

**Harvard Department of English**  
**Graduate Ancient Greek Examination. Gordon Teskey**

*Instructions.* Please translate in prose ONE of the following selections. You may use a printed Greek dictionary. No other aids, including electronic devices, may be used. Please **double space** your translation. NB: The descriptions in English before each selection are meant to aid you by describing in general terms what happens in the passage. In selection #3, from the New Testament, the description also includes some context.

1. *Iliad* 11.153-62. Like a fire driven by the wind through thickets, Agamemnon attacks, urging on the Argives as he slaughters the Trojans whose empty chariots are drawn along the dikes of war (i.e., between the ranks of fighters) while the charioteers lie dead.

ἀτὰρ κρείων Ἀγαμέμνων  
αἰὲν ἀποκτείνων ἔπετ' Ἀργείοισι κελεύων.  
ὥς δ' ὅτε πῦρ αἶδηλον ἐν ἀξύλῳ ἐμπέσῃ ὕλῃ,  
πάντῃ τ' εἰλυφόν ἄνεμος φέρει, οἱ τε θάμνοι  
πρόρριζοι πίπτουσιν ἐπειγόμενοι πυρὸς ὄρμῃ.  
ὥς ἄρ' ὑπ' Ἀτρεΐδῃ Ἀγαμέμνονι πίπτε κάρηνα  
Τρώων φευγόντων, πολλοὶ δ' ἔριαύχενες ἵπποι  
κεῖν' ὄχεα κροτάλιζον ἀνὰ πτολέμοιο γεφύρας, [γεφύρας = dikes, i.e. ranks]  
ἠνιόχους ποθέοντες ἀμύμονας. οἱ δ' ἐπὶ γαίῃ  
κειάτο, γύπεσσι πολὺ φίλτεροι ἢ ἀλόχοισιν.

2. Aristotle. *Poetics*. Chapter 4. The origin of poetry is from two things: the natural human desire to imitate and also the natural pleasure taken by everyone in imitated things. Because of these natural proclivities in us, those with talent improvised and improved to bring poetry into being.

Ἐοίκασι δὲ γεννηῆσαι μὲν ὅλως τὴν ποιητικὴν αἰτία δύο τινὲς καὶ αὗται φυσικαί. τὸ τε γὰρ μιμεῖσθαι σύμφυτον τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἐκ παιδῶν ἐστὶ καὶ τούτῳ διαφέρουσι τῶν ἄλλων ζώων ὅτι μιμητικώτατόν ἐστι καὶ τὰς μαθήσεις ποιεῖται διὰ μιμήσεως τὰς πρώτας, καὶ τὸ χαίρειν τοῖς μιμήμασι πάντας. ... κατὰ φύσιν δὲ ὄντος ἡμῖν τοῦ μιμεῖσθαι ταὶ τῆς ἀρμονίας καὶ τοῦ ρυθμοῦ ... ἐξ ἀρχῆς οἱ πεφυκότες πρὸς αὐτὰ μάλιστα κατὰ μικρὸν προάγοντες ἐγέννησαν τὴν ποίησιν ἐκ τῶν αὐτοσχεδιασμάτων.

3. The Gospel According to Matthew 14:26-33. Jesus has sent his disciples in a ship to cross the Sea of Galilee while he goes to a mountain to pray. By evening, the ship was in trouble because of headwind and waves. Jesus came out to the ship, walking on the water. The disciples think he's a ghost (*fantasma*). Peter asks to walk out to Jesus and does so but then fears and begins to sink. Jesus saves him and they go to the ship, at which the wind drops. The disciples call Jesus 'Son of God.'

τετάρτη δὲ φυλακῇ τῆς νυκτὸς [i.e., ‘in fourth watch of the night’] ἦλθε πρὸς αὐτούς, περιπατῶν ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν. καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης περιπατοῦντα ἐταράχθησαν λέγοντες ὅτι φάντασμα ἐστὶ. καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ φόβου ἔκραξαν. εὐθέως δὲ ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων, Θαρσεῖτε. Ἐγὼ εἰμι. μὴ φοβεῖσθε. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπε, Κύριε, εἰ συ εἶ, κέλευσόν με πρὸς σε ἐλθεῖν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐλθέ. καὶ καταβὰς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου ὁ Πέτρος περιπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα, ἐλθεῖν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἄνεμον ἐφοβήθη, καὶ ἀρξάμενος καταποντίζεσθαι ἔκραξε λέγων, Κύριε, σῶσόν με. εὐθέως δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα ἐπελάβετο αὐτοῦ, καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Ὀλιγόπιστε, εἰς τί ἐδίστασας; καὶ ἀναβάντων αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος. οἱ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ λέγοντες, Ἀληθῶς Θεοῦ υἱὸς εἶ.