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

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By E. H. Campbell

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Δίκαιος Λόγος¹

(961) Λέξος² τοίνυν³ τὴν ἀρχαίαν⁴ παιδείαν⁵ ως διέκειτο,⁶

οτ᾽ εγὼ τὰ δίκαια⁷ λέγων⁸ ἤνθουν⁹ καὶ σωφροσύνην¹⁰ νενόμιστο.¹¹

Πρῶτον¹² μὲν ἔδει¹³ παιδὸς¹⁴ φωνῆν¹⁵ γρύζαντος¹⁶ μηδὲν¹⁷ ἀκοῦσαι:¹十八

εἶτα¹⁹ βαδίζειν²⁰ ἐν ταῖσιν²¹ οδοίς²² εὐτάκτως²³ ἐς κιθαριστοῦ²⁴
tοὺς κωμῆτας²⁵ γυμνούς²⁶ ἀθρόους,²⁷ κεὶ²⁸ κριμνώδη²⁹ κατανείφοι.³⁰

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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 διάκειμαι, 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 ἀνθέω.
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 μηδέν, 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 ὁ.
²² fem. dat. pl. of οδός, road.
²³ Adv. (εὔτακτος), 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 αθρόος, in crowds or masses, crowded together.
²⁸ καὶ εἰ. The article loses its final vowel or diphthong in crisis before α; the particle τοι drops οι before α; and καὶ drops αι before all vowels and diphthongs except ε and ει. But we have κει and κεις 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 κατανέφω, 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.
Εἶ δέ τις αὐτῶν βωμολοχεύσαι τ᾽ ή κάμψειέν τινα καμπήν, οἵας οἱ νῦν τὰς κατὰ Φρῦνιν ταύτας τὰς δυσκολοκάμπτους, ἐπετρίβετο τυπτόμενος πολλὰς ὡς τὰς Μούσας ἀφανίζων.

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31 Att., Ep., or Dor., aor. act. inf. of προμαθάνω, to learn beforehand, to know beforehand; to learn by rote.
32 neut. sing. of ὑμημα, 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. mid. part. of ἐντείνω, to stretch or strain tight.
42 Att., Dor., or Aeol., fem. acc. sing. of ἁρμονία, 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 οἷος.
49 adj., fem. acc. pl. of οὐσίος.
50 Adv., 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 τυπτω, 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 παιδοτρίβου ἐδὲ καθίζοντας τὸν μηρὸν ἔδει προβάλεσθαι τοὺς παῖδας, ὡς τοῖς ἔξωθεν μηδὲν δείξειν ἀπηνές:

εἶτ᾽ αὖ πάλιν αὖθις ἀνιστάμενον συμψῆσαι, καὶ προνοεῖσθαι εἴδωλον τοῖσιν ἐρασταῖσιν τῆς ἥβης μὴ καταλείπειν.
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.
Ἡλείψατο δ' ἀν τοῦμφαλοῦ οὐδεὶς παῖς ὑπένεφθεν τότε ἂν, ὡστε
toῖς αιδοίοισι δρόσος καὶ χνοῦς ὑπένερθεν τότε ὥστε ἄν, ὥστε
οὐδ' ἂν μαλακὴν φυρασάμενος τὴν φωνὴν πρὸς τὸν ἐραστὴν
αὐτὸς ἑαυτὸν προαγωγεύων τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς ἑβαδίζειν.
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’ ἄνελέσθαι ἐξῆν καὶ κεφάλαιον ῥαφανίδος.

οὐδ’ ἀνηθον τῶν πρεσβυτέρων ἁρπάζειν οὐδὲ σέλινον.

οὐδ’ ὀψοφαγεῖν οὐδὲ κιχλίζειν οὐδ’ ἴσχειν τῷ πόδι ἐναλλάξ.
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.