

ANAXIMENES TO PYTHAGORAS

Diogenes Laërtius II, 5 Long reads: Ἀναξιμένης Πυθαγόρῃ. Εὐβουλότατος ἦς ἡμέων, μεταναστὰς ἐκ Σάμου ἐς Κρότωνα, ἐνθάδε εἰρηνέεις. οἱ δὲ Αἰακῆος παῖδες ἅλαστα κακὰ ἔρδουσι καὶ Μιλησίους οὐκ ἐπιλείπουσιν αἰσυννῆται.

1. The first sentence should read either: *Εὐβουλότατος ἦς ἡμέων μεταναστὰς ἐκ Σάμου ἐς Κρότωνα ἐνθάδε εἰρηνέεις*. Or: *Εὐβουλότατος ἦς ἡμέων μεταναστὰς ἐκ Σάμου ἐς Κρότωνα, ἐνθα δὴ εἰρηνέεις* ('where you live in peace'; cf. Denniston, *Gr. Part.*², p. 207). I think the first choice should be preferred in view of the epistolographic style. Cf., e.g., the first letter of Anaximenes to Pythagoras (Diog. Laërt. II, 4): *Θαλῆς ... οὐκ εὐποτος οἴχεται εὐφρόνης ... προῖόν ... ἐθρεῖτο ...*

2. In the second sentence the usual living object to *ἔρδειν* is missing (cf., e.g., *Iliad* V, 175 f. = XVI, 424 f. *κακὰ πολλὰ ἔοργε/Τρῶας*. Herodotus I, 137.1 *τινά ... ἀνήκεστον πάθος ἔρδειν*). I think the missing word is *Σαμίους* (dropped because of the *homoioteleuton* with *Μιλησίους*). Thus read: *οἱ δὲ Αἰακῆος παῖδες ἅλαστα κακὰ ἔρδουσι <Σαμίους,> καὶ Μιλησίους οὐκ ἐπιλείπουσιν αἰσυννῆται*, and notice the chiasmic structure of the sentence: tyrants + verb + object :: object + verb + tyrants.

Evidently, the sons of Aeaces are Polycrates and Syloson. As for their atrocities (*ἅλαστα κακὰ*) against the Samians, I think the author of the letter had in mind such a passage from Herodotus as this one (III, 45.4): 'Polycrates took the children and wives of the citizens subject to him and shut them in the ship-yard, with intent to burn them and the ship-sheds if the citizens should desert to the returning Samians.'