

## Ischyras to Athanasius (CPG 2123.17)

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| <i>Reference:</i>           | Mel. 12, CPG 2123.17, FNS 56                                       |
| <i>Incipit:</i>             | Ἐπειδὴ προσῆλθόν σοι   |
| <i>Date:</i>                | ca. 332/333  |
| <i>Greek Text:</i>          | Athanasius, Apol. Sec. 64  |
| <i>English Translation:</i> | NPNF <sup>2</sup> vol. 4, p. 133-4, adapted for FCC by SMT and GLT |

Ischyras was a resident of Mareotis, a district of Alexandria, who was accused of elevating himself to the office of priest. Athanasius had sent Macarius to order him to desist from these pretensions. Ischyras then fled to the Melitians who used him to concoct the story about Athanasius sending Macarius to break a sacred chalice. The letter below was written as an apology by Ischyras claiming that he was beaten into making that accusation. However, he would be refused re-entry into fellowship as reported by [Mel. 28](#). He would eventually testify against Athanasius at the Council of Tyre on this very charge.

The Greek text below is that of Opitz as found in AW 2.4:59.6. The English translation has been adapted from NPNF<sup>2</sup> vol. 4, p. 133-4 by SMT and GLT.

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| Τῷ μακαρίῳ πάπᾳ Ἀθανασίῳ Ἰσχύρας ἐν κυρίῳ χαίρειν.   | To the blessed pope Athanasius, Ischyras sends health in the Lord.  |
| Ἐπειδὴ προσῆλθόν σοι, κύριε ἐπίσκοπε, βουλόμενος τῆς ἐκκλησίας εἶναι, ἠτιάσω δέ με ἐφ' οἷς πρότερον ἐφθεγξάμην, ὡς ἐμοῦ ἀπὸ προαιρέσεως εἰς τοῦτο παρελθόντος, τούτου ἕνεκεν ταύτην τὴν ἀπολογία ἐγγράφως σοι ἐπιδίδωμι, ἵν' εἰδέναι ἔχῃς ὅτι βίας μοι γενομένης καὶ πληγῶν ἐπιτεθεισῶν ἀπὸ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἡρακλείδου καὶ Ἰσαὰκ τοῦ τῆς Λητοῦς καὶ ὑπὸ τῶν σὺν αὐτοῖς.  | As when I came to you, my Lord Bishop, desiring to be received into the Church, you reproved me for what I had formerly said, as though I had gone to such lengths of my own free choice; I therefore submit to you this my apology in writing, in order that you may understand, that violence was used against me, and blows inflicted on me by Isaac and Heraclides, and Isaac of Letopolis, and those of their party. |
| ἐγὼ δὲ μάρτυρα τὸν θεὸν εἰς τοῦτο λαμβάνων ἀπολογοῦμαι ὅτι οὐδὲν ὧν ἐκεῖνοι εἰρήκασιν σύνοιδᾶ σε πεποιηκένοι. οὔτε γὰρ ποτηρίου κλάσις γέγονεν οὔτε τῆς ἁγίας τραπέζης καταστροφὴ γεγένηται, ἀλλὰ ταῦτα πάντα ἐκεῖνοι βίαν ἐπιθέντες μοι εἰς τοῦτο παρώρμησάν με. ταῦτα δὲ ἀπελογησάμην σοι καὶ ἐγγράφως ἐπιδέδωκα αἰρούμενος καὶ ἐπιδικαζόμενος εἶναι τῶν ὑπὸ σὲ συναγομένων. ἐρρῶσθαί σε εὐχομαι ἐν κυρίῳ. | In this matter, I know you to be guilty of none of the things which they have stated. For no breaking of a cup or overturning of the holy altar ever took place, but by their violence they compelled me to assert all this. And this defense I make and submit to you in writing, desiring and claiming for myself to be admitted among the members of your congregation. I pray that you may have health in the Lord.   |
| Ἐπιδέδωκα δὲ τήνδε μου τὴν χεῖρά σοι τῷ ἐπισκόπῳ Ἀθανασίῳ ἐπὶ παρουσίᾳ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων Ἀμμωνᾶ Δικέλλης, Ἡρακλείου Φάσκω, Βόκκονος Χενεβρί, Ἀχιλλᾶ Μυρσίνης, Διδύμου Ταφωσίρειος καὶ Ἰούστου ἀπὸ Βωμοθέου, καὶ διακόνων ἀπὸ μὲν Ἀλεξανδρείας Παύλου καὶ   | I submit this my handwriting to you, Bishop Athanasius, in the presence of the Presbyters, Ammonas of Dicella, Heraclius of Phascos, Boccon of Chenebri, Achilles of Myrsine, Didymus of Taphosiris, and Justus from Bomotheus; and of the Deacons, Paul, Peter,  |

Πέτρου καὶ Ὀλυμπίου, ἀπὸ δὲ Μαρεώτου  
Ἀμμωνίου καὶ Πιστοῦ καὶ Δημητρίου καὶ Γαίου.

and Olympius, of Alexandria, and Ammonius,  
Pistus, Demetrius, and Gaius, of the Mareotis.

*Created by SMT*

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