

Thucydides Book VIII, 1

Consequences in Athens of the defeat in Sicily

The Athenians have experienced a total defeat in Sicily. The news reaches Athens and we can see here their reaction:

Ἐς δὲ τὰς Ἀθήνας ἐπειδὴ ἠγγέλθη, ἐπὶ πολὺ μὲν ἠπίστουν καὶ τοῖς πάνυ τῶν στρατιωτῶν ἐξ αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἔργου διαπεφευγόσι καὶ σαφῶς ἀγγέλλουσι, μὴ οὕτω γε ἄγαν πανσυδὶ διεφθάρθαι· ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἔγνωσαν, χαλεποὶ μὲν ἦσαν τοῖς ξυμποθυμηθεῖσι τῶν ῥητόρων τὸν ἔκπλουν, ὥσπερ οὐκ αὐτοὶ ψηφισάμενοι, ὠργίζοντο δὲ καὶ τοῖς χρησιμολόγοις τε καὶ μάντεσι καὶ ὀπόσοι τι τότε αὐτοὺς θειάσαντες ἐπήλπισαν ὡς λήψονται Σικελίαν. πάντα δὲ πανταχόθεν αὐτοὺς ἐλύπει τε καὶ περιειστήκει ἐπὶ τῷ γεγεννημένῳ φόβος τε καὶ κατάπληξις μεγίστη δὴ. (5)

The lack of resources is evident, and they are afraid about what will happen now:

ἅμα μὲν γὰρ στερόμενοι καὶ ἰδίᾳ ἕκαστος καὶ ἡ πόλις ὀπλιτῶν τε πολλῶν καὶ ἰπέων καὶ ἡλικίας οἷαν οὐχ ἑτέραν ἐώρων ὑπάρχουσαν ἐβαρύνοντο· ἅμα δὲ ναῦς οὐχ ὀρῶντες ἐν τοῖς νεωσοίκους ἱκανὰς οὐδὲ χρήματα ἐν τῷ κοινῷ οὐδ' ὑπηρεσίας ταῖς ναυσὶν ἀνέλπιστοι ἦσαν ἐν τῷ παρόντι σωθῆσθαι, τοὺς τε ἀπὸ τῆς Σικελίας πολεμίους εὐθύς σφίσις ἐνόμιζον τῷ ναυτικῷ ἐπὶ τὸν Πειραιᾶ πλευσεῖσθαι, ἄλλως τε καὶ τοσοῦτον κρατήσαντας, καὶ τοὺς αὐτόθεν πολεμίους τότε δὴ καὶ διπλασίως πάντα παρεσκευασμένους κατὰ κράτος ἤδη καὶ ἐκ γῆς καὶ ἐκ θαλάσσης ἐπικεῖσθαι, καὶ τοὺς ξυμμάχους σφῶν μετ' αὐτῶν ἀποστάντας. (10)

But, in spite of everything, they decide to face the situation:

ὅμως δὲ ὡς ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων ἐδόκει χρῆναι μὴ ἐνδιδόναι, ἀλλὰ παρασκευάζεσθαι καὶ ναυτικόν, ὅθεν ἂν δύνωνται ξύλα ξυμπορισάμενους, καὶ χρήματα, καὶ τὰ τῶν ξυμμάχων ἐς ἀσφάλειαν ποιεῖσθαι, καὶ μάλιστα τὴν Εὐβοίαν, τῶν τε κατὰ τὴν πόλιν τι ἐς εὐτέλειαν σωφρονίσει, καὶ ἀρχὴν τινα πρεσβυτέρων ἀνδρῶν ἐλέσθαι, οἵτινες περὶ τῶν παρόντων ὡς ἂν καιρὸς ἦ προβουλεύσουσιν. (15)

Vocabulary

ἄγαν	VERY MUCH, TOO MUCH	διπλασίως	DOUBLY
πανσυδί	UTTERLY	ἐπικεῖμαι	TO PRESS UPON
ἔκπλους, -ου	NAVAL EXPEDITION	ἐνδίδωμι	TO YIELD
χρησιμολόγος	SOOTHSAYER	εὐτέλεια, -ας	THRIFT
θειάζω	TO PRACTISE DIVINATIONS	σωφρονίζω	TO MODERATE
ἐπελπίζω	TO BUOY UP WITH HOPE	καιρός, -οῦ	DUE MEASURE
κατάπληξις, -εως	CONSTERNATION	παραχρῆμα	ON THE SPOT
στέρομαι	TO BE DEPRIVED OF	περιδεής, -έης	VERY FEARFUL
νεώσοικος, -ου	DOCK	εὐτακτεω	TO BEHAVE WELL
ὑπηρεσία, -ας	CREW		

□ Language points on the first paragraph

✧ Remember that **ἀπιστέω** rules dative, and be careful with some participles in dative looking like 3rd persons plural // The clause starting with **μή** on line 2 is difficult, and the verbal form in it poses some difficulty // On line 4 you should supply a dative that would be the antecedent of **ὀπόσοι** // There is an example of vivid style, and also an example of the unusual tense pluperfect.

- 1/ **ἐπὶ πολὺ** has a clear idiomatic meaning. Which one? [247] // **πάνο** is an intensifier. What does it intensify?
- 2/ Why is this **μή** here? Hint: it's in relationship with the verb **ἀπιστέω**. [364] // What form is **διεφθάρθαι**? [212]
- 3/ To what subtype of declension does **ἔκπλουον** belong? [29] // What kind of subordinate is introduced by **ὥσπερ**? [340]
- 4/ Why does **ὀπόσοι** have this **ὀ-** at the beginning? [128] // Why could **λήψονται** have been written in optative? Write it. [291]
- 5/ Why can't **περιειστήκει** have a transitive meaning? [196]

□ Language points on the second paragraph

✧ On line 1 there is a relative clause, but a qualitative relative one. // On **ἐνόμιζον** depends a very long indirect style period: two infinitive clauses depend on it, but there are some participles depending on them. // There is a nice example of indirect reflexive.

- 6/ What is the function and meaning of **ἰδίᾳ**? [108]
- 7/ What can you say about this unusual augment in **ἐώρων**? [151] // **ἐν τῷ κοινῷ** IN THE COMMON: what noun would be missing here?
- 8/ What is the meaning of the expression **ἐν τῷ παρόντι**? [241]
- 9/ Explain this **σφίσιν**: why not **αὐτοῖς**? The same on line 11 with **σφῶν**: why not **αὐτῶν**? [86] // What does the combination **ἄλλως τε καὶ** mean? [107]
- 10/ Why does the participle **παρεσκευασμένους** have an augment? [154]
- 11/ **ἀποστάντας** is a strong aorist; what is its weak aorist? (obviously, with another meaning). [195]

□ Language points on the third paragraph

✧ Six infinitives: a main one, and five depending on it. Moreover, some of the five infinitive clauses have their own subordinates, participles, etc.

- 12/ What meaning does the word **ὡς** give to the expression **ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων**? // **ἂν δύνωνται**: What could you have found instead of subjunctive + **ἂν**? Why? [292]
- 13/ Why is **ἐλέσθαι** in the middle voice? What would it mean if it were in the active voice? [136], [212]