

## War and Peace in Themistius' Oration 10

All the passages are from *Orat. 10* and all the translations from *Heather-Matthews 1991, 36-50*.

### A) War and peace complement each other

1) **131 a:** πολέμου γὰρ ἄθλον εἰρήνην

**131 a:** “The prize of war is peace”

2) **131 b-c:** Καὶ τοῦτο οὖν ἐγὼ Πλάτωνος θαυμάζω καὶ ἔτι μᾶλλον, ὅταν διδάσκη ὅτι πολέμου καὶ εἰρήνης σπέρματα ἐν ἐκάστη ψυχῇ πρῶτόν ἐστι...τι καὶ ἐν ἐκάστῳ βάρβαρον φύλον, λίαν αὐθάδες καὶ δυσπειθές, τὸν θυμὸν λέγω καὶ τὰς ἀπλήστους ἐπιθυμίας, ἀντικαθήμενα γένη τῷ λογισμῷ, καθάπερ Ῥωμαίοις Σκύθαι καὶ Γερμανοί

**131 b-c:** “I have yet greater admiration for Plato for this, when he teaches us that the seeds of war and peace exist first within each and every soul [*Laws 628 E*] ... there is in each of us a barbarian tribe, extremely overbearing and intractable, I mean the temper and the insatiate desires, which stand opposed to the rational elements as the Scythians and the Germans”

3) **138 b:** Καὶ νῦν παρατέταται μὲν ἡ εἰρήνη διὰ πάντων σχεδὸν τῶν μεθορίων, παρατέταται δὲ ἡ τοῦ πολέμου παρασκευή. οἶδε γὰρ βασιλεὺς ὡς ἐκεῖνοι μάλιστα εἰρηνηεῦουσιν (*ἀληθεύουσιν*) ὅσοι μάλιστα εἰσι πρὸς τὸν πόλεμον ἠἵτρεπισμένοι.

**138 b:** “Now peace is extended over virtually the whole border area, so is the readiness to war. For the king knows that they who **bring peace** (or *speak truth*) they who are the best prepared for war” (*Vegetius 3 praefatio*: “*qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum*”)

### B) Fortifications along the Danubian *limes*

4) **136 a and c:** τῶν φρουρίων τὰ μὲν ᾠκοδόμησεν ἐκ καινῆς, τὰ δὲ ἀνέστησε κατατετριμμένα, τοῖς δὲ προσέθηκε τὸ ἐνδέον, ὕψους μὲν ἢ χθαμαλότερον ἦν, πάχους δὲ ὅπου τούτου προσέδει, ὕδατος δὲ ἀφθονίαν, ἢ ταύτη πρότερον ἐπιέζετο, τροφῶν δὲ θησαυροὺς ἀπανταχοῦ καὶ λιμένας τῆς γειτνιώσης θαλάσσης, καὶ στρατιώτας ἐκ καταλόγου, καὶ φρουροὺς τὸν ἀριθμὸν οὐ ψευδομένους, καὶ ὅπλα καὶ βέλη καὶ μηχανήματα, ἅπαντα εἰς τὸ ἔσχατον ἐξητασμένα ... [c] ἀνωθεν μέχρι θαλάττης δόξαις ἂν τεῖχος ἀδαμάντινον ἐληλάσθαι· τοιοῦτῳ καταπεπύκνωται χαρακώματι φρουρίων, ὀπλων, στρατιωτῶν

**136 a and c:** “(*The Emperor*) built some completely new border forts, restored others that had fallen in disrepair and furnished others with what they required –height where this was too low, thickness where this was needed, an abundant water supply where before this was sorely lacking, hoards of provisions everywhere and ports on the neighboring coastline, soldiers from the lists and garrisons whose number were not fraudulent, weapons and missiles and war engines- everything was calculated down to the last detail....[c] From the hinterland to the coast you would think that a wall of adamant had been marked out, with such a defensive bulwark of forts, arms and soldiers has it been consolidated”

5) **138 b:** γέμει δὲ ἡ μὲν ὄχθη φρουρίων, τὰ δὲ φρούρια στρατιωτῶν, οἱ στρατιῶται δὲ ὀπλων, τὰ δὲ ὅπλα κάλλους ἅμα καὶ ἀσφαλείας.

**138 b:** “The river bank bears its burden of forts, the forts their burden of soldiers, the soldiers their weapons, the weapons their splendor and protection”

### C) Discipline in the army

6) **138 c:** καὶ τρυφή μὲν ἐξελήλαται τῶν καταλόγων, περιουσία δὲ ἀντεισῆκται τῶν ἀναγκαίων, δι' ἣν οἱ φρουροῦντες οὐκ ἀναγκάζονται ἀντὶ τῶν βαρβάρων πολεμεῖν τοῖς ὑπηκόοις, κάκεινων μὲν ἀπέχεσθαι διὰ τὰς σπονδάς, φέρειν δὲ καὶ ἄγειν τοὺς γεωργοῦντας διὰ τὴν ἔνδειαν, ἀλλ' ἀντέστραπται οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως τοῖς στρατιώταις πρὸς τὴν εἰωθυῖαν τάξιν ὁ φόβος καὶ ἡ θρασύτης. καταφρονοῦσι μὲν γὰρ τῶν βαρβάρων, ὑπερδεδοίκασι δὲ τοὺς γεωρούς. καὶ τὸ παρ' ἐκείνων μέμψιν ὑπομεῖναι φοβερώτερον αὐτοῖς ἢ μυριάδες Σκυθῶν ἐπιούσαι. οὕτω καὶ ἔξωθεν καὶ ἔνδοθεν ἡμᾶς εἰρήνη κατέχει, τοὺς πολεμίους μὲν ὁ τῶν ὀπλῶν φόβος, τοὺς στρατιώτας δὲ ὁ τῶν νόμων.

**138 c:** “Luxury has been banished from the lists and in its place has been restored and abundance of the necessities, so that those on garrison duty are not forced to war against the subject population instead of the barbarians, and to hold off from the latter because of the truce while they harass and harray the farmers through dire need. Fear and daring have somehow reversed their normal stations for the soldiers. They despise the barbarians but are terrified of the farmers; the censure of the latter is much more frightening to them than ten thousand attacking Scythians. Thus does peace keep hold of us, both within and without the borders, fear of arms the enemy, fear of the law our soldiers”

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