

Russell's Anthology of Greek Prose

Text 44: The start of a quarrel (Demosthenes)

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a) Source:

In Cononem (Oratio 54) 3-6.

b) Background (synopsis quoted from Russell's book):

"This short narrative is part of a speech written for one Ariston, who accuses Conon of assaulting him. The family quarrel arose out of an episode on army service."

c) Language comment:

Relatively simple, maybe with the exception of the optative subordinate in line 12. The relative sentence in line 8 may also present some difficulty.

d) Content:

Ariston (his name is not mentioned) explains how the family quarrel arose: members of both families had pitched the tent side by side in a military garrison, and the members of Conon's family had started disturbing Ariston's slaves, then attacking them, etc. They ask the commander of the camp to stop them, but this only has the effect of producing more hatred and the attacks are taken up again with even more violence.

e) Distribution of content:

(numbers refer to the lines in the printed edition)

1-4:	Initial exposition.
5-14:	Their behaviour.
14-17:	Our reaction.
17-27:	Reprimand and their reaction.
27-33:	Events after departing.

f) Notes for help:

1) cf. 5 for asyndeton at beginning of narrative. cf. No.43.31

1) ἔτος τουτὶ τρίτον: "two years ago" (lit. for the duration of this the third year): for acc. of time, see Goodwin 1064: Sandys takes as parenthetic (scil. αἶψα). For deictic -ί, cf. e.g. 2 τουτουί.

1-2) φρουρᾶς ἡμῖν προγραφείσης: gen.abs. "when garrison duty was publicly ordered us" (aor. pple. pass. προγράφω = set forth publicly, proclaim).

2) προγραφείσης: second passive aorist without θ.

2) ἐσκήνωσαν: aor. σκηνώω, 'pitch tent'.

2) οὖν: "now", indicating next stage of narrative (Russell, citing Denniston, Particles 425-6).

2) υἱεῖς: regular pl. of υἱός, as if from a nom. *υἱεύς.

3) "and I wish they had not" (understand αὐτοὺς σκηνωσσαι): Russell cites WS 178. ἐβουλόμην (usually as here with ἄν) expresses unrealised possibility which the speaker would or would have preferred (cf. Goodwin 1339 for idiomatic impf.: 'When no definite condition is understood with the potential indicative, the imperfect with ἄν is regularly past. . . . The imperfect with ἄν referring to present time . . . appears seldom in purely potential expression, chiefly in ἐβουλόμην ἄν, vellem, "I should wish", "I should like", which can also mean "I should have wished").

3) ἐξ ἀρχῆς: 'from the beginning', sandwiched between article and noun: 'the start of our enmity'

4) προσκρούματα: lit. 'collisions'.

4) ὧν: this relative depends on an in-existent ταῦτα that at the same time would be the direct object of ἀκούεσθε.

4) ἐξ ὧν δέ: understand συνέβη.

4) συνέβη: aor. συμβαίνω, 'happened', w. dat.

5) ἐπειδὴ τάχιστα: as soon as ...(cf. 21), ἐπειδὴ+ opt. (ἀριστάω, 'take breakfast/luncheon') of indefinite clause in past sequence, Goodwin 1431.

5) the optative ἀριστήσειαν means the repeated action in the past.

5-6) τὴν ἡμέραν ... ὄλην: acc. of duration of time, cf. 1 above, ?8-9 below. Why word-order?

6) περ: emphasises/intensifies; often as here with temporal conjunction.

6) ἤμεν: 1st pl. impf. εἰμί (sum).

6) διετέλουν: impf. διατελέω, w. pple., 'continue'.

7) εἰωθειμέν: plupf. of pf. εἶωθα = I am accustomed.

8) ἦν...ὥραν: ὥραν is the antecedent, and should have been in the main sentence, one line down; as usual, it has been included in the relative sentence; moreover, the relative is in accusative because it has a meaning of extension in time.

8) συμβαίνοι: cf. 5 above, opt. in indefinite clause in past sequence. The subject is in-existent, it's impersonal here, not as some lines above; again, optative of repeated action in the past.

8-9) ἦν ... ὥραν ... ταύτην: Russell takes as acc. of duration of time, "during whatever time others happened to have supper ..." Carey takes as adverbial accusative, common with ὥρα and καιρός (Dodds on Eur. Bac. 724), "at whatever time ...". Note meaning of ὥρα.

9) παροινέω: to behave drunkly. This ἄν gives the imperfect (of repeated action in the past, in combination with the optative) the meaning of "given the circumstance"; of course, this imperfect mustn't have this particle, it's been put as extra.

9) τὰ μὲν = "some times".

9) ἄν ... παρώνουν: expressing habit: "they would always behave drunkenly" (impf. παροινέω). Russell cites Goodwin 1296.

10) τελευτῶντες: "in the end" (Russell cites Goodwin 1564); pple. used in adverbial way, contrasting with adverbial ntr. pl. τὰ μὲν πόλλα, 'mostly'.

10) τελευτῶντες δέ: we would have expected τὰ δέ in combination with the former τὰ μὲν, but Thucydides makes a "variatio".

11) remember that φημί must always have an infinitive.

11) φήσαντες: aor. pple. φημί.

11-12) acc. and inf.: τοὺς παῖδας are subject of the infinitives καπνίζειν and κακῶς λέγειν. TEXT: read αὐτούς (so MSS, the OCT and Carey).

12) ὅτι τύχοιεν (aor. optat. τυγχάνω): understand λέγοντες: "and claimed they were insulting them, whatever they happened to say / actually said", again that use of the optative, accompanied by an imperfect in the main sentence.

12-16) note imperfects of repeated action. Contrast aorists ἐμεμψάμεθα and εἶπομεν.

12-13) TEXT: MSS, the OCT and Carey read κατεσκεδάγγνον: which form is right?

13) προσεούρουν: impf. προσουρέω, 'piss on'.

13-14) οὐδ' ὅτιοῦν ἀπέλειπον + gen.: "there was not one insult or injury they omitted." cf. 41.5 for ἀπολείπεσθαι + gen. = "be wanting in", "needing".

15) TEXT: ἐμεμψάμεθα (aor. μέμφομαι), 'remonstrated', is emendation for MSS ἀπεπεμψάμεθα: if that is read, supply either ταῦτα (Sandys: 'we dismissed the matter') or αὐτούς (Carey: 'we sent them away'). Carey suggests ἀπ- or ἐπεμεμψάμεθα as preferable emendations.

17) ἔξω last for emphasis and avoiding hiatus. ἔξω + gen. = (1) "outside", (2) as here "without".

17-18) λοιδορηθέντος, genitive absolute: Russell notes passive used in middle sense, λοιδοροῦμαι w. dat, 'rail at', 'revile'.

18) κακίσαντος aor. pple. κακίζω, abuse.

18-19) περὶ ὧν: attraction of relative.

19) ἠσέλγαινον: impf. ἀσελγαίνω, 'behave insultingly/licentious' (cf. noun ἀσέλγεια in 13).

20) τοσοῦτου ἐδέησαν (aor. δέω) + inf.: "they were so far from", genitive depending on ἐδέησαν, and it foretells the result clause. Russell notes WS 1397.

21-22) ὥστε + indic.: result clause (it actually happened). But ὥστε + inf. 24-5: why the difference?

21) ἐπειδὴ θᾶπτον: "as soon as (it got dark)". cf. 5 commoner ἐπειδὴ τάχιστα.

21) ὡς + acc.: prep. = "to", used only of persons.

22-3) μέν ... δὲ καὶ πληγὰς: καί ("actually") emphasises what follows, "but also". Denniston, p.305.

24-25) curious use of infinitive in a result clause, when we could have expected indicative, as it really happened.

26) μηδέν: negative after κωλύω is rare in Attic. Russell cites Goodwin 1549.

27) παροινουμένους: passive meaning of this verb, which in active means "to act under the effects of alcohol".

27) ποιῆσαι: understand μηδὲν ἀνήκεστον. (αὐτοὺς subj. or object of ποιῆσαι - perhaps better as subject: "nor ourselves to do anything irretrievable, stirred to drunken behaviour by them".

27) TEXT: OCT has deictic τουτωνί .

27-8) gen. abs.

29) οἶον: it could have been expected ὡς.

29) οἶον εἰκός: understand ἐστί (as often in such phrases).

29-30) οὐ μὴν ἔγωγε μὰ τοὺς θεοὺς ... οὔτε ... οὔτε ... οὐδένα: accumulation of emphasisers and negatives. Note negatives at beginning and end (οὐ ... οὐδένα), and hyperbaton λόγον ... οὐδένα, emphasising the negative.

30) μὰ τοὺς θεοὺς: note negative μὰ (νή with positive).

30) δίκην λαχεῖν (aor. inf. λαγχάνω; phrase used + dat.): get leave to bring lawsuit (against).

31) συμβάντων: aor. pple. συμβαίνω, 'what had happened'.

31-2) ἐκεῖνο object of ἐγνώκειν, with inf. εὐλαβεῖσθαι ... in apposition.

32) ἐγνώκειν: 'I resolved', plupf. γιγνώσκω.

32) τὸ λοιπόν: "for the future".

32) μὴ + inf. after verbs of taking precaution.
