

Arsenius to Athanasius (CPG 2123.21)

<i>Reference:</i>	Mel. 21, CPG 2123.21, FNS 60
<i>Incipit:</i>	Καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀσπαζόμενοι τὴν εἰρήνην
<i>Date:</i>	ca. 333
<i>Greek Text:</i>	Athanasius, Apol. Sec. 69.2-4
<i>English Translation:</i>	NPNF ² vol. 4, p. 136, adapted for FCC by SMT and GLT

Arsenius was the Melitian bishop of Hypselos. In this letter he writes to Athanasius to declare that no longer will he or those of his church hold communion with the Melitians. Athanasius used this letter to as further evidence that the Melitians had coerced people into false accusations against Athanasius.

The Greek text below is that of Opitz as found in AW 2.4:69.2-4. The English translation has been adapted from NPNF² vol. 4, p. 136 by SMT and GLT for FCC.

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Ἀθανασίῳ μακαρίῳ πάπᾳ Ἀρσένιος ἐπίσκοτος [τῶν ποτε ὑπὸ Μελίτιον] τῆς Ὑψηλιτῶν πόλεως ἅμα πρεσβυτέρους καὶ διακόνους ἐν κυρίῳ πλεῖστα χαίρειν.	To the blessed Pope Athanasius, Arsenius, Bishop of those who have been until now under Melitius in the city of the Hypselites, together with the presbyters and deacons, wishes much health in the Lord.
...Καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀσπαζόμενοι τὴν εἰρήνην καὶ ἔνωσιν πρὸς τὴν καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν, ἧς σὺ κατὰ χάριν θεοῦ προϊστάσαι, προηρημένοι τε τῷ ἐκκλησιαστικῷ κανόνι κατὰ τὸν παλαιὸν τύπον ὑποτάσσεσθαι, γράφομέν σοι, ἀγαπητὲ πάπα, ὁμολογοῦντες ἐν ὀνόματι κυρίου τοῦ λοιποῦ μὴ κοινωνήσῃς τοῖς ἔτι σχίζουσι καὶ μηδέπω εἰρηνεύουσι πρὸς τὴν καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν ἐπισκόποις τε καὶ πρεσβυτέροις καὶ διακόνους μήτε συνθέσθαι αὐτοῖς βουλομένοις τι ἐν συνόδῳ μήτε γράμματα εἰρηνικὰ ἀποστέλλειν μήτε δέξασθαι παρ' αὐτῶν μηδ' αὖ δίχα γνώμης σου τοῦ τῆς μητροπόλεως ἐπισκόπου ὅρον τινὰ ἐκφέρειν περὶ ἐπισκόπων ἢ περὶ δόγματος ἐτέρου κοινοῦ ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ, ἀλλ' εἴκειν πᾶσι τοῖς προτετυπωμένοις κανόσι καθ' ὁμοιότητα τῶν ἐπισκόπων Ἀμμωνιανοῦ καὶ Τυράννου καὶ Πλουσιανοῦ καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν ἐπισκόπων.	Being earnestly desirous of peace and union with the catholic church, over which by the grace of God you preside, and wishing to submit ourselves to the canon of the church, according to the ancient rule, we write to you, dearly beloved pope, and declare in the name of the Lord that in the future we will not hold communion with those who continue in schism, and are not yet at peace with the catholic church, whether bishops, presbyters or deacons; neither will we take part with them if they wish to establish anything through a council; neither will we send letters of peace to them nor receive such from them; neither yet without your consent, o bishop of the metropolis, will we publish any resolution concerning bishops, or on any other general ecclesiastical question; rather, we will yield obedience to all the canons that have been previously established, after the example of bishops Ammonianus, Tyrannus, Plusianus and the other bishops.
πρὸς ταῦτα οὖν ἀξιοῦμεν τὴν σὴν χρηστότητα ἀντιγράψαι μὲν ἡμῖν διὰ τάχους ὡσαύτως τε καὶ τοῖς συλλειτουργοῖς περὶ ἡμῶν ὅτι εἴημεν ἤδη ἐπὶ τοῖς	Therefore we beseech your goodness to write to us speedily in answer, and likewise to our fellow ministers concerning us, informing them that we

<p>προειρημένοις ὄροις εἰρηνεύσαντες πρὸς τὴν καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ ἐνωθέντες τοῖς συλλειτουργοῖς ἐπὶ τῶν τόπων· πιστεύομεν δέ, ὡς αἱ εὐχαί σου ἐνεργήσουσιν εὐπρόσδεκτοι οὕσαι, ὥστε τὴν τοιαύτην εἰρήνην βεβαίαν καὶ ἀδιάλυτον εἶναι μέχρι τέλους κατὰ τὸ βούλημα τοῦ δεσπότη τῶν ἀπάντων θεοῦ διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν.</p>	<p>will henceforth abide by the aforementioned resolution and will be at peace with the catholic church and at unity with our fellow ministers in the [various] districts. And we are persuaded that your prayers, being acceptable to God, will so prevail with Him, that this peace shall be firm and indissoluble to the end, according to the will of God the Lord of all, through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>
<p>τὸ ὑπὸ σέ ἱερατεῖον ἡμεῖς καὶ οἱ σὺν ἡμῖν προσαγορεύομεν. ὅσον δὲ οὐδέπω θεοῦ ἐπιτρέποντος ἀπταντήσομεν πρὸς τὴν σὴν χρηστότητα. Ἀρσένιος ἐρρῶσθαί σε εὐχόμεαι ἐν κυρίῳ πολλοῖς χρόνοις, μακαριώτατε πάπα.</p>	<p>We, and those with us, salute the sacred ministry that is under you. Very shortly, if God permit, we will come to visit your goodness. I, Arsenius, pray for your health in the Lord for many years, most blessed pope.</p>

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