

## THE HELPING HAND

ἄνθρωπος τις ἔπεσέν ποτε εἰς ποταμὸν ὃς οὐποτε ἔμαθε 1  
νεῖν (to swim). καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐκάλεσεν· "ἄρα οὐδεὶς 3  
ὠφελήσει με; κακῶς πράττω. οὐκ ἔμαθον νεῖν (to swim).  
ἀποθανοῦμαι ἐν τούτῳ τῷ ποταμῷ." καὶ πρὸς τὸν  
ποταμὸν ἔβαινον πολλοὶ βουλόμενοι αὐτὸν σῶσαι. "δός  
μοι τὴν χεῖρα" ἔλεγον. ἀλλ' ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐδὲν ἐποίησεν.

τέλος δ' ὁ Νασρέδδινος ἔτυχε παρερχόμενος ζητήσων τὴν 7  
κύνα. καὶ αὐθις ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀνεβόησεν· "ὦ φίλε, μέλλεις  
με λείπειν ἐν τούτῳ τῷ ποταμῷ;" ὁ δὲ Σοφὸς εἶπε τάδε· 9  
"δός μοι τὴν χεῖρα καὶ ὑπισχνούμαι σῶσειν σε." ἀλλὰ  
ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐκ ἐποίησεν οὐδέν. ὁ δὲ Νασρέδδινος  
ἠρώτησεν· "τί ἐστὶ τὸ ἔργον σου;" ὁ δ' ἄνθρωπος  
ἀπεκρίνατο ὅτι τελώνης (tax collector) ἐστίν.

καὶ μετὰ χρόνον εἶδον πάντες τὸν Σοφὸν ἄγοντα τὸν  
ἄνθρωπον ἐκ τῶν ὑδάτων τοῦ ποταμοῦ. "πῶς ἔτυχες;" 15~  
ἠρώτησέ τις. "ῥαδίως" ἀπεκρίνατο ὁ Σοφός. "τούτου τοῦ  
ἀνθρώπου εἰπόντος ὅτι τελώνης ἐστίν, οὐκ ἐκέλευσα  
αὐτῷ διδόναι μοι τὴν χεῖρα ἀλλὰ λαβεῖν τὴν χεῖρά μου.  
γιγνώσκω γάρ τοι τοὺς τελῶνας, ὡς οὐδὲν οὐδενὶ 19  
δώσουσιν."

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## Aorist as Prior Past

Translate ἔμαθε = *had learned*. Greek has only one past tense, the aorist, for a "once done" action.

εἶπεν ὅτι τὰ μῆλα ἔκλεψα - He said that I stole / I had stolen the apples.

⚡ In English we can distinguish between a past act ("She called") and a past act prior to another ("She had called before he came"). Greek uses the aorist for both.

- 3 ἄρα - indicates a question (perhaps with a tone of impatience or anxiety)  
ὠφελέω - benefit, be of service to + acc.  
πράττω, πράξω, ἔπραξα - do, fare, act --> practice, practical  
σῶζω, σώσω, ἔσωσα - save  
7,15 τυγχάνω, τεύξομαι, ἔτυχον - happen to be + participle; meet up with + dative;  
happen, succeed (when used alone)  
παρέρχομαι - go by  
ἀναβοάω - shout out (literally "shout up")  
μέλλω, μελήσω, ἐμέλλησα - intend, be about to + infinitive (usually future)  
9 λείπω, λείψω, ἔλιπον - leave --> eclipse, ellipse  
ὑπισχνέομαι - promise + future infinitive  
15~ ἔτυχες - see τυγχάνω above. Which meaning? (See 7 above.)  
19 τοι - "you know," an enclitic particle used more often in poetry than prose to add a kind of  
emphatic confidentiality, possibly = dative σοι. "Mark you" or "let me tell you"  
overtranslate it.

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## Anticipated Object

Sometimes what is going to be the subject in an indirect statement or question will be given as the object of the verb that introduces that clause. This is called *anticipation* (or *prolepsis*).

γιγνώσκω σε ὡς νοσεῖς - I know that you are sick.

Literally, I know you, that you are sick.

(Greek grammar is often more relaxed than English.)

δώσω - future of δίδωμι