

ANAXIMENES TO PYTHAGORAS

Diogenes Laërtius II, 5 Long reads: Ἐβουλότατος ἦς ἡμέων, μεταναστὰς ἐκ Σάμων ἐς Κρότωνα, ἐνθάδε εἰρηνέεις. οἱ δὲ Αἰακῆος παῖδες ἅλαστα κατὰ ἔρδουσι καὶ Μιλησίους οὐκ ἐπιλείπουσιν αἰσυμνῆται.

1. The first sentence should read either: *Ἐβουλότατος ἦς ἡμέων μεταναστὰς ἐκ Σάμων ἐς Κρότωνα ἐνθάδε εἰρηνέεις*. Or: *Ἐβουλότατος ἦς ἡμέων μεταναστὰς ἐκ Σάμων ἐς Κρότωνα, ἐνθα δὴ εἰρηνέεις* ('where you live in peace'; cf. Denniston, *Gr. Part.*², p. 207). I think the first choice should be preferred in view of the epistolographic style. Cf., e.g., the first letter of Anaximenes to Pythagoras (Diog. Laërt. II, 4): *Θαλῆς ... οὐκ εὐποτμος οἴχεται εὐφρόνης ... προῖων ... ἐθρεῖτο ...*

2. In the second sentence the usual living object to *ἔρδειν* is missing (cf., e.g., *Iliad* V, 175 f. = XVI, 424 f. *κατὰ πολλὰ ἔροργε/Τρώας*. Herodotus I, 137.1 *τινὰ ... ἀνήκεστον πάθος ἔρδειν*). I think the missing word is *Σαμίους* (dropped because of the *homoioteleuton* with *Μιλησίους*). Thus read: *οἱ δὲ Αἰακῆος παῖδες ἅλαστα κατὰ ἔρδουσι (Σαμίους,) καὶ Μιλησίους οὐκ ἐπιλείπουσιν αἰσυμνῆται*, and notice the chiasmic structure of the sentence: tyrants + verb + object :: object + verb + tyrants.

Evidently, the sons of Aeaces are Polycrates and Syloson. As for their atrocities (*ἅλαστα κατὰ*) against the Samians, I think the author of the letter had in mind such a passage from Herodotus as this one (III, 45.4): 'Polycrates took the children and wives of the citizens subject to him and shut them in the ship-yard, with intent to burn them and the ship-sheds if the citizens should desert to the returning Samians.'

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