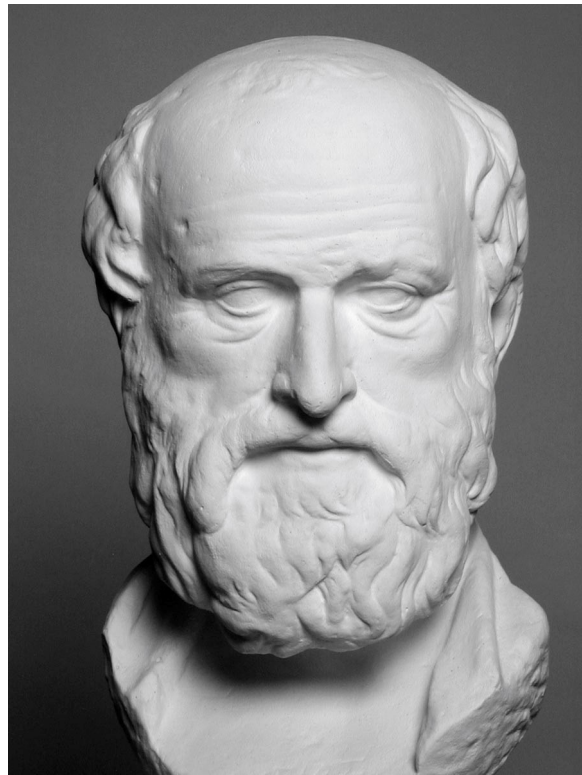


## Lysias: On the Murder of Eratosthenes.

Brief notes by P. G. Brown



### **Bibliography:**

Lysias: Selected Speeches, C. Carey, 1989.

Lysias: On the murder of Eratosthenes, M. Campbell, 1997

Lysias Orations I,III, Ruth Scodel, 1986.

The speech was delivered by Euphiletos who was charged with the murder the young Eratosthenes. Euphiletos claims he killed the young man when he

caught him in bed with his wife. The date and outcome of the speech are unknown.

### **Sections 1-5: Introduction.**

#### **Section 1.**

περὶ πολλοῦ ἂν ποιησαίμην - 'I would esteem it highly'.

τὸ ... γενέσθαι Tr. 'for you to be so disposed towards me as you would be to yourselves if you had suffered such things (i.e. the adultery)'.

ἀγανακτέω - 'to feel indignation'.

τῶν τὰ τοιαῦτα ἐπιτηδευόντων - 'those pursuing these actions'.

ζημίας -tr. 'penalties'.

#### **Section 2.**

ἐγνωσμένα - 'recognised'.

πρὸς τοὺς τὰ μέγιστα δυναμένους - 'against/in comparison to those who have the greatest power'.

χείριστον - 'the lowliest, most humble'.

τῷ βελτίστῳ -tr. 'as the most eminent'.

#### **Section 3.**

ὀλιγώρως διακεῖσθαι - 'to be so permissive in his attitude, to be disposed to take things lightly'.

#### **Section 4.**

ἐκ πένητος - 'after being poor'.

#### **Section 5.**

μόνην ἡγοῦμαι σωτηρίαν - 'I regard this as my sole deliverance'.

## **Sections 6-28: Narrative.**

### **Section 6.**

τὸν μὲν ἄλλον χρόνον -tr. 'up to that time, at that time'.

οὕτω διεκείμεν -'I was disposed thus'.

ἐπ' ἐκείνη- 'dependent on her', tr. 'nor to allow her to do whatever she wanted to'.

προσεῖχον τὸν νοῦν -'I paid attention'.

οἰκείτητ μεγίστην -tr. 'strongest bond of intimacy'.

### **Section 7.**

φειδωλός -'frugal'.

### **Section 8.**

There is either an anacolouthon here or a gap in the text.

ἐκφορά -'funeral procession'.

### **Section 9.**

διπλοῦν -'is two-storied'.

### **Section 10.**

ἡλιθίως διεκείμεν -'naively disposed', 'I had such a naïve way of looking at things'.

ἑαυτοῦ -third for first person reflexive.

### **Section 11.**

ἔδυσκόλαινεν -'was fretful, peevish'.

ἐπίτηδες -'on purpose'.

### **Section 12.**

διὰ χρόνου -'after such a time'.

**Section 13.**

προστίθησι - 'she shut' (historic present).

τὴν κλεῖν ἐφέλκεται -lit. 'dragged the bolt', tr. 'locked the door' (from the outside so that her husband was locked inside).

**Section 14.**

ψοφοῖεν - 'made a noise'.

ἐνάψασωαι - 'got a light'.

ψιμυθιώω- 'to put on makeup'. Tr. 'to have been made-up'. The word ψιμύθιον refers to white lead which was used as a cosmetic.

Thirty days was the usual period of mourning in Athens.

**Section 15.**

χρόνου μεταξὺ ... -lit. 'a period of time having passed in between and I being quite unaware (lit. left behind) of my troubles'.

**Section 16.**

μηδεμιᾶ πολυπραγμοσύνη -lit. 'with no meddlesomeness'. Tr. 'not by way of being meddlesome'.

᾽Οῦθηεν - 'from the deme of Oe.

τέχνη -tr. 'craft'.

**Section 17.**

ἡ μέταυλος θύρα καὶ ἡ αὐλειος - 'the door joining the courtyard to the hall'. One door is meant.

**Section 18.**

συνεχομένην - 'constrained, afflicted'.

ψεύδη -subjunctive for imperative.

**Section 19.**

ἐξεπλάγη - `she was shocked`.

**Section 20.**

τελευτώσα -tr. `finally`, `bringing the matter to a head`.

εἰσαγγείλειε - `acted as a go-between`.

τὰς εἰσόδους οἷς τρόποις προσίοιτο- `by what means she arranged his comings and goings (lit. entrances)`. προσίημι - `to let come to`.

ᾧ̄χετο- `she (the wife) went`. The Thesmophoria was a woman's only festival and so Eratosthenes would not have been present. The point here is that E.'s family, who were now prosecuting, were in on the act.

**Section 21.**

ἐπ' αὐτοφώρῳ- `in the very act`.

οὐδὲν δέομαι ... -lit. `I have no need of words, but to make the act apparent if it is so`. Tr. `I don't require you to say anything just a clear gesture that it is going on`.

**Section 22.**

There is lacuna after πέντε.

τηνικαῦτα - `at that hour`.

**Section 23.**

ἐπειδὴ δὲ καλῶς αὐτῷ̄ εἶχεν -Tr. `when he had had enough`, polite expression.

ἐπιδημοῦντας- `being abroad`.

**Section 24.**

ᾧ̄σαντες- `having pushed open`.

**Section 25.**

καταβάλλω - 'I knocked him down'.

ἀντιβολέω - note the double augment, 'to beseech, entreat, supplicate'.

Original meaning was 'to meet'.

**Section 26.**

κόσμιος - 'decent'.

**Section 27.**

καταφυγών - 'having taken refuge'.

δωματίω -tr. 'bedroom'.

διαφυγεῖν - 'to get past'.

**Section 28.**

ὀργὰς ... κατὰ ... παρασκευάζουσι - 'they contrive to stir up angry reactions against'.

**Sections 29-36: Arguments for the legality of his actions.****Section 29.**

ἀμφιβητέω - 'to dispute a point'.

τιμήματι - 'proposed penalty'.

συγχωρέω - 'agree'.

κυριώτερον - 'of greater authority', lit. 'more binding'.

ἐπιτηδεύω - 'to pursue'.

ἐτάξατε - 'you drew up'.

**Section 30.**

πάτριόν ἐστι καὶ ἐφ' ἡμῶν - 'in our father's day and in our own times'.

ἀποδέδοται ... - 'it has been given to judge cases of murder'.

διαρρήδην -`explicitly`.

λαβών -tr. `having caught`.

τὴν τιμωρίαν ποιήσεται -`takes it upon himself to exact punishment`.

### **Section 31.**

ἐπὶ ταῖς παλλακάϊς ...-`in regard to concubines, who were less worthy`.

### **Section 32.**

αἰσχύνῃ βία -tr. `rapes`.

διπλῆν τὴν βλάβην -`double the penalty`, probably meaning `double the penalty he would pay for raping a slave. Solon set the penalty at 100 drachmai.

ἐφ' αἴσπερ-`in cases where`.

ἐν τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἐνέχεσθαι -`he is subject to the same rules`.

### **Section 33.**

ὥστ' οἰκειότερας ...-`so as to make the wives of others more attached to themselves`.

ἐπ' ἐκείνοις-`dependent on them (the lovers)`.

### **Section 34.**

ἀπογιγνώσκειν + gen. + μή +inf. -`to acquit someone of doing something`.

ἰσχυροῦς -tr. `valid`.

### **Section 35.**

ἀπορωῶμεν -`we might be in doubt`

### **Section 36.**

οἷς-refers to the laws.

ἄδειαν -`freedom from fear, amnesty`.

ἐπαίρω -lit. lift up, tr. `incite`.

χάριεν ἔαν -lit. 'to allow to farewell', tr. 'disregard, dismiss, write off'.

τὴν δὲ ψῆφον τὴν ὑμετέραν δεδιέναι - 'whereas it is your vote they have to fear'.

κυριωτάτη -tr. 'supreme authority'.

### **Sections 37-42: Refutation of the charge of entrapment.**

It is odd that the speaker does not mention the slave girl whom E. used as a procuress or offer her up for investigation. Hence there may be more to the story than the speaker is prepared to say.

#### **Section 37.**

μετελθεῖν - 'to fetch'.

#### **Section 38.**

λόγων εἰρημένων ἔργου δὲ μηδενὸς γεγενημένου - 'there being only words and no act had been committed'.

πάντων διαπραγμένων -lit. 'all things had been achieved', i.e. he has gotten his way.

σωφρονεῖν -tr. 'to have acted appropriately'.

#### **Section 39.**

οἰκείως διακείμενος - 'being on intimate terms with me, being a close personal friend'.

ἐνθυμέομαι - 'to ponder, take to heart'.

#### **Section 40.**

αὐτῷ ἑτέρωθι δεῖπνεῖν - 'to dine elsewhere myself'.

ἔρημος -tr. 'unsupported'.

#### **Section 41.**

τὸ δεῖνα - 'such and such a person'.



οὐκ ἐπιδημοῦντας - 'who were not in town'.

**Section 42.**

τί γὰρ ἤδη - 'for how could I have known'.

**Sections 43-50: Recapitulation and direct appeal.**

**Section 43.**

**Section 44.**

συκοφαντῶν - 'was he informing on me'.

εἰ ταῦτα διαπραξαίμην - 'should I accomplish this'.

**Section 45.**

τοσούτου τοίνυν δεῖ - lit. 'it lacks so much of', tr. 'it is far from'.

**Section 46.**

ἀσεβέω - 'to commit an act of impiety'.

**Section 47.**

ὀρῶντες οἷα τὰ ἄθλα πρόκειται - lit. 'the nature of the prizes that are set up', metaphor from athletic contests, tr. 'seeing what rewards are available'.

**Section 48.**

ἐξαλειψαί - 'to erase'.

**Section 49.**

ἐνεδρεύεσθαι - 'to be entrapped'.

δεινότεροι - 'more threatening, more dangerous'.

**Section 50.**

