



## Lesson 11: Reading from Xenophon, *Memorabilia*

Xenophon, a general and historian of the 4th century BCE, wrote among other works the *Memorabilia*, a collection of discussions between Socrates and (typically) young Athenian men which begins in defense of the philosopher. He refers here to the trial of the philosopher Socrates at Athens in 399 BCE, as a result of which he was condemned to death. Mark the syntax and translate.

1) πολλάκις ἐθαύμασα τίσι ποτε<sup>1</sup> λόγοις Ἀθηναίους ἔπεισαν ἐκεῖνοι

ὥς<sup>2</sup> Σωκράτης ἄξιός ἐστι θανάτου. ἡ μὲν γὰρ γραφή κατ' αὐτοῦ ἦν ἥδε·

ἀδικεῖ μὲν Σωκράτης διότι οὐ νομίζει θεοὺς,

ἕτερα δὲ καινὰ δαιμόνια εἰσφέρει.

ἀδικεῖ δὲ καὶ διότι τοὺς νέους διαφθείρει.

2) πρῶτον μὲν οὖν, τεκμήριον οὐκ ἔχουσιν ὥς<sup>2</sup> οὐ νομίζει τοὺς θεούς.

θύει τε γὰρ πολλάκις μὲν οἴκοι, πολλάκις δὲ ἐπὶ τῶν κοινῶν τῆς πόλεως<sup>3</sup> βωμῶν.

Σωκράτης δὲ ὥσπερ<sup>4</sup> ἐγίγνωσκεν, οὕτως ἔλεγεν.

τὸ δαιμόνιον, ἔφη, σημαίνει ἐμοί.

καὶ πολλοῖς προηγόρευε τὰ μὲν ποιεῖν, τὰ δὲ μὴ ποιεῖν.

**Notes:**

- 1) This indefinite adverb (generally meaning = “ever”) makes the preceding interrogative more poignant. Sometimes it is equivalent to “what in the world”? but it should not be translated as “whatever” or “whichever,” because these are indefinite pronouns or adjectives in English, not interrogative.
- 2) Xenophon does not agree with the accusation, so he introduces the reported statement with ὥς instead of ὅτι. “That, as they claim...”
- 3) Genitive of a noun of the 3rd declension meaning city-state.
- 4) ὥσπερ = “just as” introduces a dependent clause that establishes a comparison.