράγος γένειον ἄρα πενήθεισι σύ γε

⁸ 'very skilful': πανδέξιος is rare (it is missing from LSJ and Lampe; see, however, Trapp, 'sehr geschickl'). In *Metochites*, the word occurs three more times (*Logos* 1.47.12, 1.53.14, *Carm.* 4.239).

⁹ This is part of the story told in Aeschylus' lost play *Prometheus Pyrrphoros*. *Metochites'* source is likely to be Plutarch (cf. app. font. et parall.).

¹⁰ I.e. to public office.

tions with regard to that which does not belong to nor concern them, and they are very active and persistent and very skilful⁸ in this. ⁸ And if they turn out to be bad and if they subject themselves or others to danger in a base and stupid and unpleasant way, and if they make themselves or others subject to grievous and difficult thoughts, and if, at the end of their life, they feel regret, as is the case with most of them, they are in truth much to be derided.

² About the satyr the myth says that he saw when the fire was first introduced by Prometheus, and that he took much delight in viewing it, and that Prometheus said to him, when he joyously ran forth wishing to embrace the fire: ‘since you are a goat you will not be glad to have your beard burnt by it.’⁹ ² Similarly you might, I think, say to those who run forward full of energy to this laborious activity,¹⁰ and who do so very gladly, apparently out of ignorance of the dangers involved: ‘Oh, senseless men, where are you going? Why do you so eagerly do this to yourselves? Do you not foresee that it will not benefit you? ³ If you proceed, what now seems glorious and most sweet to you soon will not release you unhurt, but being base yourselves you have fallen badly upon the unexpected, and you will be set free only by death.’ ⁴ Indeed, many people who have engaged in public matters enthusiastically and who have entered upon these through some kind of fatuity or base attitude, and with a desire which makes blind with regard to its object, would with the greatest pleasure have withdrawn¹¹ from public matters after having had the experience, since this turned out to be utterly unpleasant and disgusting to them; and they would indeed have withdrawn, had it been possible for them by some method to do so and to turn back to their former circumstances and go back to their original condition. ⁵ And they would not have shrunk from being indicted for desertion nor from being reproached of meanness of spirit and limited intelligence and insufficient character; and some of them would have

¹¹ The examples of the aorist with ἄν, expressing an unreal condition, in §§ 4–5 (‘would have withdrawn’, ‘would not have shrunk’, ‘would have preferred’) may refer to the present time, or to a general condition, and not only, as my translation indicates, to the past (cf. to this below, chapter 3, § 3: ‘and they would run away’ as a translation of κἀν ἀπέδρασαν).

δυσχερείαις τῆς ἀπροόπτου προθέσεως τὸν ἅπαντα τῆς ζωῆς χρόνον. 6 Πολλοὶ δέ γ' αὐθις χαίρουσιν εὖ μάλα τῷ βίῳ καὶ τρίβουσιν ὡς ἥδιστα σφίσιν αἰεὶ καταναιδευσάμενοι τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ ἀφροντιστοῦντες πρὸς τοὺς ἕξωθεν συνιέντας ὡσπερ οἱ τοῖς μολυσμοῖς καὶ τοῖς βορβόροις ἐμφυρόμενοι χοῖροι, ἢ καὶ οἱ κατὰ τῶν κοντῶν ὠθοῦντες ἑαυτοὺς ἀκαίρῳ φιλονεικία καθ' ἑαυτῶν 5 καὶ πρὸς τὸν ὄλεθρον αὐτοῖς ἀμιλλώμενοι. 7 Καὶ οὗτοι μὲν γε πλεῖστοι κατὰ τὸν βίον φαῦλοι φαύλως αἰροῦνται πράττειν κακῶς, αὐτοὶ γ' ἐκόντες ὄντες, καὶ φιλοδικοῦσι καὶ φιλονεικοῦσι καὶ παραβάλλονται πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις ἐνστατικῶς 8 καὶ πᾶσι πράγμασι κρατερῶς τὴν τόλμαν καὶ τὴν αὐθάδειαν καὶ τὴν ἀναίδειαν τοῦ βίου, καὶ πάσης ἀντιπράξεως καὶ πάντων καμάτων εὖ μάλ' 10 ἄτρεπτοι, καὶ πάσης κακεντρεχείας νικηφόροι καθ' ἑαυτῶν.

3 Καὶ οἱ μὲν γε οὕτως. Ἀλλὰ καὶ πολλοὶ γε μὴν ὁμως τῶν εὐγενῶν ἀνδρῶν καὶ μετρίων ἄκοντες καὶ παρὰ τὴν αὐτῶν βούλησιν καὶ τὸ ἦθος ἐμπίπτουσιν 382 ἀηδέστατα τῇ τοιαύτῃ διαθέσει τοῦ βίου, καὶ | φεύγοντες ὅλη προθέσει γνώμης καὶ κατὰ φύσιν ἄλλοτριῶς ἔχοντες βιάζονται καὶ δυστυχοῦσιν οἷς οὐκ οἰκειῶς 15 εἰσὶ, 2 καὶ πράγματ' ἔχουσι κομιδῇ πλεῖστα δυσχεραίνοντες, καὶ ἀμιλλῶνται πρὸς ἀντιπράττοντας, καὶ διαπληκτίζονται συσχεθέντες, οὐ μάλα τοι κατασκοπὸν ὃν ἐν τούτοις πονεῖν, καὶ νικῶσι καὶ νικῶνται. 3 Καὶ φέρονται τισιν ἐπιηρείαις καὶ ξυντυχίαις αἷς οὐκ ἂν ποτ' ᾤθησαν οὐδ' ἐχρήσαντ' ἂν αὐτοὶ καθ' αἴρεσιν πράττοντες κἂν ἀπέδρασαν ὡς ἤψαντο καὶ συνέσχοντο (καὶ τοῦτ' 20 εὐκταῖον ὅτι μάλιστ' αὐτοῖς, εἰ οἶον τ' ἦν) 4 ὡσπερ ἀπὸ τινων τυμβωρύχων καὶ ληστῶν ἢ βαρείας τινὸς νόσου καὶ δεινῆς διαδράντες, ἢ κλύδωνος τινός, καὶ διασωθέντες ἐπ' ἀσφαλοῦς γενόμενοι· ὃ πάντων ἐστὶν ἐργωδέστατον, τὸ παρελθεῖν τὰς ἐντεῦθεν ἐπιθέσεις ἢ μὴ ξυλλαχεῖν τοιοῖσδε πράγμασιν ἐν βίῳ γενόμενον. 5 Καὶ πολλοὺς γέ τις μαρτύρῃται ἂν ἐνταῦθα, οἱ πείρᾳ τινὶ καθ' 25

2 εὖ μάλα χαίρουσι M 12 Ἀλλὰ etc.: ad haec add. ἀληθεύω. θεοῦ ἐφορῶντος; ἔγωγ' ὁ ξυγγράφων, οὕτω δὴ βεβίωκα· in mg. ut vid. P²

¹² What is probably the *manus secunda* of P (= P²) adds the famous comment on this in the margin: 'As God is my witness, I, the author, am right in this. For I have lived it' (translation according to Hult 2002, xix); for a discussion of the problems concerning this note see the introduction, i.i, p. xiii, with references.

¹³ 'moderate people' (μετρίων): apparently of a humbler station in life than the high-born, but still good people in comparison with those discussed in Chapter 2, §§ 6–8.

preferred seeming very much unpolished and uneducated to being always worn out and during all their life having to fight against so many difficulties, befalling them because of an undertaking which had proved to have unforeseen consequences. ⁶ On the other hand, many people are very fond of life and live in a way most pleasant to themselves while behaving impudently in public matters and paying no attention to any observers from the outside, being like swine immersed in dirt and filth, or like those who, to their own detriment, push themselves with untimely zeal towards the stake and fight so as to bring about their own destruction. ⁷ Most of these live a bad life, and out of baseness and by their own free will they choose to fare badly, and they show fondness of litigation and strife, and stubbornly ⁸ and forcefully do they match their daring and rashness and shameless way of life against all people, and they are completely undeterred by any opposition and all the trouble they have to take; and so, because of all their mischievous activity, they emerge as victors over themselves.

³ So much for these. However,¹² also many of the high-born as well as moderate people¹³ become engaged in such a life by accident; and they do so unwillingly and in spite of their inclination and character, and in a way which brings a great lot of unpleasantness to people of their sort; and although they try to avoid it by every conscious effort of the mind, and although they are, by nature, totally differently disposed, they are forced into this kind of life; and they meet with an untoward fate in situations not natural to them. ² And, having very many matters to deal with, they feel disgust, and they fight against those who oppose them, and they wrangle when caught, even though it is not very much to the purpose to take pains under these conditions; and sometimes they prevail, and sometimes not; ³ and if not, they are subject to different kinds of insulting treatment and untoward incidents which they could not have imagined nor would have made themselves subject to, had they been acting according to their own wishes; and they would run away from these matters at the moment when they came into contact with and were constrained by them (this is what they would wish for most, if possible), ⁴ and they would do this as if they had been running away from grave-robbers and pirates, or from some serious and violent illness, or a storm, and thus had been saved and

383 ἐαυτῶν, ὡς μήποτ' ὄφελον, λέγειν ἔτοιμοι καὶ συνηγορεῖν ὡς ἀληθεῖ τῶ νῦν
 λόγῳ, αὐτοὶ γνώμης ὄντες ἀλλοτρίας καὶ ἤθους πολυπραγμοσύνης πάσης καὶ
 μὴ πρὸς πάντα φερομένης ἐμπλήκτως ἕξεως 6 αὐτοὶ καὶ παρὰ βούλησιν καὶ
 σφόδρα δυσχεραίνοντες τοῖς γε τοιούτοις ξυμπίπτοντες καὶ καθάπαξ ἄφυκτα
 5 ἐχόμενοι, καὶ κάμνοντες καὶ νικῶντες καὶ νικώμενοι καὶ φορῶ χρώμενοι τῆς
 7 τύχης καὶ τῶν πραγμάτων πνεύματι, καὶ ναυαγοῦντες ὑπ' ἀντιπνοίας αὔθις,
 7 καὶ δι' ἀήθειαν ἔστιν οὐδ' ἄ μὴ πρὸς αὐτῶν ἀναγκαζόμενοι πράττειν καὶ
 οἷς μὴ πεφύκασιν οὐδ' αἰροῦνται διαεθλεύειν συναρπαγέντες, ἢ δεσποτικῇ
 χρεῖα καὶ βία, ἢ φιλτάτων δεσμοῖς ἀφύκτοις τῆς φύσεως, ἢ φιλονεικίας τινὸς
 10 ἠττηθέντες. 8 Ὅυ γὰρ ἀναίμονές εἰσιν, ἀλλ' εἶδαρ ἔδουσι· καὶ αὐτοὶ, οἷον καὶ
 ἄλλοι βροτοὶ ἄνδρες, φησὶν ἢ ποιήσας, ἔδουσι καὶ πόσιος χρέονται καὶ τῆς
 κοινῆς εἰσι φύσεως, ἢ δυσωπία τινί, ἢ καὶ ἄλλοις δὴ τισιν ἀνθρωπεῖς ὁμως
 τοῖς πάθεισιν.

Περὶ τῶν ἐλπίδων καὶ ὅτι τρόπον μὲν τινα βιωφελέστατον
 15 ἀνθρώποις τὸ κατ' αὐτὰς χρῆμα, τρόπον δέ τιν' αὔθις
 καθάπαξ νεμεσητὸν καὶ κατεγνωσμένον· ΞΓ'

384 1 Βιωφελέστατόν τι κατ' ἀνθρώπους τῆ ζωῆ καὶ τῶ εἶναι, καὶ καθόλου τῆς
 φυσικῆς ἀσθενείας καὶ τῶν κατὰ τὸν βίοντον δυσχερῶν ἀλεξικακόν τι καὶ
 ῥάδιον αὐτόθεν χρῆσθαι καὶ μάλ' εὐπόριστον καὶ ἀδάπανον βοήθημα, τὸ τῶν
 ἐλπίδων χρῆμα· καὶ οὐκ ἂν ἦν ὅλως ἐν ἡμῖν εὐζωῖα οὐδὲ τοῦ ζῆν ἔφεσις καὶ 20
 τοῦ εἶναι | χωρὶς ἐλπίδων. 2 Καὶ ζωὴ τις ἐστὶν αὐτῆ μάλιστα' ἴδια, καὶ πρώτη
 γ' ἴσως οὐσιωμένη τῆ φαντασίᾳ, καθ' ἣν ἐστὶ καὶ δίχα σώματος καὶ τῆς

4 συμπίπτοντες M 10 εἶδαρ M 12 ἀνθρωπεῖς: -ει- s.l. add. P¹ vel P², ἀνθρωπίνους M

10 Οὐ ... ἔδουσι] cf. *Il.* 5.341sq. οὐ γὰρ σίτον ἔδουσι, οὐ πίνουσι· αἶθοπα οἶνον / τοῦνεκ' ἀναίμονές
 εἰσι καὶ ἀθάνατοι καλέονται | *Plu. Sept. sap. conv.* 160A.13 | [*Plu.*] *De Hom.* 2.1216sq. et 2.2481sq.

brought to a place of safety. Indeed, to avoid these attacks, so as not to come across such matters in life, is the hardest of all things. 5 Many people may be adduced as witnesses in this case, people who because of some undesirable experience, detrimental to themselves, would be willing to talk and advocate the truth of this claim, and who are of a different opinion and disposition from every kind of busybodiness and far from the tendency to engage in well-nigh anything; 6 and they have been subject to such matters against their wish and with the greatest disgust and have been restrained so as to be absolutely unable to get away; and they suffer, sometimes gaining the upper hand, sometimes losing, sometimes experiencing a favourable breeze of Fate and a favourable development of the situation, and sometimes being shipwrecked because of a contrary wind. 7 And, being carried away either by the duty to their masters, or the sheer force of these masters, or by the unbreakable bonds to their dearest by nature, they are sometimes by inexperience forced to do that which does not become them, and that for which they have no natural disposition, and to fight for what they have no wish to fight; and they may also be defeated by some sort of ambition. 8 *For they are not bloodless, but they too eat food:*¹⁴ like other mortal men, poetry says, they eat and use drink, and they share common human nature, either in some feeling of shame or in other human qualities.

63. On hope, and that this in some way is a most helpful
device for men, but that sometimes it is despicable and
causes extreme indignation

1 This device, hope, is most helpful for human life and existence, and on the whole it gives protection against natural weaknesses and against difficulties which occur during the course of life; it is handy for immediate use, and it is a help which is very easy to procure and free of charge; without hope, we would not at all be able to live well nor have any desire to do so or

¹⁴ This is a freely rendered, abbreviated version of *Iliad* 5.341–342, a passage discussed a great many times in grammatical literature and the like.

ὀργανικῆς τοῦ σώματος χρήσεως ζῆν, καὶ πολυαρκέστατα καὶ μακροβιώτατα ζῆν, οὐ τὰ παρόντα μόνον ἀμέλει καὶ ἀκαριαῖα καὶ ὡς εἰπεῖν ἄληπτα χρόνῳ καὶ ἀμεγέθη, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ μέλλοντα καὶ παμμηκέστατα πορρωτάτω τῶν δεδομένων ὄρων ἐπέκεινα. ³ Οὐκ ἂν μὲν οὖν οὐδ' αἶρετόν ἦν ἡ ζωὴ οὐδὲ ποθεινὸν μετασχοῦσιν αὐτῆς, εἰ μὴ προσήσαν ἐλπίδες, ὡσπέρ τι ζωηφόρον ⁵ παρεχόμεναι πνεῦμα καὶ διαρκείας καὶ μονῆς ἀφορμῆν, καὶ πάσης εὐπραγίας κατὰ τὸν βίον ἐνέχυρον, καὶ συνηγορία βραστώνης, ⁴ καὶ ὡσπερ ἐν λαίφεσιν εὐπνοίας εἴτουν εὐπλοίας ἀνέμου ρεύματα καὶ φορᾶς οὐρίου ζῆν ἄρι καὶ γαλήνη, καὶ πομπεία τις ἐορτάσιμος εὐετηρίας κατὰ τὸν βίον, καὶ χεμῶνων ¹⁰ καὶ ναυαγίων λιμῆν ἐκ τοῦ προχείρου λαβέσθαι καὶ ὑπερσχεῖν ἀμηγέπη, ⁵ καὶ πάντων νοσημάτων καὶ πάντων καμάτων καὶ πόνων φάρμακον, ἃ πάντα κᾶν φέρειν ἐστὶν ἐρρωμενέστατα καὶ γεννικῶς, κᾶν ἀποτίθεσθαι τοῖς λογισμοῖς ³⁸⁵ ἐλπίδων κουφότητι καὶ συντονίᾳ γνώμης ταῖς | ἐλπίσιν αὐταῖς νευρουμένη. ⁶ Καὶ δοκεῖ πως εὐγενὲς καὶ ἀνθρώπων ἀστειῶν ἢ ἐν τοῖς δεινοῖς εὐελπιστία καὶ τὸ μὴ καταπίπτειν τῇ τῶν πραγμάτων χαλεπότητι, ὡς εἶναι καὶ φιλοσοφίας ¹⁵ καὶ ἀρετῆς καὶ θεοσεβείας μὲν οὖν ἀφορμὴ τὸ τῶν ἐλπίδων χρῆμα, καὶ πάντα δόγματα περὶ τε θεοῦ καὶ τῶν θείων, καὶ πᾶσα μακαριότης ἀκλόνητος νῦν τε εἶναι κᾶν τῷ μέλλοντι μεθύστερον, ἐλπίσι τελεσφορεῖται καὶ τὸ πιστὸν ἔχει.

2 Δίχα δ' ἐλπίδων μὴ καὶ τῶν ἀνεπιχειρήτων ἢ πραγμάτων καὶ φαῦλον ἢ καὶ δυσνοικὸν τὸ λογίζεσθαι, μάλα τοι καταθεμένους τὰς ἐλπίδας, καὶ τὸ ²⁰ πολύπραγμον ἄκαιρον, καὶ ὅλως γε πολλὴ στενότης ἂν τῆς ζωῆς ἦν ἡμῖν, ² εἰ μὴ παρείπετο πᾶσι τὰ τῶν ἐλπίδων, εἰδοποιός τις τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης βιοτῆς δύναμις, καὶ διαρκείας καὶ μονῆς δεσμός, καὶ πᾶσιν ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν ἐπεπόλαζε τε

¹ 'untouched' (ἄληπτος): LSJ translates this word as 'not to be laid hold of'/'hard to catch' (similar translations also in Lampe) which fits in below at 63.6.3; the word is missing from Trapp.

² 'promise': συνηγορία.

³ 'unshakeable' (ἀκλόνητος): LSJ and Lampe translate this word as 'unshaken'/'unmoved'; see, however, Trapp s.v. ἀκλονητί ('unerschütterlich').

⁴ 'which should not be attempted' (ἀνεπιχειρήτος): LSJ translates this word as 'unassailable'/'unattempted'; cf. Lampe: 'not to be touched'/'not to be tampered with' (the word is missing from Trapp).

⁵ 'unpleasant': δυσνοικός is missing from LSJ and Lampe; cf. Trapp, with, somewhat differently, 'übelgesinnt'/'böswillig'.

⁶ 'anxiety': the translation of στενότης in LSJ which seems most relevant is 'scarcity'; the word is missing from Lampe and Trapp.

even to exist. ² And this is a kind of very private life, first, maybe, coming into existence through imagination, within which it may live without the body and the use of the organs of the body, doing so to the highest degree self-sufficiently and for a very long time, not in the present only and for the moment and, so to speak, untouched¹ by and without extension in time, but also into the future and very much past the given limits. ³ Indeed, but for hope life would not be anything to wish for or desire for those having part in it; hope provides a kind of life-giving breath and a foundation for endurance and constancy, and a pledge of every success in life, and a promise² of ease. ⁴ Hope is comparable to a favourable gust of wind in the sails, a gust which promises a fair voyage and a rush on in fine weather in the spring; it is like some festive procession ensuring a prosperous life; it is like a haven from storms and shipwrecks, within reach and somehow capable of giving protection. ⁵ Hope is like a medicine for all diseases and all exertion and pain, all of which can either be born most vigorously and nobly or laid aside mentally because of the relief given by hope and through the strengthening of the mind given by it. ⁶ To be of good hope in a terrible situation, and not to be depressed by the difficulty of a situation, seems somehow to be characteristic of the noble-minded and refined; and so this device of hope gives rise to philosophical activity and virtue and the fear of God. And all dogmas about God and the divine, and all happiness, which is unshakeable³ now and in the future, are brought to bear perfect fruit and gain credibility through hope.

² Speculation without hope might be one of those things which should not be attempted,⁴ and, if hope is really abandoned, planning for the future might be a bad and unpleasant⁵ matter, and being interested in many things would be inappropriate; and there would on the whole be much anxiety⁶ in our life ² if hope, which is a kind of forceful signal of the human capability for life and a bond ensuring longevity and permanence, did not follow everyone and if it were not common to well-nigh all people and visited, or rather pervaded, all; for it is a phenomenon comparable to the common enjoyment of air, which men breathe and which holds nature together so as to make life possible. ³ For it would not be possible to live if air did not exist and was readily available for use; and in a similar

καὶ ἐπωχεῖτο, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐπεχεῖτο διὰ πάντων, ὡς ἀέρος μετουσία κοινή, οὐ
 πνέουσιν ἄνθρωποι συνέχοντος τὴν φύσιν καὶ καθιστῶντος εἰς τὸ βιώσιμον. 3
 Καὶ οὐκ ἂν ζῆν οἶον τ' εἶη μὴ ὄντος τὲ καὶ συνόντος αὐτόθεν εἰς μετάληψιν· ὡς
 ἄρα καὶ τὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων παραπλησίως οὐκ ἂν τὸ βιώσιμον εἶχεν, εἰ μὴ συνῆν
 διὰ πάντων ἄτμητα τὰ τῶν ἐλπίδων εἰς μετουσίαν ζωηφόρον καὶ καθίστη τοῦ 5
 386 βίου τὴν ἀγωγὴν ἀνύσιμον. 4 Καὶ πολλοὶ γ' | ἂν ἀπόμοτον καὶ ἀπευκαῖον εἶχον
 τὸ ζῆν, καὶ ἴσως γε καὶ φεύγοντες ἂν ἀπηλλάττοντο δραπέται μοχηθῆρας τινος
 καὶ δυσαγώγου ζωῆς, ὅσοι μὴ τὴν γνώμην τέλειοι καὶ μὴ πλέον τοῦ φαινομένου
 τοῦδε ζῶντες, καὶ τοῦτο πάντως ταῖς ἐλπίσι, καὶ κομιδῇ σπάνιον καὶ χαλεπὸν
 εὔρειν, καὶ ὀλίγου τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἀριθμοῦ, εἰ δὴ καὶ τοῦτο δοίημεν. 5 Οἱ δὲ 10
 πολλοὶ τὰ παρόντα μόνον ζῶντες, ἦν μὴ ἄρα τὰ ἐκ τῶν ἐλπίδων βοηθήματα
 προσῆν, δυσχερέσιν ἂν ξυμπίπτοντες ἐκάστοτε πράγμασι καὶ καταγρόμενοι
 καὶ βαρύτερα φέροντες, καὶ μὴ φέροντες μάλιστα, κακοὶ κακῶς τε καὶ ἀφειδῶς
 ἑαυτῶν ἔτοιμον ἂν εἶχον αὐτόθεν καθ' ἑαυτῶν τὸν βρόχον, 6 ἢ τὴν χεῖρα πρὸς
 τὴν αὐτῶν ὠπλίζον ἂν ἐτοιμότερα σφαγὴν, σπουδῇ πάσῃ διδράσκοντες τὴν 15
 ἀδόκητον καὶ ἀνέλπιστον παντὸς προσηνοῦς τλήμονα ζωὴν, καὶ πανώλειαν
 ἑαυτῶν ἀνθαιρούμενοι τοῦ ἐν τοῖς κακοῖς μήκους καὶ τῆς μονῆς. 7 Καὶ
 ὀρώμεν ὡς πολλοὶ γ' οὕτω κάκισθ' ἑαυτοῖς ἐχρήσαντο καὶ ἀφειδῶς, καὶ αἰ
 χρῶνται, χαλεποῖς δὴ τισι ξυντυχόντες καὶ πάσης ἀπεγνωκότες ἐλπίδος,
 μικρογνώμονες ἄνθρωποι δὴ τινες καὶ μικρολόγοι τῶν ἀγαθῶν ἐλπίδων καὶ 20
 ἀμαθεῖς τοῦ κατ' αὐτὰς μάλιστα βελτίστου, 8 ὡς ἄρα πάντων χαλεπῶν καὶ
 τῶν βαρυτάτων πορρωτέρω πεφύκασι φέρεσθαι καὶ ἀπέραντοι εἰσί, καὶ οὐδεὶς
 μήποτ' ἂν ὄρος αὐταῖς εἶη καὶ τέλος ὅτιοῦν, οὐδ' ἐν τοῖς ἐσχάτοις αὐτῆς τῆς
 387 ἀναπνοῆς· οὐδ' ἀποκλείονται κατ' ἄρα τι μέτρον | ὅποσονοῦν ἢ σταδίων
 μήκος τόσων καὶ τόσων, ὑπερβάλλον πάντ' ἀριθμὸν καὶ ποσὸν ἅπαν ὡς εἰπεῖν, 25

⁷ 'execrable': ἀπόμοτος is missing from LSJ; for the meaning required here cf. Lampe ('to be forsworn' and, especially, 'hostile'); cf. Trapp ('verboten').

⁸ This is a problematic sentence, and the translation somewhat hypothetical.

⁹ 'this': i.e. that people do not trust to hope.

¹⁰ 'leaves neither expectation' (ἀδόκητος): this is missing from Lampe and Trapp and translated as 'unexpected'/'unexpected' by LSJ.

¹¹ 'narrow-minded': μικρογνώμων is missing from LSJ and Lampe (10 times in the TLG corpus, including μικρογνώμων); see, however, Trapp ('kleingeistig' etc.) and cf. LSJ s.v. μικρογνωμοσύνη.

¹² 'do not sufficiently value': μικρολόγος does not seem to have exactly this meaning in the

way human life would not be liveable if it were not for hope, always and indivisibly to be shared so as to ensure life; thus hope makes it possible to complete the course of life. ⁴ Indeed, many people would find life execrable⁷ and abominable [but for hope], and they would perhaps even leave it fleeing, to become deserters from a toilsome and difficult life. This would be the case with those of a defective mind, who live by appearances only; and, especially, it would be the case with those who do not trust to hope.⁸ However, this⁹ is very rare and hard to find examples of, and it is characteristic of a small number of people, even if we grant that the phenomenon does exist. ⁵ But most people live for the present only, and if they did not have the help of hope, they would at once, whenever they encounter difficulties and are under pressure and fare very badly and simply are not able to bear up with the situation, be ready to put the noose around their own neck—without mercy and to their own detriment, mean as they are. ⁶ They would also very readily take to arms and murder their own selves; and they would most eagerly escape from their miserable life, which leaves neither expectation¹⁰ nor any hope of kindness; and they would prefer the complete destruction of themselves to remaining for a long time under evil conditions. ⁷ Indeed, we see that quite a lot of people who have met with difficulties and have lost all hope, have treated, and continue to treat, themselves in this most evil and unsparing way; this they do since they are narrow-minded¹¹ and do not sufficiently value¹² good hope, ignoring the highest good which this hope promises,¹³ ⁸ namely that by its nature it leads us far away from all difficult and most grievous matters, and that it is boundless, and that there is no limit to it ever nor any end of any kind, not even at the very last moment of life; nor is it limited to any extent or by any measure, only extending so and so many stadia; rather, it exceeds, so to speak, every number and every quantity, though, at the end of life, it knows of some sort of limitation. ⁹ And so this device, hope, would seem

examples cited in the lexica, see LSJ ('caring about petty things' etc.), and Lampe ('belittle'/'disparage'); it is missing from Trapp.

¹³ 'ignoring ... promises' (ἀμαθεῖς τοῦ κατ' αὐτὰς μάλιστα βελτίστου): or 'being ignorant of that which is the highest good according to this hope.'

τελευτῶν δ' ὅμως ὀρίζομενον ὀπηοῦν. 9 Καὶ τὸ μὲν γε τῶν ἐλπίδων οὕτως ἄρα δόξειεν ἂν βέλτιστ' ἔχειν κατ' ἀνθρώπους καὶ ὀνησιμώτατον τῇ καθ' ἡμᾶς φύσει μάλιστ' εἰ δὴ τι καὶ ἄλλο τῶν ἀπάντων ἐπισκεπτομένῳ καθόλου τὰ κατὰ τὸν βίον πράγματα.

3 Οὐ μὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐθις πολλοὶ καταμωκᾶσθαι δεῖν ἤγγηται καὶ πάλαι καὶ 5
 νῦν ἀξιοῦσι μεγάλης ὑπευθύνους εὐηθείας καὶ ματαιότητος τοὺς ἐχομένους
 παντάπασι τῶν ἐλπίδων ἀβεβαίου πράγματος οὕτω καὶ καθάπαξ ἀπίστου
 καὶ ἀνιδρύτου, 2 κἀντεῦθεν μάλισθ' ὅ τί ποτ' ἄρα φρονούντας καὶ βιοῦντας
 ἀκαιρία πάση λογισμῶν, καὶ τελευτῶντας, καὶ μάλιστ' εἴωθεν οὕτω δὴ
 ξυμβαίνειν ἀπαλλαττομένους ἐντεῦθεν καὶ τοῦ βίου παντὸς ἄωρία πάση τῶν 10
 ἐν ἐλπίσι καὶ ἀηδέστατα πάνυ τοι σφίσι ἀυτοῖς, 3 καὶ τηνικαῦτα δὴ ξυνιέντας
 ἀνόνητα τῆς ἑαυτῶν ἀμαθίας καὶ τῶν μακρῶν φαντασμάτων καὶ λήρων
 καὶ πλάνων ἀνηνύτων καὶ περιόδων τῶν εἰς πάντα φερουσῶν διαύλων τῶν
 ἐλπίδων καὶ δρόμων κούφως τὲ καὶ ῥᾶστα καὶ μάλιστ' ἀπόνως πραγμάτων,
 4 καὶ γέλωτα μὲν ἐχθροῖς ὀφλοντας, θρηνοῦντας δ' ὅμως ὡς ἀφηρημένους 15
 388 ὦν ἀπρίξ εἶχοντο καὶ κατεδραματούργουν ὡς ἐν σκηνῇ | τοῖς λογισμοῖς τὴν
 αὐτῶν ἐξουσίαν καὶ τρυφὴν καὶ πομπείαν καὶ τύχης εὐμένειαν, ἐνεορτάζοντες
 τοῖς ἀπατηλοῖς τῆς διανοίας ἀναπλάσμασι καὶ ὡσπερ ὄναρ παίζοντες ἐν οὐ
 παικτοῖς καὶ μάλιστ' αὐτοὶ παιζόμενοι καὶ τῆς ὀνειρώδους ἀπολαύοντες
 βιώσεως. 5 Ἐπαινετὸν γὰρ ὡς ἀληθῶς καὶ σφόδρα καιρίως εἰρημένον τὸ τοῦ 20
 σοφοῦ Πλάτωνος, καὶ κομψῶς πάνυ τοι καὶ τοιοῦτον, οἶον ἐκείνῳ προσήκειν
 εἰ δὴ τι καὶ ἄλλο τῶν ἐκείνου, ὡς ἄρα ἄγρηγορούντων εἰσὶν ἐνύπνια αἱ ἐλπίδες.
 6 Καὶ τίς ἂν εἴη βίος λοιπὸν ἢ ζωὴ καὶ οὐσίωσις ὀνειρώδης, ἢ τίς ἂν ὀνειροῖς

22 ἄγρηγορούντων ... ἐλπίδες] cf. D.L. 5.18.2sq. ἐρωτηθεὶς (sc. Ἀριστοτέλης) τί ἐστὶν ἐλπίς, ἄγρηγορότος, εἶπεν, ἐνύπνιον | Stob. *Anth.* IV 47.12 (Wachsmuth) Πίνδαρος εἶπε τὰς ἐλπίδας εἶναι ἐγρηγορότων ἐνύπνια | *Gnom. Vat. Sent.* 375.lsq. < Ἄνα > κρέων ὁ ποιητὴς ... εἶπεν. αἱ ἐλπίδες ἐγρηγορότων εἰσὶν ἐνύπνια | *Olymp. in Alc.* 28.1 ἢ ἐλπίς, καὶ ὡς φησὶν ὁ Ἡρόδοτος, ἐγρηγορότος ἐνύπνιον et Id. in *Phd.* 7.1.10 | Nicephor. *Chum. Ep.* 112.1 τὰς ἐλπίδας ἔφη τις ἐγρηγορότων ἐνύπνια

¹⁴ I.e. as life.

¹⁵ 'dramatized' (κατεδραματούργουν): the word is missing from Lampe and LSJ (see, however, LSJ s.v. δραματουργέω = δραματοποιέω ('put into dramatic form')). Trapp quotes our passage and translates 'in dramatischer Form behandeln', which is beside the point. The meaning required here is something like 'exaggerated', here rendered with 'dramatize'.

to be an excellent thing for men and of great help for our nature, especially so, in fact, to him who meditates on matters of life from an overall perspective.

3 However, many in the past have thought it fit to deride those men for great stupidity and folly (and many nowadays too consider the same kind of people guilty of stupidity and folly) who have been totally dependent on hope in such an uncertain and wholly unreliable and unsettled matter:¹⁴ 2 men who with hope as a foundation entertain optimistic thoughts of any kind and who lead a life based upon the most untimely reasoning and who, as a consequence of this, die in a way most horrible to themselves, deprived of everything which they have wished for (in fact, this is what is most likely to be the case when they are removed from this world and from life as a whole). 3 For at that point they realise, not being able to profit any longer from the insight, the extent of their own ignorance and the magnitude of their illusions and their folly and endless wanderings and digressions which, easily and most smoothly and, indeed, without toil, have led them into every channel and course of hope. 4 Thus they are subject to the derision of their enemies. But they also have reason for lament of their own, since they have been deprived of what they had held on to; indeed, they had, as on a stage, dramatized¹⁵ their power and luxury and pomp¹⁶ and the benignity of Fate in their minds, and they had been feasting on the deceptive creations of the mind; and they had, so to speak, been playing in their dreams with no playing matter (they had rather been treated as toys themselves); and they had been enjoying a dreamlike life. 5 For in truth admirable and most appropriate is the saying of the wise Plato, and very neatly put too and as worthy of him as any of his sayings, namely that *hope is the dreams of the awake*.¹⁷ 6 And what kind of life, or

¹⁶ 'pomp': the word used here, *πομπεία*, seems, at least as far as ancient Greek is concerned (see LSJ), to mean either a procession in itself, or, as a negative term, 'abuse'/'slander', not, as here, to be the equivalent of 'splendour' (the word is missing from Lampe and Trapp).

¹⁷ 'hope ... awake': this expression occurs several times in Greek literature (it may be noted that it is used by Metochites' acquaintance Nikephoros Choumnos; there is also a variant to the effect that 'fantasy is the dream of the awake'; also day-dreams in general are sometimes men-

πεποιθώς και συμβιοτεύων και ὄλως ζῶν ὄναρ και κρινῶν ἐντεῦθεν ἤδεσθαι και μετεῖναι οἱ τινὸς εὐδαιμονίας οὐκ ἂν ἀθλιώτατος ἀνθρώπων εἴη; 7 Και τοσοῦτον ἀπιστούμενος ὄλως ξυνιέναι και εἶναι τι κατ' ἀνθρώπους, ὡσπερ οὐδ' ὄναρ ἐστὶ τι τῶν ὄντων, οὐδ' ἐν λόγῳ δὴ τι και μετριῶς ἀνθρώποις νοῦν ἔχουσι, και μάλιστα προσανέχουσιν ὑπὲρ πᾶν και τῶν κατ' αἴσθησιν 5 σώματος τῆ τοῦ νοῦ ζωῆ.

4 Και εἰ τὸ κατ' αἴσθησιν οὕτω δὴ μετὰ τοῦ σώματος ζῆν, και μάλισθ' οὕτως ὑπαρ γε, τῆς ὕλης ἀπριξ ὡς εἰπεῖν χερσὶν ἐχόμενον και συνόντα κοιμηθῆ τὸν ἐπιδηλότατον ἀμέλει τρόπον, εὐπεριφρόνητόν τι και ὡσπερ ἀνούσιόν τι και φάντασμα δοκεῖ ζωῆς ἀβέβαιον και ἀνίδρυτον και φεῦγον τὴν ἀληθινήν 10 ἔξιν και | ξύνεσιν τοῦ εἶναι· 2 τί ποτ' ἄρα φαίη τις ἂν τὴν καθάπαξ ἐν φαντασίᾳ τοῦ εἶναι πλαττομένην μόνον ζωὴν και ὡσπερ ὄνειρωττόντων ἐν ἐλπίσι βίωσιν, και πόσου γέλωτος ἀξιοῦσθαι τοὺς ἐπ' αὐτῇ βεβηκότας και λιχνευομένους τοσαύτη πλάνη βίου, παντάπασιν ἀνυπάρκτου, χρῆσθαι και 'ἀεροπορεῖν' ἀτεχνῶς και 'σκιαμαχεῖν' ἀβελτερώτατα, 3 μᾶλλον δὲ καθόλου σκιουργεῖν τὸ 15 εἶναι και τὴν ζωὴν, και βιοῦν τὸ πᾶν ἐν πλάσματι, ἃ μὴ πέφυκεν εἶναι μήποτε μήδ' ὅτιοῦν μένειν, οὐσίας ἐνάργειαν κατ' ἔφεσιν νομιζοντας, ὡσπερ ἂν εἰ και 'καθ' ὕδατος τις γράφων' και διατιθέμενος λόγους και σχήματα διαρκῆς

7 μάλισθ' οὕτως: μάλιστά πως M 9 ἀνούσιόν: fort. ἀνούσιόν p.c. ex ἀνόσιόν M (fort. etiam s.l. add. v M, i.e. ἀνν-), fort. ἀνόσιόν p.c. ex ἀνούσιόν E 11 ἂν ἄρα φαίη τις M 12 τοῦ: τὸ (ου s.l.) M, τοῦ E μόνον: μόν[...]v P, fort. μόνην a.c. P, i.e. erasit η βίωσιν: -σι- non certe leg. in P 13 τοῦς: τοῦς P

14 ἀεροπορεῖν] cf. Ar. *Nu.* 225 = 1503 ἀεροβατῶ και περιφρονῶ τὸν ἥλιον et Pl. *Ap.* 19c3sq. ταῦτα γὰρ ἑωρᾶτε και αὐτοὶ ἐν τῇ Ἀριστοφάνους κωμῳδίᾳ, Σωκράτη τινὰ ἐκεῖ περιφερόμενον, φάσκοντά τε ἀεροβατεῖν και ἄλλην πολλὴν φλυαρίαν φλυαροῦντα 15 σκιαμαχεῖν] cf. Pl. *Ap.* 18d6 ὡσπερ σκιαμαχεῖν et Id. *Lg.* 83oc2sq. οὐκ ἐτολήσαμεν ἂν αὐτοὶ πρὸς ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς σκιαμαχεῖν ὄντως; | Plu. *Qu. conv.* 735C.4sq. 'ἀλλ' ὄρῳ εἶπεν 'ὑμᾶς οἴους [τε] ὄντας ἤδη σκιαμαχεῖν πρὸς τὰ εἰδῶλα' | Th. *Met. Sem.* 63.6.6 18 καθ' ... γράφων] cf. Soph. *Fr.* (Radt) 811 ὄρκους ἐγὼ γυναικὸς εἰς ὕδωρ γράφω | Pl. *Phaedr.* 276c7sq. Οὐκ ἄρα σπουδῆ αὐτὰ ἐν ὕδατι γράφει μέλανι σπειρών δια καλάμου μετὰ λόγων ἀδυνάτων μὲν αὐτοῖς λόγῳ βοηθεῖν, ἀδυνάτων δὲ ἱκανῶς τάληθῆ διδάξει | Luc.

tioned). As far as I can see, only in *Metochites* is the expression ascribed to Plato. Otherwise it is attributed to Anacreon (*Gnomologium Vaticanum*), Aristotle (Diogenes Laertius), Herodotus (Olympiodorus), or Pindar (Stobaeus).

¹⁸ 'being ... in the flesh': for οὐσίωσις LSJ gives the translation 'substantification'; cf. Lampe ('existence').

existence and dreamlike being albeit in the flesh,¹⁸ would this be, and of what kind would he be who trusts in dreams and shares his existence with them and who on the whole lives as in a dream and who judges that he will have pleasure and some part in happiness from this? Would he not be the most miserable of men? 7 And, quite as a dream is no part of reality, he cannot be trusted with understanding anything and with being anything according to human standards; nor can he be held in any esteem¹⁹ or be trusted by people with even a modest amount of sense, especially not if they consider the life of the mind more important than everything which has to do with the physical senses.

4 And if the fact that we live in the body and by the senses, and that we so to speak cling to matter so tightly with our hands (and especially so when awake) and engage in life in the most conspicuous way: if this seems to be a thing worthy of contempt and without substance; and if this life is a fake and uncertain and without foundation, and if it seems to fall short of the true life and the understanding of what reality is— 2 what, then, is to be said about a life which solely is formed according to a vision of reality and is the life of dreamers who live on hope? And how much derision do not those deserve who exist in this and who earnestly desire to live such a false and totally unreal life and to do nothing short of *travelling through the air*²⁰ and *fighting against shadows*²¹ in the most foolish way? 3 They rather create shadows²² of the whole of their existence and their life, and they live all their life in a fiction (a life which never had a real existence nor any stability), and they choose to consider that this life of theirs shows clear signs of real essence.²³ It is as if *someone wrote in*

¹⁹ 'nor can he be held in any esteem' (οὐδ' ἐν λόγῳ δὴ τι): the translation is tentative.

²⁰ 'travelling through the air' (ἀεροπορεῖν): it seems reasonable to think here of Plato's *Apology* (19c) and the reference made there to Aristophanes' caricature of Socrates (see *Clouds* 225 and 1503).

²¹ 'fighting against shadows' (σκιαμαχεῖν): this, too, alludes to Plato's *Apology* (18d).

²² 'create shadows': σκιοιργεῖν is not to be found in LSJ and Lampe. See Trapp ('Schatten machen'), with reference to this occurrence and below, 63.6.6, only.

²³ This is a fairly free translation of a difficult sentence. I take it that the relative clause beginning with ἃ runs until μένειν (as indicated by the parenthesis in the translation). Despite the difficulties the general tenor seems quite clear.

ῥετό τι δημιουργεῖν καὶ προσέχαιρεν οἷς ἐχρήτο δοκῶν ἀνύτειν ὅ τι ποτ' ἄρα, μελαγχολῶν ἢ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅ τι φῶ. 4 Καὶ ὡς ἀληθῶς μανία τις ἂν εἴη παραπλησίως τὸ τοῖς φανταστικοῖς ἐπιθαρρεῖν τῶν ἐλπίδων τύποις καὶ παρατιθέναι ἑαυτὸν καὶ παθαίνεσθαι τοῖς γε τοιοῦτοις καὶ συνδιατίθεσθαι τῇ ψυχῇ, ὡς ἂν ἀμέλει καὶ γαληνῶς ἄγεσθαι καὶ διάγειν ἐν δὴ τινι γνώμῃς ἡρεμία καὶ χρήσει ῥα- 5 στῶνης· 5 ὥσπερ δὴ τοῖς νηπίοις παθητικὰ προσφέρουσιν αἱ τίτθαι μυθάρια κατὰ τῶν ὑπνῶν φάρμακα καὶ παραληροῦσιν ἐν μακροῖς διηγήμασιν, ἃ μήποτε 390 γέγονε μῆτέ ποτε φύσιν ἔχοντα, 6 τοῖσούτῳ γε μὴν εὐπειστα νηπίοις καὶ ὅσοι νηπιῶδεις τὰς φρένας καὶ παντάπασιν ἀμαθέστατοι τῶν ὄντων τῆς ἀληθείας, ὥστε καὶ πάσχειν ἐπ' αὐτοῖς ἥδιστα πολλάκις καὶ συνήδεσθαι τοῖς λήροις καὶ 10 αἰωρεῖσθαι τῇ τῆς ψυχῆς ἐνηδόνῳ διαθέσει, 7 καὶ τοῦναντίον αὐτῶν οἰκτιστα πάσχειν καὶ θρήνων καὶ δακρύων λαμβάνειν ἀφορμὰς καὶ θυμοῦσθαι καὶ πᾶσιν ἀγνοίας τῶν προσηκόντων ἐνέχεσθαι πράγμασι καὶ καταγελάσθαι δικαίως.

5 Ἐνεθυμήθην δὲ ἔγωγε καὶ τοῦθ', ὅτι γελοῖον ἂν εἴη καὶ ἐπιεικῶς εὐήθες, εἴ τις ἐν δράμασιν ὑποκρινόμενος πρόσωπα ἄττα καὶ σχήματα καὶ πράξεις 15 τῶν τιμιωτέρων, Ἀγαμέμνονα τυχὸν ἄρχοντα τῶν συνταξαμένων ἀπάντων κατὰ τῆς Τροίας Ἑλλήνων, ἢ Ἀχιλλεῖα νικῶντα τὰς κατὰ τῶν βαρβάρων νίκας θαυμαστὰς ἐκεῖνας, 2 ἢ Οἰδίποδα διαλύοντα τὰ κατ' ἀνθρώπων ἄπορ' ἐκεῖνα τῆς σφιγγὸς αἰνίγματα καὶ βασιλέα λοιπὸν ἐντεῦθεν Θηβαίων, ἢ Θησέα, ἢ Ἡρακλέα διαεθλεύοντα πανταχοῦ καὶ περιγιγνόμενον ὑπὲρ βοήθειας 20 ἀνθρώπων, ἢ ἄλλα δὴ παραπλήσια ψευδῆ πλάσματα, 3 ἔπειτ' ἐκ τούτων τὴν ὀφρὺν αἴρει καὶ μέγα τι φρονεῖ ὡς δὴ θαυμαστός τις αὐτόθεν γενόμενος καὶ

3 τὸ: fort. scrib. τῶ (vide introd. 2.9, p.1)
ore M, τροφοὶ in textu et γρ. τίτθαι in mg. E

6 αἱ τίτθαι in textu et γρ. αἱ τροφοὶ in mg. superiore M
7 κατὰ: an scrib. καὶ τὰ? μήποτε: μήτε M

Cat. 21.4sq. καθ' ὕδατος, φασίν, γράφει | Jul. *Paramytheticus Sallust.* 6.17 προσόμοιον τῶ γράφειν ἐφ' ὕδατος | *Suda* K 129 Καθ' ὕδατος γράφειν: ἐπὶ τῶν μάτην πονούντων et ibid. EI 326 Εἰς ὕδωρ σπείρειν: ἐπὶ τῶν μάτην πονούντων. ὡς τὸ καθ' ὕδατος γράφειν

²⁴ 'wrote in water': γράφειν καθ' (or ἐφ' or εἰς (ὕδωρ)) ὕδατος is an expression known since Sophocles. More recently, it is used by e.g. Shakespeare, *Henry VIII*, Act IV, Scene 2: 'Men's evil manners live in brass; their virtues We write in water.'

²⁵ 'for': this is problematic; the Greek text has κατὰ which normally means 'against'; perhaps one should write καὶ τὰ and translate 'stories ... and medicine for sleep' (i.e. 'medicine' as a kind of apposition to 'stories').

*water*²⁴ and composed orations and figures and, in doing so, thought that he created something durable and took pleasure in his activity, thinking that he was achieving something, although he would really be what I could only call a madman. 4 This would in truth be a kind of madness similar to putting one's trust in fantastic shapes of hope, subjecting oneself to the influence of these and being affected by them in one's soul with a view to living in peace and in order to be able to spend one's time with some serenity of mind and in the enjoyment of leisure. 5 In the same way nurses offer exciting stories to small children as medicine for²⁵ sleep, and they talk a lot of nonsense, recounting at great length unnatural things which never happened. 6 However, so convincing²⁶ are these stories to small children and to those of childish minds and those who are totally ignorant of the realities of truth, that these people are often most pleasantly affected by them and rejoice at the nonsense and are exalted into a pleasant state of mind by them. 7 Conversely they may also be affected in a most pitiful way and start to wail and cry and grow angry, and through ignorance of what is fitting they get entangled in all kinds of affairs²⁷ and are rightly derided.

5 When I come to think about it, it would also be ridiculous and highly foolish if someone who on stage impersonated the character or the behaviour or action of any of the more distinguished individuals, such as, perhaps, Agamemnon, the leader of all the Greeks who went to war against Troy, or Achilles, who gained those awesome victories over the barbarians, 2 or Oedipus, who solved those impossible riddles which the Sphinx imposed upon men and so became king of the Thebans, or Theseus or Heracles, who laboured successfully everywhere in order to help the people, or other similar figures of fiction— 3 it would be ridiculous if such an impersonator were to raise his eyebrow because of this and give himself airs, thinking that he has become worthy of admiration because of his performance²⁸ and that he is above all others; it would be ridiculous

²⁶ εὐπειστός with active meaning is not recorded by LSJ (the word is missing from Lampe and Trapp).

²⁷ Presuming that the dative (πάντων ... πραγμάτων) is directly connected with ἐνέχθαι, the genitive ἀγνοίας τῶν προσηκόντων is a little surprising; it is here understood as causal.

²⁸ 'because of his performance': αὐτόθεν.

τῶν ἄλλων ὑπέρτερος, καὶ ἀξιοὶ ἡδεσθαι πάνυ τοι καὶ μάλιστα παρὰ πάντων
 391 τιμᾶσθαι καὶ δοκεῖν κρείττο|νος δὴ τινος μοίρας τυχεῖν ἢ πρότερον ἦν, καὶ
 μεγάλης ἐπιληφθαι δόξης. 4 Ἄλλ' ἐπιτριβείης' αὐτίκα φαίη τις ἂν πρὸς
 αὐτὸν ἐκ ποιητικῆς μεθ' ἧς ὑποκρίνεται, 'ὡς μόθων εἶ καὶ φύσει κόβαλος'· καὶ
 σύ γε εἶ καὶ νῦν ὁ χθὲς ἄρα δὴ καὶ πρὸ τρίτης ὑπηρέτης καὶ δυοῖν ἢ τριῶν 5
 ὀβολῶν μισθοῦμενος. 5 "Ὅδ' Οἰδίπους, ποῦ καὶ τὰ κλεῖν' αἰνίγματα;' φησὶν ὁ
 ἐκ ποιήσεως αὐθις παροιμιώδης λόγος· καὶ δεήσει ἂν σε καὶ αὐθις βαναυσεῖν
 κατ' ἔθος ὅτιοῦν ἀποθέμενον τὴν σκηνήν, ἢ καθυπουργεῖν ἴσως δεσπόταις
 οἴκοι στρωματόδεσμον, οἶμαι γ', ἐνσκευάζειν, ἢ ὑδροφορεῖν, ἢ κρέας ὀπτᾶν,
 ἢ ἄλλαττα τῶν εἰωθότων. 6 Εἰ δὲ μὴ οὕτω φρονεῖς καὶ πρόθυμος φαίνη, εἰ δὲ 10
 σεμνύνη τῇ ξυντυχίᾳ τοῦ δράματος, κλαιήσεις αὐτίκα καὶ κατὰ κόρρησ μαστίξῃ
 καὶ κατ' ὤμων πλείστας λαμβάνων πληγὰς αἰσθήσῃ λοιπὸν αὐτόθεν κακὸς
 392 κακῶς ληρῶν, 'κατὰ τὸν ἐν Τεμέσῃ,' φησὶν ἡ παροιμία, | 'πρότερον ἤρωα'. 7 καὶ
 οὐ συνοίσει σοι πάντως ἡ σεμνότης αὕτη καὶ τὸ πλεῖν ἢ τέως πρὸ τῆς σκηνῆς
 καὶ τοῦ δράματος φρονεῖν, καὶ ὦν οὐκ ἔχεις ἐρῶν καὶ ἀπτεσθαι πειρώμενος 15
 'λύκος' ὀφθήσῃ μετὰ τῆς παροιμίας αὐθις 'μάτην χανῶν'. 8 Ταῦτ' ἂν, οἶμαι γ',
 ἐρεῖν εἴη ἴσως οὐκ ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ πρὸς γε τοιοῦτον, εἰ ἄρα τις εἴη τοιοῦτος,
 προσποιούμενος τὰλλότρι' ἑαυτοῦ ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ.

7 ποιησεως sine accentu P 9 an post οἴκοι add. τε? 11 σεμνύνη M, fort. -η p.c. ex -ει P¹,
 σεμνύνει E

3 ἐπιτριβείης] cf. Ar. *Th.* 557 et Id. *Av.* 1530 et *Schol. in Av. (schol. vet.)* 1530 τοῦπιτριβείης: Παρὰ τὸ Τριβαλλός φησι παίζων γεγονέναι τὸ ἐπὶ ὕβρει ἐπιτριβείης | *PCG VIII 1112 (K.-A.) = Adespot. vet. com. CGFPR Fr.* 234.51 (Austin) | Luc. *DMeretr.* 2.3.9 ἐπιτριβείην εἶ τι ἐψευσάμην 4 ὡς ... κόβαλος] cf. Ar. *Pl.* 279 διαρραγείης, ὡς μόθων εἶ καὶ φύσει κόβαλος 5 δυοῖν ... ὀβολῶν] cf. Th. *Met. Sem.* 67.12.6 τριῶν ἀξιούμενον δραχμῶν et Id. 67.18.3 δυοῖν ἢ τριῶν ὀβολῶν ὠνητοῖς et Id. 76.2.6 τριοβολμαίους 6 "Ὅδ' ... αἰνίγματα] cf. E. *Ph.* 1688 ὁ δ' Οἰδίπους ποῦ καὶ τὰ κλεῖν' αἰνίγματα; 13 Τεμέση ... ἤρωα] cf. [Plu.] *Prov. Alex.* 2.31.1sq. Ἐν Τεμέσῃ ἤρωσ: ὅτ' ἀπαιτῶν τις αὐτὸς ὕστερον προσοφείλων εὐρεθῆ, ὁ ἐν Τεμέσῃ γέγονεν ἤρωσ | Ael. *VH* 8.18 Εὐθύμος ὁ Λοκρὸς τῶν ἐν Ἰταλίᾳ πύκτης ἀγαθὸς ἦν ... καὶ τὸν ἐν Τεμέσῃ ἤρωα φόρους πραττόμενον παρὰ τῶν προσοίκων ἔπαυσεν: ἀφικόμενος γὰρ ἐς τὸ ἱερὸν αὐτοῦ, ὅπερ ἄβατον ἦν τοῖς πολλοῖς, διηγωνίσαστο πρὸς αὐτόν, καὶ ἠνάγκασεν ὦνπερ ἐσύλησεν ἀποτίσαι πλεῖω | *Suda E* 3510.7 16 λύκος ... χανῶν] cf. Eub. *Fr. PCG V* 14.10 (K.-A.) = *Fr.* 15.10sq. (Kock) ὥστ' εἶ τι βοῦλει τῶν λελειμμένων φαγεῖν, / ἔπειγ' ἔπειγε, μὴ ποθ' ὡς λύκος χανῶν | Men. *Aspis* 371sq. τὸ γὰρ λεγόμενον ταῖς ἀληθείαις 'λύκος χανῶν ἄπεισι διὰ κενῆς' | Ael. *NA* 7.11.15 'χανῶν λύκος' ὡς ἂν εἴποις | Babr. 1.16.6 | *Suda* Λ 818.1 Λύκος χανῶν: ἐπὶ τῶν ἀπράκτων

if he should pretend to have the right to a particularly enjoyable life and to being exceedingly honoured by everyone, and to being considered to have earned a better fate than earlier and deserving great fame. 4 *'May you be damned,'*²⁹ one might say to him, using the words of the poetry which he uses for acting, *'for you are presumptuous and an impudent knave by nature;* and now you are once more the servant you were yesterday and the day before, hired for two or three obols. 5 But *where is this Oedipus and his famous riddles?*³⁰ says the proverbial expression taken from poetry. You will, it would seem, have to become a lowly person again, as is your wont somehow; and you will have to abandon the stage, and either, perhaps, serve your masters by preparing the beds in the house, I should think, or fetching water, or frying meat or performing any other ordinary task. 6 But if you are not so minded and do not appear eager to do this, and if you affect a solemn air because of the success of your performance, you will soon be sorry and be slapped on the cheek and receive many blows on the shoulders, and so you will perceive that you are evil and talk nonsense and will come to an evil end, *as the hero once did at Temese,*³¹ according to the proverb. 7 And this solemnity, and the fact that you tender higher thoughts than you did prior to entering the stage and being an actor, will not at all help you; and the fact that you desire and try to get hold of what is out of your reach, will make you seem like the proverbial *wolf who opened his mouth in vain.*³² 8 This is, I think, what it perhaps would not be out of place to say to such a person, if, indeed, someone should behave in this way and thus unjustly lay claim to that which does not belong to him.

²⁹ 'May you be damned': this expression (i.e. ἐπιτριβείης or the like) seems to be typical of the Old Comedy.

³⁰ 'where ... riddles': this comes from Euripides' *Phoenissae* 1688.

³¹ This story, as told by Aelian, *Varia Historia*, is about an eponymous hero who exacted tax money from the inhabitants of Temese but was stopped from doing so by a famous Locrian boxer.

³² 'wolf ... vain': this saying is first attested in Euboulos, the author of the Middle Comedy (mid-4th c. B.C.). It is also attested in Menander and in a great many later authors, such as writers of fables and lexicographers.

6 Εἰ δὲ τοιαῦτ' ἂν εἶη πρὸς ἐκείνους καὶ μάλα γ' εἰκότα καὶ ταῦτ' ὄντας καὶ μετὰ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀμηγέτη καί, πῶς ἂν εἴποι τις, ἐνεργοὺς κατὰ βραχὺ, τί ποτ' ἂν εἶη χρῆμα αἰ κατὰ τὰς ἐλπίδας μόνον σκιαγραφίαι καὶ τὰ τῆς φαντασίας ὡσπερ ὄναρ ἀναπλάσματα τῶν πραγμάτων χωρίς; Καὶ τί τὸ βιοῦν ἐστὶν ἐν τούτοις ψευδῇ καθάπαξ βίοντι καὶ ἀνούσιον, καὶ ὡσπερ εἰδῶλων 5 πολίτευμα, εἴρηται; 2 Καὶ ἅμα εἰς νοῦν ἦκε μοι, ὡς ἄρα καὶ τινὲς δὴ τῶν σοφῶν εὐφυῶς εἰκάσαντες φθάνουσι τὰς ἐλπίδας ὡσπερ ἀφανῆ τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς εἰδῶλα περιπολεῖν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους αἰεὶ καὶ τὰνθρώπινα πράγματα. Καὶ οὗτ' ἐλλείπει μήποτ' ἀνθρώπους, 3 οὗτ' ἔστιν ὄλως αὐτῶν δράξασθαι, ὡσπερ οὐδὲ σκιάς ἑαυτῶν, ἢ ὄλως λαβέσθαι, ἢ ταύτην ὑπερβῆναι καὶ παρελθεῖν, αἰεὶ 10 παροῦσαν τὲ καὶ παρεπομένην ἄτμητον, καὶ αἰεὶ φεύγουσαν ἄληπτον, 4 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ὅστις ὡσπερ 'σκιάς ὄναρ', | κατὰ τὴν τοῦ Πινδάρου τῆς οὐδενείας τῶν κατὰ τὸν βίον πραγμάτων ὑπερβολήν, ἑαυτὸν οἶος τ' εἶη κρίνειν καὶ πάντα τὰνθρώπινα καὶ παρέρχεσθαι σωφρόνως φιλοσοφεῖ τῆς ἐλευθέρως σχολῆς περὶ τὰ κρείττω καὶ ἀληθῶς ὄντα γιγνόμενος. 5 Σπάνιον δὲ τὸδε τὸ χρῆμα κατὰ τὸν 15 ἀνθρώπινον βίον, καὶ ὄντως ἀκούειν ἐκεῖνος ἄξιος μόνος ἐκ τῶν Ὀμηρικῶν ἐπῶν, ἃ περὶ τῶν ἐν Ἄιδου πῶς βιούντων φθέγγεται, 'οἶος τοι πέπνυται· τοὶ δὲ σκιαὶ ἀΐσσουσιν', ὡς ἄρα καὶ αὐτὸς ὡσπερ ἐν νεκροῖς τοῖς ἀνθρωπίνους πολιτεύμασι δόξειεν ἂν ἴσως εὖ μάλα νοῦν ἔχειν καὶ ζῆν ἀληθῶς, 6 οἱ δ' ἄλλοι

8 οὗτ': οὐ .. τ' P spatio relicto 2 litt., ubi po vel fort. to discernitur, i.e. οὗτ' ut vid. p.c. P, οὐποτ' M et a.c. P 17 Ἄιδου: ἄδου PME

12 σκιάς ὄναρ] cf. Pi. P. 8.136sq. (95sq.) τί δέ τις; τί δ' οὐ τις; σκιάς ὄναρ / ἀνθρωπος | Plu. *Cons. ad Apoll.* 104B.8 ὁ δὲ Πίνδαρος ἐν ἄλλοις | Aristid. *Πρὸς Πλάτωνα περὶ ῥητορικῆς* p. 37.2 (Jebb) ὡστε σοὶ τὸ τοῦ μορίου εἰδῶλον σκιάς ὄναρ εἰς ἔλεγχον κατὰ Πίνδαρον γίγνεται 17 οἶος ... ἀΐσσουσιν] cf. *Od.* 10.494sq. τῷ καὶ τεθνηῶτι νόον πόρε Περσεφόνηα / οἴω πεπνῦσθαι· τοὶ δὲ σκιαὶ ἀΐσσουσιν | Pl. *Men.* 100a4sq. λέγων περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι οἶος πέπνυται τῶν ἐν Ἄιδου, τοὶ δὲ σκιαὶ ἀΐσσουσι | Plu. *Cat. Ma.* 27.6.3 πυνθανόμενον τὸν Κάτωνά φασι εἰπεῖν· 'οἶος πέπνυται, τοὶ δὲ σκιαὶ ἀΐσσουσι' et Id. *Praecept. ger. r.p.* 805A.6 et Id. *Reg. apophthg.* 200A.5 | *Suda* A 691.3sq. Μάρκον Πόρκιον ἀκούσαντα τὰς ἀριστείας Σκιπίωνος / εἰπεῖν ἄλλιν πρὸς ἐκεῖνον· 'τί ἀκήκοας;' εἰπεῖν 'οἶος πέπνυται, τοὶ δὲ σκιαὶ ἀΐσσουσιν'

³³ 'acting for a short time' (ἐνεργοὺς κατὰ βραχὺ): this expression is obscure and the translation uncertain.

³⁴ This seems to mean: actors playing Agamemnon represent, after all, some kind of truth, or

6 But if this can be said about these, and most plausibly so, and if men are like this when they are in some way dealing with real matters and, how should one put it, acting for a short time³³—what are then the mere pictures of shadows drawn by hope and the dreamlike representations of imagination, far from reality?³⁴ And what is it like to live a totally false and unsubstantial life in these and in what has been called the realm of the phantoms?³⁵ 2 It also occurs to me that wise men have often been able to make apt guesses in advance about that which they hope for, as if hope consisted of images unseen to the eye which always circle around men and the world of men, never to desert them. 3 But it is indeed no more possible to touch the object of one's hope than to touch one's shadow. One's shadow cannot in any way be grasped or stepped over or passed by; yet it is always present and follows you undivided, escaping you, being impossible to catch— 4 with the possible exception of him³⁶ who is able to condemn himself and everything human as *a shadow's dream*,³⁷ according to Pindar's exaggerated way of expressing the nothingness of life, and who with philosophical restraint disregards the matters of life and is free to concentrate on higher and truly existing matters. 5 But this is a rare thing in human life, and in truth only that man in the Homeric epic is worthy of being famed for this of whom the poem, when telling about those who exist in some way in the dwellings of Hades, says that *he alone is in full possession of his mental faculties*,³⁸ while the others rush about like shadows, as if, even in the realm of the dead, he would seem to be in full enjoyment

a person who at least has existed, whereas the people who really deserve censure are those who fantasize freely.

³⁵ The translation of this sentence is somewhat hypothetical. πολίτευμα (here translated as 'realm') may be synonymous with πολιτεία and mean 'way of life.' Also εἶρηται ('what has been called') is problematic, since it is not properly connected with the rest of the sentence.

³⁶ No person can catch his own shadow nor even, perhaps, reach the object of his hope. Yet he who realises the nothingness of life sees clearer than the rest in these matters.

³⁷ 'a shadow's dream': this expression from Pindar's *Pythian* 8 (σκιᾶς ὄναρ ἄνθρωπος: 'A dream of a shadow is man,' transl. W. H. Race, Loeb Classical Library) is alluded to by many, e.g. Plutarch (see app. font. et parall.).

³⁸ This refers to the Theban seer Tiresias; see the *Odyssey* 10.495 (see also app. font. et parall.).

³⁹ Here Metochites turns from the dead to the living.

ταῖς ἐλλπίσιν, ὃ καὶ πρότερον εἴρηται, περιόντες ἴσκιαμαχοῦσιν ἢ σκιουργοῦσι
καὶ ἀπατώνται ξύμπασαν τὴν ζωὴν τῇ πλάνῃ τῶν κατὰ τὰς ἐλπίδας ἐνυπνίων
καὶ φαντασμάτων, 7 καὶ τελευτῶντες ἀπαλλάττονται ξυνορῶντες ἀνόνητα
πρὸς τῷ πέρατι τὸν πολὺν ἐκείνον ὃν ἐβίωσαν λήρον, καὶ οὐδὲ τοὺς λειφθέντας
ἔτι πῶ δυνάμενοι σωφρονίζειν, καὶ παρ' ἑαυτῶν διδασκάλων ἀναδιδάσκειν τὰ 5
βέλτιστα καὶ λογισμοὺς εὐγενεῖς. 8 Ταῦτ' ἐστὶ καὶ παραπλήσι' ἀμφοτέρωθεν
394 περὶ τῶν ἐλπίδων οὐκ ὀλίγα περὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λογισμοὺς· οἷς δ' ἂν τις δοίῃ τὸ
νικᾶν ῥώμῃ γνώμης, ἅμα μὲν προστιθέμενος καθάπαξ, ἅμα δὲ διακαρτερῶν,
ἐάτεον ἡμῖν νῦν γε εἶναι, καὶ κρινόντων ἄλλοι τῶν θαρρούντων ἑαυτοῖς πλέον
ἢ καθ' ἡμᾶς. 10

Ἵτι ἥδιστον ἀνθρώποις ἐν τοῖς οἰκείοις καὶ συνήθει
διατριβῇ ὅτιοῦν πράττειν εὖ καὶ τιμᾶσθαι· ΞΔ'

1 Ἀκούω τὸν Θηβαῖον Ἐπαμεινώνδαν, στρατηγικώτατον ἄνδρα καὶ καρ-
τερώτατον τὰ μάχῃ καὶ γενναῖον τὴν χεῖρα καὶ σωφρονικὸν εἰ δὴ τις καὶ ἄλλος
τὴν δίαιταν, καὶ κατὰ φιλοσόφους βιώσαντα· 2 τοῦτον ἐρομένου δὴ τινος ἀκούω 15
ὃ τί ποτ' ἄρα οἱ κατὰ τὸν βίον περιδοξὸν ἐν Ἑλλησι καὶ βαρβάροις οὐχῆκιστα
καὶ μεγάλου κλέους γενόμενον ἀπηντήκει τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων ἥδιστα φάναι
μηδὲν ἄλλο ὡς ὅτι γε τῶν φυσάντων ζώντων τὴν ἐν Λεύκτροις μάχῃν ἐνίκα
Λακεδαιμονίους· 3 εἶναι μὲν γὰρ δὴ τῆνικαῦτα Λακεδαιμονίους μέγιστα

5 ἀναδιδάσκειν: ἀναμανθάνειν PM, γρ(ἀφετ)αι ἀναδιδάσκειν in mg. P², M-K: 'Margini C. Ciz. ad-
scriptum γρ. ἀναδιδάσκειν' 7 ἐμοὺς s.l. M 8 γνώμης ῥώμῃ P, sed litteris β et a supra
γνώμης et ῥώμῃ positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. ῥώμῃ γνώμης 12 ΞΔ:
δ fort. p.c. ex ε M (corr. fort. M²) 14 μάχῃ in textu et γρ. τὰ πολέμια in mg. M, πολέμια in
textu et γρ. μάχῃ in mg. E 18 ὡς P, ἢ E et fort. M², de M ante corr. non constat

1 σκιαμαχοῦσιν] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 63.4.2 15 τοῦτον ... Λακεδαιμονίους] cf. Plu. An seni r.p.
ger. 786D.10sq. ὃ μὲν γὰρ Ἐπαμεινώνδας ἐρωτηθεὶς τί ἥδιστον αὐτῷ γέγονεν, ἀπεκρίνατο τὸ τοῦ
πατρὸς ἔτι ζώντος καὶ τῆς μητρὸς νικῆσαι τὴν ἐν Λεύκτροις μάχῃν et Id. Cor. 4.6 et Id. Non posse
suav. vivi sec. Epic. 1098A.12 et Id. Reg. apophthg. 193A.6

⁴⁰ Cf. above, 63.4.2–3.

of his senses and truly alive. 6 But all other people³⁹ walk around borne, as has been said already, by hope, and *they fight against shadows* or create shadows,⁴⁰ and they are deceived all their life by the illusion of the dreams and phantasms of hope. 7 And at last they leave life and they see, standing before the end, how useless all that trumpery has been which made up the life they lived; and they are not even able any longer to chasten those left behind and to teach them by their own example what is best and how to think noble thoughts.⁴¹ 8 This, and not a few similar arguments going in both directions, constitute my thoughts on hope. But to what opinion one should give the victory on the strength of its argumentation, and what opinion one should endorse first, and in which belief one should persevere, we must leave aside, at least for the present; others, who possess more confidence in themselves than we do, will have to judge of that.

64. That it is most pleasant to people to live among
their own and as they are accustomed—if they can live
reasonably well and enjoy some respect¹

1 I hear that the Theban Epaminondas, a man most eminently fitted for military command and most steadfast in battle and high-minded in action, and a man who displayed as much self-control in life as anyone and lived like a philosopher— 2 I hear that, being asked what was the finest thing accorded to him² during his life, a life which had brought him recognition³ and fame among the barbarians quite as much as among the Greeks, he answered that nothing could compare to the fact that⁴ his parents had

⁴¹ In this sentence P² has changed the reading ἀναμανθάνειν ('learn') of P¹ (and M) into ἀναδιδάσκειν ('teach'). Both readings are possible.

¹ This essay is the first of those edited here which can be considered explicitly historical: see also 65, 70, § 4, and, in particular, 67.

² 'accorded to him': or 'had happened to him'/'he had experienced'.

³ 'recognition': for περίδοξον (not in LSJ) see Lampe ('illustrious').

⁴ The Greek text is problematic here (see app. criticus: P's ὡς ὅτι, instead of ἢ ὅτι, I consider a lectio difficilior). At any rate, there can be no real doubt as to the general meaning required.

395 δυναμένους ἐν Ἑλλησι, καὶ γῆς ἄρχοντας καὶ θαλάττης, καὶ δι' Ἀγησίλαον καὶ βασιλεῖ καὶ Πέρσαις καὶ πᾶσιν ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν ἔθνεσιν | ὀνόματος μεγίστου καὶ φήμης καὶ πολλὰς νενικηκότας τὰς νίκας καὶ ὡς οὐδέποτε πρότερον ἐν κράτει πλείστῳ, καίτοι τὸν αἰεὶ χρόνον τέως τὰ πρῶτα τῶν Ἑλλήνων φερομένους ἐν μάχαις· 4 ἀντιταξαμένων δὲ πρὸς αὐτοὺς Θηβαίων, βοιωταρχοῦντος 5 Ἐπαμεινώνδου ξὺν Πελοπίδα, κατακράτος ἡττηθῆναι τὴν ἐν Λεύκτροις μάχην καὶ τὴν πλείστην ἀποβαλεῖν τῷ πολέμῳ γεννικὴν δηλαδὴ Λακωνικὴν νεότητα· 5 καὶ πρὸς ἐσχάτοις σχεδὸν γενέσθαι τὴν Σπάρτην μετὰ τὴν μάχην, καὶ τότε δὴ πρῶτον τὸν Εὐρώταν διαπεράσαι καὶ πᾶσαν ἐπελθεῖν τὴν Λακωνικὴν ἐχθρὰ στρατεύματα, καὶ τὴν Σπάρτην τηνικαῦθ' ὄπλα παρ' αὐτῇ κατιδοῦσαν 10 ἀτείχιστον οὖσαν πολέμια μικροῦ καταστραφῆναι καθάπαξ κινδυνεῦσαι· 6 εἰ μὴ ἄρα τῷ βίῳ παρῆν ἔτι πω καὶ Λακεδαιμονίοις ἢ τοῦ Ἀγησίλαου τέχνη τῶν στρατηγικῶν καὶ ῥώμῃ καὶ σύνεσις· καὶ τοῦτο γὰρ Σπαρτιάταις μόνον σωτήριον ἀναφανῆναι καὶ τοῖς δεινοῖς ἐκείνοις ἰσόρροπον.

2 Ὡν πάντων δὴ μάλιστ' αἴτιος Λακεδαιμονίους Ἐπαμεινώνδας, Θηβαίων 15 ἡγούμενος, μέγας ταῖς νίκαις καὶ ζέων ἄκρατα παντὶ θυμῷ καὶ πᾶσι τρόποις ἀμύνειν γενέσθαι τὲ μεγίστην ὡς οὐπω ποτὲ τέως ἢ μεθύστερον τὴν αὐτοῦ πατρίδα καὶ μέγιστ' ἐπ' αὐτοῦ καὶ τῆς αὐτοῦ στρατηγίας δυναμένην ἐν 396 Ἑλλησι· 2 καὶ τὰ πρῶτα Θηβαίους τότε δι' Ἐπαμεινώνδαν τοῦ παν|τὸς ἑλληνικοῦ φέρεσθαι καὶ τῆς ἀρχῆς ἀντ' Ἀθηναίων αὐτοῦ καὶ Λακεδαιμονίων 20 αὐτοὺς εἰς τοῦμφανὲς ἐρρωμένως ἀντιποιεῖσθαι· καὶ τὰ μὲν γε τῶν Ἑλλήνων οὕτως ἀμέλει τηνικαῦτ' ἔχειν πράγματα καὶ ἴσασιν ὅσοις τοι μάλιστα ταῦτ' ἐπιμελὲς τῶν ἱστορούντων εἰδέναι. 3 Ὁ δὲ μάλιστ' Ἐπαμεινώνδας ἐπὶ τοῖς εὐπραγίμασιν ἡδιστ' ἐτίθετο, φιλότιμος ἄνθρωπος καὶ δόξης ἐπαινουμένης ἐρών ἐπὶ τῇ ἀρετῇ καὶ τοῖς δώροις τῆς τύχης, εὐ μάλ' ἀποδεχόμενός τις ὡς 25 εὐγενοῦς ἀνδρὸς τὸ φρόνημα καὶ ἀστείου 4 μαρτύραιτ' ἄν, οἶμαι, τοῦ λόγου

2 εἰπεῖν bis exhib. a.c. P
ποτὲ: οὐ πώποτε M-K

9 τὸν om. M

διαπεράσαι M et a.c. P, -άσαι p.c. P²

17 οὐπω

5 ἀντιταξαμένων ... νεότητα] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 67.19.9

⁵ Epaminondas (ca. 418–362 B.C.) led the Thebans in the battle of Leuctra in 371 and thus inaugurated a short period of Theban hegemony in Greece.

still been alive when he defeated the Spartans in the battle of Leuctra.⁵ ³ For the Spartans had constituted the greatest power among the Greeks at that time, ruling over land as well as over the sea, and because of Agesilaus they had earned a great name and reputation even in the eyes of the Persian King and the Persians and practically all peoples;⁶ and they won many victories at this time and, having also in all previous times been considered the foremost among the Greeks in battle, they were now as never before in the possession of the greatest power. ⁴ However, during Epaminondas' and Pelopidas' rule over Boeotia the Thebans opposed them, and the Spartans were thoroughly defeated in the battle of Leuctra and they lost a considerable part of the Laconian youth, that is the noble youth, in the war. ⁵ After this battle, Sparta was on the verge of total destruction; it was then that hostile armies for the first time passed the Eurotas and invaded the whole of Laconia; and Sparta then had within view the enemy's weapons and, being unwallled, it was almost exposed to the risk of being laid in ruins. ⁶ This would have happened if Agesilaus had not been still alive and his strategic art, his power and intelligence, had not been at the Spartans' disposal; in fact, he alone seemed able to bring salvation to the Spartans and prove equal to the terrible situation.

² The foremost cause of all this trouble to the Spartans was Epaminondas, the leader of the Thebans, great in victory and seething with un-mixed passion and temper, wishing to exact vengeance and to ensure that his country should become as great as possible (neither before nor after did it ever attain such greatness) and achieve the greatest power among the Greeks in his time and under his command ² (the historians whose business it most of all is to know this, do not ignore that, thanks to Epaminondas, the Thebans then came to be considered the leaders of all the Greeks, and that they made an open, vigorous bid for the power over these, depriving the Athenians and the Spartans of the leadership; the historians know that this was the state of Greek politics at the time). ³ But the fact that Epaminondas, who was an ambitious man and avid for good reputation for virtue and for possessing the gifts of Fate, valued what he did

⁶ Agesilaus (444–360 B.C.) was king of Sparta from 401.

καὶ πάντας ἀτεχνῶς ὅσοις ἄρα βέλτιστ' ἔσχε καὶ ἔχει τὰ κατὰ τὸν βίον
 πράγματα καὶ τινῶν ἔργων ἐπαινουμένων, καὶ καθ' ὅτι οὖν ἐπεδείξαντό τε
 καὶ ἐπιδείκνυνται φοράν, ἢ φύσεως, ἢ γνώμης, ἢ τέχνης, ἢ τύχης, ἢ καὶ κοινῶς
 ὁμοῦ πάντων, ἢ τινῶν γε.

3 Πάντες γὰρ τῆς τοιαύτης ἡττηνται φιλοτιμίας καὶ τοῦ πάθους καὶ 5
 τῆς ἡδονῆς, καὶ πάντοι πάντες ἐρασταὶ καὶ κατ' εὐχὴν εὐ μάλα ποθοῦσι
 καὶ ἡδονταὶ τὰ κατ' αὐτοὺς κάλλιστ' ἔχοντα καὶ κάλλισθ' ὀρώμενα καὶ
 ἀκούοντα, παντὸς ἐπέκεινα θεάτρου, καὶ πάντων ἐπέκεινα μαρτύρων, ἐπὶ
 397 πατέρων ἐποπτεία καὶ ξυν|τυχία. 2 Καὶ οὐδὲν μήποθ' οὕτως ὡς τοῦτο σφίσι
 ἡδιστον, καὶ ὅλως γε μὴν ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκείων ἐξῆς, καὶ οἷς τοεξαρχῆς συνεβίωσαν 10
 ἀνθρώποις, καὶ πατρίσι δῆ, καὶ δημόταις τισὶ καὶ φυλέταις, καὶ γνησίοις καὶ
 εἰθισμένοις πολίταις καὶ πολιτεύμασιν, 3 ὡς ἄρα τὴν ἐπὶ τῶν τοιούτων μάλιστα
 δὴ προκοπὴν τινα καὶ εὐδοκίμῃσιν, πολλὴν τὴν γλυκυθυμίαν καὶ τὴν εἰς
 τὰγαθὸν ἐπιμέλειαν ἐνείεσαν ταῖς ψυχαῖς καὶ πλείστον αὔξουσιν. 4 Καὶ πολλῶν
 γε ἄλλων θεάτρων καὶ παγκοσμίου μαρτυρίας καὶ ἐπιδείξεως ἀλλάξαιτ' 15
 ἂν ὑπερβαλλόντως ὡς ἡδιστα τὴν τῶν ἔργων οἱ φιλότιμοι τῶν ἀνθρώπων
 περιφάνειαν ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκείων, ὡς εἴρηται, παρόντων τὲ καὶ συνηδομένων τοῖς
 αὐτῶν ἀγαθοῖς.

4 Καὶ καθόλου γὰρ ἄνθρωπος ἀνθρώπῳ τὴν φύσιν οἰκείως ἔχοντι τὰ
 οἰκεία πάντως ἐπιδείξαιτ' ἂν, οὐκ ἄλλῳ τῷ τῶν ἀπάντων ζῶων· καὶ κατὰ φύσιν 20
 ἰδίᾳ τοῖς οἰκείοις ἔθνεσι καὶ γένεσι, καὶ ἔθ' ἐξῆς τοῖς ἔγγιστα, καὶ κοινωνοῖς
 τῆς ζωῆς ἢ φύσει, ἢ ἔθει τινὶ καὶ οὐ πορρωτάτω γε καὶ διακεκομμένοις, ἢ
 χρόνοις, ἢ τόποις, ἢ ἀγωγαῖς δὴ τισὶν ἀήθεσι καὶ ἀλλοτρίαις. 2 Καὶ ὡσπερ
 οὐδ' ἐν ἀλλοτρίοις νοσεῖν αἰρούμεθα εἰ παρ' ἡμῖν τοῦτ' ἂν εἴη καὶ καθ'
 αἴρεσιν, ἀλλ' εἰ ἀνάγκη τούτου, οἴκοι μᾶλλον ἀνθαιρούμεθα ξυμπεσεῖν τῇ 25
 398 συμφορᾷ ταύτῃ τοῦ σώματος, ὡς ἂν καὶ πλείονος τῶν οἰκείων καὶ συνηθῶν

25 ἀνθαιρούμεθα: -εθ- vel fort. -εν- (i.e. -μενα) a.c. P, -εθ- p.c. P²

⁷ I.e. that his parents were alive to see his success.

⁸ The following may also be translated as: 'and anyone saying so might adduce as witness to his argument etc.'

⁹ 'scenes': the Greek word used is θέατρον, 'theatre'.

most in his success,⁷ one might well accept as indicative of the sentiment of a noble and refined person; ⁴ and⁸ one might compare him to almost anyone who has had or has great success in his public life and who in some way has been praised for some deed, having shown or showing physical or mental vigour, or dexterity or luck, or all these qualities at the same time, or at least some of them.

3 For everyone is thus subject to ambition, and to passion and pleasure; and everyone is delighted if his own activity turns out as well as possible and is paid attention to and mentioned in the most honourable way, not only at any public scene or with any public witnesses, but also while he is seen by and is allowed to be together with his elders; this is what everyone loves fervently and this is what everyone expresses his desire for in his prayers. ² Nothing can ever be sweeter to men than the opportunity to be with their parents and, next to this, with their intimates and people together with whom they have lived from childhood, and with their countrymen and demesmen and tribesmen, and with noble fellow-citizens of the kind they are used to, and to live under the kind of rule they are used to. ³ It is as if progress and fame under such conditions should in a particular way instil great sweetness of mind and a yearning after doing good into men's souls, and to strengthen this wish to the highest degree. ⁴ For those with ambition would be extremely glad to exchange many other scenes⁹ and an international recognition of their accomplishments and excessive fame for distinction among their own and, as has been said, the opportunity for their closest to be present and join them in rejoicing at their good fortune.

4 On the whole a human being would indeed be more likely to show his intimate side to another human who has a nature similar to his, than to any other kind of animal; and, naturally, he would in particular do so to someone of his own people and kin and, to bring the argument further, to those closest to him and to those who are related to him in life, either by their nature or by some trait of character, and who are not very far separated from him by time or space or by strange and alien customs. ² For just as we do not wish to be ill in a foreign place if it is in our power and we have the choice not to, but rather, if need be, prefer to meet with such

καὶ φίλων ἐπιτυγχάνοιμὲν τινος ἐπιμελείας καὶ συμμαχίας κατὰ τοῦ δεινοῦ, ³
 τὸν αὐτὸν ἄρ', οἶμαι, τρόπον καὶ τὰς κατὰ τὸν βίον εὐπραγίας καὶ τὰ παρ'
 ἡμῖν βέλτιστα ἢ φύσεως ἢ ἀσκήσεως τινὸς ἢ γνώμης ἢ τύχης κατορθώματα
 οἴκοι μάλιστα ποθοῦμεν ἐπιδείκνυσθαι καὶ θριαμβεῦν τοῖς παροῦσιν ἀγαθοῖς
 καὶ μεταδιδόναι τοῖς οἰκείοις καὶ οἷς ἐξαρχῆς συνηνέχθημεν τῆς ἡμῶν ⁵
 λαμπρότητος καὶ περιφανείας ἥστινος ἄρα. ⁴ Καὶ ἀγαλλόμεθα, πῶς ἂν εἴποι
 τις, ὡς ἦδισθ' ἡμῖν αὐτοῖς ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκείων εὐδαιμονοῦντες καὶ ἡλικιωτῶν καὶ
 τῶν εἰθισμένων ἡμῖν ὄλως κοινωνῶν τῇ βίῳ, καὶ πλεονεκτοῦντες ὅτιοῦν,
 καὶ φερόμενοι νίκας, καὶ φερόμενοι κατ' εὐχάς.

⁵ Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ πολλοὶ καταγῆρωσι τῶν εὐγενῶν καὶ δοκίμων ἀνδρῶν ¹⁰
 ταῖς οἴκοι καὶ συνηθεσι διατριβαῖς ἐν μικραῖς τύχαις καὶ χρήσεσιν ἡδίστου
 βίου, ἢ παρ' ἄλλοις ἐπιδοξότατ' ἀνθρώποις φέρονται καὶ προστρέχουσιν,
² ἐξὸν ἴσως πολὺ προελθεῖν τῆς ἀγαθῆς τύχης καὶ δόξης ἐν ἄλλοις καὶ
 κάλλιστ' ὀφθῆναι καὶ περιφανέστατα τὰ κατ' αὐτοὺς ἐπιδείξασθαι βέλτιστα
 ἅττα δῆ. ³ Καὶ οὐκ ἂν ἔλοιτο παρ' ἄλλοις ὑπερπλουτεῖν οὐδ' ὑπερευδοξεῖν ¹⁵
 οὐδὲ πλείστων ἄρχειν οὐδὲ μείζουσιν ἐμπανηγυρίζειν τὰ σφέτερα κάλλη θεά-
 399 τριος καὶ προδείκνυσθαι καὶ περιορᾶσθαι καὶ μακαρίζεσθαι, ἢ τῶν μετρίων
 ἐν τοῖς οἰκείοις ἀπολαύειν καὶ οὐ μικρῶ τινι δευτέρων. ⁴ Πολὺ γὰρ εἰς ἡδονὴν
 φέρει τὸ προσορᾶν καὶ προσορᾶσθαι τοῖς ἐκ πολλοῦ συνηθεσιν ἐν ἀγαθῶν
 τινῶν μετουσίᾳ καὶ λαμπρότητι, καὶ τῶν ἄλλων κατ' αὐτοὺς προέχοντες, καὶ ²⁰
 τὰ πρῶτα φέροντες ὀπηροῦν, ⁵ καὶ τῆς οἰκείας ἥτις ἂν τὸ γιγνόμενον ἅπαν
 εὐδαιμονίας αὐτοὺς ἔχειν ἐπόπτας καὶ κοινωνοὺς ποιῆσθαι, ἢ καὶ μακαρίζοντας
 καὶ θαυμάζοντας ἴσως τῆς εὐετηρίας ἐκάστοτε, ⁶ ἢ παρ' ἄλλοις τόποις
 καὶ ἔθνεσιν ἀπόδημον εὐτυχίαν καρποῦσθαι, καὶ εἰ πρόχειν ἴσως ἢ οἴκοι
 καὶ πλεονεκτεῖν τῶν ἀγαθῶν δύναιντ' ἂν ἐν ἀγνοοῦσι τὲ καὶ ἀγνοοῦμενοις ²⁵
 ἐπόπταις καὶ μάρτυσι τῆς εὐπραγίας.

¹² ἐπιδοξότατα P (ante consonantem, vid. infra) φέρονται, ἀνθρώποις P, sed litteris β et α
 supra φέρονται et ἀνθρώποις positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. ἀνθρώποις
 φέρονται ¹⁵ ἅττα E et p.c. fort. P², ἄ- ut vid. a.c. P, non leg. M ²¹ τὸ γιγνόμενον bis
 exhib. a.c. P ²⁴ καὶ² p.c. fort. ex κᾶν M

bodily troubles at home, so as to get more care and support against the suffering from our intimates and acquaintances and friends—³ in the same way, I think, it is at home that we most of all wish to display our success in life and our greatest accomplishments, be it that these have been achieved by natural faculties, or by practice of any kind, or by mental power or by luck; and I think that it is at home that we want to triumph because of the good we have attained; and I think that we want our nearest and those we have been close to from the very beginning to share in whatever glory and fame is ours.⁴ And, when we prosper and have some success and gain victories and fare according to our wishes (that is, if we do so among our own and our comrades and those to whom we are totally accustomed as to a common way of life), we exult (I know no other way to express this) in a manner most sweet to ourselves.

⁵ Therefore also many noble men and men of high esteem grow old at home, and they live there humbly and as they are used to, and they live a most pleasant life; this they prefer to associating with and conversing at an elevated level with men to whom they do not belong,² although it may be possible to find good fortune and fame in a foreign country, and make the best and most glorious impression and show oneself to the greatest advantage.³ And they would not most of all want to be very rich or famous or to rule over very many or celebrate their success in the greatest of assemblies and be shown forth as examples and generally admired and congratulated; they would rather enjoy modest and considerably worse conditions among their own.⁴ For seeing and being seen by those who have been close to him for a long time contributes a great deal to a man's pleasure when he shares some success and glory; it also contributes to his pleasure if he, while excelling over them,⁵ can make his peers and men of a very high rank become the observers of and partners in his personal happiness, whatever this may consist of in each case, or make them ready to praise and admire his prosperity, of whatever kind it may be.⁶ This contributes more to pleasure than any good fortune to be enjoyed in exile in foreign countries and among foreign peoples would do, even if one perhaps could be more successful there than at home, and even if one could have an excess of advantages

“Οτι πολλάκις ἔνιοι συμπίπτουσι τοῖς ἑαυτῶν δόγμασι καὶ κρίσεις καὶ ὄλλυνται δίκη σφετέρᾳ· ΞΕ’

1 Θαυμάσιόν τι ξυμβαίνειν εἴωθεν ἐνίοτε καὶ ἐπεικῶς ἔννοιάν τιν’ ὑποτεῖνον πάντ’ ἀδόκητα χρῆναι προορᾶσθαι καὶ πρὸς ἅπαντ’ εὐλαβῶς φέρεσθαι καὶ νέμεισιν τινα λογισμῶ τίθεσθαι. 2 Ξυμπίπτουσι γὰρ δὴ τινες πολλάκις ἐπηρεία 5
400 τινί | καὶ δαιμονία ξυγκυρήσει μετουπολὺ τοῖς νομισθεῖσιν ὑπ’ αὐτῶν καὶ οἷς φθάσαντες ἐψηφίσαντο, καὶ δοκοῦντες ἐπ’ ἄλλους νομοθετεῖν ἅττα δὴ καὶ ἀποφαίνεσθαι ἔπειτ’ ὥφθησαν προκατασκευασάμενοι καθ’ ἑαυτῶν αὐτοὶ δόγματα καὶ ψήφους ἀφύκτους, καὶ ‘τοῖς ἑαυτῶν ἀλίσκονται, κατὰ τὸν λόγον, πτεροῖς.’ 3 Καὶ ὅστις μὲν ἄρα κατὰ σκοπὸν ἀληθινῆς τινος χρείας καὶ 10 κρίσεως αἰρούμενος τὰ δόξαντα βέλτιστα καὶ κατὰ καιρὸν τῇ περὶ τῶν κοινῶν οἷς ξυνέλαχε προνοία, ὀρθὰ καὶ ὀρθῶν, ὀρθὰ καὶ χρώμενος, ἔπειτα ξυμβάν οὕτω δὴ ξυμπέπτωκέ πως αὐτὸς τοῖς ἐγνωσμένοις, 4 οὐκ ἂν, οἶμαι, μέμψιν ὑπέχειν δίκαιος εἴη ὑπὸ χρηστοῦ κινούμενος τοῦ τρόπου περὶ κοινῶν ἀγαθῶν πάντων ἀμέλει καὶ τῶν κατ’ αὐτὸν ἔξω δειλίας ἄρᾳ τινος καὶ εὐλαβείας, εἰ καὶ 15 μέμφεσθαι πως ἴσως ἑαυτῶ μᾶλλον αὐτὸς ἀξιοίη, γεγρονῶς ἑαυτῶ δεινῶν αἴτιος καὶ κακοπραγίας τινὸς ἐκ τοῦ ξυντυχόντος. 5 “Ὅς δ’ ἄρ’ ἐπ’ ἄλλους τινὰς ἐκ μακροῦ κατὰ σκοπὸν ἀφῆισι βέλεμνα, κακουργῶν καὶ κλέπτων τάφανές ὡς τὰ κοινὰ δῆθεν προσποιούμενος εὐνοίας ἀπλαστία, δυσνούστατος ὢν ἴσως οὐκ ἀδικοῦσιν ἀνθρώποις, οὔτ’ αὐτὸν οὔτε τὰ κοινὰ, 6 καὶ ῥᾶστ’ αὐτόθεν λοιπὸν 20
401 ἔπειτ’ ἀναφαίνεται τῆς αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ μάλιστ’ ἀπολαύων τῇ τύχῃ κακουργί|ας καὶ τέχνης καὶ κακοηθείας, ‘οἶθ’ αὐτῶ κακὰ τεύχων ἄλλω κακὰ τεύχων’ κατὰ τὸν λόγον, πῶς οὐκ ἂν τις νεμεσῶη δικαίως; 7 Καὶ αὐτὸς ὡς ἀληθῶς μάλισθ’

7 ἅττα E et ut vid. M 16 ἑαυτῶ ἴσως P, sed litteris β et α supra ἑαυτῶ et ἴσως positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. ἴσως ἑαυτῶ 17 κακοπραγίας M et p.c. fort. P², κακοπραγίας a.c. P 22 οἶ ut vid. p.c. P², οἶ M et fort. P¹, ὅς M-K

9 τοῖς ... πτεροῖς] cf. A. Fr. 139.4sq. (Radt) τὰδ’ οὐχ ὑπ’ ἄλλων, ἀλλὰ τοῖς αὐτῶν πτεροῖς ἀλίσκόμεσθα | Suda O 992 22 οἶ ... τεύχων] cf. Hes. Op. 265sq. οἶ αὐτῶ κακὰ τεύχει ἀνήρ ἄλλω κακὰ τεύχων, ἢ δὲ κακῆ βουλή τῷ βουλευσάντι κακίστη | Democr. Chius ap. Arist. Rhet. 1.409b28

¹ Cf. LSJ s.v. πτερόν: ‘to be shot with an arrow feathered from one’s own plumes,’ ‘hoist with one’s own petard’; this is from Aeschylus (Fr. 139).

among observers and witnesses to one's success who are ignorant and obscure.

65. That it often happens that people are made victims
of their own judgement and decisions and so perish by
their own condemnation

1 A most curious thing happens sometimes, a thing which may imply that one should endeavour to foresee everything unexpected, and be careful in every matter, and expect retribution for every decision one takes. 2 For it often happens that, by some untoward event or divine intervention, people are made victims of laws decreed by themselves a short time before and by their own recent decisions; and although they think that they make their laws or give their opinions in question on other people's account, it is subsequently made clear that they have prepared judgement and votes admitting of no escape on themselves, and that, as the saying goes, *they are being shot with their own arrows*.¹ 3 Now, if a man takes an interest in a true problem and in a matter in need of decision and chooses what seems to be best and appropriate to satisfy the demand of the public affairs allotted to him; and if he, in spite of seeing rightly and acting rightly, by some chance afterwards is caught by his own decisions, 4 then I do not think that he deserves censure, provided that he has been motivated by a correct instinct about the common good and has shown no trace whatever of cowardice or excessive caution in his dealings. He may, however, feel inclined somehow to blame himself for having caused himself suffering and accidental hardship. 5 But if someone takes aim and shoots at others from a distance and surreptitiously does evil and is most negatively disposed towards people who do not harm either him or the community to the same extent,² while feigning sincere benevolence and an interest in the public weal³— 6 it is

² 'to the same extent': ἴσως may mean 'perhaps'; the negation οὐ instead of μή is surprising.

³ 'while ... weal': this is rather freely translated.

ἐαυτῷ δικαίως· καὶ ξυνορή τὰ τῆς καθόλου μᾶλλον προνοίας καὶ θείας ὅ γε τοιοῦτος ἐφ' ἑαυτοῦ, ἦν οὐκ ἔστιν ὄλως λαθεῖν τὸν πάντα τεχναζόμενον, οὐδ' ἔστιν ὄλως διαδιδράσκειν τὸν πάνθ' ἑαυτῷ διαρκῆ καὶ θαρροῦντα. 8 Καὶ τοῦτο μὲν οὕτω δῆ, καὶ πολλοῖς τῶν φαύλων τάχ' ἂν σωφροσύνης δὴ τινος καὶ εὐλαβείας αἴτιον εἶη νοῦν ὄλως ἔχουσιν. 5

2 Ὁ γὰρ τὸν χαλκοῦν ἐκείνον ταῦρον δεξιὸν εἰς τιμωρίας ὄργανον τῷ τῶν Ἄκραγαντίνων τυράννω Φαλάριδι τεχνιτευσάμενος καὶ πρῶτος αὐτὸς τῆς αὐτοῦ κακοτεχνίας πειραθεὶς καὶ τιμωρούμενος τῆς ὠμοτάτης καὶ θηριώδους γνώμης ἐν αὐτῷ, μусаχθέντος τοῦ τυράννου τὸν ἄνδρα τῆς κακοηθείας, 2 τίν' οὐκ ἂν ἐποίει τηνικαῦτα δὴ νοῦν λαμβάνειν ἐπὶ τῇ ταχίστῃ δίκῃ καὶ παραπλήσια 10 δῶρα κατ' ἀνθρώπων ἐξωλείας τῷ τυράννω κακουργεῖν ἀπέχεσθαι; 3 Προσηνεγκε μὲν γὰρ τοῦργον εὔμηχανησάμενος ὡς ῥήθη, καὶ κατ' ἔφεσιν μάλα τῷ τυράννω, καὶ θαυμάσιον οἶον τῇ περινοίᾳ τῆς τῶν κατακρίτων τιμωρίας, καὶ τραγικὸν ὡς εἰπεῖν δράμα, πάντων ἐλεινότατον, ὥστ' ἐν αὐτῷ 402 κλειομένους | ὀπτᾶσθαι τοὺς εὐθύνεσθαι καταδικασθέντας καὶ τληπαθεῖν 15 τοὺς ἐσχάτους θανάτους, 4 ἐν μέσῳ πυρὶ κυκλομένου τοῦ ταύρου πικρότατα καὶ ἀλγεινότατα σφόδρα καταπιπρωμένους καὶ χαλεπωτάταις περιωδυνίαις μηκνομένους μὲν αὐτοὺς τὸν θάνατον, τῷ δὲ τυράννω τέρψιν τινα καὶ ἥδιστα μέλη τοῖς γόοις καὶ τῇ τοῦ πυρὸς βίᾳ διὰ τῶν μυκτήρων τοῦ ταύρου ἀναπέμποντας καὶ θρηνηδοῦντας σὺν μέλει δὴ τινι καὶ ἥχῳ γλυκυθυμίαν ἴσως 20 οὐδὲ θηρίοις ἀνεκτὴν φέροντι· 5 βδελλυζάμενον δὲ τὸν τύραννον τῆς τόλμης

7 Ἄκραγαντίνων P, ἀκραγαντίνων M (vide introd. 3, p. liii)
 περινοία partim (-ερινοί-) e manu altera quam P¹ (P²?) legi

8 αὐτοῦ: αὐτοῦ M 13
 17 καταπιπρωμένους M

οἱ τ' αὐτῷ κακὰ τεύχει ἀνήρ ἄλλω κακὰ τεύχων | Ael. VH 8.9.9sq. τὸ ἔπος ἐκείνο: τεύχων ὡς ἐτέρω τις ἐφ' κακὸν ἦπατι τεύχει | Call. Aet. I Fr. 2, 5 τεύχω] ὡς ἐτέρω τις ἐφ' [κακὸν ἦπατι τεύχει | Suda Π 3.3sq. τὰ ἐκ τοῦ νόμου δικαίως ἔπαθε. τεύχων ὡς ἐτέρω τις, ἐφ' κακὸν ἦπατι τεύχει 6 Ὁ ... κακοηθείας] cf. Pi. P. 1.95sq. τὸν δὲ ταῦρω χαλκῆς καυτήρα νηλέα νόον / ἐχθρὰ Φάλαριν κατέχει παντᾶ φάτις | [Plu.] Parall. min. 315C.9 Πέριλλος δὲ τῇ τέχνῃ χαλκουργὸς δάμαλιν κατασκευάσας χαλκῆν ἔδωκε τῷ βασιλεῖ, ὡς ἂν τοὺς ξένους κατακαίῃ ζῶντας ἐν αὐτῇ. ὁ δὲ τότε μόνον γενόμενος δίκαιος αὐτὸν ἐνέβαλεν

because of this behaviour of his⁴ that Fate most conspicuously will make him reap the benefit of his wickedness and artfulness and evil mind, since, as the proverb says, *he who causes mischief to others also causes mischief to himself*.⁵ And how could anyone fail to censure this person? ⁷ Indeed, he would in truth be particularly justified to do so himself and, being what he is, he would be able to study the effects of the ubiquitous divine Providence on himself, [a power] which nobody, however hard one tries, can quite evade, and which not even he, who considers himself to be self-sufficient and is confident in his ability in every respect, can escape. ⁸ So much for this. And [an understanding of] this would, perhaps, make a lot of bad men behave with restraint and caution, if they have any sense at all.

2 For the man who constructed that copper bull for the tyrant of Akragas,⁶ Phalaris,⁷ as a handy instrument for punishment, and who himself was the first to experience his own evil craft and was punished in this for his most cruel and beastly cast of mind, since the tyrant abhorred the evil-mindedness of the man— ² what would he not have given then for having sensed the impending doom in advance and having abstained from constructing such wicked gifts to the tyrant for the destruction of people? ³ For he offered his creation in the conviction that he had done a good piece of work and that it was very much in accordance with the desires of the tyrant, and that anyone who saw the punishment of the condemned would, so to speak, be offered a strange kind of tragic drama, the most pitiful of all, when those called to account for their crimes and condemned to suffer the worst of deaths were locked into the bull and roasted ⁴ while it was rotated in the middle of a fire. Thus they should be burnt in the harshest and most painful way and have their dying prolonged by the worst of pains

⁴ 'because of this behaviour of his': this passage is problematical and I translate αὐτόθεν as an expression of causality.

⁵ This originates with Hesiod's *Works and Days* but is often used in later literature.

⁶ The ms. P, here followed, has the form Ἀκραγαγαντίων, see the introduction, 3.

⁷ All of the following exempla are met with in Aelian's *Varia Historia*, and some in Plutarch. Phalaris was the tyrant of Akragas ca. 550 B.C. Phalaris and the bull are also alluded to in Pindar, *Pythian* 1.95–96, where, however, there is no hint at Phalaris' abhorrence of this method of punishment.

καὶ κακουργοτάτης τέχνης τὸν ἄνθρωπον, αὐτίκα τὸ μηχανήμα κατὰ τοῦ σοφισαμένου κάκιστα πρῶτου προστάξαντα δεικνυσθαι μάλα κατὰ καιρὸν ἐνεργόν, καὶ πείραν αὐτὸν πρῶτον καὶ μόνον λαβεῖν τῆς καλλιτεχνίας, 6 καὶ μετὰ τὴν ἐνδικωτάτην ἐκείνου τῆς κατ' ἀνθρώπων σοφιστείας ἀντίδοσιν καὶ 5 τοὺς προσήκοντας τῷ τοῦ ἀνδρὸς τρόπῳ μισθοὺς ἀναθεῖναι τὸν ταῦρον ἐν Δελφοῖς Ἀπόλλωνι, στήλην οὐ μᾶλλον τῆς ἑαυτοῦ γνώμης καὶ δικαιοσύνης, ὡς ᾤετο, ἢ τῆς θείας καὶ προνοίας καὶ δίκης περιφανὲς ἔργον αὐτόθεν 7 εἰς πολλῶν ἄλλων βελτίωσιν καὶ σωφροσύνης ὑπόμνησιν, ὡς ἄρ' εἶωθε τάχιστ' ἀπαντᾶν πολλάκις ἐπὶ τοὺς πονηροὺς τε καὶ ἀνοσίους καὶ πάσης κακίας 403 ἀφειδῶς ἀπτομένους. 10

3 Ἄλλ' ὅπερ ἐξαρχῆς ἐβούλεθ' ὁ λόγος ἡμῖν, πολλοὶ δὲ περιπίπτουσι τοῖς ἐξ αὐτῶν καὶ οἷς ἔγνωσαν ἐνίοτε κινδυνεύουσιν, οἱ μὲν δόλω τὴν ἀρχὴν χρώμενοι καὶ κακουργοῦντες ὡς εἴρηται, οἱ δὲ καὶ ἀπλοϊκῶς νομίζοντες ἄττα δὴ πρὸς τὸ βέλτιστον, 2 βασκαίνουσης ὡσπερὶ τῆς τύχης καὶ περιτρεπούσης τὰ δόγματα κατ' αὐτῶν, ὧν κἂν αὐτοὶ γ', ἔοικεν, οὐχ' ἦψαντο προορώμενοι τὸ μέλλον 15 καὶ τὰς ἀνυπονοήτους καὶ ἀλογίστους καὶ ἀπίστους τῆς τύχης ἐπιβουλὰς. 3 Περικλῆς ἐτίθετο νόμον Ἀθήνησι μηδένα πολίτην εἶναι τὸν μὴ ἐξ ἀμφοῖν ἀστοῖν γενόμενον. Καὶ μετ' οὐ πολὺν τὸν χρόνον ἐν τῷ λοιμῷ καὶ τῇ πολιορκίᾳ τῆς πατρίδος ἀποβαλόμενος ἄμφω τῷ υἱέε θανάτῳ, Πάραλόν τε καὶ Ξάνθιππον, ἠναγκάζετο περιπίπτειν τοῖς αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ νόμοις καὶ γνώμῃ 4 βουλόμενος ἐν 20 πολίταις τὸν υἱὸν τετάχθαι, ὃς μόνος ἐλείπετό οἱ μὴ γενόμενος ἐξ ἀστῆς· καὶ μὴ ξυγχωρούμενος τῷ δῆμῳ χαλεπῶς μὲν ὄμως καὶ γέλῳτ' ὄφλων, ἔφερε δ' ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἅ πρότερον ἐνόμιζε καθ' ἑαυτοῦ· 5 καὶ πρὸ αὐτοῦ γε Κλεισθένης τὸν ὄστρακισμὸν Ἀθήνησι πρῶτος εἰσηγησάμενος καὶ βουλεύσας, ὡς ἂν κολοῦειν

2 προστάξαντα M-K, προστάξαντος M et a.c. P, -a s.l. add. ut vid. P¹, i.e. προστάξαντα 3 καὶ³ exhib. ut vid. P, sed non certe leg., om. M-K 4 ἐνδικωτάτην E, non leg. M κατ' s.l. add. M 11 ἐβούλεθ ... λόγος: ὁ λόγος ἢ[... M, ὁ λόγος ἢβούλεθ' E 13 ἄττα M 14 ὡσπερὶ: ὡσ περὶ cum lacuna 1-2 litt. in medio relicta P 20 τοῖς αὐτὸς: an scrib. αὐτὸς τοῖς vel αὐτοῖς τοῖς?

17 Περικλῆς (§ 35q.) cf. AeI. VH 13.244.6 Καὶ Περικλῆς ἔγραψε μὴ εἶναι Ἀθηναῖον, ὃς μὴ ἐξ ἀμφοῖν γέγονεν ἀστοῖν. εἶτα ἀποβαλὼν τοὺς γνησίους παῖδας ἐπὶ τῷ νόθῳ Περικλεῖ κατελείπειτο κτλ. | Plu. Per. 37.3, 37.5 23 Κλεισθένης (§ 5) cf. AeI. VH 13.244.11 Κλεισθένης δὲ ὁ Ἀθηναῖος τὸ δεῖν ἐξοστρακίζεσθαι πρῶτος ἐσηγησάμενος, αὐτὸς ἔτυχε τῆς καταδίκης πρῶτος | Plu. Aristid. 2 et Cim. 15

while through the nostrils of the bull and with the help of the violence of the fire they were, by their wailing, sending forth to the tyrant delight of some kind and the sweetest of music, lamenting with a kind of melody and with a sound which bore a sweetness to the mind of a kind hardly bearable even to wild animals. ⁵ However, the tyrant felt abhorrence of the man's daring and most wicked craft, and he decided that the efficiency of the machine should be at once demonstrated on its evil inventor, and that he should be the first and only one to experience the beauty of the workmanship. ⁶ And after having given the man this most rightful compensation for his ingeniousness to the detriment of the people, and having paid him the reward fitting for his character, the tyrant dedicated the bull to Apollo in Delphi, not so much, he implied, as a monument to his own mind and righteousness as a clear proof of the divine Providence and justice. ⁷ He also did it for the betterment of many others, and to encourage prudence. For such swift retribution is wont to strike evil and wicked men and those who without any restraint engage in every kind of evil.

³ But, to return to our main theme, many people are caught by their own doings, and they are sometimes brought into danger by their own previous rulings; in some cases this happens when they have acted cunningly and, as has been said, wickedly from the outset, but in some cases when they have innocently tried to take the best possible decision. ² It is as if Fate would bear a grudge against them and therefore upset their decisions—decisions which, as it seems, they would not have had anything to do with, had they foreseen the future and the unexpected and incalculable and incredible plots of Fate. ³ Pericles instituted a law in Athens that no person should be a citizen unless both his parents were citizens. And shortly afterwards, when his country was hit by the plague and was under siege, Pericles lost both his sons, Paralus and Xanthippus, by death and he was himself forcibly made a victim to his own laws and decisions.⁸ ⁴ For he wished that his only surviving son, who was not born of a citizen woman, should be accepted among the citizens; and when this was not allowed him by the body of citizens, he had to yield, although unwilling-

⁸ This was in 429 B.C., shortly before Pericles' own death.

ἀναγκαῖον καὶ λυσιτελοῦν μάλιστ' ὄν τοὺς μέγιστα τρόπῳ δὴ τινα δυναμένους
 404 ὑπονοία τῆς | τυραννίδος, καὶ αὐτὸς πρῶτος ἀπολαύων τῶν αὐτοῦ νομίμων
 καὶ τῆς βουλῆς, τὸν ὀστρακισμὸν καταδικασθεὶς. 6 Φασὶ δέ γε καὶ Ζάλευκον
 τὸν τῶν Λοκρῶν νομοθέτην τὸν μοιχὸν ἀλόντα νόμον θέσθαι ἄμφω γε τῷ
 ὀφθαλμῷ ἐκκόπτεσθαι, καὶ βουλόμενον ἀγαθὰ τῇ πατρίδι περιπεσεῖν χαλεποῖς 5
 μὴ προσδοκῆσαντα μήποτ' ἴσως. 7 Ὁ γάρ τοι παῖς, ὃς μόνος ἦν αὐτῷ, μετ'
 ὀλίγον μοιχείας ἤλω καὶ τῷ πατρώῳ νόμῳ κατ' ἀνάγκην ὑπήγετο· ὅτε δὴ
 καὶ μὴ ἀντιτείνειν τὸν ἄνδρα βουλόμενον τῷ νόμῳ, χαλεπῶς δὲ φέροντα τὴν
 τοῦ μόνου παιδὸς τύφλωσιν, ἐξαιτησάμενον τυχεῖν ἐπὶ σωτηρία τοῦ νόμου
 ὥστε αὐτὸν τὸν ἕνα τοῖν ὀφθαλμοῖν ἐκκοπῆναι ἀντὶ τοῦ ἐτέρου τοῦ υἱέος, καὶ 10
 μονοφθάλμῳ γε λειφθῆναι βλέπειν αὐτόν τε καὶ τὸν υἱέα. 8 Καὶ Λυκοῦργος
 δὲ ὁ ρήτωρ Ἀθήνησι ψήφισμα θέμενος, ὅπερ ἐκύρωσεν ὁ δῆμος, μὴ ἐλαύνειν
 τὰς γυναῖκας ἐπὶ ζευγῶν εἰς τὰ μυστήρια, ὧν πολλὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος Ἀθήνησιν,
 εἰ δὲ μὴ, ζημίαν εἶναι τόσην, μετ' ὀλίγον εἶχεν ὑπεύθυνον τὴν γυναῖκα μὴ
 γινώσκουσαν, ἔοικε, τὸν νόμον, ζεύγει χρησαμένην τοῖς μυστηρίοις καὶ τὴν 15
 405 ζημίαν ἐξανάγκης ἀποδιδού|σαν, ἧς ὁ ταύτης ἀνὴρ αἴτιος.

4 Καὶ πολλοὺς ἂν τις ὀρώη πάλαι τε καὶ νῦν οὐχῆκιστα καὶ αἰεὶ, καὶ
 καταριθμεῖσθαι μὴ οὐ δυνατὸν ἦ, ὅποσοι τοῖς οἰκείοις ξυνέπεσον νομίμοις
 μὴ προορώμενοι τὸ τοῦ μέλλοντος καθ' ἑαυτῶν ἄδηλον· 2 οἷς ἄρα προδῆλως
 ἐστὶ συνάπτειν, καὶ πρὸς πολλοῖς γε μὴν ἄλλοις κὰν τῇ χριστιανικῇ καθ' 20
 ἡμᾶς ἀγωγῇ ταύτῃ καὶ τοῖς δόγμασι, καὶ τὸν θρασὺν κατὰ τῶν νομίμων τῆς
 ἐκκλησίας Εὐτρόπιον, 3 νόμους μὲν κατ' αὐτῆς ἀποκλείοντας τοῖς φυγάσιν

2 πρῶτος αὐτὸς M

8 τῷ νόμῳ βουλόμενον M

13 Ἀθήνησιν: -i E, non leg. M

3 Ζάλευκον (§ 6sq.) cf. Heraclid.Lemb. *Excerpt. polit.* 61.1 ἐὰν ἀλῶ τις κλέπτων, τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ἐξορύσσειται. Ζαλεύκου υἱὸς ἔάλω καὶ τῶν Λοκρῶν αὐτὸν ἀφιέντων, οὐχ ὑπέμεινε, αὐτοῦ δὲ ἕνα καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ ἕνα ἐξείλεν | Ael. *VH* 13.244.14sq. Ζάλευκος ὁ Λοκρῶν νομοθέτης προσέταξε τὸν μοιχὸν ἀλόντα ἐκκόπτεσθαι τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς κτλ. 11 Λυκοῦργος (§ 8) cf. Ael. *VH* 13.244 Λυκοῦργος ὁ ρήτωρ ἔγραψε μὴ ἐλαύνειν τὰς γυναῖκας ἐν τοῖς μυστηρίοις ἐπὶ ζευγῶν κτλ.

⁹ His surviving son was Pericles the younger.

¹⁰ First used in 487 B.C.

ly and after having been made the object of ridicule, and he was forced to comply with the law which he himself had instituted at an earlier date and which now was turned against him.⁹ 5 And before him there was, of course, Cleisthenes, the man who introduced ostracism in Athens.¹⁰ He had argued that it is necessary and most expedient to stop those who enjoy very great power of some kind—if they can be suspected of aspiring at tyranny; but he himself was ostracized and thus the first to enjoy the effect of his laws and design. 6 It is furthermore said that Zaleucus, the lawgiver of the Locrians, made a law to the effect that he who is caught in adultery should have both his eyes put out; and it is said that the same Zaleucus, who had the best intentions for his country, met with trouble because perhaps he did not give sufficient consideration to the future.¹¹ 7 For shortly afterwards his only son was caught in adultery and forced to submit to his father's law. It is then said that Zaleucus asked as a favour that he himself should have one eye cut out instead of one of his son's eyes; for he did not wish to oppose the law, but he was deeply troubled by the fact that his only son should be blinded. This he did so as to uphold the law, while he as well as his son were left to see with one eye. 8 Also the rhetor Lycurgus in Athens forwarded a motion, later confirmed by the body of citizens, that no woman should be driven in a chariot to the Mysteries (the Mysteries were of great importance in Athens [at that time]), and that the fine for doing so should be such and such.¹² But shortly afterwards his own wife made herself guilty of this; she was, it would seem, unaware of the law and she had used a chariot for the Mysteries and was therefore forced to pay the penalty which originated with her own husband.

4 Indeed, one could find many examples, in Antiquity and not least today or, in fact, in any time, of people (these would in truth be impossible to enumerate) who have been forced to submit to their own laws since they did not foresee what an uncertain future had in store for them. 2 To these examples should, as is obvious, be added that rash reformer of the

¹¹ Zaleucus lived probably in the 7th c. B.C.

¹² This is the rhetor and politician (396–323 B.C.). The story as told by Metochites is very similar to that of Aelian, *Varia Historia*.

εἰς αὐτὴν τὴν ἀσυλίαν τιθέμενον ἀλογίστω τόλμη, μετ' ὀλίγον δ' αὐτὸν τοῖς αὐτοῦ περιπίπτοντα νόμοις καὶ τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ προστρέχοντα τοῖς κινδύνοις καὶ χλεύης καὶ τωθασμοῦ δικαίως ἀξιούμενον ὡς ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν καλῶν νομίμων ἐπίβουλον. 4 Καὶ οὐδεὶς ἀσφαλίσαιτ' ἂν ἀληθῶς τὸ μέλλον ἑαυτῶ περι ὧν ἐκάστοτε δοκιμάζει τὲ καὶ ψηφίζεται, ἢ ἐμπλήκτως, ἢ καὶ ξὺν λόγῳ καὶ 5 σωφρονικῶς ἴσως ἐνίστε φερόμενος.

Ἔστι τινὲς εἰσι ταχεῖς πιστεύειν τῇ προνοίᾳ διὰ τὰ φαινόμενα κατὰ λόγον ἀπαντᾶν τοῖς χρηστοῖς τε καὶ πονηροῖς ἐκ τοῦ προχείρου, καὶ αὐθις ἀπιστεῖν τῇ προνοίᾳ διὰ τὰναντία τούτοις· ΞΦ'

10

1 Ἐνιοὶ μοι δοκοῦσι μικρογνώμονες ἄνθρωποι καὶ μὴ προσωτέρω τῶν κατὰ 406 πόδας καὶ φαινο|μένων τῶ νῶ χωρεῖν οἴοι τε ὄντες, ἀλλὰ τοῖς ἀπαντῶσιν ἔγγιστ' αὐτόθεν τοῦ χρόνου καὶ τοῦ βίου πράγμασιν ἐχόμενοι, καὶ παλιννοστοῦντες, ἢ καὶ τῇ ξυτυχίᾳ ὠντινων ἄρα δὴ πολλάκις ξυμπίπτοντες, ἀνίκανοι δὴ τινες τοῦ πόρρω μήκους τῶν λογισμῶν καὶ ἀνοδεύτως ἔχοντες, 2 ἅμα δὲ καὶ μήδ' 15 ἐπιμελῶς, οἶμαι, κομιδῇ τῶν θεῶν ἔχοντες, ἀλλ' ὀλιγῶρος τῆς ὀφειλομένης περι αὐτῶν εὐλαβείας ταχεῖς εἰσι πάνυ τοι πιστεύειν τῇ περι τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων προνοίᾳ καὶ αὐθις μὴ προσέχειν καὶ πείθεσθαι. 3 Καὶ φαύλων μὲν ἀνθρώπων δίκας ταχείας ὀρῶντες καὶ προδήλους ἀπαντῶσας κατὰ τὸν βίον ἐνταῦθα τὰς ἐπιτιμήσεις τὲ καὶ εὐθύνας, ἴσως δὲ καὶ τῶν ἀστέων καὶ γεννικῶν ἀνδρῶν 20

2 post προστρέχοντα exhib. lacunam 2 litt. M 5 τὲ om. E, non leg. M 10 ΞΦ: ζ fort. p.c. ex ζ M (etiam rubro add. in mg. ξς M) 13 παλιννοστοῦντες PME pro παλιννοστούντες

¹³ This is the court official under emperor Arcadius and the consul of the year 399 A.D. who curtailed the privileges of the Church (see also the following paragraph) but was accorded protection by John Chrysostom.

laws of the Church, Eutropius; indeed, he should be considered as belonging to this category more than many others, even if this happened in these our Christian times and under Christian laws.¹³ ³ With unspeakable daring, and to the detriment of the Church, did he make laws so as to exclude those who asked for church asylum. But soon afterwards he was himself caught by his own laws, having to take refuge in a church when in danger; and he was justly made the object of derision and mockery for having plotted against himself and the proper laws. ⁴ In truth nobody—regardless of whether he acts on impulse or, as is perhaps sometimes the case, with reason and restraint—can safeguard himself against a negative outcome of those matters which in each case he has to scrutinize and about which he has to make decisions.

66. That some men are quick to trust Providence because of that which seems rightly to befall the good and bad, and, in turn, to distrust Providence when the opposite happens

¹ Some people seem to me to be small-minded and not able to think further than that which is immediately in front of them and can be seen; and they seem to be restricted to the matters closest in time and most relevant to their daily life; and they tend to return to the same matters or, by chance, to fall repeatedly into the same predicament as before—just because they are unable to proceed further in their thoughts and think without guidance. ² And although they do not, I think, pay proper regard to divine matters, but neglect the attention due to them, they are, when it comes to human matters, quick to put their trust in Providence—and quick to ignore and distrust Providence when conditions change. ³ And when they see that bad people are punished quickly and meet with unequivocal censure and are brought to justice in this life; and also when they, as may be the case, see that refined and noble people fare well and, as often is seen to happen, lead a peaceful and untroubled life, *with*, as is said,

εὐφορίας καὶ γαληνῆν καὶ ἀκύμονα βίωσιν χρωμένων, ἔξουρίου καὶ κατὰ
 πρύμναν, ὡς φασι, τῷ τῆς τύχης πνεύματι, ὡςπερ ἄρα δὴ καὶ πολλάκις τοῦθ'
 ὄραν ἔστι γιγνόμενον, 4 εὐγνώμονες εἰσὶν αὐτίκα τῇ προνοίᾳ καὶ κομιδῇ
 πείθεσθαι πρόθυμοι, καὶ φιλοσοφοῦσιν εὖ μάλα τὰ θεῖα καὶ τὴν ἐπισκοπὴν τῶν
 τῆδε καὶ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἐν τῷ βίῳ καὶ τὴν πρὸς λόγον ἐκάστοις νομῆν καὶ τὴν 5
 τῆς δικαιοσύνης ἰσότητα καὶ τὸ κατὰ τῶν ἀδίκων καὶ ἀσεβούντων τὰ θεῖα καὶ
 407 ἀνθρώπινα δίκαια κράτος, 5 καὶ τὴν ζηλοῦσαν ἐπὶ τῇ τῶν | φαύλων ἐκδικία
 κρίσιν καὶ δύναμιν, πάντα περιγινόμενην καὶ περιτρέπουσαν πᾶσαν ἰσχύν,
 πᾶσαν σοφίαν, πᾶσαν καθάπαξ ἐρεῖν τῆς κακίας εὐετηρίαν, 6 καὶ σφάλλουσαν
 τὰ δοκοῦντα κράτιστα καὶ ἀήττητα παντάπασι ῥᾶστα καὶ ὡς οὐκ ἂν τις φήθη, 10
 καὶ μάλιστα καινοῖς καὶ οὐ ταχέσι μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀδοκῆτοις τοῖς ἀπαντῶσι
 τῆς καταφθορᾶς ἐκείνων πράγμασιν· 7 ὥστε δὴ καὶ πρὸς τῷ δικαίῳ τῆς
 ἐπιτιμῆσεως καὶ τῆς εὐθύνης καὶ ταχίστῳ μετὰ κράτους ἅμα καὶ τὸ ξενίζον
 ἐνίστε θαυμάζεσθαι καὶ πάνσοφον καὶ ἀνυπονόητον οἶον αὐτῆς τῆς προνοίας,
 8 καὶ σκιρτᾶν ἔστιν ἐντεῦθεν τοὺς πολλοὺς οὖς ἔφην, καὶ κροτεῖν τῇ ἀρετῇ 15
 χαρμόσυνα, καὶ τῇ κακίᾳ τὴν ἀξίαν, καὶ πᾶν τὸ εἰκός· καὶ πᾶσα τῶν θεῶν σφίσι
 καὶ τῆς προνοίας αἰδῶς καὶ πίστις ἀναμφήριστος.

2 Καὶ τυφλὸς ἄρα καθάπαξ, ὃς μὴ ξυνορᾷ μὴδὲ πείθεται τὰ πᾶσι δῆλα καὶ
 τοῖς πράγμασιν αὐτοῖς κηρυττόμενα, καὶ χάριτας μᾶλλον ἀποδιδόναι κατὰ πᾶν
 τὸ γιγνόμενον χρῆναι, καὶ δοξάζειν, 2 καὶ παντὶ τρόπῳ καὶ πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις 20
 408 ἀναβοᾶσθαι τὴν δεσποτικὴν ἐποπτεῖαν καὶ κρίσιν καὶ ἀληθῆ καὶ νόμιμα
 καὶ κατὰ φύσιν ἐκάστοις ψηφίσματα κυρούμενα, κατὰ πάν|των ἄτρεπτα καὶ
 περιφανῆ τοῖς ἔργοις, καὶ περιφανῆ προδεικνύντα τὴν νίκην τῆς ἀρετῆς, 3
 καὶ τὴν εἰς τὰ βέλτιστα προτροπὴν πάντων ἀνθρώπων καὶ προκοπὴν ἀμέλει
 τῆς περὶ τάγαθὸν ἕξεως, καὶ φυγὴν τῶν ἐχθίστων, καὶ φυγεῖν τάχους ὅσον 25

1 ἔξ οὐρίου M

1 ἔξουρίου ... πνεύματι] cf. Charito 1.11.1.3 ἄνεμος οὐριος αὐτοῖς ἐδόκει καὶ κατὰ πρύμναν et Id.
 8.6.1.2sq. εἰσθήκει γὰρ αἰεὶ κατὰ πρύμναν <τὸ πνεῦμα> | M.Psell. *Chronogr.* 1.15.7 τῷ τῆς τύχης
 ἑαυτοῦ ἐπέτρεψε πνεύματι

¹ 'with ... stern': to this expression I have found no real parallel (see, however, app. font. et
 parall., with some superficially similar instances).

*fortune's wind blowing fair from the stern*¹— 4 then they are ready to believe in Providence, indeed, they are willing to do so unconditionally; and they express proper thoughts about the Divine and its watch over matters on earth and in our life, and about its correct administration of all matters and impartiality of judgement, and its power over the unrighteous and over those who sin against divine and human law. 5 In this particular case they further make proper observations about the judgement and power of the Divine, a power which, eager to exact vengeance from evil-doers, conquers everything and upsets every force and every cunning and, in short, every possibility for evil to prosper. 6 This power most easily and unexpectedly overthrows those who seem the mightiest and most invincible; and it does so in a way which no one could have imagined—with new methods, which are not only swift but also unforeseen by those² to whom they mean destruction. 7 Therefore there is sometimes reason to wonder not only at the righteousness of its methods of castigation and correction, and its powerful swiftness, but also at the strange and most wise and unexpected character of Providence itself. 8 And therefore the many whom I mentioned should jump for joy and applaud virtue and accord evil what it is worth, and [do] everything which is proper,³ and to the Divine and to Providence they should show⁴ every reverence and an undivided confidence.

2 Indeed, he is utterly blind who does not see nor believe in that which should be evident to everyone and is declared by reality itself: that one should thank and praise the Lord whatever happens 2 and in every way, and unto all people extol the care and judgement of the Lord and His decisions which are true and lawful and show regard for the nature of all those concerned—decisions which are utterly unalterable and achieve conspicuous results, giving a glorious preview of the victory of virtue 3 and of the Lord's way of urging men towards the best. They also show how the solicitude for what is good, and the avoidance of what is most hateful,

² Metochites employs the word 'matters' (πράγμασιν) here.

³ '[do] ... proper' (πάν τὸ εἰκός): this is vague; perhaps '[accord evil what it is worth and] due'.

⁴ 'should show': or 'do show'.

τοὺς περὶ τὰ φαῦλα κινδύνους καὶ τὰς παλαμναιοτάτας ἀρὰς καὶ τύχας, ⁴ καὶ πανώλειαν, πᾶσα ἀνάγκη, ξὺν τάχει μάλιστ' ἀπαραμίλλω καὶ δίκη καὶ νόμοις ἀρρήκτοις ἐπομένην, τρόπαιον ὡς ἀληθῶς ἀπὸ τῶν ἀδίκων καὶ τῶν ἄλλοτρίων ἰστώσαν τάγαθοῦ τὴν αὐτῶν πτώσιν κατακράτος καὶ φθοράν. ⁵ Καὶ ταῦτα μὲν ἐπὶ ταῖς εὐετηρίαῖς καὶ προκοπαῖς τῆς ἀρετῆς καὶ τῶν αὐτῆς σπουδαστῶν καὶ ⁵ σπουδαίων καὶ ἀστείων ἀνδρῶν καὶ καταδίκαις καὶ συμφοραῖς ἀπευκταιοτάταις τῶν ἐπὶ τῆς ἐναντίας ἀμιλλωμένων ἕξεως, καὶ οὐδεὶς μήποτε λόγος ἰκανὸς ἐν τούτοις γίγνοιτ' ἂν, κἄν εἰ σφόδρα ἐπέιγοιτό τις.

3 Εἰ δ' ἅπαν δὴ τούναντιον τῶν εἰρημένων ἐμπομπέουσι τῷ βίῳ, οἷα δὴ καὶ ¹⁰ πολλάκις γίγνεται, καὶ φαῦλοι μὲν αἴρονται καὶ παρευημεροῦσι τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς καὶ θράσει πολλῶ κρατοῦσι καὶ κατὰ τῶν βελτίστων ἔμπληκτοι φέρονται καὶ πανηγυρίζουσι ταῖς ἀσελγείαις τῆς τύχης καὶ κακοὶ κακῶς ἐξάρχουσι ⁴⁰⁹ καὶ κατακρατοῦσι τὰνθρώπινα καὶ τὸν βίον, ² ἀλογοῦντες παντάπασι θεοῦ καὶ τῶν θείων νομίμων, καὶ τῶν νομίμων αὐτῶν ὀλιγωροῦντες τῆς φύσεως, καὶ τὴν αὐτῶν φλυαρίαν καὶ ὕβριν καὶ δυναστείαν μόνην νόμιμον ἔχοντες ¹⁵ καὶ τὴν ἀλόγιστον εὐφορίαν τῆς τύχης, ³ κἀντεῦθεν πλείστη μὲν ἀηδία καὶ δυσχερεία κατὰ τὸν βίον καὶ πᾶσι κινδύνους παλαίουσι θεοσεβεῖς ἄνδρες καὶ δίκαιοι, καὶ κατάγχονται καὶ τάλαιπωροῦνται καὶ τελευτῶντες χαλεπώτατ' ἀπαλλάττονται τῆς ζωῆς· ⁴ καὶ τῆς ζωῆς οὐκ ἀηδῶς ἀλλάττονται πολλάκις καὶ ἀνθαιροῦνται κομιδῇ δεινῶς ἐχόμενοι θάνατον, πάσης ἀπελπίσαντες ²⁰ ἄλλης ἐλευθερίας καὶ φυγῆς τῶν βαρυτάτων παθῶν καὶ τῆς τληπαθείας οἷς ἀφύκτως ἐναεθλεύουσιν. ⁵ Ἄνθρωποι δ' ἐξάγιστοι καὶ κάκιστοι καὶ βδελυροὶ καὶ παμμίαιοι καὶ μαιφόνιοι καὶ θηριώδεις καὶ τῆς φύσεως αὐτῆς καὶ πάσης ἀρετῆς καὶ χρήσεως εὐγενοῦς ἀλιτήριοι, καὶ χορηγοὶ καὶ προστάται πάσης αὐθαδείας καὶ τόλμης κατὰ τοῦ βίου καὶ τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων πολιτευμάτων καὶ ²⁵ τῶν τῆς θεοσεβείας αὐτῆς μάλιστα δογμάτων καὶ θείων νομίμων, ⁶ φέρονται δρόμον ἐξαρχῆς εἰς τέλος ἀπρόσκοπον, καὶ μακρόβιοι τῇ κακίᾳ τὰγαθὰ πάντα λυμαίνονται, καὶ φθείρουσιν ἐξ ἀνθρώπων ὃ τί ποτ' ἂν καὶ εἴη, ὃ τί ποτ' ἂν ⁷

⁸ σφόδρ' E, non leg. M

⁹ ἐμπομπέει E, non leg. M

⁵ I.e. the opposite of virtue etc.

are furthered by the Lord, and how with the greatest speed one should avoid the dangers of evil and murderous curses and hazards ⁴ and the total destruction which by all necessity follows with unparalleled speed so as to exact retribution and apply its unalterable laws, truly erecting a monument over the overwhelming defeat and ruin of the unrighteous and those alienated from the good. ⁵ So much may be said about the prosperity and progress of virtue and its partisans, who are serious and refined people; so much about the condemnation and most abominable fate of those who strive for the opposite of virtue. No discussion could ever be satisfactory on this account, however hard anyone tried to supply one.

³ If, though, as is often the case, quite the opposite of what has been said⁵ should triumph in life, and if bad people should be exalted and surpass the good and with great presumption take control over these and senselessly attack the best and glory in the wantonness of Fate; and if evil people take the lead and with serious consequences get control over human matters and human life, ² totally ignoring God and the divine laws and even taking hardly any account of the laws of nature; and if the evil people only accept their own nonsense and insolence and their way of exercising power and their most unreasonable stroke of luck as lawful—³ then God-fearing and righteous people will be subject to the greatest discomfort and hardship in life and will have to wrestle with all kinds of danger, and they will be subject to anxiety and troubles and will, in the end, lose their lives in the cruellest way. ⁴ And often these victims do not die unwillingly; indeed they wish for and avidly strive for death. For they have lost hope of any other kind of freedom or means to get away from the most grievous calamities and hardships which they bravely try to bear up under, unable to escape. ⁵ But accursed and most evil and disgusting and abominable people, murderers and brutes and offenders against nature itself and against every virtue and noble practice, and aiders and abettors of every rash and daring act against life and human institutions and, not least, against the dogmas of faith and the divine laws— ⁶ these people follow their own course without hindrance from beginning to end; and, if they are long-lived, by means of their vice they do harm to everything good, and they deprive mankind of whatever good there may be and whatever ⁷

καὶ λείπειτο κόμμα φύσεως ἀστεῖον καὶ σωτήριον ἀνθρώποις, καὶ ζώπυρον
 410 ἴσως ἐλπίδος ἀμηγέπη χρηστής, καὶ ἀφορμὴ μεθ' ὑστερον ὀρητοῦν ἀναβιώσεως
 τῇ ἀρετῇ, καὶ χρήσιμον εἰς εὐζωΐαν τῷ κοινῷ τῶν ἀνθρώπων· καὶ φέρονται
 κατακράτος τὴν τῆς κακίας ἄσειστον νίκην ὡς ἔπος εἶρεῖν συνελόντα.

4 Εἰ ταῦτα δὴθ' ὀρώσιν οὐς ἐφημεν πρότερον μικρογνώμονες καὶ μικρο- 5
 λόγοι δὴ τινες τῶν τῆς προνοίας μυστηρίων βασανισταὶ καὶ λογοποιοῦντες
 τὴν περὶ τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων τοῦ θεοῦ διοίκησιν καὶ ξυμμετροῦντες ταῖς αὐτῶν
 διανοίαις καὶ τοῖς σταθμοῖς τῆς σφετέρας γνώμης 2 καὶ μὴ ξυγχωροῦντες
 εἶναι τι πλεόν ἢ τὸ φαινόμενον, καὶ ἢ κατ' αὐτοὺς ἔχει καὶ δύνата καταλήψις,
 καὶ φεῦγον ἐν βάθει καιριώτατα καὶ τελεώτατα τοὺς αὐτῶν ἑτασμοὺς καὶ τὰ 10
 μικροπρεπῆ λογίσματα, 3 πολλῇ λοιπὸν ἐντεῦθεν δυσκολίᾳ, καὶ 'κλύδωνι'
 ταράττονται 'λογισμῶν' καὶ ναυαγοῦσιν ἐνίοτε τὴν περὶ θεοῦ καὶ τῆς θείας
 προνοίας σοφίαν καὶ πίστιν, καὶ ἀλογίστοις φοραῖς καὶ μηδὲν ὑγιᾶς ἐχούσαις
 διδόασιν τὰ καθ' ἡμᾶς, 4 δύνανται ξυνορᾶν αὐτοὶ καὶ ξυνιέναι καὶ μόνον
 νομίζοντες εἶναι καὶ ἀληθῆ τὰ κατ' αἴσθησιν μόνον· 4 ἃ δὲ μηκέτι μακρὰν 15
 ἐκτεινόμενοι διὰ πολλῶν ὀρᾶν οἴοι τ' εἰσὶ τῶν ἐν μέσῳ παλιννοστοῦντες κακοὶ
 κακῶς καὶ αἰσχιστα καὶ ἀμαθέστατα δραπετεύοντες τῶν πολυστρόφων καὶ
 πανσόφων τῆς προνοίας δρόμων τὲ καὶ δογματῶν, 5 ἐπανίστανται τῇ προνοίᾳ
 καὶ κακῶς ἀποστατοῦσιν αὐτῆς, τάνικανον αὐτῶν καὶ τὴν νόσον τῶν λογισμῶν
 411 ἐπὶ τὴν θείαν παγκρατῆ καὶ μεγαλόσοφον καὶ ἀστασίαστον πρὸς ἑαυτὴν | καὶ 20
 τὰγαθὸν οἰκονομίαν καὶ τὸ διὰ πάντων διαρκὲς εἰς τέλος ἄγοντες, 6 μηδὲν

1 λείπειτο E et p.c. fort. P¹, λείπειτο a.c. P, non leg. M 2 ἀναβίωσ<ε>ως ut vid. per comp. P
 (cf. 68.3.6) 6 δὴ om. M 9 ἢ: fort. scrib. ὁ ἢ (cf. introd. 2.9, p.1) 12 τῶν λογισμῶν
 a.c. P¹, non leg. M 16 παλιννοστοῦντες PME pro παλιννοστοῦντες

11 κλύδωνι ... λογισμῶν] cf. App. *Anth.* 129.8 τῶν λογισμῶν τὸ κλυδώνιον | Manuel Gabalas
 (Matthaeus Ephesius) *Ep.* B55.43 συμφορὰ κακῶν καὶ λογισμῶν ὁ σφροδρότατος κλύδων | A. *Pers.*
 599sq. κλύδων κακῶν | E. *Med.* 362sq.

⁶ 'whatever good ... refinement etc.': I take it that ἀστεῖον belongs to both instances of 'what-ever', i.e. ὁ τί ποτ' ἄν καὶ εἴη ἀστεῖον etc.

⁷ Here the Greek text is problematic; perhaps a relative pronoun is missing.

⁸ 'totally manages': this is to translate καιριώτατα καὶ τελεώτατα.

⁹ 'scrutiny': this (active) meaning of ἑτασμός is not recorded in LSJ; see, however, Lampe.

fine piece of natural refinement⁶ there may be left to bring safety to men and somehow, perhaps, to kindle good hope and later, being useful for the well-being of the community, to be in some way a starting-point for a revival of virtue. And so, in short, these evil people by force gain an unshakable victory for evil.

4 Now, if the small-minded people about whom we talked earlier see this; and if some petty scrutinizers of the mysteries of Providence, who make orations about God's dispensation of human matters and who measure Providence by their own intelligence and the standards of their own comprehension, 2 and who do not accept the existence of anything more than that which can be seen and⁷ is within reach of their own understanding, nor the existence of anything which totally manages⁸ to escape their scrutiny⁹ and petty considerations by its profundity— 3 if these people see this,¹⁰ they are severely troubled by a torrent of thoughts,¹¹ and sometimes their understanding and faith in God and the divine Providence suffer nothing short of a shipwreck and they ascribe worldly matters to illogical and unsound hazards, that is, to causes which they can see and understand by themselves and which they believe to be the only ones; this they do since they only believe in that which can be perceived by the senses. 4 But even when these people reach out far,¹² they are, because of everything in between, no longer able to see that this is so; for mean as they are, they meanly turn away and most shamefully desert the winding, all-wise ways and decrees of Providence, so as to prove their ignorance. 5 And they rise in revolt against Providence and desert it owing to their own evil disposition, putting their own inability and insanity on a level with¹³ the all-powerful and most wise divine dispensation, which is consistent with itself and

¹⁰ I.e. how everything evil prospers (?).

¹¹ 'torrent of thoughts': the more common expression is the 'torrent of evils' (κλύδων κακῶν), coined, as far as we know, by Aeschylus (see *Persae* 599). To this we may compare Shakespeare's 'sea of troubles' (*Hamlet*, Act III, Scene 1).

¹² 'even ... far': tentatively, I have translated the participle ἐκτεινόμενοι as concessive.

¹³ 'putting ... with': or 'ascribing their own inability and insanity to.'

μήποτ' ἔξω τῆς κατ' αὐτοὺς συνέσεως καὶ καταλήψεως ἀξιοῦντες, ἔοικεν, ἄμεινον διοικεῖσθαι τῷ πάντ' ἄγοντι δεσπότη, μὴδὲ σοφώτερον ἢ κατ' αὐτοὺς πρὸς τινα παρασκευὴν ἢ χρεῖαν λυσιτελοῦσαν εἰς μακρὸν ἀπαντᾶν ἔξ αὐτοῦ, χρόνοις ἴσως ὕστερον καὶ ἀδήλως κατὰ σκοπὸν ἀνύτειν, 7 οἱ πάντα ταχεῖς καὶ ῥάδιοι καὶ οὐκ ἀσφαλεῖς καὶ πάντα βουλόμενοι φέρεσθαι κατ' αὐτοὺς καὶ τὰς 5 αὐτῶν κρίσεις, καὶ ὡς ἂν ἐκ συνθηκῶν ὡσπερ ἐνσπόδων ἀμφοτέροις δοκοίη αὐτοῖς τὲ δηλαδὴ καὶ τῷ μόνῳ δημιουργησαμένῳ καὶ προνοεῖν ἔχοντι κατὰ φύσιν, καὶ ὡς ἂν καθ' αἴρεσιν καὶ καθ' ἡδονὴν σφίσι.

5 Καὶ τῷ κυβερνήτῃ μὲν ὑπεξίστανται πάντες οἱ ἐν τῇ νηὶ καὶ παραχωροῦσιν ἄμεινον εἶναι στρέφειν καὶ μεταστρέφειν ὅπως ἄρα οἱ δοκεῖ καὶ βούλεται 10 τὰ κατὰ τὸν πλοῦν, καὶ τείνειν τὲ καὶ χαλᾶν τὰ λαίφη, καὶ τὴν τῶν φερόντων πνευμάτων διοικεῖν χρῆσιν, ὡς ἂν ἀμέλει δοκοίη καὶ μόνος νομίζοι, 2 πολλακίς δὲ καὶ πλείστα τῶν ἀγωγίμων κατὰ τοῦ βυθοῦ ῥιπτεῖν ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν τῶν πλεόντων καὶ ζημιουμένων καὶ τῆς αὐτῶν σωτηρίας, αὐτῶν ἀφροντιστοῦντα, κἂν εἰ μάλιστ' ἴσως ἀνίῳντο καὶ κλάοιεν αὐτοί. 3 Καὶ οἱ νοσοῦντες τὸ σῶμα 15 4¹² φέρειν ἀνάγκην ἔχουσι πάντα | τὰ παρὰ τῶν ἱατρῶν δόγματα, πρὸς τὸ μέλλον ὀρῶντες καὶ τὸ χρήσιμον ἐξῆς, κἂν εἰ πλείστ' ἐπιπόνως καὶ ἀηδῶς τε καὶ ἀνιαρῶς ἔχειν, κἂν εἰ τέμνειν αὐτούς, κἂν εἰ κάειν δέοι, τὰ πάντα διακαρτεροῦντες καὶ διδόντες ἐλπίσι χρησταῖς. 4 Οἱ τοιοῦτοι δὲ κατὰ τὸ δοκοῦν αὐτοῖς βούλονται καὶ σὺν ἡδονῇ πάσῃ καὶ κατ' αἴσθησιν διαδήλως πᾶσαν καὶ ἰατρεύεσθαι καὶ 20 κυβερναῖσθαι καὶ ὄλως ὡς αὐτοὶ νομίζουσιν ἄρχεσθαι, ἀγνοοῦντες τὰ μέγιστα 5 καὶ ὡς πάσης κακοπολιτείας ἀρχὴν ἐντεῦθεν διδῶσιν, ὡς ἄρα χρὴ τὸν ἡγεμόνα τοῖς ὑπὸ χεῖρα μάλᾳ δὴ προσέχειν καὶ πείθεσθαι καὶ πάντα διατιθέναι τὰ κατ' αὐτούς, ὡς ἂν αὐτοῖς ἡδιστον ἢ καὶ δοκῆ βέλτιστα· εἰ δ' ἄλλως ἀμέλει, τάχιστα τῆς ἀρχῆς ἐξίστασθαι· κακῶς γὰρ ἄρχειν εἶναι τὸ μὴ κατὰ τὰς αὐτῶν 25

6 ἐνσπόδων P, ἐνσπόνδων M (vide introd. 3, p. liii) 18 ἔχειν: ἔχοι M

9 Καὶ τῷ κυβερνήτῃ etc.] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 68.3.7sqq.

¹⁴ 'unalterable, eternal values': this is a free, somewhat hypothetical translation of τὸ διὰ πάντων διαρκὲς εἰς τέλος.

¹⁵ 'distant future' (from now?): ἔξ αὐτοῦ here is vague; perhaps it should be connected with 'need' and the passage translated as 'to satisfy a need which will come from Him in the distant future.'

¹⁶ 'entered a kind of truce' (ἐκ συνθηκῶν ὡσπερ ἐνσπόνδων).

with the good and with unalterable, eternal values.¹⁴ 6 And they do not, it would seem, think that anything is ever managed by the all-moving Lord in a better way than if it had been done according to their own sense and understanding, nor that He may do anything as a preparation or in order to satisfy a need in the distant future,¹⁵ perhaps years afterwards—a need impossible to understand at present. 7 Thus minded are people who are quick in all and easy-going and unstable and who want everything to happen according to their will and their judgement, as if the two sides, that is, they themselves and the sole Creator (who by nature is the one to have foresight), had entered a kind of truce¹⁶ and decided upon this,¹⁷ and as if this had been arranged according to the choice and pleasure of these people.

5 On a ship everyone yields to the captain,¹⁸ and everyone on board agrees that it is best to turn or turn again according to his judgement and wish, and tighten or slacken the sails, and to make use of the carrying winds according to his judgement and sole opinion. 2 Everyone also agrees that it is often best, even to their loss, to throw a lot of the cargo into the deep in order to save the lives of those on board, and that, in doing so, the captain should pay no heed to them even if they are very distressed and bewailing his act. 3 Also those with bodily illnesses have to accept all the decisions of the doctors and think of the future and what is expedient in each case—even if this proves extremely laborious and unpleasant and painful, and even if it involves cutting into their flesh or burning them; and they have to bear everything with patience and be of good hope. 4 But the people we talk about here obviously want to be medically treated and led according to their own opinions and pleasure and senses, and in all they want to be governed according to their own views; but in doing so they ignore what is most important, 5 namely that, by this, they give inducement to every kind of bad government. For they claim that the ruler should pay close attention to those under him and obey these and arrange everything which concerns them according to what is most agreeable and seems best to them,

¹⁷ I.e. that men should run worldly matters without caring about God.

¹⁸ Cf., however, to this 68.3,8–9 on the hazards of being a captain.

ἄρχειν γνώμας καὶ κρίσεις. 6 Μαίνοιτο μέντ' ἂν οἱ οὕτως ἄρχοντες καὶ ἀρχόμενοι, καὶ οὐ χαιρήσουσιν ὄντως μετ' οὐ πολὺ τόνδε τὸν τρόπον ἔχοντες, ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῶντες οἱ μὲν ἀρχόμενοι ὡς ἂν καὶ εἶη καὶ γίγνοιτο τοῦτο, καὶ καθ' ἡδονὴν καὶ μὴ, 7 οἱ δ' ἄρχοντες ὡς κρίνουσι καὶ μόνον ἄμεινον προορώμενοι καὶ ὡς ἂν τοῖς ἀρχομένοις μέλλοι συνοίσειν, καὶ μεθ' ἡδονῆς ἀγομένοις καὶ μὴ 5 οὕτως, ἀλλ' ὅπως ἄρ' ὁ ξυμπίπτων χρόνος φέροι.

413 | Ὅτι θαυμασίως πολλάκις εἴωθε ταῖς μεγίσταις πράξεσι
καὶ εὐτυχίαις τάχιστ' ἀκολουθεῖν δυσπραγήματα χαλεπὰ
καὶ μὴδὲν ἤττον ἀνυπονόητα· ΕΖ'

1 Θαυμάσαι τίς ἂν συνορῶν, οἶμαι, καὶ κατασκοπούμενος, ὅπως ἄρα ταῖς 10
μεγίσταις τῶν πραγμάτων φοραῖς καὶ περιφανέσιν ἔργοις ἐκάστοτε καὶ
πολὺ κρείττοσι τῆς εἰθισμένης ἀγωγῆς, καὶ καταπληττούσαις τῷ καινίζοντι
καὶ δραστηκῶ καὶ ἀκμάζοντι, 2 αὐτίκα αὐτόθεν τροπαί τινες ἐπιφύονται καὶ
μεταβολαὶ κατὰ νέμεσιν τινα δαιμονίαν ὡς εἰπεῖν καὶ βασκανίαν τῆς τύχης ἐπὶ
ταῖς μεγάλαις ὑποθέσεσι· 3 καὶ φέρειν οὐχ' οἶος τ' εἶναι δοκεῖ πως ἐπὶ πλεῖστον 15
ὁ χρόνος τὸ τῶν πραγμάτων μέγεθος ἀκμάζον τῆς εὐφορίας τῷ βάρει, ἀλλ'
ὥσπερ ὀκλάζει καὶ τὴν ἐντονίαν ἀλλάττει τάχιστα καὶ σφάλλει τὸ κράτος,
καὶ ἔοικεν ἀκολουθεῖν εὖ μάλα κατὰ φύσιν ἢ πρὸς τάναντία τροπή· 4 καὶ
καθάπερ καὶ ταῖς σωματικαῖς εὐεξίαις εἰς ἄκρον αὐτόθεν ἔπεται, πᾶσα ἀνάγκη,
τὸ σφαλερόν, καὶ τεχνίται λόγοι φασί, καὶ πολλάκις ὀρώμεν γιγνώμενον, καὶ 20
μαρτυρεῖ τὰ πράγματα. 5 Τὸ γὰρ ἀβέβαιον κατὰ φύσιν ἐν τοῖς ὑπὸ γένεσιν
καὶ ρέουσιν ἀεὶ τοῖσδε πράγμασι καὶ κινούμενον αἰεὶ καὶ μὴ μόνιμον ὄητοῦν
414 μὴδ' ἔχον ἴστασθαι, ζητοῦν μεταβάλλειν ἐξ ἀνάγκης καὶ φέρεσθαι | κατ'

1 μέντ': μέν τ' M-K 4 οἱ δ': οἱ δ' M 5 ἡδονῆς sine accentu P 7 εἴωθε: εἴωθεν in
tabula, i.e. indice, ante textum M 9 ΕΖ: ζ fort. p.c. M ex η (etiam rubro in mg. add. ξξ M)
10 τίς P pro τις, τίς M 19 καὶ om. M 20 τεχνίται PME pro τεχνίται 23 μὴδ': οὐδ' M

and that, if unable to do this, he should step down from power; this they claim on the supposition that a rule which is not according to the opinion and decisions of the subjects is bad. ⁶ However, those who rule or allow themselves to be ruled in this way would be mad and, should they behave in this way, they will in truth soon come to grief: the subjects if they do not keep quiet whatever the circumstances are and whatever happens, be it to their liking or not, ⁷ the rulers if they do not follow their own judgement and only look for what is best and most beneficial for the subjects, regardless of whether these can be led by friendly methods or not, as the situation demands.

67. That it often happens that ill fortune, no less unexpected than hard to bear, strangely and very swiftly follows upon the greatest accomplishment and success

¹ If anyone pays close attention to this, he is, I think, likely to marvel at the way in which immediate turns and changes are wont to happen in the case of the greatest matters and of all deeds which are spectacular and surpass the expectations of everyday life and cause surprise by their novelty and their drastic and vigorous quality. ² These turns and changes happen, one would say, according to some divine envy or grudge of Fate against great undertakings. ³ For somehow time does not seem able to bear the greatness and abundant prosperity of any situation for very long; instead anything great is bound somehow to stumble and very soon lose its intensity and betray its power; indeed, the change to the opposite seems to come very naturally, and fall must of necessity follow immediately upon greatness. ⁴ It is exactly the same with extreme physical prowess, as stated in literature¹ and as we often see happen and as the matters themselves bear witness to: fall must follow here too. ⁵ For the natural uncertainty of everything subject to birth and flux, and its constant movement and lack of any perma-

¹ 'literature' (τεχνίται λόγοι): or 'rhetorical exercises'.

ἔθος φύσεως ἐν ταῖς μεγίσταις ῥοπαῖς καὶ βάρεσι καὶ ὄγκοις τῆς τύχης, οὐκ ἔχον ἄλλως ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν εἰς τάναντία τρέπεται, καὶ πολλάκις αὐτὰ γε τάναντιώτατα· 6 ὥσπερ καὶ τὰ φωρώτατα πνεύματα, οἷς τὴν τύχην εἰκάζουσι σοφοί, τὰ τέως οὐριοδρομοῦντα σκάφη καὶ φερόμενα μάλιστ' ἐκτόπως πλοῦν ἀνευλαβῆ καὶ λάβρον αὐτόθεν πολλάκις αὐτὰ καταστρέφει, καὶ τοὺς ἐσχάτους 5 κινδύνους ἀντι τῆς ἀκράτου καὶ πλείστον ἀκμαζούσης φορᾶς ἀντιδίδωσιν, 7 οὕτω δῆτ' ἄρ', ὡς ἔφην, κάπῃ τῶν πραγμάτων ἐνίστ' ἀκμαστικῶς καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐχόντων καὶ κατὰ φύσιν ζητούντων μεταβολὴν εἰς τάναντιώτατα τὸ τῆς τροπῆς ξυμβαίνειν εἴωθε, καὶ καταβακχεύει τὰ φαῦλα τάχιστα τῆς τῶν ἀγαθῶν πλουτούσης ἕξεως· εἰ δ' οὖν, εἰς τάναντία τρόπῳ γέ τι μεταφέρεται. 10

2 Καὶ πολλὰ μὲν ἔχομεν ἐκάστοθ' ὄρᾶν οὕτω, καὶ λέγειν ἔχομεν ἀμέλει πλείστα καὶ προφέρειν καὶ καταριθμεῖσθαι καὶ μαρτύρεσθαι τῷ νῦν λόγῳ παλαιὰ τε καὶ νέα, καὶ παρὰ Ῥωμαίοις καὶ παρ' Ἑλλησι, καὶ παρ' ἄλλοις ἀνθρώποις ἅπασι, καὶ πραγμάτων ἐπὶ μειζόνων τὲ καὶ ἡττόνων, 2 καὶ πολὺς ἂν εἴη πόνος καὶ ἴσως ἀκαιρος πολλῶν ἐνταῦθα μεμνησθαι πρὸς πίστωσιν τῷ 15 λόγῳ· ὀλίγα δ' ἀρκέσει πάντως πρὸς τὸν νῦν σκοπόν, καὶ παραδραμούμεθα πονεῖν μάτην ἄμετρα. 3 Μέγιστα μὲν οὖν τῶν ἀπ' αἰῶνος ἔργα καὶ τῷ | βίῳ καινίζοντα καὶ βραχεῖ χρόνῳ τὴν ἅπασαν ὡς εἰπεῖν οἰκουμένην μεταποιήσαντα καὶ τὰ κατ' ἀνθρώπους πράγματα, τὰ κατ' Ἀλέξανδρον καὶ τὴν Μακεδονικὴν ἀρχὴν, τεράστιά τινα καὶ σχεδὸν ἀπιστεῖσθαι δίκαια γεγονότα, καὶ τέως 20 ἀνυπονόητα γενέσθαι· 4 κἂν εἴ τις ἴσως προύλεγεν, ἔδοξεν ἂν οἷα πλάττουσιν ἐν μυθαρίοις γραῖδια καὶ λῆροι τινὲς ἀνθρωποὶ λέγειν, καὶ 'τάκινητα' κατὰ τὸν λόγον 'κινεῖν', καὶ μελαγχολᾶν ἀτεχνῶς· 5 οὕτω πέρα πάσης προσδοκίας

22 γραῖδια: γραῖδια P, i.e. non exhib. trema

22 τάκινητα ... κινεῖν] cf. Hdt. 6.134 ἰέναι ἐπὶ τὸ μέγαρον ὃ τι δὴ ποιήσοντα ἐντός, εἴτε κινήσοντά τι τῶν ἀκίνητων εἴτε ὃ τι δὴ κοτε πρήξοντα | Pl. *Tht.* 181b ἐὰν δὲ οἱ τοῦ ὄλου στασιώται ἀληθέστερα λέγειν δοκῶσι, φευξόμεθα παρ' αὐτοὺς ἀπ' αὐτῶν τὰ ἀκίνητα κινούντων et Id. *Lg.* 684e1, 843a1, 913b9 | Plu. *De Isid.* 359F.1 ὀκνῶ δέ, μὴ τοῦτ' ἦ τὰ ἀκίνητα κινεῖν et Id. *De gen. Socr.* 585F.9 et Id. *Amat.* 756B2 | *CPG I Zen.* I 55.1 Ἀκίνητα κινεῖν: καθ' ὑπερβολὴν, ὅτι μὴ δεῖ κινεῖν μῆτε βωμούς, μῆτε τάφους ἢ ἡρῶα | *Suda* A 888 et *Ibid.* M 905 Μὴ κινεῖν ἀκίνητα, μῆδ' ἄκρω δακτύλῳ | cf. *Th.Met. Sem.* 73.3.8 et 76.3.5 et Id. *Comp. Demosth. et Aristid.* 13.10sq.

² 'likewise': ὥσπερ here is connected with the preceding, while § 7 (with οὕτω) seems to be appended with a slight anacoluthon (it seems that the author loses the thread in § 5).

nence (such matters are in no case able to stand firmly, but out of necessity they strive for change and are, in accordance with their nature carried away by the greatest vicissitudes and by the weight and bulk of Fate, and they have, so to say, no alternative to turning into their opposite, and often into something extremely different)— 6 likewise² the most favourable winds (wise men compare Fate to these) often in an instant destroy boats which so far have been running smoothly, and carried away far from their course on a wholly uncontrolled³ and violent crossing they are suddenly destroyed by the same winds and exposed to the greatest danger instead of to the perfect⁴ and most vigorous thrust [enjoyed before]. 7 In the same way a change is, as I said, wont to happen also with regard to matters which show the greatest degree of vigour and which therefore by their very nature strive for a change for the opposite; for evil will very quickly destroy the prosperous good in a Bacchic frenzy,⁵ or at least⁶ in some way change conditions into their opposite.

2 We can see many instances of this in each epoch,⁷ and we have in fact very many cases to relate and bring forward and enumerate and use as a testimony to the present argument: old and new cases, cases which have occurred among the Romans as well as the Greeks, and among all other peoples too; cases which concern greater as well as lesser matters. 2 And it would entail a great deal of perhaps unseasonable labour to mention many cases here in order to prove my argument; a little will be sufficient for the present purpose, and so we will avoid immeasurable labour which would be of no avail. 3 For the very greatest deeds from time immemorial, deeds which, being of a kind previously unknown to human experience, reshaped literally all of the inhabited world and all conditions of human life within a short time (I am referring to the wondrous deeds of Alexander and the Macedonian rule, deeds which are well-nigh worth being doubted, and

³ 'uncontrolled': the meaning given for ἀνευλαβής in LSJ is 'irreverent'/'impious' (sim. Lampe); see, however, Trapp s.v. ἀνευλαβῶς = 'unbedacht'.

⁴ 'perfect': i.e. 'unmixed' (ἄκρατος).

⁵ 'destroy ... frenzy': καταβακχεύω is lacking in LSJ and Lampe; Trapp makes reference to this passage and translates it as 'rasen (wüten) gegen'; cf. 67.8.2 and 69.3.5.

⁶ 'at least': εἰ δ' οὖν.

⁷ 'in each epoch': a somewhat free translation of ἐκάστοτε.

ἀπέβη· καὶ ὅστις ταμέγιστ' ἄν ἤλπισε, καὶ ὅστις ταμέγιστ' αὐτὸς ὡς ἐρεῖν
 ηὔξατο, πᾶσαν ἔφεσιν καὶ πᾶσαν ἐν λογιμοῖς μακαριότητα, ⁶ ἐκ μικρᾶς οὕτω
 τῆς ἀφορμῆς καὶ λίαν εὐεπιλογίστου παρασκευῆς καὶ δυνάμεως, καὶ ἢ πρὸς
 ὀλίγα νησίδα περι τὸν Αἰγαῖον καὶ τὴν Ἑλλάδα, καὶ πόλεις ἀνηγεμονεύτους
 καὶ κοινοῖς ἀγομένας κατὰ μέρη νομίμοις, ⁷ καὶ τὸν Ἀθηναίων μάλιστα ⁵
 δῆμον καὶ δημαγωγούς καὶ ῥήτορας οὐκ οἶδ' ὅσους δὴ τινὰς ἀμιλλᾶσθαι
 πρότερον εἶχεν ἀγῶνα Φιλίππῳ μέγιστον, ⁸ καὶ τὰ μὲν μηχαναῖς καὶ δόλοις
 καὶ δώροις καὶ προδοσίαις καὶ στασιασμοῖς πρὸς ἀλλήλας τῶν πόλεων, καὶ
 ὄρκους ὀλιγωρουμένους τὲ καὶ πλείστον ἀπιστουμένους, ⁹ τὰ δὲ καὶ ὄπλοις
 δὴ μετρίως πρὸς ἀσυνάπτους ἀνθρώπους καὶ μὴ κοινὰ φρονούντας καθάπαξ ¹⁰
⁴¹⁶ καὶ πράττοντας, καὶ | στρατηγίας δὴ τισὶ περιεγίγνετο, καὶ κράτος εἶχεν οὐκ
 ἔκδηλον καὶ οἶον δὴ βασιλικῆ μοναρχία καθαρῶς πρέπον καὶ νόμιμον.

3 Ἐκ δὴ τοιαύτης οὕτω λοιπόν, ὡς ἔφην, οὐ μάλα τοι κρατερᾶς τῆς ἰσχύος
 καὶ τῆς παρασκευῆς ἐν νῶ θεμένου τοῦ βασιλέως Ἀλεξάνδρου τὴν κατ' ἐκείνους
 τοὺς χρόνους τὸ πλείστον τῆς οἰκουμένης ἄγουσαν περιφανεία καὶ λαμπρότητι ¹⁵
 καὶ πλούτῳ καὶ πλήθει στρατευμάτων δυσαντίβλεπτον Περσικὴν βασιλείαν
 αὐτὸς καταστρέψασθαι, ² μᾶλλον δ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖν ταῖς ἀληθείαις μὴ τοῦτ' ἐν
 νῶ θεμένου· μανία γὰρ ἂν ἦν τοῦτο περιφανῆς καὶ λαμπρά, ἐκ τοσοῦτου τοῦ
 κατ' αὐτὸν ἐνόητος τοσοῦτο κράτος μάλ' ἐνεκμάζον ὑποποιήσασθαι καὶ ὄλως
 ἐλπῖσαι· ³ ἀλλ' ἴσως τοσοῦτο μόνον, πράγματα βασιλεῖ καὶ Πέρσαις παρασχέιν ²⁰
 ὑπὲρ τῶν ἐν Ἀσία Ἑλλήνων, καθὼς ἄρα καὶ πρότερον χρόνοις ὀλίγοις

3 εὐεπιλογίστου: 'C. Mon. rectius ἀνεπιλογίστου' in app. M-K 8 πόλεων: πόλων M 19
 ἐνεκμάζον P pro ἐνακμάζον, ἐνακμάζον M (cf. introd. 3, p. liii)

⁸ 'move the immovable': this saying occurs in Herodotus, Plato and a great many later authors, mostly in the sense of what ought not be moved, rather than what could not; see also below, 73.3.8 and 76.3.5.

⁹ 'hoped for' (ἄν before ἤλπισε): it does not seem probable that this should be an example of the unreal condition.

¹⁰ 'easily mustered': the only meaning given by LSJ for εὐεπιλογίστος is 'easily inferred', which is not adequate; the word is lacking in Lampe and Trapp.

¹¹ 'by contesting them': this is a tentative translation of ἀπιστουμένους (for less technical instances see word index): LSJ and Lampe do not hint at a legal use of the word (the word is missing from Trapp).

¹² 'conformable to custom': νόμιμον.

which were inconceivable up to that time)— 4 if someone by chance had predicted these, he would have seemed to be inventing stories in the way of old women and delirious people, and he would, as the saying goes, have seemed to be [trying to] *move the immovable*,⁸ and to be completely out of his mind. 5 So much did these deeds surpass every expectation, even considering that Alexander was a man who hoped for⁹ the utmost and had, so to say, prayed for the utmost, namely for the fulfilment of every desire and for every imaginable happiness, 6 and also considering that he had started from such small circumstances and too easily mustered¹⁰ resources and forces, a power which only extended over some few islets of the Aegean and over Greece, and over cities which were without leadership and partly ruled by democratic laws; 7 in particular they had had to deal with the Athenian people and its demagogues and I do not know what rhetors, to contend with whom Philip earlier had had the greatest trouble. 8 And partly by devices and guile and gifts and acts of treason and because of rivalry between the cities, and by ignoring oaths and in very many cases by contesting them,¹¹ 9 partly with a moderate use of military force against people who were not connected with each other and did not share any opinions at all and did not act in common accord, and also by some stratagems, did he overcome these and achieve a domination which was not manifest and not such as to be really befitting and conformable to custom¹² for a king of absolute power.

3 Starting, as I have said, with these hardly powerful forces and having made these preparations, king Alexander made up his mind to be the one¹³ to overthrow the formidable¹⁴ Persian kingdom, which by its glory and splendour and opulence and great armies controlled the greatest part of the inhabited world at that time. 2 Or I rather think that he did not really intend this, for with the resources available to him even to hope to be able to subdue such a power, which was at the peak of its vigour, would have been obvious and manifest madness. 3 Perhaps his ambition was only

¹³ ‘the one’ (αὐτός): this nominative in the middle of an absolute genitive is somewhat surprising, although there is no reason to doubt that this is what Metochites wrote.

¹⁴ ‘formidable’: a free translation of δυσαντιβλεπτον (‘hard to face’).

Ἀγησίλαος, καὶ πλεόν ἔτι πω ὅτι οὖν· 4 εἶτα πλεόν ἐλπίδος ἐντετυχηκός τῃ
 τῆς τύχης εὐφορία καὶ τῷ δρόμῳ τῆς χρήσεως, κἀντεῦθεν εἰς τὸ πᾶν ὠρμηκός
 καὶ μέγιστον ἀραμένου κατὰ τῆς ἀρχῆς ἐκείνης φρόνημα καὶ κατηνυκός
 417 αὐτῷ γε τὴν ἀρχὴν ἀπτομένῳ· 5 κἀντεῦθεν ἐπὶ πᾶσαν ἔφαν καὶ πᾶσαν | ἐξῆς 5
 τὴν τῆς γῆς οἰκουμένην ἀνθρώποις τοῖς λογισμοῖς ἀριδηλότατα καὶ ἴσως οὐκ
 ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ, τοῖς ἡνυσμένοις λοιπόν, χωρήσαντος, καὶ μέγιστα μεγίστων
 ταῖς ἐλπίσι ῥᾶστα μηκνυόμενου καὶ οὐδὲν ὅτι μὴ προσδοκῶντος οἷς οἶδεν, οἷς
 εἰργάσατο, οἷς ξυνέλαχε, 6 καὶ τῶν ἐκτόπων αὐτῶν καὶ πέρα πάσης ἐλπίδος καὶ
 παντὸς λογισμοῦ τῇ τῶν φθασάντων εὐκολία, καὶ τῷ κατεσκευασμένῳ λοιπόν 10
 ἀπαραμίλλῳ κράτει, κἀτ' ἐπὶ τούτοις μετὰ τοὺς λογισμοὺς ἐκείνους καὶ τὰς
 ἐλπίδας καὶ τὰς τοσαύτας ἐπιδείξεις τῶν θαυμαστῶν ἐκείνων ἔργων 7 ἐν αὐτῷ
 τῷ δρόμῳ τῶν μεγίστων ἐλπίδων καὶ τῶν πράξεων ἔτι πω καὶ τῇ τῆς τύχης
 εὐπλοία τελευτῶντος οἰκτιστα τόν τε βίον καὶ τὰς ἐλπίδας καὶ τὰς περιφανεῖς
 πράξεις καὶ τὰ τρόπαια ἐπανιδρύτῳ καθάπαξ τῷ παντὶ τῆς ἀρχῆς ἔτι πῶ 15
 σχήματι, καὶ ῥᾶστ' εὐεσίστω, 8 καὶ διαδόχοις ἀδήλοις, μᾶλλον δὲ προδήλω
 κληρονομίας ἐρημία, ἧ στήσεται τὰ κτηθέντα καὶ μενεῖ πάντως ἄνοσα, κἀν εἰ
 μὴδὲν ἔτι πω πλεόν, ὃ πολλῶ τῶν ἐλπίδων εἰκότι κατὰ φύσιν εἶπετ' ἄν, μᾶλλον
 δὲ τύχης ἐρημία προδηλοτάτη καὶ ἀπιστία καὶ ἀστοργία κατὰ τῶν τοσοῦτων
 418 ἐξ αὐτῆς καὶ μετ' αὐτῆς ἔργων καὶ τῆς τοσαύτης χάριτος 9 καταπροδού|σης 20
 αὐτὸν αὐτόθεν ἐν μέσοις τοῖς μεγάλοις ἐκείνοις πράγμασι καὶ προλιπούσης
 ὥσπερ φαύλου τινὸς συνοδοιπόρου καὶ συμμάχου, μᾶλλον δὲ προαγωνιστοῦ
 καὶ προμάχου, αὐτὸν τε καὶ τὰς πράξεις καὶ τὴν ἀρχὴν εἰς ἀόριστον πλάνην
 δυσχρηστίας ὡς ἄρ' ἔδειξεν αὐτίκα τελευτήσαντος.

15 ἐπανιδρύτῳ: 'fors. ἐπ' ἀνιδρύτῳ' in app. M-K

¹⁵ On Agesilaus see also 64.1.3-6 and 67.19.6-9.

¹⁶ 'by grasping the opportunity': this is to translate δρόμῳ τῆς χρήσεως.

¹⁷ The whole of this paragraph is rather difficult, the Greek partly vague, and the translation consequently not certain.

¹⁸ 'unrivalled': for ἀπαραμίλλος see Lampe and Trapp; the word is missing from LSJ (see, however, ἀπαραμίλλητος).

¹⁹ 'fragile': for a similar meaning of εὐσειστος see Lampe ('easily shaken').

²⁰ 'had to be ... re-established': the word ἐπανιδρύτος is missing from LSJ, Lampe and Trapp; Müller & Kiessling suggest ἐπ' ἀνιδρύτῳ in their apparatus.

²¹ 'which ... for' (ὃ πολλῶ τῶν ἐλπίδων εἰκότι κατὰ φύσιν εἶπετ' ἄν): this is rather freely rendered;

to cause some trouble to the King and the Persians and thus to help the Greeks in Asia, just as Agesilaus had done some few years before,¹⁵ and also perhaps to achieve a little more. 4 However, by the favour of Fate and by grasping the opportunity,¹⁶ Alexander obtained more than he had opted for, and he went on towards the whole, and he designed the greatest of plans against that power, and he achieved such a great feat, unexpected until then by others and not less by himself at the time when he came into power. 5 Further,¹⁷ making his intentions perfectly clear and, perhaps not inopportunistically so, bearing in mind what he had achieved, from this he went against the whole East and all the rest of the world inhabited by men; and trusting in achieving greatness he extended his most powerful domination with the greatest ease; and there was nothing which he did not expect to bring about by means of his knowledge and his deeds and his good fortune 6 and by the ease of those earlier strange achievements, which exceeded every hope and calculation, and by means of the unrivalled¹⁸ power which he had built up. Yet, immediately after this, having planned all this and having entertained such hopes and displayed all these wonderful deeds, 7 and being still in the very course of fulfilling the greatest hopes and expectations, and enjoying a favourable fate, Alexander died in the most pitiable way, putting an end to hopes and glorious deeds and victories; and thus the whole form of government, which proved very fragile,¹⁹ had to be totally re-established.²⁰ 8 For there was an uncertainty as to his successors, or rather an obvious lack of heirs, and it is by such that anything which has been acquired can be kept and remain wholly intact, even if not added to, which would naturally be what one would hope for.²¹ So fortune had in a most spectacular way deserted him and showed a want of faith and appreciation of those many deeds which had been accomplished with its help and by its means; and this so great grace 9 betrayed him suddenly in the middle of those great achievements; and it abandoned him, as if it had been a worthless companion and ally, or rather a forerunner and champion only; grace also abandoned the military operations and the government, which fell into an uncertain and confused state of mismanagement, as became obvious as soon as he had died.

4 Οὐ γὰρ εἶχον ὃ τι χρῆσονται λοιπὸν ἐκείνου τελευτήσαντος οὐθ' ἑαυτοῖς οὔτε τῇ ἀρχῇ, ἀλλ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλους ἐτράποντο πλείσθ' ὅσα τμηθέντες καὶ ἄρχοντες καὶ ἀρχόμενοι, οὐκ ἔχοντες οὐδ' ἐρεῖν ὃ τί ποτε βούλονται οὐδ' ὃ τι σπουδάζουσιν ἢ ζητοῦσιν, 2 οὐδ' οὔτινες εἰσὶν ἢ οἴσισι νόμοις ἄγονται μοναρχίας, καὶ τίς αὕτη, καὶ ποῖ τελευτώσα, καὶ τίνος ἀμέλει (οὐ 5 γὰρ ἐστὶν ἄνευ ἀρχοντος ἀρχή), ἢ εἰ μὴ τοῦτο, κοινῶν πολιτευμάτων νόμοις, καὶ τίσιν αὖ τούτοις, καὶ τίνος αὖ κοινοπολιτικῆς ἕξεως. 3 Ἄλλ' ὡσπερ κορυβαντιῶντες ἀλογίστως ἐφέροντο καὶ πρὸς οὐδὲν ἔκδηλον τέλος οὐδὲ σκοπὸν, μέχρι καταδαπανηθέντες ὑπ' ἀλλήλων καὶ τῶν ἐπιθεμένων ἐξωθεν παντάπασι ὤλοντο καὶ εἰς τὸ μηδὲν ἐχώρησαν, 4 ἄπιστον τοῖς πολλοῖς 10 διήγημα μεθύστερον εἰ καὶ τέως ἦσαν, καὶ τίνων ἐπῆρξαν ἐθνῶν, ἢ καὶ ὄλως ἄρχοντες Μακεδόνες ἦσαν ἐν τοῖς σφετέροις, ἢ τὸν πάντα χρόνον ἐδούλευον καὶ νόμοις ἀλλοτρίας ἡγεμονίας ὑπετάττοντο. 5 Οὕτω δὴ καθάπαξ Μακεδόνες ἐν μεταβολῇ γενόμενοι καὶ πεσόντες ὡς φασὶν ἐκεῖθεν ὀρηοῦν ἀνέγερτα 419 τῇ Ῥωμαϊκῇ δυναστείᾳ, μέρος ὅτιοῦν τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον λοιπὸν ταύτης 15 δόξαντες τὴν ἀγωγὴν ἔχουσι μετὰ πολλῶν τῇ συνεχείᾳ τοῦ παντός, 6 καὶ μηδὲν ἰδιοπραγοῦντες ἐλεύθερον, ἢ καὶ ἰδιοπραγήσαντες τῶν ἐξ ἐκείνου τόσων καὶ τόσων χρόνων, ὡσπερ οὐδὲ τὰ πρόσοικά τισι πολισίμασι χωρία καὶ ἀγροὶ φρονοῦσιν οὐδὲν ὅτιοῦν ἄλλο ἢ τὰ κυριεύοντ' ἄστη καὶ οἷς προσήκουσι, 7 καὶ αὐτοὶ δὴ χώρας τῇ καθ' ἡμᾶς τῶν Ῥωμαίων ἡγεμονία μέρη καὶ κτήματα ἅττα 20 προσόδων ἐν χρήσει καὶ νομίμοις ἀνθρωπίνοις ὄντες ταῖς ἀληθείαις, καὶ μηδὲν ἄλλο περαιτέρω ξυνορᾶν περὶ ἑαυτῶν ἔχοντες ἢ πεφυκότες ὄλως αἰσθέσθαι καὶ δυσνοϊκῶς ἐντεῦθεν τοῖς ἀρχουσιν ἄγεσθαι.

5 Ῥωμαῖοι γε μὴν αὖθις οὗτοι οἱ τοὺς Μακεδόνας πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις ὑποποισάμενοι καὶ τὴν μεγίστην ἢ κατ' ἄλλας πάσας πρότερον, καὶ αὐτόν γε 25

7 κοινοπολιτικῆς: fort. -ῆς M, -οῖς E 11 καὶ τίνων P, καὶ τίνων M, καὶ τινῶν M-K 21 ἀνθρωπίνοις fort. per comp. M, ἀνθρώποις E

it would also be possible to translate 'which naturally would follow as a consequence of entertaining so much hope.'

²² 'they contribute ... whole': the Greek is vague and I am uncertain as to what is meant by τῇ συνεχείᾳ τοῦ παντός (here translated as 'the perpetuation of the empire as a whole').

²³ 'according to the laws of men': or 'the laws of the realm'.

4 For when Alexander died, his people did not know what to do with themselves or the empire, but rulers as well as ruled turned against each other and were very much divided, being unable to express what they wanted or strove or looked for. 2 Nor were they able to say what they were, or by which laws monarchies should be governed, and what a monarchy is, and what its purpose is, and to whom it belongs by right (for there is no rule without a ruler), or if, instead, one should rule by democratic laws, by which democratic laws one should then rule, and what kind of democratic rule is desirable. 3 Instead they behaved senselessly and as in a frenzy and with no obvious goal or purpose—until they were exhausted by each other's doings and by attacks from the outside and thus utterly destroyed and reduced to nothing. 4 This made it difficult to most people of later times to believe that the Macedonians had even existed, and that they had controlled all these peoples, and that, instead of being slaves all the time and submitted to the laws of a foreign power, they had been masters even in their own land. 5 For so much have the Macedonians been subject to change, and they have fallen from their former position—somehow irrevocably, it is said—and come under the Roman empire, and they have come to be regarded just as any other part of this empire for all subsequent time, and they live associated with many others, and they contribute to the perpetuation of the empire as a whole.²² 6 And they do not do anything of their own accord, not having done so in all the years since Alexander—as is the case with villages and rural areas neighbouring upon urban centres: in these, no opinions are expressed but those of the ruling cities and their masters. 7 And they are themselves part of the land under the Roman rule of our time and in reality a kind of possession meant to produce income according to the laws of men;²³ and they are not able to see any further aim for their own existence, nor are they at all naturally disposed to feel any further purpose on their own account, nor have they taken up a negative attitude regarding their rulers in consequence of their position.²⁴

5 Now, these Romans, who subdued the Macedonians in addition to others and who gained an empire greater than all earlier empires, includ-

²⁴ 'and they are ... position': all of this is vague in the extreme and the translation difficult.

μὴν Ἀλέξανδρον ἡγεμονίαν κτησάμενοι καὶ πάνυ τοι πλεῖστον ὑπερβαλόντες,
 2 καὶ παραδραμόντες αὐτὸν μήκει τὲ καὶ κράτει καὶ χρόνῳ καὶ τῷ καθεστῶτι
 τῆς διοικήσεως θαυμαστῶς ὅπως καὶ νικήσαντες πάντας λογισμοὺς καὶ μετὰ
 τὰς περιφανεῖς ἐκείνας Ἀλεξάνδρου νίκας καὶ τὰ τρόπαια καὶ τὸν τάχιστον
 δρόμον καὶ τὸν συνεχῆ θρίαμβον τῶν τοσοῦτων ἔργων αὐτοῦ καὶ τῆς τύχης, 5
 420 3 καὶ πάντα σχεδὸν ἔθνη κατὰ τῆς οἰκουμένης καὶ πείθεσθαι φύσιν ἔχοντα
 καὶ μὴ τοιαῦτα, ἀλλὰ καθάπαξ ἀγέρωχα καὶ αὐθέκαστα, δουλωσάμενοι πάσαις
 ἐπιβολαῖς καὶ γνώμης κράτει καὶ ῥώμῃ παντάπασιν ἀπαραμίλλῳ· 4 καὶ οὗτοι
 γε μὴν ἐπεὶ τὴν τοσαύτην ἀρχὴν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ κατεστρέψαντο πάντας
 λογισμοὺς ἀνθρωπίνους τῇ καλλίστῃ διοικήσει καὶ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀξιολόγῳ, 10
 νομίμοις ἅπασιν οἰκείοις κατὰ πᾶν τὸ γιγνόμενον, καὶ παρῆλθον ἀκάματοι
 πάντα καὶ ἀήττητοι, 5 λοιπὸν ἐξῆς αὐτίκα πονήρως εἶχον καὶ νοσεῖν ἤρξαντο
 τὴν θαυμαστὴν ἐκείνην καὶ τύχην καὶ γνώμην, καὶ κακῶς ἐν ἑαυτοῖς φέρεσθαι,
 καὶ οὐκ εἶχον οὐδ' αὐτοὶ καλῶς χρῆσθαι μήθ' ἑαυτοῖς μήτε τῇ τοσαύτῃ κτήσει
 τῆς ἀρχῆς· ἀλλ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλους ἐτράπησαν, 6 καὶ τὴν ἐπαινουμένην ἐκείνην 15
 ὁμοφροσύνην ὑπὲρ τῶν κοινῶν καὶ τῆς κοινῆς περιφανείας καὶ δόξης, καὶ
 ἦν μάλιστα ἔθαυμάζοντο πλεῖν ἢ κατὰ πάντας ἄλλους ἀνθρώπους, Ἕλληνας
 τε καὶ βαρβάρους, 7 καὶ τὸν τῆς γνώμης σύνδεσμον ἄρρηκτον ἐν καλλίστοις
 νικῶντα πάντα τὰ κοινὰ τῆς φύσεως κατὰ τοὺς ἄλλους ἐλύσαντο καὶ τηρεῖν
 οὐκ εἶχον οὐδὲ μένειν ἐν ἑαυτῶν, ἀλλ' ἐξέστησαν τῆς καλλίστης ἀγωγῆς καὶ 20
 421 τὴν ἐπαινετὴν ἐκείνην καὶ χρόνιον κατάστασιν καὶ τάξιν | ἐλειποτάκτησαν. 8
 Καὶ ἀποπεφυκότες καὶ αὐτοὶ κατὰ τοὺς ἄλλους ἐν ταυτότητι τῶν εἰθισμένων
 κρίσεων μένειν, αἱ καὶ τοσοῦτον κατεπράξαντ' ἔργον, ἐωρῶντο τῷ βάρει
 τῆς τύχης, εἶοικε, καὶ τῆς τοσαύτης ἀρχῆς, οὐκ ἔχοντες κατ' ἔθος ὡς ἄρα
 πρότερον χρῆσθαι καὶ κατὰ φύσιν ἰκανῶς ἔτι πῶ λοιπὸν ἄγεσθαι τῇ συνεχείᾳ 25
 τῆς κρατοῦσης ἤδη πόλλ' ἔτη καταστάσεως εὐγενοῦς καὶ κοινοπολιτείας πᾶν
 τὸ λυσιτελοῦν.

9 ἐκτήσαντο: ἐκτήσαν P¹, το s.l. add. P²

25 'stability': for καθεστῶς.

ing that of Alexander, exceeded him very much, ² and they outdid him wondrously with regard to the extent and amount of their power and the duration and the stability²⁵ of their rule; and they surpassed every expectation, though this happened after those spectacular gains and victories of Alexander's and his brilliant career and continuous triumphs consisting of those many deeds achieved by him and by fortune. ³ And by all kinds of warfare and by the power of the mind and by wholly unrivalled strength, the Romans enslaved almost all peoples of the known world: those obsequious by nature and those who were not so but very powerful and self-willed. ⁴ And when these Romans had acquired such an empire and, by means of the best possible government, adapted to dealing with matters, and with laws suitable for every occasion, had defied every human expectation and overcome everything untiringly and without being defeated, ⁵ then they suddenly met with trouble and began to have problems which affected their remarkable good fortune as well as their judgement; they were harassed by internal strife, and they were not able to deal with their internal problems nor handle this great empire which they had acquired. Therefore they turned against each other, ⁶ and they broke up that highly praised concord, which had served the common good and their general reputation and fame, a concord for which they were more admired than all other peoples, Greeks and barbarians; ⁷ and they broke up and did no longer observe the unbreakable bond of a common opinion, which in good times had conquered all ties of nature of other peoples; and they did not contain themselves any more. Instead they abandoned their most excellent manner of living, and they deserted that laudable and long-lasting establishment and order of theirs. ⁸ And like other peoples, they were not able to remain constant in their judgement, and in spite of having accomplished so much by this judgement they were, apparently because of the burden of their fortune and of such an empire, seen to be unable to act as formerly so that everything which might favour the continuation of the noble order which had existed for many years already, and everything favourable to the common government, might proceed in a natural and satisfactory way.

6 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καταστασιάσαντες τὰ τῆς ἀρχῆς πράγματα καὶ κατ' ἀλλήλων
 ἐμπληκτοὶ κινήθεντες, μελαγχολῶντες ἀλλοκότοις καὶ θηριώδεσιν ἔρωσι καὶ
 μανίαις, ² μεγίστην εἰργάσαντο φθορὰν ἑαυτῶν, καὶ βαρυτάταις μάχαις καὶ
 μυριαριθμοῖς φόνοις στρατευμάτων καὶ στρατηγῶν καὶ τῶν ἐκ τῆς συγκλήτου
 καὶ τῶν ἐκ τοῦ δήμου πᾶσαν τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐνέπλησαν ἐπικινδυνωτάτων ⁵
 ἔργων καὶ βακχείας ἐριννώδους καὶ συμφορῶν ἀνυποίστων, ³ καὶ ἑαυτοὺς
 ἐξήμίωσαν τοσοῦτων ἐκ τῆς τύχης ἀγαθῶν καὶ τοσοῦτων ἀνδρῶν ὅσοις οὐκ
 ἂν ποτ' ᾤθησαν τέως ζημιωθέντες ἔτι λοιπὸν ἀρκέσαι πρὸς τὸ λειφθῆναι
 τῇ ζωῇ καὶ παραμενεῖν ἔτι τοῖς τῆς σφετέρας ἀρχῆς πράγμασιν ὀηοῦν· ⁴
 καὶ τοσοῦτοις εἰ παρ' ἐχθρῶν ξυνέπεσον ἀμέλει τοῖς κινδύνοις καὶ ταῖς τῶν ¹⁰
 πραγμάτων φθοραῖς, ὥλοντ' ἂν αὐτίκα καὶ ὥσπερ αὐτάνδρῳ τῷ σκάφει τῆς
 422 ἀρχῆς χαλεπωτάτῳ κλύδωνι κατεναυάγησαν εἰς τὰς ἐσχάτας παντάπασι
 διαφθοράς. ⁵ Τοιαῦτ' ἄρα σφᾶς ἔπραξαν κάκισθ' ὑπ' ἐμπληξίας καὶ φιλαρχίας
 οἴστρου δυσέρωτες Μάριοι καὶ Σύλλαι καὶ Καίσαρες καὶ Πομπήιοι καὶ Βροῦ-
 τοὶ καὶ Κάσιοι καὶ Ἀντώνιοι καὶ τοιούτων ἀλιτηρίων τῆς πατρίδος ἀνδρῶν ¹⁵
 ἐπ' ἀλλήλους ἀκρατεῖς λογισμοὶ καὶ φοραὶ μανιώδεις· ⁶ καὶ τελευτῶντες εἰς
 ἐπί-φθονον αἰεὶ καὶ βασκανίαις καὶ δυσνοίαις καὶ ἐπιβουλαῖς παλαίουςαν μον-
 αρχίαν καὶ τυραννίδα κατέστησαν ἀντὶ τῆς πρὶν ἐκ συμφωνίας πολιτικῆς
 γαλήνης καὶ τῶν εὐνομουμένων πραγμάτων, τὸ κράτος τῆς ἀρχῆς αὐξόντων
 ὅσαι ἡμέραι συνεχῶς, ἀφοῦ καὶ ἤρξαντο σχεδὸν δεῖκνυσθαι τῷ βίῳ καὶ κι- ²⁰
 νεῖσθαι πλείοσιν ἢ κατ' ἰδιοπραγοῦντας καὶ μείζοσιν ἐπιχειρήσει· ⁷ καὶ
 τουλοιοῦ σφίσιν ἔργων ἦν οὐδὲν ἔτι πῶ πλέον ὄραν ὡς ἄρα πρότερον αἰεὶ, ἀλλὰ
 τρυφαῖς μὲν οἴκοι χαίρειν τὲ καὶ συνεῖναι τὸν πάντα βίον καὶ ῥαστώνης ἀπάσης
 ἀμετρία καὶ ἀκολασία, καὶ μέγα δὲ κρίνειν εἰ περισώζειν οἴοι τε γίγνοιτο, καὶ
 οἱ μεγάλα φρονούντες, ἀπὸ τῶν ἐξωθεν ἐπιθέσεων καὶ μὴ ταμέγιστα τῆς ἀρχῆς ²⁵

⁷ ὅσοις E, ὄσων in textu et -οις s.l. PM 18 καὶ om. P, add. P²

11 σκάφει τῆς ἀρχῆς] cf. Alc. Fr. 6, 208, 249 | A. Th. 62 | Pl. R. 488–489d

²⁶ 'exposed': literally 'filled' (ἐνέπλησαν).

²⁷ 'ship of state' (τῷ σκάφει τῆς ἀρχῆς): Metochites is very fond of nautical metaphors of every kind. In the present case he may have thought of Alcaeus' 'ship of state', an image also known from Aeschylus and developed by Plato in the *Republic* (cf. app. font. et parall.).

6 Therefore they revolted against the political order and, driven by unnatural and savage cravings and passions, they foolishly attacked each other ² and caused themselves the greatest harm; and by heavy fighting and by murdering an infinite number of soldiers and officers, and members of the senate as well as the people, they exposed²⁶ the known world to the greatest danger and to a revengeful frenzy and intolerable disasters. ³ And they deprived themselves of so many advantages, accorded to them by fortune, and they lost so many men that, had they come to this harm earlier, they would not have believed themselves to have enough in order to go on living and in any respect remain masters of their empire. ⁴ Had they been subjected to so great dangers by their enemies, and had their political system been harmed in such a way, it would have meant their immediate ruin, and as if hit by an immense wave, they would have gone down with the ship of state²⁷ and been totally destroyed with all hands. ⁵ This great evil was inflicted upon them by men like Marius and Sulla and Caesar and Pompey and Brutus and Cassius and Anthony,²⁸ those hateful men who were capricious and passionately and ominously in love with power and whose uncontrolled thoughts and mad attacks upon each other worked the destruction of their country. ⁶ Thus they ended up with a monarchy which was nothing but odious, and a tyranny which always had to wrestle with slander and ill-will and attacks; this came instead of the earlier political peace based on concord and well-functioning laws, a system which had increased the power of the empire from day to day from the time when the Romans so to say started to play a prominent role in the world and to engage in more and greater enterprises than they had done when living on their own.²⁹ ⁷ Thereafter they no longer cared to look beyond their own, as they had done all the time before. Instead, their only care in life was for enjoying luxury at home and indulging in all kinds of limitless and reckless leisure; and even those with great ambitions were content if only they were able to survive the attacks from outside without losing the most vital and

²⁸ All of these, except Cassius (who is well known from other biographies by Plutarch), are the object of biographies by Plutarch.

²⁹ 'than ... own' (ἢ κατ' ἰδιοπραγούντας etc.): or 'than people living on their own do'.

καὶ ἀξιολογώτερα ζημιούσθαι. 8 Καὶ γὰρ δὴ ταῖς ἀληθείαις ἐκείθεν εἰς δεῦρο
 423 κατ' ὀλίγον ὑπέρρει τὰ | πράγματα, καὶ τὰ τόσα καὶ τόσα μήκη τῆς ἀρχῆς εἰς
 τοῦλαττον ὑπεφέρετο· καὶ μὴν ἔτι ὡς ἂν δὴ καὶ καταμέρος καὶ ἰδίᾳ διελθεῖν
 τινὰ πρὸς τὸν αὐτὸν σκοπὸν καὶ τὴν πρόθεσιν, 9 σιωπῶν μὲν ἴσως τὰ παλαιὰ
 πρότερον καὶ τὰ παρ' ἄλλοις ἔθνεσι καὶ παρ' ἄλλαις ἀρχαῖς οὐκ ἂν ἔξω τοῦ 5
 καιροῦ δρώην ἂν φεύγων τὸ μήκος.

7 Ἀλλὰ Μάριος αὐτὸς ὁ Ῥωμαῖος ἐκ μικρᾶς παντάπασι καὶ ἀσήμου τῆς
 τύχης καὶ φυλετῶν ὀλίγων πάνυ τοι καὶ λόγου τινὸς ὀλίγου καὶ ἀγροτικῆς
 οἰκίας καὶ στρατιᾶς καὶ τῆς τῶν πατρικίων καθάπαξ ῥωμαϊκῆς ἀλλοτρίας
 εὐγενείας 2 μέγας ἦρθη τοῖς Κιμβρικοῖς ἀγῶσι καὶ ταῖς περιφανέσι καὶ 10
 ἀπαραμίλλοις νίκαις, καὶ τὰ τῆς Ῥώμης ἦρε πράγματα καὶ τὸ φρόνημα πρὸς
 τὸ κρατήσαν ὕστερον μέγεθος τῆς ἀρχῆς καὶ τὴν δόξαν· 3 καὶ συνεχῶς αὐτὸς
 ἐπτάκις ἐν ταῖς ἀρχαιρεσίαις νικῶν ὑπατεύει πολυδοξότατα, καὶ δείκνυσιν ὡς
 οὐκ ἔξω λόγου τοῖς ἔργοις αὐτοῖς καὶ ταῖς νίκαις, ὁ μῆπω πρότερον οὐδενὶ
 οὐδὲ γε μὴν μεθύστερον ξυμβὰν ὦφθη ταῖς τῶν πραγμάτων τῆς Ῥωμαίων 15
 ἡγεμονίας ἀκμαῖς· 4 εἶτα μετὰ τὰς νίκας ἐκείνας τὰς τερατώδεις καὶ τὴν
 τοσαύτην εὐκλειαν καὶ δόξαν, ὑπὲρ πᾶσαν ὡς εἰπεῖν δόξαν, τῆς τοῦ ἠθους
 πικρίας ἠττώμενος καὶ φιλαρχίας ἀπλήστου κάκιστ' εἰς τυραννικὴν μαιφονίαν
 καὶ κακοθήειαν ἐκκλίνας, ταπεινῶς κομιδῇ πρᾶττων ἐδυσχέρανε τῇ τύχῃ· 5
 καὶ πλάνον ἀοίκητον ἐν φυγῇ τῆς πατρίδος καὶ τῆς τοσαύτης δόξης ἐφορεῖτο 20
 424 παιζόμε|νος ἀνθρώποις φαύλοις καὶ παντάπασιν ἀλλοτρίοις τῆς μεγάλης τοῦ
 Μαρρίου τύχης καὶ δόξης, καὶ ἀναξίους ἑαυτοῦ συνεχίετο καθάπαξ ἔργοις.

8 Εἶτ' αὐθις ἐπαίζετο τῇ τύχῃ καὶ ἀνεδείκνυτο καὶ ἀνωρθοῦτο πρὸς
 δευτέραν βίωσιν καὶ μεγάλα πράγματα παρ' ὦραν ἤδη παραβαλλόμενος καὶ
 πρὸς μέσους ἑαυτὸν κινδύνους μεγίστους καὶ μαιφονίας ἐπαχθέστατ' ἔργα 25
 φέρων εἰσηγεν ἑαυτὸν ὠθῶν καὶ ὠθούμενος ταῖς τοῦ Σύλλα μετὰ τῆς τύχης

6 δρώην: δρώη ut vid. P¹, -v add. P² 20 παιζόμενος ἐφορεῖτο P, sed litteris β et a supra παιζόμενος et ἐφορεῖτο positus indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. ἐφορεῖτο παιζόμενος

³⁰ 'old matters' (τὰ παλαιὰ): considering what follows, which deals with Ancient Rome, it is a little odd that Metochites says that he will pass over old matters.

³¹ 'raised ... politics' (τὰ τῆς Ῥώμης ἦρε πράγματα): or 'he exalted the Roman state'.

³² In this paragraph the praesens historicum is used.

important parts of the empire. ⁸ And, indeed, it was for this reason that the state gradually sank to its present level and the empire, formerly of such dimensions, was reduced to a very small compass. But in order to be able to discuss yet some more things in detail and separately with the same purpose, and things of relevance to the same theme, ⁹ I would perhaps, so as to avoid lengthiness, do well to pass over old matters³⁰ and those concerning other peoples and powers.

⁷ The aforementioned Marius, the Roman, started from utterly small and insignificant conditions. He had very few kinsmen and small means and he came from a rural household and army unit, and from conditions very different from those of the noble Roman patricians. ² Marius was promoted through the Cimbrian wars and his spectacular and unparalleled victories in these, and he raised the level of Roman politics³¹ and the self-esteem of the Romans so as to prepare for the later greatness of the empire and the fame which then prevailed. ³ Having won seven successive elections, he holds³² office as consul in the most glorious way; and he shows by his deeds and victories that it was not without reason that he should hold office: these victories constituted an achievement which was never seen attained by anyone before, nor indeed afterwards, when the Roman empire was at the peak of its power. ⁴ However, after these prodigious victories, and after having acquired such great fame and glory which so to speak surpassed all glory, he was defeated by the bitterness of his own temper and his insatiable lust for power; for in the worst of ways he turned to tyrannical bloodshed and malignity, and when abased in power, he was unable to endure his fate; ⁵ and, as a wanderer without abode, he fled his country, and he was cheated out of his great reputation, and associating himself with inferior men who had no part whatsoever in the great fortune and glory of Marius, the man engaged in deeds completely unworthy of himself.

⁸ Then he was again made a plaything by Fate and, already advanced in age, he rose to new prominence and a second life and a high position in politics, and he rushed into the greatest danger and engaged in bloodshed, which is the most hateful of deeds, and he promoted himself by forceful methods but was thrust back by Sulla's glorious fortune and the vigour

λαμπρότησι καὶ μετὰ τινος ὥρας καὶ νέας φιλοτιμίας ἀκμαῖς. ² Καὶ τελευτῶν οἴκτιστ' ἀπήλλαττεν, οὐκ ἐλεούμενος μᾶλλον ἢ μισούμενος τῆς παραλόγου σφόδρα φιλοτιμίας τὲ καὶ φιλονεικίας, ἐν αἵμασι καὶ πόνοις καταβακχεύων τῆς Ῥωμαίων ἀρχῆς, ἐριννύων ζάκορος καὶ τραγικῶν παθῶν χορηγός. ³ Καὶ ἐπ' αὐτῷ βραχὺ τι παραλειφθεὶς τῇ φιλοπραγμοσύνῃ τῶν ἔργων ὁ νέος Μάριος, ⁵ καὶ υἱὸς αὐτῷ, καὶ τὴν φύσιν καὶ τὴν τοῦ ἥθους πικρίαν, καὶ τοσοῦτον ἴσως συγχωρηθεὶς τῇ τύχῃ καὶ τῷ χρόνῳ, ὅσον αὐτὴν ἐνδείξασθαι τὴν φύσιν καὶ τὴν εἰς τὰ κάκισθ' ὀρμὴν ἐμπληκτότερος τοῦ πατρὸς τύραννος· ⁴ αὐτίκα γε μὴν καὶ αὐτὸς ἔπειτα κακὸς κακῶς ἐπιπτεν ἀωρία τῶν τῆς κακίας ἄθλων καὶ
⁴²⁵ ἐπι|δείξεων, ἐλαττούμενος τοσοῦτῳ μόνῳ τοῦ πατρὸς τῷ τῶν φαύλων ἔργων ¹⁰ ὀλιγοχρονίῳ, μὴ τὴν φύσιν ὁμως καὶ τὴν γνώμην ἐλαττούμενος καὶ φέρων δεύτερα.

⁹ Σύλλας δ' ἐξῆς ἔπειτα, μέγας τῇ τύχῃ καταστὰς ἐξ ἀδόξων, καὶ τέως εὐπεριφρόνητος ὢν ἐν νέοις ἐξ ἀσωτίας εἰ δὴ τις καὶ ἄλλος, καὶ πλείστους κατ' ἄλλοτριῶν τοῦ γένους καὶ τῆς πατρίδος ἐν πᾶσι τῆς γῆς μέρεσι νενικηκῶς ¹⁵ τοὺς πολέμους τοῦτο μὲν ὑποστρατηγῶν ἄλλοις τὲ καὶ Μαρίῳ, τοῦτο δ' αὐτὸς στρατηγῶν καὶ αὐτοκράτωρ ἡγούμενος, ² πλείστους ἀμέλει καὶ κατὰ τῶν ὁμοφύλων καὶ τῶν ἐκ τῆς συγκλήτου κατὰ ταυτὸν ἀντιπραττόντων, ἐν οἷς ὑπὲρ τῆς δόξης τῆς πατρίδος καὶ τοῦ Ῥωμαίων κλέους καὶ κράτους ἀγῶνας εἶχε, ³ πρὸς πάντας συμμαχούσης τῆς τύχης ἀδοκίτης παντάπασι καὶ κρεῖττον ²⁰ πάσης ὡς ἀληθῶς ἐλπίδος καὶ τῶν μετὰ τοῦ εἰκότος λογισμῶν, ὡς καὶ αὐτὸς οὐχ' ἤττον ἢ καὶ ἄλλοι πάντες ᾤετο, καὶ τοῖς ἔργοις αὐτὴν ἐπεγράφετο, καταδυσωπῶν ἴσως ὡς ἂν δὴ καὶ παραμένουσαν ἔχοι λοιπὸν ἐντεῦθεν πιστῶς καὶ πλεῖν ἢ τοῖς ἄλλοις εἶωθέ τε καὶ πέφυκε. ⁴ Καὶ τελευτῶν ἔπειτ' ἄρα περὶ τῶν ὄλων εἰς ἀγῶνα μέγιστον ἀντικαταστὰς Μαρίῳ, καὶ υἱεὶ Μαρίου Μαρίῳ, ²⁵ καὶ Κύννῃ, καὶ Κάρβωνι, πᾶσι μετὰ τῆς αὐτῆς ἰταμότητος καὶ φιλαρχίας καὶ
⁴²⁶ κράτους φθάσαντος ἐν τοῖς | πράγμασιν ὠπλισμένοις κατὰ τῆς αὐτοῦ προ-

¹⁴ ἀσωτίας E, non leg. M

²⁶ Κύννῃ: κίννα M

³³ 'raving ... frenzy': cf. above, p. 67, n. 5.

³⁴ I.e. he ascribed all his accomplishments to fortune: the verb ἐπεγράφετο is used, hence the translation.

³⁵ 'placate' (καταδυσωπῶν): 'put to the blush by earnest entreaty' (LSJ), 'entreat'/'implore' (Lampe).

of a new youth and ambition. ² And at last he died in a most lamentable way, more hated than pitied because of his absurdly strong ambition and contentiousness, raving against the Roman power as he was, in a Bacchic frenzy,³³ in blood and pain, like a temple attendant to the Erinyes, displaying the passions of tragedy. ³ After him came Marius the Younger, who was somewhat less eager to engage in action, but who proved himself to be his father's son by nature as well as by an uncontrollable temper. Towards him fortune and the times were, perhaps, particularly indulgent—so much so that they allowed him to show that he, by his very nature and his urge to commit the greatest evil, was a more capricious tyrant [even] than his father. ⁴ But directly after this he too, an evil man, stumbled badly because of the untimeliness of his evil struggles and feats, proving to be inferior to his father only in so far as his base deeds were of shorter duration, but not inferior to him as to his nature and opinions, and thus worthy of the second prize.

⁹ Next came Sulla, promoted by fortune from obscurity to greatness; he was a man who, if anybody, until that time had been the object of contempt among the young on account of his profligacy. Having won a great number of wars in all parts of the world against the enemies of the Romans and their country—partly as a commander subordinate to others, especially to Marius, partly in command himself and invested with imperium—² he also won many battles against his countrymen and against those senators who united in opposing his struggles for the glory of the country and the fame and power of the Romans. ³ And fortune supported him against everyone in a totally unexpected way and, in fact, beyond all hope and reasonable calculation, as he himself thought no less than everyone else. Therefore he inscribed fortune to all his deeds,³⁴ perhaps in order to placate it³⁵ and in order that he should thus retain its favour securely and to a greater extent than usually falls onto men's share. ⁴ And when at last he faces³⁶ Marius and Marius, the former's son, and Cinna and Carbo as enemies in an immense struggle, with everything at stake—all these show-

³⁶ Here, too, the praesens historicum is used (the finite verb being καταστρέφεται in § 5); cf. above, 67.7.3.

κοπῆς καὶ τοῦ κλέους τῶν ἔργων δυναστεύοντος μάλιστα ἐπὶ τῆς Ῥωμαίων ἡγεμονίας, 5 καταστρέφεται πάντας ῥᾶσθ' ἐξῆς ὡσπερ ἀπὸ συνθημάτων τῆς τύχης τοὺς ἀγῶνας ποιούμενος καὶ μελέτης ὑποκρίσει γυμναζόμενος καθ' αἴρεσιν.

10 Καὶ μοναρχήσας λοιπὸν πρῶτος αὐτὸς σχεδὸν τῆς Ῥωμαίων τοσαύτης 5 ἀρχῆς, καὶ τοῖς καίσαρσι μεθύστερον ὑποδείξας τὰς ὑπὲρ τῆς ἀρχῆς ἐπιβολὰς καὶ ἐλπίδας, ἔπειτ' αὐτόθεν αὐτίκα παρακατέχειν οὐκ εἶχε τὴν ἡλικιώτιν τύχην καὶ ἧς πλείστον ἐπειράθη τὸν χρόνον ἥδιστα προσεχούσης αὐτῷ καὶ μάλ' εὐμενῶς, ἀλλ' ὑποχωρούσης κατ' ὀλίγον ἤρξατο νοσεῖν· 2 καὶ τοῦτο μὲν ὑπεχώρει τὰ πράγματ' εὐλαβούμενος Ἀδράστειαν ἐκὼν ἀέκοντί γε θυμῷ, 10 τοῦτο δ' ὑπεβλέπετο Πομπήιον αἰρόμενον τῇ τε συγκλήτῳ καὶ ἅμα τῷ δήμῳ μάλιστα κατ' αὐτοῦ· 3 καὶ τελευτῶν οὕτω πονήρως πράττων τῷ σώματι καινότερον τὸν τρόπον καὶ ὡς οὐδεὶς ποτ' ἄλλος σχεδὸν ἐνεκροῦτο ζῶν, καὶ δαπανώμενος τὴν σωματικὴν ὕλην ἐζωηφόρει τῇ σήψει ταύτης ἀρρήτῳ πάθει, φθειρῶν ἀμύθητον χρῆμα, καὶ τοσοῦτον ἤρκεσε πηγάζων τὴν θανατοποῖδον 15 αὐτῷ ταύτην ζωοφορίαν, ὅσῳ καὶ ἦν ὁ τῆς τοῦ σώματος ὕλης ὄγκος αὐτῷ· 4 427 κᾶπειτα κοιμηθῆ δεινότατα καὶ αἰσχιστα καὶ τὴν χορηγίαν ἐπέλειπε, καὶ ἐτελεύτα τοῖς φθοροποιοῖς ζυφίοις καὶ τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ τοσοῦτος μεγαλοργότατος ἄνθρωπος καὶ τῆς τοσαύτης Ῥωμαϊκῆς ἡγεμονίας διὰ πάσης τῆς ζωῆς αἰρετὸς καὶ ἄσυλος καθάπαξ αὐτοκράτωρ, 5 καταστρατηγηθεὶς ἀδρανέσι μὲν ὅμως 20 καὶ ξενίζουσιν, ἀνυποίστοις δ' οὕτω καὶ ἀτρέπτοις ἐκ τῆς αὐτοῦ χορηγίας στρατεύμασιν, ὁ πρὸς πλείσθ' ὅσα στρατεύματα ἀντιταξάμενος μέγιστα καὶ μαχιμώτατα καὶ διαγεγόμενος πάντ' ἀήττητος.

11 αἰρόμενον: αἰρ- fort. P², αἰρ- E, de P¹M non constat 22 στρατεύματ' ἀντιξάμενος E, non leg. M

10 εὐλαβούμενος Ἀδράστειαν] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 10.3.3 et 28.4.4 13 ἐνεκροῦτο ζῶν] cf. Plu. Sull. 36

³⁷ 'which ... earlier': this is to translate φθάσαντος ἐν τοῖς πράγμασιν.

³⁸ 'enormous' (τοσαύτης); or 'of such dimensions'; cf. 67.13.1 and 14.2.

³⁹ Adrasteia is a title of Nemesis, cf. LSJ (see also Hult 2016, p. 20, n. 13). I would like to thank Martin Hinterberger, Nicosia, for help with this passage.

⁴⁰ 'he gave fuel': more exactly 'he gave life' (ἐζωηφόρει: this word is missing from Lampe and from LSJ, although it occurs in Philo; it is cited from this passage in Trapp who translates 'Leben bringen'/'beleben').

ing the same vigour and ambition and force which they had displayed also earlier³⁷ when they armed themselves and took action in order to stop his progress and the fame of his deeds which pervaded the Roman empire— 5 he destroys his enemies one by one with the greatest ease, conducting the battles as if on the instigation of fortune, or as if he had just chosen to exercise himself for the sake of practice.

10 Immediately upon this, having almost as the first become an absolute ruler of the enormous³⁸ Roman empire and having indicated to the future Caesars how to lay hands on power and what hopes they might entertain, Sulla became unable to retain this good fortune; and when this fortune, which he had enjoyed during a very long time and which had paid court to him in the most pleasing and friendly manner, gradually receded, he began to meet with difficulties. 2 And, though unwillingly, he retreated from politics on his own accord; this he did out of respect for Adrasteia,³⁹ but in doing so he eyed Pompey, promoted by the senate and the people with the express intention of checking him, with suspicion. 3 Eventually he was in such a poor physical state that he became almost a living corpse (this was a fairly unknown condition, and it had not befallen almost anyone else before); and by consuming the material of the body he gave fuel⁴⁰ to its decay in unspeakable pain, suffering from a terrible lice infestation; and for so long did this lethal giving of life go on⁴¹ as he had any bodily material left. 4 Then, most horribly and ignominiously, the supply was used up, and this man, who had performed such great deeds and had been elected for his whole life to be the absolutely uncontested leader⁴² of the enormous Roman empire, was killed by the destructive little animals; 5 he, who had resisted an immense number of very large and warlike armies and always emerged undefeated, was outsmarted by feeble and strange, but irresistible and, as far as his resources were concerned, invincible armies.

⁴¹ 'did ... on' (ἤρκεσε πηγάζων τὴν θανατοποιὸν αὐτῷ ταύτην ζωοφορίαν): more exactly 'was he a source of this lethal giving of life'.

⁴² 'absolutely uncontested leader' (ἄσυλος καθάπαξ αὐτοκράτωρ): αὐτοκράτωρ is employed as a term also in the surrounding chapters, to denote a (primarily) military leader. Presumably the combination ἄσυλος and αὐτοκράτωρ makes reference to the dictatorship.

11 Πομπήιος δ' εὐθὺς ὡς ἐτελεύτα Σύλλας, ὑψοῦτο τοῖς πράγμασι καὶ προήει τῆς δόξης, καὶ Ῥωμαίων ἐπρώτευν ὑπερβαλλόντως μέγας ἢ κατ' ἄλλους ἅπαντας ἐν τῇ συγκλήτῳ τοὺς κατ' αὐτὸν τηνικαῦτα·² ὅς γε καὶ ζῶντος ἔτι πω Σύλλα μέγας ἦν οὐ μόνον τοῖς ἔργοις, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῇ κλήσει, τόδ' ὄνομ' ἔχειν ἐκληροῦτο, καὶ κρινόμενος εἶναι τοιοῦτος ἐκαλεῖτο πάντων καταθέσει⁵ καὶ ψήφοις, καὶ φθόνου σπινθήρας ὑπέτυφε Σύλλα,³ πρὶν ἐν μετουσίᾳ τῆς βουλῆς καὶ τῆς συγκλήτου γίνεσθαι τῆς ἡλικίας ἔτι πω νόμοις εἰργόμενος, στρατευμάτων ἄρχων πλείστων καὶ στρατηγὸς αὐτοκράτωρ αἰρούμενος ἀρετῆς ἐπιδείξει καὶ στρατηγικῇ χρήσει καὶ ζεούση πάντων μάλιστ' εὐνοία¹⁰ καὶ πραγμάτων ἐπὶ τοὺς τῆς πατρίδος τυράννους, μεираκίον | ἔτι πω καὶ πρὸ τῶν νεομισμένων Ῥωμαίοις χρόνων,⁵ οὐ μόνον δῶρον τύχης τὴν εὐνοίαν καὶ τὴν δόξαν καὶ τὸ κλέος κτώμενος, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάσης ἀρετῆς ἀσκήσει καὶ φρονήματος μετριότητι, κεκραμμένη τῷ φιλοτίμῳ καὶ ἤθει σωφρονικῷ, τοῖς ἔργοις ἐνευδοκιμῶν καὶ τὰ παρ' αὐτοῦ καλῶς συνεισφέρων ταῖς τῆς τύχης¹⁵ χάρισιν·⁶ ἐξ ὧν δὴ καὶ μεγίσταις κατὰ τῶν ἐχθρῶν τῇ τῶν Ῥωμαίων καὶ τῆς πατρίδος προκοπῇ νίκαις τὸ κράτος αὐτῷ πρῶτον ἐν Ῥωμαίοις ἐκδηλότατα καρπούμενος, καὶ τρισὶ θριάμβοις ἐκ τῶν τριῶν τῆς οἰκουμένης μερῶν, Εὐρώπης τὲ καὶ Λιβύης καὶ τῆς λοιπῆς Ἀσίας, τὸ κλέος αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν περιφάνειαν τοῦ βίου μὴ μόνον ἐπαυξήσας τῇ πατρίδι, ἀλλὰ καὶ κατὰ πάσης²⁰ σχεδὸν πληρώσας τῆς οἰκουμένης,⁷ ἔλαθεν ἑαυτὸν μεταβάλλων εἰς τὸ κακῶς πράξει καὶ κινδύνοις περιπεσεῖν, καθ' ἑαυτοῦ προσιέμενος, καὶ μεγαλύνων εὐκολία τρόπων χρηστῶν, ἐπιβούλους αὐτοῦ τῆς τύχης τὲ καὶ τῆς δόξης, ὡς μήποτ' ὄφελε.

12 Καὶ Καίσαρα κρατυνάμενος ἐπ' αὐτόν τε καὶ τὴν κοινοπολιτείαν, ἢ²⁵ μᾶλλον ἐπιεικῶς ὀπλίσας φιλαρχίας καὶ φιλοτιμίας φλεγόμενον ἀσχέτοις

¹ Σύλλας: σύλλας P (cf. introd. 3, p. liii)
κεκραμμένη ut vid. E

⁷ γίνεσθαι M

¹⁴ κεκραμμένη P et fort. M,

⁴³ 'kindled ... envy': more exactly 'he kindled the sparks of envy' (φθόνου σπινθήρας ὑπέτυφε).

⁴⁴ Or: 'showed goodwill towards others'.

⁴⁵ I.e. for these offices.

⁴⁶ 'the rest of Asia': or 'the rest, which is Asia'.

⁴⁷ 'personal fame' (περιφάνειαν τοῦ βίου): or 'the fame derived from his conspicuous way of life'.

⁴⁸ 'by ... talent': this is a translation of the difficult μεγαλύνων εὐκολία τρόπων χρηστῶν.

11 Immediately on the death of Sulla, Pompey was elevated to political power and advanced in fame; he came to hold the first place among the Romans, and he was truly 'Great' in comparison to all the senators of that time. ² For already when Sulla was still alive, Pompey was 'Great' not only in deeds, but also in name, and he received this appellation as his legacy, and being considered to be such, he was by everyone's agreement and decision called 'Great' even officially. Pompey had kindled Sulla's envy,⁴³ ³ for even before he was allowed to participate in the council and the senate (he was still excluded by the laws on age), he was elected commander of very large military forces and chosen to be commander-in-chief, invested with imperium; this happened because he showed ability and strategic aptitude and because he more than anyone else was the object of the fervent goodwill of everyone,⁴⁴ the masses as well as the soldiers. ⁴ And, although he was still a youngster, not having reached the age laid down by Roman law,⁴⁵ the people deemed him worthy of every honour (and honour engenders envy) and of a political position, in order to fight against the tyrants who were oppressing the country. ⁵ However, he acquired this goodwill and glory and fame not only as a gift of fortune, but also through the practice of every virtue and through moderation of the mind; and he displayed a mixture of ambition and mental self-control, and he gained glory by his deeds, thus ably adding of his own to the favours of fortune. ⁶ From this as well as by his very important victories against the enemies of the progress of the Romans and his own country, he first, and in a most spectacular way, gained power among the Romans. And with three triumphs in the three parts of the inhabited world—Europe and Libya and the rest of Asia⁴⁶—he not only enhanced his reputation and personal fame⁴⁷ in his own country, he also spread it over nearly the whole inhabited world. ⁷ And by doing so he (what should not have been done) unwittingly embarked on his own downfall and exposed himself to danger and, by exalting his talent,⁴⁸ he attracted people who wanted to attack his luck and fame.

12 Now, having empowered Caesar so as to enable this man to attack himself and the community, or more precisely, having armed this man who was burning with an uncontrollable lust for power and honour, and who strove for this with legitimate and illegitimate, indeed, with all methods,

ἔρωσι, κάκ προσηκόντων καὶ μὴ προσηκόντων καὶ πάντων τρόπων καὶ πάντων
 429 ἔργων καὶ πραγμάτων εἰς τοῦτ' ἐπειγόμενον ἀσειό|τητί τε καὶ κοσμίως
 τὲ καὶ νομίμως, ² ἀλλὰ καὶ μηχαναῖς πάσαις καὶ δόλοις ἀφειδῶς καὶ πρὸς
 μηδένα κίνδυνον οὐκ ἀποκνοῦντα, οὐκ ἐπαινετῶς μόνον ἀξιώματι γνώμης
 καὶ τόλμῃ, ἀλλ' ἄρα δὴ καὶ μὴ πάμπαν ἀνεμεσήτως, ³ κρατυνάμενος δ' οὖν, ⁵
 ὅπερ ἔλεγον, τὸν ἄνδρα Πομπήϊος πλεῖν ἢ ἔδει καὶ συνέφερεν αὐτῷ τε καὶ τοῖς
 κοινοῖς πράγμασιν, ἀλλὰ δὴ βουλόμενος ἔπειτα καὶ ξυνορῶν καὶ γιγνόμενος
 ἀνονήτως ἐν μεταμέλῳ, καταλύειν οὐκέτ' εἶχεν, ἀλλ' ἀντιταξάμενος καὶ
 συμπλακεῖς πρὸς ἐκείνον κατενόει μεταβαίνουσιν τὴν θρῆψασαν αὐτὸν καὶ
 πάνυ τοι πλεῖστον ὑψώσασαν τύχην· ⁴ καὶ κατεμάνθανε λοιπὸν ἀλιτήριος ¹⁰
 γενόμενος ἑαυτῷ τε καὶ τῇ Ῥωμαίων ἐλευθερίᾳ καὶ πᾶσιν ἡττημένος τῆς
 τοῦ ἐχθροῦ τύχης, καὶ τάχους, καὶ τόλμης, ⁵ ὃ μέχρις ἐκείνου, καὶ τοῦτ'
 ἐστὶ μέχρι πολλοῦ, στρατηγικώτατος καὶ δραστικώτατος καὶ εὐτυχέστατος
 ἄνθρωπος καταστρέφει πάντ' ἀθλιώτατος ἐπ' ἄλλοτρίοις φυγὰς ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν,
 οἱ καὶ τοῦνομα μόνον ἔφριττον ἀκούοντες Πομπηίου. Καὶ θῖνες τὸν αὐτοῦ ¹⁵
 νεκρὸν καὶ Αἰγύπτου ψάμαθος αἰγιαλίτης ἐκάλυπτεν, ⁶ οὗ πᾶσαν ἐπέσχε καὶ
 διέδραμεν ἢ μεγαλοδοξία πομπικῶς τὴν οἰκουμένην, καὶ κατεθριάμβευε πάσης
 430 ἀκοῆς αἰδοῖ πάση καὶ σεβασμῷ τοῦνομα· καὶ ἦν οὐδὲν αὐτῷ πλέον ἢ εἰ τριῶν
 ἀξιούμενον δραχμῶν ἀνδράποδον τελευτήσαν ἐπέμπετο τῇ γῆ.

13 Καίσαρ δὲ τοσοῦτον ὑπεραρθεῖς τῇ τύχῃ καὶ τοῖς πράγμασι καὶ ²⁰
 μοναρχήσας ἤδη λαμπρῶς τῆς τοσαύτης Ῥωμαίων ἡγεμονίας καὶ γενό-
 μενος ἐπ' ἀσφαλοῦς ὡς ᾤετο λοιπὸν πάντων ἐκποδῶν γεγονότων τῶν ἀντι-

16 καὶ post Αἰγύπτου exhib. M ψάμαθος αἰγιαλίτης αἰγύπτου P, sed litteris β, γ et a supra
 ψάμαθος αἰγιαλίτης et αἰγύπτου positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. αἰγύπτου
 ψάμαθος αἰγιαλίτης 21 post τοσαύτης add. τῶν M 22 ἐκποδῶν M γεγονότων:
 γενομένων M

18 τριῶν ... δραχμῶν] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 63.5.4, 67.18.3, 76.2.6

⁴⁹ 'with pomp' (i.e. πομπικῶς): a pun on the name Pompey.

⁵⁰ 'triumphantly ... expectation': this is somewhat freely rendered: καταθριαμβεύω is missing
 from LSJ and Lampe; in Trapp it is translated as 'einen Triumphzug halten'/'im Triumph ein-
 herführen'/'lächerlich machen'.

⁵¹ 'three drachmas' worth': this was, as Metochites must have realised if he knew anything
 about ancient prices, too low a price for buying a slave and too high a price for renting a slave for

and by all acts and devices, and who at one time displayed urbanity and acted orderly and lawfully, ² at another time acted unsparingly and with every contrivance and trick, and who did not shrink from any danger (this is not only laudable for the dignity of the sentiment and the daring which it demonstrates, it is possibly even beyond all criticism)— ³ having, as I said, empowered this man more than he should have done and more than was expedient to himself and the state, Pompey was not able to check him, although he had in the meantime changed his mind about him and, seeing what was happening, he in vain repented what he had done. Therefore Pompey opposed Caesar and engaged him in battle; and so he realised that he had been abandoned by fortune, which had fostered him and exalted him to the highest degree. ⁴ And at last he understood that he was only doing harm to himself and to the freedom of the Romans, and that he was in every respect inferior to his enemy when it was a question of luck and of swiftness and daring— ⁵ he who so far (and this had been for a long period of time), had been the greatest of generals and the most active and fortunate of men: now, however, he loses everything and, because of people who earlier would have trembled had they but heard the name of Pompey, he is made a most miserable refugee in a foreign country. And the sea-sand mounds of Egypt were to cover the dead body of the man ⁶ whose great fame with *pomp*⁴⁹ had spread over and run through the whole of the inhabited world; the man whose name triumphantly and by the respect and admiration which it instilled had exceeded every prior expectation.⁵⁰ Now, however, he had no more left to him than if he had been a slave of three drachmas' worth⁵¹ who had been committed to the earth when dead.

13 Having been so elevated by fortune and by circumstances, Caesar now gloriously became the sole ruler of the enormous⁵² Roman empire, and he had thereby, he thought, achieved safety, since his opponents—in fact, everyone who was in any way able to oppose him—had been disposed of. ² And he had left only so much of the inhabited world outside of his

a day's work. However, this is clearly just a phrase. Parallels of a sort to this are 63.5.4 and 67.18.3, and 76.2.6, in which cases the expression is '(two or) three obols' worth'.

⁵² Cf. 67.10.1 and 14.2.

πραττόντων καὶ ἀντιπράττειν ὄλωσ ἔχόντων ἀνδρῶν· 2 καὶ τοσοῦτο λιπὼν
 τῆς οἰκουμένης ὑπ' ἀνθρώπων γῆς ἔξω τοῦ κατ' αὐτόν τε καὶ τὴν Ῥωμαίων
 ἀρχὴν κράτους, ὅσον βραχὺν εἶναι πόνον αὐτῷ καὶ βραχέος ἔργον χρόνου
 δουλώσασθαι, καὶ περινοῶν ἤδη τοὺς Πέρσας καὶ τοὺς Ἰνδοὺς καὶ εἴ τι λοιπὸν
 τῶν ἐψῶν, ἀφορμὰς θριάμβων, καὶ προσθήκην τῇ δόξῃ, 3 βραχὺν ἐπιβιώσας 5
 τῇ κατὰ Πομπηίου νίκη τὸν χρόνον, καὶ τοῖς λογισμοῖς τῶν ἐξῆς τροπαίων
 καὶ τῆς ἀσειστοῦ λοιπὸν ἀρχῆς καὶ τῆς εὐδαιμονίας, μετουπολὺ κατὰ μέσην
 ἐσφάττετο τὴν σύγκλητον προδεδομένος τάχιστα τῇ τύχῃ καὶ τῆς αὐτοῦ
 περινοίας παντάπασι ἀναξίως καὶ ἀσυνέτως καὶ ἀλογίστως κομιδῇ τῶν καθ'
 ἑαυτὸν ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν ὧν οὐκ ᾤθη ποτ' ἂν ὀλιγορηθῆναι· 4 καὶ καθιερεύετο 10
 παιζούσης τὰ εἰωθότα τῆς τύχης ὡσπέρ τι σφάγιον νόμιμον καὶ καλλιέρημα
 431 πρὸς | τοῖς ποσὶ τοῦ κατὰ τὸ βουλευτήριον ἀνδριάντος τοῦ Πομπηίου ἐστῶ-
 τος αὐτοῦ κατακαινόμενος αὐτὸς τῇ γῇ καὶ σποδοῦμενος καὶ φοιούσων
 τοῦδαφος, οὐπὲρ ἐκεῖνος ἀνεῖχεν, αἵμασι τοῖς αὐτοῦ, 5 ὁ πρὸ βραχέος ἄθλιον
 αὐτὸν διώκων Πομπηίου, καὶ τύχης ἐρημία πάση μανθάνων πρὸς ἐρήμοις 15
 ἀκταῖς Αἰγύπτου φονευόμενον καὶ θαπτόμενον, καὶ κατοικτιζόμενος τάνδρὸς
 τὴν δόξαν.

14 Ἀντώνιος δὲ μετὰ τὰς τοῦ Καίσαρος σφαγὰς ἐπὶ τῷ θανάτῳ τάνδρὸς
 τυραννεῖν Ῥωμαίων καὶ αὐτὸς ἐπεβάλετο, οὐδὲν αὐτῷ προσήκον ἢ ὅτι
 ταῖς αὐταῖς φιλαρχίαις ἔνοχος ἦν εὖ μάλα· 2 καὶ ἅμα δὴ τῷ τοῦ τεθνηκότος 20
 ἀδελφιδῶ τῷ νέῳ Καίσαρι τῶν Ῥωμαϊκῶν πραγμάτων μετὰ σφαγῶν καὶ τῶν
 μαιφονιῶν καὶ κακίστης ἀπάσης χρήσεως ἀψάμενος καὶ καταστασιάσας
 τὴν τοσαύτην ἀρχὴν, 3 καὶ περιγενόμενος αὐτὸς μάλιστα Βρούτου τὲ καὶ
 Κασσίου τῶν τοῦ Καίσαρος φονευτῶν μετ' ἀρετῆς καὶ δίκης καὶ λογισμῶν
 ἀντιταχθέντων σωφρόνων μεγάλους στρατεύμασι πολλῶ δευτερεύων τοῖς 25

20 ἔνεχος E, non leg. M 21 τῶν² om. M

11 παιζούσης ... τύχης] cf. Lyd. *De magistratibus populi Romani* 84.20sq. τοιοῦτοις τὸν Καίσαρα
 τῆς Τύχης ἐπὶ τριετῆ χρόνον διαπαιζούσης φρυάγμασιν | Niceph.Greg. *Hist. Rom.* 1.361.3sq. ἀλλὰ
 τῆς τύχης ... παιζούσης τὸν βίον ταῖς ἀμοιβαῖς et Id. *Epist.* 9.23 | Th.Met. *Carm.* 17.46sq. ἀπίστου
 τύχης ἀναντὰ τε κάταντὰ τε παιζούσης τ' ἀνθρώπεια πρήγμαθ' ἅπαντα

⁵³ 'perspicacity' (περινοίας): presumably in the sense that he should have foreseen what would
 happen.

and the Roman empire's control, that it would mean a small effort to him, and the work of little time, to enslave it, and he was already thinking about the Persians and the Indians and whatever other oriental peoples there might be, whether they might give occasion for triumphs and added glory. ³ However, he lived only for a short time after his victory over Pompey; and having had only little opportunity to give thought to the prospect of further triumphs and impregnable power and prosperity to be had in the future, he was very soon betrayed by fortune and slaughtered in the midst of the senate. This was done in a way wholly unworthy of his perspicacity,⁵³ and senselessly, totally without any consideration for his political importance,⁵⁴ and by men whom he would never have considered likely to slight him. ⁴ Thus, fortune playing its usual game, Caesar was immolated like some lawful and auspicious sacrificial animal, and he lay dead on the ground, at the feet of the statue of Pompey which stands in the senate building, and he was reduced to ashes, having sprinkled red with his blood the base on which Pompey stood— ⁵ Caesar, who shortly before had pursued this same unfortunate Pompey and who, on learning that this man had been totally abandoned by fortune and had been killed and buried on the desert shores of Egypt, had expressed compassion for the man because of his reputation.

¹⁴ Directly after the murder of Caesar, Anthony, too, tried to become tyrant of the Romans; this he did although he had no legitimate reason for this, only being very much guilty of the same wish for power. ² And together with the dead man's nephew, the young Caesar, he reached out for Roman leadership through murders and bloodshed and every most abominable practice, and he instigated civil war in this enormous empire. ³ And having great armies at his disposal, he was the chief means of defeating Brutus and Cassius, Caesar's murderers; these men opposed Anthony driven by virtue and righteousness and reason, and Anthony was much inferior to all these noble men,⁵⁵ who were fitted for command with regard to the

⁵⁴ 'totally ... importance': this is a hypothetical translation of the vague expression ἀλογίστως κομιδῇ τῶν καθ' ἑαυτὸν.

⁵⁵ 'to all these noble men': or 'to these noble men in everything' (which concerns the soul; cf. the following).

πᾶσιν αὐτῶν ἀνδρῶν εὐγενῶν καὶ στρατηγικῶν ἐν ἤθει φιλοσόφῳ ψυχῆς, 4
 διαλαγγάνει μετὰ Καίσαρος ἔπειθ' ἐξῆς καὶ διανέμεται τὰ ἴσα τῆς τοσαύτης
 τῶν ῥωμαϊκῶν πραγμάτων ἀρχῆς, καὶ δίχα διαιρεθείσης ἀπολαβῶν αὐτὸς
 432 τὴν | καλλίστην σχεδὸν ἀπόμοιραν αὐτοκρατορικῶς καὶ μοναρχικῶς ἀνέδην
 ἐπὶ τοσαύτῃ τῇ τύχῃ λοιπὸν 5 ὑβρίζειν ἤρχετο καὶ κατασωτεύεσθαι κομιδῇ 5
 τῶν τῆς ἀρχῆς πραγμάτων αἴσχιστα πρὸς τοὺς τῆς Αἰγυπτίας Κλεοπάτρας
 ἔρωτας ἀλογιστότατα φλέγοντας κατορχούμενος, καὶ καταπροπίνων ἀνδρας
 ἐπιφανεῖς καὶ βελτίστους καὶ τὰ τιμιώτατα τῆς μεγάλης ἐκείνης ἀρχῆς, ἐξ ὧν
 δὴ καὶ μετολίγον ἡττάτο κατακράτος, 6 τῷ Καίσαρι πρὸς μάχην ἀντικαταστάς
 ἀκαίρως ἅμα ταῖς τρυφαῖς καὶ τοῖς βλακώδεσι τῆς φαύλης γυναικὸς γοη- 10
 τεύμασι, καὶ καταπαιχθεὶς μᾶλλον, οὐ καταγωνισθεὶς, τῇ τύχῃ, 7 φυγὰς εἰς
 τὴν γυναικωνίτιν ἀντὶ στρατηγοῦ τοσοῦτου καὶ αὐτοκράτορος μυριαριθμοῖς
 μάχαις καὶ νίκαις ἐνακμάσαντος, ταῖς φίλαις ἀγκάλαις τῆς καταπροδοῦσης
 αὐτὸν γυναικὸς ἐκλείετο κτεινόμενος, πάσης ὀλιγωρίας καὶ τωθασμοῦ
 πρᾶττων ἄξια. 15

15 Καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐκ Ῥωμαίων ἡμῖν κοινῇ τε καὶ ἰδίᾳ τοσαῦτα· καὶ ἰκανῶς ἂν
 ἴσως ἔχοι τῇ προθέσει προσμαρτυρεῖν καὶ πιστοῦσθαι τὰ ἐξαρχῆς λεγόμενα· τί
 γὰρ ἔτ' ἂν εἴη πλειῶν κατακαιρὸν καταριθμεῖσθαι, πλεῖστα μὲν οὖν ἔχοντας καὶ
 ὡς ἀληθῶς οὐδ' ἀριθμεῖσθαι ῥάδια; 2 Ἄτὰρ δὴ καὶ παρ' Ἑλλήνων προφέρειν
 433 μὲν ἔχομεν ἔτ' ἐνταῦθα πάνυ τοι πλεῖστα, κάκ τούτων δ' ὅμως | ἐπὶ τοῖς 20
 εἰρημένους χρησόμεθα, καὶ προσθήσομεν ἄττα δὴ, μὴδὲ γὰρ κἀνταῦθα ῥάδιον
 μήθ' ὅλως οἶον τ' εἶναι ὥσπερ οὐδ' ἐπ' ἐκείνων τὰ πάνθ' ἐξῆς φέρειν, ἢ
 μάλιστα πλεῖσθ' ὅσα δὴ τῷ νῦν σκοπῷ τε καὶ λόγῳ· 3 αἰρούμεθα δ' ἐκ τούτων
 νῦν εἶναι τῶν ἐθνῶν, ἐκ πάντων ὅμως ἔχοντες ταῦτά προφέρειν, καὶ μηδὲν

2 ἴσα M 10 τοῖς P et fort. M, ταῖς E 12 γυναικωνίτιν PME pro γυναικωνίτιν 16
 ἡμῖν: -μί- (ν) s.l. add. P 18 κατὰ καιρὸν πλειῶν M 22 μηθ' sine accentu P 24 ταῦτά:
 ταῦτά M, ταῦτα E

⁵⁶ 'Caesar' here and in § 6 refers to the younger Caesar, i.e. Octavian.

⁵⁷ 'freely sacrificed': or 'squandered (poured out)'; Greek καταπροπίνων (which is translated as 'preisgeben' in Trapp, with Metochites as only source; the word is missing from LSJ and Lampe; see, however, προπίνω = 'give freely'/sacrifice' etc. LSJ).

⁵⁸ 'inopportunist' (ἀκαίρως): or 'at the wrong moment.'

philosophical disposition of their souls. ⁴ And so from now on, together with Caesar,⁵⁶ he partitions and divides the enormous Roman empire into equal parts; and the division being done he took what might be considered the best share to rule over it like an emperor; and, having had such luck, he acted without restraint like a king, ⁵ and he began to misuse and simply to squander the resources of the empire in a most shameful way. This he did because he was insane and most injudiciously felt a burning love for the Egyptian Cleopatra; and he freely sacrificed⁵⁷ the most famous and best of men and the most precious possessions of that great empire. Because of this he was soon utterly vanquished, ⁶ and after having inopportunately⁵⁸ opposed Caesar in battle and being affected by the luxury and the indolent charms of the evil woman, he was cheated rather than defeated by fortune. ⁷ And as a fugitive, being no longer the great general he had been and the imperator who had prevailed in countless battles and victories, he locked himself up in the women's apartment and killed himself in the fond embrace of the woman who had betrayed him, thereby committing an act infinitely worthy of criticism and scorn.

15 So much for the public and private matters of the Romans: this will be enough to prove the argument and to give credit to what was said at the beginning.⁵⁹ For what more would it be necessary to recount, even if there is, indeed, very much which could be told, indeed an innumerable amount? ² But we have also very much more to bring forward on this matter taken from the Greeks, and we will use material from them as well for the present discussion, and we will make some additional notes pertaining to them, although even in their case, as with the Romans, it is not easy—indeed, not at all possible—to bring forth everything or even most things with relevance to the present purpose and argument. ³ In the present case we choose examples from these peoples,⁶⁰ even though we could quite as well provide the same evidence and not less from any other people. For men everywhere encounter the same situations; and these situations re-

⁵⁹ Cf. the title of the essay: 'That it often happens that ill fortune, no less unexpected than hard to bear, strangely and very swiftly follows upon the greatest accomplishment and success'.

⁶⁰ I.e. the Greeks and Romans.

ἦττον· ἐπὶ πάντων γὰρ ὁμοίως τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων ὡσαύτως ταῦτα συμπτώματα
καὶ γνώμαις καὶ ἤθεσι καὶ ταῖς τῆς τύχης ἀλογίστοις καὶ ἀβεβαίοις φοραῖς καὶ
μεταφοραῖς, ⁴ τοῦτο μόνον ἐστὼς ἐχούσης κατὰ πάντων ἀνθρώπων κοινὸν τὸ
παρὰ πᾶσιν ὡσαύτως ἀνίδρυτον, καὶ μήποτε μηδέ τινα τρόπον ὅλως πιστόν τε
καὶ ἄσειστον· ⁵ αἰρούμεθα δ' οὖν ἐκ τούτων ὅτι τὰ τῶν Ἑλλήνων καὶ Ῥωμαίων ⁵
ἡμῖν μάλιστα παρέπεμψεν ἢ φωνῇ συνήθης, κἀντεῦθεν ἔχομεν χρῆσθαι
τιμῶντες τοὺς ἱστοροῦντας καὶ συγγραφομένους ἄνδρας ἐκ μακροῦ φίλους
καὶ πολλῶν ἀγαθῶν εὐεργέτας ἡμῖν, καὶ τῆς περὶ τὴν γλῶτταν εὐγενείας καὶ
χάριτος, κἀν τούτῳ δὴ τιμῶντες, ἔοικε, τὸ μνήμης ἀξιοῦν καὶ λόγου τὰ παρ'
αὐτῶν ἱστοροῦμενα. ⁶ Ἐπεὶ βουλομένοις καὶ παρ' ἄλλων ἐθνῶν χρῆσθαι ¹⁰
ῥᾶσ' ἔξεστι χρῆσθαι· καὶ οὐ λέγω πάλαι μόνον καὶ ἂ τῇ μνήμῃ πόρρωθεν
τηρεῖται καὶ ταμιεύει πᾶσιν ἔθνεσιν ὁ χρόνος, ἀλλὰ καὶ νῦν ὡς ἔστιν ἐκάστοτε
καθορᾶν καὶ οὐποτ' ἐλλείπει τῶν χρόνων πᾶσα πίστις τοῖς νῦν λεγομένοις
⁴³⁴ ἐκ πάντων ἐθνῶν οἷς ξυλλαγχάνειν ἔχομεν, ⁷ καὶ καθορᾶν καὶ μαν|θάνειν τὰ
σφέτερ' αὐτῶν ταῖς αὐταῖς ἀγωγαῖς καὶ παραπλησίαις ἐπὶ πάντων ἀνθρώπων ¹⁵
τὲ καὶ πραγμάτων ἐνεχόμενα, καὶ οὐδὲν μᾶλλον οὐδ' ἦττον τοῖσδε ἢ τοῖσδε,
καὶ οὐδὲν μᾶλλον οὐδ' ἦττον ἐν τοῖς πρότερον χρόνοις ἢ τοῖς νῦν, ⁸ αἰρούμενους
ἐκ τοῦ ἀδοκῆτου πάντας ἀνθρώπους εἰς μέγα ταῖς ἀτεκμάρτοις τῆς τύχης
πεττεῖαις ἢ παιδιαῖς, καὶ ξυμπίπτοντας αὐθις αὐτόθεν ἢ ταῖς αὐταῖς ἀλογίαις
καὶ βασκανίαις ὡς εἰπεῖν τῆς τύχης ἢ ταῖς σφετέραις αὐτῶν νόσοις καὶ ὕβρεσιν ²⁰
αἱ δὴ καὶ μάλιστ' εἰώθασιν ἐπὶ ταῖς εὐπραγίαις ἔπεσθαι, καὶ μάλιστ' ἐπὶ ταῖς
μάλιστ' εὐπραγίαις καὶ πλεῖν ἢ κατ' ἐλπίδας ἀνθρώπων ἔπεσθαι. ⁹ Καὶ τὰ
μεγάλα γὰρ ἔργα καὶ αἱ ἀπὸ τῆς τύχης κατὰ τὸν βίοτον εὐφορίαὶ πεφύκασιν
ὡς ταπολλὰ τὰς ἀνθρωπίνας ἐξιστᾶν γνώμας καὶ τρέπειν εἰς ὕβρεις καὶ στάσεις
ἐντεῦθεν καὶ φθορᾶς πάντως ἀποτελευτήσεις. ²⁵

16 Ἄλλ' ἵνα μὴ μηκύνω τρίβων ἐνταῦθα, φέρε δὴ καὶ τὰ παρ' Ἑλλήνων
ἐπισκεπτέον· εἰσὶ μὲν οὖν ἅπαντα τὰ κατὰ τοὺς Ἑλληνας ἔξαρχῆς ὀλίγα τῇ

1 ξυμπτώματα M
partim ex P² legi

9 τὸ: τῶ M

17 αἰρούμενους E et fort. M

26 Ἑλλήνων (sic M)

⁶¹ 'as ... time': this is to translate ὡς ἔστιν ἐκάστοτε καθορᾶν καὶ οὐποτ' ἐλλείπει τῶν χρόνων, of which especially the second half (καὶ οὐποτ' ἐλλείπει τῶν χρόνων) is vague.

⁶² 'games and sport' (πεττεῖαις ἢ παιδιαῖς): more precisely, πεττεῖα is a kind of backgammon (cf. modern-day τάβλι).

quire judgement and character, and all men are in the same way subject to the irrational and uncertain actions and vicissitudes of Fate. 4 This is indeed the only thing which is common to all men with regard to Fate: that it is equally unstable for all, and that it never and in no way is completely trustworthy and unshakeable. 5 The reason why we choose examples from the Greeks and Romans is that matters pertaining to these peoples are what our common tongue has mostly transmitted to us, and we can use these examples and thereby pay reverence, at a distance, to their historians and writers as to our friends and benefactors in many respects, and also show our gratitude for a noble and graceful language; we also, as it would seem, pay reverence to them by deeming their stories worthy of remembrance and attention. 6 For anyone who wants to use examples from other peoples as well, can do so most easily, and I do not by that mean examples from the past only and such as time has preserved by memory for a long time and kept in store for all peoples: now, too, as can be seen in each case and all the time,⁶¹ everything said can be corroborated by examples from all peoples with whom we come into contact. 7 And it can be noticed and learnt that human matters are subject to the same or similar rules among all people and in all situations, neither more nor less so in some cases than in others, and neither more nor less in earlier times than today. 8 For all people who are unexpectedly promoted to greatness by the baffling games and sport⁶² of Fate, are once more immediately stricken by the same irrational processes and, so to speak, by the envy of Fate, or by their own insanity and insolence, which indeed is most wont to follow upon success, and especially upon that greatest kind of success which surpasses human hope. 9 For it is natural that any great deed or success in life brought about by Fate should in most cases upset the human mind and turn it towards abuse, and from there to strife and final destruction.

16 However, so as not to spend too much time on this point, let us consider Greek matters. In earliest times, all Greeks are living in small circumstances, and they do not distinguish themselves by any far-reaching political power, such as might, to quote the proverb, *fill cart-loads*; nor are they great and strong and bursting with obvious vigour; nor do they spread over the inhabited world, or excel among the majority of men. 2 But

τύχη καὶ μὴ μεγάλοις τοῖς ἐκ τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ ἄμαξιαίοις¹ δὴ τισι κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν τοῖς ὄγκοις καὶ μεγέθεσιν εὐσωματοῦντα καὶ σφριγῶντα σαφῶς ἐπὶ τῆς οἰκουμένης καὶ κατὰ πολλῶν ἀνθρώπων ἀκμάζοντα. ² Ἡ δὲ κατὰ τὸ
 435 εὐπραγεῖν ὁμως ἕξις καὶ | τοῦναντίον ἐπίσης πέφυκε δείκνυσθαι, καὶ τάνά-
 λογον ἔχειν ἐν μεγάλοις τε καὶ μικροῖς τοῖς πράγμασι, καὶ τὸ εὐτυχῶς φέρεσθαι ⁵
 καὶ εὐδαιμονεῖν, καὶ αὐτὸ πάλιν πράττειν ἀθλίως, ἐφ' οἷς ἔτυχεν ἕκαστος ξυνεῖναι
 τοῖς κατὰ τὸν βίον ὅπως ἄρ' ἔχει μεγέθους, ὁράται· ³ καὶ τοίνυν ἐφορωμένοις
 γε πᾶσιν ἕξεσθαι, οἶμαι, λογίζεσθαι καὶ τὰς ἐν μικροῖς πράγμασι καθ' Ἑλληνας
 ἢ κατ' ἄλλαττα τῶν ἐθνῶν χορείας ἐν ἀστασίᾳ συνήθεις καὶ μεταβολὰς
 ἀμέλει τῆς τύχης μηδὲν ἦττον ἢ καὶ τὰς ἐν μεγάλοις πράγμασι παρ' ἄλλοις ¹⁰
 ἀναδειχθείσας ἕθνεσι.

17 Λακεδαιμόνιοι μὲν οὖν εὐθὺς μετὰ τὰ Περσικὰ πρωτεύειν ἐπιβαλόντες τῶν Ἑλλήνων καὶ τῆς κατ' αὐτοὺς ἀρχῆς μεταποιοῦμενοι καὶ τῶν κατὰ θάλατταν πραγμάτων ἀπτόμενοι τῶν μὴ προσηκόντων σφίσι ἐδόκουν
 τάχιστα τοῖς Ἑλλησιν ἀντιποιεῖσθαι· ² καὶ καθ' ἑαυτοὺς εὐνομούμενοι καὶ ¹⁵
 ζῶντες ἐν κόσμῳ, καὶ σωφρονικῶς τε καὶ μετρίως εἰ δὴ τις καὶ ἄλλη πόλις τῶν
 ἐλληνίδων, τὰ κοινὰ τῶν Ἑλλήνων καὶ τὸ μετὰ τῶν πολλῶν συνεξετάζεσθαι καὶ
 προῖστασθαι πολλῶν ἐωρῶντο παντάπασι ἀναρμόστως ἔχειν καὶ ἀνικάνως
 αὐτοὶ πεφυκέναι. ³ Ταῦτ' ἄρα τῷ Πausανίου κόμπῳ κατὰ τῆς ἐλληνικῆς
 436 ἐλευθερίας καὶ τῆς μανιώδει χρήσει τῶν πραγμάτων | καὶ ὕβρει τὴν ἡγεμονίαν ²⁰
 ἀφῆρουντο τῶν Ἑλλήνων, καὶ τῆς μὲν ἀληθείας πάνυ τοι μὴ κατὰ γνώμην
 αὐτοῖς ὄν, ἀλλ' ἄκοντες, ⁴ ἐδόκουν δ' ὁμως τὸ μέρος καὶ αὐτοὶ γ' ἐκόντες
 συντίθεσθαι καὶ τῆς προστασίας τῶν Ἑλλήνων Ἀθηναίοις ὑπεξίστασθαι,
 ὡς ἄρ' ἀλυσιτελὲς ὄν αὐτοῖς εἰς τὰ κοινὰ Λακεδαιμονίοις, καὶ ἀληθῶς γε
 τοῦτο, τοὺς τῆς Σπάρτης νομίμως κατὰ Πausανίαν, καὶ τοὺς ἐξ Ἡρακλέους ²⁵
 ἐπὶ ῥητοῖς ἀρχοντας, μείζονος ἐπιστατεῖν τύχης καὶ κράτους ἢ κατὰ τοὺς
 τεταγμένους ἐν σφίσι ὄρους.

16 τε om. M

17 τῶν² om. M

24 ἄρ' ἀλυσιτελὲς: ἀραλυσιτελὲς ME

1 ἄμαξιαίοις] cf. Phryn. *PS* (epitome) 43.5 ἄμαξιαία ῥήματα: μεγάλα, ἃ φέροι ἂν ἄμαξα, οὐκ ἄνθρωπος ἢ ὑποζύγιον | Prisc. *Fr.* 1b.31 ἄμαξιαίους λίθους | Eudox. *Fr.* 318.3 γόγγυρος ... ἄμαξιαίους
 2 μεγέθεσιν εὐσωματοῦντα] cf. Plu. *Qu. conv.* 641A.5 εὐσωματεῖ τοῖς μεγέθεσι

⁶³ 'that the lawful ... Heracles': or 'those who ruled Sparta lawfully under Pausanias and who,

the attitudes displayed in success and under the opposite conditions are, perhaps, wont to show themselves to be of the same kind and analogous under great as well as small circumstances; and one may notice that a happy and prosperous life as well as its opposite, a wretched life, is possible in whatever station of life a person may happen to be. ³ And to all observant people it is, I think, quite as fruitful to contemplate the changes and vicissitudes of fortune touching the Greeks or any other people living in small circumstances (vicissitudes of the kind which is common under uncertain conditions), as to contemplate the vicissitudes of great matters, occurring among other peoples.

17 Now, directly after the Persian wars the Spartans made a bid for power among the Greeks, and they strove for sovereignty over the rest; they even occupied themselves with naval matters and, in doing so, they were instantly looked upon by the Greeks as having undue aspirations. ² For though the Spartans maintained law and order in their own state and lived in an orderly manner with as much display of temperance and moderation as any Greek city, they seemed to be wholly unfit and unable by nature to oversee the common matters of the Greeks and to preside over many—if they had to do so in cooperation with many others. ³ Therefore, and because of Pausanias' arrogance, which constituted a threat against Greek liberty, and because of this man's mad handling of the situation and his insolence, the Spartans were deprived of the leadership over the Greeks. And although this was not in fact in accordance with their wishes and they withdrew grudgingly, ⁴ even they themselves seemed to some extent willing to cooperate and to give up the role as protectors of the Greeks to the Athenians. This they did in admittance, as was right, of the fact that it was against the common interests of the Spartans themselves that the lawful rulers of Sparta, led by Pausanias, and those who by agreement had inherited the power from Heracles,⁶³ should be in charge of a greater fortune and a greater realm than that defined by their own borders.

18 After the Spartans, the Athenians took the lead in Greek politics and started to rule; and for some time they seemed to be intent on a policy

having inherited this from Heracles, were Sparta's acknowledged rulers'.

18 Ἀθηναῖοι δὲ μετὰ Λακεδαιμονίους τὰ τῶν Ἑλλήνων δεξάμενοι
 πράγματα καὶ τὴν ἀρχὴν μέχρι μὲν δὴ τινος ἐδόκουν κοινωνικοὶ τινες εἶναι
 καὶ δεξιῶς πεφυκέναι πρὸς τὴν ἀρχὴν τῷ ταχεῖ τὲ τῆς γνώμης καὶ δραστικῶ
 καὶ ἅμα χαρίεντι καὶ φιλοκοίνῳ τῶν ἠθῶν καὶ τῶν πολιτευμάτων, ἀλλ' οὐκ
 ἀήθει μὴδ' ἰδιοπραγοῦντι κατὰ Λακεδαιμονίους·² εἶτα τῆς τύχης ἐπιδιδούσης 5
 αὐτόθεν αὐτίκα λοιπὸν ἤροντο μέγα φρονεῖν καὶ στασιάζειν πρὸς ἑαυτοὺς
 ὡς ἔθος ἀτεχνῶς τοῦτο πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις καὶ φύσεως ἀπαραίτητον ὡς εἰπεῖν
 ἀμάρτημα·³ καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἐπιτηδέους, καὶ ὧν ἄρα προνοεῖν τάσφαλές καὶ
 τὴν ἐλευθερίαν ἦν σφίσι τὸ πρόσχημα, ὕβριζον, ἀηδῶς παντάπασι χρώμενοι
 437 καὶ ὅσα δυοῖν | ἢ τριῶν ὀβολῶν ὠνητοῖς ἀνδραπόδοις·⁴ ὥστε καὶ συνῆψαν 10
 ἅπαντας τάχιστ' ἐφ' ἑαυτοὺς καὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφείντο καθάπαξ καὶ τῶν πεζῶν
 στρατευμάτων, καὶ προὔκειτο τοῖς ἐκ Πελοποννήσου καὶ Βοιωτίας καὶ πάσης
 Ἑλληνικῆς ἢ ἄττικῆς καταδρομῆς χώρα ἀρπάζειν, κάειν, πάντα φθείρειν
 τρόπον, μέχρι καὶ τῶν προπυλαίων αὐτῶν τῆς πόλεως ἀγρῶν.⁵ Αὐτοὶ δὲ
 καθάπαξ ἑαυτοὺς τῇ θαλάσῃ καὶ ταῖς ναυσὶν ἐπίστευον, ὡς οὐκ ὄν αὐτοῖς 15
 ἄλλως βιώσιμον, κἀνταῦθα δὴ μέχρι τινὸς ἀντισχόντες, ἢ καὶ πλέον ἴσως
 τῶν ἐναντίων φερόμενοι τοῖς σωφρονικοῖς συμβούλοις ἀγόμενοι,⁶ ἔπειτ'
 αὐθις ὡς ἐπέδωκαν τῇ ὕβρει, καὶ παρέδωκαν σφᾶς αὐτοὺς ταῖς ἀλογίστοις
 γνώμαις καὶ διεφθορόσιν ἀνθρώποις καὶ μὴδὲν ἐχούσαις μέτριον ἐπιβολαῖς,
 καὶ περιενόουν τὰ μὴ προσήκοντα, μὴδ' ἀσφαλείας ἐχόμενα, μὴθ' ὄλως πρὸς 20
 τὰς ἀποτυχίας τῶν ἐπιχειρήσεων καὶ τῶν ὀρμῶν ἀφεώρων, εἰς τοὺς ἐσχάτους
 κατέστησαν κινδύνους·⁷ καὶ τοσαῦτ' ἐδυστύχησαν, ὥστ' εἴ τις ἂν προὔλεγε
 περὶ αὐτῶν, ὡς ἄρα τοσαῦτα παθεῖν οἴοι τ' εἰσὶ καὶ μάλ' ἀρκοῦντες, οὐκ ἂν
 438 εἶχε τοὺς πειθομένους, οὐδ' ἐδόκει τὰ ὄντα λέγειν, ἀλλὰ πόρρω δὴ μάλιστα
 φύσεως ἔργων τὲ καὶ δυνάμεως.⁸ Τελευτῶντες δὲ μὴ μόνον τὰς ἀρχὰς 25
 καὶ τὸ πρωτεύειν ἀπώλεσαν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὴν ἐλευθερίαν αὐτὴν καὶ τὰ τεῖχη

10 δυεῖν M

12 fort. scrib. Πελοποννήσου

18 παρέδωσαν M

10 δυοῖν ... ὀβολῶν] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 63.5.4, 67.18.3, 76.2.6

⁶⁴ 'to be had ... obols': if ὠνητός, here translated as 'to be had', indeed means 'that may be bought' (so LSJ), rather than 'rented', then the expression is at least careless (cf. 67.12.6 as well as 63.5.4 and 76.2.6).

of common understanding and to be naturally fit to rule; this seemed so because of their quickness and efficacy of judgement as well as the pleasantness of their character and of their institutions, and the love for the common good which their character and their institutions displayed; all this was different from the strangeness and idiosyncrasy of the Spartans. ² However, when after some time their fortune suddenly increased, the Athenians were exalted and started to give themselves airs and, as happens to well-nigh all people and is, so to speak, an unavoidable innate fault, they engaged in party-strife against each other. ³ And they subjected their closest friends to injury as well as those whose security and freedom they pretended to protect, and they treated these people most odiously, indeed like slaves to be had for two or three obols.⁶⁴ ⁴ Therefore everyone else quickly united against the Athenians, who were completely excluded from their countryside and from the opportunity to use land armies; and the lands of Attica as far as the fields by the city gates lay completely open to incursions and to being pillaged and burnt and destroyed by people from the Peloponnese, Boeotia, and the whole of Greece. ⁵ Hence the Athenians had to put all their trust in the sea and their ships, and this turned out to be their only way to ensure their living and, being guided by wise counsellors, they resisted thus for some time—perhaps even longer than their enemies had thought possible.⁶⁵ ⁶ They further engaged in wanton violence and they gave way to senseless whims and were led astray by corrupt people; and they engaged in attacks without measure, planning actions which were unjust and not consistent with their own safety; and they did not see to the risk of failure of their enterprises and their efforts, thus exposing themselves to the utmost danger. ⁷ And they met with so much damage that, had someone predicted that they would be able to suffer this, yet still endure, he would have had no one to believe him; he would not even seem to speak about real circumstances, but about matters far indeed from that which does happen and which can happen, in accordance with nature. ⁸ Finally they not only lost their power and their supremacy, but even liber-

⁶⁵ 'perhaps ... possible': this is a tentative translation of the difficult πλέον ἴσως τῶν ἐναντίων φερόμενοι.

κατασκάψαντες χερσίν οἰκείαις τῆς πόλεως ἐξ ἐπιτάγματος Λακεδαιμονίοις ἐδούλευον, καὶ ἐτυραννοῦντο κακίας ἐξαιρέτοις ὀλίγοις ἀνθρώποις ἀφ' ἑαυτῶν· 9 καὶ πολλοῖς τῶν τραγωδῶν ἀφορμὰς θρῆνων καὶ δραμάτων ἐμπαθῶν ἐχορήγησαν, θαυμασθέντες καὶ περιλαληθέντες οὐχ' ἦττον ταῖς συμφοραῖς ἢ τοῖς πρὶν κατορθώμασι τῆς τύχης τὲ καὶ τῆς γνώμης καὶ τῆς χειρός. 5

19 Λακεδαιμόνιοι δ' αὖθις ἐπὶ τῶν ἑλληνικῶν πραγμάτων γενόμενοι καὶ μετὰ πλείονος παρρησίας καὶ κράτους ἀκμαιότερον ἄρχοντες καὶ αὖθις ἦσαν ἐν τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἀναιδεῖς μάλιστ' ἀνθρωποι καὶ ἀποπεφυκότες τῷ ἄρχειν καὶ ἀμειδεῖς καὶ αὐθάδεις, 2 καὶ θρασύτερον εἶχοντο τῆς ἀρχῆς καὶ βί' ἀνέδην, καὶ τυραννίδι τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἐπειρῶντο, καὶ ὕβριζον πλεῖν ἢ πρότερον κατὰ 10 τῆς αὐτῶν ἐλευθερίας, καὶ ταῖς φαύλαις καπηλίσι σοφοῖς ἀνδράσιν εἰκάζοντο κομψότερον, 3 ὡς ἄρα καλλίστου τὴν ἀρχὴν καὶ ἐν προοιμίῳ ἐγγέαντες τοῖς Ἑλλῆσι τῆς ἐλευθερίας ἀπ' Ἀθηναίων καὶ γεύσαντες πόματος, εἴτουν ὀνόματος 439 καὶ χρήσεως ἐπιθυμουμένης, 4 εἴτα δολίως μετεκίρωνν σφίσι ξένην | καὶ ἐκτροπιάν καὶ δριμύτατον οἶνον δουλώσεως καὶ βίας, μάλιστ' ἀλογοῦντες καὶ 15 πάσης ὑπερφρονοῦντες δικαιοσύνης καὶ ἰσότητος καὶ διοικήσεως εὐγενοῦς. 5 Καὶ διεβέβληντο μὲν Κορινθίοις τὸν αἰεὶ πρότερον χρόνον πιστοτάτοις καὶ φίλοις ἀνδράσιν, ἐμισοῦντο δ' Ἡλείοις, ἐμισοῦντο δ' Ἀχαιοῖς· κατ' Ἀργείων δ' ἐστράτευον· κατεῖχε δ' ἐν παρόδῳ παρὰ πᾶσαν δόκησιν τὴν Καδμείαν Φοιβίδας, καὶ τυραννικὴν δουλείαν καὶ πολέμους ἀπαύστους κατὰ Θηβαίων ἐπε- 20 τίθεντο, καὶ πάντα πράγματα συνελόντ' ἐρεῖν κατὰ πάντων Ἑλλήνων βιαίως ἐκίνουν· 6 καὶ μερισθέντες δι' Ἀγησιλάου πόρρω τῶν οἰκείων ἐπ' Ἀσίας κατὰ βαρβάρων στρατεύματ' ἔπεμπον, καὶ στόλους θαλάττης καὶ ναυμαχίας καὶ

3 καὶ¹ bis exhib. P, in fine paginae et in initio paginae sequentis, corr. ut vid. P² 8 ἀνθρωποι E et in rasura P, non leg. M 14 μετεκίρωνν p.c. P¹ME, κατεκίρωνν a.c. PME (i.e. in textu ka- et s.l. με- P¹ME) 15 δριμύτατον M

19 κατεῖχε ... Φοιβίδας] cf. Plu. *Ages.* 23,3 ἐπεὶ γὰρ Φοιβίδας ἔργον εἰργάσατο δεῖνον ἐν σπονδαῖς καὶ εἰρήνῃ τὴν Καδμείαν καταλαβών, καὶ πάντες μὲν ἠγανάκτουν οἱ Ἕλληνες et Id. *Pel.* 15,6 Φοιβίδας ὁ τὴν Καδμείαν καταλαβών et Id. *De gen. Socr.* 575F.9sq. ὡς οἱ περὶ Ἀρχίαν καὶ Λεοντίδην Φοιβίδαν πείσαντες ἐν σπονδαῖς καταλαβεῖν τὴν Καδμείαν | *Aristid. Λευκτρικὸς* a p. 409.29 (Jebb) εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Φοιβίδας παριῶν καὶ κατέλαβε τὴν Καδμείαν et Id. *Λευκτρικὸς* β p. 427.9sq. (Jebb)

ty itself, and having by command had to tear down the walls of their city with their own hands, they were made into slaves under the Spartans, and a select body of evil men from their own ranks came to rule over them as tyrants. 9 This gave the impulse to many of the tragedians to write laments and passionate dramas; and the Athenians were wondered at and talked about no less for their misfortunes than for their earlier achievements which had been due to Fate or to the work of their minds or their hands.

19 However, when the Spartans had regained their control over Greek politics and ruled again with greater confidence and with a more vigorous display of power, they proved, as before, to be reckless to the highest degree and without any natural disposition to rule, as well as merciless⁶⁶ and self-willed. 2 And they held on to power in a rasher way [than before],⁶⁷ and by outright violence and a display of tyrannical behaviour they made life difficult for the Greeks and they committed worse offences against the liberty of these than before. Hence they were compared rather wittily by wise men to simple tavern-keeping women, 3 as if they first and as an introduction had poured out and given the Greeks a taste of the very best drink of freedom from the Athenians, or at least had hinted at its name and benefit; when, however, the Greeks had developed a taste for this,⁶⁸ 4 the Spartans had treacherously poured out the sour and turned and most bitter wine of enslavement and violence to them, ignoring and to the highest degree disdaining every kind of righteousness and equality and noble treatment. 5 Therefore the Spartans were spoken ill of even by the Corinthians, who in all earlier times had been most loyally and amicably disposed towards them; and they were hated by the Eleans, and they were hated by the Achaeans; they went to war against the Argives; and in passing, Phoebidas, contrary to all expectations, occupied the Cadmean city;⁶⁹ and they subjected the Thebans to tyrannical slavery and unceasing wars; and, in short, they made every effort to attack all Greeks violently. 6 They were

⁶⁶ 'merciless': ἀμειδέϊς (LSJ: 'not smiling'/'gloomy').

⁶⁷ 'in a rasher way [than before]': or 'most rashly'.

⁶⁸ 'or ... this': the translation is somewhat tentative, and I have consciously refrained from changing the punctuation of the mss.

⁶⁹ The Spartan general Phoebidas occupied Thebes on personal initiative in 382 BC.

τόλμας ταύτας καὶ πράξεις ὄντως ἀξιολόγους ἐπὶ Πέρσας ἐνόμιζον ὑπὲρ τῶν Ἑλλήνων, 7 μήποθ' ἱκανῶς ἔχοντες ἀμφοτέρω καὶ κατ' αὐτῶν φιλονεικεῖν καὶ ὑβρίζειν καὶ ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν κατὰ τῶν κοινῶν ἐχθρῶν μάχας ἀνηρησθαι καὶ νίκας, 8 ἐξ ὧν δὴ καὶ τάχιστ' αὐθις ὑψωθέντες τέως ὡς οὐποτε πρότερον, οὐ τῶν πραγμάτων μόνον ἐξέπιπτον καὶ παρηροῦντο τὴν ἀρχὴν αὐθις, ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῖς 5 ἐσχάτοις αὐτοῖς ἐκινδύνευον καὶ περὶ τοῦ ὅλως εἶναι καὶ βιοῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποις. 9 Ἐγένοντό τε ἐπ' Ἀγησιλάου καὶ τῆς αὐτοῦ βασιλείας μέγιστοι τῶν τότε 440 καὶ αἰεὶ πρό|τερον Ἑλλήνων ἀπάντων, καὶ μεγαλοδοξότατοι, καὶ μέγιστ' αὐτίκα τηνικαῦτ' ἔπταισαν, καὶ μικροῦ παντάπασιν ὦλοντ' ἂν ἐξ ἀνθρώπων μετὰ τὴν ἐν Λεύκτροις Θηβαίων κατ' αὐτῶν ἀδόκητον νίκην καὶ μεγίστην 10 τῶν ἑλληνικῶν 10 καὶ μέγιστον πτώμα τῇ Σπάρτῃ καὶ τοῖς Λακεδαιμονίων ἐνεγκοῦσαν πράγμασι ὑπὸ τῆς Ἐπαμεινώνδου φιλοτιμίας καὶ φιλονεικίας ἐπαρθέντος τολμήμασι μεγίστοις κατὰ τῆς Λακωνικῆς καὶ μίσει καὶ φθόνῳ κατ' αὐτῆς ἀπάντων τῶν Ἑλλήνων ὑπερβαλλόντως φλέγοντι.

20 Καὶ μὴν ἔπειτ' αὐθις λαμπροὶ ταῖς εὐτυχίαις ἤροντο Θηβαῖοι, καὶ 15 ταχεῖς ὑπερεφρόνουν ἑαυτούς, καὶ τὰ τῶν Ἑλλήνων ὑπεποιοῦντο καθόλου, καὶ μέτριον οὐδὲν λοιπὸν ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς, καὶ κατεγελῶντο μᾶλλον τῆς τόλμης ἢ ἐβασκαίνοντο, 2 καὶ ἄηθες ἐδόκει πρᾶγμα καὶ χλεύης ἄξιον, Θηβαῖοι τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἀρχικῶς ἀντιποιοῦμενοι· καὶ ἦν μὲν αὐτοῖς πλέον ἐντεῦθεν οὐδὲν ἢ ὅτι συνήπτοντο πάλιν ἐπ' αὐτούς Ἀθηναῖοι καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ πάντες 20 Ἕλληνας. 3 Καὶ πολὺς οὐκέτι πῶ χρόνος ἐξῆς καὶ Φίλιππος ἐπιφύεται τοῖς Ἕλλησι καὶ τὰ μὲν ἀπάταις καταστασιάζων καὶ κατεπιορκῶν αὐτούς, τὰ δὲ καὶ στρατηγίαις ὑποποιοῦμενος, λανθάνει τὸ κράτος τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ ποιησάμενος 441 ὕφ' ἑαυτῶ· καὶ πρῶτοι | μάλιστα τῶν ἄλλων Ἑλλήνων Θηβαῖοι κακῶς ἔπραττον, καὶ βίσιον ἐπικινδυνότατον ἤγον. 4 Καὶ Φίλιππος αὐτὸς ὑβρίσας μάλιστα 25

12 φιλονεικίας καὶ φιλοτιμίας P, sed litteris β et α supra φιλονεικίας et φιλοτιμίας positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. φιλοτιμίας καὶ φιλονεικίας 17 κατεγελῶντο P et ut vid. M, καταγελῶντο E

9 ἐξ ἀνθρώπων (§ 9)] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 64.1.4 12 φιλοτιμίας ... φιλονεικίας] cf. Plu. Ages. 23.6.5sq. ἀλλὰ τῇ φιλοτιμίᾳ καὶ τῇ φιλονεικίᾳ πολλαχοῦ συνεκφερόμενος (sc. Ἀγησιλαός) et Ibid. 33.1

70 'ambition and zeal' (φιλοτιμίας καὶ φιλονεικίας): the juxtaposition of φιλοτιμία and φιλονεικία

also dispatched by Agesilaus to places far from their homes, and they sent land armies and expeditions by sea to Asia against the barbarians, and they won renown for sea-battles on behalf of the Greeks and for daring acts of this kind and for truly remarkable feats performed against the Persians. ⁷ It was thought that, perhaps, they would be able to do both: to compete with and maltreat the other Greeks, as well as to fight wars and win victories on their behalf against the common enemy. ⁸ However, being elevated at this time as never before, they very soon afterwards not only lost their role in politics so as to be deprived of their power once again; they were even subjected to the utmost peril and had to fight for their very existence and life among men. ⁹ Under Agesilaus and his reign the Spartans had become the most powerful and most renowned of all Greeks—of that time and of all earlier times; but they also committed the gravest mistakes at that very point and, after the Thebans' unexpected victory over them at Leuctra, the most spectacular ever in Greek history, they were close to total extinction. ¹⁰ This victory inflicted the greatest loss on Sparta and Spartan politics; and it was due to the ambition and zeal⁷⁰ of Epaminondas who had been provoked to action against Laconia by the Spartans' most shameless misdeeds and by the hatred and ill-will against Sparta which burnt exceedingly strong.

²⁰ After this, the Thebans were exalted to glory by a lucky stroke of fortune, and they were quick to overrate themselves whereas on the whole they underrated the other Greeks; and they showed no moderation, and they were derided rather than criticised for their daring. ² It appeared a strange matter, worthy of derision, that the Thebans should make pretensions to rule over the Greeks; and nothing was achieved by the Thebans, except that they made the Athenians and the Spartans and all Greeks unite once more in order to turn against them. ³ A short time after this, however, Philip attacks the Greeks, and partly by using fraud and by spreading dissent and by fooling them into committing perjury, partly by military campaigns, he tries to subject them; and thus he manages to bring Greece

occurs in Plutarch (as also in some other writers), and in Plutarch twice in *Agesilaus*, one of Metochites' likely sources for this essay.

κατὰ τῆς Ἑλλήνων ἐρημίας καὶ στασιώδους ἀγωγῆς, καὶ μέγιστα λοιπὸν ἦδη περινοῶν, καὶ ταῖς τοῦ υἱοῦ ὀρμαῖς καὶ τόλμαις αὐτὸς τὰς ἀρχὰς ὑποθέμενος ἄτε κατὰ νοῦν αὐτὸς παραπλήσια θέμενος, ἐκτείνεται κακὸς κακῶς ἐν συμποσίοις μέσοις, ἀξίως τῆς τοῦ βίου βακχείας καὶ ὕβρεως. 5 Καὶ πρῶτον Ἀλεξάνδρου λοιπὸν στρατήγημα Θηβαίων πανώλεια καὶ κατασκαφαὶ καὶ μηλόβοτον σφίσι 5 θέσθαι τὴν χώραν οὐ πόρρω πάνυ τοι τῶν κατ' αὐτοὺς εὐτυχημάτων καὶ τοῦ μεγάλου φρονήματος ἐπὶ ταῖς Ἐπαμεινώνδου στρατηγίαις καὶ τῇ μεγάλῃ δόξῃ.

21 Καὶ πάντ' ἐναλλάξ τὸν αἶε τοῦ βίου χρόνον ἀνθρώποις περιχορεύει· ἐκ ταπεινῶν ὑψοῦνται δὴ τινες, ἢ ξυντυχίᾳ δὴ τινὶ ἢ καὶ γνῶμης καὶ ἀρετῆς δὴ 10 τινος κράτει, 2 κἀντεῦθεν αὐθις ἢ βασκανία τινὶ τύχῃς ὡς εἰπεῖν καὶ ἀλογιστία καὶ ἀπιστία, ἢ μάλισθ' ὑβρίζοντες (καὶ τοῦθ' ὡς τὰ πολλὰ πέφυκεν ἐπὶ ταῖς εὐπραγίαις ἀνθρώπινον ἀμάρτημα) καὶ κατασωτευόμενοι καὶ ἀσελγαίνοντες ταῖς εὐπραγίαις, καὶ ἢ ἀνευλαβῶς, ἢ ἀμελῶς λοιπὸν χρώμενοι, καὶ νοσοῦντες 442 ὑπ' ἀπληστίας τὲ καὶ ἀπειροκαλίας, 3 καταστρατηγηοῦν|ται καὶ πίπτουσι 15 μέγιστα καὶ χαλεπώτατα πτώματα βασκανίαις ἐφέδροις καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους στασιασμοῖς καὶ τῶν ἀρπαζόντων τἀλλότρια κακὰ πρὸς τὸ παρακερδαίνειν ὀπηοῦν λαθραῖαις καὶ φανεραῖς ἐπαναστάσεσι καὶ ἀντιπράξεσιν.

‘Ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ὄλως ἐν ἀνθρώποις ὁμοφροσύνη· ΞΗ’

1 Πάνυ τοι θαυμάζειν ἔπεισί μοι καὶ ἅμα ἀνιᾶσθαι συννοουμένῳ, πῶς οὐκ ἔστιν 20 ὄλως ἀνθρώποις συμφωνία περὶ τοῦ καλοῦ, ἀλλ' ἄλλος ἄλλως κρίνοντες ἰδίᾳ πάντες πρὸς ἅπαντας, πολλακίς δὲ καὶ πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ἄλλως ἢ ἕκαστος πρότερον ἢ μεθύτερον, καὶ μὴδ' ἑαυτῷ συμφωνῶν, 2 μεγάλα πράγματ' ἀλλήλοις ἐντεῦθεν παρέχονται καὶ ἀντιπράττουσιν ἀλλήλοις ἐν λόγοις καὶ πᾶσιν ἔργοις,

2 αὐτὸς M et s.l. P², αὐτὰς P¹ 9 ἐναλλάξ E, non leg. M 10 δὴ¹ om. M 22 ut vid. ἕκαστος ad ἡ¹ s.l. add. P² (vide introd. 2.5, p. xxxix), om. P¹M (i.e. exhib. ἢ πρότερον etc.)

¹ ‘as is the case with every individual’: this is in order to translate P²'s slightly awkward addition of the word ἕκαστος (‘each’) above the line.

under his control without anyone noticing, the Thebans being the first of the Greeks to fall into trouble and to meet with the greatest danger. ⁴ Yet Philip himself, who had acted most injuriously against the separate and divided Greek communities, and who had the greatest plans in store for the future, and who had himself laid the foundations of the expeditions and daring achievements of his son by entertaining similar thoughts on his own—this Philip, an evil man, was meanly killed in the middle of a feast, in a way worthy of the frenzy and the insolence of his manner of living. ⁵ And the first military feat of Alexander was the complete destruction and devastation of everything in the country of the Thebans, so as to make it the grazing-ground for sheep; this was done while their successes were not distant and while their great pride in the military achievements of Epaminondas and in his great reputation was still alive.

21 Thus everything in human life is subject to constant change: some people are elevated from humble stations, either by chance or by the force of their mind or their virtue, ² and from this position these same people, be this so to say by some envy of Fate or by neglect or distrust, or because of an outrage committed by themselves (this is a common human error in success: that one becomes profligate and overweening by it, and either handles it inconsiderately or outright carelessly, becoming insane by one's own insatiate desire and want of discretion)—³ these people are outwitted and fall very heavily. And thus they become victims of treacherous envy and of seditions which turn men against men, and of the secret or manifest rebellions and counteractions of those who steal even what is bad from others in order to have an unjust gain.

68. That there is no agreement whatsoever among men

1 It strikes me as surprising and, when I think about it, worrying that there is no agreement whatsoever among men on the nature of the good; instead, everyone makes his own separate judgement, different from everyone else's, and often, too, different (as is the case with every individual)¹ from his own judgement at an earlier or later time; and thus he does not

καὶ δυσχεραίνουσι καὶ πάντ' ἐπιτιμητικῶς τίθενται καὶ εὐθύνουσι κομιδῇ
καὶ κακηγοροῦσι τὰ πραττόμενα, ³ καὶ ἀντὶ τοῦ συμπράττειν ὁμονοοῦντες
καὶ συναίρεσθαι τῇ προκοπῇ τῶν ἀγαθῶν ἐκάστοτε καὶ βελτίστων ἐπὶ
τοῖς ἀνθρωπίνοις καὶ κοινοῖς πράγμασι, τάναντί' ἀλλήλοις αἰροῦνται καὶ
ἀντιφέρονται, ⁴ καὶ ἡ κατολιγωροῦσιν ἐπὶ ταῖς τῶν καλῶν ἐνεργείαις πᾶν ⁵
443 τὸ γιγνόμενον οὐκ ἀποδιδόντες ὡς ἄρα καὶ μάλιστ' ὀφείλεται καὶ ἐχρῆν
ἕκαστον, ἢ καὶ στασιάζουσιν ἀνέδην καὶ καταστρέφουσιν, ἢ παντὶ τρόπῳ
κολούουσι, τὸν τοῦ καλοῦ δρόμον καὶ τὴν εὐετηρίαν διὰ τὰς πρὸς ἀλλήλους
καὶ πρὸς αὐτὸ γνώμας ἀσυμφώνους καὶ φιλονείκους ἀντιθέσεις, ἢ τὸ γε
δεύτερον τὸ ἀνεπιμέλητον αὐτοῦ· ⁵ πρὸς δὲ πάντων ἅπανα σπουδῇ πρὸ πάντων ¹⁰
ἄλλων πραγμάτων ὀφειλόμενόν ἐστιν, ἤπερ ἔφην, καὶ πάντα συναίρεσθαι, καὶ
πάντα τρόπον ἐπειγεσθαι, μεθ' ὁμοφροσύνης πάσης καὶ ζήλου καὶ ῥαστώνῃ
χρώμενον καὶ καμάτου παντὸς μὴ φειδόμενον, ἵνα μηδὲν προσκόπτῃ μηδ'
ἐπέχηται τὰ λυσιτελῆ τῷ βίῳ καὶ ἐκάστοις ἐκάστοτε βέλτιστα καὶ κατὰ καιρὸν
ἐπίχρεια. 15

2 Ὁ μάλιστ' ἐν τῷ βίῳ καὶ κατ' ἀνθρώπους ὁρᾶται, καὶ τὰγαθὸν ἀμ-
φίβολον τοῖς πολλοῖς ἐντεῦθεν δοκεῖ καὶ ἀσύνετον, ὥστε καθάπαξ καὶ ὄλο-
σχερῶς αὐτῷ χρῆσθαι. ² Καὶ οὔτε λόγοι σοφῶν ἀνδρῶν πάλα τε καὶ ἴσως
μηδὲν ἦττον νῦν εἰς τοῦτο δύνανταί τι καὶ πείθειν ἔχουσι καὶ καταλύειν
τὰς ἀπαύστους τῶν πολλῶν στάσεις εἰς τοῦτο καὶ φιλονεικίας καὶ μάχας, ²⁰
³ καὶ καταλλάττειν τοὺς ἀντιφρονοῦντας καὶ ἀντιπράττοντας καὶ πλείστα
δὴ μεριζομένους εἰς τὴν ὁμογνωμοσύνην τῆς ἐπιμελείας τὰγαθοῦ καὶ τῶν
καθόλου κοινῶς συνοισόντων καὶ πραττομένων πᾶσαν, εἰ μέλλει καλῶς ἔχειν
444 τὰνθρώπινα, καὶ παρὰ πάντων σπουδῆν καὶ σύμπραξιν. ⁴ Οὔτ' ἀρχόντων |
ἐπιτολαὶ καὶ δόγματα συνάπτουσιν εἰς τὴν περὶ τοῦ καλοῦ νομοθεσίαν, οὐδ' ²⁵
ὁμοφροσύνην ἐμποιοῦσι καὶ κοινωνίαν συνέσεώς τε καὶ ἐπιμελείας περὶ
τῶν καθόλου καλλίστων καὶ κοινῇ βελτίστων· ἀλλ' ἀνήγυτα σπουδάζουσιν

² ὁμονοοῦντας E, non leg. M
P¹ non constat

¹³ προσκόπτῃ: -σ- s.l. P

²⁷ βελτίστων M, -v add. P², de

² I.e. that there is no agreement among men.

agree with himself even. ² Since this is so, people give each other great trouble and they oppose each other by words and all kinds of deeds, and they are displeased with and critical about everything, and they censure and speak ill of whatever is accomplished. ³ And instead of working together in concord and in each case jointly taking part in the promotion of what is good and most expedient in matters of common interest to mankind, they choose opposite stands and fight each other. ⁴ And either do they demonstrate neglect when doing good works, and do not give their best in each case, as is indeed most fitting and what everyone should do; or they outright revolt and destroy, or by every means curtail, the progress of the good and its chances to thrive. This they do by expressing opinions which are in conflict with each other and not in accordance with the good; they also do it by relentless competition or, worse, by a lack of interest in what is good. ⁵ For as I said, to the good more than to anything else is due the total dedication of everyone, and one should do everything to ensure this, striving for it in every way and in complete unanimity with everyone else, and with all zest; and one should strive for it with a light hand, sparing no effort in order to keep that from stumbling or being obstructed which is useful in life and most expedient to everyone in each case and suitable to every occasion.

² That this is so² is most evident in human life, and therefore what is good seems uncertain to most men, and it seems impossible completely to understand once and for all how to deal with it. ² And neither words of wise men in the past nor, perhaps, any more so words of wise men of today, can achieve anything on this account: they do not have the power to persuade and to dissolve the unceasing strife of the many about this matter, and their rivalries and fights. ³ Nor are they able to reconcile those of opposite minds and those who act against each other and who are very much divided in their opinion on how the good should be observed and what will be useful to the community as a whole and what will bring forth zeal and help from everyone, as is necessary if human society is to function well. ⁴ Nor does the ascendancy of leaders or their decisions conduce to a [proper] legislation concerning the good, nor instil concord and a common understanding and care about what is best in general and most expe-

ἔλκοντες, ⁵ καὶ σύνδεσμον γνώμης εἰς τὸ καλῶς καὶ ὁμοῦ ξυνέπεσθαι τοὺς ἀρχομένους οὐχ' οἷοι τ' εἰσὶ κατασκευάζειν, ἐπιτάττοντες οὐδὲ συντάττειν εἰς μίαν ἕξιν ταυτογνωμοσύνης καὶ εὐπειθείας τοῦ καλοῦ. ⁶ Ἄλλ' ἄλλην μὲν ἄδουσι ἐξ ὑπερτέρων συμφωνίας ἀρχὴν οἱ προϊστάμενοι τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ τὴν δικαίωσιν τῆς ἀρχῆς αὐτοὶ μάλιστ' ἔχοντες καὶ τῶν βελτίστων ἴσως ⁵ ἐπιτυγχάνοντες, οἱ δ' ἄλλην ἀντάδουσι, καὶ ἄλλος ἄλλην ἀσύμφωνον πρὸς τὸν ἀρχοντα καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους, ⁷ τοῦτο μόνον συμφώνως, ὅτι μὴ πείθονται μὴδ' ἔπονται τοῖς καλοῖς καὶ οἷς νόμιμον καθάπαξ πείθεσθαι καὶ ὡς ἔνι μάλιστα σπουδῇ πάσῃ ξυνέπεσθαι εἰ ὀπηροῦν μέλλοιεν καλῶς πράξειν καὶ περιγενέσθαι τῆς τῶν πραγμάτων κατὰ φύσιν ἀοριστίας εἰς τάγαθόν καὶ περὶ τὰ φαῦλα ¹⁰ μάλιστα ῥοπῆς. ⁸ Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ πάντ' ἄνω καὶ κάτω χωρεῖ, καὶ κατελέγχονται παραληρεῖν οἱ περὶ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ διδάσκαλοι· κατελέγχονται δὲ παραληρεῖν ⁴⁴⁵ ὡσαύτως οἱ τὰς ἀρχὰς ἐκάστοτε πιστευόμενοι· ⁹ καὶ ταῖς | ἁμαρτίαις τῶν μὴ πειθομένων αὐτοὶ κακῶς καὶ ἀδίκως ὑπ' ἄλλων ἕξωθεν κρινόντων, καὶ αὐτῶν ἴσως ἐνίστε τῶν μὴ πειθομένων μὴδὲ ξυνοπομένων, ἐνέχονται, καὶ ὧν οὐ ¹⁵ δύνανται, οὐδ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖς ἐστὶν οὐδ' εἰσὶν αἴτιοι, τὰς εὐθύνας ὑπέχουσι καὶ κακῶς αὐτοὶ πράττουσι, ¹⁰ καὶ κακῶς ἀκούουσιν ἐφ' οἷς ἡδικοῦντο, καὶ ὧν τὴν ἐναντίαν ἠπείγοντο καὶ πάσαις ἐπείχον καὶ ἀντέπραπτον γνώμαις καὶ χερσὶ, τὰς ἀποπερατώσεις κατηγοροῦνται, καὶ τῆς ἄλλων ὀλιγωρίας καὶ ἀλογίας τῶν βελτίστων, καὶ ἀλογίας ἑαυτῶν, διώκονται· καὶ δίκας ἀποφέρονται τῶν ²⁰ ἐναντίων τῆς γνώμης, ¹¹ καὶ ὧν ἔφευγον ὄλη ῥύμη κρίσεως καὶ βουλῆς, καὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔχουσι δύναμιν αὐτοὶ, δίκας πράττονται τῆς φθορᾶς καὶ τὴν ἀτευξίαν ἔχουσι ἔγκλημα μέγιστον.

3 Τυραννικὴ δ' ἐνταῦθα δυναστεία καὶ τὸ βιαίως ἔλκειν καὶ ἄκοντας εἰς τάγαθόν, καὶ τὸ συμπράττειν τὰ χρήσιμα καθόλου τὲ καὶ ἰδί' ἐκάστοις ἴσως ²⁵ μὲν ἂν δόξειε κατὰ καιρόν, ἴσως δ' οὐ περὶ τὴν ἐπιμέλειαν τοῦ καλοῦ καὶ

22 ἀτευξίαν: ἀταξίαν in textu et ev s.l. P¹M, aliquid illegibile add. s.l. P² 26 οὐ scripsi: οὐ PME

³ Presumably the leaders.

⁴ 'the good' (τοῖς καλοῖς): or 'the good people'.

⁵ I.e. since they do not follow what is good.

⁶ This paragraph is difficult and the translation tentative.

⁷ 'victims': i.e. of the foul play of others.

⁸ 'lack of achievement': P as well as M have here ἀταξίαν, i.e. 'disorder', in the text, a reading

dient for the community; but endlessly do they³ strive to drag people along 5 and, although they try to command, they are not able to create a bond of common opinion, so as to make the subjects follow their leaders orderly and as one troop; nor are they able to unite them in one identical opinion and in obedience to the good. 6 But those who are in charge of matters and who are most justified to rule and who, perhaps, are qualified to achieve the best, sing, from their high position, one melody in praise of concord; and the others sing in answer, and everyone sings to his own melody and at variance with the leader and the rest. 7 The only thing they have in common is that they do not obey nor follow the good;⁴ nor do they obey that to which by law they ought to show unconditional obedience and which they ought to follow with the greatest possible zeal, if they were to be successful in any respect and overcome the natural uncertainty in matters as to what is good, and especially if they were to overcome their inclination for worthless things. 8 For this reason⁵ everything is turned upside down, and the teachers of good are accused of madness, as are also those to whom the power is severally entrusted. 9 And⁶ by the sins of those who do not obey others (people who perhaps never obey or follow others) and who judge from the outside, they are themselves in an evil and unjust way made subject to accusations, and they are brought to justice and fare badly even because of those things outside their competence which are not their sake or responsibility. 10 And they get a bad reputation when they themselves are the victims,⁷ and even in cases where they have been supporting the opposite opinion [to the prevailing one] with every argument and means, they are made responsible for the outcome; and they are prosecuted on account of other people's neglect and lack of consideration and for their own lack; and they are condemned for that which stands in direct opposition to their actual opinions. 11 Thus they are brought to justice, and the greatest accusation is wielded against them for their lack of achievement⁸ and the catastrophic outcome of matters from which they have tried to escape with the whole force of their judgement and their will, and over which they have no power themselves.

3 Since this is so, it would seem like a tyrannical exercise of power to drag unwilling people along even if it is towards the good. It would perhaps

συνοίσοντος βιάζεσθαι, καὶ ἅ δὴ καθ' αἶρεσιν, ἀναγκαστῶς γίγνεσθαι· 2 καὶ
 οὓς μὲν ἐκόντας ἔχει τις εὖ ποιεῖν καὶ μάλ' ἠδομένους, τῷ παντὶ βέλτιον, καὶ
 πολὺ γ' εὐτυχῆς τῷ πρυτανεύοντι καὶ διοικοῦντι· οὓς δὲ μὴ οὕτως ἔχει τις,
 446 ἀλλ' ἄκοντας καὶ βία καὶ μάλιστ' ἀντιτείνον|τας εἰς τὰ λυσιτελοῦντα, 3 δόξειε
 μὲν ἂν καὶ αὐθις τοῦτο φιλανθρώπου γνώμης καὶ τὸ καλὸν ἐκ παντὸς τρόπου 5
 σπευδούσης, καὶ μάλιστ' εἰ τῷ κοινῷ φέρον εἴη τοῦτ' ὄνησιν καὶ συντέλειαν
 εἰς πολλῶν εὐπραγίαν καὶ πολιτικὴν εὐεξίαν εἰς τὰ καθόλου πράγματα. 4 Οὐ
 μὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ οὕτως ἐργῶδες σφόδρα καὶ παγχάλεπον ἀνῦσαι· καὶ σώματα
 μὲν ἄνθρωποι πεφύκασι δουλοῦσθαι καὶ ἄκοντες ὃ τί ποτ' ἂν ὑφίστασθαι,
 γνῶμας δὲ καὶ λογισμῶν καταθέσεις καὶ συμφωνίας οὐ μάλαι τοι· ταῦτ' ἄρα 10
 καὶ ἄκοντες καὶ μάλ' ἀλγοῦντες οὐκ εἰσὶν ἐπιμελεῖς ἐνεργηταὶ τοῦ καλοῦ, ὁ
 μεθ' ὅτι πλείστης ἐπιμελείας οὐκ ἄλλως ἐστὶν ἀνύσιμον, 5 καὶ προφάσεως
 πάσης ξυμπιπτούσης οἷα δὴ καθόλου τάνθρώπινα, καὶ ἦν οὐκ ἂν ὑπίδοιτό τις
 καὶ τῶν πάντα σοφῶν προνοεῖν καὶ κατευστοχεῖν ἐν ἀδήλοις, αὐτὶκ' ἄνθρωποι
 τρέπονται, καὶ μάλισθ' ἐτοιμότατα πρὸς τὰ χεῖρω· 6 καὶ πολλὴ γὰρ ἡ περὶ τὰ 15
 φαῦλα σχεδὸν πάντων ἀνθρώπων ῥοπή, καὶ πλεονεκτεῖται πολὺ μάλιστα τοῖς
 κακίοις τὰ βέλτιστα πάνυ τοι κατὰ τῆς ἡμετέρας φύσεως, δυναστεύουσι τῷ
 ἐπαγωγῷ καὶ μειλίχῳ τῆς χρήσεως. 7 Καὶ τίς ἂν ἰατρὸς πάντας ἄκοντας ἰᾶσθαι
 δύναιτο, καὶ πρὸς τάναντία φερομένους καὶ χαίροντας, ἢ φανερώς, ἢ μάλιστ'
 ἀφανῶς τε καὶ κλέπτοντας; 8 Ἡ τίς ἂν κυβερνήτης πάντας τοὺς ἐν τῷ σκάφει 20
 447 κατατυραννῶν οἷος τ' | εἴη μόνος αὐτὸς ἢ καὶ ξὺν ὀλίγοις κομιδῇ τὸ σκάφος
 τὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς ἄγειν ὡς βέλτιστα, ἢ ἀκινδύνως; Ἡν δὲ καὶ ἀντιπράττειν ἀνέδη
 καὶ διαπληκτίζεσθαι πρὸς τὸν ἄγοντα πλείους ὄντες ὁρμῶσι, τί τίς ἂν δράσαι;
 9 Οὐ γὰρ ῥάδιον ἐπὶ πάντας δεσμοὺς καὶ πέδας ἄγειν· εἰ γὰρ καὶ βουλήσεται

1 post δὴ (sic E, non leg. M) aliquid illegibile s.l. add. P¹ ut etiam P² 3 τις: τίς M 13
 ἦν: ἦν in app. conl. M-K 16 πάντων σχεδὸν M 18 χρήσε<ε>ως ut vid. per comp. P (cf.
 66.3.7) 23 τις PME ut vid. pro τις

18 Καὶ τίς ἂν ἰατρὸς etc.] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 66.5.1sqq.

which both have corrected into ἀτευξίαν (i.e. 'lack of achievement').

⁹ 'though this is not so': I am uncertain as to the meaning of οὐ μάλαι τοι here.

¹⁰ I.e. because of the human unwillingness to submit to labour.

¹¹ For the combined metaphor of the doctor/physician and the captain and his ship, cf. 66.5.1–

seem opportune to help everyone generally and individually to achieve what is useful, not, however, to force anyone to pay attention to what is good and what will be expedient, and to make that happen by compulsion which should be done by free choice. ² If some are willing and delighted to be helped by another, so much the better for everyone; this is indeed a fortunate case for the ruler and administrator alike. But if some have to be helped against their will and by force, and if they even fight against that which is to their own profit— ³ to help them then would seem to be the work of a philanthropic mind, a mind which in every way strives for the good, especially so if this may bring some gain to the community and contribute to the welfare of many and to good political conditions generally. ⁴ But even so it is very hard and most difficult to accomplish anything, and as to their bodies, men are born slaves and unwilling to submit to any labour (though this is not so⁹ when it comes to giving opinions and arguing and reaching agreements). For this reason¹⁰ men are unwilling to do what is good and they will only do so if they have to experience a lot of pain, and they take no real care to do what is good, since this can only be achieved with the greatest application and in no other way. ⁵ And when, as is likely to happen in human life, anything which may serve as a pretext presents itself—a matter which not even any of the all-wise could have envisaged or made a wholly correct guess about in this our state of uncertainty—then men at once and most willingly head for the worse. ⁶ For the tendency of almost all men towards the bad is great, and the best is indeed very much at a disadvantage as compared to the worst, which, to the detriment of our nature, prevails by being so attractive and charming. ⁷ What physician¹¹ would be able to cure all those who are unwilling and who let themselves be carried along in the opposite direction, either openly, or in most cases unnoticed and by stealth, and are glad to let this happen? ⁸ Or what captain would alone, or with only a few men, be able to control everyone in his ship by force, and to conduct the ship and those onboard in the best way, or at least without danger? And what could anyone do if the men

4. Here, however, it is employed on a particularly pessimistic note, since, in the present case, Metochites takes for granted that orders may not always be obeyed.

καὶ πειράσεται, ἴσως οὐ χαιρήσει, ἀλλὰ πολὺ μᾶλλον αὐτὸς πρότερος κλαιήσει καὶ εἴσεται μαινόμενος καὶ πράττων ἑαυτῷ κίνδυνον. 10 Οὕτω πολὺ δυσχερὲς καὶ τὸ βία καὶ τυραννικῶς ἄγειν εἰς τὰ βέλτιστα· καὶ τὸ πειρᾶσθαι τὸν τρόπον τοῦτον οὐ μόνον ἐστὶ καματηρὸν καὶ ἀνήνυτον ὄντως ἐπιχειρεῖν, ἀλλὰ καὶ σφόδρ' ἐπικινδυνότατον πειρωμένῳ.

4 Καὶ καθόλου γε παντάπασι δυσμεταχείριστον μεταποιῆσαι γνώμας ἀνθρωπίνας καὶ ἀντοικῆσαι καὶ ἀντισταγαγεῖν χρηστὰς ἀντὶ φαύλων, καὶ δόγματ' ἀφανίσει προενόντα ταῖς ψυχαῖς οὐκ ὀνήσιμα, καὶ ἀποκλύσασθαι τῷ καθαίροντι καὶ καινοποιοῦντι τῆς διδασκαλίας ῥυπτικῷ τρόπῳ· 2 καὶ ἰσχυρῶς ἔσται μᾶλλον Αἰθίοπα, μετὰ τῆς παροιμίας, ὡς ἀδύνατον τοῦτο προβαλλομένης, ἢ χρώματα μεταλλάττειν ψυχῶν γνωστικά, καὶ τρόπων ιδιότητος ἀλλοτρίας τοῦ καλοῦ, δι' ἀμαθίαν ἢ φιλονεικίας ἀκαιρίαν, 3 καὶ ἰσχυρῶς ἀλλάττειν τὰ κατὰ τοῦ δέρματος ποικίλματα, καὶ τοῦτ' ἀδύνατον μετὰ τῆς παροιμίας 448 ἐπεὶ γέσθαι, ἢ πολυστρόφους καὶ ποικίλους καὶ παντοίους λογισμοὺς ἀνθρωπίνους μεταποιεῖν εἰς ὁμοιογενῆ μίαν δὴ τιν' ἕξιν, καὶ διοικεῖν εἰς 15 τᾶμεινον, καὶ καθιστάνειν ὁμαλότητα κοινωνικὴν ἀνθρωπίνους ἤθεσι καὶ διαθέσειν εἰς τάγαθόν. 4 Ἔστι μὲν γε καὶ καθόλου δυσθήρατον τάγαθόν, καὶ οὐ τοῦ παντός, οὐδ' εὐρεῖν ῥάδιον ἐν τε τῇ θεωρίᾳ τῶν ὄντων, καὶ πολὺ μᾶλλον ἐν τοῖς κατὰ τὸν βίον πρακτέοις, κοινῇ τε καὶ ἰδίᾳ. 5 Καὶ τοίνυν οὐδ' ἐντεῦθεν οὐ μικρὸν ἔργον ὁμόνοιαν ἐγγίνεσθαι καὶ ὁμοφροσύνην ἀνθρωπίνους λογισμοῖς, 20 ἄλλων ἄλλα κρινόντων καὶ ψηφίζομένων ἐπὶ τῷ δυσλήπτῳ τοῦ πράγματος, καὶ τιθεμένων καὶ μετατιθεμένων ἅττα δὴ, καὶ περιτρεπόντων τἀλλήλων. 6 Καὶ τοῦτο πάντως οὐ παρ' αὐτό γε μονοειδὲς ὄν καὶ φύσει μάλισθ' ἀπλοῦν, ἀλλὰ παρὰ τἀνίκανον ἡμῶν, καὶ ἴσως τῶν μὲν μᾶλλον, τῶν δὲ καὶ ἥττον. 7 Ἄν

1 χαιρήσει: -ει P², sed sic ut vid. etiam P¹ κλαιήσει: -ει P², sed sic ut vid. etiam P¹ 3 βία: -α P², fort. -ο P¹ 9 ἰσχυρῶς PE pro ἰσχυρῶς, non leg. M 19 οὐ om. M (vide introd. 2.2.1, p. xxviii) 22 ἅττα ut vid. P, sed non certe leg. (fort. ἄ- P¹ et ἄ p.c. P²), ἅττα ut vid. E, non leg. M

9 ἰσχυρῶς ... Αἰθίοπα] cf. Plu. Ἐκλογή περὶ τῶν ἀδυνάτων 7 | Luc. Adv. Indoc. 28.13sq. Οἶδα ὡς μάτην ταῦτά μοι λεληρηται καὶ κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν Αἰθίοπα ἰσχυρῶς ἐπιχειρῶ | Suda AI 125 Αἰθίοπα ἰσχυρῶς: ἐπὶ τῶν μάτην ποιούντων | Greg.Naz. Contra Iul. imp. 1 (4), 35.584.34sq. (PG) οὐδὲ γὰρ εἶχε φύσιν ἢ πάραδαιν ἀποθέσθαι τὸ κατάστικτον, ἢ Αἰθίοπα τὸ μέλαν 12 πάραδαιν ... ποικίλματα] cf. supra Greg.Naz. Contra Iul. imp. 1 (4), 35.584.34sq. (PG)

on board, being more numerous, rushed forth and opposed their captain openly and assaulted him? 9 For it is not easy to lay chains and fetters on everyone. And even if the captain wants to and tries to do this, he may not be successful; it is much more likely that he will be the first to come to grief and that he will realise that he is mad and exposing himself to danger. 10 Thus it is very difficult to guide anyone towards the best even with violent and tyrannical methods, and to try this does not only mean undertaking something laborious and truly ineffectual; it is also very dangerous to the person who does so.

4 On the whole it is most difficult to change human convictions and to implant and establish good ones instead of bad and make unprofitable persuasions disappear which have existed earlier in people's souls, washing them away with the cleaning and renewing method of purification called teaching. 2 *It would*, according to the proverb, *be easier to wash an Ethiopian white* (this is put forward as an impossible thing) than to change the shades of perception of souls and the peculiarities of a character which, either because of ignorance or inopportune ambition, is alien to what is good. 3 And [it would be easier] *to change the ornaments of the leopard's skin* (this too is an impossible pursuit according to the proverbial expression) than to transform the much-twisted and variegated and manifold human thoughts into a state of harmony, so as to bring about their betterment and establish a common ground for the human character and a common disposition towards what is good. 4 For the good is on the whole hard to catch, and it is not in everyone's possession; nor is it easy to find by contemplation of things being, and even less so when in the midst of active life, publicly or privately. 5 And even so it would be no¹² little thing for concord and agreement to take root in the minds of men, since everyone makes his own judgement and casts his vote without understanding the matter at hand, arranging and changing and upsetting what others have done. 6 However, this is certainly not due to the matters themselves which are uniform and rather simple by nature; it is due to our lack of ability,

¹² The Greek text of P has here a double negation which is somewhat problematic (cf. the introduction, 2.2.1, p. xxviii).

δ' ἄρα καὶ προσπαθείαις τισιν ἐχώμεθ' ἐκάστοτε καὶ νοσοῦντες αὐτοὶ λοιπὸν
 ἔπειτα προσαπτώμεθα, καὶ πολυτρόπως καὶ συχνὰ προσκόπτοντες χωρώμεν
 καὶ τῶν πραγμάτων πειρώμεθα, καὶ πολλοῖς ἐπηλυγαζόμενοι τοῖς ἐπιτειχίζουσι
 449 παθήμασι φιλονεικῶμεν | ὡς ὀρώντες εὖ μάλα, 8 τίς ἱκανὸς ἐνταῦθα διδάσκειν,
 τίς προδεικνύειν τὰ βέλτιστα καὶ χειραγωγεῖν, τίς ὁμοφροσύνην τῶν ὄντων τὲ 5
 καὶ χρησίμων ἐμποιεῖν; Ἰλήκοις τῷ τοιούτῳ βίῳ, 'δέσποτ' ἀλεξίκακε καὶ σῶτερ
 τῶν κακῶν ἀποτρόπαιε'.

Ἔστι πολὺ νοσοῦσι ταῖς προσπαθείαις ἄνθρωποι καὶ οὐκ
 ὀρθῶς ὀρώσιν· ΞΘ'

1 Αἱ δὲ περὶ τὰς κρίσεις προσπάθειαι πολὺ τάληθές ἀδικοῦσι, περὶ τε τὰ 10
 πρακτέα κοινῇ τε καὶ ἰδί' ἐκάστοις, καὶ περὶ τὴν τῶν ἀνθρώπων βίασανον, καὶ
 πολὺν ἐμποιοῦσι ταῖς γνώμαις καὶ τῇ τῆς διανοίας ἐποπτεία τὸν πλάνον, ὥστε
 μὴ κατ' ὀρθὸν φέρεσθαι καὶ τοῦ καιρίου τυγχάνειν. 2 Ὄθεν δὴ καὶ πράττειν
 αἰροῦνται τάναντία πολλὰκις ὧν δέοι ἂν καὶ ὦναιτ' ἂν πράττοντες ἄνθρωποι,
 καὶ φεύγουσιν ἀμεταστρεπτὴ καὶ ρύμη πάσῃ φιλονεικοῦντες, ἐνίοτε καὶ 15
 ἀντιταττόμενοι πρὸς τοὺς ἐπέχοντας, ὧν μάλιστ' ἀντιποιητέον ἐστὶν αὐτοῖς,
 καὶ σπουδῇ πάσῃ καὶ πόνοις πᾶσιν ὡς οἶον τέ ἐστιν ἐπιμελητέον, πάντα κάματον
 ἀνθαιρουμένους ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν. 3 Πράττουσι δὲ ταῦτα, μᾶλλον δὲ πάσχουσι,
 ἐκπίπτοντες τοῖς λογισμοῖς, ἠττώμενοι φιλίαις τισὶ καὶ οἰκειότησι καὶ συν-
 450 ηθείαις ὀλκαῖς ἀρπαζούσαις, | καὶ τούναντίον ἔριδι, φθόνοις, φιλονεικίαις 20
 ἀκαίροις, μαχίμοις προλήψεσι, καὶ οἷς ἄλλοις παραπλησίοις ἐκάστοτε. 4 Καὶ
 ξυνορᾶν ταῦτ' οὐ πάνυ τοι χαλεπὸν, εἰ καὶ χαλεπὸν μάλιστα μὴ κατέχεσθαι
 καὶ ὄντιναοῦν οὐδενὶ τούτων, καὶ κάλλιστ' ἐπ' ἄλλων ταῦτ' ἐφορώμενον

14 ὦναιτ' P², ὦναιτ' vel fort. ὦναιτ' P¹ (i.e. -v- alt. add. fort. P²), ὄναιτ' M 18
 ἀνθαιρουμένους P et p.c. E, cum -ούμ- accentu a.c. E, non leg. M 20 φθόνους: φθόνους
 ἀμέτροις a.c. P, ἀμέτροις rubro expunxit P¹

6 δέσποτ' ... ἀποτρόπαιε] cf. Ar. V. 161 Ἄπολλον ἀποτρόπαιε | Luc. Alex. 4.2 ἀλεξίκακε Ἡράκλεις
 καὶ Ζεὺ ἀποτρόπαιε | Nicephorus Basilaces *Progymn.* 50.80sq. Ἄπολλον ἀποτρόπαιε καὶ θεοὶ
 ἀλεξίκακοι | Th. Met. *Mon. in abbat. Luc.* 3.2 δέσποτα Σῶτερ, ναί, δέσποτ' ἀλεξίκακε

in the case of some perhaps more so, in the case of others less. ⁷ But if in each case we are restricted by various emotions and then in a state of madness engage ourselves and go into action in a fickle way, repeatedly stumbling while trying to get to grips with matters, and if we, though clouded by the many passions which besiege us, have ambitions as if we could see very well— ⁸ who is then able to teach us, who to show beforehand and to guide us to the best, who to instil an agreement among us about that which is real and useful? May you, *o Lord, who protects, and Saviour, who averts wickedness*, be gracious to us in this our life.

69. That men are subject to their passions to a high degree, and that they for this reason do not see clearly

¹ Every time that decisions have to be made and in all cases where anyone, in conjunction with others or individually, has to act, passions do in fact do great harm; they do harm to people's judgement and they instil a lot of confusion into their minds and stop them from seeing clearly, so as not to allow them to keep a straight course in life and achieve what is fitting. ² Therefore people often choose to do the opposite from that which they should do and which would be profitable to them; and with a maximum of effort they flee straightaway; and sometimes they oppose those who try to stop them—the ones they ought to care for most of all and eagerly and painstakingly take an interest in, willingly accepting any trouble for their sake. ³ Thus they act, or rather: this happens to them; and they lose their mind and they weaken owing to friendships maybe and personal bonds and an intimate relation which masters them; or else they weaken because of untimely strife, envy, and rivalry, and antagonistic schemes, and other similar matters as the case may be. ⁴ To realise that this is so, is not very difficult, even if it is most difficult for any one not to be subject to¹ any of these factors; and even if a person is able to see and judge this very clearly

¹ 'subject to' (κατέχεσθαι): or 'inhibited by'.

καὶ κρίνοντα, καὶ τῶν πολλῶν ἄμεινον τὰλλότρι' ἐννοεῖν ἔχοντα, τὰ δ' αὐτὸν αὐτοῦ κατὰ τοὺς πολλοὺς ἀβλεπτοῦντα καθότι τὲ καλῶς ἔχει καὶ μὴ, ⁵ καὶ ἴσως μὲν παραπλησίως ὡσπερὶ τινες τῶν φαύλων καὶ ἀμαθεστέρων, ἴσως δὲ καὶ ἦττον, ἀβλεπτοῦντα δ' ὅμως καὶ τοῖς εἰρημένους νοσήμασιν ἐχόμενον καὶ ξυμπίπτοντα καὶ γέλωτα μάλιστα' αὐτὸν ὄφλοντα πᾶσι, καὶ μάλιστα', οἶμαι, τοῖς ⁵ παρ' αὐτοῦ κακῶς ἀκούουσι καὶ ἐπιτιμωμένους ἐπὶ τοῖς αὐτοῖς καὶ οἷς παροινούσι παραπλησίως· ⁶ καὶ οὐκ οἶδ' ἔγωγε τίποτ' ἂν δυστυχέστερον εἴη ἢ ἀηδέστερον, ἢ ὅταν ἄλλους τις εὐθύνων περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν ἀποφεύγοι δικαίως, κατὰ τὸν λόγον ἄλλων ἰατρὸς ἀναιδῆς, αὐτὸς ἔλκεσι βρύων', ὃ πολὺ μάλισθ', ὡς ἔφην, ἐν ἀνθρώποις κρατεῖ καὶ λυμαίνεται τὰς ὀρθὰς γνῶμας καὶ κρίσεις ¹⁰ ἀνθρώποις, τὸ προσπαθῶς ἔχειν ὀρηοῦν οἷς ὀρῶσι, καὶ πρὸς τάναντία τῶν ὄντων ἐκτρέπειν.

2 Καὶ γὰρ δὴ καὶ θαυμάζουσι μὲν ἔνιοι καὶ κροτοῦσιν ὡς ὑπερφυεῖς τινὰς ⁴⁵¹ καὶ μεγάλην φορὰν τῆς φύσεως καὶ ἀπόλεκτον καὶ μὴ κατ' ἔθος | αὐτῇ, οὓς ἄλλοι δοκοῦσιν οὐδ' ἀξίους προσορᾶν ὅλως οὐδ' ὀνομάζειν ἐν ἀνθρώποις ¹⁵ χρῆναι, ἀλλ' ὡσπερὶ καθάρματα παρατρέχειν καὶ τῆς φύσεως ἀτυχίας· ² καὶ ταῦτ' ἀμφοτέροις οὐκ ἔξω παθῶν οὐτ' ἀκριβῶς ὡς τάληθες ἔχει κρίνεται, ἀλλ' ὡς ἄρ' ἔτυχον ἢ φίλως, ἢ τούναντίον τοῖς λογισμοῖς ἔχουσι, καὶ τάναντία δὲ τούτων περὶ ἄλλους, ἴσως δ' ἐνίοτε καὶ περὶ τοὺς αὐτοὺς. ³ Καὶ οὓς χθὲς ἀμέλει καὶ πρὸ τρίτης δι' εὐφήμου λόγου καὶ πάσης ἐν τιμῇ μνήμης ἦγον, καὶ ²⁰ πάντας εὐ μάλα καὶ σπουδῆ πάση συμπεῖθειν εἰς τοῦτ' ἐπειρώντο, νῦν οὐκ αἰσχύνονται καὶ παρὰ τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἀκροαταῖς τάχα καὶ μάρτυσι πᾶν τούναντίον κακηγοροῦντες καὶ κατελέγχοντες, ⁴ καὶ ἴσως ἐπὶ τοῖς αὐτοῖς οἷς τέως ἐθαύμαζον καὶ καλλιστεῖα φύσεως ἔκρινον καὶ προῆγον τῶν ἄλλων ἐκτόπως

⁸ τις: τίς M ἀποφεύγοι: ἀπ- ut vid. P², sed sic etiam ut vid. P¹, ἂν φεύγοι M (vide introd. 2.2.1, p. xxviii) ¹⁸ ἔχουσι P et fort. M, ἔχοντες E

⁹ ἄλλων ... βρύων] cf. E. Fr. 1086 (Kannicht) = 1086 (Nauck) ἄλλων ἰατρὸς αὐτὸς ἔλκεσιν βρύων | Plu. *Quomodo adulator ab amico internoscatur* 71F.5 | Suda E 3691

² 'commit ... follies': παροινούσι παραπλησίως ('are drunk in the same way').

³ 'a shameful ... sores': presumably originating with Euripides, this expression occurs in many later writers, including Plutarch.

⁴ I. e. they may express an opinion about a person different from the one they have expressed before about that same person.

in others, and is able to understand the predicament of others better than most, he may still, like most people, be unable to see whether he himself is behaving well or not. ⁵ Perhaps he is behaving in a way similar to that of some evil and very unlearned people, but perhaps not so badly as that; all the same he does not see quite clearly, and he is subject and liable to the kinds of madness mentioned, and he himself is to the highest degree derided by everyone and especially, I think, by those about whom he has spoken ill and who have been criticised for the same errors as he and who commit the same kind of follies.² ⁶ I for one do not know what could be more unfortunate or unpleasant than if someone who censures others is lawfully acquitted on the same account, being, according to the saying, *a shameful doctor of others, himself full of sores*.³ And, as I said, to have some kind of emotional relationship to everything which one sees, and to let oneself be diverted from reality and turn to its opposite, is very common among humans, and it destroys men's ability to think and judge correctly.

2 Indeed, some admire those people, and consider them to be extraordinary and a splendid product of nature and exquisite and not what nature usually produces, whom others do not think worthy of consideration or even fit to be mentioned among men, but rather deserving to escape unnoticed like outcasts and nature's failures. ² These matters are not judged by either side without passion nor, to tell the truth, with precision, but people are either friendly or the opposite at random, and they will be differently minded towards other people and, perhaps, sometimes also about the same ones.⁴ ³ And the men they spoke well about yesterday or the day before and whom they remembered with every honour, trying very hard and with every effort to persuade everyone else to do the same, these they are not ashamed to speak of in a totally opposite way, detracting them and censuring them in front of the same audience even⁵ and the same witnesses. ⁴ This they may even do for the same reasons for which they until then used to admire these men and consider them the fairest offerings of nature and put them far above others because of their nobility of nature or their

⁵ 'even' (τάχα): perhaps 'forsooth'

εὐγενεία τινὶ κατὰ φύσιν, ἢ γνώμην ἢ καὶ ἦθος, ἢ πᾶσαν ἀρετῆς ἕξιν ἄλλην
καὶ χρῆσιν ἐπαινουμένην. 5 Καὶ τούναντίον αὐτοῦ τούτου νῦν περὶ τοὺς αὐτοὺς
ὁρῶνται οἱ πρότερον αὐτοὺς ἀπεστρέφοντο καὶ παρέτρεχον καὶ καταλιγῶρον
ἐν καρδὸς αἴση καὶ γῆς ἄχθος ἄλλως αὐτοὺς νομίζοντες, 6 καὶ πάντα μετὰ φιλίας
452 καὶ ἔχθρας οὐ καλῶς ὁράται, καὶ μεταλλάττει τὰς ψῆ|φους τὲ καὶ τὰς κρίσεις, 5
καὶ παράτροπα δράματ' ἀμφοτέρωθεν δημιουργεῖ.

3 Καὶ κομιδῇ πάντων ἐργῶδες καὶ σπάνιον, εἰ ἄρα καὶ ἀμιγῆς ὅλως ἐστὶ καὶ
παντὸς πάθους ἄκρατον, ἀληθῆς καθάπαξ γνώμη καὶ δόξα καὶ ἀπλανῆς παντὸς
τοῦ γιγνομένου τυγχάνουσα καὶ κατ' οὐδὲν ἀποσφαλλομένη τῶν ὄντων,
2 καὶ τὸ τέλειόν τε καὶ μόνιμον ἔχουσα περὶ τὴν ἐποπτεῖαν καὶ ξυναίσθησιν 10
τοῦ καλοῦ τε καὶ μὴ τοιοῦτου, ἢ καθ' ὃ τι τοῖς δ' ἐνίοις μέτεστι καλοῦ καὶ
καθ' ὃ τι μὴ· καὶ πολλὰ γὰρ οὕτω τῶν ὄντων ἔχει, καὶ μάλισθ' ὁρᾶν ἐστὶν
οὕτω κἂν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις κἂν τοῖς πράγμασι. 3 Καὶ ἀγαπητὸν ὄντως καὶ κατὰ
θεῖον, οἷς, οἶμαι, ξυνέλαχεν ἐν τοῖς βελτίστοις πλεονάζειν, καὶ μὴ νικᾶν παρ'
αὐτοῖς τὰ χεῖρω καὶ δύσχηρστα τῶ βίω καὶ τοῖς καλῶς κρίνουσιν· 4 οἱ μὴ τὸ 15
καθάπαξ ἐν τῇ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ μοίρᾳ τέλειον ἀπαιτοῦντες ὡς ἀδύνατον ὄν σχεδὸν
καὶ ὑπερβαῖνον τὴν φύσιν κατ' ἀνθρώπους εὐ μάλα προσίενται, καὶ τιμᾶν
ἀξιοῦσι καὶ μάλιστ' ἐπαινεῖν, ἦν ἄρ', ὡς ἔφην, εἴη πλεονεκτεῖν ἐν τῶ καλῶ,
καὶ μὴ τῶν ἐναντίων ἠττᾶσθαι, καὶ τὰ δευτέρα φέρειν. 5 Παρορῶσι γὰρ ἐν τοῖς
τοιοῦτοις τὰ φαῦλα ξυμμετρούμενοι πρὸς τὸ τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων ἀνίκανον, καὶ 20

3 καταλιγῶρον M 4 ἄλλως E, -ω- P², ut vid. -ου vel -ω- P¹, non leg. M 15 κρίνουσιν M,
-ν P², κρίνουσιν vel -ι P¹

4 ἐν καρδὸς αἴση] cf. *Il.* 9.378 τίω δέ μιν ἐν καρδὸς αἴση | *Plu. Qu. conv.* 733E.8 | *Apollon. Lex. Hom.*
97.11 γῆς ἄχθος] cf. *Pl. The.* 176d3sq. ὅτι οὐ λῆροί εἰσι, γῆς ἄλλως ἄχθη, ἀλλ' ἄνδρες οἴους
δεῖ ἐν πόλει τοῦς σωθησομένους | *Eupolis CGFPR Fr.* 96.68 (Austin) τῆς γῆς μ(έν) ἄχθο[ς] | *Men.*
Dis ex. Fr. 113.1 (Thierfelder-Körte) περιττὸν ἄχθος ὄντα γῆς, ὡς εἰπέ τις | *Th. Met. Sem.* 76.2.2 et
81.1.7

⁶ 'being worthless': the Greek expression is taken from *Iliad* 9.378; it is often cited and dis-
cussed in later literature.

⁷ 'burden of the earth': this expression occurs in Comedy (*Eupolis* and *Menander*) and also in
Plato's Theaetetus. See also 76.2.2 and 81.1.7.

⁸ 'for so it is ... world': all this is vague: does it mean that it is difficult to judge properly, or that
few have part in what is good? 'real world' is to translate τῶν ὄντων.

mind or even their character, or because of some other kind of virtue or laudable behaviour. 5 And now, instead, they who used to avoid them and pass them by and slight them as *being worthless*,⁶ and who used to consider them a *burden of the earth*,⁷ may be seen in company with those same people. 6 So, as can be seen, everything is not well with friendships and enmities; they alter decisions and judgements, and strange dramas are created on account of both.

3 A wholly correct way of thinking and an opinion which never fails to understand how things really are and goes unerringly to the point in every case, is indeed most laborious to acquire and the rarest thing of all—if it is to be completely pure and unmixed with every passion, 2 and if it is to be perfect and consistent in its contemplation and awareness of the good and of the opposite of good, or with regard to the extent to which some have part in the good, and some have not; for so it is with many things in the real world,⁸ and this is highly evident in men as well as in political matters. 3 And it is a truly good thing, due, I believe, to divine intervention, when people happen to abound in the best qualities, and when the worst, and that which is most difficult to handle in life even for those with good judgement, does not prevail. 4 For people of good judgement do not demand an absolutely perfect share in the good; for they admit that this is virtually impossible and beyond human nature. Instead they consider it worthwhile and laudable if they are able just to have part of the good (if, as I have said, this would be possible), and if they are not totally defeated by its opposite⁹ and thus have to be content with what is inferior. 5 For they disregard the evil in such matters, and they take human inability into account and the fact that men are not able to achieve everything good by themselves; and they disregard the evil as being small and not very far-reaching, if it does not out of necessity have to be considered otherwise,¹⁰ and if it is not liable to completely destroy what is good and useful in a Bacchic frenzy.¹¹

⁹ 'its opposite' (τῶν ἐναντιῶν): or 'their opponents'.

¹⁰ 'they disregard ... otherwise': this is somewhat freely rendered.

¹¹ 'destroy ... frenzy': cf. 67.1.7 (see p. 67, n. 5).

οὐκ αὐτάρκες εἰς πᾶσαν ἔξιν ἀγαθὴν, ἣν ἄρα βραχέαττα καὶ μὴ παμμεγέθη τὰ
 453 βραχέα ταῦτ' ἦ καὶ μὴ παντάπασι καταβακχεύη τῶν καλῶν καὶ χρησίμων.

4 Οἱ δὲ πολλοὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων οὐκ ἀπαθῶς, ὡς εἴρηται, χρώμενοι
 καὶ κρίνοντες, οἱ μὲν φίλως ὅτω δὴ τῶν πολλῶν τρόπῳ φερόμενοι πάντ'
 ἐπαινοῦσι δραττόμενοι τινὸς ἀγαθοῦ μετουσίας, καὶ θαυμαστῶς ὅπως αἴρουσι, 5
 καὶ πάντας ἀξιοῦσι πείθεσθαι καὶ προσέχειν τὸν νοῦν καὶ κροτεῖν, 2 οἱ δὲ
 τοῦναντίον αὐθις ἀπεχθεῖα τινὶ καὶ ἀηδία κακῶς ὀρῶντες, τῆς τῶν φαύλων
 μοίρας ὀπόσης δὴ τινὸς ἐπειλημμένοι, πάντως δ' οὐχ' οἶον τε μὴ συμπαρεῖναι
 καὶ ὀρηοῦν κατατρέχουσιν ἄσχετα, καὶ παλαμναιοτάτας ἐπιφέρουσι καὶ ἀπ- 10
 ευκταιοτάτας τὰς βλασφημίας, καὶ ὡς ἐξάγιστ' ὀνειδὴ τοὺς παρ' ἄλλων θαν-
 μαζομένους προβέβληνται. 3 Καὶ ὃς ἂν συμφωνῇ, σοφὸς οὗτος καὶ καλῶς
 ὀρῶν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἄλλο τίποτε φρονοίη τὲ καὶ ὀρώη, τυφλὸς καὶ κάκιστ' ἀμαθῆς
 καὶ ἠλίθιος, τὰ πᾶσι δῆλα καὶ πόρρωθεν βοῶντα τὲ καὶ βοώμενα μὴ ξυνορᾶν
 ἔχων μὴδ' αἰσθάνεσθαι. 4 Καὶ μεταβάλλουσιν, ὡς εἴρηται, καὶ τοῦτ' ἐνίοτε
 πρὸς τάναντί' ἀμφοτέροι, καὶ τἀλλήλων ἀντιλαμβάνουσι καὶ παραλλάττουσι 15
 τοῖς πάθεσιν εἰς τὰς ἐναντίας ἕξεις τραπέντες, καὶ τὰ φίλα καὶ μάχιμα ξυντυχία
 454 τινὶ μεταποιηθέντες, μὴδὲν πρὸς τοὺς ξυνορῶντας φειδόμενοι, μὴτ' | ἄλλους,
 μὴθ' ἑαυτοὺς αἰδούμενοι, τῷ τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῆς γνώμης ἀνιδρύτῳ· 5 καὶ μέν-
 τοι καὶ κατ' ἀμφοτέρ' ὅμως οὐτ' ἀποροῦσι λόγων καὶ πίστεων εἰς τάναντί'
 ἐπιχειροῦντες νῦν τε εἶναι καὶ πρότερον διὰ τὸ καὶ ἀφορμῶν ἀμφοτέρωθεν 20
 καθάπαξ μὴ ἀτυχεῖν, οὐτ' ἀποροῦσιν ἀκροωμένων κατ' ἀμφοτέρα, 6 τοῦτο
 μὲν πολλοὺς τοὺς ἀγνοοῦντας καὶ ἴσως ὑπ' ἀβελτηρίας ὡς ἔτυχε φερομένους
 ἔχοντες, τοῦτο δὲ καὶ πολλοὺς εὖ δὴ μάλα τοὺς τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἐχομένους πάθει
 κατ' αὐτούς, ἢ τοὺς ἐτοίμους εἰς τὸ μεταλαμβάνειν τῆς αὐτῆς νόσου καὶ
 συμπάσχειν καὶ συνδιατίθεσθαι. 25

¹² 'whoever agrees with this': if, as it seems, Metochites means that the reader must agree with him, he is quite arrogant; it is not, however, said explicitly to what or with whom the reader should agree or conform in his views.

¹³ 'calls ... way': πόρρωθεν βοῶντα τὲ καὶ βοώμενα.

¹⁴ Cf. 2.2 above.

¹⁵ 'the instability ... mind' (τῷ τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῆς γνώμης ἀνιδρύτῳ): or, perhaps, 'their natural mental instability'.

4 Most people do not, as has been said, act and judge without passion. Some behave kindly in all possible ways, and they praise everything as if by doing so they were allowed to partake of something good; and they exalt anything immensely, and they expect everyone else to agree with them and pay attention to them and applaud them. 2 Others, however, do wickedly see things in the opposite way; this they do because of hatred and disgust, and having some small part in evil (a part from which it is impossible to escape) they somehow, and without restraint, inveigh against those who are admired by others; and by imposing the most abominable and deprecatory curses on these, they attack them as if they were worthy of the worst blame. 3 And whoever agrees with this¹² is wise and sees clearly. But whoever is of any other opinion and sees differently is blind and grievously ignorant and stupid, since he is not able to see or sense that which should be clear to everyone and calls to attention from afar and is generally said to be in this way.¹³ 4 And both sides (this has also been said before)¹⁴ sometimes shift their position, and they take up the opinions of their opponents; and governed by their passions they change and turn to the opposite standpoint, carrying out this change in their likes and dislikes haphazardly; and they do not in any way restrain themselves out of respect for the onlookers; and, because of the instability of their nature and their mind,¹⁵ they do not feel any shame in front of others, or on their own account. 5 Nevertheless, whatever their opinions, they do not lack arguments and proofs, now arguing for a view contrary to the former; for they are certainly not wanting in material to support any point of view. Nor do they lack an audience in any of these cases, 6 having as listeners either a lot of ignorant people who are perhaps driven at random by their stupidity, or a lot of people who are very much under the control of the same passions as they are themselves, or people who are willing to incur the same illness and to suffer with them and demonstrate their sympathy with them.¹⁶

¹⁶ 'demonstrate ... them': συνδιατίθεσθαι here could be more or less synonymous with the preceding συμπάσχειν or mean 'to arrange themselves (with them)' or, perhaps, 'to become members of their party'.

“Οτι χρήσιμα τὰ ἐκ τοῦ μαθηματικοῦ καὶ γεωμετρικοῦ τῆς
φιλοσοφίας εἶδους διὰ τὰ τε ἄλλα πλείστα τῷ βίῳ καὶ διὰ
τὰ τῶν μηχανικῶν ἔργα· Ο’

1 Πολύ τοι πεφυκὸς ἐν τοῖς ἀνθρωπίνοις τοῦ βίου πράγμασιν ὄψαιτ’ ἂν τις
ἐπισκοπούμενος τοῦ μαθηματικοῦ τῆς φιλοσοφίας εἶδους· καὶ τὰ μὲν ἄλλ’ 5
ἔῶ καὶ ὅσα τῶν ἀριθμητικῶν ἐπιλογισμῶν ἐν ταῖς τοῦ βίου χρήσεσι, καὶ ὅσα
455 τῶν μουσικῶν ἀρμονιῶν, 2 πλείστας καὶ διαφόρους | ἐργαζόμενα διαθέσεις
ταῖς ψυχαῖς καθότι δέοι ἂν, ἢ φόβον κατὰ καιρὸν καὶ συστολὴν ἤθους, ἢ
θάρρος ἀνάπαλιν καὶ φρόνημα καὶ τόλμαν ἀρεϊκῆν ἐμποιῆσαι, ἢ οἶκτον, ἢ
ἐνθουσιασμὸν περὶ τὰ θεῖα, ἢ γαλήνην ὑποπτώσεως καὶ συντριβὴν καρδίας, 10
3 ἢ ἄλλαττα πάνυ τοι πλείσθ’ ὅσα διαιρεῖ καὶ τεχνολογεῖ μὲν ἐπιστήμη, τῇ
δὲ πείρα κατ’ ἀνθρώπους πιστοῦται· ἔτι γ’ ὅσα μάλιστα παρὰ τῶν οὐρανίων
ἔχομεν ἀκριβέστατα ἐπιστήμης· καὶ ῥάδιον οὐκ ἔστι παρόδῳ τοῦ λόγου
καταριθμεῖσθαι τάντεῦθεν λυσιτελεῖ πρὸς πάντα τὰνθρώπινα καὶ κατὰ τὸν
βίον καιρὸν ἔχοντα. 4 Περὶ δέ γε τῶν ἐκ γεωμετρικῆς, πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις οἷς ἢ 15
τῇδ’ ἐπιστήμη καταποικίλλεται καὶ θαυμάζεται ταῖς ἐναργεῖαις καὶ τῇ ἀσειστῳ
τρανώσει τῶν δεῖξεων, ἔτ’ ἔχομεν ἀμέλει τόδε προστιθέναι καὶ λέγειν τῷ παντὶ
πρόχειρον καθορᾶν, 5 ὡς ἄρ’ ἐν παντοίαις καταμετρήσεσιν ἢ καθ’ ὕψος, ἢ
βάθος, ἢ πλατυκὰς διαστάσεις ἐν γαιωδαισίαις, ἐν οἰκοδομαῖς πάσαις, ὡσπερ
456 ἀμέλει πλείστα δὴ τὰ τοιαῦθ’ ἐκάστοτε κατ’ ἀνθρώπους, καὶ ὁ βίος αἰετῶν |
γε τοιούτων καὶ αἱ πολιτεῖαι πλήρεις, 6 πολλῶ κατ’ ἀνάγκην χρεωδέστατον τὸ
τῆς γεωμετρικῆς ἐπιστήμης εἰς τε τὰς ἐκάστων εὐρέσεις παντάπασιν ἀσφαλεῖς
καὶ καταλήψεις τὸ πιστὸν ἐχούσας ἄσειστον, καὶ κατασκευὰς καὶ δημιουργίας
μετὰ παντὸς ἀμέλει τοῦ γιγνομένου τῆς ἀρμονίας, καὶ μάλα καλλίστης, εἰς τὸ
βεβαίως ἔχειν τῆς διαθέσεως· καὶ οὐκ ἄλλως ἔστιν ἢ οὕτω δὴ τοῦ βελτίστου 25

4 τοι s.l. add. P², om. P¹M, τὸ M-K πράγμασιν ... τις: πράγμασι τὸ χρήσιμον (τὸ χρήσιμον
s.l. add. ut vid. M²) ὄψαιτ’ ἂν τις M, πράγμασί τὸ χρήσιμον E 8 καθότι: accentum posuit P²,
de accentu in P¹ non constat 11 ἐπιστήμη: -πι- s.l. add. ut vid. P² 12 post παρὰ s.l. add.
τῆς ut vid. M²

¹ ‘on account of’ (διά): or ‘as can be seen from’. However, it is possible that διά should be un-
derstood as denoting purpose (cf. Modern Greek για; for examples from Ancient Greek see LSJ
s.v. διά B.III.3). The translation of this title is the one suggested by Hult 2002, 13.

70. That the branches of philosophy dealing with mathematics and geometry are useful in life for many reasons and particularly on account of the works of engineers¹

1 Anyone who contemplates this will in matters of human life see much which has its natural origin in the mathematical kind of philosophy. I shall leave other things aside, such as the use of arithmetical reasoning in practical life and what concerns musical harmonies— 2 these create a great deal of different effects on souls, according to what is wanted: on some occasions they instil either fear and a shock,² or, conversely, courage and high thoughts and daring in battle, or compassion, or religious enthusiasm, or quiet submission and contrition of the heart, 3 or any other of the numerous effects which are proved by human experience and about which science makes definitions and rules. I shall further leave out of discussion that most accurate kind of knowledge which we have about the heavenly bodies, the benefits of which knowledge to everything human and to everything which pertains to life it is not easy to recount in passing. 4 Instead we have, with regard to geometry which, more than other things dealt with by science here,³ is embellished and admired by the actuality and unshakeable distinctness⁴ of its proofs, to add and say the following which can be easily understood by everyone: 5 in the manifold measurements of heights or depths or distances, which occur in geodesy and in the building of any kind of house (this occurs all the time among men, and human life and that of states are full of these), 6 the geometrical science is out of necessity what is most expedient by far, and it allows us to arrive at absolutely certain solutions to every problem and an understanding which is of unshakeable reliability; and it allows us to build and create in such a way that everything which comes into being is in the most beautiful harmony,

² 'shock': συστολή ἤθους.

³ 'science here' (ἢ τῆδ' ἐπιστήμη): τῆδ' is vague ('in this world?').

⁴ 'distinctness': the substantive τράνωσις is missing from LSJ; see Lampe: 'clarification', 'clear expression' etc.

καὶ προσήκοντος τυγχάνειν. 7 Ἀκόσμητα μέντ' ἂν εἶη καὶ τῆ κατ' ὄψιν εὐθύς ἐντυχία, καὶ πρὸς λύσιν καὶ φθορὰν ἐτοίμως ἂν ἔχοι, εἰ μὴ οὕτω γίγνοιτο, καὶ ταῖς γεωμετρικαῖς ἀνάγκαις ἅμα τὲ ρυθμίζοιτο καὶ ἅμα τὸ διαρκὲς εἰς τὴν οἰκείαν ἕκαστα χρῆσιν λαμβάνοι.

2 Καὶ πολλοῖς μὲν ἴσως ἀγνοεῖται ταῦθ' οὕτως ἔχοντα· ἔχει δ' ὁμοῦ οὕτω 5 ταῦτα, πᾶσα ἀνάγκη· καὶ τοῖς ἐργολαβοῦσι τὴν τέχνην καὶ τὴν χεῖρα μόνον ἀλόγως διδοῦσι τοῖς ἔργοις, κατακαιρὸν ἀνύτουσι καὶ οὐδὲν ἤττον ἀγνοοῦσιν ἢ καὶ οἱ πολλοὶ καθ' ὃ τι καλῶς ἔχοι, καὶ λόγῳ ξυμμετρεῖται παντὶ τὰ πραττόμενα καὶ καλῶς ἴστασθαι πέφυκεν· 2 ἀγνοοῦνται μὲν οἱ λόγοι, τοῦτ' εὖ μάλα δὴ καὶ παντὶ δῆλον, ἀλλ' οἱ λόγοι μὴν τὸ πρῶτον τὰς ἀρχὰς εὐραντο τῶν 10 γεγονότων καὶ γιγνομένων ἀεὶ καὶ νομίμων ἐκάστων τῆς τέχνης, καὶ τὰ πρῶτα θέμεθλα | τῆ πείρα καὶ παντὸς τοῦ εἰκότος ἀλογίστῳ χρήσει πόρρωθεν ἄρ' ἐκέιθεν πέπηγε· 3 καὶ παλαιὸς ἦκοι κλῆρος ἐκ διαδοχῆς προβαίνων εἰ καὶ μὴ τοῖς νόμοις τῆς ἐπιστήμης εὐσύνετος τοῖς τεχνιτεύουσι καὶ δημιουργομένοις, ἀλλ' ἀσφαλῶς ἐκέιθεν παραπεμπόμενος, καὶ τοῦτο δὴ μόνον καθάπαξ οὐκ 15 ἀγνοούμενος τοῖς γε νοῦν ἔχουσιν. 4 Ὡς ἐκ τῶν τῆς σοφίας καὶ θεωρίας κατ' ἐπιστήμην ἀκλόνητον εὐρέσεων καὶ συμπερασμάτων εὐγενῶς ἔχει, μᾶλλον δὲ τὴν ἀρχὴν οὐσιώθη, καὶ τῷ βίῳ μάλιστ' ἐπαρκεῖ χρήσιμός τε καὶ σπουδῆς πάσης ἀξιούμενος καὶ ἐπιμελείας εἰς τὸ κοινὸν ἀνθρώποις. 5 Καὶ μὴν ἔτι τὰ τῶν μηχανοποιῶν ἔργα καὶ μαγκανεύματα καὶ καθόλου μὲν ἐν πᾶσι πράγμασι, 20 μάλιστα δ' ἐν τοῖς κατὰ πολέμους καὶ μάχας ἔργοις, ὅποσα δύναται καὶ σφόδρ' ἀνύτει κατὰ καιρὸν καὶ πολὺ πρὸς τὰς ἐκάστοτε χρεῖας ὀνησιμώτατ' ἐστὶ, τίς ἀγνοεῖ τῶν ἀπάντων, τοῦτο μὲν ἐκ τῶν καθεκάστην γιγνομένων | καὶ ὀρωμένων ἐκδηλότατα, τοῦτο δὲ καὶ ἐξ ἱστοριῶν τε καὶ παλαιῶν συγγραμμάτων;

8 παντί: an scrib. πάντα?
μὲν per comp. M, μὲν E
M, μαγκανεύματα E

9 post λόγοι add. καὶ M

12 εἰκότος p.c. P¹, fort. -ως a.c. P

10 μήν: -η- P², -η- vel -ε- P¹, ut vid.

20 μαγκανεύματα P et fort.

⁵ 'though': this is to translate καὶ which I take as adversative (cf. below, n. 7).

⁶ 'and are approved – this': the Greek is vague and the translation uncertain.

⁷ 'though': to translate adversative καὶ (cf. above, n. 5).

⁸ 'came into being' (τὴν ἀρχὴν οὐσιώθη): or 'took form' (?). The entire paragraph is difficult.

and as to make it stable. For in no other way is it possible to achieve what is best and fitting.⁷ Indeed, if it is not done in this way, and if a building is not regulated by the geometrical requirements and constructed so as to ensure its longevity for every kind of use, it offends the eye at once, and it tends towards collapse and ruin.

2 To many it is perhaps unknown that this is so; but so it most certainly is. And those who employ themselves in crafts for reasons of profit and who, without thinking, only lend their hand to the work, do now and then accomplish something, though,⁵ no less than most people, they ignore in what way their work is good. For all works are measured by intellectual reasoning and are approved if in accordance with this.⁶ 2 The arguments may be unknown, as is well obvious to everyone; but reasoning has established the principles of that which was worked in the past and of that which is still being worked in the present time, and the rules of each of the crafts, though⁷ the very first foundations were laid down by experience and the unreflective use of what seemed serviceable, in a way very remote from our mode of reasoning. 3 And an old legacy may have come down to us, by inheritance, even if it is not easily understandable by the laws of science to those employed in crafts and those who create [according to this legacy]; nevertheless it may be safely transmitted from its source, being just about discernible to the sensible. 4 And because of the discoveries and conclusions made by wisdom and observation in accordance with an irrefutable science, the inherited knowledge functions well, or rather it came into being⁸ by these discoveries; and it is sufficient for human life and useful and worthy of men's every exertion and care, for the sake of the common good. 5 Further, what man is ignorant of the power and effectiveness of the works of the engineers and their devices,⁹ and how very beneficial they are for each separate need, if employed at the right moment? This is so generally and in all matters, but especially when it comes to works intended for wars

⁹ 'devices': in Antiquity *μαγγάνευμα* probably always has a negative connotation (LSJ: 'trickery'/'(meretricious) arts' etc.); cf., however, the technical term *μάγγανον*.

3 Ταῦτα μὲν γε ἐκδηλότατα πάντως ἅπαντι συνιδεῖν, καὶ ὅς οὐ πάντ' εὐμαθῆς ἐστίν, ὅτι τῆς μαθηματικῆς καὶ γεωμετρικῆς ἐπιστήμης ἐστὶν ἐκτόκια, πᾶσαν ἐκείθεν τὴν τέχνην ἔχοντα καὶ τὴν τῆς δυνάμεως διοίκησιν καὶ παρασκευήν· ² καὶ ἃ γὰρ κατὰ τὰς χρήσεις ἐκάστας περαίνει καταμέρος, καθόλου γεωμετρικῶν εἰσὶν ἀποδείξεων συμπεράσματα, καὶ συλλογισμῶν ⁵ ἐκείθεν ἀνάγκη ἔχει, καὶ διὰ τὰς ἐκείθεν πίστεις καὶ δεῖξεις τὸ ἄσειστον φέρεται καὶ ἀσφαλὲς ἔργον, καὶ οὐκ ἄλλως ὅτι μὴ κατὰ τὰ τῆς ἐπιστήμης νόμιμα τὸ δρᾶν ἔχει· ³ καὶ ὡσπερ ἐπαγωγικά τινα μαρτύρια τῶν καθόλου δογμάτων εἰσὶ καὶ διανοητικῶν ἀποφάνσεων, καὶ μετὰ τῆς ὕλης κἂν τῇ ὕλῃ τῆς ἐπιστήμης ὑποδείγματα, καὶ παραδεικνύντα τῆς αὐτοῦ θεωρίας καὶ ὄντως ἔξω τῆς ¹⁰ αἰσθήσεως, ἀναχωρούσης ἰδίᾳ καθ' ἑαυτὴν πραγματεία τιμιωτέρα, ⁴ καρποῦς κατ' αἴσθησιν καὶ ζῶην αἰσθητικὴν, ὧν ἀμέλει σπουδῆ πάσῃ τὴν ἐποπτεῖαν ἀφαιρούμεθα τῷ νῶ καὶ ἀμιγῶς πολιτευόμεθα τῆς σωματικῆς χρήσεως, οἳ γε πλέον ὄτιοῦν τοῦ προχείρου τοῦδε ζῶντες καὶ μὴ καθ' ἃ μόνον ὀρώμεν, καθ' ἃ ⁴⁵⁹ μόνον ἀπτόμεθα καὶ ὄλως ἐσμέν ταῖς αἰσθη|σεσι. ⁵ Τοὺς γὰρ πολλοὺς ἐλεπόλεις ¹⁵ αὐταὶ καὶ μηχαναὶ τῆς ὕλης ἀχώριστοι παντοῖαι τῶν τοιούτων ἔργων οὐκ οἶδ' ὅ τι φῶ, χειραγωγούσιν, ἢ βιάζονται πρὸς τὸ λογίζεσθαι καὶ βιοῦν ὀρητοῦν αὐτῇ τῇ τελευτέρα φύσει καὶ τῷ λογικῷ τῆς ψυχῆς, κατασυλλογίζομένους ἐντεῦθεν ἐπὶ τῆς διανοίας ἄττα δὴ τοῦ προχείρου καὶ βοσκηματώδους ἄνω βίου. ⁶ Καὶ τοῦτο μὲν ὡς οὕτως ἔχει, δῆλον· καὶ ἴσως μὲν ἐστὶν ἔτι προστιθέναι ²⁰ περὶ τούτων καὶ οὐκ ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ· εὐλαβητέον δ' ἂν εἴη περαιτέρω καί, οἶμαι γε, ξὺν λόγῳ, φεύγοντας ἄκαιρον αὐθις μῆκος λόγων ἔξω τοῦ νυνὶ σκοποῦ. ⁷ Ἄτὰρ δῆθ', ὅπερ ἐβουλόμην, ὅσοις ἄρα τῶν ἐν πολιορκίαις τοὺς ἐσχάτους προσδοκῶντων προδήλως κινδύνους, τὰκ τῆς μηχανικῆς ταύτης τέχνης ἔργα καὶ σοφίσματα τὰς ἀργαλεωτάτας συμφορὰς καὶ τοὺς βαρυτάτους καὶ ²⁵ ἀπευκταιοτάτους θανάτους ἀπώσατο καὶ ζωῆς ἔτ' ἔδωκε προσθήκην καὶ ἀριθμούς, καὶ ἀπὸ λοιγὸν ἤμυνεν'. ⁸ ὅσοις δ' αὖ τάντεῦθεν ὀπλίσματα καὶ

² μαθηματικῆς: -μα- sub linea add. P² ⁷ ἔργον P et fort. M, ἐνεργὸν E ¹⁸ κατα-συλλογίζομένους: -τ- P², sic vel fort. -I- vel -Γ- P¹ ¹⁹ ἄττα ut vid. PM, ἄττα E ²³ ἠβουλόμην E et ut vid. M

²⁷ ἀπὸ ... ἤμυνεν] cf. *Il.* 16.75, 80 ἀπο λοιγὸν ἀμύνων | *Hes. Sc.* 2.40sq. τοὶ μὲν ὑπὲρ σφετέρης πόλιος σφετέρων τε τοκῆων / λοιγὸν ἀμύνοντες, τοὶ δὲ πραθέειν μεμαῶτες | *Pi. N.* 9.37 οὐνεκεν ἐν πολέμῳ κείνα θεὸς ἔντυεν αὐτοῦ θυμὸν αἰχματᾶν ἀμύνειν λοιγὸν Ἐνυαλίου | *Hsch. A* 6.461.1 ἀπὸ λοιγὸν ἀμύναι· ἀποσοβῆσαι τὸν θάνατον

and battles, as is most clearly to be understood from what can be seen to happen daily, but also from history and old writings.

3 It may surely be understood by everyone, even by him who is not always a quick learner, that this¹⁰ is an offspring of the mathematical and geometrical sciences, and that it takes its technique and the organisation of its forces and its preparation from these disciplines; 2 and that its whole performance, on each separate occasion when these sciences are employed, is necessarily the consequence of geometrical reasoning and of calculations stemming from geometry; also that it is because of the reasoning and the proofs deduced from science that a piece of work can be considered safe and reliable, and that a piece of work can only be fit to function if it is made in accordance with the laws of science. 3 These laws are like some kind of witnesses from which all doctrines and intellectual opinions can be deduced; they are the indications of science in which matter is involved and used; and they show fruits of the speculation on the immaterial and on that which really lies outside of perception, proceeding on its own way, and obeying to a more precious plan— 4 fruits which can be perceived and which belong to the life within the senses, by the detailed study of which we are, however, deprived of the overview of the mind and behave exclusively in accordance with the bodily functions; this happens to us even if we should live for something more than that which is at hand and not only for that which we can see and feel when we rely wholly on the senses. 5 For those siege-engines and manifold devices for such works, devices which are inseparable from matter, lead (I do not know how to express this) most people by the hand, or force them, towards reason and a life which in some way is in accordance with the more perfect nature and the logic of the soul; and thus they are able to consider in their mind matters concerning their plain and brutish earlier life. 6 That this is so, is obvious; and maybe there is more which it would be fit to add on this account. But we have, I think, good reason not to do so, and we should avoid an unseasonable amount of words which go beyond the present scope. 7 However

¹⁰ I.e. the practical knowledge of engineers.

460 παρασκευαὶ πάντων πραγμάτων κρατοῦσαι συγκατεπράξαντο θαυμαστὰ καὶ
μέγιστ' ἔργα καὶ νίκας καὶ κατασκαφὰς πόλεων καὶ θριάμβων ἐχορήγησαν |
ἀφορμάς· καὶ πλείστ' ἔχομεν ἐνταῦθα νέα τε προφέρειν εἰς πίστωσιν τῷ λόγῳ
καὶ παλαιὰ συγγραφόντων ἀξιολόγων ἀνδρῶν, καὶ οἷς πάνυ τοι τῆς ἀληθείας
ἐμέλησε. 5

4 Πλούταρχος μὲν γε ὁ ἐκ Χαιρωνείας πλείστ' ἀνὴρ οὗτος δὴ πρὸς
τοῖς ἄλλοις οἷς ἐνευδοκμεῖ τῇ σοφίᾳ, καὶ περὶ τὰς παλαιὰς πρὸ αὐτοῦ πάσας
ἱστορίας πονήσας, καὶ πολυμαθέστατος, καὶ πολυμαθίας χρησίμων ἔργων
διδάσκαλος ἀνθρώποις καὶ χορηγὸς τῷ βίῳ καὶ τοῖς περὶ λόγους σπουδάζουσι,
2 συγγραφόμενος τὸν Μαρκέλλου τοῦ Ῥωμαίων στρατηγοῦ βίον καὶ πράξεις 10
μεγίστας ἔργα διέξεισιν Ἀρχιμήδους τοῦ μαθηματικοῦ κατὰ τὴν πολιορκίαν
Συρακουσῶν ξενίζοντα καὶ τερατώδη μηχανικῆς σοφίας, 3 ἃ κατὰ τῶν
Μαρκέλλου παμπλείστων στρατευμάτων καὶ τῆς Ῥωμαϊκῆς δυσαντιβλέπτου
κατὰ τῆς αὐτοῦ πατρίδος ἐπιχειρήσεως σὺν μεγάλῃ τῇ δόξῃ καὶ τῷ φοβῶντι
κράτει τῆς Ῥώμης τὲ καὶ τοῦ θαυμαστοῦ Μαρκέλλου ἀντεπεδείκνυτο καὶ 15
ἀντεπεχειρεῖ· 4 λίθων τὲ καὶ βελῶν παντοίων ἐξ ἀφανοῦς ἀφέσεις ὁμοῦ
ἀνυπονοήτους τὲ καὶ ἀνυποίστους, καὶ νηῶν προσαραγμοὺς ἀλλήλαις, καὶ
νηῶν αἰωρήσεις καὶ καταδύσεις, καὶ πάντα χαλεπά, καὶ μυριαρίθμους Ῥωμαίων
461 θανάτους, 5 ἃ κἀν ἠπιστεῖτο καὶ μάται' ἀναπλάσματα καὶ μυθώδη | πολλοῖς
ἔδοξεν, εἰ μὴ τῆς τοῦ Πλουτάρχου σοφίας καὶ περὶ τὴν ἀλήθειαν εὐλαβείας 20
ἱστορούσης ἐτύγχανε, καὶ πολλῆς κατὰ πάσης ἀκοῆς ἐν προλήψει δόξης· ὕφ'
ῶν δὴ καὶ τελευτῶν ὁ πάντα ἀήττητος ἀπειπῶν Μάρκελλος ἀνεχώρει τῶν

10 Ῥωμαίων: Ῥωμαίου M
trema 22 πάντ' M

12 συρακουσῶν E et ut vid. M

13 Ῥωμαϊκῆς P, i.e. non exhib.

12 Συρακουσῶν (§ 2sq.) cf. Plu. *Marc.* 14sq.

¹¹ 'warded off ruin' (ἀπὸ λοιγὸν ἤμυνεν): expressions identical or very similar to this occur 15 times in the *Iliad*, never in the *Odyssey*, and often in later literature either as explanations of the Homeric expression or, perhaps, as allusions.

¹² Here the text seems to be anacoluthic.

¹³ The theme of this chapter of the essay is taken up in essay 71 (for which see Hult 2002).

¹⁴ 'an undertaking ... Marcellus': this may also be translated differently, so as to mean that Archimedes organised a counter-attack, not only on the Roman armies, but also on the Roman glory and the power of Rome and Marcellus himself.

(and this is what I wanted to say), from those who obviously expected to be subject to the utmost danger during sieges, the works of this art of engineering and its inventions have averted the most painful catastrophes and the hardest and most horrible kinds of deaths, and they have given them an additional number of years to live and thus *warded off ruin*.¹¹ 8 But regarding those who have been helped by armament and equipment from this source, powerful enough to prevail in every matter, and who have been aided in achieving wonderful and very great deeds, and have been given victories and the destruction of cities and causes for triumphs—we also have¹² a great many new examples of this to bring forth here, in proof of our opinion; we have also those examples of old, which have been written down by men of note who were very careful to tell the truth.

4 Plutarch of Chaeronea, that man of the greatest wisdom, [of greater wisdom] than the men among whom he gained glory, exerted himself in all kinds of old stories from times prior to himself;¹³ and he was a most learned teacher, who conveyed a great deal of knowledge on matters of practical use, and a giver to the world and to students of letters. 2 Writing about the life and great deeds of the Roman general Marcellus, he recounts the extraordinary and prodigious feats of engineering skill accomplished by the mathematician Archimedes during the siege of Syracuse. 3 These feats meant a manifest counter-attack on the very numerous armies of Marcellus and the fearful Roman undertaking against Archimedes' country, an undertaking which was the more terrifying for the great glory and the frightening power of Rome and the admirable Marcellus.¹⁴ 4 Stones and many kinds of missiles were thrown, unexpectedly and irresistibly, from out of view; ships were dashed against each other; ships were also lifted into the air and sunk, and things unbearable happened, and countless deaths occurred among the Romans. 5 Most people would have difficulties in believing all this and would consider it idle fancy and myth, had it not met with the wisdom of Plutarch and his scrupulous care for the truth when writing history¹⁵ (it had also won great reputation by being talked

¹⁵ 'when writing history': this is to translate ἱστοροῦσθης; it seems like an odd expression in Greek.

ἐπιχειρήσεων καὶ κινδύνων τῆς μάχης, 6 καὶ προσέχειν ἤξιου μόνῳ τῷ χρόνῳ καὶ τῇ τριβῇ τῆς πολιορκίας, τὴν ὑποποίησιν τῆς πόλεως οὐκ ἄλλως ἢ τῇ τῶν ἀναγκαίων ἐνδείᾳ θαρρῶν καὶ τῶν ἔργων ἀφιστάμενος τῆς μάχης, ἃ μὴδὲν ἑώρα κατὰ τῆς Ἀρχιμήδους σοφίας ὀχυρὸν ἔχοντα, ἀλλ' ἐκείνον ἐν γωνίᾳ καθήμενον πάντ' ἀναλύοντα καὶ χωρὶς ὄπλων νικῶντα ῥᾶστα. 5

5 Καὶ τὰ μὲν Πλουτάρχου περὶ Ἀρχιμήδους τοιαῦτα· καὶ ἄλλων δὲ περὶ ἄλλων, τοιαῦτα μὲν ὡς ἀληθῶς οὐκέτι, παραπλήσια δὲ τῇ τῆς τέχνης δυνάμει τῶν συγγραφῶν ἔστι πλείστα λαβεῖν, κἂν εἴ τις βούλοιο μάλα διηπειραῖσθαι, καὶ νέ' ὄραν αἰεὶ, 2 καὶ κατασυλλογίζεσθαι τὸ ἐντεῦθεν χρήσιμον, ἢ ἀμυνομένοις, ἢ ἐπιτιθεμένοις, ταῖς γεωμετρικαῖς ἀνάγκαις καὶ ἀποδείξει 10 ποριζόμενον ἴν' οἰκείως κατὰ γεωμέτρως εἴποιμι, 3 τὸ πᾶν εἶναι τῇ μαθηματικῇ ἐπιστήμῃ ξυνορῶν ἀληθῶς περὶ τὰ νοητὰ καὶ ἀσώματα, κἀνταῦθα περαίνουσαν 462 ταύτην τὰς θεωρίας τῇ τοῦ νοῦ βιώσει καὶ πολιτείᾳ τοῦ παντὸς ἄξιον | τῷ ὄντι χρῆμα τοῖς ἐπαίειν ἔχουσιν· οἶδ' ἀμύητοι θύρας ἐπιθέσθων· ἐν βεβήλοις γὰρ ἀποτετάχεται. 4 Οὐ μὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν νοητῶν τε καὶ ὑπὲρ τὸ σῶμα συν- 15 νοούμενος ὡς ἄρα φέρονται πολλοὶ κατὰ χρείας ἐκάστοτε, τῆς ἐπιστήμης κατὰ τὴν ὕλην καὶ μετὰ τῆς ὕλης, πορίσματα, ἀνάγκη πάσης τῶν ἀῶλων εὐρημάτων ἐπιφαινόμενα καὶ ξυνέπεσθαι μάλιστ' αὐτόθεν ἀπαραιτήτως ἔχοντα, 5 ὡς εἶναι καὶ τὰ παρελκόμενα τῇ ἐπιστήμῃ ὄδοῦ' φασὶ 'πάρεργα', πολὺ βιωφελέστατα, καὶ σπουδῆς ἂν εἰκότως ἀξιούμενα μεγίστης, καὶ ἡμῖν 20 πιστούμενα κομιδῇ τὴν νῦν τοῦ λόγου πρόθεσιν, 6 ὡς ἄρα πολλὴν ἔχει τὴν

1 τῆς: της sine accentu P 7 παραπλησία M 8 συγγραφῶν: an scrib. συγγραφῶν? 9 κατασυλλογίζεσθαι: -συλ- s.l. add. P¹ 14 ἐπαίειν P, i.e. non exhib. tremā

14 οἶδ' ... ἀποτετάχεται] cf. Orph. Fr. 7.5 (Diels-Kranz) φθέγξομαι οἷς θέμις ἐστί· θύρας δ' ἐπίθεσθε βέβηλοι | Plu. Fr. 202.5 (Sandbach) αἰεῖσω συνετοῖσι, θύρας δ' ἐπίθεσθε βέβηλοι | Clem.Al. Protr. 7.74.4.1 φθέγξομαι οἷς θέμις ἐστί· θύρας δ' ἐπίθεσθε βέβηλοι 19 ὄδοῦ ... πάρεργα] cf. E. El. 509 ἦλθον γὰρ αὐτοῦ πρὸς τάφον πάρεργ' ὄδοῦ | Plu. De Her. malign. 859E.4sq. ὁμοῦς προσπεριλαβῶν ὄδοῦ, φασί, πάρεργον et Id. Thes. 9.2.1 | Th.Met. Sem. 71.12.30sq. καὶ ἐαυτῷ πάρεργον ὄδοῦ φασὶ et Id. Logos 10.29.4

¹⁶ I.e. prior to Plutarch: πρόληψις ('anticipation') is vague.

¹⁷ 'the writers' artistic ability': this is an attempt at translating the vague τῇ τῆς τέχνης δυνάμει τῶν συγγραφῶν (or 'the artistic ability expressed in writings?').

¹⁸ 'if': κἂν εἴ is difficult, but it seems necessary to connect this with the preceding.

¹⁹ 'here': cf. above, p. 121, n. 3.

about by everyone before¹⁶). And because of these feats Marcellus, who had never been defeated before, gave up and withdrew from the operations and the dangers of battle. 6 He decided to cause the submission of the city only by the aid of time and the wear and tear of a siege, solely trusting to the shortage of necessities, but abstaining from acts of war, which, he saw, could not stand up against the wisdom of Archimedes, who just sat in a corner and analysed everything and with the greatest ease triumphed without weapons.

5 This is what Plutarch says about Archimedes. And very much which is not exactly comparable to this but similar, according to the writers' artistic ability,¹⁷ is to be had from other writers about others, if¹⁸ someone wants to gain real experience and continuously contemplate new matters 2 and consider what useful conclusions, furnished by the imperative rules and proofs of geometry (to express myself in a way familiar to geometers), can be drawn from this either for defenders or for attackers. 3 For I do in fact see that everything which the mathematical science deals with is about perceptible and incorporeal matters, and that science here¹⁹ develops the theories for the life of the mind and the constitution of the whole, indeed a worthy matter for those capable of understanding; but those uninitiated *may close the doors, for they are excluded and must find themselves among the unhallowed.*²⁰ 4 But indeed I also think of the deductions from previous demonstrations of that science of the perceptible and the supercorporeal which is in accordance with and takes matter into account (and many people are in each case dependent on this science), deductions which by all necessity must appear from the immaterial insight and certainly and inexorably follow from these. 5 Thus even that which follows as a consequence of science is, so to speak, a most useful by-product²¹ which may, as is reasonable, be worthy of the greatest attention and serve as a real proof to us of the correctness of the proposition of this essay, 6 namely that human concerns

²⁰ 'may ... unhallowed': this is from the Orphic fragments and is cited, with varying wording, by many later authors, including Plutarch.

²¹ 'by-product' (ὀδοῦ πάρεργα): this expression is at least as old as Euripides' *Electra* 509, and it is taken up by Plutarch and Metochites.

ὄνησιν τάνθρώπινα κατὰ τὸν βίον πράγματα τοῦ μαθηματικοῦ τῆς φιλοσοφίας εἶδους, προχειρισμένους εἰς εὐσύνοπτον καὶ καταδηλοτάτην χρῆσιν τὰ παρὰ τῆς γεωμετρικῆς εἰς τὴν μηχανικὴν καὶ ὀργανικὴν τέχνην χορηγούμενα. ⁷ Καὶ οὐδὲν ἂν εἴη μέγα καὶ τῶν ἄλλων τοῦ μαθηματικοῦ τμημάτων, εἰ βούλοιτό τις, καὶ ἅμα καλῶς ἂν ἔχοι κατασκέπτεσθαι, τὰ χρήσιμα πρὸς τὸν βίον καὶ τὴν ⁵ ἀνθρωπίνην καθ' ὅτιοῦν εὐζῶϊαν προστιθέναί καὶ τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσι τρανοῦν, φιλονεικίας πάσης ἀκαίρως ἐπηρεαζούσης ἐκποδῶν οὔσης.

Θεωρία εἰς τὸ ἔπος τὸ 'Λάθε βιώσας'· OB'

1 'Λάθε βιώσας' φησὶ τὸ ἔπος. Ἀλλ' ἐπισκεπτέον ἐστὶν εἰ ἄρ' ἔξεστι τοῦτο, λαθεῖν βιώσαντα. Ἄν μὲν οὖν ἀβέλτερός τις εἴη καὶ οἶος δὴ ῥᾶστα βιοῦν καὶ ¹⁰ μὴ μόνον ἕξω φθόνου καὶ πάσης ἐπηρείας ἀντιπραττούσης, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀγνοῶν σχεδὸν αὐτὸς εἰ ὄλως ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἐστὶ καὶ λανθάνων ἑαυτόν, ὡς εἰπεῖν, ὅτι ⁴⁸² ζῆ καὶ βιοῖ, ² τούτῳ δὴ μηδὲν μήποτ' ἂν εἴη πρᾶγμα κατὰ τὸν βίον ὀρώντι τὲ καὶ ὀρωμένῳ καὶ κατ' ἀνθρώπους βιοτεύοντι· τίς γὰρ πρὸς γε τὸν | τοιοῦτον ἀντίπραξις ἐπιφύεται, τίς δὲ βασκανία, τίς δὲ δόλος ἀπαντᾶ δυσμενῶν οὐκ οἶδ' ¹⁵ ὦντινων ἄρα, τίς δ' ἐπήρεια κόπτουσα; ³ Καὶ παραπλήσιον ἐνταῦθα ὡσπερ 'οὐδὲ λέων', κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν, 'οὐδ' ἀλώπηξ μύρμηκος οὐκ ἀλεγίζει', πάνθ' ὡς ὀρωμένον πονοῦντος καὶ πλανωμένου τὴνᾶλλως καὶ πράγματ' ἔχοντος ὡς γε δοκεῖ καθ' ὅτιοῦν ἔργον πολυφρόντιδος φύσεως. ⁴ Εἰ δέ τις εἴη τῶν ἀστείων καὶ προεχόντων ἢ γνῶμη τινὶ καὶ φυσικῶ κράτει ἢ κλήρῳ τύχης καὶ ²⁰ δόξῃ τινὶ καὶ πλούτου περιφανείᾳ καὶ φθάσας ἐν μετουσίᾳ τῶν γε τοιούτων ἢ

³ τῆς om. M

⁷ ἐκποδῶν PME, fort. scrib. ἐκποδῶν

¹⁸ τὴνᾶλλως M

⁹ Λάθε βιώσας] cf. Plu. *De latenter vivendo* ubi Epicur. Fr. 551 (Usener) Λάθε βιώσας | *Suda* Λ 41.1 Λάθε βιώσας· τοῦ τε ἐν παροιμίᾳ λέγεσθαι εἰωθότος, ἔργῳ βεβαιωθέντος ὑπ' ἐκείνου ¹⁷ ἀλώπηξ ... ἀλεγίζει] cf. CPG I Greg. Cyr. II 48.1 'Ἐλέφας μῦδος οὐκ ἀλεγίζει | CPG II Mich. Apost. VII 8 'Ἐλέφας μῦν οὐκ ἀλεγίζει: ἐπὶ τῶν τὰ μικρὰ καὶ φαῦλα ὑπερῶντων et Ibid. X 37 Κώνωπος ἐλέφας Ἰνδὸς οὐκ ἀλεγίζει μύρμηκος ... πονοῦντος] cf. *Corp. fab. Aesop.* (Hausrath-Hunger) *Fab. Theophyl.* 2.11sq. ἰκέτετε δὲ ὁ τέττιξ τὸν φιλόπονον μύρμηκα τῶν θησαυρῶν μετασχεῖν | *Ael. NA* 4.43.1 οὕτως ἄρα αὐτοῖς (i.e. μύρμηξι) τὸ ἐθελουργὸν καὶ τὸ ἐθελόπονον ἀπροφασίστως καὶ ἄνευ τινὸς ὑποτιμήσεως ἐθελοκακούσης καὶ σκήψεως

in life can profit much from the mathematical kind of philosophy, if we appropriate the gifts of geometry to the art of engineering and to practical applications and let them be used in the way which is evidently and very clearly the proper one. ⁷ And it would be a small matter²² and at the same time a good thing, if anyone cared to do it, to leave all ill-seasoned and disturbing rivalry on one side and present and clarify to the ignorant in what way the other sections of mathematics are useful for any good human life.

72. Reflections on the maxim *Live hidden*¹

1 *Live hidden*, says the maxim.² But let us investigate if this is really possible—to live hidden. If someone is of a simple disposition and able to live in the most lighthearted way, not only avoiding jealousy and all kinds of hard feeling, but even being almost wholly unaware that he lives among men, and, so to speak, can conceal from himself the fact that he exists and lives— 2 for such a man it should not be difficult in life to watch or to be watched and to live among people. What opposition could such a man meet with, what calumny, what guile could reach him from the side of I do not know which evil-minded men? What insult could hurt him? 3 This is a case similar to that of the proverbial lion, or fox, who does not pay any attention to the ant³ who, as we see, is always striving and roaming about everywhere, seeming to worry about everything which requires a great deal of thought. 4 If, however, someone belongs to the elite and to those who excel, either as to their intellect and physical strength, or as to

²² 'a small matter': as to the scientific effort needed?

¹ *Sem.* 71, *On Plutarch*, is included in the first volume of the edition (Hult 2002).

² This is the famous saying attributed to Epicurus.

³ Proverbial expressions about the elephant and the mouse (or fly) are found in many texts (see app. font. et parall.), i.e. expressions referring to the tendency of the great to ignore the small. In this case, Metochites is having a certain kind of industry, or busyboddiness, in mind and therefore introduces the ant, whose industry is proverbial and mentioned in Aesopus and many other texts.

πάντων ἴσως ὁμοῦ ἢ τινῶν γένοιτο, ⁵ δυσχερὲς κοιμιδῆ καὶ πάντων ὡς ἀληθῶς ἐργωδέστατον τὸ μὴ τούτοις ὀπηροῦν ὀγκοῦσθαι καὶ μάλα τοι θαρρεῖν ἑαυτῷ χρῆσθαι καὶ παραβάλλεσθαι μετ' ἐλπίδων χρηστῶν πρὸς πάντα πράγματα καὶ πάντας ἀνθρώπους. ⁶ Καὶ τίς οὕτω μεγαλόφρων καὶ γεννικὸς καὶ κατὰ παντὸς ἐπαγωγῶ τε καὶ τῷ καθηδύνοντι καὶ θέλγοντι δυναστεύοντος, ὃς ⁵ ὑπερέσχε τῶν εἰρημένων κρείττων καὶ παρεΐδε φυγῶν εὐ μάλα τὰ παρόντα τῆς ἀγαθῆς ξυντυχίας αὐτῷ, ὡς τοῦτ' ὄν αὐτῷ μάλιστα βέλτιστον, καὶ λαθεῖν καθάπαξ ἀνθρώπους εἴλετο, κατὰ τὸ ἔπος, καὶ τοῦτο τοῖνυν, ὡς ἔφην, πάντων ἐργωδέστατον; ⁷ Καὶ ἅμα πῶς ἂν καὶ οἶος τ' εἶη διαδράναι καὶ παρελθεῖν τὴν
 483 περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ τῶν κατ' αὐτὸν τῶν πολλῶν ἐπίγνωσιν, καὶ εἰ μάλ' αἰροῖτο καὶ |
 λαθεῖν ἀξιοῖ; Φθάσας γὰρ ἔχεται καὶ ἤληπται παντάπασι ἀφυκτα τοῖς πολλοῖς ὀρώσι, καὶ μάλιστ' ἔν γε τοῖς τοιοῦτοις εὐ μάλ' ὀρώσι.

2 Τὰλλότρια γὰρ δὴ πλείστον ἄνθρωποι πολυπραγμονοῦσι καὶ ὄξυ-
 βλεπτοῦσι, καὶ μάλισθ' ὅσῳ δὴ τινος εὐφορίας τυγχάνει καὶ φθόνων ἀφορμὰς
 καὶ ὕλην παρέχεται· καὶ τούτοις γὰρ αὐτόθεν ἐφεδρεύουσι καὶ δυσνοοῦσι, καὶ ¹⁵
 πάντ' ἐντεῦθεν κινεῖται μάχημα· καὶ φιλονεικίαι καὶ ἐπιβουλαὶ καὶ ἀντιθέσεων
 ἄμιλλαι, ² καὶ οὐχ' οἶον τε καλῶς ὀτιοῦν ἔχοντα κρύπτεσθαι, οὐδ' οἶον τε
 μὴ πράγματ' ἔχειν μὴδὲ ζυμπίπτειν ἐκόντα τὰ καὶ ἄκοντα τὸ μέρος πολλαῖς
 ταῖς φροντίσι καὶ πλείν ἢ καὶ τέως ὥήθη ποτ' ἂν, καὶ φεύγοντι καθ' αἴρεσιν
 ἀδύνατον διαδράναι καὶ ἡρέμα σχεῖν. ³ Ὡσπερ οὐδ' ἔστιν ἑαυτοῦ γενέσθαι ²⁰
 πῶς ἔξω ζῶντα, ἀλλ' ἀνάγκη δέδεται, καὶ χρῆσθαι λοιπὸν ὡς οἶον τ' εὐ
 ὀπηροῦν ἀπαραίτητον, ἀνάγκη πᾶσα, καὶ πρὸς τοῦθ' ἀμιλλᾶσθαι πάση σπουδῇ
 καὶ διακαρτερεῖν μένοντα, καὶ πρὸς εὐπλοίαν πᾶσαν καὶ πρὸς τούναντίον
 ἀμηγέπη παραβαλλόμενον, ⁴ καὶ τοῖς κατ' εὐχὴν αἰρόμενον ὡς βέλτιστα, καὶ
 βέλτιστ' ἂν εἶη τῷ ὄντι εἰ σωφρονικῶς μὲν οὖν ἔπειτα καὶ τοῖς ἀντιπράττουσιν ²⁵
 484 ὡς ἔνι μάλιστα μὴ ταπεινούμενον μὴδ' ὑποχω|ροῦντα καὶ διδόντα νῶτα τοῖς

I post ἢ add. καὶ M II ἤληπται (pro εἴληπται): fort. ἤλειπται P¹ et ἤληπται p.c. P², εἴληπται M (vide introd. 3, p. liii) 12 τοῖς om. E et ut vid. M 22 post ἀπαραίτητον add. καὶ M σπουδῇ πάση M 24 αἰρόμενον E, non leg. M

⁴ 'this ... imaginable': there may be an intended concessive force in this: 'even though this, as I said, is the most demanding task imaginable'.

⁵ 'in order to achieve this' (πρὸς τοῦθ'): possibly no final force is intended here, in which case we may translate: 'according to this' (in which case 'this' remains rather vague).

their destiny and fame of some sort and spectacular riches, and if he has acquired these advantages, maybe all of them or at least some— 5 for such a man it is really difficult and, indeed, the hardest task imaginable not to be excessively proud of this somehow and not to feel very confident in using his powers and in taking on any task or in competing with anyone with optimism. 6 And who is so broad-minded and noble and steadfast when confronted with everything which is alluring and which reigns by means of enticements and charms, that he is capable of keeping aloof from what is mentioned above and, by fleeing, of wholly disregarding the present advantages of his good fortune, assuming this [self-denial] to be the best for him, and so would choose to live completely hidden from people according to the maxim—this, as I said, being the most demanding task imaginable?⁴ 7 And yet, how would it be possible for him to escape and avoid the many who pay attention to him and to all his concerns, even if this were his choice and he wanted to hide? He is already captive and he has been caught entirely in such a way that it is impossible for him to flee from the many who are watching him, so much the more so since they see very clearly in such cases.

2 For people are extremely curious and sharp-sighted concerning other people's affairs, and particularly so if someone is successful, and so gives an impulse to and material for jealousy. And as a consequence of this they lie in wait for these people and are negative towards them. And this gives rise to all kinds of hostility: strife, and machinations, and antagonism. 2 And it is not possible for him to keep hidden who has any advantages. Nor is it possible not to be troubled or not to expose oneself to many worries, willingly or, sometimes, unwillingly—even more worries, perhaps, than one would hitherto have believed possible. And if one chooses to flee, it will prove impossible really to escape and to have peace. 3 As long as one is alive it is likewise not feasible to escape one's own self in any way, but we are bound by necessity, and it is somehow unavoidable and in every way necessary to use one's abilities as well as possible, and to fight, in order to achieve this,⁵ with great zeal and to stand firm, not only when confronted with a totally calm passage but also when somehow opposite conditions prevail, 4 and to feel elated if your wishes are wholly fulfilled. It would

ἐγκειμένους ἐπιδραμεῖν καὶ παντάπασιν αἴσχιστα καταστρέψασθαι. 5 Οὐ μέντ' ἂν ἀνεμέσητον ἐν τούτοις εἶη τὸ δι' ἀτυχίαν λειποτακτεῖν, καὶ πολὺ γ' ἀηδέστατον τὸ δι' ἀτυχίαν λειποτακτεῖν τὰ πράγματα δοκεῖν οὐ δι' εὐγένειάν τινα γνώμης καὶ μεγαλοφροσύνην, ὃ μάλιστα' ἐν τούτοις ἔπεται. 6 Καὶ πολλοὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐξ ἀνάγκης ὁμόσε πᾶσι πράγμασιν ἐντεῦθεν ἐμπληκτοὶ 5 φέρονται, οἳ δ' ἀλγοῦντες μὲν καὶ μάλα τοι πονήρως καὶ παρὰ γνώμην, βιάζονται δ' ὅμως παραμένειν οἷς εἰσὶ, καὶ διαεθλεύειν ὅποι ποτ' ἂν ἄγοιντο καὶ ὅπως ἄρα, δεξιῶς τε καὶ μή. 7 Καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως ἔξω πραγμάτων καθάπαξ γενέσθαι ὅτι μὴ καθάπαξ πράξαντα κακῶς καὶ τελευτῶντ' ἴσως τοῖς ἔχθοις ἐν οἴκτῳ γενόμενον ἢ περιφρονηθέντα παντάπασι καὶ πάσης ἀπεγνωσμένον 10 καὶ ἀλλοτριωθέντα χρηστῆς προσδοκίας.

Εἰ προσίσταται τῷ χριστιανικῶς ζῆν τὸ μετὰ πολλῶν ζῆν
καὶ ἐν πολλοῖς πράγμασι ζῆν· ΟΓ'

1 Πολλάκις ἔπεισι μοι τοῖς λογισμοῖς ἐπισκέπτεσθαι καὶ βασανίζειν, εἰ ἄρα
485 πως ἀντιπράττει καὶ λυμαίνεται τῷ χριστιανικῶς ζῆν τὸ βιοῦν | ἐν πράγμασι 15
καὶ πολιτικῇ κοινωνίᾳ καὶ χρήσει πολλοῖς συμβιοῦντα καί, πᾶσα ἀνάγκη,
συμπλεκόμενον, 2 νῦν μὲν ἴσως ἐν εὐφορίᾳ καὶ ῥαστώνῃ χρώμενον, νῦν δὲ καὶ
τούναντίον καὶ λυπούμενον τοῖς ξυμπίπτουσι καὶ λύπης ἀφορμὰς διδόντα καὶ
πολλοῖς ἀπεχθανόμενον καὶ πολλοὺς ἀνιῶντα, τὰ μὲν ἐνδίκως, τὰ δὲ καὶ μή, 3
καὶ φόβοις καὶ ὑπονοίαις καὶ θυμοῖς ταραττόμενον, καὶ καθάπαξ μὴ γαλήνην 20
ἔχειν τῷ νῷ ξυγχωρούμενον καὶ προσέχειν ὀπηοῦν θεῷ, καὶ προσέχειν τοῖς
νομίμοις αὐτοῦ καὶ οἷς κατ' ἐπιταγὴν ἀπαραίτητον ὀφειλέτης ἐστί— 4 καὶ

21 συγχωρούμενον M

22 ἐστί P et ut vid. M, -iv E

⁶ 'this ... cases' (ὃ μάλιστα' ἐν τούτοις ἔπεται): this is vague, and it is not clear to which part of the whole 'this' refers.

indeed be best if a man then, wisely and as well as possible, could avoid being humiliated by his enemies and giving way and offering his back to be attacked by those who are pressing him and who try to destroy him in the most shameful manner. 5 In such a situation to abandon the ranks on account of misfortune would not free you from censure. And it certainly is most ignominious to seem to abandon one's duties because of misfortune and not because of some nobility of mind or magnanimity; this is what happens in most cases.⁶ 6 And of necessity many people are for this reason rashly driven into close contact with all kinds of worldly business, some of them while experiencing pain and being in a very grievous state, and against their expectations; but nevertheless they are forced to stay their ground and to fight on in whichever direction they are driven and in whatever way, regardless whether ably or not. 7 Thus there is no other way of breaking away completely from all worldly business than through meeting with a complete catastrophe, so that on dying you may perhaps raise the pity of your enemies or meet with utter contempt and have to despair of and be denied all good expectations.

73. Whether it constitutes an obstacle to the Christian way of life to live in the midst of the many and to be engaged in much worldly business

1 I often come to think about and to examine in my mind, whether in some way it works against and is detrimental to the Christian way of life to live engaged in worldly business and in political intercourse and among many people, and therefore, of necessity, to be mutually dependent on them— 2 sometimes maybe living in contentment and with ease but sometimes in the opposite manner, so as to be harassed by what happens and to give ground for sorrow, and to be hated by many and to annoy many, now with, now without right, 3 and to be disturbed by fears and suspicions and rage and, in one word, to be allowed no peace of mind either for being observant of God in any way or for being observant of His rules or of that which is your inexorable duty 4 (there is hardly any other way of worship-

σχεδὸν οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως θεοσεβεῖν καὶ κατὰ χριστιανούς ὄλως ἄγεσθαι—καὶ οἷς ἐπὶ προκοπῇ καὶ μετουσίᾳ τινὸς ἀμείνονος καὶ ὑπὲρ τοὺς πολλοὺς ἕξω νομοθετούμεθα καὶ πρὸς τὰ τελειοποιὰ τῆς ἀρετῆς καὶ ὑπὲρ τὴν ἀναγκαστὴν καὶ ἀπαραίτητον χρῆσιν ⁵ ὑπὸ δεσποτικῆς φιλανθρωπίας πάντα βουλομένης ἡμῖν ἀγαθὰ καὶ τὰ πάντων κάλλιστα προδεικνύσης εὐ μάλ' ἀναγόμεθα, καὶ ⁵ ἃ μᾶλλον ἔστιν ἀνύτειν καὶ ῥᾶον πλεονεκτεῖν τοὺς πολλοὺς, τὴν ἀμείνονα κατὰ βίον ἕξιν καὶ χρῆσιν, μὴ πολλοῖς τοῖς πράγμασι συνδούμενον καὶ πολλοῖς ἀγχόμενον τοῖς φροντίσμασιν. ⁶ Ὑφ' ὧν ἔστιν ὡς ἀληθῶς παντάπασιν ἐκπίπτειν τῆς βελτίστης ἕξω ὅς τε καὶ ἀγωγῆς καὶ καταβαπτίζεσθαι καὶ ναυαγεῖν ¹⁰ 486 πᾶσαν τὴν εὐχρηστίαν | τοῦ βίου ἢ μάλιστ' ἐργωδέστατον βίον εἰς τὴν τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ μετουσίαν ἀνύτειν καὶ ἀεὶ κινδύνοις παλαίειν καὶ διαεθλεύοντα κατορθοῦν ὅτιοῦν τὸν βίον εἰς τὰ τῆς χριστιανικῆς θεοσεβείας νόμιμα. ⁷ Κἂν εἴ τις καλῶς ἄγοιτο (καὶ τοῦτο πῶς ἄρα καὶ πόσον δῆ;), ἄγεσθαι μὲν εὐ δῆλον οὐ καθάπαξ οὐδὲ τελείως, ἄγεσθαι δὲ πόνῳ τοι πλείστῳ καὶ πολλαῖς ἀντιπράξεσι καὶ ποικίλαις δυσχερῶς ὠθούμενον καὶ κοπτόμενον καὶ τὰ μὲν περιγινόμενον, ¹⁵ τὰ δὲ καὶ συγκλῶμενον καὶ καταπίπτοντα.

2 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ τούτων μάλισθ' εἶνεκα πλείστοι καὶ φεύγουσιν ὄλη φορᾶ τὰς μετὰ τῶν πολλῶν κοινωνίας καὶ τὰ πράγματα καὶ ἀνθαιροῦνται τὴν ἐρημίαν καὶ τὸ ἄπραγμον καὶ ἀκοινωνητον τῶν πολλῶν, ² οὐ μισανθρωπίαν ἀσκοῦντες—πόρρω γὰρ δὴ τοῦτο πάντῳ τοι τῆς χριστιανικῆς νομοθεσίας καὶ ²⁰ τῶν καθ' ἡμᾶς ὡς οὐκ ἄλλο τι καθάπαξ ἀλλοτριώτατον· πόθεν; οἱ γε τοῦτο καὶ μάλιστα πρὸ τῶν ἄλλων ἔχομεν τούπισημον τῆς Χριστοῦ μαθητείας καὶ πίστεως τὴν πρὸς ἀλλήλους ἀγάπην καὶ τὸ φιλητικόν, οὐ φίλοι πρὸς φίλους μόνον καὶ συνήθεις καὶ οἷς ὀφείλομεν, ἀλλὰ καὶ πρὸς τινὰς τάναντία πράττοντας— ³ ἀλλ' ἀσφαλιζόμενοι σφίσι τὸν βίον οἱ τοῦτο δρῶντες τοὺς ²⁵ 487 ἀπὸ τῶν πολλῶν δρασμοὺς τούτους | αἰροῦνται καὶ ἀειφυγίαν τῶν ἐν τῇ

7 πολλοῖς: πολὺ M 13 ἄρα PME ut vid. pro ἄρα post εὐ add. γε M

¹ 'a better way of life': τὴν ἀμείνονα κατὰ βίον ἕξιν καὶ χρῆσιν.

² 'surpass the many' (πλεονεκτεῖν τοὺς πολλοὺς): for contextual reasons (cf. § 4 'raising us above the many' etc.) I take τοὺς πολλοὺς rather as object than as the subject of an acc. c. inf. However, if we take it as the subject, we would translate: '[in which it is easier] for the many to be successful'.

³ 'these', i.e. 'anxieties' or, possibly, 'matters of worldly business'.

ping God or of living in a Christian way at all), nor for being observant of those commandments which are laid down as rules for us for our own betterment and in order to give us a share in a better life, raising us above the many, and through which commandments we are conducted, in the very best way, towards that which makes us perfect with regard to virtue and which lies above the necessary and elementary way of life, 5 conducted by the Lord's love of mankind, in every way wishing us well and giving a view in advance of the best of all, and also conducted towards that (that is, a better way of life),¹ which we are more likely to accomplish and in which it is easier to surpass the many,² if not too heavily fettered by worldly business or troubled with many anxieties. 6 Because of these³ it is indeed possible completely to fall away from the best habits and ways of life, and to be drowned and shipwrecked as to every advantage which life can give, or to be forced to live through a most wearisome⁴ life in order to have one's share of what is good, and always to wrestle with dangers and by desperate fighting adjust one's life in some degree to the rules of the Christian religion. 7 And even if someone would succeed in living well (and how could that be, and to what extent?), it is most obvious that he would not be doing well once and for all, nor perfectly, but that he would be doing well with the greatest pain only and hard pressed and hit by many different adversities, sometimes victorious, but sometimes broken and falling.

2 In this way, and chiefly for this reason, a great many people go as far as to avoid, with all their might, having anything to do with the many and being involved in worldly business and, instead of this, they choose loneliness and to have no business and no dealings with the multitude. 2 This they do not do out of misanthropy, which is very far from the Christian law and more than anything most foreign to our rules. How is that so? Because we more than others have, as a sign of the teaching of Christ and our belief in Him, love and kindness towards other people [as our characteristic]—not only of friends towards friends and acquaintances and towards those to whom we are indebted, but also towards some who lead a life in

⁴ 'most wearisome': μάλιστα, here taken with ἐργωδέστατον, may possibly instead qualify the sentence as a whole and mean 'most likely [to live through etc.]'.

μετὰ τῶν πολλῶν ζωῆ δυσχερῶν καὶ φροντισμάτων καὶ ὀχλούντων καὶ
 ταραττόντων ἀεὶ καὶ μέγιστα δὴ προσισταμένων πρὸς τὴν εὐγενῆ καὶ κατὰ
 Χριστὸν πολιτείαν καὶ ἀγωγὴν τοῦ βίου, ⁴ καὶ φέρουσιν ἕξω τῶν ἐπιθέσεων
 ἑαυτοῦς καὶ εἰς τὸ κινδυνεύειν τὰ κάλλισθ' ἑτοιμότητος, ὡς ἄρα τὴν ἐρημίαν
 καὶ τὴν τῶν πολλῶν καὶ τῶν πραγμάτων μάλιστα φυγὴν ἐλευθέραν οὖσαν ⁵
 κομιδῆ πολλῶν ἀντιπράξεων, αἱ πεφύκασιν ἐν τῷ πολλὰ πράττειν καὶ ξὺν
 πολλοῖς, πᾶσα ἀνάγκη, ⁵ καὶ πολλὴν εὐκολίαν ἔχουσιν εἰς τὸ τὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ
 συντηρεῖν δόγματα καὶ προσανέχειν ἀτρέπτως καὶ πλάνων δίχα μεγάλων
 καὶ πλείστων καὶ διασπασμῶν ἄλλων ἄλλοθεν οἷς ἐκλείσθησαν νομίμοις τῆς
 πίστεως, ὥσπερ ἐκ πονηρᾶς τινος συνοικίας καὶ νοσερᾶς καὶ δυσχρήστου καὶ ¹⁰
 πλείστον ἐπικινδύνου ⁶ πρὸς ἐρραστωνευμένον βίον καὶ γαλήνης γέμοντα
 μετοικιζόμενοι καὶ ἀποχωροῦντες πολλῶν ἐπιβουλῶν καὶ ἀντιπράξεων
 καὶ πολυμόχθου ζωῆς κατὰ καιρὸν ἀνύτειν τῷ Χριστῷ καὶ τῇ παρ' αὐτοῦ
 διδασκαλίᾳ· καὶ ἥς τυχεῖν τε καὶ ἥς μὴ τυχεῖν οὐκ ὀλίγον ἔπειτα πρᾶγμα. ⁷
⁴⁸⁸ Οὕτω μὲν οὖν πολλοὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἔρωτι τῆς τοῦ θεοῦ λατρείας | φευκτέον ¹⁵
 εἶναι τὸ μετὰ πολλῶν βιοτεύειν ἀξιοῦσι καὶ ἀποτρέπονται παντὶ τρόπῳ πρὸς
 πλείσθ' ὄραν καὶ συνεῖναι διαπαντὸς πράγμασι καὶ δεσμοῖς τοῦ βίου, καὶ ὡς
 ἀληθῶς οὐκ ὀλίγος ἐνταῦθα πόνος, πρὸς τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ ζωὴν καὶ τὸ τῶν αὐτοῦ
 δογμάτων καὶ τῆς διδασκαλίας ἀντιποιεῖσθαι.

³ Οὐ μὴν ἄλλ' οὐκ ἂν φαίμεν, οὐδ' εὐλογον μὲν οὖν ἐστὶν οὐδὲ λυσιτελεῖς ²⁰
 ἡμῖν τοῖς ἐχθροῖς τῆς πίστεως τοῖς λόγοις τούτοις χῶραν διδόναι καὶ ἀφορμὰς
 καὶ παρρησίαν, ² ὡς ἄρ' ὁ τοῦ Χριστοῦ νόμος καὶ τὸ παρ' ἡμῖν δόγμα καὶ
 πολίτευμα φθορὰν τοῦ βίου καὶ κατάλυσιν τῶν ὑποδεχομένων πράττεται καὶ
 νομοθετεῖ κατὰ τῆς ἀνθρώπων κοινωνίας καὶ συνδιαγωγῆς, καὶ ὡς ἐντεῦθεν
 οὐκ ἂν εἴη οὔτε γένεσις ἀνθρώπων οὔτε κόσμου παράτασις ἐκ διαδοχῆς οὔτε ²⁵
 πολιτεύματα, ³ πάντων φευγόντων ἀλλήλους καὶ γάμον καὶ παιδοποιίαν καὶ

7 τοῦ om. M 13 post ζωῆς spatium 3–4 litt. exhib. P, ubi fort. a.c. exhib. καὶ 18 ὀλίγος
 p.c. P et ut vid. M, ut vid. ὀλίγος a.c. P πόνος M et p.c. P, ut vid. πόνοις a.c. P 21 τοῖς
 ἐχθροῖς ἡμῖν M τούτοις τοῖς λόγοις P, sed litteris β et α supra τούτοις et τοῖς λόγοις positis
 indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. τοῖς λόγοις τούτοις

⁵ 'risk the utmost': i.e. the salvation of their soul.

⁶ 'politics': πράγματα.

⁷ 'healthy abode' (ἐρραστωνευμένον βίον): or 'easy life'.

opposition to ours. ³ It is rather in order to make their own life safe that those who do so choose this running-away from the multitude and an eternal exile from the difficulties and worries and continual annoyances and disturbances of a life with the many—circumstances which in the highest degree stand in the way of noble demeanour and a life in accordance with Christ. ⁴ And they withdraw out of the range of attacks and from being in readiness to risk the utmost,⁵ on the assumption that loneliness and fleeing from the multitude and in particular from politics⁶ means total freedom from many kinds of adversities, which necessarily occur if one is engaged in much business and involved with a great deal of people. ⁵ They further assume that fleeing from the multitude makes it very easy to keep the laws of Christ and to observe, consistently and without a great deal of grievous errors and disruptions from every side, the rules of the faith by which they have been fettered, as if moving from a bad and unhealthy and inconvenient and most dangerous neighbourhood ⁶ to a healthy abode,⁷ full of peace, and in good time retreating from the many machinations and adversities and the wearisome life, in order to work for⁸ Christ and His teaching. And then it is of no mean importance what of this they achieve and what not.⁹ ⁷ In this way many people, out of love for the worship of Christ, deem it necessary to flee from living with the many, and in every way they avoid taking an interest in many things and being always engaged in worldly business and fettered by life. And, truly, it is not easy in this world to live in Christ and to respect His doctrines and teachings.

³ However, we should not say so, and it is neither reasonable nor expedient with such words to give the enemies of our faith the chance and cause and opportunity to say, ² that the law of Christ and the precepts of our belief and our polity work destruction upon life and dissolution of what we have received as our inheritance, and that they set up rules hostile towards the intercourse of men and their living together, and that, if one followed these laws no humans would be born, nor would there be any

⁸ 'work for': ἀνύπτειν.

⁹ 'And then ... not': the interpretation of this sentence is uncertain.

κοινὰς ὄλως πράξεις καὶ δεσμὸν καὶ συνέχειαν βιώσεως καί, καθόλου γ' ἐρεῖν, ἐξ ὧν ἔστι συμμαχεῖσθαι τὸ διαρκὲς τῆς τοῦ πρώτου δημιουργοῦ καὶ δεσπότητος καλλίστης ἐργασίας, καὶ τὸ κατὰ φύσιν ἀνθρώποις κοινωνικὸν καὶ ἀγελαῖον ὁμοῦ καὶ τὰνθρώπινα συννόμια, ἃ καὶ λόγοι θεῖοι καὶ φύσις 5 διδάσκουσι. 4 Καὶ πολλοὶ τῶν τὰ περὶ φύσεως καὶ τῆς τῶν ὄντων διοικήσεως 489 πολυπραγμονησάντων καὶ διὰ βασά|νου πάσης ἀκριβωσαμένων ὀρίζονται φύσει κατ' ἀνθρώπους εἶναι τὸ κοινοπραγεῖν καὶ συμβιοῦν ἀλλήλοις καὶ μήποτ' ἐξόν, ὡσπερ τοῦτο καὶ περὶ πλείστ' ἄλλα τῶν ζῶων ὁράται, διατετιμημένως ἀλλήλων καθάπαξ εἶναι καὶ ιδιοπραγεῖν ἀκοιώνητά τε καὶ ἀπολίτευτα. 5 Καὶ εἰ τοῦτο κατὰ φύσιν ἄρα—καὶ δῆλον εὖ μάλα τοῦτο παντί—ἢ μάταιον ἂν εἴη τὸ 10 παρὰ τοῦτ' ἄλλως πράττειν αἰρεῖσθαι καὶ παντάπασι νομίζειν κατὰ τῶν ὄντων ἀδύνατα καὶ ἃ μήποτε φύσιν ἔχει περαίνειν τοῦ πρώτου δημιουργοῦ λόγου τῆ φύσει μένοντος, 6 ἢ τάναντία φέρεσθαι καὶ ἀντιπαλαμᾶσθαι καὶ κατεπείγεσθαι κατὰ τῆς τοῦ θεοῦ σοφίας καὶ προνοίας καὶ κατὰ τῆς αὐτοῦ βουλήσεως ἀντεπιχειρεῖν καὶ λύειν πειρᾶσθαι τάξιν καὶ νόμους θεοῦ 7 καὶ περιτρέπειν 15 τὰ καλῶς εἶναι δόξαντα ὡς ἂν μὴ καλῶς δόξαντα μὴδὲ κρατοῦντα καλῶς τῷ τὴν ἀρχὴν κεκινηκότι δημιουργῷ καὶ μέχρι νῦν τοῖς αὐτοῖς ὄροις ἄγοντι, καὶ φρονεῖν ἄλλως ἔχοντα βέλτιον ἔχειν καὶ λυόμενα καὶ μὴ μένονθ' ὡς ἔστηκε πάλαι πρὸς ἄρα κρεῖττον χωρεῖν καὶ μεταποιεῖσθαι. 8 Οὐ μέντ' ἂν εἴη τοῦτ' 20 ἄλλων ἢ μελαγχολώντων ἀνδρῶν ἢ 'κινούντων', κατὰ τὸν λόγον, 'τάκηνητα' 490 καὶ κόσμου τάξιν ἀλλαττόντων καὶ δόγματα φύσεως καὶ δόγματ' ἀσάλευτα θεοῦ, ὃ πολλοῦ δέοι τις ἂν εὖ φρονῶν, ὄλως φάναί, καὶ βουλευεῖν ὡς βέλτιστ' ἄρ' ἔχον | καθόλου ἢ τῷ παντί ἢ μάλισθ' ἑαυτῷ.

10 μάταιον: -ν p.c. P², de fine vocis sec. P¹ non constat (-ν vel -ς vel -ι), μάταιος M 23 ἑαυτῷ: ἑαυτοῦ E, non leg. M

20 κινούντων ... τάκηνητα] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 67.2.4 et 76.3.5

¹⁰ 'relationships': συννόμια.

¹¹ I.e. [to partake of] communal activities and human intercourse.

¹² 'the first Creating Word': or 'the Word of the first Creator'.

¹³ 'and etc.': ἢ – ἢ in §§ 5 and 6 I do not understand as truly disjunctive, but rather as a weak 'as well ... as'; one could translate here 'and, even worse'.

prolongation of the world nor of polities through succession, 3 since we should all be avoiding each other and avoiding marriage and the begetting of children and common acts on the whole, and all bonds on life and the continuance of this life and, in sum, avoiding that wherewith one can contribute to the fight for the duration of the most beautiful work of the first Creator and Lord, as well as for man's inherent social and likewise gregarious instincts, and for human relationships¹⁰ which are taught by the Holy Scriptures and by nature. 4 Also many of those who have enquired into nature and the order of things and who, by means of every kind of investigation, have acquired an accurate knowledge about it, state that it is natural for men to work together and to live together and that—as can be seen also with regard to most other animals—it is never possible to be totally separated from one another and to act on one's own, without contact and without political institutions. 5 So, if this,¹¹ then, is according to nature—a fact which is quite obvious to everyone—it would be in vain to prefer a different acting or even to consider right things, which are contrary to facts and which, because of their nature, never could come to pass as long as the first Creating Word¹² remains in force within nature; 6 and¹³ it would be in vain to take the opposite action and to fight and struggle against God's wisdom and providence and in turn to attack His will, trying to dissolve God's order and laws, 7 and to upset what was judged right by the Creator as if it were not right nor functioning well—the Creator, Who in the beginning made the first move and Who still acts according to the same principles—and to think that some other order would be better and that, if the order which was established in the past could be dissolved and not remain as it was, then things would progress and change for the better. 8 None but madmen¹⁴ would want this, or those who, as the saying goes, try to *move the immovable*,¹⁵ and change the world order and the laws of nature and the unchangeable laws of God—which, generally speaking, is

¹⁴ 'madmen': μελαγχολῶντες ('melancholic men', i.e. mentally unstable people).

¹⁵ 'move the immovable': cf. above, 67.2.4 (with app. font. et parall.), and below, 76.3.5.

4 Ἄλλ' ἀνθεκτέον μὲν ἐστί, πᾶσα ἀνάγκη, τῶν νομίμων τοῦ καλοῦ καὶ τῆς ἀληθινῆς ταύτης καθ' ἡμᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ θεοσεβείας καὶ πίστεως, κάνταῦθα τὸ καλῶς εἶναι καὶ οὐκ ἄλλως βιοῦν οἰητέον, καὶ πάντων ἄλλων καταγνωστέον ἀπάσαις ψήφοις ἀπάτην καὶ λῆρον καὶ ψεῦδος αὐτόθεν εὐέλεγκτον καὶ οὐδὲν μήποθ' ἐστῶς ἔχον, μὴδ' ἐν ταῦτῳ μένον ἀκλόνητον, μὴδ' ἐν καλοῖς ὅπως ἄρα 5 τυπούμενον. 2 Εἰ δ' ἄρα τὸ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ καθάπαξ ἀρτιουργὸν ἐργῶδες, μηκέτ' ἀποφευκτέον, μὴδ' ἀπογνωστέον τῶν ἐπ' αὐτῷ καὶ περὶ τῆς αὐτοῦ κτήσεως πόνων, ἀλλὰ προβαλλομένους τὰς καλὰς ἄνωθεν ἐλπίδας καὶ συμμαχίας ἐπιμελητέον, ὡς ἂν ἕκαστος οἶος τ' εἴη, πράττειν εἰς τὸν σκοπὸν αὐτόν, κοινὸν πᾶσιν ἐκκείμενον, καὶ τοῖς μὲν ἴσως μᾶλλον, τοῖς δ' ἥττον ἀνύσιμον. 3 10 Ἀδύνατον μὲν γὰρ τῶν παρὰ θεοῦ νομίμων οὐδὲν οὐκ ἂν μήποτέ τις εὐ φρονῶν φαίη, ἄλλω δ' ἄλλου περὶ ταῦτ' ἂν ἐξείη περαίνειν βέλτιόν τε καὶ μῆ, καθὼς 491 αἰροῖτ' ἂν καὶ δύναιτο. Πάν|τως δ' ἂν ἐξείη παντὶ καλῶς ὀπηροῦν χρῆσθαι, 4 καὶ οὐδὲν τῶν ἀπάντων καθάπαξ εἴργει τῆς εὐγενοῦς καὶ γνώμης καὶ χρήσεως οὐδένα τῶν ἀπάντων—οὐ χρόνος, οὐ τύχη πᾶσα, οὐ πάνθ' ἃ κατὰ τὸν βίον εὐ 15 τε καὶ μὴ καὶ μᾶλλον μὲν οὖν καὶ ἥττον ξυμπίπτει πράγματα.

ἽΟτι τὸ μὴ μετὰ πολλῶν βιοῦν πραγμάτων εὐκολίαν φέρει
εἰς τὴν τήρησιν τῶν τῆς χριστιανικῆς εὐσεβείας νομίμων·

ΟΔ'

1 Ἔστι μὲν γε ὡς ἀληθῶς τὸ μὴ πολιτεύεσθαι μὴδὲ κοινῇ μετὰ πλείστων βιοῦν 20 μάλιστα δὴ φέρον εὐκολίαν, ὥστε καλῶς τοῖς ὀριθεῖσι χριστιανικοῖς νομίμοις καὶ δόγμασι βιοῦν, καὶ πολλὰς προσκοπῶν εἰς τοῦθ' ὑποθέσεις ἀφαιρεῖται, 2 καὶ πορείαν ἔχουσιν ἀνύτειν βιώσιμον οἱ οὕτως ἐλόμενοι ζῆν καὶ ἰδιοπραγεῖν τὰ καθ' ἑαυτοὺς μόνα καὶ μὴ πολλοῖς παραβάλλεσθαι καὶ συμφέρεσθαι, μῆ

5 ἐστῶς: fort. scrib. ἐστὸς

24 μὴ om. P¹M, add. s.l. P²

¹⁶ 'the whole creation' (τῷ παντί): or 'everyone'. This is vague.

¹⁷ 'others': i.e. all people of another opinion.

what every sensible man would be far from even thinking of as what would be the very best for the whole creation¹⁶ or for himself in particular.

4 Instead it is absolutely necessary to keep to the rules of the good and to this true reverence and belief in Christ which prevails among us; and you must believe that the good life lies in this and that you should not live in any other way; and we ought to condemn unanimously all others¹⁷ as guilty of fraud and folly and falsehood, easy to refute in itself and always without foundation, never constant nor in any way being cast in a good mould. 2 Thus, even though it is difficult to do really good,¹⁸ one should never try to avoid this, nor despair in view of all the toil which the good involves and which is inevitable in order to acquire it. Instead we should arm ourselves with our original good hopes and strive for alliances, and according to every man's ability we should work towards that goal common to everyone, more easily reached by some, less easily by others. 3 For no sensible man would ever say that anything which God has decreed is impossible to achieve, but some will probably succeed better than others [in achieving it], according to inclination and ability. In general, however, it should be possible for everyone to be successful in some respect, 4 and there is nothing at all which once and for all bars anyone from forming a sound opinion or from acting well—not time, not destiny, not any of these things which, for good or for worse, with more or less likelihood, may happen during life.

74. That it is easier¹ to keep the rules of the Christian religion if one is not engaged in much worldly business

1 Not being engaged in politics, and not living in the midst of many, is in truth what best makes it easy to live well in accordance with the established Christian rules and dogmas, and, if we choose this kind of life, it relieves us from many occasions to stumble. 2 And those who have chosen to live in

¹⁸ 'to do really good': τὸ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ καθάπαξ ἀρτιουργόν.

¹ 'it is easier' (εὐκολίαν φέρει): or 'it is easy'.

δίχα καμάτων πολλῶν καὶ σκώλων ἐν μέσῳ, καὶ τρέχουσι μάλιστα δεσμῶν
 ἐλεύθεροι πλείστων ἐπεχόντων καὶ πλείστα παρεχομένων τῷ τρέχειν πράγ-
 ματα. ³ Ὡσπερ ἄρ' ἔχει τοῦτο τοῖς ἐν τῷ πολιτεύεσθαι μεριζομένοις εἰς πλείστα
 492 καὶ μὴ τὰ οἰκεία ζῆν ἀνάγκη | ἔχουσιν, ἀλλὰ καὶ πλείστοις ἄλλοις, ἀλλ' οὐχ'
 ἑαυτοῖς μόνοις ζῆν· μάλιστα μὲν δεσπότης αὐτοῖς, ὅσοις τοι ξυνέλαχεν ὑπὸ ⁵
 δεσπότης εἶναι, ἔπειτα δὲ καὶ πλείστοις ἄλλοις, οἷς πᾶσα ἀνάγκη συνεῖναι
 καὶ συμπολιτεύεσθαι. ⁴ Δεσπότης μὲν γε πάντα πείθεσθαι καὶ πρὸς μηδὲν
 ἀντιτείνειν, μὴδ' ἄλλως ἢ ὡς ἐκεῖνοι νομίζουσι ζῆν, καὶ νόμοι καθ' ἡμᾶς θεῖοι
 πάνυ τοι καταναγκάζουσι, καὶ πάντ' ἀνθρώπων νόμιμα καὶ πάντων ἐθνῶν,
⁵ καὶ περὶ τὰ θεῖα διαφόρως θρησκευόντων πάλαι τὲ καὶ νῦν, καὶ βαρβάρων ¹⁰
 τὲ καὶ ἑλληνικῶν, καὶ σοφῶν ἀνθρώπινα καὶ μὴ τοιούτων, καὶ ἄλλων ἄλλα
 νομίζόντων καὶ διαφερομένων τῇ χρήσει τοῦ βίου καὶ τῷ πολιτεύεσθαι, ⁶ κοινή
 γε ὁμῶς εἰς τοῦτο παρὰ πάντων συμφωνία τοῖς ἄρχουσι τοὺς ὑποτεταγμένους
 πάντα πείθεσθαι καὶ μὴ φιλονεικεῖν μὴδ' ἐναντιπραγεῖν ὅλως αἰρεῖσθαι, εἰ
 μέλλοι καλῶς ἔξιν κοινή καὶ ἄρχουσι καὶ ἄρχομένοις τὰ πράγματα. Καὶ οὐκ ¹⁵
 ἄλλως ἔστι καλῶς χρῆσθαι καὶ βιοῦν· ⁷ μᾶλλον μὲν οὖν οὐθ' ὅλως ἔσται βιοῦν
 ἐν ἀνθρώποις καὶ πολιτεύεσθαι τοῖς ὑπ' ἄλλους λαχοῦσι ζῆν καὶ βιοῦν, ὅτι μὴ
 πάντα καθ' ἡδονὴν ἀγομένοις καὶ πᾶν ἀποπιμπλάσι τὸ γιγνόμενον εὐπειθεία·
 493 εἰ δὲ μὴ, πάντως κλαιήσουσι καὶ κακῶν αἴτιοι σφίσι αὐτοῖς γεγονό|τες
 γνῶσονται. ⁸ Καὶ ἴσως ἔστιν ὅτε, καὶ εἰσὶν ὄντως, οἱ οὐδ' ἐπάνοδόν τιν' ²⁰
 ἔξουσιν εἰς τὸ τυχεῖν αὐθὺς χώρας ἐπανορθοῦν τὰ φθάσαντα καὶ ξυνδιατίθεσθαι
 τοῖς δεσπότης βέλτιον καὶ ὡς ἂν ἀμφοτέροις συνοίσει, φθάσαντες ἐξώλεις
 γενόμενοι καὶ τοῖς ἐσχάτοις ἐμπεσόντες κινδύνοις.

2 Καὶ τοίνυν ὅσοις μὲν δὴ ξυνέτυχε δεσποτῶν πειραθῆναι χρηστῶν,
 ἔστι μὲν καὶ οὕτως ἐργῶδες πάνυ τοι τὸ πάντα διὰ πάντων καὶ τοῖς γε τοι- ²⁵

2 πλείστων: πλείστον P¹M, -ων s.l. add. P² (vide introd. 2.5, p. xxxix) 8 νόμοι E et ut vid. M, νόμοι τοι a.c. P 12 κοινή M 13 post πάντων add. ἡ M 15 μέλλει M 16 οὖν om. P, s.l. add. P² 24 δεσποτῶν ξυνέτυχε P, sed litteris β et α supra δεσποτῶν et ξυνέτυχε positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. ξυνέτυχε δεσποτῶν

² 'comparing themselves': παραβάλλεσθαι.

³ Here, the Greek text of P², which I follow, has an extra, seemingly double, negation; this is problematic but perhaps psychologically understandable (cf. the introduction, 2.5, p. xxxix).

⁴ 'a great many' (πλείστων): or 'heavily' (πλείστον); see on this textual problem the introduction, 2.5, p. xxxix.

this way, minding only their own affairs without comparing themselves² to the many and associating with them, have an easy journey through life to accomplish, free³ from many troubles and hindrances on the way, and they are able to run free in the highest degree from a great many⁴ restricting chains, which would cause a great deal of problems in the running. ³ Such is the case with those who have divided their attention between many aspects of politics and who do not have only their private business to take care of, but must live for many others and not only for themselves. First and foremost they must live for their masters—those who happen to have masters—but also for many others, with whom it is absolutely necessary to associate and have dealings. ⁴ To obey one's masters in everything and not to oppose them in any way, nor to live in any other way than the one they consider right, this our divine laws also enjoin us to very strongly, like all human rules, even those of all non-Christians, ⁵ and of those of another creed,⁵ now as well as in the past, and of barbarians and Hellenes, and of those wise about human matters and those who are not, and of people with different opinions and those who disagree as to how one should lead one's life and arrange public matters— ⁶ all the same there is a common agreement in this respect, that is that subjects should obey their rulers in everything and not be insubordinate, nor in any way choose to act against them, if the political system is at the same time to work well both for rulers and subjects. In fact, there is no other way of acting and of living well. ⁷ What is more, it will not be at all possible for those to live among men and in a society, whose lot it is to live and exist under the sway of others, if they are not being governed of their own free will and fulfil every obligation with ready obedience. Otherwise they will despair utterly, and they will realise that they have fostered evil for themselves. ⁸ And at some time, perhaps—and there certainly are some such cases—there will be some people for whom there is no way back to having again an opportunity of setting right what has been, and of coming to better terms with their rulers in a way which would suit both, before they are brought to destruction and meet with the final catastrophe.

⁵ I.e. of other Christian denominations.

οὔτοις πείθεσθαι καὶ μὴ ἄλλως ἢ ἐκείνοις ζῆν. Ὅμως δ' οὖν ἀνεκτῶς ἴσως, εἴπερ ἄρα τὸ πρᾶγμ' ἔχει, καὶ φέρειν ἀνάγκην ἔχοντες κατὰ Πίνδαρον ἄλλότρια μεριμνάματα καὶ κέαρ ἄλλοτρίας φύσις² καὶ ὥσπερ ὑποκρίνεσθαι προσωπεῖα ξένα, καθ' ἑαυτοὺς ζῶντες, φερόντων εὐγενῶς ἀμέλει καὶ ὥσπερ ἐν δράματι βιοῦντες, ἄλλοτρίως ἑαυτοῖς χρώμενοι, δοκούντων συμφωνεῖν, 5 θαυμαζόμενοι τῷ μὴ ἀποπεφυκέναι. ³ Οἷς δ' ὁ δαίμων παραφρονοῦντας καὶ μαινομένους καὶ τραχυτέρους ἀμέλει δεσπότης ἐπέθηκε, τί ποτ' ἂν οὔτοι καὶ δράσαιεν; ἀνάγκη μετέχειν πάντως αὐτοῦς τῶν κακῶν δὴ πάντων, 'οὐχ' ἑαυτοῖς, ἀλλὰ τῷ ἔωνημένῳ παρὰ τῆς τύχης' κατὰ τὸν κωμικὸν 'ζῶντας' 494 λόγον, ⁴ καὶ πάντ' ἀθλίως φέρεσθαι, καὶ ὀρώντας μὴ ὄραν, | καὶ φρονοῦντας 10 ὃ τί ποτ' ἄρα βέλτιστα μὴ φρονεῖν ἔπειτα, μὴδὲ πνεῖν ὄλως ἀφ' ἑαυτῶν, ⁵ καὶ τοῖς γε τοιούτοις καὶ μὴ διαδράναι δυναμένοις ὄλως, ἀλλ' ἔχομενοὶς καθάπαξ ἄφυκτα· αἰ αἰ, τί ποτ' ἂν εἴη χρημ' ἀλεξιτήριον πονηρᾶς οὕτω βιοτῆς. Καὶ πῶς ἂν οὔτοι τοῖς σώμασιν ἢ ταῖς γε ψυχαῖς γεννικῶς χρῆσαιτο καὶ κοσμίως; ⁶ Ἡ πῶς ἂν οὔτοι μάλιστα καὶ τῶν θείων νομίμων καὶ τῆς ὠρισμένης χριστιανικῆς 15 ἀγωγῆς κατὰ τὸν βίον φροντίδ' ἀπαραίτητον ἔχοντες καὶ πρώτην μάλιστ' ἀνάγκην δεσποτικῆς εὐπειθείας ταύτην ἀπαιτούμενοι δύναιεντ' ἂν ἀμφοτέρ' εἶναι καὶ ἀμφοτέροις ἀρκεῖν καὶ πᾶν ἀποδιδόναι τὸ κατ' ὀφειλήν, ⁷ καὶ ταῦτα τοῦ δεσποτικοῦ φθάσαντος λόγου κηρύττοντος μετὰ πάσης αὐτόθεν ἐκ τῶν πραγμάτων ἐπιδηλοτάτου τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ ἀπαγορεύοντος ἀμήχανον εἶναι 20 πρὸς ἀμφοτέρα μερίζεσθαι καὶ δρᾶν τοῦ προσήκοντος ἀμφοτέροις ἐπιτυχῶς;

3 Τὰ μὲν οὖν περὶ τοὺς δεσπότης τοῖς ἀρχομένοις δυσχερῆ τοιαῦτα καὶ παραπλήσι' ἕτερα, πάνυ τοι πλείστα. Ἄλλὰ μὴν οὐχῆκιστα καὶ περὶ τοὺς συμπολιτευομένους πλείστοις αἰεὶ παραβάλλονται καὶ παλαίουσιν ἐργώδεσι

³ κέαρ: -κέ (super)scripsit P², aliquid illegibile et post hoc -e- exhib. P¹ φύσις: φύσεως fort. P¹ et -e- corr. in -i- P², fort. scrib. φύσις, quod fort. exhib. M ⁸ πάντως μετέχειν M ¹⁸ τὸ s.l. exhib. P ²² δεσποτάτας M

² ἄλλότρια ... κέαρ] cf. Pi. *Fr. incert.* 223.2 κῆρες ὀλβοθρέμμενες ... μεριμναμάτων ἀλεγεινῶν | Th.Met. *Carm.* 3.170 et 17.280 μεριμνάματα ³ ἄλλοτρίας φύσις] cf. Pl. *Mx.* 2.45d5sq. καθαρὸν τὸ μῖσος ἐντέθηκε τῇ πόλει τῆς ἄλλοτρίας φύσεως | Georg.Met. *Hist. dog.* I 43.14 οὐκέτι ἂν εἰκότως ὡς ἄλλοτρίας ὑπάρχον φύσεως | Hsch. A 6538.1 ⁸ οὐχ' ἑαυτοῖς ... ζῶντας] fontem non inveni ¹⁸ καί³ ... ἐπιτυχῶς] cf. *Ev. Matt.* 6.24 οὐδεὶς δύναται δυοὶ κυρίους δουλεῖν κτλ. et *Ev. Luc.* 6.13

⁶ This sentence is anacoluthic.

2 And even for those who happen to know good rulers—even⁶ under such circumstances it is very trying to have to obey such rulers in every respect and in every case, not being able to live in any other way than they do. However, it is not, perhaps, an unendurable situation, if it is necessary;⁷ and if, as Pindar says, *they have to endure someone else's worries and the heart of an alien nature*,² and as it were act behind strange masks in their private life, may they bear it nobly; and even if they live as in a drama and act in a way alien to themselves, let them look as if they agreed; and so they may be admired for not acting in an unnatural way.³ But those to whom Fate has appointed mad and raging and too harsh masters, what could they do? They are in every way obliged to take part in every kind of evil action, *living*, as the comic poet says, *not for themselves, but for him who bought them from Fate*;⁸ ⁴ and they are in every respect bound to be treated shamefully, and they are not to see what they see, and, from now on, not to think even if what they think is of the very best, nor to breathe on their own.⁵ And, oh, what remedy could there be for such a bad way of life for such as cannot escape, but are totally entangled, so as not to be able to flee? And how could they make use of their bodies, not to speak of their souls, nobly and with dignity? ⁶ These who on the one hand are implacably obliged to pay regard to the divine rules and the Christian way of life, as it is defined, and on the other hand have as the most pressing demand upon themselves to obey their masters, how indeed could they do both and suffice for both, and give all that is due— ⁷ especially since, with truth made evident by everything around us, the Word of the Lord has already proclaimed and cautioned against it as impossible to be divided between these two⁹ and to act so as to fulfil one's duty to both?

3 Of this kind are the difficulties encountered by subjects with regard to their rulers, and there are similar difficulties, in fact a great many. But no less in relation to their fellow citizens they are confronted with and have to wrestle with many irksome trials and such as in every way alienate

⁷ 'if ... necessary' (εἴπερ ἄρα τὸ πρᾶγμι' ἔχει): this is vague.

⁸ I have not been able to identify the source of this citation.

⁹ I.e. the two masters: the worldly and the heavenly, cf. Matthew 6.24, and Luke 6.13.

καὶ πᾶσι τρόποις ἐκκρούουσι τῆς περὶ τὰς ἀγαθὰς αὐτουργίας καὶ δεσποτικὰς ἐντολὰς ἐπιμελείας καὶ σχολῆς· ² ἀμιλλαι γὰρ καὶ φιλονεικίαι καὶ βασκανίαι καὶ φιλαντίαι καὶ φιλαρχίαι καὶ φιλοπρωτίαι κατὰ τῶν ἐφαμίλλων τὲ καὶ
 495 συμβιούντων, καὶ πᾶσαι προσπαθειῶν ὑποθέσεις καὶ δόλοι καὶ ἀπάται καὶ |
 ψεύδη καὶ κατεπιχειρήσεις ἀφανεῖς καὶ φαινόμεναι, καὶ κακουργίαι πᾶσι ⁵
 τρόποις, ³ καὶ πάντα δὲ τὰ τοιαῦτα, καὶ ὅσοις καταβαπτίζονται πάντες οἱ
 κοινῶς μετ' ἀλλήλων βιοῦντες, τί μὲν εὐμενῶς χρώμενοι τῇ τύχῃ καὶ τοῖς
 ἕξωθεν πράγμασι, τί δὲ καὶ κακῶς πράττοντες, καὶ νῦν μὲν μᾶλλον, νῦν δὲ καὶ
 ἤττον, ⁴ καὶ τοῦτο μὲν ὑπὸ τῶν ἐχθίστων καὶ πάλαι πρότερον ἀλλοτριωθέντων
 καὶ ἀντιτεταγμένων, τοῦτο δὲ καὶ ὑφ' ὧν τέως οὐκ ἦσθοντο οὐδ' ᾤθησαν, ¹⁰
 ἀδόκητα καὶ ἀπροόπτως συμπεπτωκότες;

4 Τοῦτοις δὴ πᾶσι καὶ πολλοῖς γε μὴν ἄλλοις ἂ μὴ ῥαδίως ἐστὶ προστιθέναί
 οἷς κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνάγκην αἰεὶ συντυγχάνειν ἐστὶ τοὺς ἐν πράγμασιν, οὐκ ἔστι
 μὴ κάμνειν κοιμηθῆ καὶ χαλεπῶς φέρεσθαι καὶ νοσερῶς περὶ τὰ καίρια τῶν
 θείων νομίμων καὶ τῆς κατ' ἀρετὴν εὐχρηστίας, ² καὶ ἴσως γ' ἐνίους καὶ προ- ¹⁵
 θεμένους εὐγενῶς ἀνύτειν ἐκπίπτειν ἐντεῦθεν ταῖς ἐκάστοτ' ἐπηρείαις καὶ
 συνεχέσιν ἀντισπάσεσιν ὧν ἔρωσ εἶχε καὶ πάνυ τοι προὔθεντο, καὶ ἅμα μὲν
 ἀπέχεσθαι τὴν τῶν καλῶν ἔργων καὶ πράξεων διάθεσιν ἀστείαν καὶ φοράν, ἅμα
 δὲ καὶ ναυαγεῖν μάλιστα τὰ κτηθέντα κατὰ βίον βέλτιστα περὶ τὴν τῆς ἀρετῆς
 σπουδὴν, ³ καὶ οὐ μόνον ἀλγεινότερα βιοῦν, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάσης ἀπογινώσκειν ²⁰
 496 ἔπειτα | καὶ ἀποτρέπεσθαι καθάπαξ τῆς περὶ τὸ καλὸν ῥοπῆς ὡς οὐκ ὄν ὄλωσ
 βιοτὸν ἀνθρώπῳ περὶ ταῦθ', ἅπερ εἴρηται, μάλιστ' ἔχοντί τε καὶ ἐχομένῳ
 κατὰ τοὺς θεῖους τύπους καὶ νόμους τῆς ἡμετέρας θεοσεβείας.

5 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ δοκεῖ καὶ ἔστι οὖν ὡς ἀληθῶς χρήσιμον εἰς ἀνδραγα-
 θίαν τὸ φυγεῖν παντὶ τρόπῳ τὰ πράγματα καὶ τὴν μετὰ τῶν πολλῶν συμβίωσιν ²⁵
 καὶ ἰδιοπραγεῖν τὸν βίον, προελόμενον ἑαυτῷ ζῆν μόνον καὶ ἀνεκφοίτητον ἐν

6 δὲ τὰ P², de P¹ non constat, τὰ γε M 11 ξυμπεπτωκότες M 15 κατ': κατὰ τὴν M 18
 ἐπέχεσθαι M 19 κατὰ E et ut vid. M, κατὰ in fine lineae et τὰ in initio lineae sequentis P, ut
 vid. per dittographiam 22 βιωτὸν M (vide introd. 3, p. liii)

¹⁰ It may be that the author loses the thread in this long sentence. Instead of 'what if ... circumstances?' we may translate 'regardless whether etc.'

¹¹ I.e. so as to mention them here.

them from the endeavour and leisure to do good deeds on their own initiative and by the order of their masters, ² that is, strife and competition and calumny and selfishness and lust for power and desire to surpass their fellow competitors and neighbours, and all kinds of plans for attack and stratagems and deceit and lies and attempts at laying hands upon others, secretly and openly, and malpractice of every kind, ³ and all things similar, and everything by which all those living together with others can be submerged—what if they have a benevolent fate and are treated well by external circumstances?¹⁰ What if they are unlucky, now more, now less, ⁴ either because of their worst enemies and those who have become estranged to them and opposed to them for a long time already, or because of those whom they have not yet been aware of as enemies, nor believed ever would be such, since they became confronted with them unexpectedly and unforeseen?

⁴ By all these things and many others, which are difficult to add¹¹ but which those engaged in worldly business of necessity have to encounter, it is impossible not to become utterly exhausted and to fare badly and unhealthily with regard to the essential elements of the divine rules and the right use of virtue; ² and it may be that even some who have made up their minds to act nobly will thus fall away from that which they desired and had seriously proposed to themselves, because of continual insults and the constant reactions [against them], and they will lose their good disposition and the impulse to do good works and deeds, and they will also as in a shipwreck lose the best they had acquired in life respecting the concern for virtue, ³ and they will not only live in the greatest pain, but also, for the future, despair about and once and for all turn away from every turning of the scale when the good is at stake, assuming that it is in no way possible for man to live engaged in these things that have been mentioned, especially if one should keep to the divine commandments and the laws of our religion and be restrained by them.

⁵ Therefore it seems to be and truly is useful for the acquiring of human virtue to flee worldly business and life in the midst of the multitude at all costs and to live privately, and to prefer living only for oneself and

ἑαυτοῦ μένειν ² καὶ μὴ τοῖς πολλοῖς χρώμενον καὶ προσχωροῦντα προνοίας
 ἐκτὸς τοῦ συνοίσοντος ὠθεῖν καὶ ὠθεῖσθαι καὶ κινδυνεύειν περὶ τὰ καίρια καὶ
 τὴν τῆς ἀρετῆς ἕξιν καὶ χρῆσιν καὶ πολλαῖς ἐναντιώσειςι κόπτεσθαι τὴν κατ'
 αὐτὴν ἐνέργειαν. ³ Ἐν μὲν γὰρ τῷ μετὰ πολλῶν πράγματ' ἔχειν οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν
 γαλήνῃ βιοῦν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἐν φροντίσιν ἀεὶ συνεξετάζηται καὶ ἀγῶσι πολλὴν ⁵
 ἀπαιτοῦσι πρόνοιαν ἑαυτῷ προσέχειν καὶ ἀεὶ μετὰ κινδύνων καὶ μόχθων καὶ
 πολέμων βιοῖ, χαλεπὸν εἰ πάντα κατορθοῦν εὐ μάλ' οἷος τ' ἂν εἴη. ⁴ Καὶ
 τὸ παραιτεῖσθαι καὶ οἰκονομεῖν φευκτέον εἶναι τρόπῳ γέ τιτι τὰς ὑπόπτους
 ἀεὶ ξυμπλοκάς καὶ κίνδυνον ῥᾶστ' ἀπειλούσας νοῦν ἔχοντος ἂν εἴη πάντως
 ἀνδρὸς καὶ προνοουμένου μετ' ἀσφαλείας τὰ βέλτισθ' ἑαυτῷ. ⁵ Οὐ γὰρ ¹⁰
 497 καὶ περι|ποίησιν, ἀλλ' ἐπικαίρως ἀναχωρεῖν ἔνθα δῆτ' οὐκ εὐεπιχείρητος ἂν
 εἴη τοῖς ἐπιβούλοις ἀεὶ καὶ ἀντιπράττουσι, καὶ οὐδ' ἐπιτιμᾶσθαι δίκαιος οὐδὲ
 μέμφεσθαι. ⁶ Πολλῶν μέντ' ἂν καὶ μᾶλλον ἀξιούσθαι τῶν ἐπαίων, ὅστις αὐτὸς
 προνοῶν ἐπ' ἀσφαλοῦς αἰροῖτ' ἂν ἴστασθαι, τῶν πολλῶν καμάτων καὶ τῆς ¹⁵
 κινδυνώδους ἀναστροφῆς ἑαυτὸν ὑπεξάγων καὶ τὴν ἀκύμονα καὶ γαληναίαν
 ἀγωγὴν πρὸς ἑαυτοῦ ποιούμενος καὶ χρώμενος ἐπ' ἐξουσίας ἐλευθέρως
 ἑαυτῷ, ⁷ 'διαδράς', κατὰ τὸ ἔπος, 'ἐκ θ' αἵματος ἐκ τ' ἀνδροκτασίης ἐκ τε κυδο-
 ομοῦ', καὶ καθορῶν ἄλλους ἐν πελάγει μυρίοις πόνοις καὶ ἀηδία τὸν πλοῦν
 ἀνύτοντας, αὐτὸς ἐπὶ λιμένος ἐστῶς καὶ χρώμενος ἕξω πάσης δυσχερείας καθ' ²⁰
 αἴρεσιν ἑαυτῷ.

²⁰ ἀνύτοντας E et p.c. P, ἀνύττοντας a.c. P, non leg. M ἐστῶς fort. scrib. ἐστῶς πάσης
 ἕξω M

¹⁸ διαδράς ... κυδοιμοῦ] cf. *Il.* 11.(163–)164 "Ἐκτορα δ' ἐκ βελέων ὑπαγε Ζεὺς ἐκ τε κοινῆς / ἐκ
 τ' ἀνδροκτασίης ἐκ θ' αἵματος ἐκ τε κυδοιμοῦ | *Hes. Sc.* 155 | *Th.Met. Logos* 10.13.55sq. καθάπαξ
 ἀπαλλαγέντες ἐκ τ' ἀνδροκτασίης ἐκ θ' αἵματος ἐκ τε κυδοιμοῦ

to stay at home without going out, ² not having to push and be pushed and to risk fatal losses, or to lose the possession and use of virtue and to be cut off from its power by the many adversities, which will be the case if you live with the many and go further in taking on more responsibilities than would serve you. ³ For, whoever has dealings with many people, cannot live in peace. And whoever is being tried all the time by troubles and struggles, which require a great deal of precaution if one should be able to protect oneself, and whoever is always living in danger and toil and strife, he would find it difficult to be able to succeed in everything. ⁴ And to avoid and to handle all suspicious situations, such as very easily may threaten with danger, so as to be able to get away from them in some way—that would indeed be the characteristic of a sensible man, one who without fail plans what is best for himself. ⁵ This does not, as someone perhaps would say, mean deserting the attention and the care for the good, but is rather a question of withdrawing in time to a place where you would not be easily assaulted by those by whom one is always plotted against and opposed; for doing this one should not be censured or blamed. ⁶ He would rather be worthy of much praise, who out of precaution chooses to stand on the safe side, withdrawing from all the toil and from a dangerous mode of life, and making the calm and quiet life his own, free to use his powers at his own discretion, ⁷ and *escaping*, according to the epic, *from blood and murder and the din of battle*,¹² and watching others who complete their voyage with infinite pain and nausea, while he himself is safe in the harbour, living according to his wish, far from every unpleasantness.

¹² A free rendering of *Iliad* 11.164.

“Ὅτι καὶ τοῖς ἐν κοινῷ πολιτευομένοις ἕξεστι καλῶς βιοῦν
τῇ ἀρετῇ καὶ τοῖς τῆς θεοσεβείας νομίμοις· ΟΕ’

1 Οὐ μὴν ἀλλ’ εἴπερ ἐν τῷ ἰδιοπραγεῖν τὸν βίον, ὡς εἴρηται, εὐπραγεῖν
ἐστὶ κατὰ τὴν ὀφειλομένην τοῖς χριστιανικοῖς ὅροις καὶ νομίμοις ζωὴν καὶ
βέλτιστα φέρεσθαι, 2 ἀλλ’ οὐκ ἀποτρεπτόν παντάπασι καὶ τῆς μετὰ τῶν 5
498 πολλῶν | κοινωνίας καὶ συμβιώσεως καὶ τοῦ πολιτικὰ πράττειν ἅττα δὴ κατὰ
καιρὸν καὶ χρῆσθαι τοῖς ξυμπίπτουσιν ἐκάστοτε γεννικῶς ἀντεχομένους καὶ
τῆς χριστιανοῖς προσηκούσης ἀγωγῆς. 3 Οὐδ’ ἀπογνωστέον ἐστὶ καθάπαξ
μὴ, κἂν τούτοις ἔχοντας καὶ καθ’ ὅσον οἶον τ’ ἐστὶν ἐπιμελουμένους τῆς ἐν
αὐτοῖς προκοπῆς καὶ δοκιμασίας τῶν ὀφειλομένων τοῖς κατὰ θείας ἐντολὰς 10
ζῶσιν, ὅμως αὐθις ἀντιποιεῖσθαι καὶ βέλτιστ’ ἀμέλει κἀνταῦθ’ ἀνύτειν, κἂν εἰ
μὴ τι πλεόν, συγγνωστῶς καὶ ἀνεμεσήτως ὡς μάλιστα τὴν τοῦ βίου χρῆσιν ἐν
τοῖς θείοις νομίμοις ἐπιδεικνύσθαι καὶ διοικεῖν ἀστείως. 4 Εἰ γὰρ μὴ τοῦτ’ ἦν,
φθορᾶς ἂν εἰσηγησὶς ἦν καὶ νομοθεσία τὸ χριστιανικῶς ζῆν τοῦ βίου καὶ τῆς
ὅλης ἀνθρωπίνης οὐσιώσεως καὶ δημιουργίας, ὡς ἄρα καὶ πρότερον εἴρηται, 15
καὶ ἀνήνυτος πάντα τρόπον ἐπιχείρησις καί, πολὺ γε δῆλον αὐτόθεν, ἀνόνητος,
5 ὅποτε μὴ πέφυκεν ἐν τοῖς κοινοῖς ἀνθρώπων πράγμασι καὶ τῇ πολιτικῇ κατὰ
φύσιν συμβιώσει ξυνεῖναι τὰ κατὰ Χριστὸν καὶ σωτήρια νόμιμα, ὃ δὴ πολλοῦ
δέει φάναί νοῦν ὄλως ἔχοντά τινα καὶ τὰ Χριστοῦ μάλιστα τιμᾶσθαι καὶ κρατεῖν
βουλόμενον. 6 Τοῦναντίον μὲν γὰρ ἐντεῦθεν ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἔποιτ’ ἄν, καὶ ῥᾶστ’ 20
ἕξεστι συλλογίζεσθαι, ζημία μεγίστη τοῖς Χριστοῦ δόγμασι καὶ κατασκευῇ
499 φεύγειν ὡς ἀδυνάτων αὐτῶν | καὶ μὴ χρῆσθαι πεφυκότων ἀνθρώποις καὶ
κατὰ τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῶν ὄντων νομοθετούντων, ἃ μὴ πάντως ἐστὶ πείθεσθαι
μῆδὲ προσέχειν ὄλως ἀξιούν. 7 Καὶ φειστέον ἔτι πω προστιθέναι πλείω τούτοις
ἕξῃς ἐπόμενα, μήποτε καὶ λάθοιμεν ἐχθροῖς τε καὶ ἄλλοτριόφροσι τῶν καλῶν 25

1 ἐν: ἐν τῷ a.c. P 5 ἀποτρεπτόν P²M, non leg. P¹ 6 ἅττα: " add. P², de accentu in P¹ non
constat, ἅττα M 8 τῆς E et p.c. P², fort. τοῖς P¹, non leg. M 13 μὴ γὰρ M 19 δέει P,
δέει M (vide introd. 3, p. liii)

16 ἀνήνυτος ... ἀνόνητος] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 61.1.2

75. That it is possible also for those who are engaged
in public activities to live well and in accordance with
virtue and the laws of religion

1 But even if, as has been said, it is possible when living in seclusion to live well and in accordance with the rules and laws of Christianity and to act in the very best way, 2 one should neither completely refuse communion and life with the many, nor, on occasion, refuse to engage in some political activity and to act nobly whatever befalls, all the while adhering to the behaviour appropriate to Christians. 3 Even if one is engaged in a Christian life and, as much as possible, strives to be successful in this and to consider the duty of those who live according to the divine commandments, one must not, however, once and for all give up having anything to do with this world and even give up trying to achieve the very best here too; and, if it is not possible to do more, one must at least not give up showing, in a way which as little as possible invites censure and vengeance, a way of life according to the rules of God and acquitting oneself well. 4 If this were not possible, living in a Christian way would mean to introduce decay into life, and to put strictures upon life and upon human existence as a whole and upon human creativity, as has been said before, and it would be an in every way endless endeavour and, as is made very clear from this, an unprofitable one,¹ 5 if it were not natural to the redeeming laws of Christ to exist alongside common affairs of men and normal political intercourse—something which every man with any sense and, above all, wishing to revere and respect the teachings of Christ, would be very far from denying. 6 On the contrary, as can most easily be inferred, a very great damage to the doctrines of Christ would necessarily follow from this, and it would be a pretext to flee from the doctrines as if these were impossible and not made for men to use, and as if they laid down rules which were wholly against nature and reality—claims which one should not at all believe or deem worthy of any attention. 7 And to be brief I will refrain from adding to this still more of a similar kind, lest we, without noticing, should give to

¹ 'endless ... unprofitable': for this see also 61.1.2.

καὶ δυσνουστάτοις τῇ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἀληθεῖ θεοσεβείᾳ χώραν καθ' ἡμῶν δόντες κακουργεῖν, καὶ αὐτοὶ γε πλατεῖ στόματι προφέροντες ἀνευλαβῶς ἅ μὴ χρῆν. Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἔστιν, ἅπερ ἔλεγεθ', ὡς ἀληθῶς οὐκ ἔστιν, εἰ μὴ τις συκοφαντεῖν αἰροῖτο καὶ παραληρεῖν καὶ παντάπασιν ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ σπουδάζειν.

2 Ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ δεσποτικοὶ λόγοι καὶ νόμοι καὶ τὰ θεῖα δόγματα καθόλου 5
 δὴ κατὰ πάντων ἀνθρώπων καὶ πάσης βίων αἰρέσεως καὶ οὐ τούτων μὲν δὴ,
 τῶν δ' οὐ, οὐδὲ τῶν μὲν ἀμέλει μᾶλλον, τῶν δ' ἔλαττον, ἀλλ', ὡς εἴρηται, καθ'
 ὁμοῦ πάντων καὶ πάσης βιώσεως. 2 Καὶ οὐκ ἀδύνατά γε μὴν ἐπιτάττουσιν οὐδὲ
 τὰ μὴ πεφυκότα νομιζουσιν, οὐδ' ἅ μὴ δόλως οἶον τε πράττονται, καὶ πολλοὶ γ'
 ἐπὶ πάσης ἰδέας βίων καὶ μετὰ τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ πραγμάτων ἐκτὸς καὶ τοῦ 10
 ἑλληνικοῦ καὶ τοῦ βαρβαρικοῦ καὶ μέρους ἄρρενος καὶ μὴδὲν ἦττον θήλεος,
 500 καὶ νέοι καὶ νέαι καὶ πρεσβύται δὴ καὶ πρεσβύτιδες, 3 καὶ καθόλου | πάσης
 τάξεως ἀνθρώποι καὶ πάσης βιοτῆς καὶ τροφῆς καὶ νόμων ἀνθρωπίνων ἄλλων
 παρ' ἄλλοις κρατούντων ἐθάδες, ὡς ἂν μὴ ἀδύνατοι τοῖς καθ' ἡμᾶς τούτοις
 θεοῖς προσανέχουσι νόμοις καὶ δόγμασι καὶ κατ' αὐτοὺς δηλοῖ γ' εἰσὶν οἶοι 15
 τε ὄντες ἄγεσθαι. 4 Καὶ ὁρώμεν γὰρ ὡς ἀνύτουσιν ἐν τούτοις εὐ καὶ χρῶνται
 σπουδῇ πάσῃ καὶ κάλλιστ' ἐπιμελῶς ἰκνούμενοι, κἂν ὁ μὲν πλεόν ἴσως, ὁ δ'
 ἔλαττον ἄλλος ἄλλου, καθάπερ καὶ ἐπὶ πάσης ἄλλης τοῦτ' ἔχει προθέσεως τοῦ
 βίου καὶ χρήσεως καὶ σοφίας κτήσεως καὶ πάσης τεχνῶν ἀσκήσεως 5 ἄλλων
 ἄλλοι πεφύκασιν καὶ αἰροῦνται πλεόν καὶ ἔλαττον, καὶ ἐνεργεῖς εἰσὶν ὧν ἕκαστοι 20
 πειρῶνται, οὐδ' ἴσα φέρονται καὶ χωροῦσι ξυμμετρούμενοι αὐτοῖς φασιν οἱ
 λόγοι δακτύλοις, αὐτοῖς πήχεσιν, αὐτοῖς σταδίοις, 6 ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν καὶ δολιχεύουσι
 μείζον καὶ τάχιον καὶ ὑπερβάθμιον' ἢ κατ' ἄλλους ἐν τοῖς βελτίστοις 'τείνουσι
 πόδα', οἱ δὲ καὶ τὰ τούτων αὐ ἐναντία ὑστερίζουσί τε καὶ τὰ δεύτερα ἔχουσι

21 φασὶν Μ

24 δευτέρ' Μ

23 ὑπερβάθμιον ... πόδα] cf. Anon. Hist. Diad. *FGrH* 155 F1 § 3 ἀπελθόντες ... ἤρξαντο ὑπερβάθμιον τείνειν πόδα ὡς ἡδύνατο ἕκαστος | *Orac.Chald.* 176.1 ὑπερβάθμιον πόδα ῥιπτῶν | Ascl. *In Metaph.* 98.sq. κατὰ τὸ εἰρημένον ὑπερβάθμιον πόδα ἀποτείνειν et *Ibid.* 393.13 | Marin. *Procl.* 13 καὶ οὐχ ὑπερβάθμιον πόδα, κατὰ τὸ λόγιον, τείνοντα | Agath. 2.29 (p. 78.17 [Keydell]) ὑπερβάθμιον, τὸ λεγόμενον, πόδα τείνειν | *Suda* Υ 234 Ὑπερβάθμιον πόδα ῥιπτῶν: ἀντὶ τοῦ ἀτάκτως, ἀπρεπῶς διαπραττόμενος | Th.Met. *Logos* 10.61.28sq. οὐχ ὑπερβάθμιον τείνειν πόδα οὐδ' ἔξω σκοποῦ βάλλειν κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν

our enemies and those who are ill-disposed towards what is good and who are most hostile towards our true religion, the opportunity of causing us evil, ourselves too pouring forth what should not be said, in idle talk and without reverence. But, as has been said, this is² not so, in truth it is not, [and no one would say so] unless he chooses to slander and talk madly and to strive for things which are completely inappropriate.

2 On the contrary, the sayings and laws of the Lord as well as the divine doctrines are universally valid for all men and for every choice of life—for some only and for others not, and not more for some and less for others, but, as has been said, in the same way for all and for every kind of life.² They do not enjoin impossible things or lay down as laws anything which is contrary to nature, nor demand what is wholly impossible. And many people, leading all kinds of life, engaged or not engaged in worldly business, Greeks or barbarians, of the masculine half of mankind or, no less, the feminine, young men and young women, old men and old women,³ and, on the whole, people of every standing and every way of life and every upbringing, used to different kinds of laws prevailing among different people—all these rely on these divine laws and doctrines of ours, proving that the same are not impossible to follow, since they are obviously capable of being guided by them.⁴ We even see that they are successful under them and use them with every zeal and with care progress in the best way, though some may do this in a higher, some in a lesser degree than others, just as the case is with every other choice of way of living, and with every other way of acquiring wisdom and of practising every art:⁵ some have more, some have less natural talent and inclination than others; they are all active, each one in his field, but they do not fare in the same way nor are they measured, as we say, with the same fingers' breadths, the same cubits, the same stadia,⁶ but some run the long distance race³ better and quicker and competing with the best *they put their foot ahead*⁴ of the others; and

² I.e. that it is not impossible to live in a Christian way at the same time as being engaged in worldly business.

³ 'run the long distance race': cf. below, 76.2.1, where the same kind of metaphor is employed.

⁴ 'they ... ahead': this expression is widely spread and occurs, e.g., in Agathias and Suda.

τῆς ἀγωνίας καὶ τῶν δρόμων. Πάντες δόμωσ οἰοί τ' εἰσὶν αὐτοῖς χρῆσθαι καὶ
 φέρειν εἰς τὴν κοινὴν τῶν καλῶν συντέλειαν ἀπρόσκοποι καθάπαξ ἅττα δὴ,
 501 7 καὶ οὐτ' ἐρημία προσίσταται τῷ καλλίστῳ σκοπῷ οὕτε | κοινὰ πράγματα
 καὶ μετὰ πολλῶν ἄλλων βιώσεις καὶ πολιτεύματα, οὐ πᾶσα τύχης ὑπόθεσις,
 οὐ πᾶσ' ἄσκησις βίου, οὐ ξυμπίπτοντ' ἄλλ' ἄλλοις πράγματα, οὐ τοῖς αὐτοῖς 5
 ἄλλοτ' ἄλλα καὶ μεταβάλλοντα ἢ πρότερον ἦν.

3 Ἐξεστι γὰρ ἐν πᾶσιν ὄντα καὶ πάντα δὴ πράττοντα πράγματα καὶ
 πλείστοις ὅσοις συμβιοῦντα καὶ συνεξεταζόμενον μηδὲν ὅμως ἐξίστασθαι τῶν
 δοθέντων ὄρων, ἀλλὰ συντηρεῖν τὲ καὶ δικαιοπραγεῖν ἅπαντα τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ
 νόμιμα· ἔξεστι πρὸς πᾶσαν τύχην ἢ σύνεστι τις εὐ τε καὶ ὡς ἐτέρως πράττων, 10
 καὶ μᾶλλον ἢ ἤττον πρότερον ἢ νῦν, σώφροσιν ἀεὶ συνεῖναι λογισμοῖς 2 καὶ
 πρὸς τὴν θεϊαν ἐντολὴν ἑαυτὸν τε καὶ τὸν βίον εὐθύνην καὶ μήτ' αἰρεσθαι
 μήτε πίπτειν, κἂν εἰ ἐργῶδες τοῦτο πολλάκις, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀνέφικτον οὐ ποτε μέτ-
 ροις ὀρίζεσθαι τοῦ καλοῦ καὶ τῆς ἀρετῆς κατὰ πᾶν τὸ γιγνόμενον, καὶ χρῆσθαι
 βέλτισθ' ἑαυτῷ 3 καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις, πρὸς τὰ ξυμπίπτοντα πάνθ' ἕκαστα νόμους 15
 ἐκ παραδόσεως καὶ λογισμῶν ἀληθῶν ὅπως δέοι ἂν ἔχοντα χρῆσθαι, καὶ κατ'
 ἐκείνους ἑαυτὸν συντείνοντα, καὶ πάνθ' ὡσπερ ἐκ παρασκευῆς ὄροις τακτοῖς
 ἠκρίβωνται, καὶ πρὸς πάνθ' ὡς ἐπὶ ῥητοῖς βιοῦμεν. 4 Καὶ οὐ νόμοι μόνον
 502 θεῖοι πάντων ἐξηγηταί, ἀλλὰ καὶ λόγος αὐτόθεν τοῦ | συνειδότος ἡγεμῶν
 καὶ διδάσκαλος καθ' ὃ τι τὲ χρηστέον ἐστὶ καὶ καθ' ὃ τι μή, καὶ ὅπως ἄρα 20
 τῶν μὲν ἀντιπονητέον ἐστὶ, τῶν δὲ φευκτέον, καὶ τῶν μὲν ὄλη ῥοπή ψυχῆς,
 τῶν δὲ καὶ μετρίως ἴσως, 5 καὶ τί μὲν ἀντιτεινομένους, τί δὲ ἀνιέντας καὶ
 κλωμένους ἀμηγέπη καὶ ξὺν παρρησί' ἀνύτοντας καὶ μεταχειρίζοντας αὐ καὶ
 διοικοῦντας ὑπὸ θεῶ καὶ ἑαυτοῖς μάρτυσιν, ἅττα τοὺς πολλοὺς λανθάνει καὶ
 βέλτιον ἐστὶν ἀγνοεῖσθαι. 6 Καὶ εἰ ταῦτα δῆτ' ἐργῶδη πολὺ μάλιστ' ἢ τοῖς 25
 ἐπ' ἐρημίας ἑαυτοῖς μόνοις ζῶσι καὶ τὰ καθ' ἑαυτοὺς ῥᾶστ' ἰδιοπραγοῦσιν
 ἐν τῇ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ ἔξει, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔξω τοῦ δυνατοῦ καὶ τῆς φύσεως, ὡς εἴρηται,

1 δ' ὅμως M αὐτοῖς P, ἑαυτοῖς M, an scrib. αὐτοῖς? 6 μεταβάλλοντ' M 18 ὡς M et
 p.c. P, fort. ὡσπερ a.c. P (lacunam fere 3 litt. exhib.) 22 ἐντεινομένους M 23 ἀνύτοντας:
 ἀνύττοντας a.c. P, corr. ut vid. P¹

⁵ 'whether you are doing ... today': or 'doing well or otherwise, and more or less so earlier than now'.

⁶ 'who knows them [i.e. the divine laws]' (τοῦ συνειδότος): or, possibly, 'who has a conscience'.

some, contrary to this, lag behind and come in second in the competition and the races. All, however, are able to use their capabilities and, without stumbling, to contribute in some way to the fulfilment of the common good. ⁷ And neither does a life in seclusion constitute a hindrance to the reaching of the highest goal, nor does communal business or living with many others or politics, nor any kind of destiny or profession, nor other things happening to other men or things of different kind happening to the same men at different times and in a way different from before.

³ The truth is, that it is possible to exist in the midst of everything and to take part in all worldly business and to live together with a great many people and be put on the same level with them, and nevertheless not to exceed the given limits in any respect, but both to keep all the rules of God and to act righteously in accordance with them. Whatever is your fate, whether you are doing well or otherwise, whether more or less, in the past or today,⁵ it is still possible always to think sensibly, ² and to let yourself and your life be guided towards the divine command, and not to be elated nor to fall; and even if this is often wearisome, never, whatever happens, is it impossible to remain within the boundaries of what is good and virtuous and to use your own abilities in the best manner, ³ as well as those of others, whatever befalls, having, which would seem proper, for your use laws come down through tradition and through true deliberation, and exerting yourself in accordance with these; and everything is laid down in detail with defined limits as if with set purpose, and in every respect do we live as if by a contract. ⁴ And not do the divine laws alone explain everything, but also will the reason of him, who knows them,⁶ by itself act as a guide and teacher as to how one should act and how not, and how one should strive for some things and avoid others, some of them with every inclination of the heart, others, maybe, in a moderate way, ⁵ and partly with tension, partly relaxed and, somehow, with restraint, freely achieving our ends and, led by God and with ourselves as [sole] witnesses, handling and discharging matters which are hidden to the multitude and which it is better for them to be unaware of. ⁶ And even if this is difficult—and so much the more so for these than for those who live in seclusion and only for themselves and who conduct their private business in the easiest way, keeping to what is

ἀλλὰ καὶ ἴσως ἐπαίνων ἀφορμὰς χορηγοῦντα πλείστας, ⁷ εἴ τις εὐγενῆς ἐν
τούτοις εἶη καὶ παντὸς ἐπιτυχῆς τοῦ εἰκότος ὀρώτο ἐν ἄθλοις πλείστοις
νικῶν ἐν πολυστρόφοις τοῖς πράγμασι καὶ ταῖς χρεῖαις πάντα στρεφόμενος
εὖ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ μένων ἴσος καὶ ὀρθὸς μηδὲν ἤττον ἢ εἰ τὴν αὐτὴν ἀκλινῆς
ἐχώρει προβαίνων ἀεὶ. ⁸ Εἰ γὰρ δὴ τις κρημνοβατῶν κατ' ἀνάγκην πᾶσαν καὶ ⁵
μὴ διὰ λείας καὶ ἀπροσκόπτου φέρων πρὸ ὁδοῦ γένοιτο καὶ τύχοι τοῦ κατὰ
⁵⁰³ σκοπὸν φθάσας | οἱ χρῆν, πολλῶ θουμάζειν ἴσως ἄξιος ἢ ὁ ῥᾶστα δραμῶν
καὶ ἀνύσας ἐπὶ τῆς ὁμαλῆς καὶ μηδὲν ἐργῶδες ἐχούσης· ⁹ οἷος ἐστὶν ὁ μέσον
τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ πολλῶν τῶν ἀντισπῶντων ὄχλων εὐδοκιμῶν πρὸς τὸν
φυγόντα τὰ πράγματα καὶ πάσης ἀπηλλαγμένον ἐπιχειρίας καὶ ἀντιπράξεως ἐπὶ ¹⁰
τῇ τῶν καλλίστων ἐπιμελείᾳ καὶ καθ' αἴρεσιν ἐλευθέρᾳ χρήσει.

⁴ Ὡς δ' ἔστιν ἄρα μὴ παντάπασιν ἀποπίπτειν τῆς ἀγαθῆς ἕξεως μετατῶν
πραγμάτων βιοῦντα καὶ κοινῇ μετὰ πολλῶν συστρεφόμενον, πάλαι τε καὶ
νῦν οὐκ ὀλίγοι πιστοῦνται τὸν λόγον, ² καὶ πολὺς ἂν καὶ μάταιος ἴσως εἶη
πόνος καταριθμεῖσθαι νῦν εἶναι τοὺς ἐν ταῖς βιωτικαῖς πολυασχόλοις ἀγωγαῖς ¹⁵
πολλὴν ποιησαμένους ἢ ποιουμένους τὸν ἀεὶ χρόνον φροντίδα τῶν θεῶν
ἐντολῶν ἔχθεσθαι καὶ συντείνειν ἑαυτοὺς πρὸς ἀνδραγαθίαν καὶ πάσης ὡς οἶον
τε κακίας ἀποχώρησιν. ³ Οἷς οἶμαι καὶ τὸ ἐκπίπτειν ὀνηοῦν τῆς ἀκριβείας τῶν
νομίμων καὶ τελειότητος συγγνωστὸν μᾶλλον ἂν εἶη ἢ τοῖς ἐν ἀπραγμοσύνη
καὶ πάντων τῶν κατὰ τὸν βίον φυγῆ διὰ τὴν ἐπιμελείαν μόνην αὐτὴν τῶν τῆς ²⁰
ἀρετῆς ἔργων, μὴ παντὸς τυγχάνουσι τοῦ ταύτη προσήκοντος. ⁴ Τῶν μὲν γάρ
ἐστὶν ἀπολογία πρὸς τὴν τῆς συγγνώμης εἰσπραξίν ἢ μετὰ τῶν εἰρημένων
λογισμῶν τῶν πραγμάτων ἀποχώρησις, τῶν τοῦ κόσμου φυγάδων ἐκείνων
⁵⁰⁴ | ἀνδρῶν τῇ ἀρετῇ διὰ τὰς ἐν αὐτῷ δυσχερείας· ⁵ δῆλον γὰρ τὸ ἐπικίνδυνον

¹ ἐν τούτοις εὐγενῆς εἶη M, sed litteris β, α et γ supra positis indicat scriba inversionem ordinis
vocum, i.e. εὐγενῆς ἐν τούτοις εἶη ¹² μετὰ τῶν M ²³ ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων M

⁷ 'yet ... goal': φθάσας, which should denote anticipation or, in later Greek, simply the reaching of a goal, seems redundant after πρὸ ὁδοῦ and τύχοι τοῦ κατὰ σκοπὸν. It seems that Metochites is using the ancient Greek construction of τυγχάνει c. part. but with the semantic understanding of his own age.

⁸ 'wins ... avoids': εὐδοκιμῶν πρὸς τὸν φυγόντα.

⁹ 'in order to be pardoned': πρὸς τὴν τῆς συγγνώμης εἰσπραξίν.

¹⁰ 'others': i.e. those mentioned in § 4 who avoid the world.

good—even so it is not, however, as has been said, beyond the limits for what is possible and the limits of nature, but may even give ample cause for praise, ⁷ if someone acts nobly in this and is seen to achieve everything within reason, winning in many contests regarding complicated matters and needs, and adapting well to every situation, and remaining firm and upright in his statements, no less than if he were always walking straight, on the same road, without turning. ⁸ For if someone, forced by the greatest necessity, walked on the edge of a cliff when travelling and did not walk over even ground without risk of stumbling, yet arrived and reached his proper goal,⁷ then he would perhaps be worthy of great admiration, more so than he who ran with great ease, accomplishing his journey on a smooth road with no obstacles. ⁹ Such is he who, in the midst of worldly business and great multitudes of people disturbing him, wins more fame than he who avoids⁸ worldly business and has freed himself from all insulting treatment and opposition, in order to devote himself to the best of things and to be able to deal with them according to his own free will.

⁴ That it is not at all necessary to deviate from a good demeanour while engaged in worldly business and living together with many, is a statement which is confirmed by not a few, in the past as well as nowadays. ² And it would be very irksome and maybe in vain now to enumerate those who in their busy worldly careers have constantly taken, or are taking, pains to keep the divine commandments and to exert themselves in order to be virtuous and, as much as can be, to keep away from all evil. ³ I also think that it would rather be excusable for these to deviate in some way from the exact and perfect observation of the laws, than for those who do not live engaged in business and who avoid all that which makes up human life in order to devote themselves exclusively to the deeds of virtue, fearing lest they should fail to achieve everything which belongs to it. ⁴ Their excuse in order to be pardoned⁹ is that they keep away from worldly business for the said reasons, these men who flee from the world, for the sake of virtue, because of the difficulties in the world. ⁵ For, the danger to those who are active there is obvious. But for the others¹⁰ this kind of excuse is banned and they have no defence left, since after having run away from worldly business and its obvious dangers, and after having taken good care to pro-

ἐνταῦθα χρωμένοις. Τοῖς δὲ τὸ συγγνωμονικὸν κλείεται καὶ πᾶσαν ἀπολογίαν ἀφήρηται τῷ μετὰ τοὺς ἐκ τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ τῶν ἐπιδήλων κινδύνων δρασμούς καὶ τὴν φθάσασαν τῆς ἀσφαλείας πρόνοιαν τοῖς αὐτοῖς κατ' ἐκείνους ἐμπίπτειν ὀλισθήμασι. 6 Καὶ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅποι τὸ πλεῖον νέμειν ἐστίν· ἢ τῷ περὶ τὴν ἀγαθοεργίαν ἐτοιμοτέρῳ βίῳ, ἢ ᾧ τὸ σύγγνωμον ἐτοιμότερον, ἐν 5 οἷς ἢ φύσις εὐόλισθος, ὡς ἐκείνοι πάντως οἱ θατέρου μέρους προκηρύττουσι μάλιστα καὶ προμαρτύρονται καὶ ψηφίζομενοι φθάνουσιν, οἷς ἄρ' ἑαυτοὺς ἀσφαλιζόμενοι φεύγουσι τὰ πράγματα.

Εἰ γαμητέον ἐστὶν ἢ μὴ τοῖς ἐπιμέλειαν ἔχουσι καὶ
φροντίδα τῆς κατ' ἀρετὴν ζωῆς· ΟΦ'

10

1 Τῆς δ' αὐτῆς ἐπισκέψεως ἐστίν, οἶμαι, καὶ θεωρίας ἀναζητῆσαι καὶ εἰ γαμητέον ἐστὶν εἶτε μὴ, ὡς ἄρα τινὰ τὸ γαμηῆσαι μάλιστ' ἔγκοπὴν καὶ ζημίαν, εἴτουν πόνων καὶ ἀντιστάσεων συνέχειαν, ἐμποιοῦν αὐτόθεν τοῖς κατὰ Χριστὸν 505 ζῆν ἐλομένοις καὶ τοῖς αὐτοῦ προσέχειν εὖ μάλα | καὶ χρῆσθαι διδάγμασι καὶ νομοθεσίαις. 2 Τῷ ὄντι γὰρ πολὺς ὁ δεσμὸς τοῦ γάμου τῷ βίῳ, καὶ ταῖς ἐντεῦθεν 15 βιαίαις ἐπηρείαις χώρα πᾶσα πολὺ μάλιστα καθ' ἡμῶν κρατεῖν καὶ συνέχειν ἄφυκτα τὸν νοῦν πλάνη πάση καὶ στροφαῖς παντοίαις καὶ κλύδωνι τῶν ἔξωθεν ξυμπιπτόντων ἐκάστοτε, 3 ἃ ῥᾶον ἐστὶν ἐνεγκεῖν καὶ παριδεῖν τε καὶ ὑπερθέσθαι καὶ ἀπονώτερον ὑπεκδραμεῖν μόνον ἐν βίῳ κουφότερον πλέοντα ὅπως ἄρα ἢ γυναικὶ συμβιοῦντα καὶ τέκνοις σπουδάζοντα καὶ πᾶσαν ἀνάγκην 20 περὶ αὐτῶν ἔχοντα καλῶς ἄγεσθαι κατὰ τὴν χρείαν καὶ ὑπὲρ τὴν χρείαν μάλιστα· 4 τοῦτο γὰρ οὐ φιλουλία μᾶλλον καὶ φιλοπλουτία ποιεῖν εἴωθεν ἢ καὶ φιλαντία καθόλου πάντων κρατοῦσα καὶ μηδὲν ἐπὶ πάντων πραγμάτων ὡς ἄρ' οἷον τέ ἐστιν ὀλιγὸς μέτρον ὀρίζουσα. 5 Καὶ τὸ νικᾶν ἐν τοῖς κατὰ τὸν βίον 25 καλοῖς καὶ πλεῖστον ἢ κατὰ πάντας ἀνθρώπους ἐνευθηνεῖσθαι οὐκ οἶδα τίς

18 ξυμπιπτόντων: ξ s.l. et ξῦ in mg. add. M 21 αὐτῶν: αὐτ in textu et tam ois quam ὦν per comp. s.l. exhib. P, αὐτοῖς in textu et ὦν s.l. exhib. M (vide introd. 2.7, p. xli)

11 I.e. that one is likely to stumble when engaged in worldly business.

cure the means of safety, they still stumble in the same way as the others. ⁶ And I do not know which one should consider best: the way of life which more easily allows of good deeds, or that which would more easily obtain pardon, dealing as it does with matters in which nature may easily stumble. That this is so,¹¹ those of the other side, especially, are prone, in advance, to proclaim and vindicate and express as their opinion, and so they procure safety for themselves when fleeing from worldly business.

76. Whether those who are eager and anxious to lead a virtuous life should marry or not

¹ It is, I think, part of the same scrutiny and investigation to consider also whether one should marry or not, since marrying, by itself, to a very high degree brings hindrance and loss of some kind, in the form of continuous troubles and opposition, to those who have chosen to live according to Christ and to pay very careful attention to His teachings and rules and to live after them. ² For marriage does indeed very much fetter us to life, and there is every opportunity for the extreme hardships, which may result from this, to take control over us in the highest degree, and to dominate our mind with every kind of illusion and all sorts of manoeuvres and with a flood of incidents from outside all the time, with no chance of escaping, ³ all of which is easier to bear and to disregard and to keep aloof from and to avoid in a comparatively painless way if, so to speak, one sails alone in life and with less ballast, than if one lives together with a woman and has children to care for, and one's chief obligation is that these should fare well and according to their needs, and, if possible, better than their needs. ⁴ This¹ is the result neither of a love of destruction nor of greed, but rather of self-love, which rules everything absolutely and which, in all matters, so far as possible, sets no limits whatever. ⁵ And I do not know who in the whole world would not choose to be successful in what is good in life, if in

¹ I.e. that one marries and starts a family.

ἀν τῶν ἀπάντων, ἐξὸν ἔπειθ' ὀπηροῦν, οὐκ ἂν ἔλοιτο, μᾶλλον δ' οὐκ ἂν πάση
 σπουδῇ καὶ πᾶσι πόνοις ἑαυτὸν τούτου γ' ἔνεκα δοίη, 6 μεγάλην δόξαν εἰς
 κληρον καὶ χρημάτων θησαυροὺς καὶ μακρῶν προσόδους οὐσιῶν τέκνοις ἐκ
 506 παρασκευῆς ἐπιμελοῦς παραπέμψαι, καὶ ζῶν ἔτ' αὐτὸς καὶ μετὰ τελευτήν |
 χρόνοις ὕστερον· 7 ἃ δὴ καὶ κτήσασθαι πάντως καὶ τηρῆσαι φιλτάτοις ἀζήμια 5
 καὶ ἀλώβητα μὴ οὐ τῶν ῥαδίων ἦ καὶ χωρὶς πόνων μεγίστων καὶ πολλῆς τῆς
 ἐνασχολήσεως καὶ πολυμόχθου φροντίδος πᾶσιν ἀφειδῶς ἐγχειροῦντα καὶ
 προσκείμενον εὖ μάλα καρτερῶς, κἂν οὐκ ἔξω κινδύνων καὶ μεγίστης τῆς
 δυσχερείας, κἂν εἰ δικαίως τὲ καὶ ἀδίκως ἐνίστε.

2 Καὶ μὴν ὁ μὲν γάμος τεκνοποιίας ἔνεκα μάλιστα καιρὸν ἔχει καὶ 10
 νενομίσται, ὡς ἂν δολιχεύειν τῇ συνεχείᾳ τῆς διαδοχῆς μικροῦ καὶ εἰς ἀθανα-
 σίαν τὴν φύσιν, καὶ τὴν τὸ διαρκὲς καταμέρος οὐκ ἔχουσαν μηχανᾶται σοφῶς
 ἢ κινήσασα τὴν ἀρχὴν πρόνοια διοικήσει καλλίστη ταῖς ἐπαλλήλοις διαδοχαῖς
 πορρωτάτω κοιμίδῃ διαρκεῖν καὶ ἰκνεῖσθαι. 2 Κἂν εἰ μὴ τοῦτο προσείη τῷ
 γάμῳ, μὴδὲ τοῦ σκοποῦ τυγχάνοι τῆς φύσεως, ἀλλ' ἐρημία τοῦ χρησίμου 15
 καὶ βιωφελοῦς ὄντως συνῶν ὀρῶτο, πάντων ἀηδέστατον τοῦτο, καὶ ζῶσιν οἱ
 γαμήσαντες αὐτόθεν νεκροὶ καὶ ὡς ἀληθῶς 'γῆς ἄχθη' μόνον, 3 ἄσυντελεῖς
 ἑαυτοῖς καὶ τῷ κόσμῳ, ὥσπερ τὰ τῶν σκευῶν ἀχρεία τοῖς οἴκοι παρέρριπται,
 μηδενὸς λόγου καὶ αὐτοὶ τῷ βίῳ δικαίως ἂν ἄξιοι τῇ καθάπαξ ἀφύτῃ τῆς
 507 χρήσεως. 4 Εἰ | δ' ἄρ' ὁ γάμος ἐνεργὸς ἦ πρὸς τὸν σκοπὸν τῆς φύσεως 20
 καὶ τέκνων εὐφορία, λαμπρὰ ἐντεῦθεν ἐκεῖνα πάντα τὰ χαλεπὰ κατὰ πᾶσαν
 ἀνάγκην ἔπεται καὶ βάρη κατάγχοντα φροντισμάτων καὶ κύματ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλοις
 ἐγειρόμενα καὶ κλύδωνες ἐνίστε καὶ ναυάγια, καὶ οὐ μᾶλλον γε σωματῶν ἢ

15 ἐρημία PM, iota subscriptum addidi

17 γῆς ἄχθη] cf. Th. Met. Sem. 69.2.5 20 Εἰ ... λαμπρὰ] cf. S. Tr. 1174 ταῦτ' οὖν ἐπειδὴ λαμπρὰ
 συμβαίνει κτλ.

² This interpretation means that the overall structure of the paragraph is one of two state-
 ments: '(it) is certainly not an easy task etc.' and 'Nor is it free from danger etc.' Another pos-
 sibility is to take the last sentence as a continuation of what immediately precedes it, i.e. as
 expressing possible circumstances under which a man may still be willing to act. In this case
 one may translate: 'even if it is not free from danger and extreme unpleasantness, indeed even
 regardless whether it is right or wrong sometimes.'

³ 'run': more exactly 'run a long course': the word used, δολιχεύω, is probably, like δολιχοδρομέω,
 a sports metaphor. This is anticipated by 75.2.6.

any way possible, and to be more prosperous than any other men. Would he not rather submit himself to every effort and any trouble for the sake of this, 6 viz. to bequeath to his children, by careful preparation, great fame and amassed wealth and the income from great estates [to be enjoyed] while he himself is still alive, as well as after his death, years afterwards? 7 Altogether to acquire these riches and to keep them safe and intact for one's dearest, is certainly not an easy task nor exempt from extreme labour and much work and wearisome care for him who unsparingly attempts everything in order to do so and who applies himself to the task with great diligence. Nor is it free from danger and extreme unpleasantness, whether rightful or, as in some cases, not right.²

2 Marriage is undoubtedly most of all justified by and instituted for the begetting of children, so that through unbroken succession nature may run³ some little way towards eternity even. And so, through the succession from one to the other, does Providence, which caused the first movement, with the most excellent management wisely arrange for nature, which in its parts does not have the quality of lasting, to last and reach very far. 2 And if, in a marriage, this does not follow, and if a marriage does not reach nature's goal but is seen to be devoid⁴ of what is useful and truly good for life, this is the most unpleasant thing imaginable, and the married couple then live as if dead and indeed as *burdens of the earth*⁵ only, 3 without reaching fulfilment for themselves or for the world, in the way that useless tools are thrown aside by those in the household, since, owing to their complete uselessness, these are not rightfully worthy of any attention in life either. 4 But if the marriage is productive⁶ with regard to the goal of nature and through an abundance of children, all the above-mentioned difficulties will clearly and out of necessity follow,⁷ as will all the stifling burdens of worries and the waves which rise above each other, and rough weather at times and shipwrecks, no less of souls than of bodies, 5 and all matters

⁴ 'is ... devoid': or, closer to the Greek: 'is seen accompanied by a lack' (ἐρημία ... συνῶν ὀρφῶτο).

⁵ 'burdens of the earth': for this expression see also 69.2.5 and 81.1.7.

⁶ 'productive' (ἐνεργός); or 'completed'/'consummated'.

⁷ I.e. if children are born, the parents will have problems as a consequence.

ψυχῶν, 5 καὶ πάντα πράγματα τοὺς λογισμοὺς ἀποστρέφοντα πρὸς ὀλιγωρίαν τῶν ὀφειλομένων τῇ κατὰ Χριστὸν βιοτῇ νόμων καὶ τῆς εὐγενοῦς τοῦ βίου χρήσεως· 6 τᾶλλα γὰρ νῦν ἐατέον ἴσως οὐκ ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ ὅσα καὶ κατὰ τὸν βίον αὐτὸν ἐντεῦθεν ξυπέεται δυσχερῇ, καὶ οὐδὲν ἦττον ταῖς εὐτεκνίαις ἢ ταῖς κακοτεκνίαις, ὅσα καὶ δούλους τριοβολιμαίους καὶ πάσης ἐμπαροινήσεως 5 ἀξιούς καὶ χλεῦθς ἀποδεικνύοντα τοὺς τεκνοποιοὺς αὐτοὺς ὑπηρέτας τῆς φύσεως, ὡς μὴ ὄφελον. 7 Καὶ πολλοὶ γὰρ αὐτῶν πανώλειαν ἐαυτῶν κατηύξαντο πρὶν ἢ καὶ πειραθῆναι τοῦ γάμου καὶ τοσοῦτων πειραθῆναι τῶν ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ τῆς εὐκταίας τεκνώσεως δυσχερῶν.

3 Καὶ οὕτω μὲν τὰ τοῦ γάμου δοκεῖ, καὶ τῆς ἀληθείας οὐ παντάπασι ξῶ 10 δοκεῖ· οὐ μὴν ἄλλ' ὁ καὶ φθάσαν ἤδη πρότερον εἴρηται, τὸ ταῦτα δὴ βούλεσθαι 508 καὶ λέγειν ἀσύμφωνον παντάπασι ἐστὶ | τῷ θείῳ σκοπῶ καὶ πρὸς τὴν ἐξαρχῆς τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ τῶν ὄντων πρόνοιαν τε καὶ βούλησιν, καὶ κατὰ τῆς οὐσίας ὀρμαὶ ταῦτα καὶ βουλευμάτα καὶ πρόθεσις εἰς τὸναντίον, 2 λύσιν τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῶν ὄντων φθορὰν ἀνέδην ἀνακηρύττουσα καὶ πόλεμον ἄσπονδον ἀναιρουμένη 15 κατὰ τῆς δημιουργίας τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τῆς μονῆς, ἣν ἀγαθότης ἐκίνησεν αἰὲ τηροῦσα προνοία καλλίστη, ὡς ἄρ' ἐστὶν εἰκὸς τοῦ ποιήματος τὸν ποιήσαντα προνοεῖν ἐκ παντὸς τρόπου. 3 Καὶ οὐκ ἀφειδὲς μόνον τῶν εἰκότων λογισμῶν εἰς τὴν περὶ θεοῦ καὶ τῶν θείων εὐλάβειαν τὸ ταῦτ' ἀξιοῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποις καὶ πείθειν καὶ τόλμης μεγίστης, ἀλλὰ καὶ κατὰ τῶν ἀδυνάτων καὶ φύσιν ὅλως 20 οὐκ ἐχόντων ἀνόητος ἐπιχείρησις μάτην πονοῦσα 4 καὶ οἷα πολλάκις ἐν ὑπνοῖς ὄναρ ἀγωνίζονται καὶ σπουδάζουσι δῆθεν ἐν ἀναπλάσμασι φαντασίας ἀνθρωποὶ μετ' ἀδείας ἀπάσης εὐ μάλα ῥᾶστα ποιούσης καὶ μεταποιούσης πάντα πράγματα καὶ τὰ καθάπαξ ἔξω τῶν ὄντων καὶ τῆς φύσεως ἀνατυπούσης μόνον ὡς ἐν πίναξιν, ἄπρακτα μὲν, ἀπρόσκοπα δέ, καὶ οὐδὲν οὕτως ἄρα ταχὺ 25

7 αὐτῶν P, s.l. add. M 13 τε om. M 16 τοῦ M et p.c. P², fort. τῆς a.c. P¹ ἐκίνησεν P², ἐκίνησε καὶ M et fort. P¹, καὶ ut vid. erasit P² 21 ἀνόητος M

5 τριοβολιμαίους] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 63.5.4, 67.12.6, 67.18.3

⁸ I.e. a life without marriage and other human bonds.

⁹ 'senseless' (ἀνόητος): the manuscript M has ἀνόητος, 'unprofitable', which may be the intended reading (and also seems to be the commoner of the two words, which are easily confused).

which turn the thoughts away so as to make us neglect the laws necessary for a life according to Christ, and to neglect what is necessary for a noble conduct of life. ⁶ All other difficulties which follow from this during life itself we will have to pass over, although they may not be irrelevant—difficulties no less if one is blessed with regard to one's children than if not, as well as difficulties which show the parents to be nature's servants and like vulgar slaves who deserve insulting treatment and derision of a most undesirable kind. ⁷ And many of them have wished that they themselves had been utterly destroyed before they had any experience of marriage and of so many difficulties arising from marriage and from the prayed-for birth of children.

³ This is my opinion of marriage, an opinion which does not seem to be wholly beside the truth. But, as has already been said before, to wish for this⁸ and to say so does not in any way agree with the divine plan and with God's original forethought and purpose with the world. These are impulses and wishes which are contrary to reality and an inspiration to the opposite, ² since they announce the dissolution of nature and the complete destruction of things that are, and commence a merciless war against the creation and the permanence of the world which goodness set in motion and always guards with the very best foresight, it being reasonable for the creator to care for his creation in every way. ³ And to think these ideas right for men and to argue in favour of them is not only neglect of the thoughts of due reverence of God and the Divine, and a proof of the greatest daring. It is also a senseless⁹ undertaking which strives, in vain, for impossible and wholly unnatural things, ⁴ an undertaking to be compared with what men are often fighting with in a dream when sleeping, and so strive for by means of the fictitious constructions of the imagination, which without any hindrance and with the greatest of ease makes and changes all things, even those which once and for all are outside reality and nature, and only outlines them as if in a painting, useless things but harmless—and nothing is as quick and easy as the imprint of the imagination and the not materialised¹⁰ creations of the mind. ⁵ For by this it is possible to achieve with

¹⁰ 'not materialised' (ἀνευέργητα): or 'not actualised', or 'useless.'

καὶ ῥάδιον ὡς ἡ φανταστικὴ γραφὴ καὶ τὰ κατὰ λογισμοὺς ἀνερέγητα
 509 δημιουργήματα. 5 Καὶ δρᾶν γάρ ἐστιν | αὐτόθεν εὖ μάλ' ἀνυσίμως ἂ μὴ
 πέφυκεν ὄλως, καὶ τίθεσθαι καὶ πολιτεύεσθαι λόγοις μόνοις εὐδρομα, καὶ
 φεύγειν ὧν οὐκ ἔξεστι, καὶ λύειν καὶ καταστρέφειν καὶ παραπέμπειν φθορᾶ καὶ
 φέρεσθαι καθ' ὧν ἂν ἐπιή τῷ λογισμῷ τρόπαια, καὶ 'τάκινητα κινεῖν'. 6 Καὶ ῥᾶον 5
 ἢ καὶ τὰ παίδων καὶ νηπίων ἀθύρματ' ἔχει καὶ δράματα· ἀρχὰς καὶ πολέμους
 καὶ νίκας καὶ γάμους καὶ συμπόσια καὶ φιλοτησίας καὶ πάντων πραγμάτων
 διαπλαττομένων ἀφελείας εὐκολία σκηνήν, καὶ πειθόντων ἑαυτοὺς ἀνύτειν
 ἐκάστοτε κατὰ πρόθεσιν, 7 ὥστε καὶ τοῖς πραττομένοις εὖ μάλα ἤδεσθαι,
 πάντ' ἀλόγως καὶ μάτην πονοῦντας. Χωρὶς δὲ τούτων οὐδ' ἄλλως εὐλογον 10
 φεύγειν ἅττα δὴ καθάπαξ τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ ἀποτρέπεσθαι διὰ τὰς ἐπομένας
 ἔστιν ἅς δυσχερείας αὐτοῖς.

4 Ἄλλ' ἀγαπητὸν μὲν ἴσως, μᾶλλον δ' εὐκταῖον ὄντως, εἰ ῥᾶστ' εἶχε
 παντάπασιν τὰ κατ' ἀνθρώπους πρακτέα καὶ οἷς ἐστι χρῆσθαι, ὡς ἂν καὶ μεθ'
 ἡδονῆς ἢ πειρᾶσθαι ὧν δέοι ἂν πειρᾶσθαι, καὶ πόνων ἐλευθερίας ἀπάντων. 2 15
 "Ὅτε δὲ τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲ δίδωσιν ἢ φύσις καθόλου γ' ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν ἐπὶ
 πάντων πραγμάτων· ὅτε δὴ πᾶσα ἀνάγκη πειρᾶσθαι ὧντινων ἄρα καὶ μάλιστα
 510 χρεωδέστατον ἡμῖν ἐστι, | πειρατέον εὖ μάλα κἂν εἰ πάνν τοι καματηρῶς
 εἶη, 3 καὶ οὐκ ἀποδειλιατέον οὐδ' ἀποτρεπτέον καθάπαξ τῶν βελτίστων ὅ τι
 ποτ' ἄρα τῷ βίῳ, δι' ἂ πέφυκεν ἀκολουθεῖν ἐν τούτοις ἐργώδη καὶ πονηρὰν 20
 ἐμποιοῦντα τὴν χρῆσιν· οὐδὲν γὰρ ἂν τῶν χρησίμων καὶ μειζόνων τὲ καὶ
 ἡττόνων ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἀνύσιμον εἶη τούτου προηγουμένου τοῦ δέους καὶ τῶν
 περὶ αὐτοῦ φροντισμάτων καὶ λογισμῶν. 4 Οὔτε πλευσεῖται τίς θάλασσαν διὰ
 τὴν ἐκ τῶν χειμῶνων καὶ πάσης ἀντιπνοίας ἐπήρειαν; Οὔτ' ἀρόσεται γῆν καὶ

1 γραφὴ: γραφικὴ M 23 τίς pro τις hic et infra PME

5 τάκινητα κινεῖν] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 67.2.4 et 73.3.8

¹¹ 'successfully to make politics in words only': πολιτεύεσθαι λόγοις μόνοις εὐδρομα (Metochites is talking about what is possible to achieve in the imagination).

¹² 'move the immovable': cf. above, 67.2.4 (with app. font. et parall.), and 73.3.8.

¹³ 'And ... have their': the question here is whether ἀθύρματα and δράματα are subjects or objects; in neither case the sentence is unproblematic. Taking ἀθύρματα and δράματα as objects one may translate 'And, more readily even than children's and babies' play, this has its delights and dramatic effects, such as etc.'

great effect such things as are completely impossible to achieve by nature, and to arrange them and successfully to make politics in words only,¹¹ and to avoid what cannot be avoided, and to dissolve and to tear down and to send to destruction and to win trophies from whoever you might think of, and to *move the immovable*.¹² 6 And, more readily even than those of children and babies, these delights and dramas have their¹³ powerful positions and wars and victories, and marriages and symposia and cups sacred to friendship,¹⁴ and a scene where all things change with the easiness of simplicity; and one convinces oneself that in each case one succeeds according to one's intention, 7 and so one is delighted with what is done, although in every respect one toils without meaning¹⁵ and without avail. But leaving these fantasies apart, it is under no circumstances¹⁶ reasonable wholly to avoid public matters and to turn away from them because of the difficulties which may follow from them.

4 And yet, it would perhaps be desirable, or rather really to be wished for, if altogether man's duties and his dealings were very easy, so that one could experience with pleasure what must be experienced, and also in freedom from all labour. 2 But since this is not so, and since nature will by no means permit it, not, so to say, in any circumstances—therefore, whenever¹⁷ we have great need to deal closely with something and this need is most deeply felt, we have to try very hard, even if this is extremely irksome. 3 And one must not flinch or once and for all¹⁸ turn away from any of the best things in life because of the difficulties which in the nature of things will follow and make life arduous. For no thing, great or small, which is good for men, can be achieved if this fear takes the lead with its brooding and worrying. 4 Likewise, will one not sail the sea because of the injuries caused by rough weather and all contrary winds? Will one not plough the earth and bury the seed in it because one fears all that may follow which

¹⁴ 'cups sacred to friendship': φιλοτησίας (κύλικες).

¹⁵ 'meaning' (ἀλόγως): or 'thinking'.

¹⁶ 'leaving ... circumstances': this is to translate the vague Χωρίς δὲ τούτων οὐδ' ἄλλως.

¹⁷ 'therefore, whenever': this is to translate the resumptive ὅτε δή (cf. ὅτε at the beginning of the sentence).

¹⁸ 'once and for all' (καθάπαξ): or 'simply'.

κατ' αὐτῆς θησαυρίσει σπέρματα φεύγων τὰ ξυνεπόμενα πλεῖσθ' ὅσα τῆδ' ἐναντίως ἔχοντα καὶ ζημιοῦντα πολλάκις μέγιστα; 5 Οὔτε φυτεύσει τίς; Οὔτε ζωοτροφήσει; Οὔτ' ἐμπορεύσεται; Οὔτε πᾶν ἄλλ' ὅτιοῦν διαπράξεται, οὐ τῶν ἐν μεγίστῳ λόγῳ, οὐ τῶν βαναύσων καὶ αὐτουργικῶν ἔργων, δι' ἃ πρόσεστιν ἐκάστοις ἐργώδη καὶ ξυμβαίνει πολλάκις δυσπραγήματα; 6 Καὶ βιωτέον ἂν 5 εἶη, εἰ καὶ ὅλως εἶη, κατὰ τὸν Ὀμήρου Μαργίτην ἡμδὲν πονοῦντα, μηδενὸς ἐπαίοντα· ἄλλ' ἄκαιρος ὁ λόγος οὗτος καθάπαξ, καὶ πολλὴ ἀηδία καὶ νοεῖν ὅλως ταῦτα καὶ λέγειν. Ἄλλ' ἀντιληπτέον ὧν δεῖ καὶ ὧν ἔστι τις ὄνησις ἢ τίς ἐπέιγουσ' ἀνάγκη καὶ χρήσις, κἂν εἰ μάλιστα τινα καματηρὰ προσεῖη· 7 ἔστι γὰρ καὶ ἀνύτειν ἐν σπουδῇ κατὰ λόγον καὶ ἀγαθῇ τύχῃ χρώμενον, ὡσπερ ἄρα 10 511 καὶ περὶ τὸ γαμεῖν ὄραῖν | ἔστιν, εἴ τις οἶος τ' ἔστιν ὄραῖν εὐ· κἂν εἰ βέλτιον ἴσως τοῖς θείοις νόμοις ἢ ἀγαμία, ἄλλ' οὐ καθόλου νόμος καὶ ἀνάγκη μὴ ἄλλως χρῆσθαι, ἀλλὰ καὶ γαμεῖν ἕξεστιν ἐπ' εὐφορία καὶ ῥαστώνῃ κατὰ τὸν βίον καὶ ἅμα μὴδὲ τῶν θείων ἐκ τούτου νομίμων ὀλιγωρεῖν· οὐκ ἀδύνατον γάρ.

ἽΟτι παντὶ τρόπῳ τῷ πολιτικῷ ἀντιποιητέον εἰρήνης· ΟΖ'

15

1 Ἔργον ἂν εἶη κοινὸν πολιτικῷ τε ἀνδρὶ καὶ ἅμα ζῆν ἡρημένῳ χριστιανικῶς εἰρήνης ἐπιμέλεια κατὰ πάνθ' ὡς οἶον τε τρόπον, οἴκοι τὲ καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἐκ γειτόνων μεθ' ὧν ἔστι πράγματ' ἔχειν. 2 Εἰρηνεύειν μὲν γε μετ' ἀλλήλων καὶ μετὰ πάντων, ὡς ἔστιν, εἰ δὴ τι καὶ ἄλλο, τῶν ἀπάντων ἀναγκαιότατον χριστιανοῖς δόγμα καὶ ὄφλημα καὶ δεῖγμα καὶ πίστις τῆς καθ' ἡμᾶς θεοσεβείας, 20 τίς ἀγνοεῖ; Καὶ περιττὸν ἂν εἶη νῦν γε εἶναι λόγοις πολλοῖς ἀναδιδάσκειν καὶ πείθειν ἀξιοῦν, ὡς ἄρ' ἀνθρώποις καλῶς τὰ θεῖα βιοῦσι χρήσιμον. 3 Οὐ μὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄλλως τοῖς κατὰ βίον πράγμασι μάλιστα σπουδαστέον ἔστιν ὡς

2 μέγιστα ζημιοῦντα πολλάκις M 7 ἐπαίοντα P, i.e. non exhib. tremata 8 ἔστι τίς M
10 ἐν: εὐ M

6 μηδὲν ... ἐπαίοντα] cf. [Hom.] *Margites* Fr. 6 (West)

19 'not understanding anything': or, possibly, 'not listening to anyone'. *Margites* is the hero of a

is detrimental to the earth and often causes great damage? 5 Will one not plant? Nor breed animals? Nor trade? Nor do all other things, be it the most important, be it the lowest and most menial, because of the toil involved in each of them, and because the result is often a failure? 6 If a life at all, this would be living in the way of the Homeric Margites, *not working, not understanding anything*.¹⁹ But this is a wholly futile line of reasoning, and it is most unpleasant even to think, or talk, about the matter. Rather one should take part in what is necessary and what is profitable, or in that for which there is some urgent need and use, even if it should include some pain. 7 For, through a reasonable effort²⁰ and with the help of good luck, it is possible to succeed, as can be seen with regard to marriage—if one can see clearly. Even if celibacy may be better as regards the divine laws, this does not mean there is an absolute law or obligation not to live otherwise. It is legitimate to marry in order to have offspring and to make life easier, at the same time as one does not neglect the divine rules: this is no impossibility.

77. That a politician in every way should strive for peace

1 It would seem to be the common duty of the politician and of him who has chosen to live in a Christian way to strive for peace in every possible manner—at home and in relation to the neighbours with whom he has to deal. 2 To live in peace with one another and with everyone is, more than anything else, a highly important principle and duty and proof and token of our religion. Who is unaware of that? And it would be superfluous now to think it worth while to try with many words to teach and convince anyone that this is useful to men who are to live well¹ and in accordance with religion. 3 But also in other matters of life one should very much endeavour to live in peace, since this is what is productive of all that is good, and since

mock epic which was often, but not always, ascribed to Homer.

²⁰ 'through a reasonable effort': σπουδῆ κατὰ λόγον.

¹ 'are to live well' (καλῶς ... βιοῦσι): or 'lead good lives'.

512 ἄρα δὴ καρποφόρον παντὸς ἀγαθοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἄλλως ἐστὶν εὐθηνεῖσθαι καὶ |
καλῶς πράττειν καὶ ἄρχουσι καὶ ἀρχομένοις, ὅτι μὴ ξὺν εἰρήνῃ πάσης ἀσχολίας
ἀπηλλαγμένους καὶ πρὸς τὴν οἰκείαν εὐεξίαν πάντα τὸν νοῦν στρέφοντας καὶ
σπουδῆν πᾶσαν ποιουμένους ῥᾶστα προκόπτειν ἐν βελτίστοις. 4 Καὶ βιοτῆς
γὰρ ἐντεῦθεν πᾶσα ῥαστώνη καὶ οὐσιῶν αὐξήσις καὶ προσοδημάτων πάντων, 5
καὶ δυναμοποιόν ἐστὶν εἰρήνην μάλιστα κράτος καὶ κατασκευάζειν κοιμιδῆ
πᾶσαν χρεῖαν πέφυκεν εὐνομον καὶ κόσμους ἐπὶ τῇ χρεΐᾳ καὶ οἷα τρυφόντων
ἀνθρώπων καὶ ὡσπερ ἐνεορταζόντων τῇ ζωῇ καὶ χρωμένων ὡς ἥδιστα, 5 καὶ
πᾶσαν τεχνῶν ἄσκησιν προάγει καὶ σοφίας ἀπρόσκοπον καθάπαξ φορὰν καὶ
χρησὶν βιωφελεστάτην κοινῇ τε καὶ ἰδίᾳ, καὶ παλαιοὶς ἐπιδιδούσαν καὶ νέοις 10
εὐρήμασι, καὶ πρεσβύτας τέρπουσαν καὶ καλλύνουσαν, καὶ νέους ἄγουσαν εὐ
μάλα παντὶ τῷ πρέποντι, καὶ ταῖς ἄλλαις ἐνακμάζουσαν ἡλικίας.

2 Καὶ καθόλου γ' ἐρεῖν οὐδενὶ τῶν κακίστων καὶ ἀλυσιτελῶν τοῖς κοινοῖς
τε καὶ ἰδίοις τῶν ἀνθρώπων δίδωσι χώραν εἰρήνῃ τιμωμένη καὶ σπουδῆς ἔργον
οὐσα· ὡσπερ δὴθ' ἡ μάχιμος καὶ πολεμοποιὸς χρήσις ἅπαν τὸνναντίον αὐθις, 15
καὶ τὰ χαλεπὰ πάντα καὶ ἀποτρόπαια καὶ ἀπευκταῖα ταύτῃ συνεισάγεται, 2 καὶ
παρρησίαν αὐτόθεν ἔχει πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις, καὶ τῷ κοινῷ βίῳ δυσχρηστία καὶ
δυσπραγία, ὕβρις, ἀπειθεία νόμων, ἀλογία τάξεως ἐθίμου καλῶς κρατούσης
(τιμῆς ἱερῶν, τιμῆς γονέων, τιμῆς ἀρετῆ καὶ ἡλικία προεχόντων καὶ γεραρῶν
513 ἀνδρῶν καὶ τιμᾶσθαι δικαίων), 3 | ἔρις πρὸς ἀλλήλους καὶ φθόνος, ἀναίδεια, 20
θράσος, προπέτεια, ἀρπάγματα καὶ κλοπαὶ δημοσίων χρησίμων, ἀρπάγματα
καὶ κλοπαὶ χρησίμων ἰδί' ἐκάστων, πάντες βίαιοι τρόποι πρὸς χρήματα,
πρὸς γυναῖκας, πρὸς ἱερῶν ἀσυλίαν· 4 ἔτ' ἄλλ' ἐπὶ τούτοις χαλεπὰ οἰκιῶν
κατασκαφαὶ κοινῶν τε καὶ ἰδιωτικῶν, ἀγρῶν δηώσεις, βοσκημάτων φθοραὶ,
ἀργία πάντων τῶν εἰς τὸν βίον ὄνησίμων καὶ πάσης πορισμῶν ἀφορμῆς, καὶ 25
οὐδὲν ὅτι οὐ τῶν δεινῶν, οὐκ ἐν πράγμασιν, οὐκ ἐν λόγοις, οὐκ ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ.
5 Καὶ 'τίς ἂν πάντα κατὰ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων μυθῆσαιτο', ἃ ξυνέπεται πάντα

18 ἀπειθεία P¹M, corr. P²

27 κατὰ θνητῶν: fort. scrib. καταθνητῶν

27 Καὶ ... μυθῆσαιτο] cf. *Od.* 3.113sq. ἄλλα τε πόλλ' ἐπὶ τοῖς πάθομεν κακά· τίς κεν ἐκεῖνα / πάντα
γε μυθῆσαιτο καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων | *Th.Met. Presb.* 1034sq. Καὶ τίς ταῦτα πάντα κατὰ θνητῶν

2 'in fact and in theory': (οὐκ) ἐν πράγμασιν, (οὐκ) ἐν λόγοις.

3 'who ... mortals': this is an allusion to the *Odyssey* 3.113–4 (also alluded to by Metochites at

it is not possible for rulers and subjects to live in affluence and to flourish, if they are not through peace freed from every impeding occupation and able to turn their whole mind towards their own well-being and to take every care to make easy progress as regards what is most important. ⁴ From this is derived every relief in life and the increase of wealth and of all proceeds; and peace is in the highest degree a strength-engendering power fit to satisfy altogether every lawful need and to add adornment to this besides, and [fit to add] everything typical of those men who are fastidious and, as it were, making a feast of life and living most comfortably. ⁵ It also promotes the practising of every art and the wholly unobstructed advancement of wisdom and the best use thereof, publicly and privately, and it is furthered by old and new discoveries alike, and it delights and embellishes old men, and it attracts young men to everything which is seemly, and it makes its vigour felt also in all other ages of life.

2 And on the whole, if honoured and the object of zeal, peace does not give an opportunity to any of the most evil of men or to those useless in public or private matters. But with a life which engenders fights and wars, it is exactly the opposite, and all that is grievous and undesirable and loathsome is brought about by this, ² and licence among all men comes from it, and difficulties for a communal life, and misfortune, insolence, disobedience of the laws, lack of respect for the traditional order which still prevails satisfactorily (reverence of holy matters, piety towards one's parents, the honouring of those who are distinguished by virtue and age, and of respectable men worthy of esteem), ³ strife among men and jealousy, shamelessness, recklessness, rashness, looting and theft of public property, looting and theft of the property of private individuals, all kinds of violent behaviour with regard to money, to women, to the sanctity of all that is holy. ⁴ There are also other troublesome things in addition to these: the tearing-down of public and private buildings, the laying-waste of fields, the destroying of herds, the idleness in everything useful for life and in every source of livelihood—every conceivable danger, in fact and in theory, ² in every way. ⁵ And *who could enumerate all the adversities of mortals,* ³

several other occasions, see app. font. et parall.).

τῶ τῆς εἰρηρικῆς ἕξεως καὶ ἀγωγῆς ἀλλοτρίῳ βίῳ καὶ φθοροποιῶ πάντων ἀγαθῶν; 6 Χωρὶς δὲ τούτων, ὡς ἄρα δὴ καὶ τῶν θεῶν νομίμων καὶ τῆς ἱεραῆς ἀγιστείας καὶ περὶ τὰ θεῖα τιμῆς καὶ εὐλαβείας πᾶσα ξυνέπεται μάλιστ' αὐτόθεν ὀλιγωρία, καὶ περιφρονοῦνται μὲν ἑορταὶ καὶ τελεταὶ καὶ μυστήρια, χρόνια καλῶς καὶ σεβάσμια σπουδαζόμενα, καὶ κοινὰ συναυλῖαι καὶ πάνδημοι κρότοι 5 περὶ τὰ θεῖα, καὶ παντοῖα κάλλη καὶ φαιδρότητες, 7 περιφρονεῖται δ' ἀρετῆς 514 ἰδία πάσης ἐπιμέλεια, καὶ κοσμιότης βίου μετὰ τῶν ἐντολῶν τοῦ | Χριστοῦ, καὶ κατ' ὀλίγον ὑποχωρεῖ καὶ φθίνει τελευτῶσα καθάπαξ, 8 τίς ἀγνοεῖ; Ἡ τίς ἂν εἰδῶς εὐ μάλα ταῦτ' ἐν δευτέρῳ θεῖτο μελαγχολῶν; Ἡ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅ τι φῶ πρὸς τοσαύτην ἀλογίαν τὲ καὶ ἀναλγησίαν καὶ βοσκηματῶδη τρόπον ὄντως καὶ τῶν 10 κατ' ἀνθρώπους ἀσύνητον βελτίστων.

3 Καὶ μὴν εἰς τοῦτο δῆτ' ἄρα τὸ πολεμεῖν δεῖσαν πολεμεῖν εὐ μάλ' οἶον τ' εἶναι, πολὺ τοῦτο βέλτιστ' ἔσται διὰ τῆς ἀποκαταστάσεως εἰρηναίας καὶ τῶν ἐντεῦθεν ἀγαθῶν παρασκευῆς εἰς τὸ πολεμεῖν. 2 Καὶ οὐκ ἄλλως γε μὴν εἶη ἂν οἰσισινοῦν πολεμητέα, ὅτι μὴ τέως φθάσασιν ἐνακμάσαι τοῖς τῆς εἰρήνης 15 καλοῖς καὶ κομιδῇ παρασκευάσασθαι γεννικῶς πρὸς τὴν τοῦ πολεμεῖν χρεῖαν. 3 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ παλαιός ἐστιν οὗτοσὶ λόγος κάλλιστ' εἰρημένος, ὡς ἄρ' ὧ μάλιστα παρασκευαστέον ἐστὶν εἰς πόλεμον, ἐπιμελητέον αὐτῶ πρότερον ἂν εἶη μάλιστα τῆς εἰρήνης, ὡς ἐντεῦθεν πλείστην οὔσαν πορισμάτων καὶ δυνάμεως καὶ κράτους εὐκολίαν εἰς αὐτὴν τὴν τοῦ μάχεσθαι χρῆσιν, 4 20 προενσκευαζούσης καὶ ὀπλοποιούσης αὐτῆς μάλιστα τῆς εἰρήνης εἰς τοὺς ἐπομένους ἀναγκαστοὺς πολέμους, καὶ χορηγούσης τῶν κατὰ χρεῖαν τοῖς πολεμησεῖουσιν αὐτόθεν ἀφθονίαν τῆς τῶν οἰκείων ἀγαθῶν μετουσίας, ἃ πλείσθ', ἤπερ εἴρηται πρὸ βραχέος, εὐ δὴ μάλα κτᾶται τὸ πρότερον ἐν εἰρήνῃ

3 ἀγιστείας M 8 kai bis, in fine lineae et in initio lineae sequentis, exhib. P 20 τὴν in mg, exhib. fort. P²

ἀνθρώπων μυθήσαιτο et Id. *Carm.* 15.57sq. τίς ἂν ἅπαντα κατὰ θνητῶν τάδ' εἴποι βρουτῶν / πολλά τ' ἔοντα γνωτὰ, τάδ' ἀθῆς ἔοντ' ἀδόκητα et Ibid. 15.100sq. τίς ἂν ἔπειτα κατὰ θνητῶν μερόπων λογισαιτο / ὅσάτι' ἐνθεῦτεν δράματα πολυτερεῖ' ἀνίης 17 ᾧ ... εἰρήνης] cf. Veg. *Mil.* III prolog. *Igitur qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum; qui uictoriam cupit, milites inbuat diligenter; qui secundos optat euentus, dimicet arte, non casu* | Liv. 6.18.7 *Ostendite modo bellum; pacem habebitis*

4 'beautiful and glorious acts': κάλλη καὶ φαιδρότητες.

which are all a consequence of a life which is far from being conducted and lived in a peaceful way, and which destroys all good things? ⁶ And that apart from this there follows as a consequence every kind of neglect of the divine laws and of the holy rituals and of the reverence and respect for the Divine; and that feasts and ceremonies and mysteries, which during ages have been observed with diligence and reverence, are looked upon with contempt, as well as public concerts and communal religious spectacles and different kinds of beautiful and glorious acts;⁴ ⁷ and also that every private care for virtue is the subject of contempt, and that the virtuous life in accordance with Christ's commandments gradually recedes and dies completely at last— ⁸ who is unaware of this? Or who, being well aware of this, could be mad enough to consider it of secondary importance? Otherwise I do not know what to say about such a lack of sense and sensibility and such a truly brutish manner, which to such a degree fails to understand what is best for mankind.

³ And in order to wage this war, it is necessary to be able to fight as well as possible, and this will best be feasible if one can establish peace and collect what good comes from this to be used in the war. ² And it would seem that there is no other way of making war for anyone than by gathering strength in advance by means of the good things which peace provides and altogether by preparing oneself well for the needs of war. ³ Therefore there is also this old dictum, so extremely well framed, that *the more one is obliged to prepare for war, the more one should first have care for peace*,⁵ since it is from this that supplies and power and strength necessary for the actual fighting most easily can be had. ⁴ And so peace itself makes advance preparations and procures armament for coming unavoidable wars, giving of itself an unrestricted enjoyment of the private commodities⁶ which answer to the needs of those who intend to go to war, most of which, as has just been said, an earlier life in peace and in abundance of all provisions

⁵ Cf. the opposite to this, i.e. *si vis pacem, para bellum* (for this see Vegetius and Livy: see app. font. et parall.). I have not been able to find any Greek parallels.

⁶ 'private commodities' (οἰκείων ἀγαθῶν): or, less private and personal, 'commodities in their own country'.

515 βιοῦν 5 καὶ ῥαστώνη πάντων | πορισμῶν, ὡς οὐδὲν μήποτ' ἄλλο τῶν ἀπάντων
 πλούτου καὶ περιουσίας ἀναπηγάζον ῥεύματα καὶ κάλλιστ' εὐφορίαν ἢ τὸ
 εἰρηναῖον ἀμέλει καὶ ἀστασιαστον καὶ μετὰ πάσης ἐντεῦθεν ἀδειας θησαυρίζον
 βιώσεως εὐπορίαν πᾶσαν καὶ χρείας ὅποι ἂν δέοι, 6 τὴν δὲ τῶν πολέμων αὐτῶν
 συνέχειαν ἐκτρύχουσαν καὶ οὐσίας καὶ σώματα καὶ τὰς ἐσχάτας ἐπιφέρουσαν 5
 τελευτῶσαν ἀπορίας εἰς τὰ μάλιστ' ἐπίχρεια καὶ ἃ κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνάγκην αἰ
 μάχαι πράττονται. 7 Ἐχρυσὸς γὰρ πολέμου νεῦρα⁷ φασί, καὶ πλουτοῦσιν ὄντως
 ἐξέσται κρατερῶς ἀπομάχεσθαι· εἰ δὲ μή, κακῶς ἂν εἴη πράττειν αὐτίκα καὶ
 πολὺ γ' ἦττω τῶν ἀκμαζόντων πλούτῳ κατὰ τὴν μάχην φέρεσθαι. Τοῦτο δὲ
 τῆς εἰρηναίας αἰτίας, ὡς ἔφην, ἐξῆπται· καὶ ποιηταὶ δὲ φασίν· ὦ γλυκεῖ' εἰρήνη, 10
 πλουτοδότειρα βροτοῖς⁸.

ἽΟτι καὶ πρὸς τὸ πολεμεῖν παρασκευαστέον τῷ πολιτικῷ·
 ΟΗ'

1 Παρασκευαστέον γε μὴν ἔστι τῷ πολιτικῷ καθ' ὅσον οἶον τέ ἔστι καὶ ὡς
 πολεμητέον αὐτῷ· καὶ πολεμητέον γὰρ ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἔσται, καὶ οὐκ αἰεὶ τὰ τῆς 15
 εἰρήνης ἀνθρώποις ἄτρεπτα μένειν ἐφέυκεν, οὐδ' εἰ καὶ βούλεται τις πάνυ
 τοι καὶ περὶ αὐτὴν ἐπιμελής ἔστι καὶ σπουδάζει κατ' αὐτὴν χρῆσθαι παντὶ
 516 τρόπῳ, οἷος τέ ἔστιν | αἰεὶ κατ' αὐτὴν χρῆσθαι καὶ τοῦ σκοποῦ τυγχάνειν. 2
 Οὐδὲ συμφώνων τὸν αἰεὶ χρόνον περὶ αὐτὴν τῶν περὶ αὐτὸν καὶ συναραστῶν
 εἰρήνης καὶ ὁμοφρονούντων τὰ καλὰ πάντων ἔστι πειραῖσθαι, ἀλλ' εἰσὶ πάντως 20
 οἱ καὶ τάναντί' αἰροῦνται καὶ δυσέρωτές εἰσι τῶν φαύλων καὶ ἀλυσιτελῶν 3
 καὶ ἢ βασκαίνουσιν ἢ κατολιγωροῦσι τοῦ σωφρονικοῦ καὶ τῆς φιλοκαλίας καὶ
 περιφρονοῦσιν ὡς εὐτελείας καὶ μικρογνωμοσύνης καὶ ἀνανδρίας κατὰ φύσιν,

7 νεῦρα πολέμου M 9 ἦττον M (vide introd. 2.2.1, p. xxxi) 21 αἰροῦνται: ai- P², sed fort. sic etiam P¹

7 Ἐχρυσὸς ... νεῦρα] cf. *Schol. in Pind. (schol. vet.)* O 1 4b2 νεῦρα γὰρ πολέμου χρυσὸς | *Cic. Phil.* V.2.5.10 *nervos belli, pecuniam infinitam* | *Plu. comp. Agis Cleom.* 48.1.1 ἀλλ' ὁ πρῶτος τὰ χρήματα νεῦρα τῶν πραγμάτων προσειπὼν εἰς τὰ τοῦ πολέμου πράγματα κτλ. | *Suda* M 380.2 μεγάλα δύναται ὁ χρυσός. νεῦρα γὰρ λέγεται πολέμου εἶναι, ὡς φησι Πίνδαρος 10 ὦ ... βροτοῖς] *Lyr. Adesp. Fr. PMG* 103 (Page) ὦ γλυκεῖ' Εἰράνα, πλουτοδότειρα βροτοῖς

will easily acquire, 5 since nothing whatever brings forth streams of richness and wealth and, most beautifully, of welfare, as much as conditions of peace and absence of party strife, which, in virtue of the then prevailing security, make it possible to store wholly sufficient means of sustenance to meet every possible need— 6 whereas continuous warfare exhausts both assets and troops and in the end brings about a complete lack of resources respecting the most vital needs and that which battles of necessity demand. 7 For gold is called *the sinews of war*,⁷ and it is in fact the rich who will be able to fend for themselves successfully. If not rich, one will cope badly from the very start and be much less successful in battle than those who are strong thanks to wealth. And this, as I have said, follows from the effects of peace.⁸ Also the poets say: *O, sweet peace, giver of wealth to the mortals*.⁹

78. That a politician should also prepare for war

1 But a politician should also, as far as possible, prepare himself as if he had to go to war. And go to war he will certainly have to, and it is in the nature of things that peaceful conditions will not remain undisturbed forever among men, and even if someone wants peace very much and cares about it, and in every way endeavours to live in peace, he will not always be able to live in peace and to attain his end. 2 Neither all those surrounding him will he find always agree with him in this, also loving peace and sharing his opinion about what is good; but in all circumstances there are those who will choose the opposite and who entertain a disastrous love for low and useless things, 3 and who either speak contemptuously or disregard what is judicious and the love of what is good, and who despise it as natural mean-

⁷ 'sinews of war': this saying is attributed to Pindar (see Suda) and it is also quoted in the Pindaric scholia vetera (without any commentary by the editors). It is quoted several times in Greek literature and also known from Cicero's 5. *Philippic oration* (cf. app. font. et parall.).

⁸ 'follows ... peace': or 'is dependent on a peaceful condition'. The Greek is strange, although the general meaning seems clear enough.

⁹ The origin of this quotation is uncertain. Otherwise, it is the goddess Demeter who is referred to as 'giver of wealth' (πλουτοδότρια).

ὡς ἀνδρεῖοι δὴ τινες ὄντες αὐτοὶ καὶ δραστικοὶ μάλιστα καὶ κρατεῖν ἄξιοι· 4 καὶ μετ' αὐτῆς δὴ τῆς φιλαυτίας ἢ προπετείας ἢ φιλέριδος καὶ μαχίμου γνώμης οὐ τελεσφορεῖν ζυγχωροῦσι τῷ βίῳ κατ' ἀνθρώπους τὰ κάλλιστα, ἀλλ' οἶοι τ' εἰσὶν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ ἄλλοις παρέχειν πράγματα, καὶ ἀναγκάζουσιν ἐκτρέπεσθαι τὰς ἐπαινετὰς αἰρέσεις καὶ τὰ περὶ τῶν καλῶν δόγματα. 5 Καὶ γὰρ δὴ καὶ 5 εὔσειστόν ἐστι κατ' ἀνθρώπους τὰγαθὸν καὶ σφόδρ' εὐεπιχειρήτον καὶ ῥᾶστα δὴ καὶ παρὰ πλείστων πολεμούμενον, καὶ πάσαις ἐπηρεαίαις ἀντιπραττούσαις ἐπιβούλωσ τε καὶ ἐπιμελῶσ πολιορκεῖται κατὰ τὸν βίον. Καὶ τοῖνυν ἐξ ἀνάγκης καὶ τοῖς φίλοις μάλιστα τῆς εἰρήνης πολεμητέα, κἂν εἰ μὴ βούλοιντο, κἂν εἰ 517 μάλιστα τῶν ἑναντίων σφᾶς πόθος ἔχοι. 10

2 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ βιωτεύων τις μετὰ τοῦ τῆς εἰρήνης ἀσφαλοῦς ἐν ῥαστώνῃ καὶ διὰ σπουδῆς τὰ κατ' αὐτὴν ποιούμενος οὐδὲν ἤττον φροντίδα ποιείσθω καὶ τοῦ περὶ τὸ πολεμεῖν ἀσφαλοῦς, καὶ παρασκευαζέσθω πρὸς τὸ πολεμεῖν εὐ μάλ' ὅτε δέοι ἂν, καὶ αἰεὶ παρασκευαζέσθω. 2 Ὡσπερ γὰρ δὴ τοῖς πολεμησεῖουσιν, ἧ δὴ πρότερον εἴρηται, τῶν τῆς εἰρήνης τέως ἀγαθῶν ἐξέσται 15 πολεμεῖν, καὶ οὐκ ἄλλως ἐστὶν ὅτι μὴ πρότερον ὠπλισμένους ἐκείθεν ἐκ τῆς εἰρηνικῆς ῥαστώνης πρὸς τὴν μαχητικὴν εὐχρηστίαν, καὶ τούτου γε ἔνεκα μάλιστα δὴ σπουδαστέον ἐστὶν αὐτοῖς καὶ φροντιστέον περὶ τῆς εἰρήνης καὶ τῶν ἐξ αὐτῆς βελτίστων εἰς τὴν χρεῖαν καὶ τοὺς τῶν πολέμων ἔρωτας, 3 τὸν αὐτὸν ἄρα τρόπον, ἀνάπαλιν ἢ κατ' ἐκείνους, τοῖς μάλιστ' ἐρώσιν εἰρηνικῆς 20 εὐνομίας καὶ γαλήνης παρασκευαστέον ἐστὶν ἐξ ἀνάγκης εὐ τὰ πολέμια, 4 καὶ ὡσπερ ἀμέλει μαχομένοις περὶ τοῦ παντὸς ὅσον οὐκ ἤδη πάντα πόνον καὶ σπουδὴν πᾶσαν συνεισακτέον καὶ συντακτέον, ὡς ἂν κράτιστ' ἔχειν εἰς 518 πολέμους καὶ τὰ τῶν πολέμων ἔργα, οὐ | πόρρω δὴ τοῦ πολεμεῖν ὄντας, ἀλλ' αὐτίκα δὴ καὶ μετὰ δευτέραν ἢ τρίτην τάχισθ' ἡμέραν μαχησομένους· 5 σχεδὸν 25 γὰρ τοῖς οὕτω δὴ παρασκευαζομένοις καὶ προδιοικοῦσι τὴν χρεῖαν ἐξέσται μάλιστ' εἰρήνῃ βιοῦν καὶ τῆς μαχίμου δυναστείας καὶ βίας ἀπηλλάχθαι. 6 Οἷς δ' ὀλίγον μέλει τῆς περὶ τοὺς πολέμους παρασκευῆς, καὶ ζῶσι πρὸς ἓν μόνον

11 βιωτεύων M τις: τίς M 15 τῆς: της sine accentu P 27 εἰρήνῃ: ἐν εἰρήνῃ in app. conl. M-K

¹ 'for military success' (πρὸς τὴν μαχητικὴν εὐχρηστίαν): or 'so as to have [their arms] handy in the fight'.

ness and small-mindedness and cowardice, as if they themselves were the courageous ones and the ones most active and worthy to rule. ⁴ And with this love for themselves or rashness, or love of strife and warlike spirit, they do not allow that which is best to be fulfilled in human life; instead they are capable of leading themselves and others into trouble, and they force others to be ashamed of laudable opinions and of principles concerning what is good. ⁵ For the good is easily upset among men and most easily assaulted, and made war upon with great ease and by very many; and with every kind of obstructing injury it is purposefully and painstakingly laid siege to in life. And out of necessity, therefore, also the greatest friends of peace have to go to war, even if they do not want to and even if they have a yearning for exactly the opposite.

² Thus even he who lives in a stable peace and in easy comfort and who takes pains about peace should also nevertheless consider how to conduct a war with safety, and he should prepare to fight well when necessary, and he should be in a state of constant preparation. ² For, as has been said already, just as those who intend to go to war will do so by means of what has been accumulated during times of peace, and just as this will not be possible if they do not first arm themselves for military success¹ out of the easy conditions of peace (and for that reason they should particularly strive and care for peace and for everything excellent stemming from this, in order to satisfy their needs and their desire for war)— ³ likewise, contrary to these war-lovers, they, who above all love the law-abidingness and calm of peace, must out of necessity prepare well for war. ⁴ And, indeed, like those who will fight for anything, the peace-lovers have to gather and co-ordinate virtually all energy and care, so as to be as strong as possible when confronted with war and the acts of war, as if they were not far from action but going to fight at once or a day or two hence at the latest. ⁵ For it may be that those who prepare themselves in this way and who see to their needs in advance, are most likely to live in peace and far from the domination and violence of war, ⁶ whereas those who pay only little attention to preparations for war, living with only one end in view and wholly concentrating on this only, to live in peace forever, and far indeed from the acts of war, these will not be allowed to live entirely as intended; ⁷ but they will either be slaves having

ὀρῶντες καὶ τούτῳ καθάπαξ τὸν νοῦν προσέχοντες, ὡς ἂν τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον ἐν εἰρήνῃ βιωσόμενοι καὶ πόρρω δὴ παντάπασι τῶν πολεμίων ἔργων, τούτοις οὐκ ἐξέσται κατὰ σκοπὸν μάλιστα ζῆν, 7 ἄλλ' ἢ δούλοις καὶ πάντα φέρουσιν ἀνύποιστα καὶ ἀδόκητα, ἢ πολεμεῖν γε πᾶσαν ἀνάγκην ἔχουσιν ἀπαρασκευοῖς καὶ κακῶς χρῆσθαι τῷ καιρῷ τῶν ἔργων τὰ τῆς χρείας φιλοπονοῦσιν, ὃ πάντων 5 ἔστιν ἐργωδέστατον. 8 Πάντες γὰρ ὡς εἰπεῖν τῶν ἀνθρώπων ὡς πρὸς ἐτοιμίην τὴν λείαν καὶ κέρδη ῥάδια μηδένα τῶν δικαίων λόγον ποιούμενοι μάλιστ' ἐπιτίθενται τοῖς εἰρήνην μόνην ἔχουσιν ἔργον καὶ ταύτη θαρροῦσι καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν τῆς ζωῆς χρῆσιν ἀξιοῦσιν ἀτρέπτως ταύτη προσέχειν, ἀμελῶς παντάπασι καὶ ἀλογίστεως τῶν τῆς μάχης πόνων τὲ καὶ ὀπλισμάτων. 10

3 Τοῦτο μὲν γε καὶ ἀκριβῶς οἶδ' ἔγωγε καὶ πεπεύραμαι μάλιστ' εἰ δὴ 519 τις τῶν ἐν λόγοις τραφέντων, καὶ | αὐτὸς συμβιώσας τοιοῖσδε πράγμασι, καὶ συνῶν τὸν αἰεὶ χρόνον σχεδὸν εἰρηναίοις καὶ μαχίμοις ἔργοις καὶ πολιτεύμασιν ἐπὶ τῶν κοινῶν τῆς καθ' ἡμᾶς ἡγεμονίας φροντίζειν ἔχων καὶ παραβάλλεσθαι, 2 καιρῶν τῶνδε καὶ πραγμάτων τῶνδε νοσερῶς ἀγομένων καὶ οὐκ ἔρραστω- 15 νευμένως ὀπηροῦν οἴκοι τε καὶ τῶν ἐγγειτόνων δεσποτῶν, οὐκ ἀσεβῶν μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἷς κοινῇ κατὰ Χριστὸν πίστις καὶ θεοσεβείας δόγματα, μεθ' ὧν ἡμῖν ἔστιν ἀνάγκη συνδιαφέρειν τὸν βίον ἐπὶ ῥητοῖς καὶ παντοῖ' ἔχειν συνθήματα, τοῦτο μὲν εἰρηναῖα, τοῦτο δὲ πολέμια. 3 Κἀγὼ γ' αὐτὸς ταύτη γ' ἐχρησάμην πάνυ τοι, καὶ πρεσβείαις τέως ἐκλόγιμος ἐννεάσας καὶ πόλλ' ἔτη γε ἤδη τῷ 20 δεσπότη συντελῶν πᾶν τὸ γιγνόμενον ἐπὶ τῇ κοινῇ διοικήσει, τὰ μὲν ἠθους πίστει, τὰ δὲ καὶ συνέσεως ὄτῳ δὴ· καὶ σιωπητέον εὐλαβούμενον πρὸς νέμεσιν, πλήν γε ὅτι περὶ ὧν ἦν νῦν ὁ λόγος, εὐ μάλα δὴ πεπειραμένος φημί, πλεῖστον ἐνασχοληθεὶς καὶ τὸν αἰεὶ χρόνον τούτοις ἐνασχολούμενος. 4 Καὶ φημί γε, ὡς ᾧ τὰ κατ' εἰρήνην βιοῦν καὶ τὰ τῆς εἰρήνης ἀγαθὰ μέλει (καὶ δίκαιον ἔστι μέλειν 25 520 οὔτῳ δὴ παντὶ | σῶφροσι λογισμοῖς καὶ χριστιανικοῖς ἀγομένῳ), φροντιστέον εὐ μάλα τῆς κατὰ πόλεμον ἀσκήσεως καὶ πάσης χρείας καὶ παντὶ τῷ δυνατῷ

4 ἀνάγκην sine accentu P

12 τῶν sine accentu P

23 νῦν ἦν M

² 'with a liberal education' (ἐν λόγοις τραφέντων): this is somewhat obscure, and it seems to imply that the likelihood that anyone should have experience of these matters is linked to his level, or kind, of education.

³ 'treaties ... agreements': I here take ἐπὶ ῥητοῖς as more specific than the following συνθήματα.

⁴ Metochites entered government service in 1290 and made a rapid career because of the trust

to endure all that is unbearable and unforeseen, or they will have no choice but to go to war unprepared, ill coping with the situation and toiling with their needs, which is the most painful thing of all. 8 For without caring for what is right, all men, so to speak, are apt to attack, as an easy prey and an easily captured prize, those whose only object is peace and who put their trust therein and think it worth while uncompromisingly to devote their whole life to peace, wholly and unreasonably ignoring the pains of battle and of armament.

3 This I know very well myself and I have experienced it as much as anyone with a liberal education,² since I have lived under such conditions, almost all the time involved in acts of peace and of war and in matters of state, having to deliberate and to use my abilities on the common affairs of our empire. 2 This has been in such unhealthy and in no way happy times and circumstances, at home and with regard to the neighbouring rulers, not only the impious ones, but also those who share our Christian faith and religious doctrines, with whom we are obliged to live in accordance with treaties and have all kinds of agreements³ on matters of peace as well as on matters of war. 3 And I myself have had part in all this to the highest degree.⁴ As a young man I was chosen for embassies and during many years I have now dealt with every current matter for administrating the state for my lord, partly owing to his trust⁵ in my character, partly owing to some intellectual qualities of mine;⁶ I had better not talk about this for fear of jealousy, but only just mention that I lay claim to a very great experience of the matters under discussion, having had, and still having, much practice. 4 And I do claim that whoever cares for living in peace and for the good things of peace (and this is the right thing to do for every man who owns a sensible and Christian way of reasoning) should most carefully attend to military exercise and everything needful in war, and in every possible

bestowed in him by emperor Andronicus II. Needless to say, this paragraph is an important piece of biographical evidence, implying that Metochites was still in active service when he composed the essay.

⁵ 'his trust': or 'trust enjoyed more generally' (cf. the following).

⁶ 'partly owing ... mine': or 'partly owing to his [or the more general] trust in my intellectual abilities.' In the second case, *ὅτι δὴ* must belong to the following sentence which, however, does not have to affect the translation of that sentence.

τρόπῳ κομιδῇ παρασκευαστέον ὡς πολεμησεῖοντι. 5 Οὐ γὰρ ἀποκεκλήρωται τάνθρώπινα καὶ μάλιστα τῶν νῦν τούτων καθ' ἡμᾶς χρόνων καὶ τῶν νῦν τούτων καθ' ἡμᾶς ἀνθρώπων καὶ δεσποτῶν, ἐγγύς τε καὶ πόρρω, καθάπαξ τῇ εἰρήνῃ· οὐδὲ μὲν οὖν τοῦτο πέφυκεν, ἀλλ' ἐξ ἀνάγκης, καὶ ἀκόντων γε, τάναντία ἔστιν ὅτε καὶ πλείστον ταῦτα κρατεῖ, καὶ πολεμεῖν ἔστιν ἀνάγκη, 5 καὶ οὐκ ἀδόκητά γε τοῖς εὖ συλλογιζόμενοις. 6 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ τούτου μὲν γ' ἔνεκα παρασκευαστέον, ὡς ἔφην, πρὸς τὸ πολεμεῖν εὖ μάλα τῷ πολιτικῷ, κἂν εἰ μάλιστ' εἰρήνην σπουδάξῃ, ὡς ἔστι δίκαιον, καὶ ἅμα ὡς ἂν καὶ μάλιστ' εἰρήνης ἐντεῦθεν ἀπολαύειν ἔχοι καὶ τοῖς αὐτῆς ἀγαθοῖς χρῆσθαι.

“Οτι μὴ διὰ τὰς ἀτυχίας καὶ τὸ κακῶς πολλακίς πράττειν 10
ἀποτρεπτέον τοῦ πράττειν· ΟΘ’

521 1 Ἐπιμελητέον οὖν κατ' ἀμφοτέρ', ὡς ἔφην, χρῆσθαι τῷ πολιτικῷ, καὶ εἰρήνην τὲ καὶ μάχην, | καὶ παρασκευαστέον εὖ μάλα εὖ τε φερομένῳ τῇ χρήσει καὶ κατὰ βούλησιν καὶ μὴ οὕτω δῆ, ἀλλὰ καὶ τούναντίον πολλακίς, κακῶς ἀμέλει πράττοντι, καὶ οὐκ ἀπογνωστέον ἐν τῷ πράττειν κατὰ πᾶν τὸ γιγνόμενον τῇ 15 χρήσει, οὐδ' ἀποτρεπτέον, ἂν μὴ πάντα διὰ πάντων εὖ πράττειν ἐξείη, 2 μὴδὲ τὰς ἀτυχίας αἰτιατέον τῆς ἀπραξίας, ἀλλὰ χρηστέον αἰεὶ κατὰ τὸ ξυμπίπτον, τοῦ προσήκοντος ἐκάστοτε φροντίζοντα καὶ ὥσπερ ἐγγυμαζόμενον καὶ συνασκούμενον ἐπιμελῶς τοῖς πόνοις ἐπὶ παντὶ τῷ πεφυκότι τοῖς πράγμασιν. 3 Ἐπεὶ τὸ φεύγειν παρὰ τὰ λυποῦντα τὸ πράττειν καὶ τῷ δυσχερῶς καὶ μὴ 20 ἔρραστῶνευμένως φέρεσθαι τὸ μηδὲν χρῆσθαι μάλισθ' αἰρεῖσθαι ὅμοιον ὥσπερ ἂν ἰατρῶν παῖδες τοὺς τῆς γυμναστικῆς πόρους ἐπὶ τῷ βελτίστῳ τοῖς χρωμένους τὴν ἀρχὴν καλῶς νομισθέντας διὰ τὸ καματηρόν τε καὶ ὀτιοῦν ἐργῶδες ἀπαγορεύειν, ὥστε μὴ χρῆσθαι· 4 καὶ μάλιστ' εὐδρομοῦντες τῇ τῶν νοσοῦντων ἐπιμελείᾳ, καὶ καλῶς πειρώμενοι τῆς τέχνης, ἀξιοῖεν ἂν αὐτῇ 25

2 καὶ² ... ἀνθρώπων M, in textu om. sed in mg. add. P¹
p.c. P², αὐτοῖς P¹

8 σπουδάξοι M 9 αὐτῆς M et

7 ‘This’: i.e. a state of (lasting) peace.

way prepare himself for war as if this were his most earnest intention. 5 For a lasting peace is not the lot of mankind, and certainly not during these present times nor with the men and rulers of today, far and near. This,⁷ then, is not natural, but out of necessity and against our will its opposite sometimes and most often prevails and war is inescapable; and this should not come as a surprise to those who consider the matter carefully. 6 Thus, as I said, and for this reason, a politician should well prepare for war, even if he most of all strives for peace, which is right; and he should do so to be able highly to enjoy the ensuing peace and to make use of its good gifts.

79. That one should not desist from acting because of mishaps and the fact that one often fares badly

1 As I said, a politician should endeavour to handle both: peace as well as war; and he should well prepare himself both when conditions are favourable and according to his wishes, and when this is not the case but even, as often happens, the opposite: when he fares really badly; and he must not despair when acting, whatever happens in his course of life, nor desist from acting if everything cannot always be done well. 2 Neither should mishaps be given as a pretext for inactivity, but one should always act in accordance with the occasion, in each case deliberating upon what is appropriate and as it were exercising oneself and with the help of one's struggles carefully training for any natural development of matters. 3 For to shun action when it causes pain and to prefer being totally inactive because you find difficulties and no ease, that would be about the same as if doctors would prohibit those gymnastic exercises which in the beginning were rightly established for the good of those practising them, only because they are tiring and in some way irksome. 4 And it would be as if doctors would be content to use their art for assisting nature and those related by nature¹ when these

¹ 'those related by nature' (τῶν δι' αὐτῆς [i.e. τῆς φύσεως] συγγενῶν): this is vague and the translation uncertain.

χρησθαι πρὸς βοήθειαν τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῶν δι' αὐτῆς συγγενῶν καμινόντων.
 5 Ἄν δ' ἄρ' ὀπηοῦν τὰ δυστυχή περιγίνοιτο, καὶ νικᾷ τὴν τεχνικὴν ἐργασίαν
 τὰσθενῆ τῆς φύσεως κατὰ πάσης ἐπιμελείας κρατοῦντα, δραπετεῦοιεν αὐτόθεν
 522 ἐξῆς ἔπειτα τὴν χρῆσιν τῆς τέχνης. 6 Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἔστι | τοῦτο καλῶς κρίνοντος
 οὐδὲ τὴν ἀρχὴν εἰδότος ὁ βούλεται, οὐδ' ᾧ προτίθεται χρῆσθαι. 5

2 Οὐ γὰρ πάντ' ἰᾶσθαι καὶ πάντα περιγίγνεσθαι τῆς τέχνης ἢ ἐπαγγελία,
 οὐδὲ πρόγραμμα ποιεῖται τεχνικὸς ἀνὴρ ἰατρικὸς καὶ κηρύττει τὴν ἀρχὴν
 ἀπτόμενος τῆς τέχνης καὶ χρῆσθαι κατ' αὐτὴν ἐπιβάλλων, ὡς ἄρα πάντ'
 ἰάσεται καὶ λύσει τῆς φύσεως ἁμαρτήματα καὶ ἀπαλλάξει πάσης δυστυχίας
 ἐπιπεσοῦσης. 2 Ἄλλ' εἰς τοῦτο μὲν εὐ μάλ' ἐπιμελήσεται, καὶ τοῦτο προῖσταται 10
 τὴν τέχνην, πᾶν τὸ εἰκὸς ἀποδοῦναι τῇ χρήσει, καὶ διακαρτερῆσαι πάντα
 τρόπον πονῶν καὶ βοηθῶν τῇ φύσει καμνούση. Θεοῦ δ' ἐξῆς ἂν εἴη καὶ τῆς
 ἐκείθεν ῥοπῆς συμπεράναι τὸ πρᾶγμα κατ' ἔφεσιν ἢ μή, 3 καὶ οὔτε τυγχάνων
 ἀμέλει τοῦ σκοποῦ καὶ νικηφόρος κατεπιχειρῶν ἐπὶ ταῖς τῶν σωμάτων
 συμφοραῖς γιγνόμενος, οὔτε μὴ τυγχάνων ἀποτρέπεσθαι τῆς τέχνης αὐτὸς 15
 ἀξιοῖ, οὔτε φαῦλος ἂν ταύτης ἐπώνυμος καὶ ἀνάξιος ἀκούειν δίκαιος εἴη. 4
 Ἄλλα καὶ κυβερνήτης καὶ πᾶς ἄρα θαλαττουργὸς ἄνθρωπος οὐ διὰ κλύδωνας
 καὶ ναυάγι' ἐνίοτε ἀποποιεῖται τὴν ἐργασίαν· οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐπὶ ῥητοῖς ὡς αἰ
 κάπῃ πάντων πραγμάτων καὶ καιρῶν εὐδρομα πλευσεῖται, πλοῦ καὶ θαλάττης
 ἄπτεται, ἀλλ' ὡς εὐ ἀμέλει χρησόμενος τῇ τέχνῃ πρὸς εἰρηναίαν τὴν θάλασσαν 20
 καὶ πνεύματ' εὐφορίας καὶ πρὸς χειμῶνας καὶ πᾶσαν ἐπήρειαν, πᾶν ἀποδιδούς
 523 | τὸ εἰκὸς ἐκάστοις. 5 Ὅς δ' ἂν τοὺς μὲν τῆς γαλήνης καιροὺς πρὸς ἑαυτοῦ
 ποιεῖται, τὰ δὲ τῆς θαλάττης ἀνήμερα καὶ τοὺς χειμῶνας οἶος τ' ἔστιν εὐ μάλα
 δραπετεῦειν καὶ προδιδόναι τὴν τέχνην καὶ προλείπειν αὐτίκα αὐτόθεν, οὐχ'
 ἑαυτῷ πρέποντα δρῶν ἂν, οὐδ' ἀνεμέσητος ἔπειτ' ἀπαλλάττοιο. 25

2 περιγίνοιτο: περιγένειτο P¹, περιγίνοιτο M, corr. P² 6 περιγίνεσθαι M 10 τοῦτο²:
 τούτω a.c. P, s.l. corr. in τοῦτο P¹, τούτω et ~ et o s.l. M, τοῦτο E (add. ~ s.l. E²) 13 συμπεράναι
 PM pro συμπεράναι 14 τοῦ σκοποῦ ἀμέλει P, sed litteris β et α supra τοῦ σκοποῦ et ἀμέλει
 positus indicat scriba inversionem ordinis vocum, i.e. ἀμέλει τοῦ σκοποῦ 18 ἐργασίαν; PM
 19 πλευσεῖται; PM

² 'or how ... undertaken': this interpretation means that προτίθεται is taken as medium, as is normal. The alternative is to take προτίθεται as passive: 'what he is faced with'. The lack of parallelism between the two objects ὁ βούλεται and χρῆσθαι (ᾧ προτίθεται) is somewhat disturbing.

are ailing, should their therapy be easy and they be [obviously] successful, 5 but would immediately desert their art, should ill fortune somehow triumph and the frailty of nature defeat their professional skill and prevail against all care. 6 But this is not the way to behave of a man of sound judgement or one who from the beginning knows what he wants or how to deal with what he has undertaken.²

2 The message of the art is not that it cures everything and overcomes everything, nor does a skilled physician, when he first takes up his art and begins to practise, make an announcement proclaiming that he will cure and remedy all shortcomings of nature and deliver from every misfortune that befalls. 2 But this is what he will deeply care about and to this he will apply his art: viz. to giving everything its due and to persevering in labouring and in supporting languishing nature in every way. But on God, moreover, and on His decree will depend the bringing or not of the matter to the wished-for conclusion. 3 And regardless of whether or not he gains his end and becomes victorious in his assault on the afflictions of the body, the physician will not consider giving up his profession,³ but he will still⁴ deserve his title and will justly deserve being called by it. 4 Neither⁵ do a steersman and every sea-faring man give up their trade because of occasional rough water and shipwrecks. Nor do they set out on their voyage and on the sea with any guarantee that the sailing will be smooth all the time and under all conditions and weathers, but that they will use their skill well when confronted with a calm sea and favourable winds as well as when confronted with storms and every adversity, always doing what is necessary. 5 He, however, who takes advantage of calm weather but takes good care to run away from the violent sea and the stormy weather, betraying his art and abruptly abandoning it, he will not seem to be doing what is fitting in his case and will not escape censure in the future.

³ I.e. if he is a true physician.

⁴ I.e. if the second of the alternatives comes true and he does not succeed in curing his patient.

⁵ After ἐργασίαν and πλευσεῖται the manuscripts have question marks, which would indicate that the statements with the verbs 'give up [their trade]' and 'set out [on their voyage]' should be interpreted as questions. However, I do not think that this is what Metochites intends to say in this case. Cf. also 76.4.4.

3 Καὶ τοίνυν παραπλησίως οὐδὲ τῷ πολιτικῷ χρηστέον ἂν εἴη τῇ δυνάμει
 καιροῖς μόνον εὐφορίας καὶ πραγμάτων ἕαρι, ἀλλὰ μηδὲν ἤττον ἐπιμελητέον
 κὰν τοῖς ἄλλως ἔχουσι καιροῖς καὶ πράγμασι καὶ πρὸς πᾶσαν δυσχέρειαν
 ὀπλιστέον καὶ παλαίσματ' ἐπικινδυνότατα· 2 τοῦ γὰρ αὐτοῦ πάντως ἐφ'
 ἑκάτερα χρῆσθαι, καὶ τὸ μὲν οἰκείον αὐτὸς ὀφείλει συντελεῖν καὶ φέρειν παντὶ 5
 τῷ ξυμπύπτοντι· ἢ τύχη δὲ τῶν πραγμάτων κυρία, μᾶλλον δὲ τάληθες ἐρεῖν,
 ἢ πάντ' ἄγουσα πρόνοια· 3 καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐλέγχεται φαῦλος σὺν δίκῃ πονηροῖς
 ξυντυχῶν πράγμασι καὶ κακῶς ἀπαλλάξας, ἀλλ' ὅς ἂν μὴ τὸ προσήκον πᾶν
 ἀποδιδόη πρὸς τὴν ἐκάστοτε χρεῖαν, εἴτ' εὐτυχῶν εἴτε καὶ μὴ, πάντως
 ὑπαίτιος καὶ κακῶς ἀκούειν ὡς ἀληθῶς δίκαιος. 4 Καὶ τοίνυν θεὸς μὲν ἐν πᾶσιν 10
 ἔργοις ἡγείσθω τὲ καὶ κεκλήσθω τῷ πράττοντι· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ἄλλως σῶφρον εἴη,
 ὅτι μὴ μετὰ τῆς θείας ἐλπίδος ἐπιχειρεῖν καὶ τῆς εὐκταίας ἐκείθεν ἐπικουρίας.
 524 5 Τῶν πραγμάτων δ' ἀμέλει πάντων ὁ πολιτικὸς | ὡς ἂν ἔχοι πειρώμενος κατ'
 ὀφειλὴν καὶ κατὰ μηδὲν ἀποφεύγων οὐδὲ προλείπων τὴν τάξιν καὶ καθ' ὅσον
 οἶον τ' ἐστὶν ἐπιμελῶς προσέχων ἐκάστοις τὸν νοῦν, εὖ μὲν παραστὰν κατὰ 15
 βούλησιν ἀνύτων καὶ κατορθῶν ἐν τοῖς πρακτέοις μακάριος ἂν εἴη καὶ οὐκ
 ἐπαινετὸς μόνον. 6 Ἀποτυγχάνων δὲ καιρῶν ἐπηρεῖα καὶ πραγμάτων καὶ τύχης
 ἀντιπνοῖα τὲ καὶ ἐναντιώσει καὶ ἀνθ' ὑστερίζων καὶ μὴ περιγιγνόμενος
 ὀτιοῦν καὶ πᾶν ὁμως τὸ γιγνόμενον ἀποδιδούς τῇ χρήσει, κακῶς μὲν οὖν οὕτω
 δὴ πράττων καὶ δυστυχῶς φερόμενος ἐλέους ἂν εἴη μᾶλλον, οὐκ εὐθύνης, 20
 ἄξιος. Ἐχοῖτο δ' ἂν καὶ οὕτως ἅ χρῆ ποιῶν εἰς τέλος τῆς ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐνστάσεως,
 7 ἐκεῖνο κατὰ νοῦν ἴσως ἄγων τὸ τοῦ Δωριέως κυβερνήτου, ὅς ἐν μεγίστῳ
 κλύδωνι καὶ τοῖς ἐσχάτοις κινδύνοις ὁμως καὶ ἀεὶ παλαίων καὶ ἀντέχων εἰς
 τέλος ἄλλ' ἐγὼ τοί', ἔφησε, 'καὶ οὕτως οὐ μεταστήσομαι τῶν οἰάκων, ἀλλ'
 ὀρθὰν τὰν ναῦν καταδύσω.' 25

11 πρᾶττοντι sine accentu P
 corr. P¹

12 μὴ om. M

ἐκείθεν εὐκταίας M

14 κατὰ M, ex kai

24 ἀλλ'¹ ... καταδύσω] cf. [Aristid.] *Rhodiacus* p. 542, l. 20sq. (Jebb) ὅς ἔφη ... ἀλλ' ὦ Ποτειδάν, ἴσθι ὅτι ὀρθὰν τὰν ναῦν καταδύσω | Th.Met. *Carm.* 20.214sqq. Ἀλλ' ἄρ' ἔγωγε Ποτειδάν ὀρθὰν ἔτ' αὐ καταδύω / τὰν ναῦν, οὐποτε πηδάλια τρέσας εἶτα μεθήσω et Id. *Logos* 6.21sq. αὐτὸν φάσκοντα ὀρθὰν τὰν ναῦν καὶ οὕτω καταδύσαι

3 Similarly, as it seems, a politician ought not to use his power only in times of prosperity and in the springtime of matters; instead he should be just as attentive when times and circumstances are different, and arm himself against every difficulty and the most dangerous struggles. 2 For certainly one and the same man must deal with situations of both kinds, and he has to make his own contribution whatever happens. But the mistress of matters is Chance, or, to speak more in accordance with truth, Providence which guides all things. 3 And no one is rightfully censured as worthless if faced with severe difficulties and solving them badly, but he who does not try to fulfil his duty as occasion may require, he is, be he successful or not, in every way blameworthy and truly liable to criticism. 4 And whenever acting, everyone should let God lead him in all his actions and pray to Him, for in no other way could you undertake anything wisely than with a trust in God and with help to be supplicated from Him. 5 And if a politician would duly set about to deal with all situations to the best of his ability and under no circumstances run away or abandon the ranks but, as far as possible, would turn his mind attentively to all matters, trying to achieve stable results⁶ according to his wishes, and be successful in what must be dealt with—he would be blessed and not only worthy of some praise. 6 If, however, owing to the difficulties of the times and the matters at hand and to the contrary winds and averseness of fortune he should fall short of everything and achieve nothing, even if making every effort, and so fare badly and be severely treated, he would sooner deserve to be pitied than held responsible. And even under these circumstances he should do his duty till he fulfils his original plan, 7 perhaps bearing in mind that utterance of the Dorian steersman, who in the midst of a raving tempest and the utmost danger fought on all the same and who resisted until the end saying: *Not even now will I leave the helm, but I will sink the ship upright.*⁷

⁶ 'trying ... results': εὖ μὲν παραστὰν ... ἀνύτων.

⁷ This saying is known from the *Rhodian speech* by Ps.-Aristides. It seems to have made an impression on Metochites who also cites it in one of his poems and one of his orations (see app. font. et parall.).

Ἔστι τῶν φιλοσόφων οἱ πλείους ἢ πάντες σχεδὸν περὶ τὸ λέγειν διέτριψαν μόνον, μὴ χρήσιμοι γενόμενοι ταῖς περὶ τὸ πολιτικὸν ἐργασίαις· Π'

1 Οἱ πλείους δὴ τῶν περὶ τὴν φιλοσοφίαν ἐσχολακῶν περὶ τὸ θεωρητικὸν
 525 και δογματικὸν | και τὰς διαλέξεις διατρίψαντες τὸν ἅπαντα σχεδὸν βίον 5
 βραχὺ τι προσένειμαν ἑαυτοὺς τῷ πρακτικῷ. 2 Εἰ δὲ και τῆς κατὰ τοῦτο
 φιλοσοφίας ἐμέλησεν αὐτοῖς τὸ μέρος, παρὰ τοσοῦτον δὴτ' ἐμέλησεν, ὅσον γε
 περὶ τοῦ ἠθικοῦ λόγον ποιήσασθαι και διδάσκοντας περὶ αὐτοῦ και χρωμένους
 αὐτοὺς ὡς οἶοι τε γένοιτο. 3 Και τοίνυν τὰ μὲν κατ' ἦθος ἀνθρώποις νόμιμα
 καλῶς ἔδοξαν οὐκ ὀλίγοι και συνετάξαντο και κατεκόμισαν ἑαυτοὺς ὡς 10
 βέλτιστα ταῖς ἠθικαῖς ἀρεταῖς και τῇ κατὰ τὸν βίον εὐχρηστία, εἰ και μὴ
 πάντες συμφώνως ἀλλήλοις, πάντες δ' ὡς ἀληθῶς οὐκ ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ· 4 και
 νομίζουσι γὰρ ἐν τούτοις και δογματίζουσιν ἕκαστος ἐπαινετῶς και ὡς ἂν εἴ τις
 χρῆσαιτο, κάλλιστ' ἀγάσαιτό τε και ἀγασθεῖη τοῖς πολλοῖς ὡς εὖ δὴ μάλιστ'
 15 ἀνύσας και κατορθώσας εὐγενῶς τὸν βίον. 5 Τοῦ πολιτικοῦ δὲ πέρι ὀλίγοι δὴ 15
 τινες ἐπίσκεψιν ἐποίησαντο, και ἄλλως ἄλλοι, και οὐκ ἠλλοτριῶται μόνον τὰ
 βιβλία σφίσι περὶ τούτου μάλιστ' ἀλλήλοις, ἀλλὰ και κοιμηθῆ διαφόρως ἔχει
 και μαχιμώτατα ταῖς αἰρέσεσι, 6 και πάντες γε ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν οὐ κατὰ καιρόν,
 ἀλλ' ὡς ἀληθῶς, εἰ και μὴ πάντα, τὰ πλείω δ' οὖν ἔξω τοῦ χρησίμου και
 δυνατοῦ κατ' ἀνθρώπους συντάττουσι, και ἄττα δὴ περὶ τούτων φθέγγονται 20
 526 και νομοθετοῦσι και μά|λισθ' οἱ βέλτιστοι και προέχοντες, 7 τί τίς ἂν λέγοι; ὡς
 παντάπασι ἀλλότρι' ἀνθρωπίνης χρήσεως και λόγοι μόνον ἔξω τῶν ἔργων, εἰ
 και ἴσως ἐν τισιν ἐπαινετῶς ἔχοντες και περινοίας θαυμάζειν ἀξίας· λόγοι δ'
 οὖν ἄλλως και πρὸς τὸν σκοπὸν ἀνήνυτοι, 8 και οὐδένες οὔτε τῶν εἰπόντων
 οὔτε τῶν τοῖς εἰποῦσιν ἐπιτηδείων και κληρονομησάντων τοὺς λόγους, οὔτ' 25
 ἐχρήσαντ' ἄρα κατὰ τοὺς λόγους αὐτῶν οὔτε μήποτε χρῆσαιτο, ὅτι μὴδ'

3 ἐργασίαις: θεωρίας PM, expunxit θεωρίας et add. ἐργασίαις in mg. P² 9 μὲν fort. P², τε M
 et fort. P¹ 20 ἄττα p.c. P², ἄττα P¹M 21 τίς: τις M

¹ 'practical politics': this is according to the reading of P² (ἐργασίαις, i.e. to get things done);
 P¹ and M have θεωρίας which translates as 'the theory of politics.'

² 'laudable ... admiration': this is to translate ἐπαινετῶς ἔχοντες και περινοίας θαυμάζειν ἀξίας,
 which is slightly odd.

80. That most or almost all philosophers have spent their time talking only, and have not been of any use in practical politics¹

1 Most people who have occupied themselves with philosophy have devoted almost all their life to its theoretical and doctrinal aspects, and to discourses, spending very little of their energy on the practical side. 2 But even if they have concerned themselves with this [latter] part of philosophy, they have done so only to the extent of displaying an interest in ethics, by teaching it and, as far as possible, by applying it themselves. 3 Not few, indeed, have had correct views about what is lawful among men from an ethical point of view, and they have written books on this subject and have adorned themselves, in the best of ways, with ethical virtues and a good way of life, and even if they do not all agree, they have certainly all of them made some opportune contribution. 4 For every one of them expresses commendable opinions and doctrines in these books, so that, if someone would make use of them, he would come to admire them highly and also be admired by the multitude for succeeding extremely well and for organising his life nobly. 5 But few have thought about politics, and those who have, have done so in different ways. Not only are their books on this subject different from each other; they are widely apart and express totally conflicting opinions. 6 And all of them, one might say, write things which are irrelevant and, if not in every respect so at least in most, far indeed from what is useful and feasible for men. And their utterances and the laws they make, the greatest and most pre-eminent philosophers in particular— 7 what should be said of these? That they are completely foreign to human needs, just words in no way connected with facts, even if in some cases they may be laudable and contain thoughts worthy of admiration.² But otherwise it is just words unable to achieve their end. 8 And of those who uttered them, or of the authors' friends and of those inheriting their sayings,³ surely none ever acted according to these sayings nor would

³ 'sayings' (λόγους): or 'words'/'writings'.

οἷον τε, ἀλλ' ἔξω τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης τοξαρχῆς ἀγωγῆς καθάπαξ φέρονται καὶ ἄ μὴ πέφυκεν εὐκολία γλώττης ἀναζωγραφοῦσι καὶ ὑποτίθενται.

2 Καὶ τοιαῦτα μὲν τὰ Ζήνωνος, τοιαῦτα δὲ τὰ Χρυσίππου, τοιαῦτα δὲ τὰ Θεοφράστου καὶ οὐκ οἶδ' ὠντινων ἄλλων, πάντα παραπλήσια· ἃ καὶ καλῶς γε ποιῶν ὁ χρόνος ἐλέγχει καὶ ἀφανῆ τίθησιν ὡς ἀσυντελῆ καὶ ἀνόνητα τῷ βίῳ καὶ μηδὲν ἄλλ' ἢ γέλωτα πλατύν κατά τῶν συνταξαμένων κινουόντα. 2
 Τοιαῦτα δὲ καὶ τοῦ θαυμαστοῦ Πλάτωνος, ἃ καὶ δι' εὐστομίας χάριν, οἷος ἐν πᾶσιν ἀνὴρ ἐκεῖνος περιττός τὴν γλώτταν, ὁ χρόνος ἐκείθεν μέχρι καὶ εἰς ἡμᾶς ταμιεύει, 3 ὥσπερ περὶ κενταύρων καὶ τραγελάφων ἀνερέγητα διηγήματα φωνῆ καλλίστη καὶ ἥς τὴν ἄσκησιν ἐπαινεῖν ἄν τις ἔχοι, ὡς ἂν οἷος τ' εἴη, καὶ τῷ κατ' αὐτὴν χρησίμῳ πλάττειν ἑαυτὸν ἐρώη, πρὸς ἑαυτοῦ ποιούμενος τὸ ἀστεῖον τῆς ἔξεως. 4 Ἀριστοτέλης | δὲ συντάττειν καὶ αὐτὸς κατά τὸ εἶκος περὶ τῶν πολιτικῶν δεῖν ἐγνωκῶς δῆλος ἐστὶ μὴ διακρινόμενος περὶ τῶν χρησίμων καὶ ὧν δεῖ κατ' ἀλήθειαν ἐν ἔργοις τῷ πολιτεύεσθαι, 5 ἀλλ' ἢ ἐν παρασκευαῖς καὶ ἐπαγγελίαις ἐλπίδας ὑποτείνει καὶ ὑποτίθεται πάνυ τοι λυσιτελήσειν κἂν τούτῳ τῆς σοφίας καὶ τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης χρείας τῷ μέρει, ἀπαντᾷ δ' οὐδὲν ἔπειτα πολὺς καὶ ἀνάλογος ταῖς ἐπαγγελίαις, οὐδὲ τρανῶς ἀνύτει καὶ ὑποτυποῖ καὶ διατίθεται ἄττα δὴ πρὸς τὴν πρόθεσιν, οἷος ἐκεῖνος δοξοσοφῶν περὶ πάντων 6 καὶ πλείστον ἐπειγόμενος ὑπὲρ τοῦ δοκεῖν πάντ' εἶδέναι, καὶ ἃ μὴ κατά φιλοσόφους ἐνίῳτ' αὐτῷ προσήκει, καὶ ἀνθ' ἱκανὸς εἶναι καὶ γνώμων τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῶν ὄντων καὶ πρὸς πάντα τὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἀρτιόχρειος ἐπιβάλλειν μὲν ἀξιοῖ πάσῃ γνωστικῇ χρήσει καὶ φαντάζειν πειράται πάντων

4 καλῶς sine accentu P 7 post καὶ¹ add. τὰ M post εὐστομίας add. ἴσως M 12 καὶ αὐτὸς bis, in fine lineae et in initio lineae sequentis, exhib. P¹, primum expunxit fort. P²

9 τραγελάφων] cf. A. *Ran.* 987sq. οὐχ ἱππαλεκτρύνας, μὰ Δί', οὐδὲ τραγελάφους, ἄπερ σύ, ἂν τοῖσι παραπετάσμασιν τοῖς Μηδικοῖς γράφουσιν | Pl. *Rep.* 488a6sq. οἱ γραφῆς τραγελάφους καὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα μειγνύντες γράφουσιν | Arist. *Ph.* 208a30 ποῦ ἐστὶ τραγέλαφος ἢ σφίγξ; et Id. *Pr.* 49a24, *Po.* 92b7 | Plu. *Ages.* 19.5sq. κἀνναθρα δὲ καλοῦσιν εἶδωλα γρυπῶν ξύλινα καὶ τραγελάφων ἐν οἷς κομίζουσι τὰς παιδας ἐν ταῖς πομπαῖς | Luc. *Prom.* 7.11 εἰ μὴ ἄρα τις ἐμὲ διέλαθεν τοιοῦτους ἱπποκάμπους καὶ τραγελάφους καὶ αὐτὸς συντεθεικῶς

⁴ 'present' (ὑποτίθενται): or 'suppose'.

⁵ 'language' (εὐστομία): or 'eloquence'.

they ever do so, since it is not even possible. Instead they keep moving along, without any contact at all with the principles of human life, and using their fluency of language they depict and present⁴ things which do not belong to nature.

2 Such are Zeno's teachings, and Chrysippus', and Theophrastus', and I do not know whose else: they are all the same; and it is a good thing that time refutes them and makes them disappear as being imperfect and of no use for life and only fit for raising a good laugh at the expense of their authors. 2 However, such are also the writings of the admirable Plato, which time has saved from his days until our own, perhaps partly because of their beautiful language⁵ (that man was the greatest master of all with regard to style), 3 in the same way as it saves unreal⁶ stories of centaurs and goatstags⁷ if told in a most beautiful style, the study⁸ of which anyone would give the highest praise possible, desiring to mould himself after what is useful therein and so making this elegant style⁹ his own. 4 But Aristotle, having, as it seems, decided that he, too, would write on politics, obviously does not make appraisals concerning what is of use and what in reality is necessary in active politics, 5 but with preparatory phrases and with promises he holds out hope and suggests that also in this branch of wisdom and human need, he will be of great use; yet, later on, he does not have much to say nor does he live up to his promises nor does he clearly go through and outline and set forth what pertains to the subject matter. This is typical of Aristotle, who pretends to wisdom respecting all things, 6 and who is extremely eager to seem to know everything, even such things as do not become him as a philosopher, and to be competent in everything and to be a judge of nature and everything being, and to be ready to be of service in all things human, and who deems himself able to get to grips with every kind of knowledge and tries to create the impression that he, more than anyone else, has the right things to say about the subject he has chosen to

⁶ 'unreal' (ἀνεπέργητα): or, possibly, 'useless'.

⁷ An Eastern fantastic animal which, perhaps incidentally, is mentioned by Plato as well as Aristotle (see app. font. et parall.).

⁸ 'study' (ἄσκησιν): or 'use'.

⁹ 'this elegant style': τὸ ἀστεῖον τῆς ἔξεως.

μάλιστ' αὐτὸς ἔχειν τὰ καίρια περὶ ὧν προτίθεται κατερεῖν· ⁷ ἐν οἷς δ' οὐκ
 εὐπορὸς ἔστιν, ἢ διὰ πραγμάτων ἀσάφειαν καὶ ἀδηλίαν τῆς ἀκριβείας, ἢ
 διὰ πραγμάτων ἀοριστίαν, οἷα δὴ μάλιστα τὰνθρώπινα καὶ καθόλου γ'
 ἔρεῖν πάνθ' ὅσ' ὑπὸ γένεσιν καὶ ροῆν καὶ ἐν μεταβολαῖς αἰεὶ, ⁸ ταχὺς ἔπειτ'
 ἀπαλλάττεται καὶ οὐ τρίβει οὐδ' ἰκανῶς οὐδὲ σαφῶς ἐπεξεργάζεται κατὰ τὴν ⁵
⁵²⁸ ἐκάστοτε πρόθεσιν τὰ | καὶ τὰ, πάνθ' ἕκαστα ὅσα τῆς προκειμένης χρείας
 ἔστιν, ⁹ ἀλλ' ἐν ἀκαίροις μηκύνας καὶ ἄ μὴ καρποὺς ἔχει τοῖς πράγμασι καὶ
 διάταξιν ἀνύσιμον καὶ διωρισμένην καὶ ἐνεργὸν πρὸς τὴν ἐλπίδα καὶ τὴν
 ὑπόσχεσιν, ἔπειτα σοφίζεται, μηδὲν εἰρηκῶς, ἰκανώσασθαι τὸ πᾶν δοκεῖν καὶ
 φεύγει καταλιπὼν ἐν ἐλπίσι τοὺς ἀκροωμένους καὶ πλάνη τοῦ δοκεῖν ἔχειν ἐξ ¹⁰
 αὐτοῦ τί, μὴ ἔχοντας, καὶ τυχεῖν λαβόντας ὧν δεῖ, μὴ τυχόντας ταῖς ἀληθείαις.
¹⁰ Καὶ τοῦτό οἱ σκευρεῖται φεύγοντι τοὺς ἐλέγχους ἐμοὶ δοκεῖν ὡς τὰ πολλὰ,
 περὶ ὧν πάντες ἂν λόγοι ἐπιλήψεις ἔχωσι τῶν ἀντιτάττεσθαι βουλευθέντων
 ἂν, ἢ διὰ τὴν ἀσάφειαν, ἢ διὰ τὴν ἀοριστίαν, ὡς εἴρηται, τῶν πραγμάτων. ¹¹
 Οὐ γὰρ ὡσπερ ἄρα δὴ Πλάτων ὀρθῶς καὶ ἀδολιεύτως οἷς ἐπιβάλλειν ἀξιοῖ, ¹⁵
 χρῆται· ἐκεῖνος γὰρ δὴ πάνθ' ἀπλῶς τε καὶ τρανῶς φησὶν ἄ φησί, καὶ οὐδὲν
 ἐπηλυγάζεται περὶ ὧν ἔρεῖν δοκιμάζει, πλεῖστον ὡς ἔοικεν ἑαυτῷ θαρρῶν καὶ
 μηδὲν προορώμενος κακουργικὸν τῶν μετ' αὐτὸν κατ' αὐτοῦ. ¹² Ἀριστοτέλης
 δ' οὐχ' οὕτω, ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν μάλα δὴ τρανῶς πεποιθῶς λέγει, περὶ ὧν καθάπαξ,
 εὐ γε δήλον, βέβαιός ἐστι, τὰ δὲ καὶ ἄλλως, δραπετεύων παντὶ τρόπῳ ληφθῆναι ²⁰
⁵²⁹ καὶ δήλος γενέσθαι λέγων ἄττα δὴ κρίσεις καὶ βασιάνους | ὑπέϋθυνα δι' ἄς
 προείπομεν αἰτίας· καὶ τοῦτο μὲν οὕτως ἔχει.

³ Ἄτάρ, ὅπερ ἦν νῦν ὁ λόγος, ὀλίγοις τῶν κατὰ φιλοσοφίαν ἐξαιρέτων
 ἐκείνων ἀνδρῶν τοῦ ἐλληνικοῦ τῆς κατὰ τὸ πολιτικὸν φιλοσοφίας εἶδος
 διδασκαλίας ἐμέλησεν, καὶ οἷς ἐμέλησεν, ἀσύμφωνα τὰ περὶ τούτου συντάγματα ²⁵
² καὶ τὰ πλεῖστα τῆς συνήθους κατ' ἀνθρώπους χρήσεως ἀλλότρια καὶ

¹¹ τί pro τι PM ¹³ ἔχωσι: ἔχουσι M et ut vid. P¹, ut vid. -ω- P², i.e. corr. in ἔχωσι ²¹ ἄττα:
 fort. ἄττα M, ἄττα p.c. ex ᾗ- E ²³ ἐκείνων ἐξαιρέτων M

¹⁰ Aristotle's *doxosophia* (i.e. eagerness to appear wise) is a recurrent theme in the essays.

¹¹ 'the subject studied' (τῆς προκειμένης χρείας): or 'the need of the moment'.

¹² 'satisfied all needs': or 'treated satisfactorily of everything'.

¹³ 'refutation' (ἐλέγχους): or 'scrutiny'.

¹⁴ 'Greek philosophers': the text has ἀνδρῶν τοῦ ἐλληνικοῦ, which is difficult.

talk about.¹⁰ 7 In those cases, however, where he does not have so much to say, either because of the obscurity of the matter and the impossibility of being exact, or because of the indeterminateness of the matter, such as is the case with human affairs in particular and, generally speaking, with everything which is subject to generation and flux and continuous changes— 8 in these cases he finishes quickly and does not linger, and this thing or that, all that which is part of the subject studied,¹¹ he treats neither satisfactorily, nor clearly according to his promise in each case. 9 Instead he spends time on irrelevant things and on such as prove unfruitful for the matters in question and which have no effective and clear disposition working to fulfil the hope and promise he held out. Then, having said nothing, he cunningly pretends to have satisfied all needs,¹² and escapes, leaving his listeners to their hope and under the delusion that they have received something from him though they have not, and that they have indeed received that of which they were in need, though in reality they have not. 10 And in my opinion this is contrived by him mostly in order to avoid refutation¹³ on those points where all his books are liable to criticism from those who would want to oppose him, either, as mentioned before, because of the obscurity or of the indeterminateness of matters. 11 For he does not like Plato treat subjects which he wants to deal with correctly and without deceit. Everything that Plato says, he says simply and clearly, and he does not in any way disguise the subject he wants to talk about, having, as it seems, a great deal of self-confidence and not foreseeing any hostility against himself from later generations. 12 Not so with Aristotle. Some things he says very clearly and with confidence, such, obviously, as he feels sure about. But other things he expresses otherwise, in every way trying to escape being caught and found out to be saying things which, for reasons already mentioned, might be open to criticism and scrutiny. And so much for this.

3 But, and this is our present theme, few of those excellent Greek philosophers¹⁴ were interested in the teaching of political philosophy, and those who were interested, produced writings on this subject which were at variance with each other 2 and for the most part foreign to common human practice; neither did they have any effect in the time of their au-

οὔτε τοῖς κατ' αὐτοὺς χρόνοις ἐνεργά, οὔτε μεθύτερον καὶ οἰστισινοῦν
 ἀνθρώποις ἐσπουδάσθησαν, οὐχ' Ἑλλησιν, οὐ βαρβάροις. ³ Οὐδ' εἶδεν ἥλιος
 πολιτεύμαθ' ὅλως κατὰ τὰ δόξαντα Πλάτωνι ἢ Χρυσίπῳ ἢ Θεοφράστῳ ἢ
 Ζήνωνι ἢ Ἀριστοτέλει ἢ ἄλλῳ τῶν ἐνταῦθα τῇ φιλοσοφίᾳ πονησάντων
 Ἑλλήνων, ὥσπερ τοῖς Νουμᾶ Πομπηλίου νόμοις καὶ πολιτεύμασιν ἐχρήσαντο ⁵
 Ῥωμαῖοι πόλλ' ἔτη, ἐξ οὗ βασιλεὺς ἐκεῖνος τῆς Ῥώμης καὶ νομοθέτης
 ἀνεδείχθη, ⁴ κάλλιστα καὶ διαταξάμενος καὶ χρησάμενος αὐτὸς τῷ κατ' αὐτὸν
 βίῳ καὶ τῇ πολυτετῇ, κατὰ θεῖον ἴσως γενομένη, βασιλείᾳ οἷς ἔγνω νόμοις,
 καὶ παραπέμψας τοῖς μετ' αὐτὸν ἄρχουσί τε καὶ ἀρχομένοις κατὰ φύσιν τοῖς
 ἀνθρώποις καὶ οἰκείως ἔχοντας καὶ πολὺ τὸ ἐπαγωγὸν χρῆσθαι, ⁵ ὡς ἄρ' ¹⁰
 ἐστὶν αὐτόθεν συλλογιζέσθαι τῷ χρονίῳ κράτει παρὰ πᾶσαν τὴν τῆς Ῥώμης
 530 τύχην κἂν | πᾶσι καὶ μικροῖς ἔτι καὶ μεγίστοις αὐτῆς πράγμασιν ἐξ ἐκείνου,
 καθὼς ἔφην, μέχρι καὶ εἰς τοὺς Ῥωμαίων καθ' ἡμᾶς αὐτοκράτορας, οἱ μετὰ
 τῶν χριστιανικῶν νομίμων ἐπὶ τῆς βασιλείας Ῥωμαίων ἔστησαν, ⁶ καὶ ὥσπερ
 αὐθις Πέρσαι τοῖς Ζοροάστρου καὶ Κύρου τοῦ θαυμαστοῦ μεθύτερον ¹⁵
 ἐκοσμήσαντο πολιτεύμασι καὶ ὄροις περὶ πάντα κοινὰ τε καὶ ἴδια πράγματα καὶ
 τὴν καθ' ἕκαστον καὶ κοινὴν τοῦ βίου χρῆσιν, καὶ ὥσπερ γ' αὐθις τοῖς Ἄνωτος
 Καρχηδόνοι: ⁷ οὔτοι μὲν γε καὶ πολὺ τὸ ξενίζον ἔχουσι καὶ παρηλλαγμένον ἢ
 κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνθρώπων σχεδὸν ἄλλων χρῆσιν καὶ παντάπασιν ἀκοινώνητον,
 καὶ ἐχρήσαντό γε πλείστον δὴ τὸν χρόνον, μέχρις οὐ καὶ περιῆσαν, μάλιστα ²⁰
 περιφανεῖς τὸ ἀρχαῖον ἐκεῖνοι τῷ βίῳ καὶ κατ' ἀνθρώπους γενόμενοι καὶ
 Λιβύης ὅσον σχεδὸν οἰκούμενον ὑφ' ἑαυτοὺς ποιησάμενοι, ⁸ πολλῶν δὲ καὶ
 ἄλλων ἐθνῶν κρατήσαντες καὶ Σικελίας ἐπιβάντες καὶ κατὰ τῶν ἐν Εὐρώπῃ
 καὶ κατὰ τῆς Ἰταλίας καὶ Ῥωμαίων ἐνακμάσαντες ὑπερβαλλόντως ἢ κατ'
 ἄλλους πάντας ἀνθρώπους, μέχρις οὐ τῇ προνοίᾳ κατὰ πάντων ἀνθρώπων ²⁵
 ἐπιστήσῃα τὸ Ῥωμαίων ἔδοξε κράτος.

³ πομπηλίου M ⁴ πολυτετῇ: -λι- ut vid. a.c. P¹, corr. fort. P² ⁵ ἐξυλλογιζέσθαι M ⁶ 17
 ὥσπερ γ' M et ut vid. p.c. ex ὥσπερ P¹

¹⁵ 'who have here ... philosophy' (τῶν ἐνταῦθα τῇ φιλοσοφίᾳ πονησάντων): i.e., probably, in Greece as opposed to Rome in the following. If, instead, what is meant is 'this branch of philosophy', it is an odd way of putting it.

thors, nor were they later seriously considered by any people, Greeks or barbarians. ³ And the sun never saw any societies at all arranged according to the theories of Plato or Chrysippus or Theophrastus or Zeno or Aristotle or anyone else of those Greeks who have here bestowed their pains on philosophy,¹⁵ in the way in which for many years the Romans used the laws and rules of Numa Pompilius, from the time when he was elected king and law-giver of Rome. ⁴ In the best way possible he himself regulated and conducted his own life¹⁶ and his long-lasting reign, which, maybe, was promoted by the divine will, in accordance with the laws he had made and which he passed on to rulers and subjects of later times. These laws were felt by the people to be natural and appropriate and very attractive to use, ⁵ as can be readily inferred from the fact that, independently of Rome's fortune, under circumstances modest at first and then very great, they remained in force from Numa, as I said, even unto the Roman emperors of our time, who rule the Roman empire also in accordance with Christian laws. ⁶ In a similar way the Persians, too, were celebrated for Zoroaster's, and later for the admirable Cyrus' rules and regulations respecting all common and private affairs and every private and common situation in life, and similarly the Carthaginians were celebrated for Hanno's laws. ⁷ These laws are very strange and different from almost all other human customs, and they have absolutely nothing in common with other laws. And yet the Carthaginians used them for a very long time, as long as they existed [as a state], and in ancient times they even became very famous among men for their way of life, and they occupied nearly the whole of the inhabited part of Libya. ⁸ And after having conquered other peoples, they went ashore in Sicily and had greater military success against the European peoples and against Italy and the Romans than all other peoples,¹⁷ until Providence decided to make the Roman state rule over all men.

¹⁶ 'his own life' (τῷ κατ' αὐτὸν βίῳ): perhaps '([communal] life in his times)'.
¹⁷ '... than all other peoples': i.e. 'more success than all other peoples had', not, I think, 'more success than they had against all other peoples' (the latter would probably have been expressed by κατὰ c. gen. and not c. acc.).

4 Ἄλλ', ὅπερ ἔλεγον, τοῖς μὲν τῶν εἰρημένων ἀνδρῶν νομίμοις ἐπολι-
 τεύσαντ' ἐκεῖνα δῆτ' ἔθνη μέχρι παντὸς κάλλισθ' ἐπόμενοι καὶ τηροῦντες
 531 καθάπαξ, καὶ ἄλλων | ἄλλοι δὲ τινες πλείστων πλείστοι, καὶ οὐκ οἶδ' ἔγωγε νῦν
 ἀριθμεῖσθαι. 2 Τοῖς δ' ἐκ φιλοσόφων ἀξιωματῶν καὶ περινοίας δὴ τελεωτέρας
 ἐν Ἑλληνισι πολιτικοῖς δόγμασιν, εὖ μάλ' ἐπιλελογισμένοις καὶ πολὺ τὸ 5
 κατεγλωττισμένον καὶ ἔντεχον ἔχουσι, Πλάτωνος καὶ Ἀριστοτέλους καὶ τῶν
 ἄλλων ἐξαιρέτων τῆς φιλοσοφίας ἀνδρῶν, οὐδὲν ἔθνος ἠξίωσαν χρῆσθαι, οὐχ'
 ἑλληνικόν, οὐ βαρβαρικόν, οὐκ ἐπὶ τῶν αὐτῶν χρόνων, οὐκ αὐθις ὕστερον.
 3 Καίτοι μεγάλης ἔτυχον παρὰ πάντας ἀνθρώπους δόξης ἄνδρες ἐκεῖνοι καὶ
 κλέους ἐπὶ σοφία, καὶ μέγιστ' ἐθαυμάσθησαν, καὶ πολλοὶ τὰ κατ' αὐτοὺς 10
 ἐσπούδασαν, οὐχ' Ἑλληνες μόνον καὶ γνησίως ἔχοντες τῷ γένει τὲ καὶ
 τῇ φωνῇ, ἀλλ' ἄρα καὶ πολλοὶ τῶν ἐγχωρίων ἔξω καὶ τοῦ γένους ἀλλότριον
 καθάπαξ ἄνθρωποι, 4 ἢ μὴδὲ τὴν ἀρχὴν ὄλως ἀψάμενοι διὰ τὸ ἀνοίκειον ἔοικε
 τῆς κατ' ἀνθρώπους ἀμηγέτη χρήσεως ὡς αὐτίκα μόνον ἔγνωσαν, ἢ εἰ καὶ
 ἠψαντό τινες, ὡς ἄρα δὴ λέγονται τινὲς τῶν ἐν Σικελίᾳ σπουδάσαντος Δίωνος 15
 τῶν τοῦ Πλάτωνος πολιτικῶν πειράσασθαι, αὐτόθεν ἀποδραπετεύσαντες τῷ
 μὴδὲν ἐν τούτοις ἀνύσιμον ὄραν 5 καὶ οἶον πεφυκὸς κατ' ἀνθρώπους, πᾶσαν
 ἐκ πρώτης πείρας καταγόντες αὐτῶν ἀχρηστίαν καὶ λόγων ἀναπλάσματα
 532 παντάπασι | ἔξω τοῦ καιροῦ καὶ τῶν πραγμάτων ταῦτα συλλογισάμενοι.

4 But, as I said, these peoples were governed by the laws of the aforementioned men and they obeyed them admirably in every detail and observed them without fault; and some peoples, very many in number, obeyed the laws of other peoples, also very many in number, and I cannot now enumerate them.¹⁸ 2 But no people, Greek or barbarian, has chosen to use the political doctrines of those Greek philosophers who have enjoyed most prestige¹⁹ and shown the most perfect insight,²⁰ that is Plato and Aristotle and the other eminent men of philosophy, not in their time and not in later times, though these doctrines are well conceived and written down in a most elaborate and artful style. 3 And yet these men have acquired a great reputation and fame for wisdom among all men and they have been greatly admired and many have taken an interest in their writings, not only Greeks, being their true descendants and the inheritors of their language, but also many people outside Greece, who are of a totally different descent. 4 And either they did not put the philosophy of these men into practice from the beginning, since they seem to have realised its inappropriateness for any use among people, or, if some did, as is said to have been the case in Sicily where Dio was eager to try out the political thought of Plato, they abandoned it at once, not seeing in it anything practicable 5 or natural for men and, at the first trial, condemning it as completely useless and regarding it as bookish constructs,²¹ wholly without relevance to their time and circumstances.

¹⁸ This sentence seems awkward. It could easily be emended by changing *πλείστων* into *πλείστον* (for a parallel to this see 74.1.2) and excising *πλείστοι* (on the supposition that this has been added because of the parallelism offered by *ἄλλων ἄλλοι*). We could then translate ‘... but some peoples [obeyed the laws] more than others [did]’.

¹⁹ ‘prestige’: the word used here, *ἀξίωμα*, is problematic; it may also mean ‘doctrine’ or be the rhetorical term Dignity (cf. Hult 2002, index).

²⁰ ‘[shown] the most perfect insight’ (*περινοίας δὴ τελεωτέρας*): or, perhaps, ‘enjoyed the greatest respect by others’.

²¹ ‘bookish constructs’ (*λόγων ἀναπλάσματα*): or ‘figments of words’.

Ἵτι πάντες σχεδὸν τῶν ἐν Ἑλλησι φιλοσοφησάντων τοῦ
πολιτεῦσθαι καὶ τὰ κοινὰ πράττειν ἀπέστησαν· ΠΑ΄

1 Πάντες δὲ σχεδὸν τῶν φιλοσοφησάντων ἐν Ἑλλησι πλὴν ὀλίγων, καὶ οὐκ
οἶδ' ὅσων δὴ τινων οὐδ' ὄντινων ἄρα, τοῦ πολιτεῦσθαι καὶ τῆς πολιτικῆς
κατὰ φιλοσοφίαν ἐργασίας ἀπέστησαν ἑαυτοὺς καὶ ἰδιοπραγεῖν εἶλοντο, τὰς 5
μετὰ τῶν πολλῶν φυγόντες κοινωνίας καὶ πράξεις καὶ μόνη τῇ κατ' ἦθος
φιλοσοφίᾳ τὸ πρακτικὸν αὐτῆς ἐνεργόν, ὡς ἔοικε, δεῖξαντες. 2 Ζητοῦντες
γάρ, ἐμοὶ δοκεῖν, οἱ χήρσαινο τῇ κατ' αὐτοὺς ὀριζομένη πολιτικῇ, καὶ οὐχ'
εὐρίσκοντες χώραν οὐδ' ὄρηον ἐν τῇ κατὰ βίον ἀνθρωπίνῃ χήρσει ὄπῃ ποτ'
ἄρα χήρσαινο, 3 δυοῖν ἀνάγκη θάτερον· ἢ κενολογίαν μόνον καὶ μακρὸν λῆρον 10
καὶ διαλέξεων ἀνύπαρκτον ἀνάπλασμα καὶ λέσχης ὑπόθεσιν τὸν κατ' αὐτοὺς
καὶ πολιτικὸν καὶ βασιλικὸν καὶ ἡγεμονικόν, ἔξω τοῦ γιγνομένου παντὸς κατ'
ἀνθρώπους, δεικνύουσι, καὶ οὐχ' οἷον ἐν ἀνθρώποις ὀραῖσθαι, ἀλλ' ἀλλότριον
533 καθάπαξ ἀνθρωπίνης οὐσίας καὶ χήρσεως 4 (ἦ | γάρ ἄν, καὶ ἐωρᾶτο ποτὲ
πάντως καὶ κατ' ἀνθρώπους, εἶχον καὶ αὐτοὶ χήρσθαι, καὶ ὁ βίος ἄν εἶχε καὶ οἱ 15
λόγοι τῶν δογμάτων ἐνεργοὺς τῶν δογμάτων αὐτοῦς;), 5 ἢ πάντως ἑαυτοὺς
ἀνικάνους πρὸς τὴν χήρσιν τῆς πολιτικῆς φιλοσοφίας καὶ ἀγωγῆς ἐπιδηλότατα
προδεικνύντες ἔφευγον τὰ πράγματα, τοὺς ἐλέγχους ἐπὶ τῇ χήρσει φεύγοντες
καὶ μὴ βουλόμενοι τοῖς πολλοῖς ξυναναμίγνυσθαι, 6 ἀσυντελεῖς ἀνθρωποὶ
τοῖς πολλοῖς καὶ τῇ κοινῇ χήρσει, ἀσυντελεῖς τῷ βίῳ, ἀσυντελεῖς ἑαυτοῖς 20
καὶ τοῖς αὐτῶν δόγμασι καὶ κρίσεσι, καὶ μηδὲν ὅ τί ποτ' ἄρα χήρσιμοι μὴδὲ
πίστιν ἑαυτοῖς ἐμποιοῦντες αἰδοῦς παρὰ τῶν πολλῶν μήθ' οἷς ἐνόμισαν. 7 Ὁ
πολλοῦ δέουσιν ἄν κατερεῖν ἅπαντες καὶ συνθέσθαι καὶ καταπροδοῦναι σφᾶς
αὐτοὺς καὶ τὰ δόγματα καὶ θριαμβεῦσαι τὴν ἑαυτῶν ὀλιγότητα καὶ ἀχρηστίαν
καὶ δυστυχίαν τῆς φύσεως καὶ ἀτυχίαν τῆς κατ' αὐτοὺς φορᾶς αὐτῆς δὴ τῆς 25
φύσεως, ὡς ἀνόνητα σφᾶς αὐτοὺς ἔργα προενεγκούσης καὶ γῆς' μόνον ἄχθη'

9 ὄπῃ: ὄποι M

22 μήθ': μηδ' M-K

26 ἀνόνητα M, ἀνόνητα P¹, -v- inter ó et η add. P²

26 γῆς ... ἄχθη] cf. Th.Met. Sem. 69.2.5

¹ 'or has it ... doctrines' (§ 4): the use of the particle ἄν twice in this paragraph is a little odd, but perhaps understandable: Metochites seems to have an unreal condition in mind, even though this is not what he is actually talking about. For the same use of ἄν see also below, chapter 3, § 8.

81. That almost all Greek philosophers have avoided politics and public matters

1 Almost all Greek philosophers (with some exceptions, though I cannot tell how many they are or which) have avoided politics and political work based on philosophy and have preferred to live a private life, shunning contact and dealings with the multitude and, seemingly, showing forth the practical potential of philosophy only in ethics. 2 For if they, as it seems to me, were searching for somewhere to put into practice the type of politics they had decided upon and did not find any place nor anywhere in human society where they might do so, 3 one of two things must happen: either they show their discourse on politics and kingship and leadership to be empty words only and a lengthy run of nonsense and a construct of arguments without foundation and a matter for the classroom, far from every human reality, never to be seen among men but wholly foreign to human nature and usage 4 (or has it, indeed, on any occasion actually been seen among people, that they have been able to practise their philosophy themselves, and have their life and their doctrinal discourses ever made them living examples of their doctrines?);¹ 5 or, having first most clearly shown themselves completely unable to practise political philosophy and to lead a political life, they would have to flee from worldly matters, and [from then on] avoid being put to the test in matters practical, and not wish for intercourse with the multitude, 6 being men of no use to the many or for common life, of no use to mankind in general, of no use to themselves and unable to defend their doctrines and opinions; and, useless as they are in every regard, they would have proven unable to command any respect for themselves from the multitude, not even² for their opinions. 7 This they are all very far from admitting and saying openly and so betraying themselves and their doctrines and leading in triumph their own littleness and uselessness and their unfortunate nature and its unhappy treatment

² 'not even': this is to translate μήθ' which, however, may be derived from μηδέ rather than from μήτε (cf. the alternative forms μηδείς – μηθείς; Müller & Kiessling have here μηδ').

καὶ μὴδὲν μῆθ' ἑαυτοῖς μῆτε τῷ βίῳ λυσιτελοῦντα· 8 καὶ οὕτω δὴ πάλιν εἰς
κενολογίαν συμπεραίνει σφίσιν ἢ πᾶσα σπουδή, καὶ καθ' ἑαυτῶν ἠγωνίσαντο.

2 Ἄλλ' ἔγωγ' οἶμαι τὸν πολιτικὸν ἀνάγκην ἔχειν οἷς ξυνέλαχε πράγμασιν,
ὡς ἂν οἶον τ' εἶη, χρῆσθαι καὶ μεταχειρίζειν ὡς ἄρα πέφυκεν εἰς τὸ βέλτιον
534 αἰεὶ, 2 τοὺς δ' ἄρα τὸ ῥάδιον εὐ μάλ' αἰρουμένους τὸ | λέγειν εὐ καὶ τὴν ἐν 5
πράγμασιν ἀρετὴν, καθὼς ἂν ἕκαστος οἶος τ' ἦ, εἰς τὸ φύσει κάλλιστον καὶ
βέλτιστον δοκιμάσαι καὶ κατασυλλογίσασθαι καὶ συνιδεῖν ἀνιστοροῦντας
καὶ καταγράφοντας, μὴδένα δὲ ποιήσασθαι λόγον εἰ ἄρ' ἔπειτα πέφυκεν ἐν
ἀνθρώποις ἐνεργὰ δεικνυσθαι τὰ λεγόμενα. 3 Καὶ καθάπαξ δύναται πλήθη καὶ
συστήματα παντοῖ' ἀνθρώπων συμφωνεῖν κατὰ πᾶσαν αἴρεσιν καὶ ἀκριβείας 10
τελειότητα ἢ συντέλειαν εἰς τὴν τοῦ καλοῦ κατὰ φύσιν καὶ βελτίστου τὸν
ἅπαντα τρόπον ἔξιν τὲ καὶ χρῆσιν 4 καὶ ὁρᾶσθαι ὡς ἐν τίποτε πρᾶγμα ἢ σῶμα
κάλλιστον διὰ πάντων ὁρᾶν τε καὶ χρῆσθαι ὁμοιον ἑαυτῷ. 5 Τὸ δὲ παντὸς
μᾶλλον ἀδύνατον τῇ φύσει καὶ κατ' ἀνθρώπους, ὅπου γε μὴδ' ἄνθρωπον ἕνα,
μὴδένα μάλιστα δὴ καὶ σωφρονικὸν ἐκ φύσεως οἰκοθεν καὶ λόγου παιδεία καὶ 15
ἀσκήσει κατορθούμενον, ῥάδιον ἐστὶν ἑαυτῷ καθάπαξ σύμφωνον εἶναι καὶ διὰ
πάντων εἰς τὴν τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ σπουδὴν ὁμοιον ἑαυτῷ καὶ τέλειον.

3 Καὶ μὴν καὶ τὸ κάλλος ἐν ἀνθρώποις καὶ τὸ διὰ παντὸς τοῦ σώματος
ἔλλογον καὶ προσφυῆς καὶ κατακαιρὸν ἐκάστου τὲ τῶν μελῶν ἰδίᾳ τῆς ὥρας
εὐ μάλ' ἔχοντος καὶ κοινῇ πάντων πρὸς ἄλληλα πεφυκῶτων εἰς τὸ τελειότατον 20
535 τῆς κατὰ φύσιν εὐγενείας καὶ ἀρετῆς, λόγος μὲν ἴσως γραφεύς, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ
γραφικὴ τάχα τέχνη, καθιστορεῖν δύναται ἂν εὐ μάλα. 2 Τίς δ' ὅμως κατείδέ
ποτ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἢ ὅλως ὄψεται τοιοῦτον δὴ σώματος ἀνθρωπίνου κάλλος,
διὰ πάντων ἠκριβωμένον καὶ καθάπαξ ἀλώβητον καὶ ἀρτιουργὸν τῇ φύσει
καὶ μηδενὶ πω τῶν αὐτοῦ καθυστερίζον ἔπειτα, ἢ ὡς ἡ γραφὴ προδείκνυσιν; 25
3 Ἔστι δ' ὅμως καὶ οὕτως ἐν ἀνθρώποις κάλλος, καὶ μακαρίζεται τις ὡς εὐ
ὥρας πεφυκός, καὶ ἄλλος ἄλλου μᾶλλον. 4 Καὶ τὴν πολιτικὴν τοίνυν ἀκριβείαν

4 οἶον: οἶος a.c. P, corr. ut vid. P¹

7 ξυνιδεῖν M

22 δύναιτ' M

³ 'burdens ... of the earth': for this expression see also 69.2.5 and 76.2.2.

⁴ 'make the happy choice': i.e. a choice to their own advantage (?); perhaps there is irony/cynicism in this.

⁵ 'most' (μᾶλλον): or 'rather'.

of them, having fostered them as useless products and *burdens* only of the earth,³ which bring no good either to themselves or to life. ⁸ And so all their toil ends up in empty words, and it turns out that they have been fighting against themselves.

² But I think that a politician should deal with what he is confronted with as best he could, always, of course, with a view to improvement, ² whereas those who make the happy choice⁴ of the easier way may speak well and, to the best of their ability, estimate the virtue inherent in every action through comparing it to what is by nature most beautiful and excellent, pondering and drawing conclusions, investigating and writing the result down, not caring whether [or not] their conclusions are of such a nature that they may have any effect on men of the future. ³ And multitudes and groups of people of every kind may well agree in every choice, completely in every detail, on how to acquire and use what in every way is good and even best by nature, ⁴ and they may be looked upon as, in a way, one thing, or one most beautiful body, with one outlook and consistent way of acting. ⁵ The situation by nature most⁵ hopeless of remedy among men, however, arises when one man will not even agree with himself wholly and with ease, and always strive towards what is good, in a consistent and perfect manner—this, of course, will not be a man who by nature is sensible from birth and corrected through literary education and training.

³ And, indeed, human beauty and the perfect proportions and inherent ability throughout the whole body and the serviceability of every limb performing well at the right time, separately or together with the other limbs, all joined to each other for the most perfect natural nobility and virtue—perhaps this could be depicted really well by fiction or rather by the art of painting. ² But who has ever seen among men, or will ever see, such beauty of the human body as art shows, elaborate in every respect and wholly without blemishes and perfect as to its nature and not to be surpassed by any coming after it? ³ Even so there is, though, beauty in men, and some are praised lucky for being beautiful, some of them more than others. ⁴ Also, it may be fairly easy to describe politics in detail and outline in one's thoughts, according to each man's capacity of visualizing; ⁵ but in actual practise it is not possible to make the beauty of political activity

ράδιον ἴσως ἀνιστορεῖν καὶ ὑποτυποῦσθαι συλλογιζόμενον, ὡς ἂν ἕκαστός τις δύναίτο ξυνορᾶν, ⁵ τοῖς ἔργοις δ' ὅμως αὐτοῖς οὐ πέφυκε τὸ κάλλος τῆς πολιτικῆς ἐνεργείας καὶ χρήσεως οὐκ ἂν ποτ' ἐνεργὸν διὰ πάντων ὀφθῆναι. ⁶ Καὶ τοίνυν ἐνεργητέον ὡς πέφυκε καὶ χρηστέον ἑαυτῶ καὶ τοῖς πράγμασι κατὰ τὸ ἐγχωροῦν ἐκάστοτε, ⁷ ἄλλ' οὐ τριπτέον ἀεὶ τοῖς λόγοις μόνον καὶ τῇ ⁵ περὶ τοῦ πράγματος θεωρίᾳ, ὁ ράδιον ἴσως φιλοσοφεῖν καὶ καταλογίζεσθαι τὰ καὶ τὰ, πάνθ' ἕκαστα, τῆς τῶν πραγμάτων ἕξω χρήσεως. ⁸ Χωρὶς δὲ τούτων, εἰ μὲν οὐκ ἔχουσιν ὅλως τῷ πολιτεύεσθαι χρῆσθαι καὶ ἑαυτοῖς καὶ τοῖς πολλοῖς ⁵³⁶ καὶ τοῖς πράγμασιν ἄλλως ἢ ὡς | αὐτοὶ κρίνουσι τε καὶ δογματίζουσι (ταῦτα δὲ παντάπασι ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἀδύνατα, καὶ οὐτ' ἐγένετό ποτε πρότερον ἀεὶ οὔτε ¹⁰ μήποτε γένηται· ἢ γὰρ ἂν ἐγένετο;)— ⁹ τί ποτ' εἰσὶ χρήσιμοι, ἢ τί ποτε κατ' αὐτοὺς ἢ πολιτικὴ φιλοσοφία λυσιτελῆς τῷ βίῳ, κατὰ τῶν μὴ ὄντων τρίβουσα καὶ νομοθετοῦσα ἢ μήτ' ἔστι μήτ' ἐγένετο μήτέ ποτε γενήσεται;

⁴ Εἰ δ' ἔστιν αὐτοῖς καὶ ἄλλως ὅτιποτοῦν ἀνύτειν χρωμένοις, καὶ βέλτιστα συντελεῖν ἐν οἷς ὁ βίος ἐκάστοτε, καὶ βοηθεῖν ὅπως ἄρα, καὶ μέτριάττα δὴ τοῖς ¹⁵ ἀνθρωπίνους καὶ κοινοῖς πράγμασιν, οὐχ' αἰροῦνται δὲ ὅτι μὴ κατὰ βούλησιν αὐτοῖς ἔστιν, ² ἄλλ' ἄλλως ἢ ὡς αὐτοὶ καθόλου κρίνουσι καὶ δογματίζουσιν, οὐκ εὐγνώμονες δὴ τινες εἰσὶν οὐδὲ φιλόανθρωποι βοηθεῖν ἅττα δύναιντ' ἂν, καὶ τοῖς πράγμασιν ἐγχωρεῖ, τοῖς ἀνθρωπίνους νοσήμασιν, ³ οὐδὲ τοσοῦτο μᾶλλον ἑαυτοῖς καὶ τῇ φιλοσοφίᾳ χρήσιμοι καὶ οἷοι τε βοηθεῖν τὸ καὶ ὀτιοῦν εἰσφέρειν ²⁰ τῷ βίῳ καὶ τῇ κοινῇ συντελείᾳ, ἀλλὰ ξυγχωρεῖν κατατρέχειν τοὺς πολλοὺς καὶ καταμωκᾶσθαι φιλοσοφίας τὲ καὶ σφῶν αὐτῶν καὶ καταψηφίζεσθαι παντάπασι ἀχρηστίαν, ⁴ καὶ οὐδὲν ἄλλ' ἢ κενολογίαν ἄπρακτον καὶ ἀνόνητον. Εἰ δ' ἀη- ⁵³⁷ δίζονται καὶ ἀπα|ξιοῦσι τῷ μὴ τυγχάνειν ὡς βούλονται, καὶ δι' ὑποψίαν ἔστιν οὐ τῆς ἀτευξίας φεύγουσι καθάπαξ τὸ πράττειν, κἂν εἰ ἅττα δὴ λυσιτελεῖν ²⁵ δύναιτο καὶ καλῶς ἀνύτειν τῷ μετὰ τῶν πολλῶν βίῳ καὶ τῷ πολιτεύεσθαι, ⁵

⁹ κρίνουσι: κοῖνουσι ut vid. M ¹¹ γένηται: 'legendum γενήσεται' in app. M-K ἢ: ἢ M-K (cf. autem 81.1.4) ¹⁸ ἅττα P²M, fort. ἅττα P¹ ²⁰ τὸ: τῷ P¹M, o.s.l. add. P², τὸ M-K (vide introd. 2.5, p. xxxix) ²⁵ ἅττα p.c. P², ἅττα P¹M

⁶ This sentence has a double negation; for this feature of Metochites' style see the introduction, 2.2.1, p. xxviii.

⁷ 'this': i.e. to take care of matters at hand in any other way than that which agrees with one's own system and doctrine.

and action visible in every way.⁶ 6 Still one should be active, as is natural, and make use of one's abilities and handle each situation in the best way possible,⁷ and time should not always be spent on words only and on the theoretical side of matters, because if one does so, one may easily fall into philosophising about and giving an account of all sorts of things in a way which has nothing to do with the demands of reality.⁸ 8 Apart from this, if men are wholly unable in politics to make use of their own powers and those of the multitude, and to take care of the matters at hand in any other way than that which agrees with their own system and doctrine (this⁷ is completely impossible for men, and it neither happened in the past nor will it ever do so; or has it really happened?)⁸— 9 in what way, then, are these men of any use? Or how could their political philosophy be of value to mankind, when it deals with what does not exist and makes laws respecting that which neither is nor was nor ever will be?

4 However, if in some other way it is possible for them to act and achieve something and in each case to make an excellent contribution to life, and in some way, even if modestly, to help common human matters, and they still choose not to do so, because it does not agree with their inclination 2 but is wholly irreconcilable with their opinions and doctrines, then they are unreasonable and not charitable so as to give what help they can for the ailments of mankind, as far as the situation permits.³ 3 Neither are they of more use to themselves or to philosophy or able to help in making any contribution whatever to life and the united effort; they rather give the multitude an opportunity to criticise and deride philosophy and themselves and to judge of all this as being absolutely worthless,⁴ and nothing but idle and futile verbosity. But what if they feel disgusted and refrain from action for fear of not achieving what they want, and if from some presentiment of failure they completely avoid acting, even if they could be of some use and of good service to the life of the many and to the state— 5 have they not [by this] at once, and in a deplorable way, proved them-

⁸ 'or has it really happened?' (ἢ γὰρ ἄν ἐγένετο); i.e. 'would anyone claim that it has happened?' Despite the use of ἄν I do not think that this should be understood as an unreal condition. Cf. above, chapter 1, § 4.

οὐκ ἂν φθάνοιεν αὐθις ἀδικώτατοι καὶ κακοὶ κακῶς ἐλεγχόμενοι, μὴ πᾶν τὸ
 γιγνόμενον ἐκόντες ὄντες μάλα πρόθυμοι συντελοῦντες καὶ συνεισφέροντες
 τῇ κοινῇ χρήσει ὡς ἂν ὀπηοῦν βέλτιον ἔχοι, 6 ἀλλὰ ζημιοῦντες τὸν βίον καὶ τὰ
 κοινὰ πράγματα τῆς παρ' ἑαυτῶν εὐχρηστίας καὶ βοήθειας, καὶ ζημιοῦντες
 ἑαυτοὺς οὐ δόξης μᾶλλον οὐδ' ἐπαίνων οὐδὲ μακαρισμῶν ἢ φιλανθρώπων 5
 ἐνεργημάτων καὶ ὑποθέσεων βιωφελῶν ἐπιδείξων; 7 Ὡσπερ ἂν καὶ ἰατροὶ
 κακῶς ἀκούειν δικαίως εἶεν ἄξιοι καὶ πάσης ἐπιτιμίας καὶ εὐθύνης, οἱ δι'
 ὑπόπτους ἀτυχίας καὶ δέος ἔστιν οὗ τοῦ μὴ κατευστοχήσαι τῆς χρήσεως
 αἰροῖντ' ἂν πᾶσαν ἀποφεύγειν βοήθειαν ἀνθρωπίνην ἐν ταῖς συμφοραῖς τοῦ
 σώματος, 8 καὶ ἃ δύναντ' ἂν εἶναι χρήσιμοι καὶ φιλάνθρωποι ἐκόντες ὄντες 10
 μύοντες ἀποτρέποιντο— 9 φαῦλον ὡς ἀληθῶς καὶ κατάπτυστον, εἴ τις οὕτω
 λέγοι, εἴ τις οὕτως αἰροῖτο, καὶ ἢ ψευδομένων ἀνδρῶν ἢ πάνυ τοι τῷ κοινῷ βίῳ
 κατ' ἀνθρώπους δυσνοστάτων.

selves the most unjust and evil of men, since they do not of their own free will, and with zeal, join in helping with and contributing in every possible way to the common good with some view to its improvement? ⁶ And so they deprive mankind and the community of their service and help, and themselves they deprive not so much of fame or praise or blessings as of opportunities to act charitably and to be seen giving vital help. ⁷ Similarly those doctors would also justly deserve being ill spoken of and being censured and held responsible in every way, who suspecting failure and fearing, as sometimes happens, not to succeed in their undertaking choose to run away from ministering help of any kind in cases of bodily harm to a human being, ⁸ and who close their eyes and evade situations where they could be of use and help for others if they were willing— ⁹ a truly mean and despicable thing even to suggest, or to choose, characteristic of men who are either liars or most hostile towards the common life of men.