

ARISTOPHANES

ACHARNIANS · KNIGHTS

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
LONDON, ENGLAND
1998

ARISTOPHANES

ΔΙΚΑΙΟΠΟΛΙΣ

325 ἀνταποκτεινῶ γὰρ ὑμῶν τῶν φίλων τοὺς φιλτάτους
ὥς ἔχω γ' ὑμῶν ὁμήρους, οὓς ἀποσφάξω λαβῶν.

ΚΟΡΤΦΑΙΟΣ

εἰπέ μοι, τί τοῦτ' ἀπειλεῖ τοῦπος, ἄνδρες δημόται,
τοῖς Ἀχαρνηκοῖσιν ἡμῖν; μὴν ἔχει του παιδίου
330 τῶν παρόντων ἔνδον εἴρξας; ἢ 'πὶ τῷ θρασύνεται;

ΔΙΚΑΙΟΠΟΛΙΣ

βάλλετ', εἰ βούλεσθ'. ἐγὼ γὰρ τουτονὶ διαφθερῶ.
εἴσομαι δ' ὑμῶν τάχ' ὅστις ἀνθράκων τι κήδεται.

ΚΟΡΤΦΑΙΟΣ

ὡς ἀπωλόμεσθ'. ὁ λάρκος δημότης ὅδ' ἔστ' ἐμός.
ἀλλὰ μὴ δράσης ὁ μέλλεις, μηδαμῶς, ὦ μηδαμῶς.

ΔΙΚΑΙΟΠΟΛΙΣ

(ἀντ) ὡς ἀποκτεινῶ κέκραχθ'. ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ ἀκούσομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

336 ἀπολείς ἄρ' ὁμήλικα τόνδε φιλανθρακέα;

ΔΙΚΑΙΟΠΟΛΙΣ

οὐδ' ἐμοῦ λέγοντος ὑμεῖς ἀρτίως ἠκούσατε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλὰ νυνὶ λέγ', ὅ τι
σοι δοκεῖ, τόν τε Λακε-

⁴⁵ Making charcoal was a characteristic Acharnian industry; for the parody of *Telephus* see Introductory Note.

ACHARNIANS

DICAEOPOLIS

Then I'll bite *you*! I'll kill in return your nearest and dearest; for I've got hostages of yours; I'm going to fetch them and cut their throats!

DICAEOPOLIS goes inside.

CHORUS LEADER

Tell me, fellow demesmen, what does he mean by this threat against us Acharnians? He hasn't got somebody's child, one of ours, locked up in there, has he? Then why is he so cocky?

DICAEOPOLIS reappears with a large knife and a coal basket.

DICAEOPOLIS

Pelt me, if you like! And I'll murder this!⁴⁵ I'll soon see which among you has a care for kith and kindling!

CHORUS LEADER

Now we're done for! That coal basket is from my deme! Don't do what you're set on doing! Don't, oh don't!

DICAEOPOLIS

Kill I will. Shout away; I don't intend to listen.

CHORUS

Then you'll kill this, my coeval, my coal-eague?

DICAEOPOLIS

You were deaf to *my* pleas a moment ago.

CHORUS

Very well, say your piece, tell us here and now