

Alexander of Thessalonica to Dionysius (CPG 2123.30)

<i>Reference:</i>	Mel. 33, CPG 2123.30, CPG 8544, FNS 75
<i>Incipit:</i>	Φανεράν ὁρῶ κατὰ Ἀθανασίου
<i>Date:</i>	335
<i>Greek Text:</i>	Athanasius, Apol. Sec. 80
<i>English Translation:</i>	NPNF ² vol. 4, p. 142, adapted for FCC by SMT

After giving his support to Athanasius in [Mel. 20](#) after finding out about the Arsenius conspiracy, Bishop Alexander of Thessalonica sent this letter to Flavius Dionysius urging him to not rush through the objections made to the commission to the Mareotis. Bishop Alexander reminds Flavius Dionysius of the dangers of the Melitians and Arians to the church as a whole.

The Greek text below is that of Opitz as found in AW 2.4:80. The English translation has been adapted from NPNF² vol. 4, p. 142 by SMT for FCC.

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<p>Τῷ δεσπότῃ μου Διονυσίῳ Ἀλέξανδρος ἐπίσκοπος.</p> <p>Φανεράν ὁρῶ κατὰ Ἀθανασίου συσκευὴν γενομένην. πάντας γὰρ οὓς παρητήσατο, τούτους οὐκ οἶδα τί πεπονθότες ἀποστεῖλαι ἠθέλησαν μηδὲ σημάναντες ἡμῖν. ἥν γὰρ δόξαν κατὰ τὸ αὐτὸ σκέψασθαι, τίνας δεήσει ἀποσταλῆναι. συμβούλευσον οὖν μή τι προπετές γενέσθαι (ἐληλύθασι γὰρ πρὸς μὲ τεθορυβημένοι λέγοντες ἤδη τὰ θηρία ἐσφρῖχθαι, καὶ μέλλειν ἐξορμαῖν. περιχηθήσαν γὰρ ὡς Ἰωάννου τινὰς ἀποστεῖλαντος), μὴ προλαβόντες καττύσωσιν, ὡς ἂν ἐθέλοιεν.</p>	<p>The Bishop Alexander to my master Dionysius.</p> <p>I see that a conspiracy has evidently been formed against Athanasius; for they have determined, I know not on what grounds, to send all those to whom he has objected, without giving any information to us, although it was agreed that we should consider together who ought to be sent. Take care therefore that nothing be done rashly (for they have come to me in great alarm, saying that the wild beasts have already roused themselves and are going to rush upon them; for they had heard it reported, that John had sent certain), lest they be beforehand with us, and concoct what schemes they please.</p>
<p>οἶδας γὰρ ὅτι καὶ Κολλουθιανοὶ τῆς ἐκκλησίας ἐχθροὶ ὄντες καὶ Ἀρειανοὶ καὶ Μελιτιανοί, οὗτοι πάντες ἀλλήλοις σύμψηφοι γενομένοι, δύνανται μεγάλα κακὰ ἐργάσασθαι. σκέψαι οὖν τὸ συμφέρον, ἵνα μὴ ἀνακύψῃ τι σκυθρωπὸν καὶ αἰτία ὑποβληθῶμεν ὡς οὐ κατὰ τὸ δίκαιον κρίναντες. κάκεῖνοι μάλιστα ὑφορῶνται, μὴ διοδεύοντες τὰς ἐκκλησίας, ὧν οἱ ἐπίσκοποι εἰσιν ἐνταῦθα, φόβον ἐμποιήσαντες ταραξῶσι πᾶσαν τὴν Αἴγυπτον ὡς τοῖς Μελιτιανοῖς παραδόντες. ἐκ τοῦ πλείστου γὰρ τοῦτο συνορῶ γινόμενον.</p>	<p>For you know that the Colluthians who are enemies of the Church, and Arians and Melitians are all of them leagued together and are able to work much evil. Consider therefore what is best to be done, lest some mischief arise, and we be subject to censure, as not having judged the matter fairly. Great suspicions are also entertained of these persons, lest, as being devoted to the Melitians, they should go through those churches whose bishops are here, and raise an alarm amongst them, and so disorder the whole of Egypt. For they see that this is already taking place to a great extent.</p>

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