

Andocides, *On the Mysteries* – a brief introduction

Andocides' speeches feature second in the canon of ten Attic orators established in the reign of Augustus. He was born shortly before 440 BCE into an aristocratic family with ties to the Alcmaeonidae. By 415, he was a member of a group in Athens which probably had oligarchic sympathies. The assembly had voted in April that year to launch the ill-fated Sicilian expedition on the prompting of Alcibiades. Amid the final preparations, it was discovered that nearly all the public images of Hermes (see photograph) had been mutilated in the course of one night. The alarm caused by this terrible omen intensified when a certain Pythonicus accused Alcibiades and others of parodying the ceremonies of the Eleusinian Mysteries at private houses in the presence of non-initiates. The general's opponents claimed that the two crimes were part of a plot to overthrow the democracy. Andocides was among the forty-two conspirators identified. Imprisoned and facing execution, he turned informer, confessing that he and his associates had mutilated the images. His immunity was soon revoked, however, forcing him into exile. He returned to Athens and resumed his citizenship after the amnesty of 403 but was prosecuted again in 400, this time for violating a decree debarring those guilty of impiety from the temples and agora. In his defence, he delivered *On the Mysteries*, which recalls the events described above. Below are the five passages that we will be translating and discussing over the course of the week. Vocabulary lists are provided at the end of each passage.



Bibliography

- G. Dalmeyda, *Andocide. Discours*, Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 1930 (repr. 1966), pp. 17–63.
M. Edwards, *Greek Orators IV – Andocides*, Warminster: Aris and Phillips, 1995.
D. Macdowell, *Andokides. On the Mysteries*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962.

Andocides, *On the Mysteries* §§1–2

1. Τὴν μὲν παρασκευὴν, ὧ ἄνδρες, καὶ τὴν προθυμίαν τῶν ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν, ὥστ' ἐμὲ κακῶς ποιεῖν ἐκ παντὸς τρόπου καὶ δικαίως καὶ ἀδίκως, ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐπειδὴ τάχιστα ἀφικόμην εἰς τὴν πόλιν ταυτηνί, σχεδόν τι πάντες ἐπίστασθε, καὶ οὐδὲν δεῖ περὶ τούτων πολλοὺς λόγους ποιεῖσθαι· ἐγὼ δέ, ὧ ἄνδρες, δεήσομαι ὑμῶν δίκαια καὶ ὑμῖν τε ῥάδια χαρίζεσθαι καὶ ἐμοὶ ἄξια πολλοῦ τυχεῖν παρ' ὑμῶν. 2. καὶ πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθυμηθῆναι ὅτι νῦν ἐγὼ ἦκω οὐδεμιᾶς μοι ἀνάγκης οὔσης παραμεῖναι, οὔτ' ἐγγυητὰς καταστήσας οὔθ' ὑπὸ δεσμῶν ἀναγκασθεῖς, πιστεύσας δὲ μάλιστα μὲν τῷ δικαίῳ, ἔπειτα δὲ καὶ ὑμῖν, γνῶσεσθαι τὰ δίκαια καὶ μὴ περιόψεσθαι με ἀδίκως ὑπὸ τῶν ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν διαφθαρέντα, ἀλλὰ πολὺ μᾶλλον σώσειν δικαίως κατὰ τε τοὺς νόμους τοὺς ὑμετέρους καὶ τοὺς ὄρκους οὓς ὑμεῖς ὁμόσαντες μέλλετε τὴν ψῆφον οἴσειν.

Vocabulary

ἀναγκάζω, aor. pass. ἠναγκάσθην 'constrain'

ἀνάγκη, -ῆς ἢ 'compulsion' + dat. pers. + inf.

ἄξιος πολλοῦ 'worth much, of great consequence'

ἀφικνοῦμαι (-έομαι) aor. ἀφικόμην 'come'

γινώσκω, fut. γνώσομαι 'form a judgement, make a decision'

δέομαι, fut. δεήσομαι 'ask' + gen. pers. + inf.

δεσμός, -οῦ ὁ 'band, anything for tying, (in pl.) bonds, chains'

διαφθείρω, aor. pass. διεφθάρην ‘destroy’

ἐγγυητής, -οῦ ὁ ‘surety, i.e. a person who guarantees that the accused will appear in court’

ἐνθυμοῦμαι (-έομαι), aor. pass. ἐνθυμήθην ‘bear in mind, consider’

ἐπειδὴ τάχιστα ‘as soon as possible’

ἔπειτα (adv.) ‘then, thereafter’

καθίστημι, 1st aor. κατέστησα ‘appoint, give (a surety – see ἐγγυητής)’

κακῶς ποιῶ ‘do harm, injure’

κατά (prep.) ‘according to, in accordance with’+ acc.

μάλιστα (superl. adv.) ‘above all’

μᾶλλον (compar. adv.) ‘rather’

μέλλω ‘be about to, going to’ + fut. inf.

ὄμνυμι, aor. ὄμοσα ‘swear (an oath)’

ὄρκος, -ου ὁ ‘oath’

οὗτοσί, αὐτήι, τουτί ‘this (here)’

παρασκευή, -ῆς ἡ ‘preparation’

περιόρῶ (-άω), fut. περιόψομαι ‘overlook, look on (without regarding), i.e. allow’

πιστεύω ‘trust’ + dat. or indir. stat., i.e. ‘trust that...’

προθυμία, -ας ἡ ‘eagerness’

σώζω, fut. σώσω ‘save’

τυγχάνω, aor. ἔτυχον ‘attain’

ψῆφος, -ου ὁ ‘a pebble (used for voting)’

Andocides, *On the Mysteries* §§11–13

11. ἦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκκλησία τοῖς στρατηγοῖς τοῖς εἰς Σικελίαν, Νικία καὶ Λαμάχῳ καὶ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ, καὶ τριήρης ἡ στρατηγὶς ἤδη ἐξώρμει ἡ Λαμάχου· ἀναστὰς δὲ Πυθόνικος ἐν τῷ δήμῳ εἶπεν· ὦ Ἀθηναῖοι, ὑμεῖς μὲν στρατιὰν ἐκπέμπετε καὶ παρασκευὴν τοσαύτην, καὶ κίνδυνον ἀρεῖσθαι μέλλετε· Ἀλκιβιάδην δὲ τὸν στρατηγὸν ἀποδείξω ὑμῖν τὰ μυστήρια ποιοῦντα ἐν οἰκίᾳ μεθ' ἐτέρων, καὶ ἐὰν ψηφίσθητε ἄδειαν ὧς ἐγὼ κελεύω, θεράπων ὑμῖν ἐνὸς τῶν ἐνθάδε ἀνδρῶν ἀμύητος ὧν ἐρεῖ τὰ μυστήρια· εἰ δὲ μή, χρῆσθέ μοι ὅ τι ἂν ὑμῖν δοκῆ, ἐὰν μὴ τάληθῃ λέγω. **12.** ἀντιλέγοντος δὲ Ἀλκιβιάδου πολλὰ καὶ ἐξάρνου ὄντος ἔδοξε τοῖς πρυτάνεσι τοὺς μὲν ἀμυήτους μεταστήσασθαι, αὐτοὺς δ' ἰέναι ἐπὶ τὸ μειράκιον ὃ ὁ Πυθόνικος ἐκέλευε. Καὶ ὄχοντο, καὶ ἤγαγον θεράποντα Πολεμάρχου· Ἀνδρόμαχος αὐτῷ ὄνομα ἦν. Ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐψηφίσαντο αὐτῷ τὴν ἄδειαν, ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τῆ Πουλυτίωνος γίγνοιτο μυστήρια· Ἀλκιβιάδην μὲν οὖν καὶ Νικιάδην καὶ Μέλητον, τούτους μὲν αὐτοὺς εἶναι τοὺς ποιοῦντας, συμπαρεῖναι δὲ καὶ ὄραν τὰ γιγνόμενα καὶ ἄλλους, παρεῖναι δὲ καὶ δούλους, ἑαυτὸν τε καὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν καὶ Ἰκέσιον τὸν αὐλητὴν καὶ τὸν Μελήτου δούλον. **13.** πρῶτος μὲν οὗτος ταῦτα ἐμήνυσε, καὶ ἀπέγραψε τούτους· ὧν Πολύστρατος μὲν συνελήφθη καὶ ἀπέθανεν, οἱ δὲ ἄλλοι φεύγοντες ὄχοντο, καὶ αὐτῶν ὑμεῖς θάνατον κατέγνωτε. Καί μοι λαβὲ καὶ ἀνάγνωθι αὐτῶν τὰ ὀνόματα.

Vocabulary

ἄδεια, -ας ἢ ‘immunity, indemnity’
ἀείρω, fut. ἀρῶ ‘(mid. trans.) undertake’
ἀμύητος, -ον ‘uninitiated’
ἀναγιγνώσκω ‘read out’
ἀντιλέγω ‘reply, respond’
ἀπογράφω ‘denounce’
ἀποδείκνυμι ‘prove, demonstrate’
αὐλητής, -οῦ ὁ ‘flute-player’
ἔξαρνος, -ον ‘denying’
ἐξορμῶ (-έω) ‘be out of harbour’
θεράπων, -οντος ὁ ‘slave’
καταγιγνώσκω, aor. κατέγνων ‘lay a charge against’
κελεύω ‘propose’
κίνδυνος, ου ὁ ‘danger’
λέγω, fut. ἐρῶ ‘say, recite’
μεθίστημι, 1st aor. μετέστησα ‘dismiss’
μειράκιον, -ου τό ‘boy, lad’
μηνύω ‘reveal’
οἴχομαι ‘go away’
στρατηγίς, ἴδος ἢ (fem. adj.) ‘of the general’
στρατιά, -ᾶς ἢ ‘army’
συλλαμβάνω, aor. pass. συνελήφθην ‘arrest’
συμπάρεμι ‘be present also’
τάληθῆ (crasis) = τὰ ἀληθῆ
τοσοῦτος, -αύτη, -οὔτο ‘so great’
τριήρης, -ους ἢ ‘trireme’

παρασκευή, -ῆς ἢ ‘preparation, (here) armament’

πρύτανις, -εως ὁ ‘prytaneus, an executive of the boule’

χράομαι (-άομαι) ‘do’

ψηφίζω ‘vote’

Andocides, *On the Mysteries* §§34–35

34. περὶ δὲ τῶν ἀναθημάτων τῆς περικοπῆς καὶ τῆς μηνύσεως, ὥσπερ καὶ ὑπεσχόμεν ὑμῖν, οὕτω

καὶ ποιήσω· ἐξ ἀρχῆς γὰρ ὑμᾶς διδάξω ἅπαντα τὰ γεγενημένα. Ἐπειδὴ Τεῦκρος ἦλθε

Μεγαρόθεν, ἄδειαν εὐρόμενος μηνύει περὶ τε τῶν μυστηρίων ἃ ἦδει καὶ τῶν περικοψάντων τὰ

ἀναθήματα καὶ ἀπογράφει δυοῖν δέοντας εἴκοσιν ἄνδρας. Ἐπειδὴ δὲ οὗτοι ἀπεγράφησαν, οἱ μὲν

αὐτῶν φεύγοντες ὄχοντο, οἱ δὲ συλληφθέντες ἀπέθανον κατὰ τὴν Τεύκρου μήνυσιν. καὶ μοι

ἀνάγνωθι αὐτῶν τὰ ὀνόματα.

35. ONOMATA. Τεῦκρος ἐπὶ τοῖς Ἑρμαῖς ἐμήνυσεν Εὐκτήμονα, Γλαύκιππον, Εὐρύμαχον,

Πολύευκτον, Πλάτονα, Ἀντίδωρον, Χάριππον, Θεόδωρον, Ἀλκισθένη, Μενέστρατον,

Ἐρυξίμαχον, Εὐφίλητον, Εὐρυδάμαντα, Φερεκλέα, Μέλητον, Τιμάνθη, Ἀρχίδαμον, Τελένικον.

τούτων τοίνυν τῶν ἀνδρῶν οἱ μὲν ἤκουσι καὶ εἰσὶν ἐνθάδε, τῶν δὲ ἀποθανόντων εἰσὶ πολλοὶ

προσῆκοντες· ὧν ὅστις βούλεται, ἐν τῷ ἐμῷ λόγῳ ἀναβάς με ἐλεγξάτω ἢ ὡς ἔφυγέ τις δι' ἐμὲ

τούτων τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἢ ὡς ἀπέθανεν.

Vocabulary

ἀναβαίνω, aor. ἀνέβην ‘get up’

ἀνάθημα, -ατος τό ‘(here) a votive statue, image’

εἴκοσι(ν) (indecl.) ‘twenty’

δέω ‘lack’ + gen.

διά (prep.) ‘because of’ + acc.

διδάσκω, fut. διδάξω ‘explain’

δύο, δυοῖν ὀ/ή/τό ‘two’

ἐλέγχω, aor. ἤλεγξα ‘bring proof against’ + acc. pers. + indir. stat.

ἐνθάδε (adv.) ‘here’

εὐρίσκω, aor. ἤρουν ‘obtain’

ἦκω ‘have come back, have returned’

κατά (prep.) ‘because of’ + acc.

Μεγαρόθεν (adv.) ‘from Megara’

μήνυσις, -εως ἡ ‘information’

οἱ μὲν... δὲ πολλοί ‘some... many’

οἶδα, pluperf. (imperf. mean.) ἤδη ‘know’

περικοπή, -ῆς ἡ ‘mutilation’

περικόπτω ‘mutilate’

προσῆκω ‘be related to’

τοίνυν (particle) ‘well then, now’

ὑπισχνόμαι (-έομαι), aor. ὑπεσχόμην ‘promise’

ὥς (conj.) ‘that’

ὥσπερ (adv.) ‘as’

Andocides, *On the Mysteries* §§37–39

37. ἐπαρθεῖς οὖν τοῖς τῆς πόλεως κακοῖς εἰσαγγέλλει Διοκλείδης εἰς τὴν βουλήν, φάσκων εἰδέναι τοὺς περικόπαντας τοὺς Ἑρμᾶς, καὶ εἶναι αὐτοὺς εἰς τριακοσίους· ὡς δ' ἴδοι καὶ περιτύχοι τῷ πράγματι, ἔλεγε. Καὶ τούτοις, ὧ ἄνδρες, δέομαι ὑμῶν προσέχοντας τὸν νοῦν ἀναμνησθεσθαι, ἐὰν ἀληθῆ λέγω, καὶ διδάσκειν ἀλλήλους· ἐν ὑμῖν γὰρ ἦσαν οἱ λόγοι, καὶ μοι ὑμεῖς τούτων μάρτυρές ἐστε. **38.** ἔφη γὰρ εἶναι μὲν ἀνδράποδόν οἱ ἐπὶ Λαυρείῳ, δεῖν δὲ κομίσασθαι ἀποφοράν. Ἀναστάς δὲ πρὸ ψευσθεῖς τῆς ὥρας βαδίζειν· εἶναι δὲ πανσέληνον. Ἐπεὶ δὲ παρὰ τὸ προπύλαιον τοῦ Διονύσου ἦν, ὄρᾶν ἀνθρώπους πολλοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ ᾠδείου καταβαίνοντας εἰς τὴν ὀρχήστραν· δείσας δὲ αὐτούς, εἰσελθὼν ὑπὸ τὴν σκιὰν καθέζεσθαι μετὰ τοῦ κίονος καὶ τῆς στήλης ἐφ' ἧ ὁ στρατηγός ἐστιν ὁ χαλκοῦς. Ὅρᾶν δὲ ἀνθρώπους τὸν μὲν ἀριθμὸν μάλιστα τριακοσίους, ἐστάναι δὲ κύκλῳ ἀνὰ πέντε καὶ δέκα ἄνδρας, τοὺς δὲ ἀνὰ εἴκοσιν· ὄρῶν δὲ αὐτῶν πρὸς τὴν σελήνην τὰ πρόσωπα τῶν πλείστων γινώσκειν. **39.** Καὶ πρῶτον μὲν, ὧ ἄνδρες, τοῦθ' ὑπέθετο, δεινότατον πρᾶγμα, οἶμαι, ὅπως ἐν ἐκείνῳ εἶη ὄντινα βούλοιο Ἀθηναίων φάναι τῶν ἀνδρῶν τούτων εἶναι, ὄντινα δὲ μὴ βούλοιο, λέγειν ὅτι οὐκ ἦν. Ἰδὼν δὲ ταῦτ' ἔφη ἐπὶ Λαύρειον ἰέναι, καὶ τῇ ὑστεραίᾳ ἀκούειν ὅτι οἱ Ἑρμαῖ εἶεν περικεκομμένοι· γινῶναι οὖν εὐθὺς ὅτι τούτων εἶη τῶν ἀνδρῶν τὸ ἔργον.

Vocabulary

ἀμμνήσκω ‘(pass.) recall to mind’
ἀνά (prep.) ‘numbering’ + acc. numeral
ἀνδράποδον, -ου τό ‘slave’
ἀποφορά, -ᾶς ἡ ‘payment’
ἀριθμός, -οῦ ὁ ‘total, sum’
βαδίζω ‘go, walk’
δεῖ (impers.) ‘it is necessary’ + inf.
δεῖδω, aor. ἔδεισα ‘fear, be afraid of’ + acc.
δεινός, -ή, -όν ‘dangerous’
ἐάν ‘(here) whether’
εἰς ‘about, approximately’ + acc. numeral
εἰσαγγέλλω ‘bring an impeachment’
ἐπαίρω, aor. pass. ἐπήρθη ‘encourage’
ἐστί (impers.) ‘it is possible’ + inf.
καθέζομαι ‘sit’
καταβαίνω ‘go, come down’
κίων, -ονος ὁ ‘column’
κομίζω ‘(mid.) receive, collect (payment)’
μάλιστα (superl. adv.) ‘about’ with numerals
μάρτυς, -υρος ὁ/ἡ/τό ‘witness’
μεταξύ (prep.) ‘between’ + gen.
νοῦς, νοῦ ὁ ‘mind’
οἶμαι (syncopated form of οἶομαι) ‘think’
οὗ (pronoun), dat. οἰ ‘him, her, it’
πανσέληνος, -ον ‘of a full moon’
περιτυγχάνω ‘happen upon’ + dat.

πλεῖστος, -η, -ον, (superl.) ‘most’ from πολύς, -λή, -ύ

προπύλαιον, -ου τό ‘gateway’

προσέχω ‘turn towards’ + acc. + dat.

πρώ (adv.) ‘early in the day’

σκιά, -ᾶς ἡ ‘shadow’

τριακόσιοι, -αι, -α ‘three hundred’

ὑποτίθημι, 2nd aor. mid. ὑπεθέμην ‘establish (as a premise)’

ὑστεραῖος, -α, -ον ‘following, next’

φάσκω ‘say’

χαλκοῦς, -ῆ, -οῦν ‘bronze’

ψεύδω, aor. pass. ἐψεύσθην ‘(pass.) be mistaken about something’ + gen.

Andocides, *On the Mysteries* §§44–45

44. ἀκούσαντες δὲ ταῦτα Μαντίθεος καὶ Ἀψεφίων ἐπὶ τὴν ἐστίαν ἐκαθέζοντο, ἰκετεύοντες μὴ στρεβλωθῆναι ἀλλ’ ἐξεγγυθηέντες κριθῆναι. μόλις δὲ τούτων τυχόντες, ἐπειδὴ τοὺς ἐγγυητὰς κατέστησαν, ἐπὶ τοὺς ἵππους ἀναβάντες ὄχοντο εἰς τοὺς πολεμίους αὐτομολήσαντες, καταλιπόντες τοὺς ἐγγυητὰς, οὓς ἔδει ἐν τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἐνέχεσθαι ἐν οἷσπερ οὓς ἠγγυήσαντο. 45. ἡ δὲ βουλὴ ἐξελθοῦσα ἐν ἀπορρήτῳ συνέλαβεν ἡμᾶς καὶ ἔδησεν ἐν τοῖς ξύλοις. ἀνακαλέσαντες δὲ τοὺς στρατηγούς ἀνειπεῖν ἐκέλευσαν Ἀθηναίων τοὺς μὲν ἐν ἄστει οἰκοῦντας ἰέναι εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν τὰ ὄπλα λαβόντας, τοὺς δ’ ἐν μακρῷ τείχει εἰς τὸ Θησεῖον, τοὺς δ’ ἐν Πειραιεῖ εἰς τὴν Ἴπποδαμείαν ἀγορὰν, τοὺς δὲ ἰπέας ἔτι νυκτὸς σημῆναι τῇ σάλπιγγι ἢ κειν εἰς τὸ Ἀνάκιον, τὴν δὲ βουλήν εἰς ἀκρόπολιν ἰέναι κάκεῖ καθέυδειν, τοὺς δὲ πρυτάνεις ἐν τῇ θόλῳ. Βοιωτοὶ δὲ πεπυσμένοι τὰ πράγματα ἐπὶ τοῖς ὀρίοις ἦσαν ἐξεστρατευμένοι. Τὸν δὲ τῶν κακῶν τούτων αἴτιον Διοκλείδην ὡς σωτῆρα ὄντα τῆς πόλεως ἐπὶ ζεύγους ἦγον εἰς τὸ πρυτανεῖον στεφανώσαντες, καὶ ἐδείπνει ἐκεῖ.

Vocabulary

αἴτιος, -α, -ον ‘responsible for’ + gen.

ἀναβαίνω, aor. ἀνέβην ‘mount (a horse)’

ἀνακαλῶ (-έω) ‘call up, summon’

ἀναλέγω ‘proclaim’ + acc. + inf.

ἀπόρρητος, -ον ‘secret’

ἄστυ, -εως τό ‘city’

αὐτομολῶ (-έω) ‘desert’

δεῖ (impers.) ‘(here) it is fated’ + acc. pers. + inf.

δέω ‘bind, keep in bonds’

ἐγγυῶ (-άω) ‘(mid.) be a surety for’ + acc. pers.

ἐξεγγυῶ (-άω), aor. pass. ἐξεγγυήθην ‘(pass.) be bailed’

ἐξέρχομαι ‘go out’

ἐκεῖ (adv.) ‘there’

ἐκστρατεύω, perf. mid./pass. ἐξεστράτευμαι ‘(perf. pass.) be in the field’

ἐνέχω ‘(pass.) be liable to’ + ἐν + dat.

ἐστία, -ας ἡ ‘altar’

ζεῦγος, -ους τό ‘carriage’

ἱκετεύω ‘beg’ + inf.

καθέζομαι ‘sit down’

καθεύδω ‘sleep’

καταλείπω ‘leave behind’

κελεύω ‘tell, order’ + acc. pers. + inf.

κρίνω, aor. pass. ἐκρίθην ‘(pass.) be brought to trial’

μόλις (adv.) ‘barely’

ξύλον, -ου τό ‘stock(s), i.e. a device for restraining prisoners’

οἰκῶ (-έω) ‘dwell, inhabit’

ὄπλον, -ου τό ‘(pl.) arms, armour’

ὄριον, -ου τό ‘(pl.) frontier’

ὅσπερ, ἥπερ, ὅπερ ‘the same as’

πυνθάνομαι, perf. πέπυσμαι ‘learn’

σάλπιγξ, -ιγγος ἡ ‘trumpet’

σημαίνω ‘give a signal’ + inf.

στεφανῶ (-όω) ‘crown’

στρεβλῶ (-όω), aor. pass. ἐστρεβλώθην ‘torture’

σωτήρ, -ῆρος ὁ ‘saviour’

τεῖχος, -ους τό ‘wall’