

AGAINST NEAIRA

- 1 There were many reasons which induced me, men of Athens, to bring this indictment against Neaira, and to come before you. We have been grievously wronged by Stephanos, and we were placed by him in the most serious danger, my father-in-law, myself, my sister and my wife, so that I shall present this case not as an aggressor but in retaliation; for it was this man who first started the quarrel, though he had never suffered any harm from us either in word or deed. I wish first of all to give you an account of what we have suffered from him, so that you will feel more sympathy for me as I seek to defend myself, and to show how we were placed in the most serious danger of losing both homeland and citizen rights.
- 2 When the Athenian people passed a decree granting Athenian citizenship to Pasion and his descendants because of his benefactions to the city, my father agreed with the people's gift, and he gave Pasion's son Apollodoros his daughter, my sister, in marriage; and she is the mother of Apollodoros' children. Since Apollodoros treated my sister and all of us well, and as he felt that true relatives share all they have, I took as wife Apollodoros' daughter, my niece.
- 3 After a time Apollodoros was drawn as member of the Council. When he had passed the examination and sworn the customary oath, a war crisis befell the city such that it was open to you, if you won, to be the most powerful state in Greece and to recover once for all your possessions beyond dispute and finally put down Philip, or if you were late in sending aid and abandoned your allies, once the army was disbanded for lack of money, to destroy them and be judged untrustworthy by the rest of Greece, and to risk the loss of your remaining
- 4 possessions, Lemnos, Imbros, Skyros and the Chersonese. When you were about to march out in full force to Euboia and Olynthos, Apollodoros as councillor drafted a decree in the Council and brought a resolution before the Assembly proposing that the people decide by show of hands whether the surplus from the administration should be used for military or festival purposes. For the laws prescribed that in time of war the surplus from the administration should be used for military purposes; he thought that the people should have the power to do what it wished with its own property, and he had sworn to act as councillor for the best interests of the Athenian people, as you all bore witness on that occasion.
- 5 For when the vote took place, nobody voted against the use of this money for military purposes; and even now, if ever the subject is discussed, it is agreed by all that he was unjustly treated for offering the best advice. So it is the man who deceived the jurors with his arguments who

deserves our anger, not the ones who were deceived. This man Stephanos indicted the decree as illegal and came to court; he produced false witnesses to support the slanderous charge that Apollodoros had been a debtor to the Treasury for twenty-five years, made many accusations irrelevant to the indictment and secured a verdict against the decree. On this count, if this is what he chose to do, we have no complaint. But when the jurors were voting on the penalty assessment, though we urged him to compromise he refused, and proposed a penalty of fifteen talents with the intention of disfranchising Apollodoros himself and his children and reducing my sister and all of us to absolute poverty and complete destitution. For Apollodoros' property did not amount even to three talents, to enable him to pay so large a fine; and if the debt was not paid by the ninth prytany, the debt would be doubled and Apollodoros would be listed as owing thirty talents to the Treasury; and once he was listed as a debtor to the Treasury, all the property Apollodoros owns would be inventoried as belonging to the state, and once it was sold Apollodoros himself, his children, his wife and all of us would be reduced to absolute poverty. Furthermore, his second daughter would be unmarriageable. For who would ever have accepted a girl without dowry from a father who was a debtor to the Treasury and a pauper? Such then, were the calamities he tried to inflict on us, without ever having been wronged by us. To the jurors who tried the case then I am deeply grateful for this at least, that they did not leave Apollodoros to be plundered, but imposed a fine of one talent, so that he was just able to pay it; but as for Stephanos, we have, as is just, sought to pay him back in the same coin.

For he not only tried to destroy us like this, but also wanted to exile him from his homeland. He brought a false charge against him that once when he had gone to Aphidna in search of a runaway slave of his he struck a woman and the person died from the blow; he produced some slaves and represented them as Cyrenaeans, and publicly summonsed him for murder at the Palladion. And Stephanos here conducted the prosecution, having taken an oath that Apollodoros killed the woman with his own hand, invoking destruction on himself, his race and his household, though it had not happened, nor had he seen it or heard it ever from any living man. It was proved that he was lying on oath and bringing a false charge, and it was shown that he had been hired by Kephisophon and Apollophanes to secure Apollodoros' exile or disfranchisement for pay; he received few votes from his five hundred drachmas, and left the court a perjurer with a base reputation.

Consider for yourselves, men of Athens, reflecting on the probable consequences in your own minds, what I could have done with myself and my

wife and my sister, if Apollodoros had actually suffered any of the injuries which Stephanos plotted against him, either in the first or in the second trial?

12 What disgrace, what disaster would not have befallen me? Since people on all sides urged me, approaching me privately, to seek revenge for what was done to us by him and condemned me as the most cowardly man alive, if though so closely related to them I failed to exact punishment for my sister, father-in-law, nieces and wife, and by bringing before you the woman who is so blatantly committing impiety against the gods and outrage against the city and showing contempt for your laws, and by proving her guilt in my speech, enable you to

13 treat her as you wish – and just as Stephanos tried to deprive me of my relatives, contrary to your laws and decrees, so I too have come before you to prove that this man is living in marriage with a foreign woman contrary to the law, that he introduced another's children into his phratry and deme, that he gives the daughters of courtesans in marriage as though they were his own, that he has committed impiety against the gods and deprives the people of its privilege of granting citizenship to anyone it wishes. For who would seek to obtain this gift from the people, when it would cost much expense and trouble to become a citizen, if he can get it from Stephanos with less expense, provided that the result for him will be exactly the same.

14 The wrongs inflicted by Stephanos without provocation which induced me to bring this indictment, I have explained to you. You must now be convinced that this woman Neaira is a foreigner and that she is living in marriage with Stephanos here and has committed many crimes against the city. So I put to you, gentlemen of the jury, a request which I think appropriate for a young man inexperienced in speaking, that you bid me call Apollodoros as my sup-

15 porter for this trial. For he is older than I and has more experience in the laws; he has studied all these matters carefully, and he has been wronged by Stephanos, so that there can be no objection if he seeks revenge on the man who started it. It is your duty to listen to the detailed presentation of prosecution and defence and then on the basis of the actual truth to cast your vote on behalf of the gods, the laws, justice and yourselves.

SUPPORTING SPEECH

16 The wrongs inflicted by Stephanos here, men of Athens, which induced me to take the stand to accuse this woman Neaira, have been explained to you by Theomnestos; what I wish to prove clearly to you is that Neaira is a foreigner and is living in marriage with Stephanos contrary to the laws. First of all the clerk will read you the law under which Theomnestos brought this