

## Palamedes's Pharmacy

### 1. *Cypria*

a. καὶ μαινέσθαι προσποιησάμενον Ὀδυσσεῖα ἐπὶ τῷ μὴ θέλειν συστρατεύεσθαι ἐφώρασαν Παλαμίδου ὑποθεμένου τὸν υἱὸν Τηλέμαχον ἐπὶ κόλασιν ἐξαρπάσαντες. (ErFG p.31, 41-3; Proclus, *Chrestomathia* 5)

And when Odysseus was pretending to be mad because he did not want to take part in the expedition, they found him out at a suggestion of Palamedes, snatching his son Telemachus for a beating.

b. Παλαμίδην δὲ ἀποπνιγῆναι προελθόντα ἐπὶ ἰχθύων θήραν, Διομήδην δὲ τὸν ἀποκτείναντα εἶναι καὶ Ὀδυσσεῖα, ἐπιλεξάμενος ἐν ἔπεσιν οἶδα τοῖς Κυπρίοις. (ErFG *Cypria* 20; Pausanias 10.31.2)

That Palamedes was drowned while going on a fishing expedition, and that it was Diomedes who was the killer and Odysseus, I know from having read in the epic *Cypria*.

### 2. Eupolis, Unattributed

{ΑΛΚΙΒΙΑΔΗΣ.} <> ὃς δὲ πρῶτος ἐξεῦρον τὸ πρῶτον πιίνειν;

{B.} πολλήν γε λακκοπρωκτίαν ἡμῖν ἐπίστασ' εὐρών.

{ΑΛΚ.} εἶέν. τίς εἶπεν "ἀμίδα παῖ" πρῶτος μεταξὺ πίνων;

{B.} Παλαμηδικὸν γε τοῦτο τοῦξεύρημα καὶ σοφὸν σου. (fr. 385; Athenaeus 1.17d)

*Alcibiades*. I was the first to discover early drinking. *B*. You know you have discovered much loose behavior. *Alcibiades*. Granted. Who was the first to say "boy, a basin" in the middle of drinking? *B*. This was a Palamedic and wise invention of yours!

### 3. Aeschylus, *Palamedes*

a. ἔπειτα πάσης Ἑλλάδος καὶ ξυμμάχων

βίον διώκησ' ὄντα πρὶν πεφυρμένον

θηρσίν θ' ὅμοιον· πρῶτα μὲν τὸν πάνσοφον

ἀριθμὸν ἤρηκ' ἔξοχον σοφισμάτων (fr. 181a, Stobaeus 1.Proem.)

Then I organized the life of all Hellas and their allies, which earlier was confused like that of beasts. First, I invented all-wise number, outstanding among contrivances.

b. καὶ ταξιάρχας χάκατοντάρχας στρατῶ

ἔταξα, σῆτον δ' εἰδέναι διώρισα,

ἄριστα, δεῖπνα δόρπα θ' αἰρεῖσθαι τρίτα (fr. 182, Athenaeus 1.11d)

And I appointed taxiarchs and division commanders for the army, and I divided the meals for them to know, to take breakfast, dinner, and supper third.

### 4. [Aeschylus], *Prometheus Bound*

ἦν δ' οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς οὔτε χειμάτος τέκμαρ

οὔτ' ἀνθεμῶδους ἦρος οὔτε καρπίμου

θέρους βέβαιον, ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν

ἔπρασσον, ἔστε δὴ σφιν ἀντολάς ἐγὼ

ἄστρον ἔδειξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.

καὶ μὴν ἀριθμὸν, ἔξοχον σοφισμάτων,

ἐξηῦρον αὐτοῖς, γραμμάτων τε συνθέσεις,

μνήμην ἀπάντων, μουσομήτορ' ἐργάνην· (454-61)

There was not for them any secure indicator of winter, nor of the flowering spring, nor of fruitful summer. But they did all things without thought until I showed them the risings and settings of the stars, hard to discern. And I invented for them number, outstanding among contrivances, and combinations of letters, memory of all things, instrument that is mother of the Muses.

5. Sophocles, *Palamedes*

οὐ λιμὸν οὗτος τοισδ' ἔπαυσε, σὺν θεῶ  
εἰπεῖν, χρόνου τε διατριβάς σοφωτάτας  
ἐφηῦρε φλοίσβου μετὰ κόπον καθημένοις,  
πεσσοὺς κύβους τε, τερπνὸν ἀργίας ἄκος; (fr. 479; Eustathius ad *Il.* 2.308-20)

Did this man not stop the famine for these [soldiers] here, to speak with the god, and did he not discover the wisest occupations of time for them sitting after the toil of battle, and draughts and dice, a pleasing cure for boredom?

6. Sophocles, *Nauplius Sails In* or *Nauplius the Fire-Kindler*

οὗτος δ' ἐφηῦρε τεῖχος Ἀργείων στρατῶ  
σταθμῶν, ἀριθμῶν καὶ μέτρων εὐρήματα.  
τάξεις τε ταύτας οὐράνιά τε σήματα.  
κάκειν' ἔτευξε πρῶτος, ἐξ ἑνὸς δέκα  
κάκ τῶν δέκ' αὖθις ἦρε πενηκοντάδας  
καὶ χιλιοστῶν· κατ' στρατῶ φρυκτωρίαν  
ἔδειξε, κἀνέφηεν οὐ δεδειγμένα.  
ἐφηῦρε δ' ἄστρον μέτρα καὶ περιστροφάς  
ὑπνου φυλάξι πιθανὰ σημαντήρια  
νεῶν τε ποιμαντήρσιν ἐνθαλασσίοις  
ἄρκτου στροφάς τε καὶ κυνὸς ψυχρὰν δύσιν (fr. 432; Achill. Tat. *Isag. in Arat* 1)

This man devised the wall for the army of the Argives, and the inventions of weights, numbers, and measures, and these formations, and the heavenly signs. And he did this first, discovered how to count from one to ten and by tens in turn to fifty and a thousand. And he showed fire signals to the army, and revealed things that were earlier hidden. And he discovered the measures and revolutions of the stars, reliable signs for the watch during sleep, and, for sea-going shepherds of ships, the turnings of the Bear and the cold setting of the Dog.

7. Euripides, *Palamedes*

τὰ τῆς γε λήθης φάρμακ' ὀρθώσας μόνος,  
ἄφωνα φωνήεντα, συλλαβὰς τιθεῖς  
ἐξηῦρον ἀνθρώποισι γράμματα' εἰδέναι,  
ὥστ' οὐ παρόντα ποντίας ὑπὲρ πλακὸς  
τάκει κατ' οἴκους πάντ' ἐπίστασθαι καλῶς,  
παισὶν τ' ἀποθνήσκοντα χρημάτων μέτρον  
γράψαντα λείπειν, τὸν λαβόντα δ' εἰδέναι.  
ἃ δ' εἰς ἔριν πίπτουσιν ἀνθρώποις κακὰ  
δέλτος διαιρεῖ, κοῦκ ἔῃ ψευδῆ λέγειν. (fr. 578; Stobaeus 2.4.8)

I alone set up remedies for forgetfulness, speechless and speaking, creating syllables, I invented letters for men to know, so that a man absent across the plain of the ocean could know well all the matters back there in his house, and that a dying man could leave for his children a written measure of his wealth, and the one receiving it could know. And the evils that befall men in quarreling, a tablet dissolves, and does not allow anyone to speak lies.

8. Xenophon, *Memorabilia*

Τὰ δὲ Παλαμίδους οὐκ ἀκήκοας πάθῃ; τοῦτον γὰρ δὴ πάντες ὕμνοῦσιν ὡς διὰ σοφίαν φθονηθεὶς ὑπὸ τοῦ Ὀδυσσεύος ἀπόλλυται. (4.2.33)

And have you not heard the sufferings of Palamedes? For all sing of him, that he was envied because of his wisdom and destroyed by Odysseus.