

LOOKING FOR THE RING

δακτύλιον (ring) πίπτει ἀπὸ τοῦ δακτύλου τοῦ Σοφοῦ ὅτε ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ ἐστίν. ὁ δὲ Σοφὸς ἔρχεται εἰς τοὺς ἀγροὺς καὶ ζητεῖ αὐτό. φίλος τις ὁρῶν τοῦτο ἐρωτᾷ αὐτὸν ἐρώτημα· 3
 "ὦ φίλε, τί ποιεῖς;" ὁ δὲ Σοφὸς οὐδὲν λέγει. ἀλλὰ ζητεῖ. ὁ δὲ φίλος ἐρωτᾷ αὐτὸν τὸ αὐτὸ ἐρώτημα· "ὦ φίλε, τί ποιεῖς;" ὁ δὲ Νασρέδδινος ἀποκρίνεται αὐτῷ "ζητῶ τὸ δακτύλιόν μου (ring). ἔπεσε (it fell) γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ δακτύλου μου ὅτε ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ ἦν." 8

ὁ δὲ φίλος ἐρωτᾷ αὐτόν· "ἀλλ' ὦ Νασρέδδινε, εἰ ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ σου τὸ δακτύλιον (ring) ἦν ὅτε ἔπεσεν (it fell), τί ἐν τοῖς ἀγροῖς ζητεῖς αὐτό;" ἀποκρίνεται ὁ Σοφός "διότι ἐν μὲν τῇ οἰκίᾳ μου ἔστι σκοτία, ἐν δὲ τοῖς ἀγροῖς ἔστι τὸ φῶς τὸ μέγα τοῦ ἡλίου." 9 12

πίπτω - fall (aorist ἔπεσον = *I fell*)

ἀπὸ - from, away from + gen.

ἡ οἰκία - home, house (cf. οἶκος = home --> economy, ecology)

ὁ ἀγρός - field <--> acre --> agriculture (via Latin)

ζητέω - look for, seek, search

αὐτό - it

3

Verbs with Two Accusatives

Some verbs can take two accusatives, such as ἐρωτάω = ask, with accusative of thing asked and person; or αἰτέω = request, with accusative of thing requested and person

ἐρωτῶ σε τοῦτο. *I ask you this.*

αἰτῶ σε τοῦτο. *I request this of you.*

8

ὁ αὐτός, ἡ αὐτή, τὸ αὐτό - the same

ἦν - *I was*. (Also = *he, she, it was*. See line 10.)

9

Elision: ἀλλ' ὦ Νασρέδδινε

When one word ends with a short vowel and the next begins with a vowel, the end vowel may be dropped. This is called **elision**. An apostrophe shows where the vowel had been (≅ as in the English *don't*).

ἦν - *he, she, it was* (Also *I was*. See line 8 above.)

12

μὲν / δέ

Notice the μὲν / δέ here. Always think of a pair of scales when you see μὲν / δέ. These words bring to you two thoughts that are seen as somehow balancing each other. The δέ is simply the old connecting word we have already seen. And μὲν is an early signal (postpositive) that a δέ is coming.

Translate: μὲν *on the one hand*
 δέ *on the other*



ἔστι(ν) - *exists, there exists* (always accented on first syllable)

ἡ σκοτία - *darkness*

τὸ φῶς - *light* --> phosphorus

ὁ ἥλιος - *sun* --> heliocentric