

aid. They, however, had been detained by Samidas, and they had no desire to risk coming to blows with the most distinguished men in Thebes, who were also famous fighters. Pelopidas duelled with Leontiadas in the narrow doorway of the bedroom. Cephisodorus lay dying between them, so that the others could not join in. In the end, our man, having dealt many wounds and himself been wounded in the head, though not seriously, succeeded in throwing Leontiadas and killing him over Cephisodorus' still-living body. Cephisodorus saw the enemy fall, gave his hand to Pelopidas, said farewell to the others, and breathed his last, a happy man. Having done with this business, they turned their attention to Hypatas. There, the door was opened to them by a similar trick, and they chased Hypatas over the roofs to a neighbour's house before cutting him down.

[34] I now learned that Epaminondas, Gorgidas, and their friends were assembling at the temple of Athena. So I went to join them. Many worthy citizens had already arrived, and more kept flocking in. When I told them in detail what had been done, and asked them to go to the market-place to help, they immediately summoned the citizens to liberation.

Epaminondas now takes charge of the crowd to avert unnecessary bloodshed and restore order in a liberated Thebes...