

ON CONSOLATION AND SADNESS

From the Suda (a 10th century Byzantine encyclopedia/lexicon)

<p>Φάρμακον: παραμυθία, ὀμιλία, εἴρηται δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ φέρειν τὴν ἄκεσιν: εἴρηται δὲ ἀπὸ τῶν ἀνθέων</p>	<p>φάρμακον, -ου, τό – drug/medicine, but also a remedy or cure παραμυθία, -ας, ἡ – encouragement, consolation ὀμιλία, -ας, ἡ – company, association εἴρηται – “it is said” ἄκεσις εως, ἡ – cure, healing ἄνθος, ους, τό – flower</p>
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Euripides, *Helen* 698-699

<p>εἰ καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ τῆς τύχης εὐδαίμονος τύχοιτε, πρὸς τὰ πρόσθεν ἀρκέσειεν ἄν.</p>	<p>This is what’s called a “future less vivid” construction— it’s translated as “if you <i>should</i> [εἰ + verb, in the optative], you <i>would</i> [verb in the optative + ἄν]” τύχοιτε is an (aorist) optative from τυγχάνω, meaning “obtain” (takes the genitive) ἀρκέσειεν is an (aorist) optative from ἀρκέω, meaning “suffice” λοιπός, -ά, -όν – remaining, left over => often, referring to time, this means the future (the remaining time) τύχη, -ης, ἡ -- fortune, fate εὐδαίμων (third declension adjective! The genitive is εὐδαίμονος) – having a good daimon => blessed, fortunate πρόσθεν (adv.) -- before</p>
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Basil (Saint Basil, 4th century CE Bishop of Caesarea who wrote many letters)

Letter 131

<p>ἐπεὶ οὖν ἀμφοτέροι χρήζομεν παρακλήσεως, ἀλλήλοις γενώμεθα παραμυθία</p>	<p>ἀμφοτέρος, -α, -ον – both χρήζω – want, need, lack παράκλησις, εως, ἡ -- here, consolation ἀλλήλων (occurs only in the plural and in oblique cases) – “(of) one another” γενώμεθα = aorist subjunctive from γίγνομαι</p>
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Letter 302

<p>Ἐπεὶ οὖν κατέλιπέ σοι τὴν μνήμην τῆς οἰκείας αὐτοῦ ἀρετῆς, ἀρκοῦσαν νόμιζε ἔχειν παραμυθίαν τοῦ πάθους.</p>	<p>κατέλιπέ is the aorist of καταλείπω – leave behind μνήμη, -ης, ἡ -- memory οἰκείος, α, ον – belonging to one’s house => belonging to one’s self, personal, fitting ἀρετή, - ῆς, ἡ -- excellence, virtue ἀρκοῦσαν is a participle from ἀρκέω – here, it effectively means “enough, sufficient” νομίζω – consider, think, believe πάθος, εος, τό – pain, misfortune (related to πάσχω, can refer to any experience, not just a bad one)</p>
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Thucydides, book 5

Ἐλπίς δέ, κινδύνῳ παραμύθιον...	κίνδυνος, -ου, ὁ -- danger
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Some Proverbs from Arsenius, Paroemiographer

Λόγος μὲν ἔστι φάρμακον λύπης μόνος.	λόγος, -ου, ὁ -- word, conversation, reason λύπη, -ης ἡ -- pain ιατρός, -οῦ, ὁ -- doctor
Λόγος ἰατρὸς τοῦ κατὰ ψυχὴν πάθους	

Euripides, fr. 1079

Οὐκ ἔστι λύπης ἄλλο φάρμακον βροτοῖς ὡς ἀνδρὸς ἐσθλοῦ καὶ φίλου παραίνεσις. ὅστις δὲ ταύτῃ τῇ νόσῳ ξυνῶν ἀνὴρ.	ἄλλος, η, ο -- other βροτός, -οῦ, ὁ -- mortal man ἀνὴρ, ἀνδρός, ὁ -- man ἐσθλός, ἡ, ὄν -- good, faithful παραίνεσις, εως, ἡ -- advice ὅστις -- here, you can just translate this as “who” ταύτῃ comes from οὗτος = “this” ξυνῶν = “knowing (about), familiar with” (this is a participle, but not worth getting into here) νόσος, -ου, ἡ -- sickness disease
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