

The Rhetoric of Slavery in Demosthenes 36 and the Characterization of Apollodorus and Phormion.

Texts: (All translations are my own unless otherwise noted).

1. Επιτιμᾶς δέ μοι καὶ τὴν ἐν τοῖς μυρίοις ἐν Αρκαδίᾳ δημηγορίαν καὶ πρεσβείαν, καὶ μεταβεβλῆσθαι με φῆς, αὐτὸς ὁν ἀνδραποδώδης καὶ μόνον οὐκ ἔστιγμένος αὐτόμολος.

But you find fault with my service as ambassador to Arcadia and my speeches before the Ten Thousand there, and you say that I have changed sides, yourself more slave than freeman, all but branded as a runaway. (Aeschines 2.79 Loeb).

2. εἰ σκέψαιτο πρὸς αὐτὸν ἔκαστος ὑμῶν τίν' οἴκοι κατέλιπεν οὐκέτην, εἴθ' ὑπὸ τούτου πεπονθόθ' ἐαυτὸν θείη ταῦθ' ἅπερ ἡμεῖς ὑπὸ τούτου. μὴ γὰρ εἰ Σύρος ἢ Μάνης ἢ τίς ἔκαστος ἐκείνων, οὗτος δὲ Φορμίων· ἀλλὰ τὸ πρᾶγμα ταῦτό· δοῦλοι μὲν ἐκεῖνοι, δοῦλος δ' οὗτος ἦν, δεσπόται δ' ὑμεῖς, δεσπότης δ' ἦν ἐγώ.

If only each of you would consider what household-slave he left at home, and pretend that you have suffered the same things from that slave that we have suffered from this man (aka Phormion). Do not keep in mind that each of them is either Syros or Manes or something else, while he is Phormion. Regardless, the matter is the same. They are slaves, and he was a slave, you all are masters, and I was a master. ([Dem]) 45.86

3. οὐκοῦν δεινόν, ὃ γῆ καὶ θεοί, καὶ πέρα δεινοῦ, τοὺς Ἑλληνα μὲν ἀντὶ βαρβάρου ποιήσαντας, γνώριμον δ' ἀντ' ἀνδραπόδου, τοσούτων δ' ἀγαθῶν ἡγεμόνας, τούτους περιορᾶν ἐν ταῖς ἐσχάταις ἀπορίαις ὄντας ἔχοντα καὶ πλουτοῦντα.

It is a terrible thing, oh earth and gods, even beyond terrible, that he (i.e. Phormion) should allow those men who made him Greek instead of Barbarian, and a notable man instead of a slave, who led him to such great fortunes, to be in the most extreme povertyes while he has plenty and is very wealthy. ([Dem.]45.73)

4. εῖτ' εἰς τοῦθ' ἥκεις μανίας (τί γὰρ ἄλλο τις εἶπη;) ὥστ' οὐκ αἰσθάνει, ὅτι καὶ νῦν ἡμεῖς μὲν ἀξιοῦντες, ἐπειδήπερ ἀπηλλάγη Φορμίων, μηδέν' ὑπόλογον εἶναι, εἴ ποτε τοῦ σου πατρὸς ἐγένετο, ὑπὲρ σου λέγομεν, σὺ δὲ μηδέποτ' ἐξ Ἰσου σοι γενέσθαι τοῦτον ἀξιῶν, κατὰ σαυτοῦ λέγεις.

You have come to such a point of insanity (for what else what one call it?) that you do not understand, that we who now claim that, since Phormion has been freed, it should not be held against him that he once belonged to your father, are speaking in your favor, whereas you are speaking against yourself. (Demosthenes 36.48).

5. καίτοι εἰ κατὰ τοῦτ' οἵει σοι προσήκειν τῶν τούτου, ὅτι τοῦ πατρός ποτ' ἐγένετο τοῦ σου, ἐκείνῳ προσήκει μᾶλλον ἢ σοί: ὁ γὰρ αὖ σὸς πατὴρ ἐκείνῳν ἐγένετο, ὥστε καὶ σὺ καὶ οὗτος ἐκείνου γίγνεσθ' ἐκ τούτου τοῦ λόγου.

For if you think that you have a claim on his property (i.e. Phormion's), because he once belonged to your dad, Antimachus (that guy) has more of a right to it than you: for your father belonged to those guys, so that both you and him (Phormion) now belong to Antimachus (that guy) according to that argument.

(Demosthenes 36.46)

6. οὐδὲ γὰρ Πασίων ὁ σὸς πατὴρ ἐκτήσαθ' εὐρὼν οὐδὲ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῷ παραδόντος, ἀλλὰ παρὰ τοῖς αὐτοῦ κυρίοις Ἀντισθένει καὶ Ἀρχεστράτῳ τραπεζιτεύουσι πεῖραν δοὺς ὅτι χρηστός ἐστι καὶ δίκαιος, ἐπιστεύθη. ἐστι δ' ἐν ἐμπορίῳ καὶ χρήμασιν ἔργαζομένοις ἀνθρώποις φιλεργὸν δόξαι καὶ χρηστὸν εἶναι τὸν αὐτὸν θαυμαστὸν ἡλίκον. οὗτ' οὖν ἐκείνῳ τοῦθ' οἱ κύριοι παρέδωκαν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἔφυ χρηστός, οὕτε τῷδ' ὁ σὸς πατὴρ: σὲ γὰρ ἂν πρότερον τοῦδε χρηστὸν ἐποίησεν, εἰ ἦν ἐπ' ἐκείνῳ. εἰ δὲ τοῦτ' ἀγνοεῖς, ὅτι πίστις ἀφορμὴ πασῶν ἐστι μεγίστη πρὸς χρηματισμόν, πᾶν ἂν ἀγνοήσειας.

Pasion, your father, also acquired his wealth not by a windfall or by inheritance from his father, but he came to be trusted in the house of his masters, the bankers Antisthenes, and Archestratus, because he showed himself to be useful and just. To people working in commercial finance, it's a marvelous thing for the same man to be found industrious and also to be honest. That wasn't something passed on to Pasion by his masters; he was useful (or reliable) by his own doing. Likewise, your father didn't pass it on to Phormion; he'd have preferred to make you honest, if it had been in his power! If you don't understand that trustworthiness is the best of all foundations for making money, you won't understand anything. Apart from that, Phormion has been useful in many ways to your father and to you and to your business in general. (Demosthenes 36.43-44). (**MacDowell translation with some modifications**)

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