

1 Preface

Greek text is sourced from *Athenaze Book II, Second Edition* (2003)

English translation is adapted from *Athenaze Book II: Teacher's Handbook, Revised Edition* (1991)

2 Chapter 28 β

Ο ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ΤΟΝ ΚΡΟΪΣΟΝ ΣΩΖΕΙ

Apollo Saves Croesus

ὁ μὲν Κῦρος ἐποίεε ταῦτα, ὁ δὲ Κροῖσος ἐστηκώς ἐπὶ τῆς πυρῆς, καίπερ ἐν Κακῷ ἔων τοσοῦτω, ἐμνήσθη τὸν τοῦ Σόλωνος λόγον, ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ζώντων εἶη ὄλβιος. ὥς δὲ τοῦτο ἐμνήσθη ἀναστενάξας ἐκ πολλῆς ἡσυχίης τρίς ὠνόμασε, “Σόλων.” καὶ Κῦρος ἀκούσας ἐκέλευσε τοὺς ἑρμηνεῆς ἐρέσθαι τὸν Κροῖσον τίνα τοῦτον ἐπικαλέοιτο. Κροῖσος δὲ πρῶτον μὲν σιγὴν εἶχεν ἐρωτώμενος, τέλος δὲ ὥς ἠναγκάζετο, εἶπε ὅτι ἦλθε παρ’ ἑαυτὸν ὁ Σόλων ἐὼν Ἀθηναῖος, καὶ θεησάμενος πάντα τὸν ἑαυτοῦ ὄλβον περὶ οὐδενὸς ἐποίησατο, καὶ αὐτῷ πάντα ἀποβεβήκοι ἥπερ ἐκεῖνος εἶπεν.

That is what Cyrus did, but Croesus, standing on the pyre, although he was in such great trouble, remembered the words of Solon, that none of the living is happy. When he remembered this, he groaned aloud, and three times from the deep silence he called the name “Solon.” And Cyrus hearing this told his interpreters to ask Croesus who this was he was calling on. And at first when Croesus was asked he kept silence, but finally when he was forced, he said that Solon, an Athenian, had come to him and after seeing all his wealth had considered it worthless, and that everything had turned out for him as Solon had said.

ὁ μὲν Κροῖσος ταῦτα ἐξηγήσατο, τῆς δὲ πυρῆς ἤδη ἀμμένης ἐκαίετο τὰ ἔσχατα. καὶ ὁ Κῦρος ἀκούσας τῶν ἑρμηνέων ἃ Κροῖσος εἶπε, μεταγνοῦς τε καὶ ἐνθυμεόμενος ὅτι καὶ αὐτὸς ἄνθρωπος ἐὼν ἄλλον ἄνθρωπον, γενόμενος ἑαυτοῦ εὐδαιμονίῃ οὐκ ἐλάσσονα, ζῶντα πυρὴ διδοίη, καὶ ἐπιστάμενος ὅτι οὐδὲν εἶη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἀσφαλές, ἐκέλευσε σβεννύναι ὥς τάχιστα τὸ καιόμενον πῦρ καὶ καταβιάζειν Κροῖσόν τε καὶ τοὺς μετὰ Κροῖσου. καὶ οἱ πειρώμενοι οὐκ ἐδύναντο ἔτι τοῦ πυρὸς ἐπικρατῆσαι.

Croesus told this story, and the pyre had already been lit, and the furthest parts were burning. And Cyrus, hearing from his interpreters what Croesus had said, changed his mind and, pondering that he who was himself a man, was giving another man, who had been no less than himself in his good fortune, alive to the fire, and knowing that in human affairs nothing was safe, told his men to put out the burning fire as quickly as possible and to bring down Croesus and those with Croesus. And those who tried could not any longer get control over the fire.

ἐνταῦθα λέγεται ὑπὸ τῶν Λυδῶν τὸν Κροῖσον, μαθόντα τὴν Κύρου μετάγνωσιν, βοησαί τὸν Ἀπόλλωνα, καλέοντα παραστῆναι καὶ σῶσαί μιν ἐκ τοῦ παρεόντος κακοῦ· τὸν μὲν δακρύοντα ἐπικαλέεσθαι τὸν θεόν, ἐκ δὲ αἰθρίης καὶ νηνεμῆς συνδραμεῖν ἐξαίφνης νεφέλας, καὶ χειμῶμά τε γενέσθαι καὶ πολὺ ὕδωρ, σβεσθῆναί τε τὴν πυρὴν. οὕτω δὲ μαθόντα τὸν Κύρον ὡς εἶη ὁ Κροῖσος καὶ θεοφιλὴς καὶ ἀνὴρ ἀγαθός, ἐρέσθαι τάδε· “Κροῖσε, τίς σε ἀνθρώπων ἔπεισε ἐπὶ γῆν τὴν ἐμὴν στρατευόμενον πολέμιον ἀντὶ φίλου ἐμοὶ καταστῆναι;” ὁ δὲ εἶπε· “ὦ βασιλεῦ, ἐγὼ ταῦτα ἔπραξα τῇ σῇ μὲν εὐδαιμονίῃ, τῇ δὲ ἐμαυτοῦ κακοδαιμονίῃ· αἴτιος δὲ τούτων ἐγένετο ὁ Ἑλλήνων θεὸς ἐπάρας ἐμὲ στρατεύεσθαι. οὐδεὶς γάρ οὕτω ἀνόητός ἐστι ὅστις πόλεμον πρὸ εἰρήνης αἰρέεται· ἐν μὲν γὰρ τῇ εἰρήνῃ οἱ παῖδες τοὺς πατέρας θάπτουσι, ἐν δὲ τῷ πολέμῳ οἱ πατέρες τοὺς παῖδας. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα δαίμονί που φίλον ἦν οὕτω γενέσθαι.” ὁ μὲν ταῦτα ἔλεγε, Κύρος δὲ αὐτὸν λύσας καθεῖσε τε ἐγγὺς ἑαυτοῦ καὶ μεγάλως ἐτίμα.

Then it is said by the Lydians that Croesus, learning of Cyrus' change of mind, shouted for Apollo, calling him to stand by him and save him from his present trouble. Croesus called the god in tears, and, from a clear sky and windless calm, clouds suddenly gathered, and a storm broke out and much rain, and the pyre was put out. So Cyrus learned that Croesus was both dear to the gods and a good man, and he asked him this, “Croesus, what man persuaded you to march against my land and become my enemy instead of my friend?” And he said, “O king, I did this to your good luck and to my bad luck; and the god of the Greeks is responsible for these things, who urged me to wage war. For no one is so foolish that he chooses war in preference to peace; for in peace sons bury their fathers, but in war fathers bury their sons. But it was god's will that this should happen, I suppose.” So he spoke, and Cyrus freed him and made him sit down near him and honored him greatly.