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Aristophanes Clouds (961-983) Translated with Text and Commentary by E. H. Campbell

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Aristophanes Clouds (961-983)

a speech of the Just Logic

Translated with Text and Commentary

By E. H. Campbell

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Selected Works

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Δίκαιος Λόγος¹

(961) Λέξω² τοίνυν³ τὴν ἀρχαίαν⁴ παιδείαν⁵ ὥς διέκειτο,⁶

ὅτ' ἐγὼ τὰ δίκαια⁷ λέγων⁸ ἦνθουν⁹ καὶ σωφροσύνη¹⁰ νενόμιστο.¹¹

Πρῶτον¹² μὲν ἔδει¹³ παιδὸς¹⁴ φωνήν¹⁵ γρύξαντος¹⁶ μηδέν¹⁷ ἀκούσαι.¹⁸

εἴτα¹⁹ βαδίζειν²⁰ ἐν ταῖσιν²¹ ὁδοῖς²² εὐτάκτως²³ ἐς κιθαριστοῦ²⁴

τοὺς κωμήτας²⁵ γυμνοὺς²⁶ ἀθρόους,²⁷ κεῖ²⁸ κριμνώδη²⁹ κατανείφοι.³⁰

1 Aristophanes. Aristophanes Comoediae, ed. F.W. Hall and W.M. Geldart, vol. 2. F.W. Hall and W.M. Geldart. Oxford. Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1907.

2 1st sing. fut. act. ind. of λέγω.

3 Part., therefore, accordingly, moreover. τοίνυν is common when a speaker refers to something present in his mind, when he continues or resumes what he has been saying, and when he passes to a new aspect of a subject. (Smyth, 2987)

4 Adj., Att., Dor., or Aeol., fem. acc. sing. of ἀρχαῖος, from the beginning; of things, ancient, primeval, olden; old-fashioned.

5 Att., Dor., or Aeol., fem. acc. sing. of παιδεία, the rearing of a child; training and teaching, education.

6 3rd sing. imperf. mid./pass. ind. of διακείμεαι, to be in a certain state, to be disposed or affected; to be settled, fixed, or ordered.

7 Adj., neut. pl. of δίκαιος, persons, observant of custom and social rule, well-ordered, civilized.

8 masc. nom. sing. pres. act. part. of λέγω, to pick out; to gather.

9 Att., Ep., Dor., or Ion., 1st sing. imperf. act. ind. of ἀνθέω, to blossom, or to bloom, of the youthful beard.

10 Att., Ep., Dor., or Ion., fem. nom. sing. of σωφροσύνη, soundness of mind, moderation, discretion; moderation in desires, self-control, temperance, chastity, sobriety.

11 Hom., or Ion., 3rd sing. pluperf. mid./pass. ind. of νομίζω.

12 Adj., neut. sing. of πρῶτος, first.

13 Att., Ep., or Ion., 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of δεῖ.

14 Ep., masc. gen. sing. of παῖς.

15 Att., Ep., or Ion., fem. acc. sing. of φωνή.

16 masc. gen. sing. aor. act. part. of γρύζω, to grunt, grumble, mutter.

17 Adj., neut. sing. of μηδείς, not one thing, nothing.

18 aor. act. inf. of ἀκούω.

19 Adv., then, next.

20 Att., or Ep., pres. act. inf. of βαδίζω, to go slowly, to walk; to march.

21 Art., Ep., or Ion., fem. dat. pl. of ὅ.

22 fem. dat. pl. of ὁδός, road.

23 Adv. (εὐτάκτος), orderly, in order.

24 masc. gen. sing. of κιθαριστής, a player on the cithara.

25 masc. acc. pl. of κωμήτης, a villager, countryman; in a city, one from the same quarter.

26 Adj., masc. acc. pl. of γυμνός, naked.

27 Adj., Att., masc. acc. pl. of ἀθρόος, in crowds or masses, crowded together.

28 καὶ εἰ. The article loses its final vowel or diphthong in crasis before α; the particle τοί drops οἱ before α; and καὶ drops αἱ before all vowels and diphthongs except ε and ει. But we have κεῖ and κείς for καὶ εἰ and καὶ εἰς. (Goodwin and Gulick, 50b)

29 Adj., Att., Ep., or Dor., masc. acc. pl. of κριμνώδης, like a coarse meal.

30 3rd sing. pres. act. opt. of κατανίφω, to cover with snow.

Accordingly I shall speak
about how old-fashioned child-rearing
was arranged,
when I,
gathering just things,
blossomed,
and self-control was the custom.

First, it was obligatory
that the sound of a *grumbling boy*
not be heard.

Next,
they are to be
marched down the road,
in order,
through the village,
crowded together,
naked,
to the sound of a cithara--
even if snow
covers the ground
like a coarse meal.

Εἴτ' αὖ προμαθεῖν³¹ ἄσμι³² ἐδίδασκεν³³ τὸ μηρὼ³⁴ μὴ ξυνέχοντας,³⁵

ἣ Παλλάδα³⁶ περσέπολιν³⁷ δεινὰν³⁸ ἣ τηλέπορον³⁹ τι βόαμα,⁴⁰

ἐντειναμένους⁴¹ τὴν ἀρμονίαν,⁴² ἣν οἱ πατέρες⁴³ παρέδωκαν.⁴⁴

Εἰ δέ τις αὐτῶν βωμολοχεύσαιτ'⁴⁵ ἣ κάμψειέν⁴⁶ τινα καμπήν,⁴⁷

οἷας⁴⁸ οἱ νῦν τὰς κατὰ Φρυγίαν ταύτας⁴⁹ τὰς δυσκολοκάμπτους,⁵⁰

ἐπετρίβετο⁵¹ τυπτόμενος⁵² πολλὰς ὥς τὰς Μούσας⁵³ ἀφανίζων.⁵⁴

31 Att., Ep., or Dor., aor. act. inf. of προμανθάνω, to learn beforehand, to know beforehand; to learn by rote.

32 neut. sing. of ἄσμα, a song, a lyric ode, or lay.

33 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of διδάσκω, to teach or to instruct a person, or to teach a thing.

34 masc. acc. dual of μηρός, a thigh.

35 masc. acc. pl. pres. act. part. of συνόχωκα, to be held together.

36 fem. acc. sing. of Παλλάς,

37 fem. acc. sing. of περσέπολις, destroyer of cities.

38 Dor., or Aeol. fem. acc. sing. of δεινός, fearful, terrible, dread, dire; mighty, powerful.

39 Adj., neut. sing. of τηλέπορος, far-traveling, far-reaching, far-distant.

40 neut. sing. of βόαμα, a shriek, or cry.

41 masc. acc. pl. aor. mid. part. of ἐντείνω, to stretch or strain tight.

42 Att., Dor., or Aeol., fem. acc. sing. of ἀρμονία, harmony.

43 masc. nom. pl. of πατήρ.

44 Ep., or Poet., 3rd pl. aor. act. ind. of παραδίδωμι, to give or hand over to another, transmit.

45 3rd sing. aor. mid./pass. opt. of βωμολοχεύομαι, to use low flattery, to indulge in ribaldry.

46 3rd sing. aor. act. opt. of κάμπτω, to bend or to bow down.

47 Att., Ep., or Ion., fem. acc. sing. of καμπή, the bending or the winding of a river; a turning point.

48 Adj., fem. acc. pl. of οἶος.

49 adj., fem. acc. pl. of οὔτος.

50 Adj., fem. acc. pl. of δυσκολοκάμπτος, hard to bend; an intricate flourish in singing. (Liddell and Scott)

51 3rd sing. imperf. mid./pass. ind. of ἐπιτρίβω, to afflict, distress, destroy, ruin; in Pass., to be utterly destroyed or undone.

52 masc. nom. sing. pres. mid./pass. part. of τύπτω, to beat, strike, smite; in Pass., to be beaten, struck or wounded.

53 fem. acc. pl. of Μοῦσα, a Muse; music, a song; in pl. arts, accomplishments.

54 masc. nom. sing. pres. act. part. of ἀφανίζω, to make unseen, hide from sight; to do away with, to remove; to destroy utterly; to obliterate.

Then,
he was moreover taught
to sing a song by rote
without his thighs pressed together,
either Pallas the Mighty Sacker of Cities,
or some far-distant cry,
in some high pitched harmony,
which was handed down by the fathers.

But if any one of them
should engage in ribaldry,
or bend some refrain,
such as men like Phyrnis
now ruin with crescendos,
used to be beaten
for doing away
with the many
Muses.

Ἐν παιδοτρίβου⁵⁵ δὲ καθίζοντα⁵⁶ τὸν μηρὸν⁵⁷ ἔδει⁵⁸ προβάλεσθαι⁵⁹

τοὺς παῖδας,⁶⁰ ὅπως τοῖς ἔξωθεν⁶¹ μηδὲν δείξειαν⁶² ἀπηνέ⁶³.

εἴτ'⁶⁴ αὖ⁶⁵ πάλιν⁶⁶ αὖθις⁶⁷ ἀνιστάμενον⁶⁸ συμψῆσαι,⁶⁹ καὶ προνοεῖσθαι⁷⁰

εἶδωλον⁷¹ τοῖσιν⁷² ἐρασταῖσιν⁷³ τῆς ἥβης⁷⁴ μὴ καταλείπειν.⁷⁵

55 masc. gen. sing. of παιδοτρίβης, a gymnastic teacher.

56 masc. acc. pl. pres. act. part. of καθίζω, to make sit down.

57 masc. acc. sing. of μηρός.

58 Att., Ep., or Ion., 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of δέω, it is necessary.

59 aor. mid. inf. of προβάλλω.

60 masc. acc. pl. of παῖς.

61 Adv., from without.

62 3rd pl. aor. act. opt. of δείκνυμι, bring to light.

63 Adj., neut., sing. of ἀπηνής, ungentle, harsh, rough, hard, of persons.

64 Adv. (εἴτα), then, next; to denote Consequence, and so, then, therefore, accordingly.

65 Adv., again, anew, afresh, once more.

66 Adv., again, once more, anew.

67 Adv., again, afresh, anew; moreover, in turn, on the other hand.

68 masc. acc. sing. pres. mid./pass. part. of ἀνίστημι, made to stand up.

69 aor. act. inf. of συμψάω, to sweep away, of a rapid river.

70 Att., or Ep., pres. mid./pass. inf. of προνοέω, to perceive before, foresee; to think of or plan beforehand, provide.

71 neut. sing. of εἶδωλον, an image, a phantom; an image in the mind, an idea.

72 Ep., Ion., or Aeol., masc. dat. pl. of ὅ.

73 Ep., Ion., Aeol., or Poet., masc. dat. pl. of ἐραστής, a lover.

74 Att., Ep., Dor., or Ion., fem. gen. sing. of ἥβη, manhood, youthful prime, youth, Lat. pubertas.

75 Att., or Ep., pres. act. inf. of καταλιμπάνω, to leave behind.

And made sit down
on the gymnast's thigh,
it is necessary
to expose the boys
so that not one thing harsh
is to them outwardly shown.
Next, once again,
moreover, and anew,
having been *swept away*,
he is made to stand up
not leaving behind
an image
of his manhood
in the minds
of his lovers.

ἤλειψατο⁷⁶ δ' ἂν τοῦ μφαλοῦ⁷⁷ οὐδεὶς παῖς⁷⁸ ὑπένερχθεν⁷⁹ τότε⁸⁰ ἂν, ὥστε

τοῖς αἰδοίοισι⁸¹ δρόσος⁸² καὶ χνοῦς ὥσπερ μήλοισιν⁸³ ἐπήνθει.⁸⁴

οὐδ' ἂν μαλακὴν⁸⁵ φυρασάμενος⁸⁶ τὴν φωνήν⁸⁷ πρὸς τὸν ἐραστήν⁸⁸

αὐτὸς ἑαυτὸν προαγωγεύων⁸⁹ τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς⁹⁰ ἐβάδιζεν,⁹¹

76 Att., Ep., or Ion., 3rd sing. aor. mid. ind. of ἀλείφω, to anoint with oil; to prepare as if for gymnastics, to stimulate.

77 masc. gen. sing. of ὀμφαλός, the navel; anything central; a button or knob; the center or middle point.

78 Ep., or Poet., masc. nom. sing. of παῖς, a boy child.

79 Adv. (ὑπένερχε), underneath, beneath.

80 Adv. (τότε), at the time, then.

81 Ep., Ion., or Aeol., neut. dat. pl. of αἰδοῖον, the genitals.

82 fem. nom. sing. of δρόσος, dew.

83 Ep., Ion., or Aeol., neut. dat. pl. of μῆλον, in pl., metaph. of a girl's breasts, also the cheeks.

84 Att., Ep., or Ion., 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of ἐπανθέω, to bloom, be in flower.

85 Adj., Att., Ep., or Ion., fem. acc. sing. of μαλακός, Lat. mollis, soft, gentle.

86 Att., masc. nom. sing. aor. mid. part. of φυράω, to mix flour or meal so as to make it into dough; to knead.

87 Att., Ep., or Ion., fem. acc. sing. of φωνή, produce a sound.

88 Att., Ep., or Ion., masc. acc. sing. of ἐραστής, lover.

89 masc. nom. sing. pres. act. part. of προαγωγεύω, to prostitute.

90 masc. dat. pl. of ὀφθαλμός, the eye.

91 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of βαδίζω.

And, at the time,

not one boy

anointed himself

below the navel,

just as dew

and down

appeared on

his boy-place,

just as his *cheeks*

blossomed.

Nor making a soft

gentle voice

for his lover

slowly walking before him

prostituting himself

with his eyes.

οὐδ' ἀνελέσθαι⁹² δειπνοῦντ'⁹³ ἐξῆν⁹⁴ καὶ κεφάλαιον⁹⁵ ῥαφανίδος,⁹⁶

οὐδ' ἄννηθον⁹⁷ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων⁹⁸ ἀρπάζειν⁹⁹ οὐδὲ σέλινον,¹⁰⁰

οὐδ' ὀψοφαγεῖν¹⁰¹ οὐδὲ κιχλίζειν¹⁰² οὐδ' ἴσχειν¹⁰³ τὸ πόδ'¹⁰⁴ ἐναλλάξ.¹⁰⁵

92 aor. mid. inf. of ἀναιρέω, to take up, to raise.

93 Dor., 3rd pl. pres. act. ind. of δειπνέω, to make a meal; to dine.

94 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of ἔξεστι, it is allowed, it is possible.

95 Adj., neut. sing. of κεφάλαιος, of the head.

96 fem. gen. sing. of ῥαφανίς, the radish.

97 neut. sing. of ἄννηθον, dill.

98 Adj., comp., masc. gen. pl. of πρέσβυς, old man.

99 Att., or Ep., pres. act. inf. of ἀρπάζω, to snatch away, carry off.

100 neut. sing. of σέλινον, celery.

101 Att., Ep., or Dor., pres. act. inf. of ὀψοφαγέω, to eat things meant to be eaten only with bread, to live daintily.

102 Att., or Ep., pres. act. inf. of κιχλίζω, to giggle.

103 Att., or Ep., pres. act. inf. of ἴσχω, to keep back, restrain.

104 masc. acc. dual of ποῦς, feet.

105 Adv., crosswise.

Nor was it allowed
for them to eat dinner
taking the head off
a radish,
nor snatch dill
from an older man,
nor celery,
nor to eat things
meant to be eaten
only with bread,
nor giggle,
nor keep their legs
crossed.