

## DIOGENES LAERTIUS

Ζεὺς ἀργῆς "Ἡρη τε φερέσβιος ἦδ' Ἀἰδωνεύς  
Νῆστις θ', ἣ δακρύοις τέγγει κρούνωμα βρότειον·

Δία μὲν τὸ πῦρ λέγων, "Ἡρην δὲ τὴν γῆν, Ἀἰδωνέα  
δὲ τὸν αἶρα, Νῆστιν δὲ τὸ ὕδωρ.

"Καὶ ταῦτα," φησὶν, "ἀλλάττοντα διαμπερὲς  
οὐδαμὰ λήγει," ὡς ἂν αἰδίου τῆς τοιαύτης δια-  
κοσμῆσεως οὔσης· ἐπιφέρει γοῦν·

ἄλλοτε μὲν Φιλότητι συνερχόμεν' εἰς ἓν ἅπαντα,  
ἄλλοτε δ' αὖ δίχ' ἕκαστα φορεύμενα Νείκεος ἔχθει.

- 77 Καὶ τὸν μὲν ἥλιόν φησι πυρὸς ἄθροισμα μέγα καὶ  
τῆς σελήνης μείζω· τὴν δὲ σελήνην δισκοειδῆ,  
αὐτὸν δὲ τὸν οὐρανὸν κρυσταλλοειδῆ. καὶ τὴν  
ψυχὴν παντοῖα εἶδη ζώων καὶ φυτῶν ἐνδύεσθαι·  
φησὶ γοῦν·

ἦδη γάρ ποτ' ἐγὼ γενόμεν κούρος τε κόρη τε  
θάμνος τ' οἰωνός τε καὶ ἕξαλος ἔμπυρος<sup>1</sup> ἰχθύς.

Τὰ μὲν οὖν Περὶ φύσεως αὐτῶ καὶ οἱ Καθαρμοὶ εἰς  
ἔπη τείνουσι πεντακισχίλια, ὃ δὲ Ἰατρικὸς λόγος  
εἰς ἔπη ἑξακόσια. περὶ δὲ τῶν τραγωιδιῶν προ-  
ειρήκαμεν.

## Κεφ. γ'. ΕΠΙΧΑΡΜΟΣ

- 78 Ἐπίχαρμος Ἡλοθαλοῦς Κῶος. καὶ οὗτος ἤκουσε  
Πυθαγόρου. τριμηνιαῖος δ' ὑπάρχων ἀπηνέχθη  
τῆς Συκελίας εἰς Μέγαρα, ἐντεῦθεν δ' εἰς Συρα-  
κούσας, ὧς φησι καὶ αὐτὸς ἐν τοῖς συγγράμμασιν.  
καὶ αὐτῶ ἐπὶ τοῦ ἀνδριάντος ἐπιγέγραπται τόδε·

<sup>1</sup> ἔμπυρος is found Athenaeus viii. 365. The true reading  
ἄλλοπος in Clem. *Strom.* vi. 24.

## VIII. 76-78. EMPEDOCLES—EPICHARMUS

Shining Zeus and life-bringing Hera, Aidoneus and Nestis, who lets flow from her tears the source of mortal life,

where by Zeus he means fire, by Hera earth, by Aidoneus air, and by Nestis water.

“And their continuous change,” he says, “never ceases,”<sup>a</sup> as if this ordering of things were eternal. At all events he goes on<sup>b</sup> :

At one time all things uniting in one through Love, at another each carried in a different direction through the hatred born of strife.

The sun he calls a vast collection of fire and larger than the moon; the moon, he says, is of the shape of a quoit, and the heaven itself crystalline. The soul, again, assumes all the various forms of animals and plants. At any rate he says<sup>c</sup> :

Before now I was born a boy and a maid, a bush and a bird, and a dumb fish leaping out of the sea.

His poems *On Nature* and *Purifications* run to 5000 lines, his *Discourse on Medicine* to 600. Of the tragedies we have spoken above.

### CHAPTER 3. EPICHARMUS (c. 550-460 B.C.)

Epicharmus of Cos, son of Helothales, was another pupil of Pythagoras. When three months old he was sent to Megara in Sicily and thence to Syracuse, as he tells us in his own writings. On his statue this epigram is written<sup>d</sup> :

<sup>a</sup> Fr. 17. 6 D.  
<sup>c</sup> Fr. 117 D.

<sup>b</sup> Fr. 17. 7 D.  
<sup>d</sup> *Anth. Pal.* vii. 78.

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εἴ τι παραλλάσσει φαέθων μέγας ἄλιος ἄστρον  
καὶ πόντος ποταμῶν μείζον' ἔχει δύναμιν,  
φαμί τοσοῦτον ἐγὼ σοφία προέχειν Ἐπίχαρμον,  
ὃν πατρὶς ἐστεφάνωσ' ἄδε Συρακοσίων.

οὗτος ὑπομνήματα καταλέλοιπεν ἐν οἷς φυσιολογεί,  
γνωμολογεί, ἰατρολογεί· καὶ παραστιχίδια γε ἐν  
τοῖς πλείστοις τῶν ὑπομνημάτων πεποίηκεν, οἷς  
διασαφεῖ ὅτι ἑαυτοῦ ἐστὶ τὰ συγγράμματα. βιουὸς  
δ' ἔτη ἐνενήκοντα κατέστρεψεν.

### Κεφ. δ'. ΑΡΧΥΤΑΣ

79 Ἄρχυτας Μνησαγόρου Ταραντίνος, ὡς δὲ Ἄριστό-  
ξενος, Ἐστιαίου, Πυθαγορικὸς καὶ αὐτός. οὗτος  
ἐστὶν ὁ Πλάτωνα ρυσάμενος δι' ἐπιστολῆς παρὰ  
Διονυσίου μέλλοντ' ἀναιρεῖσθαι. ἐθανμάζετο δὲ  
καὶ παρὰ τοῖς πολλοῖς ἐπὶ πάσῃ ἀρετῇ· καὶ δὴ  
ἐπτάκις τῶν πολιτῶν ἐστρατήγησε, τῶν ἄλλων μὴ  
πλέον ἑναυτοῦ στρατηγούντων διὰ τὸ κωλύειν τὸν  
νόμον. πρὸς τοῦτον καὶ Πλάτων γέγραφεν ἐπι-  
στολὰς δύο, ἐπειδήπερ αὐτῷ πρότερος ἐγεγράφει  
τοῦτον τὸν τρόπον·

“ Ἄρχυτας Πλάτωνι ὑγιαίνειν.

80 “ Καλῶς ποιεῖς ὅτι ἀποπέφευγας ἐκ τῆς ἀρρω-  
στίας· ταῦτα γὰρ αὐτός τυ ἐπέσταλκας καὶ τοὶ περὶ  
Λαμίσκον ἀπάγγελον. περὶ δὲ τῶν ὑπομνημάτων  
ἐπεμελήθημες καὶ ἀνήλθομες ὡς Λευκανῶς καὶ  
ἐνετύχομες τοῖς Ὀκκέλω ἐκγόνοις. τὰ μὲν ὦν  
Περὶ νόμου καὶ Βασιλείας καὶ Ὀσιότατος καὶ τῆς  
τῷ παντὸς γενέσιος αὐτοῖ τ' ἔχομες καὶ τὴν ἀπ-  
εστάλκαμες· τὰ δὲ λοιπὰ οὗτοι νῦν γὰ δύναται  
εὐρεθῆμεν, αἱ δὲ κα εὐρεθῆ, ἤξει τοι.”

## VIII. 78-80. EPICHARMUS—ARCHYTAS

If the great sun outshines the other stars,  
If the great sea is mightier than the streams,  
So Epicharmus' wisdom all excelled,  
Whom Syracuse his fatherland thus crowned.

He has left memoirs containing his physical, ethical and medical doctrines, and he has made marginal notes in most of the memoirs, which clearly show that they were written by him. He died at the age of ninety.

### CHAPTER 4. ARCHYTAS (fourth century B.C.)

Archytas of Tarentum, son of Mnesagoras or, if we may believe Aristoxenus, of Hestiaeus, was another of the Pythagoreans. He it was whose letter saved Plato when he was about to be put to death by Dionysius. He was generally admired for his excellence in all fields; thus he was generalissimo of his city seven times, while the law excluded all others even from a second year of command. We have two letters written to him by Plato, he having first written to Plato in these terms:

“Archytas wishes Plato good health.  
“You have done well to get rid of your ailment, as we learn both from your own message and through Lamiscus that you have: we attended to the matter of the memoirs and went up to Lucania where we found the true progeny of Ocellus [to wit, his writings]. We did get the works *On Law, On Kingship, Of Piety*, and *On the Origin of the Universe*, all of which we have sent on to you; but the rest are, at present, nowhere to be found; if they should turn up, you shall have them.”

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᾿Ωδε μὲν ὁ Ἀρχύτας· ὁ δὲ Πλάτων ἀντεπι-  
στέλλει τοῦτον τὸν τρόπον·

“ Πλάτων Ἀρχύτα εὖ πράττειν.

- 81 “ Τὰ μὲν παρὰ σοῦ ἐλθόντα ὑπομνήματα θαυμα-  
στῶς ἄσμενοί τε ἐλάβομεν καὶ τοῦ γράψαντος αὐτὰ  
ἠγάσθημεν ὡς ἔνι μάλιστα, καὶ ἔδοξεν ἡμῖν ἀνὴρ  
ἄξιος ἐκείνων τῶν παλαιῶν προγόνων. λέγονται  
γὰρ δὴ οἱ ἄνδρες οὗτοι Μυραῖοι εἶναι· οὗτοι δ’  
ἦσαν τῶν ἐπὶ Λαομέδοντος ἐξαναστάντων Τρώων  
ἄνδρες ἀγαθοί, ὡς ὁ παραδεδομένος μῦθος δηλοῖ.  
τὰ δὲ παρ’ ἐμοῦ ὑπομνήματα, περὶ ὧν ἐπέστειλας,  
ικανῶς μὲν οὐπω ἔχει· ὡς δέ ποτε τυγχάνει ἔχοντα  
ἀπέσταλκά σοι. περὶ δὲ τῆς φυλακῆς ἀμφότεροι  
συμφωνοῦμεν, ὥστε οὐδὲν δεῖ παρακελεύεσθαι.  
ἔρρωσο.”

Καὶ ὦδε μὲν πρὸς ἀλλήλους αὐτοῖς ἔχουσιν αἱ  
ἐπιστολαί.

- 82 Γεγόνασι δ’ Ἀρχύται τέτταρες· πρῶτος αὐτὸς  
οὗτος, δεύτερος Μυτιληναῖος μουσικός, τρίτος  
Περὶ γεωργίας συγγεγραφώς, τέταρτος ἐπιγραμ-  
ματοποιός. ἔνιοι καὶ πέμπτον ἀρχιτέκτονά φασιν,  
οὗ φέρεται βιβλίον Περὶ μηχανῆς, ἀρχὴν ἔχον ταύτην,  
“ τὰδε παρὰ Γεύκρου Καρχηδονίου διήκουσα.” περὶ  
δὲ τοῦ μουσικοῦ φέρεται καὶ τόδε, ὡς ὀνειδιζόμενος  
ἐπὶ τῷ μὴ ἔξακουέσθαι εἶποι, “ τὸ γὰρ ὄργανον  
ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ διαγωνιζόμενον λαλεῖ.”

Τὸν δὲ Πυθαγορικὸν Ἀριστόξενός φησι μηδέποτε  
στρατηγοῦντα ἠττηθῆναι· φθονοῦμενον δ’ ἀπαξ ἐκ-  
χωρήσαι τῆς στρατηγίας καὶ τοὺς αὐτίκα ληφθῆναι.

- 83 Οὗτος πρῶτος τὰ μηχανικὰ ταῖς μαθηματικαῖς  
προαχρησάμενος ἀρχαῖς μεθώδευσε καὶ πρῶτος

## VIII. 80-83. ARCHYTAS

This is Archytas's letter; and Plato's answer is as follows:

“Plato to Archytas greeting.

“I was overjoyed to get the memoirs which you sent, and I am very greatly pleased with the writer of them; he seems to be a right worthy descendant of his distant forbears. They came, so it is said, from Myra, and were among those who emigrated from Troy in Laomedon's time, really good men, as the traditional story shows. Those memoirs of mine about which you wrote are not yet in a fit state; but such as they are I have sent them on to you. We both agree about their custody, so I need not give any advice on that head. Farewell.”

These then are the letters which passed between them.

Four men have borne the name of Archytas: (1) our subject; (2) a musician, of Mytilene; (3) the compiler of a work *On Agriculture*; (4) a writer of epigrams. Some speak of a fifth, an architect, to whom is attributed a book *On Mechanism* which begins like this: “These things I learnt from Teucer of Carthage.” A tale is told of the musician that, when it was cast in his teeth that he could not be heard, he replied, “Well, my instrument shall speak for me and win the day.”

Aristoxenus says that our Pythagorean was never defeated during his whole generalship, though he once resigned it owing to bad feeling against him, whereupon the army at once fell into the hands of the enemy.

He was the first to bring mechanics to a system by applying mathematical principles; he also first

## ΔΙΟΓΕΝΗΣ ΛΑΕΡΤΙΟΥΣ

κίνησιν ὀργανικὴν διαγράμματι γεωμετρικῶ προσήγαγε, διὰ τῆς τομῆς τοῦ ἡμικυλίνδρου δύο μέσας ἀνὰ λόγον λαβεῖν ζητῶν εἰς τὸν τοῦ κύβου διπλασιασμόν. καὶ γεωμετρίᾳ πρῶτος κύβον εὗρεν, ὡς φησι Πλάτων ἐν Πολιτείᾳ.

### Κεφ. ε'. ΑΛΚΜΑΙΩΝ

\*Αλκμαίων Κροτωνιάτης. καὶ οὗτος Πυθαγόρου διήκουσε· καὶ τὰ πλεῖστά γε ἱατρικὰ λέγει, ὅμως δὲ καὶ φυσιολογεῖ ἐνίοτε λέγων “ δύο τὰ πολλά ἐστι τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων.” δοκεῖ δὲ πρῶτος φυσικὸν λόγον συγγεγραφέναι, καθά φησι Φαβρίνιος ἐν Παντοδαπῇ ἱστορίᾳ, καὶ τὴν σελήνην καθόλου<sup>1</sup> <τε τὰ ὑπὲρ> ταύτην ἔχειν αἰδίου φύσιν.

\*Ἦν δὲ Πειρίθου υἱός, ὡς αὐτὸς ἐναρχόμενος τοῦ συγγράμματός φησιν· “ Ἀλκμαίων Κροτωνιήτης τάδε ἔλεξε Πειρίθου υἱὸς Βροτίνω καὶ Λέοντι καὶ Βαθύλλω· ‘περὶ τῶν ἀφανέων, περὶ τῶν θνητῶν σαφήνειαν μὲν θεοὶ ἔχοντι, ὡς δ’ ἀνθρώποις τεκμαίρεσθαι’” καὶ τὰ ἐξῆς· ἔφη δὲ καὶ τὴν ψυχὴν ἀθάνατον, καὶ κινεῖσθαι αὐτὴν συνεχές ὡς τὸν ἥλιον.

### Κεφ. ς'. ΙΠΠΑΣΟΣ

84 \*Ἰππασος Μεταποντίνος καὶ αὐτὸς Πυθαγορικός. ἔφη δὲ χρόνον ὠρισμένον εἶναι τῆς τοῦ κόσμου

<sup>1</sup> καθόλου] καὶ θόλον dubitanter Apelt, coll. ii. 9: post καθόλου <τε τὰ ὑπὲρ> inseruit Diels: ὄλον τὸν οὐρανὸν Zeller.

<sup>a</sup> Cf. T. L. Heath, *History of Greek Mathematics*, i. 246-249.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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