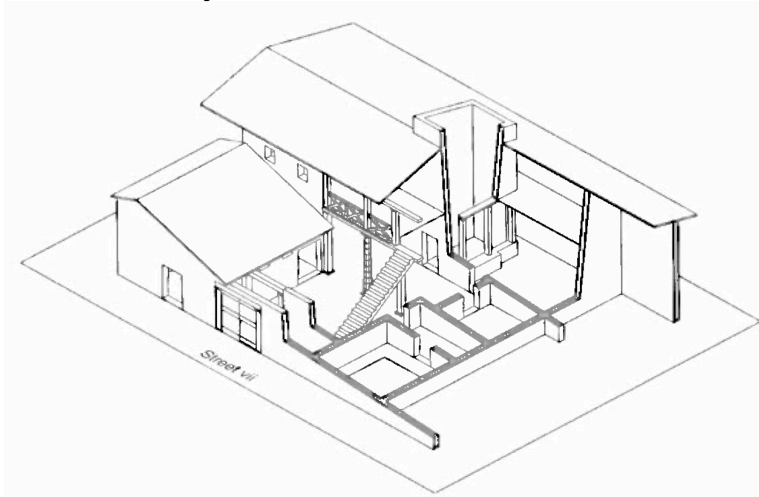


Anatomy of an Inheritance (Dem. 27-28)



1. Dem. 27 Against Aphobos I

ἐπειδὴ δ' οὗτος τοὺς μὲν σαφῶς εἰδότες τὰ ἡμέτερ' ἔφυγε μηδὲν διαγνῶναι περὶ αὐτῶν, εἰς δ' ὑμᾶς τοὺς οὐδὲν τῶν ἡμετέρων ἀκριβῶς ἐπισταμένους ἐλήλυθεν, ἀνάγκη ἐστὶν ἐν ὑμῖν παρ' αὐτοῦ πειραῖσθαι τῶν δικαίων τυγχάνειν. (27.1-2)

Since the defendant refused to let those who know our business clearly make a decision about these matters, and has come before you, who know nothing accurately about our business, I have to try to obtain justice from him in your presence.

2.

ταῦτα γὰρ μαθόντες ἀκριβῶς εἴσεσθε, ὅτι τῶν πώποτ' ἐπιτροπευσάντων οὐδένας ἀναιδέστερον οὐδὲ περιφανέστερον ἢ οὗτοι τὰ ἡμέτερα διηρπάκασιν. (27.7-8)

Once you've learned these things accurately, you will know that no guardian has plundered more shamefully or more entirely manifestly than the defendants have plundered our estate.

3.

ταῦθ' ὑμῖν ἤδη ἐπιδείξω καθ' ἕκαστον. πρῶτον μὲν οὖν περὶ τῶν κλινοποιῶν, οὓς κατέλιπε μὲν ὁ πατήρ, ἀφανίζουσι δ' οὗτοι ... ἐπιδείξω ὑμῖν ὡς λίαν ἀναιδῶς καὶ φανερώς μ' ἀποστεροῦσιν. (27.24)

Now I will show you these things one by one. First of all, about the bed-makers that my father left when he died, and the defendants made disappear,... I will show you how very shamefully and manifestly they robbed me.

4.

ἔτι δ' ἀκριβέστερον ἔγνωτ' ἄν, εἴ μοι τὰς διαθήκας, ἃς ὁ πατήρ κατέλιπεν, οὗτοι ἀποδοῦναι ἠθέλησαν.... νῦν δ' ἀπαιτοῦντος ἐμοῦ καταλειφθῆναι μὲν ὁμολογοῦσιν, αὐτὰς δ' οὐκ ἀποφαίνουσιν. ταῦτα δὲ ποιοῦσι τό τε πλήθος οὐ βουλόμενοι καταφανὲς ποιῆσαι τῆς οὐσίας τὸ καταλειφθῆναι, ὃ διηρπάκασιν οὗτοι. (27.40-41)

You would know even more accurately if they were willing to hand over the will which my father left behind.... But as it is, when I ask for it, they admit that a will was left, but they don't report it. They do this because they don't want to make visible the size of the property that was left, which they stole.

5.

πῶς οὖν ἄν τις σαφέστερον ἐπιδείξειε πάντα διηρπάκωτα... ἐγὼ μὲν οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ἄν τις σαφέστερον ἐπιδείξειεν. (27.47-48)

How could anyone show everything that has been stolen more clearly?... I don't know of any way someone could show it more clearly.

6. Dem. 28 *Against Aphobos II*

λαβέ δὴ τὰς μαρτυρίας καὶ ἀνάγνωθ' αὐτοῖς πάσας ἐφεξῆς, ἵνα μνησθέντες καὶ τῶν μεμαρτυρημένων καὶ τῶν εἰρημένων ἀκριβέστερον γιγνώσκωσι περὶ αὐτῶν. (28.10)

Take the depositions and read them all in order for them, so that, remembering both what has been seen and what has been said, they can know more accurately about these things.

7.

ὁ γὰρ πατήρ... συγκαλέσας τούτους τρεῖς ὄντας, καὶ συμπαρακαθισάμενος Δῆμωνα τὸν ἀδελφόν, τὰ σώμαθ' ἡμῶν εἰς τὰς χεῖρας ἐνέθηκε παρακαταθήκην ἐπονομάζων..., ἐμὲ δὲ πᾶσι κοινῇ μετὰ τῶν χρημάτων παρακατατιθέμενος... κάμ' εἰς τὰ τούτου γόνατα τιθείς. (28.15-16)

My father... after calling together these three men, and seating his brother Demon right next to them, placed our bodies into their hands, calling us a deposit... he entrusted me to all in common along with the money... and he placed me on the defendant's knees.

8.

βοηθήσατ' οὖν ἡμῖν, βοηθήσατε, καὶ τοῦ δικαίου καὶ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἕνεκα καὶ ἡμῶν καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς τοῦ τετελευτηκότος. σώσατ', ἐλεήσατε, ἐπειδὴ μ' οὔτοι συγγενεῖς ὄντες οὐκ ἠλέησαν. εἰς ὑμᾶς καταπεφεύγαμεν. ἰκετεύω, ἀντιβολῶ πρὸς παίδων, πρὸς γυναικῶν, πρὸς τῶν ὄντων ἀγαθῶν ὑμῖν. (28.20)

Help us, help, and for the sake of justice, for your own sakes, for us, and for my dead father. Save me, pity me, since those who are my family members did not pity me. We have come to you for refuge. I beg you, I entreat you by your children, your wives, by all the good things you have.

Bibliography

- Bachelard, Gaston. 1964. *The Poetics of Space*. Translated by Maria Jolas. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Cahill, Nicholas. 2002. *Household and City Organization at Olynthus*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Carey, Christopher. 1994. "'Artless' Proofs in Aristotle and the Orators." *BICS* 39: 95-106.
- Christ, Matthew. 1990. "Liturgy Avoidance and Antidosis in Classical Athens." *TAPA* 120: 147-169.
- Gabrielson, Vincent. 1986. "Φανερά and ἀφανής οὐσία in Classical Athens." *CM* 37: 99-114.
- Gagarin, Michael. 2014. "Methods of Argument in Lysias and Demosthenes: A Comparison." In *Papers in Rhetoric XII*, eds. Lucia Calboli Montefusco and Maria Silvana Celentano. Perugia: 87-97.
- Humphreys, Sally. 1983. *The Family, Women and Death: Comparative Studies*. London, Boston, Melbourne, and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Johnstone, Steven. 2003. "Women, Property, and Surveillance in Classical Athens." *CA* 22.2: 247-274.
- MacDowell, Douglas M. 2004. *Demosthenes 27-38*. University of Texas Press.
- MacDowell, Douglas M. 2009. *Demosthenes the Orator*. Oxford University Press.
- Nevett, Lisa. 1995. "Gender Relations in the Classical Greek Household: The Archaeological Evidence." *BSA* 90: 364-381
- O'Connell, Peter. 2017. *The Rhetoric of Seeing in Attic Forensic Oratory*. University of Texas Press.
- Serafim, Andreas. 2017. *Attic Oratory and Performance*. London and New York: Routledge.