

γόνιμος ποιητής: Class and Aristophanes' Victory in *Frogs*
(First paper session, Section A: Aristophanes)

1. *Frogs* 946-947

Euripides:

ἀλλ' οὐξίων πρώτιστα μὲν μοι τὸ γένος εἶπ'
ἂν εὐθύς
τοῦ δράματος.

...but the person who walked out very first would immediately state the origin of the play for me.

2. *Frogs* 3, 30; 5, 20

Dionysus:

νῆ τὸν Δί' ὃ τι βούλει γε, πλήν "πιέζομαι."

Xanthias:

οὐκ οἶδ' ὃ δ' ὤμος οὐτοσὶ πιέζεται.

By Zeus, whatever you'd like, except "I'm being squeezed"...

I don't know; but this here shoulder is being squeezed.

Dionysus:

πλήν γ' "ὡς θλίβομαι."

Xanthias:

ὦ τρισκακοδαίμων ἄρ' ὃ τράχηλος οὐτοσὶ,
ὅτι θλίβεται μὲν, τὸ δὲ γέλοιον οὐκ ἔρεϊ.

...except "how I'm being squished"...

Then, O this thrice-damned throat of mine, because it's being squished, but won't tell the joke.

3. *Frogs* 47-48

Heracles:

τίς ὁ νοῦς; τί κόθορνος καὶ ρόπαλον ξυνηληθέτην;
ποῖ γῆς ἀπεδήμεις;

What's the plan? Why have the Dionysian boot and the Heracleian club joined forces?

Where on earth were you visiting?

4. *Frogs* 33

Xanthias:

οἴμοι κακοδαίμων· τί γὰρ ἐγὼ οὐκ ἐναυμάχουν;

Ah, my damned luck! Why didn't I fight in the sea-battle?

5. *Ath. Pol.* (Aristotle) 28.3

...τοῦ δὲ δήμου Κλεοφῶν ὁ λυροποιός
ὃς καὶ τὴν διωβελίαν ἐπόρισε πρώτος;

...and Cleophon the lyre-maker (was leader) of the people, who also first distributed the two-obol dole.

6. *Frogs* 693-694

καὶ γὰρ αἰσχρὸν ἔστι τοὺς μὲν ναυμαχήσαντας
μίαν
καὶ Πλαταιᾶς εὐθύς εἶναι κἀντὶ δούλων
δεσπότας·

And it is shameful for those who fought in a sea-battle once straightway to be both Plataeans and masters instead of slaves.

7. *Frogs* 1009-1010, 1054-1056

Euripides:

δεξιότητος καὶ νουθεσίας, ὅτι βελτίους τε
ποιοῦμεν
τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἐν ταῖς πόλεσιν.

Aeschylus:

τοῖς μὲν γὰρ παιδαρίοισιν
ἔστι διδάσκαλος ὅστις φράζει, τοῖσιν δ' ἡβῶσι
ποιηταί.
πάνυ δὲ δεῖ χρηστὰ λέγειν ἡμᾶς.

For cleverness and foresight, and because we make men in the city better.

For little children it is the teacher who shows the way, but for adults it is poets.

Above all we must speak good things.

8. *Frogs* 676-678

Chorus:

...οὐ σοφίαι
μυρίαί κάθηνται
φιλοτιμότεραι Κλεοφῶντος...

...where countless
intelligences sit,
more ambitious than Cleophon...

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