

Classical Readings
AGE Ch. 14

Translate the following sentences. Notes are below.

1. ἢ γὰρ δίδωσι καὶ λαμβάνει, ἢ οὐδέτερον, ἢ τὸ μὲν, τὸ δ' οὐ, καὶ τούτων ἢ δίδωσιν μὲν, οὐ λαμβάνει δέ, ἢ λαμβάνει μὲν, δίδωσιν δὲ οὐ.

2. τίς ἢ ὠφελία τοῖς θεοῖς τυγχάνει οὔσα ἀπὸ τῶν δώρων ὧν παρ' ἡμῶν λαμβάνουσιν; ἃ μὲν γὰρ διδόσιν παντὶ δῆλον (ἐστὶ)· οὐδὲν γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐστὶν ἀγαθὸν ὃ τι ἂν μὴ ἐκεῖνοι δῶσιν. ἃ δὲ παρ' ἡμῶν λαμβάνουσιν, τί ὠφελούνται; ἢ τοσοῦτον αὐτῶν πλεονεκτοῦμεν κατὰ τὴν ἐμπορίαν, ὥστε πάντα τὰ ἀγαθὰ παρ' αὐτῶν λαμβάνομεν, ἐκεῖνοι δὲ παρ' ἡμῶν οὐδέν;

1. Aristotle is analyzing the techniques and strategies that someone can use in court. Here he is discussing the topic of oaths. Oaths were a regular part of ancient legal proceedings, where participants swore a sacred oath to honor a contract. This passage repeatedly refers to one or both parties to the agreement administering (διδόναι) an oath or taking (λαμβάνειν) an oath: Aristotle begins by saying that there are four possibilities for a speaker in court with respect to an oath:

ἢ γὰρ δίδωσι καὶ λαμβάνει, ἢ οὐδέτερον, ἢ τὸ μὲν, τὸ δ' οὐ, καὶ τούτων ἢ δίδωσιν μὲν, οὐ λαμβάνει δέ, ἢ λαμβάνει μὲν, δίδωσιν δὲ οὐ.

Aristotle *Rhetoric* 1.27-32.1377a

οὐδέτερον neither

τούτων (gen pl) these

Note: ἢ τὸ μὲν, τὸ δ' οὐ is adverbial, “or this one but not the other” (S 1111)

2. This passage comes from one of Plato’s dramatic dialogues. Socrates has been interrogating a prophet named Euthyphro about piety and the relationship between humans and gods. Socrates has gotten Euthyphro, reluctantly, to characterize this relationship as trade or a business transaction (ἐμπορία). Next Socrates asks:

τίς ἢ ὠφελία τοῖς θεοῖς τυγχάνει οὔσα ἀπὸ τῶν δώρων ὧν παρ' ἡμῶν λαμβάνουσιν; ἃ μὲν γὰρ διδόσιν παντὶ δῆλον (ἐστὶ)· οὐδὲν γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐστὶν ἀγαθὸν ὃ τι ἂν μὴ ἐκεῖνοι δῶσιν. ἃ δὲ παρ' ἡμῶν λαμβάνουσιν, τί ὠφελούνται; ἢ τοσοῦτον αὐτῶν πλεονεκτοῦμεν κατὰ τὴν ἐμπορίαν, ὥστε πάντα τὰ ἀγαθὰ παρ' αὐτῶν λαμβάνομεν, ἐκεῖνοι δὲ παρ' ἡμῶν οὐδέν;

Plato *Euthyphro* 14e9-15a4

ἀγαθὸν (nom/acc sg) τὸ good
ἀγαθὰ (nom/acc pl) τὰ good
ἄν marks a hypothetical situation
δῆλον (nom/acc sg) τὸ clear
δώρων (gen pl) τῶν gifts
δῶσιν ~ διδῶσιν
ἐμπορίαν (acc sg) ἡ business, trade, barter
ἡμῖν (dat pl) us
ἡμῶν (gen pl) us
θεοῖς (dat pl) οἱ gods

οὐδὲν (nom/acc sg) τὸ nothing
πάντα (nom/acc pl) τὰ everything
παντὶ (dat sg) ὁ everyone
πλεονεκτόω be superior (+ gen of that which is
being compared)
τυγχάνω οὕσα happens to be
τοσοῦτον (adverb) so much
ὠφελία (nom sg) ἡ benefit
ὠφελοῦνται (3rd pl) benefit (from something)