

PROPERTY OF ERATON

(1) Perhaps some of you, gentlemen of the jury, because of my wishing to be a man of some account, think that I also would be a better speaker than other men. But I am so far from being able to speak on things not immediately concerning myself, that I fear lest I be unable to speak properly about these things, of which it is absolutely necessary for me to speak. I think, however, if I set forth all that was transacted between us and Eraton and his sons, that you will easily find out from what I shall say, what you should think concerning this trial for rival claims. Listen then to (my exposition of the whole affair) from the beginning.

(2) Eraton, the father of Erasiphon, borrowed two talents from my grandfather. That he received the money, and that he asked (my grandfather) to lend him so much, I shall bring forward witnesses to you, and how he used it and how much he made by it those who know more of it than I, and who were closer to him and his dealings, will tell you and give evidence. Please call the witnesses.

WITNESSES.

(3.) Now, as long as Eraton lived, I received the interest and the other things that had been agreed upon ; but when he had died, leaving three sons. Erasiphon, Eraton and Erasistratus, these no longer did anything

of what was just towards us. And now during the war, because private suits were not heard, we were not able to exact from them what they owed; but when peace had been concluded, as soon as home suits were being heard, my father, having obtained leave (to bring a suit) against Erasistratus, who alone of the brothers lived in the city, for the whole debt, had a verdict returned against him in the archonship of Xenaenetus. Of this too I shall bring forward witnesses to you. Please call the witnesses.

WITNESSES.

(4.) It is easy to be seen from this that the property of Eraton would rightfully be ours, but that all has been confiscated, (you may learn) from the official lists. For three or four persons have entered the items. And yet this is easily perceived by any one, that they would not have passed by anything, if it had been possible to confiscate anything else of the property of Eraton, making, as they did, a list of all his property, and even of that which I have had in my possession for considerable time. That, therefore, it is not possible for us to exact the money from another source, it seems to me to be easy to discern. (5.) Now also hear (from me) how (differently) I make my claim against you from the manner in which (I made my claim) against private persons. For as long as the relatives of Erasiphon were making claims for this money against us, I demanded every thing as being due to me, because Erasistratus pleading as a defendant in a suit against my father concerning the whole debt, had been defeated. And the property at Sphettus I have let already for three years, and I was

engaged in a lawsuit with those holding it, about the property at Cicyna, and the house there. Last year, however, they had the suit quashed, claiming they were merchants; but now, having obtained leave to bring suit in the month Gamelion, the marine court did not render decision. (6.) But now that you resolved to confiscate the property of Eraton, allowing to the state two-thirds, I think it right that the property of Erasis-tratus should be voted to me, because on a former occasion you decided that this belonged to us. I, therefore, set apart for myself the third part of their fortune, not defining with exactness, but leaving to the treasury much more than two-thirds. (7.) And this is easy to find out from the valuation that has been put on the property. For the whole property has been valued at more than a talent, and the parts which I am claiming I valued one at five minae, the other at a thousand drachmae. And if it is worth more than this, the state shall receive the surplus when it is sold by auction. (8.) That you, now, may know that is the truth, I shall bring forward to you as witnesses, first those who hired the place at Sphettus from me, and the neighbors of the place at Cicyna who know that we have been claiming this for three years and the archons of last year, before whom leave was obtained to bring the suits, and the nautodicae now serving. (9.) And there will be read to you the official lists themselves; for from these especially you will learn that we are claiming that property to be ours not only recently, and that we are neither claiming now more against the treasury, than formerly against private persons. Please call the witnesses.

WITNESSES.

(10.) That, now, gentlemen of the jury, I do not ask contrary to what is just that the property claimed be voted to me, but that of my own accord relinquishing much of what belongs to me to the state, I claim that this be given to me,—has been shown. And now it seems to me to be just to ask (this) of you and of the syndics who are present.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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