

AGE Unit 7 (-ω verbs) Part 4 (contract verbs)
CLASSICAL reading

Xenophon *Memorabilia* 4.2-6

Xenophon published a collection of his recollections of his time spent with Socrates. Here, Xenophon dramatizes a conversation between Socrates and Euthydemus about how people who know best act best, using the examples of piety and justice:

Εἰπέ μοι, ἔφη, ὦ Εὐθύδημε, ποῖόν τι νομίζεις εὐσέβειαν εἶναι;
καὶ ὅς, Κάλλιστον νῆ Δί', ἔφη.

Socrates asks if a pious person can honor the gods however they want.

Euthydemus replies: Οὐκ ἀλλὰ νόμοι εἰσὶ καθ' οὓς δεῖ τοὺς θεοὺς τιμᾶν.

Socrates asks if someone who knows these laws then knows how to honor the gods, and Euthydemus answers yes.

Socrates continues:

Ἄρ' οὖν ὁ εἰδὼς ὡς δεῖ τοὺς θεοὺς τιμᾶν οὐκ ἄλλως οἶεται δεῖν τοῦτο ποιεῖν ἢ ὡς οἶδεν;

Οὐ γὰρ οὖν, ἔφη.

Ἄλλως δέ τις θεοὺς τιμᾶ ἢ ὡς οἶεται δεῖν;

Οὐκ οἶμαι, ἔφη.

Socrates asks if someone who knows these laws then knows honors the gods lawfully, and Euthydemus answers yes.

Socrates continues:

Οὐκοῦν ὁ γε νομίμως τιμῶν ὡς δεῖ τιμᾶ;

Πῶς γὰρ οὖν;

Ὅ δέ γε ὡς δεῖ τιμῶν εὐσεβῆς ἐστι;

Πάνυ μὲν οὖν, ἔφη.

Socrates asks if someone who knows laws about the gods properly is pious, and Euthydemus answers yes.

Socrates now asks if humans can treat each other however they wish. Euthydemus answers no: there are laws according to which they must treat each other. Over a series of questions parallel to those about honoring the gods, they agree that someone who treats people well (καλῶς) according to the laws is conducting human affairs well.

Socrates continues:

Οὐκοῦν οἱ τοῖς νόμοις πειθόμενοι δίκαια οὗτοι ποιοῦσι;

Πάνυ μὲν οὖν, ἔφη.

Socrates asks Euthydemus for a definition of δίκαια.

Euthydemus replies:

Ἄ οἱ νόμοι κελεύουσιν, ἔφη.

Οἱ ἄρα ποιοῦντες ἅ οἱ νόμοι κελεύουσι δίκαιά τε ποιοῦσι καὶ ἅ δεῖ;

Πῶς γὰρ οὖν;

Οὐκοῦν οἱ γε τὰ δίκαια ποιοῦντες δίκαιοί εἰσιν;

Οἶμαι ἔγωγ', ἔφη.

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Οἶει οὖν τινὰς πείθεσθαι τοῖς νόμοις, μὴ εἰδότας ἅ οἱ νόμοι κελεύουσιν;

Οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἔφη.

Εἰδότας δὲ ἅ δεῖ ποιεῖν οἶει τινὰς οἴεσθαι δεῖν μὴ ταῦτα ποιεῖν;

Οὐκ οἶμαι, ἔφη.

Οἶδας δὲ τινὰς ἄλλα ποιοῦντας ἢ ἅ οἴονται δεῖν;

Οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἔφη.

Οἱ ἄρα τὰ περὶ ἀνθρώπους νόμιμα εἰδότες οὗτοι τὰ δίκαια ποιοῦσι;

Πάνυ μὲν οὖν, ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν οἱ γε τὰ δίκαια ποιοῦντες δίκαιοί εἰσι;

Τίνες γὰρ ἄλλοι; ἔφη.

Socrates asks if they can now conclude that people who know the laws about how to treat people are the just, and Euthydemus answers yes.

VOCABULARY

ἄλλα (nom/acc pl) τό other things

ἄλλοι (nom pl) ὁ other

ἄλλως...ἢ other ways...than

ἀνθρώπους (acc pl) ὁ humans

ἄρα makes a yes/no question

γε emphasizes preceding word

δεῖ it is necessary δεῖν (inf)

δίκαια (nom/acc pl) τό just things

δίκαιοι (nom pl) ὁ just

ἔγωγ' = ἐγώ γε

εἰδώς -ότος ὁ one who knows

εἰπέ tell! (a command)

ἔφη "he said"

εὐσέβειαν (acc s) ἡ piety

εὐσεβής (nom sg) ὁ pious

ἢ makes a yes/no question

θεούς (acc pl) ὁ gods

κάλλιστον (nom/acc sg) τό

a very beautiful thing

κελεύω -σω order

μοι (dat sg) me

νὴ Δί' "by Zeus!"

νομίζω, νομιῶ believe

νόμιμα (nom/acc pl) τό laws

νομίμως lawfully

νόμοι (nom pl) νόμοις (dat pl) ὁ laws

οἶδας (2nd sg) οἶδεν (3rd sg) know

οἶμαι/οἴομαι (1st sg) οἶει (2nd sg) οἶεται (3rd sg)

οἴονται (3rd pl) οἴεσθαι (pres inf) think

οὐκοῦν strong version of οὖν

οὗτοι (nom pl) ὁ these

πάνυ totally

πείθεσθαι (pres inf) obey (+ dat.)

πειθόμενοι (nom pl) ὁ obedient (+ dat.)

ποιῶν what sort of?

ποιῶν -οῦντος ὁ one who does

πῶς how?

ταῦτα (nom/acc pl) τό these

τιμάω -ήσω honor

τιμῶν -ώντος ὁ one who honors

τοῦτο (nom/acc sg) τό this

ὦ used when calling out to someone