

Theanor:

586 And in the morning, I met Epaminondas and heard how he had buried Lysis. Then I knew that he had been educated well by Lysis even in the secret rites, and had the same *daimon* to guide his own life, if I have any capacity for identifying a pilot by the course he steers. Countless are the paths of life, but few are those in which *daimones* are men's guides.' At this, Theanor glanced at Epaminondas. He seemed to be studying his look and his air afresh.

Meanwhile, the doctor had come in and undone Simmias' bandage to attend to him. Phyllidas had also entered with Hip-

Hipposthenidas arrives to declare that he has experienced misgivings about the plot and its chances of success: he has sent a messenger to tell the exiles to turn back in order to call off the revolt.... Study the vicissitudes that the conspirators undergo here and later during the revolt for how they reveal a very different approach to behavior than that of Epaminondas.

'Tell me, Hipposthenidas,' said Phyllidas angrily, 'how many do you suppose are privy to our plot?'

'Not less than thirty, I should say,' he answered.

'Well then,' he said, 'if so many people have agreed on a thing, why have you, and you alone, stopped it and wrecked it, by sending a horseman to the men when they are already on their way, to tell them to turn back and not hurry forward today, when chance has provided almost all the conditions best for their return?'

This speech threw us all into a panic.

Charon stared hard and fiercely at Hipposthenidas.

'Villain!' he cried, 'what have you done to us?'

'Nothing to be alarmed about,' he answered, 'if only you will speak a little less roughly and share the thinking of a man of your own age, with just as many grey hairs as you have. If we are resolved to show to our fellow-citizens a courage that seeks danger and a spirit careless of life, then, Phyllidas, there's plenty of the day left. Let us not wait till evening. Let us seize our swords and go and attack the tyrants. Let us kill or die and not spare ourselves. But, while there is no difficulty in all that, it's very far from easy to rescue Thebes from armed occupation when it is surrounded by such large enemy forces, or to expel the Spartan garrison at the cost of two or three casualties. I don't imagine Phyllidas has got in enough wine for his hospitable party to make Archias' fifteen hundred guards drunk! Even if we kill him, we shall still have Herippidas and Arcesus to deal with during the night, and they will be sober. So why are we so anxious to bring our friends and kindred home to certain death?